

How an IEA study can support constitutional change

VOTE @16 EXPERIENCE IN ESTONIA

ANU TOOTS

Beginnings

- ▶ **Estonian Youth Council** picks the problem up
 - ▶ Policy platforma on youth engagement(2007)
 - ▶ Memorandum to the Constitutional committee of National Parliament (2010)
- ▶ **Legal aspects:**
 - ▶ Voting age is defined by the Estonian Constitution (currently 18 at all levels)
 - ▶ Special procedure to amend the Constitution
- ▶ **Public opinion** is keeping eye on the issue
 - ▶ Mainly against
 - ▶ Extra vote for parents



Judith Torney-Purta

Noored mõjutavad poliitikat oma vanemate kaudu

NOORED VALIJAD VIISID OBAMA VÕIDULE, NOORED VALIJAD ON KA EESTI ERAKONDADE SIHIKUL. KUIDAS NOORI POLIITIKAS OSALEMA MEELITADA JA KAS SEE KA MINGEID OHTUSID KÄTKEB, RÄÄKISID SIGRID KÕIVULE MARYLANDI ÜLIKOOI PROFESSOR JUDITH TORNEY-PURTA JA TALLINNA ÜLIKOOI PROFESSOR ANU TOOTS.

Siidetavalt võitis Obama valimised just tänu noortele valijatele. Kuidas see tal õnnestus?

gusi valimisi mõne eelnenuga, siis on näha, kui palju pööratakse tähelepanu internetikampaaniatele.

Näiteks Keskerakond. Aasta-

Toots: See on minu väga isiklik arvamus ja ma tean, et paljud mu kolleegid seda ei jaga, aga ma arvan, et Eesti koolisüsteem keskendub liialt põhiseaduse

Ma ei usu, et see peaks ka noorem olema. Valimisõigusliku vanuse alandamine võib valimiste legitiimsuse kahtluse alla seada ja seda ei tahaks ju keegi.

sed öelda, et nell, kellel on auto, peaks olema lisahääli, sest neil peaks olema rohkem otsustusõigust keskkonna ja aktsiiside küsimustes. Ja-jah, laps ja auto on erinevad asjad. aga ma

laps ise oleks selle poolt hääletanud? Ma ei usu.

Ma arvan, et iga asi, mis läheb lahku põhimõttest «üks inimene, üks hääl», tekitab rohkem probleeme kui kasu. Sest

2014-2015

Vote@16 high in the agenda

Parliamentary hearings going in parallel with dissemination of research findings

29.May – an international conference on (Austria, Norway; Estonian MPs)

03. June – open session of the Parliament's Constitutional Committee

01.July – Constitutional amendment voted into agenda of the Parliament (41 out of 101 - “yes”)

16. Sept – First reading passed in Parliament + Talk show in TV

December – Second reading expected

January 2015 – Third reading, approval expected

2017 – first local elections with 16-year- old voters

2013

Ex ante impact
assessment study
requested by the
Ministry of Justice

- Ordered from Tallinn University, because we run the CIVED/ICCS
- Report heavily relies on evidence from CIVED; POP 3 2000; ICCS 2009
- Important! Talk first to actors who are in favour of the policy proposal



How we made use of the ICCS results?

- ❖ Use data to address main public concerns
 - Why 16 and not 10-year olds?
 - “Maturity” argument
 - ▶ Knowledge
 - ▶ Perceptions and behaviours
- ❖ Be honest regarding the limitations of the research evidence
 - Higher turnout cannot be guaranteed
 - Alienated youth and low achievers do exist

Two examples of data use

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Teachers' self confidence

	Estonia	Austria
Human rights	76	93
Voting & elections	65	96
Environment	88	75
Media communication	65	90

Attitudes ja actions

	14-year olds	adults
Interested in politics	50%	36%
Affiliated with pol.party	50%	60%
Trusts pol.parties	23%	25%
Intens to vote/voted	73%	64%

IEA GA, Vienna 14. October 2014

Further challenges for instrument development

- ▶ To **keep election-related items** (many competing needs and interests in studying citizenship)
- ▶ To **reflect** on already **existing initiatives**
 - ▶ Mock elections
 - ▶ Votematch etc.
 - ▶ Youth councils
- ▶ **Ecological approach**
 - ▶ Teachers' attitudes and confidence
 - ▶ Schools' attitudes towards electoral campaigns

Further possibilities for analyses

- ▶ Today ICCS 2009 has been used mainly as a national study
- ▶ Comparison of Vote@16 countries
 - ▶ Austria 2007
 - ▶ Malta 2013
 - ▶ (Estonia 2017)
- ▶ Impact assessment studies
 - ▶ Research conference 2015
- ▶ Educational governance studies
 - ▶ Wicked issues – to be solved jointly with various ministries and actors

IEA studies can be used beyond the Ministry of education

INCREASES VISIBILITY

ATTRACTS BROADER RESEARCH COMMUNITY