

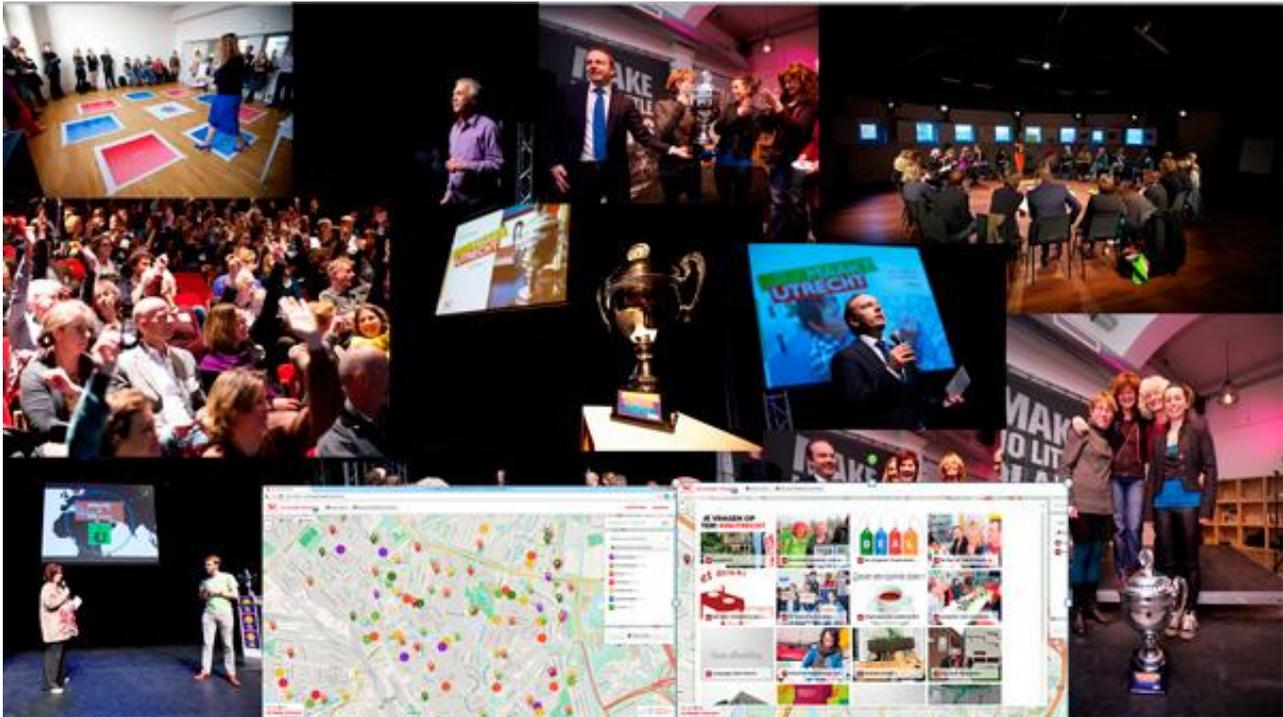
The first mobility field trial in Helsinki

From mid-December 2013 a mobility field trial has been running in Helsinki. In the trial all together 15 volunteered pilot users living in Helsinki region were provided a prototype of the mobility application. The volunteered users were asked to use the application during their daily travelling with public transport and share their impressions. The application integration has been done by CERTH and user recruiting and guidance by Mattersoft.

The trial has ended at the end of January 2014, and evaluation of trial success is currently taking place. In the first trial the focus was on the mobile citizen application that collects data about citizen movements, detects user activity and used service line number in case they are travelling with public transport. The application is anticipated to prove as a useful and reliable tool for detecting citizens movements and means of travel in order to later extend the application to also provide a more personalized and relevant information by detecting reliably tendencies in citizens current journeys. The application also provided the users with information regarding current traffic situation and exceptions. With the application users were also provided a tool to send issue reports to the authorities when coming across different events related to public transport.

The first results seem promising and many functionalities have proved to be well functioning and the user activity rates have also been good. Based on initial surveys with the users, positive feedback has been received of application usability and the progress in the use case. The evaluation of the first trial is hoped to provide valuable information about the accuracy of the detected matters in the first pilot and also provide information on the most important focus points for the development on the second prototype, which will be piloted later in year 2014.

Online and offline empowerment of active citizenship - a winning combination with a Trophy



On the 21st of November the 'Jij Maakt Utrecht Trophy' has been awarded to the best citizen initiative of Utrecht by alderman Jeroen Kreijkamp. The award ceremony was part of the larger Jij Maakt Utrecht festival. As the name "You Make Utrecht" already states, Utrecht is serious about embracing and encouraging active citizenship.

At the festival, citizens, initiators, partners from the city, public officials and council members gathered to get inspired about initiatives in Utrecht. Workshops, power talks and plenary sessions were all part of the program. One of the keynote speakers was Jim Diers, who has extensive experience with building local communities in Seattle. He shared important insights on the local government's role in building community.

The festival, the nominations and the award created great momentum and energy and put the spotlight on citizen initiatives. This video compilation (http://youtu.be/FP-RjTx_dvs) gives a good idea of the energy released in this festival.

Releasing the energy from active citizenship is not a once a year thing. Not surprisingly Utrecht plays an important role in the Live+Gov project. The aim is to be able to digitally facilitate and stimulate active citizenship on a continuous basis and moreover to give citizens initiatives the attention they deserve. Attention from politicians, public officials and particular attention from other active citizens who must be able to find what is going on in their neighbourhood quickly. Tapping into reality of citizens, lowering barriers for dialogue and stimulating citizens to launch or to join initiatives. This is what the Live+Gov eGovernment dialogue aims at, together with Utrecht municipality and community.

The community of Utrecht is showing that active citizenship is about the real world, not only the digital world, and with the right combination of both online and offline, presence and activity, it can really lift off- not once a year, but continuously. The digital platform is an enabler, people putting energy into their communities makes it happen.

Citizen Participation in Urban Plans is becoming a reality in the municipality of Gordexola by using smart mobile devices



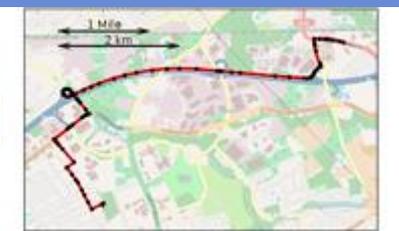
In January a work session has been conducted with a group of citizens from Gordexola to trial the Urban Planning mobile Application developed within the Live+Gov project. This is an experience within the eParticipation focus of the project to bring citizens and administrators closer taking advantage of many new possibilities that smartphones can offer in this effort.

The system is a new communication channel between the Local Council of Gordexola and the citizens. The smart phone application allows citizens to participate, easily voting on their preferred option using their phone with no need to register. Local administrators offer a description with relevant information related to each plan so that citizens have a better background in order to decide. Having more details about these issues improves the knowledge the neighbors of Gordexola have about what is going on in their town, and they also receive feedback about the current percentages of the votes for each issue. During the first trial three prototype plans have been included with voting options, questions and space for free comment.

However, the most important aspect of this application is that it features an enhanced view of the plans overlapped on the real view of the smart phone camera that shows the 3D model of the infrastructure in the exact place where it will be built. Not only this, but the augmented reality feature also allows to see the 3D models overlapped on pictures of the selected location, opening the possibility of reaching citizens that are not there at the moment. These pictures can be shared through the current municipal communication channels such as the local municipal magazines and publications, the web page of Gordexola or information panels located in strategic settings.

The information collected from the citizen participation is used as new input for the decision makers to have a better and more realistic understanding of what the people they serve are interested in at any moment and not only depend on the political calendar that is presented prior to the elections. The opinion collected from the users can be then analyzed according to demographic characteristics or other information collected through the application that gives even further knowledge about what the inhabitants think about a proposed issue.

The Governing Body of Town Council of Gordexola is pleased with hosting this pioneering trial of eParticipation. This town has a tradition of being ahead of its time in terms of technological advance and offering its inhabitants modern services and they are therefore looking forward to collaborating in the next months in order to be able to fully test the entire system and prove its possibilities.



Tracking vehicles is possible with only speed data and the initial location



ICT-enabled public sector innovation through open government



Latest developments achieved by the AR –Working Group: making AR technology running in standard web-browsers

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