



DEBATE

The voice of the citizens in the European refugee crisis – who listens to us, who represents us?

Tallinn, Nordic Hotel Forum

February 10th, 2016

09.30-10.00 Registration of participants

10.00-10.10 Introduction

Opening words by **Mall Hellam** (Open Estonia Foundation)

10.10-12.00 **EU and its citizens in the midst of the refugee crisis: who and how creates the solutions?** (debate and questions from the audience)

What is the role of different EU institutions in solving the refugee crisis? Has the voice of the European citizens been heard in the process? Is the refugee crisis also a communication crisis?

Discussion with **Marju Lauristin** (MEP), **Mart Nutt** (MP), **Klen Jäärats** (Estonian Government Office) and **Kert Valdaru** (Estonian Academy of Security Sciences).

12.00-12.30 Lunch

12.30-14.30 **From crises to solutions, from participation to impact**
(debate, participation of International partners, discussion)

What are the lessons the refugee crisis has provided for civil participation? What do the citizens and their representatives in the European Parliament have to learn from each other? How should the citizens, civil society and MEPs act to move together from crises to solutions and from participation to actual impact?

Online presentations by **Petko Georgiev** (Proinfo, Bulgaria), **Mariano Votta** (Cittadinanz Attiva, Italy) and **Savvas Charalambous** (NGO Support Centre, Cyprus).

Discussion with **Indrek Tarand** (MEP), **Oudekki Loone** (MP) and **Maarjo Mändmaa** (Friendly Estonia)

14.30-15.00 **Conclusions and closing remarks**

The event is moderated by Anna Karolin (SpeakSmart).

The debate is a part of the project **From Citizen Involvement to Policy Impact** funded under the Europe for Citizens Program of the European Commission. Partners of the project are non-profit organizations active in promoting citizens' participation at European level from Albania, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Estonia, Italy, Romania, Spain, and Bulgaria