

Applicant Name: Finland Team  
Normalized Scores 76.4

**JUDGING CRITERION # 1: CREDIBILITY OF PARTNERSHIPS (0-5)**

**Did the applicant provide sufficient evidence of partnering with other non-government organizations in either nominating, validating and/or jointly implementing the initiative?**

0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5
<i>Showed no consultation in nominating an initiative; may have been jointly implemented but shows very weak validation of claims</i>	<i>Some effort in consulting with other partners in nominating an initiative; initiative was not jointly implemented but provided minimal validation of claims</i>	<i>Provided sufficient evidence of consulting with other partners to nominate an initiative, was jointly implemented and presented somewhat convincing validation of claims</i>	<i>Demonstrated compelling mechanisms for consulting others in nominating an initiative; was not jointly implemented but shows convincing validation of claims</i>	<i>Shows strong evidence of consulting others in nominating an initiative; jointly implemented with a partner agency and strong validation of claims</i>

4.4 / 5

**Judge Name:** Tri Mumpuni  
**Score:** 4.4  
**Comment:** Many actors in this group seems giving a promise that participation in the initiative will run smoothly and the government involvement has already shown clearly.

4.6 / 5

**Judge Name:** Marija Novkovic  
**Score:** 4.6  
**Comment:** The consultation took place in the form of an online vote, during almost two weeks. The submission includes a link to the poll, as well as consultations via Facebook page.

3.3 / 5

**Judge Name:** Gilbert Sendugwa  
**Score:** 3.3  
**Comment:** The applicant has provided evidence on the participation of citizens in nominating Online Democracy Services. It is worthy noting that NGOs and citizens were not only invited to comment on the nomination of the proposed idea but were allowed to suggest counter proposals for nomination.

4.3 / 5

**Judge Name:** Maxine Tanya Hamada  
**Score:** 4.3  
**Comment:** Demokratia.fi is presented as a technology tool box that builds on, and strengthens, existing citizen engagement and trust of the state. The initiative, as described, shows a progression from pilot to scale of eDemocracy and gives clear indication of the citizen-side of use and access. The nomination and selection of Demokratia.fi was done by the steering committee with online voting.

4.5 / 5

**Judge Name:** Chris Vein  
**Score:** 4.5  
**Comment:** The application clearly shows this initiatives was nominated in a consultative manner, jointly implemented and has a strong validation of claims.

**JUDGING CRITERION # 2: DEPTH OF ENGAGEMENT (0-5)**

**Does the initiative provide incentives for the participation of citizens and offer direct, innovative channels for citizens to engage with government?**

0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5
<i>Offered no incentives for participation; provides basic information to citizens but no avenues for real engagement to influence policy/service design or implementation; doesn't define a target population</i>	<i>Provided few incentives for participation; obtained basic feedback from some of its target population; however, did not indicate how feedback would be used</i>	<i>Demonstrated sufficient incentives for participation; created indirect ways to solicit citizens' aspirations; strived to exceed the intended level of engagement of its target population</i>	<i>Created reliable ways to incentivize participation; used direct and innovative ways to get citizen feedback; secured participation of at least half of target population</i>	<i>Employed compelling measures to incentivize participation; used direct and innovative methods to partner with citizens in decision-making; reached an ambitious level of engagement with its target population</i>

3.4 / 5

**Judge Name:** Tri Mumpuni  
**Score:** 3.4  
**Comment:** The government support and the other parties shown that this initiative can be implemented elsewhere with very strong cohesiveness in term of creating awareness amongst the society.

2.8 / 5

**Judge Name:** Marija Novkovic  
**Score:** 2.8  
**Comment:** "Online citizens' initiative was opened in December 2012 and has so far activated more than 300 000 users per month. More than 500 000 people have signed one or more of the 246 initiatives made electronically. This is a high percentage in a country with a population of 5.4 million. Many of the citizens which have participated have previously been uninterested in politics." Many thanks for the statistical data. I am confused as to how the applicant could have know which citizens were reticent to participate, but are participating in the new online democracy tools. I am also not convinced that there are incentives for citizens to participate, besides the fact that online tools make it a bit easier to get involved. The feedback system seems to be in place, which is why points are in order.

3.7 / 5

**Judge Name:** Gilbert Sendugwa  
**Score:** 3.7  
**Comment:** The initiative allows all citizens to propose ideas and make inputs on proposed policies and programmes without limitation to any group or location of country. It is anchored on Finnish Citizens' Initiative law that guarantees space for engagement and given weight to citizen views. Information has been provided on high level of trust between citizens and government which further builds an environment of constructive engagement and provides incentive for participation. It is encouraging that Government is motivated by the desire to strengthen and maintain a high level of trust through initiatives like Democracy Services. Democracy services has clearly positively impacted programmes and policies. However, this normally takes time and there are variations between the nature and character of policies and programmes, mechanisms for immediate feedback to citizens could be explored.

4.1 / 5

**Judge Name:** Maxine Tanya Hamada  
**Score:** 4.1  
**Comment:** Demokratia.fi offers a viable platform for its users to achieve their intended results in influencing policy. That is the incentive whether at local or national levels. As long as policy-makers and public audience are receptive to this platform, users will be incentivized to use it.

4.3 / 5

**Judge Name:** Chris Vein  
**Score:** 4.3  
**Comment:** The application clearly shows, through the Democracy online services, a four part approach to incentivize, involve, and reach an ambitious level of engagement.

**JUDGING CRITERION # 3: EVIDENCE OF RESULTS (0-5)**

**Did citizen engagement influence the design or delivery of government policy and services? Is there any evidence of concrete benefits to citizens and the government as a result?**

0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5
<i>Shows that citizens may be informed but provided little to no evidence of change in public policy or service</i>	<i>Nominally influenced a public policy or service; and shows some benefits to citizens as a result</i>	<i>Sufficiently changed a public policy or service; and demonstrated reliable benefits to citizens as a result</i>	<i>Significantly influenced a public policy or service; resulted in compelling benefits to citizens and the government</i>	<i>Transformed a public policy or service; set new standards for the relationship between government and citizens; resulted in concrete benefits for both</i>

3 / 5

**Judge Name:** Tri Mumpuni  
**Score:** 3.0  
**Comment:** This initiative is completely new due to the initiative which started in 2012. There is no evidence to show that the group has done something to solve the real problem, it is true that the institution play a significant role but yet need to show how to do it. There is not clear in term of the real program that will give direct benefit to the whole society soon unless on the political issue.

2.4 / 5

**Judge Name:** Marija Novkovic  
**Score:** 2.4  
**Comment:** The reason for 2.6 points under this criterion lies in the fact that there were only 6 initiatives which reached the Parliament, and that is in the period of 2 years since the establishment of the service. 3 initiatives per year do not achieve a "significant influence" over policy or service.

3.5 / 5

**Judge Name:** Gilbert Sendugwa  
**Score:** 3.5  
**Comment:** The initiative has transformed ways in which people consult and make suggestions to government. This interest has attracted visits of over 300,000 visitors to the portal which demonstrates to users that suggestions are taken seriously and they are encouraged to use the system. Various initiatives have been stated to be associated with this platform key of which is the contribution to consultation for law-making.

4.1 / 5

**Judge Name:** Maxine Tanya Hamada  
**Score:** 4.1  
**Comment:** Demokratia.fi as a toolbox presents a new platform for engagement with lowered costs and higher efficiency of response. It would have been interesting to have information on the 6 initiatives that have reached the threshold for parliamentary deliberation.

3.1 / 5

**Judge Name:** Chris Vein  
**Score:** 3.1  
**Comment:** The application states: "Online citizens' initiative has reached wide scale citizens' awareness and participation. 6 initiatives have reached parliament and many have received wide-scale public visibility. The citizens' initiative has constitutional support and therefore actual influence on the political agenda. Being able to participate online makes campaigning without big budgets possible for grass-roots citizens' movements. Before the collection of physical signatures required too much resources. Unlike in any other country, the law proposals that reach the necessary support get full parliamentary proceedings, similar to government bills. Online citizens' initiative was opened in December 2012 and has so far activated more than 300 000 users per month. More than 500 000 people have signed one or more of the 246 initiatives made electronically. This is a high percentage in a country with a population of 5.4 million. The actual outcome of the initiative is a big step forward. Hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom were previously unengaged in politics, have participated in citizens' initiatives. Six national citizens' initiatives have reached the threshold required for parliamentary proceedings. Many initiatives have sparked public interest and deliberation. In addition, many municipalities have opened up their decision-making processes and asked for feedback via the otakantaa.fi

**JUDGING CRITERION # 4: SUSTAINABILITY (0-5)**

**Does the applicant make a compelling case that the initiative will be institutionalized or scaled-up over time?**

0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5
<i>Demonstrates few plans in moving the pilot beyond the pilot stage; does not address any potential threats or challenges to the initiative</i>	<i>Shows some committing to the initiative; but presents unrealistic ways of managing challenges faced by the initiative</i>	<i>Lists activities to institutionalize the initiative; but only somewhat addresses how challenges will be addressed</i>	<i>Outlines a clear path to either institutionalize or scale-up the initiative; makes a good case on how potential challenges will be addressed</i>	<i>Presents a durable model that can be institutionalized and/or scaled-up; makes a compelling case for how challenges will be managed</i>

4.2 / 5

**Judge Name:** Tri Mumpuni  
**Score:** 4.2  
**Comment:** One of the reason this initiative will be successful is that many governmental organization and press so convinced that this initiative will be funded and becoming another institution.

3.3 / 5

**Judge Name:** Marija Novkovic  
**Score:** 3.3  
**Comment:** Funding for the initiative is in place, there are actions towards gathering users feedback (1000 responses is not a staggering number per se) and the code has been posted on github. There is no mention of potential challenges nor ideas on how these would be addressed. There is no outreach campaign envisaged. It might be contextual, i.e. the population of Finland does not have to be encouraged to participate, but to me it sounds like the government is assuming that this approach suits the needs of the citizens.

4.5 / 5

**Judge Name:** Gilbert Sendugwa  
**Score:** 4.5  
**Comment:** The applicant has stated that the initiative developed from pilots in different departments before it was formally institutionalized by Ministry of Justice. Funding, maintenance and further development is already mainstreamed in the Ministry's budget and programming. The Open Government Partnership provides government and civil society to explore opportunities for scale up and further innovations of or around the initiative.

4.6 / 5

**Judge Name:** Maxine Tanya Hamada  
**Score:** 4.6  
**Comment:** It is a continuing initiative, supported by statute and backed by the state and popular use.

4.3 / 5

**Judge Name:** Chris Vein  
**Score:** 4.3  
**Comment:** According to the application: "Permanent Secretaries have stated, that online democracy services should be developed through drafting significant legislation. Civil servants both in government, and municipalities, have been educated on how to use these services. All demokratia.fi (democracy.fi) services are centrally financed and can be used free of charge by government, municipalities, CSOs and citizens."