Giant leaps Start With Small Steps
20-21 May 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia

e-Governance Conference 2020, Tallinn, Estonia

Concept Note

Introduction

Taking a giant leap in innovation, especially when technology is involved, requires good leadership and usually means breaking the vision into actionable small steps. This year's keynote presentations, parallel sessions and panel discussions will focus on the practical aspects of strategically designing digital agendas and collaborative models for e-governance.

The digital age is here: every week, there are over 2 million new users joining Internet services worldwide and the time people spend online during one year passed 1 billion years in 2019. Availability and popularity of a wide range of digital services is slowly transforming user expectations, including expectations on how public services could and should be digitally available. Governments have an important role in building digital public administration and government services, but also in conducting the process of the inclusive digital transformation for the whole society.

Strategic digital agendas of governments often attempt to utilise new, promising but immature technological solutions that are expected to maximise the impact and minimise investments and time needed for implementation. The expectations associated with leaping past earlier technological generations are well argued but require preconditions that include digitalisation of the core registries, interoperability and digital identities. Achieving long term goals with continuous innovation that utilises smaller projects based on common principles will be one of the key learning and sharing objectives of the e-Governance Conference 2020.

This year's conference celebrates the anniversary of the first walk on the Moon by humans, Neil Amstrong and Buzz Aldrin. As we know, this giant leap for humankind started with small steps: research, meetings, programming, technology development etc. The same principle applies to digital transformation and e-governance development. Also here, great stamina, meticulous planning, timely decisions and continuous actions are needed to be able to look back years - or sometimes decades - later, and realise what a giant leap the journey has been. Hence, every government needs to lead their innovations and ensure progress is made, one small step at a time, many small steps equating to a giant leap.

Conference topics

- Converting **a vision of digital transformation** into actionable small steps: what are the essential steps and how to get started?
- What is **the government's role** in leading digital innovation in the society and digital inclusion?
- How to make **the digital component** an essential part of a country's development (*Digital for Development*) and how to finance it?
- Adopting **the big changes of the past decades**: How is the transition to the Cloud based Platform Services Architecture affecting the Government?

Participants

Our audience will be composed of public sector decision-makers from different regions of the world who are in charge of e-governance development at all levels of administration. Ministerial level participation will be strongly encouraged, as political leadership is frequently the key for sustainable e-governance development in a country.

We will also invite donor organisations, development cooperation agencies and representatives of the business community who are involved in digital transformation in the developing countries.

Speakers

Conference speakers are top visionaries and practitioners of digital transformation from Estonia and around the world. Conference speakers include **Prime Minister of Estonia Mr. Jüri Ratas** and the **Minister of the Foreign Trade and Information Technology Mr. Kaimar Karu**.

Expo

The conference will have an expo area where the participants can see outstanding e-services and technological solutions by Estonian and international companies.

Practical details

- Conference dates: 20-21 May 2020
- Pre-Conference Events: 19 May 2020 (invitation only)
- Venue: Radisson Blu Sky Conference Centre, https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-tallinn
- Registration will open in January 2020 at http://egovconference.ee/
- Contact: conference@ega.ee

About the organisers

The e-Governance Conference is an annual event organised by e-Governance Academy (eGA) since 2015. The e-Governance Academy (eGA) is a think-tank and consultancy organisation founded for the creation and transfer of knowledge and best practice concerning e-governance, e-democracy, national cyber security and the development of open information societies. eGA inspires, trains and advises public sector leaders, officials and stakeholders in using information and communications technology (ICT) to increase government efficiency and transparency and to improve democratic processes.

For a decade, the e-Governance Academy has organised conferences related to electronic tools for governance. Larger events of the past years include:

- 2019 – e-Governance Conference, Tallinn 2019 "Same Goals, Different Roadmaps"
- 2018 - Tallinn e-Governance Conference 2018 "Governance for Digital Citizens"
- 2017 – e-Partnership conference "Trust in e-Governance in the EU's Eastern Partnership Countries"
- 2017 – Tallinn e-Governance Conference 2017 – "e-Governance in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries
- 2016 – Tallinn e-Governance Conference 2016 – "Impact of e-governance on economic growth and transparency"
- 2015 – Tallinn e-Governance Conference 2015 – "How to organise e-governance?"
- 2014 – Co-organiser (together with the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of the Freedom Online Coalition's annual conference in 2014
- 2011 – 5th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV2011)