

Community Engagement for Policing and Security: challenges and approaches in Baltic states

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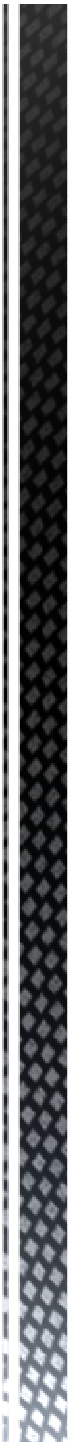


Every state is a community of some kind, and every community is established with a view to some good; for mankind always act in order to obtain that which they think good. But, if all communities aim at some good, the state or political community, which is the highest of all, and which embraces all the rest, aims at good in a greater degree than any other, and at the highest good.

Aristotle



About the state and community



- Reporting an cooperating with police as “collaboration with enemy”
- Distrust in police
- No previous experience of such civic actions, lack of civic society
- Not understanding of bottom-up initiatives by local authorities



Historical
heritage



■ Estonia

- Neighbourhood watch (leader NGO), successful

■ Latvia

- Neighbourhood watch (leader State police), not successful

■ Lithuania

- Neighbourhood watch (leader State police), not successful
- Police supporters (leader State police), eventual activities
- Rifleman union (leader semi military voluntary organisation), eventual activities
- Safe communities (leader Community), successful

■ Poland

- Neighbourhood watch (leader Municipal Police), average success

Most of community engagement models are Neighbourhood watch models.

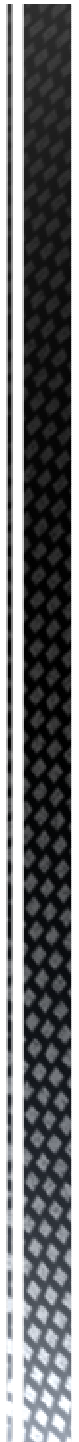


Models of
community
engagement for
in Baltic states

- Initiatives from state institutions
- No alignment with community needs
- Reaching planned numbers...
- No implementation guides for police officers or municipality representatives



Unsuccessful
models

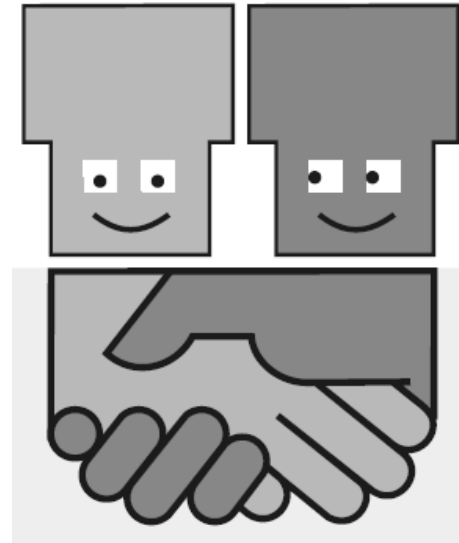


- Leader – Estonian Neighbourhood Watch Association, NGO.
- The first condition of starting with neighbourhood watch in one district is that people should realize that they need and they want to participate in this movement.
- Neighbourhood watch co-operation agreement - co-operation contract between four parties - NHW sector, the police, the local government and the Association.
- Association provides constant information support, organises cooperation with police and local authorities, organizes information exchange in community.
- Organized communities start participating in city management

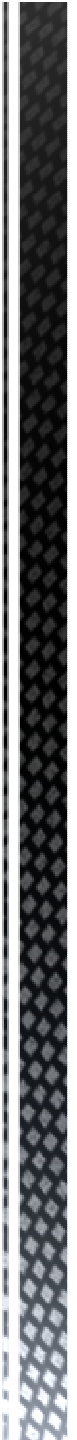


Estonian model

- Leaders – big communities usually in city suburbs
- Police and local authorities provide only complementary support
- Communities have councils which deal with all problems
- Crime prevention is only one of many activities
- Activities – organization of neighbourhood watch, hiring of security company, installation safety equipment
- Communities participate in decision making in city



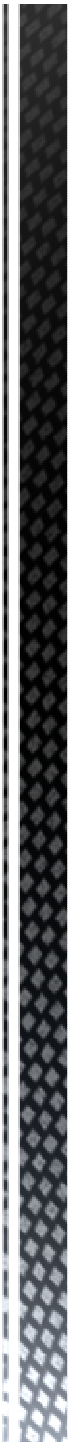
Lithuanian model

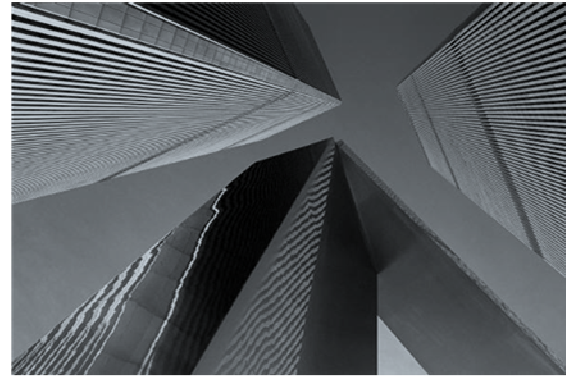


- Low number of citizens involved
- Leadership problems in communities
- Bad communication and cooperation with local authorities and police
- Most of NW activities watching through the window
- Lack of information what and how to do



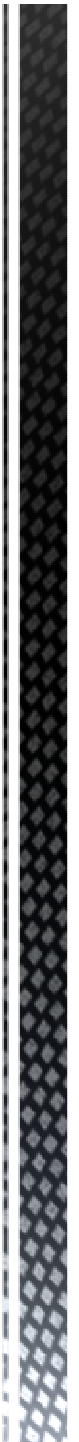
Challenges





- City consist of communities first of all, not territory.
- If we want people to take responsibilities they have to feel themselves owners of the city.

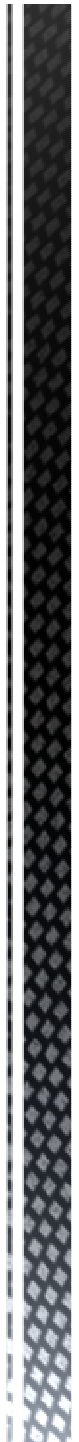
2 ideas



- Local authorities and police have to be near
- To know people who are responsible for their neighborhood
- Work and objectives of municipality have to align community expectations
- Simple communication and problem solving
- Possibility to influence decision making
- Support for community ideas and activities



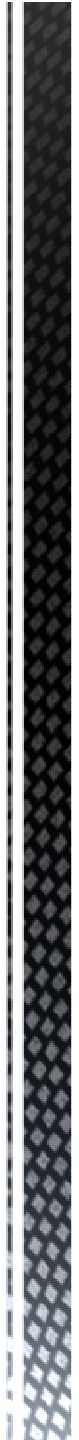
What do
communities
need for
engagement?



- Simplifying mechanism of application and problem solving
- Community engagement in city planning
- Accountancy of local authorities
- Support to community initiatives



How to take out
separating walls?



- Small things can be accomplished by communities themselves – just encouraging from local authorities needed
- Communities tend to take care of neighborhood they consider to be “THEIRS”
- If municipality supports communities, communities accept and support municipality decisions and feel owners of city
- Support of communities saves resources. Part of needed resources can be provided by communities.



Support and
engagement of
communities

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Thank you for
your attention