

Municipal Business and Governance Response to COVID-19: Tartu case

Raimond Tamm, Deputy Mayor of Tartu March 12, 2021



C: Smart city since 1632

- Second-largest city in Estonia
- Research and education centre
- University of Tartu was founded in 1632

- Almost 100 000 citizens
- 50% are **under 35** years
- About 18 000 students

COVID-19 situation in Estonia



Declared state of emergency in Estonia, lockdown – March-May
 2020

Moderate restrictions – June 2020–February 2021

Heavy restrictions, lockdown – March-April (?) 2021





Municipal response - communication



- Local communication: it's our task to reach our inhabitants and entrepreneurs with information!
- Channels: webpage, media, social media, direct mailing, info signs
- Main challenges: closed schools (distance learning) and interest schools, restaurants, sports clubs, restricted outdoor activities, restrictions addressed to entrepreneurs etc.
- Challenge: people providing misleading information that virus does not exist and deny restrictions.



Municipal response - entrepreneurship



- Providing entrepreneurs with important information (both from state and city level) via mailing lists, social media and webpage.
- Gathering of proposals and expectations from local entrepreneurs, sending proposal to Estonian government.



Campaigns to promote local consumption



- Different campaigns to promote local companies and increase consumption
- "Tasty Tartu" (1.02-14.03.2021)
- Summer campaign addressing domestic tourists in 2020
- Providing information about continuously expanding home delivery services







Consumer campaign "You ar safe here"



Target group: restaurants and hotels

Shows companies are following the rules to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

By displaying the label, the company confirms it is following instructions issued by the Health Board.

Municipal response - entrepreneurship



• Rent exemptions in case of real estate owned by the municipality. If the tenant is restricted to operate.

Keeping the city's investment plan and continuing with investments



Municipal response





- Kindergardens remained open, but we applied exemption of place fee during lockdown, opened 24 h service for families related to life-critical services
- Intermediation of PCs for distance learning purposes (mainly from companies to pupils)
- Libraries smart lockers to enable contact-free borrowing



Municipal response





- Public transport operated continuously (important for entrepreneurs), less service in April-May 2020, regular desinfection, bike-sharing has been a great alternative.
- Public events (both organized by the municipality and by others)
 following of restrictions.





While most of the WRC rallies were cancelled, we had the first ever WRC rally in Tartu!





Municipal response





Tartu city government:

- working mostly from distance;
- business trips are not allowed;
- offices are mainly closed to external visitors;
- all services remain available, mainly via electronic channels.

eTartu roadmap



Public Legislation

Infrastructure

Implementation

Public Information Act

> Digital Signatures Act

Basics of state ICT interoperability

Public key infrastructure

Electronic identity

ID card & Mobil ID

Secure information exchange

Document registry

Electronical document processing

Document web publishing

Digital signing
Strong authentication

Paperless city government



- was implemented in 2003
- document management and daily work
- digital signature and mobile-ID





Thank you for your attention!

Raimond Tamm

Deputy Mayor, Tartu City Government

Raimond.Tamm@raad.tartu.ee