

# **INTRODUCTION:**

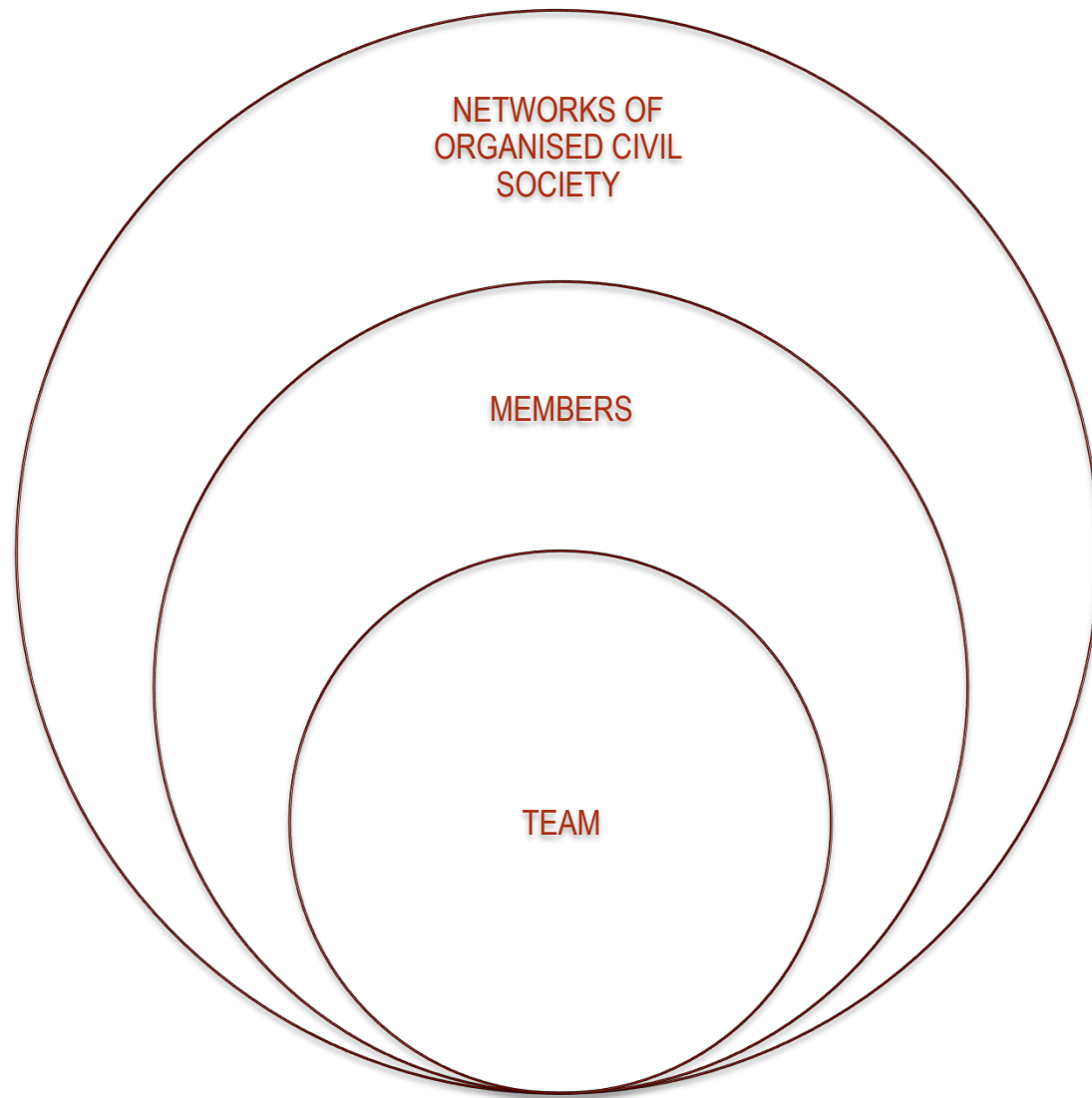
**NENO, Network of Estonian Non-Profit  
Organisations  
Civil Society Landscape in Estonia**

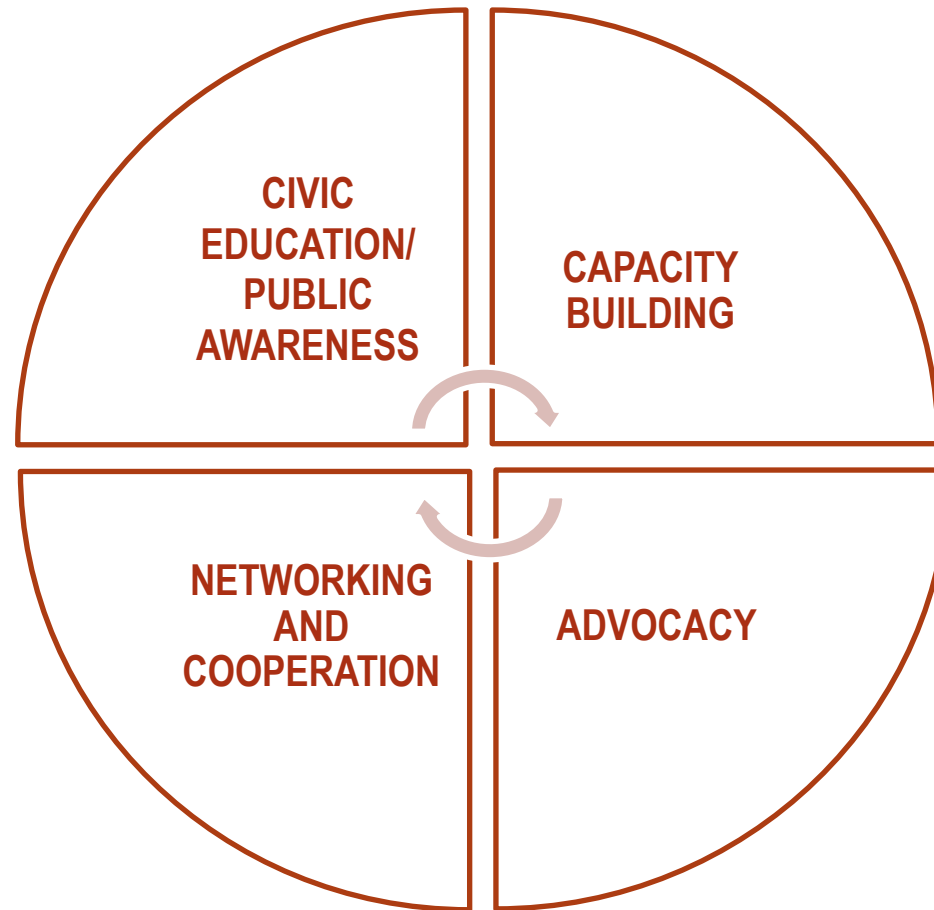
## **NENO is the single and largest Estonian organisation uniting public benefit nonprofits**

**Mission:** to give voice to and advocate on behalf of public benefit organisations and its work is dedicated to the development and promotion of civic action and civil society in Estonia

**Goals:** to foster development trends and provide development services to nonprofits, increase public awareness, advocate for the interests of public benefit NGOs, and improve working relations with public and business sectors.

- 102 members
- Information network with approx 4000 contacts, Estonian and Russian
- Strategic partner to the Ministry of Interior for civil society development





What do we do?

# CIVIC EDUCATION

## Concept of a GOOD CITIZEN

- ✧ Civic-education programme  
Community Practice
- ✧ Database of NGOs affiliating civic education, methods and materials
- ✧ Coalition with other NGOs in order to improve methods, advocate for civic education programmes
- ✧ Public discussions, awareness raising (Festival of Opinion Culture, watchdogs of elections, People's Assembly)



# ADVOCACY

**In order to develop a more supportive environment for civic action and sustainability of NGOs**

- ✧ Implementation of Estonian Civil Society Development Concept (EKAK), including monitoring how the principles are followed
- ✧ Open governance and participation policies
- ✧ Legal environment for civic activism
- ✧ Funding issues (incl EU Structural Funds)
- ✧ Indirect support





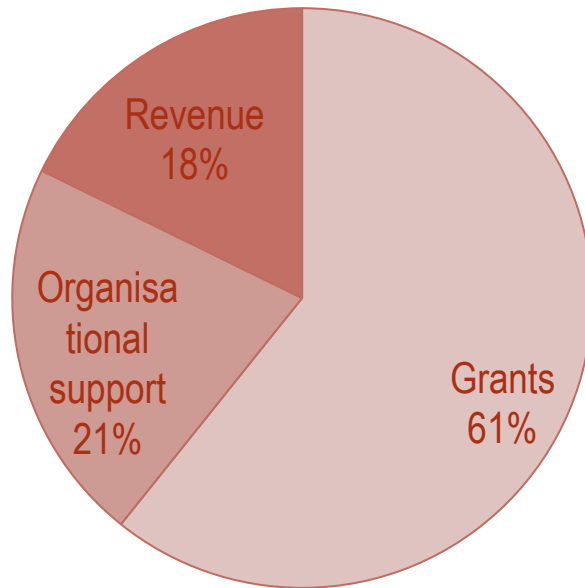
## CAPACITY BUILDING

**In order to support capacity of public benefit organisations so that they are better in their roles and sustainable in actions**

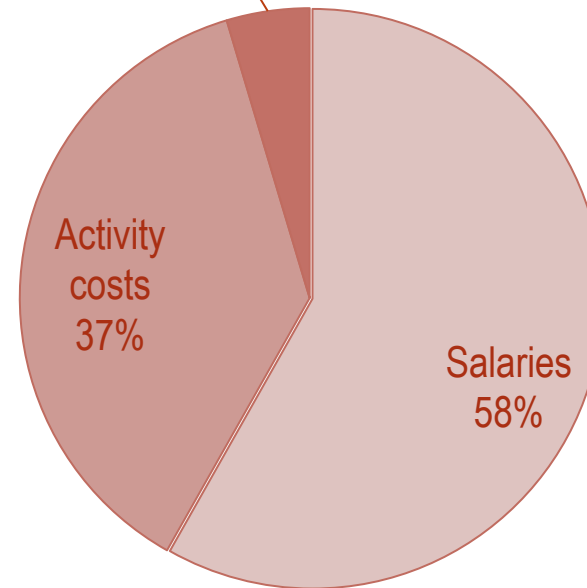
- ✧ NGO development programmes
- ✧ Future foresight
- ✧ Civil society summer-school
- ✧ Spring-school on participation and involvement
- ✧ Trainings: fundraising capacities, leadership, etc
- ✧ Advocacy Lab as a development programme for capacity building in



## Income

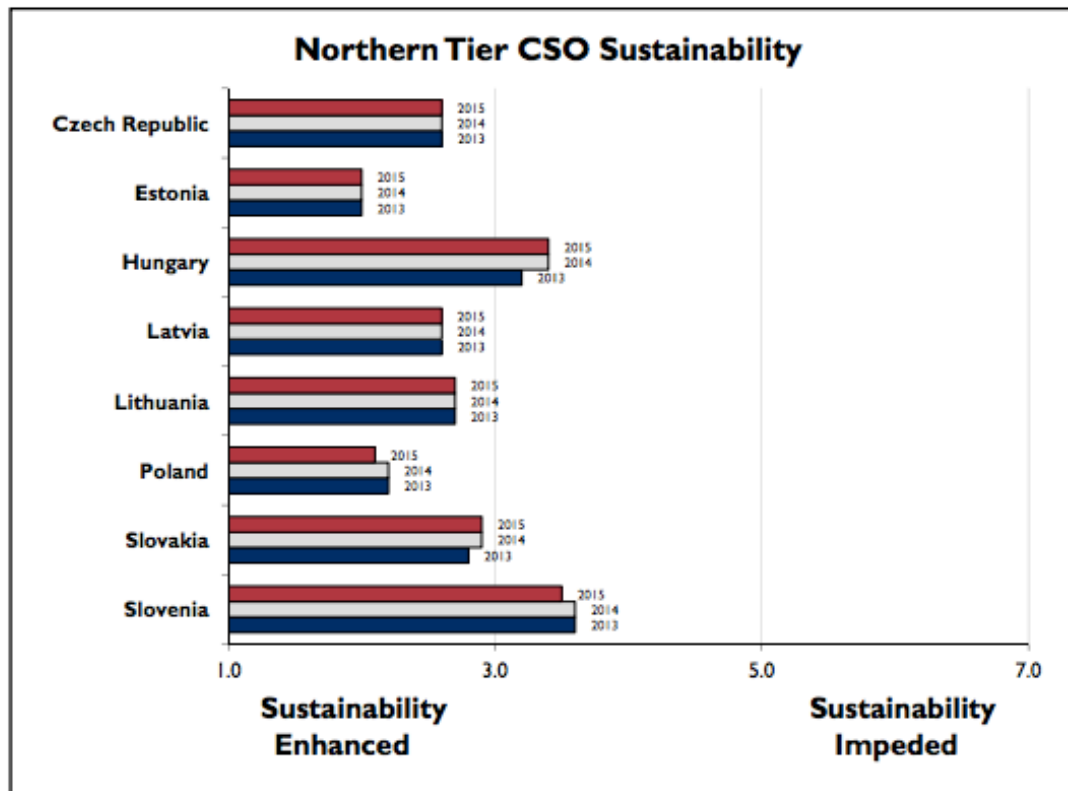


## Costs





Civil society in Estonia has been rated most sustainable by USAID  
in the Central and Eastern European Countries  
and has grown in numbers



- 30 000 associations and foundations - professional and voluntary
- mostly less than 10 members (41%)
- membership fees most important to 58%; local governments 37%, income from fees and services 28%
- 21% have paid staff
- 31% of population has practiced voluntary work
- 30 mil EUR donations

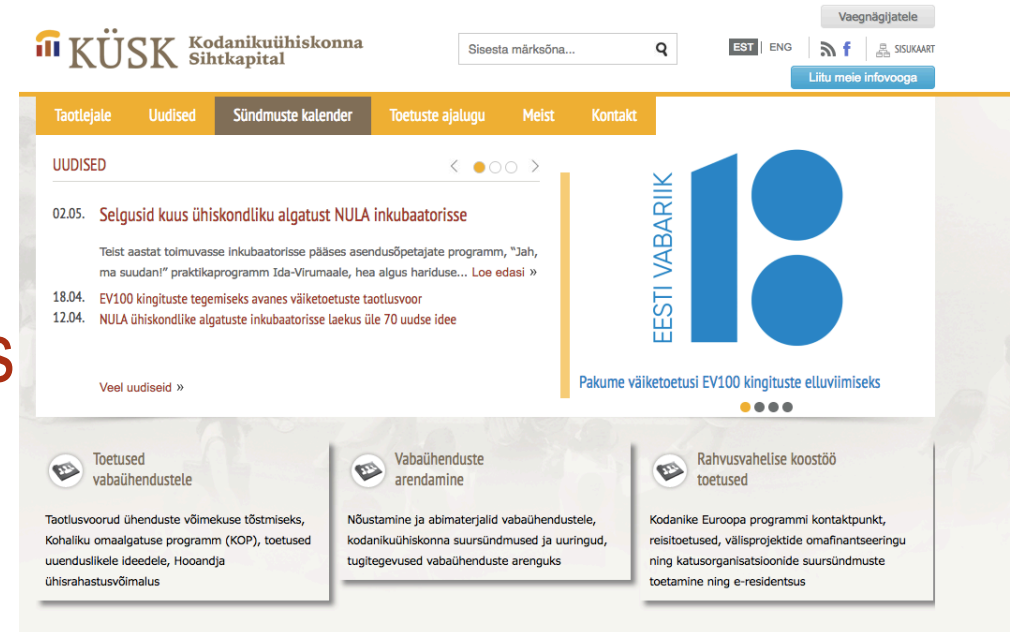
# VOLUNTEERING



Let's  do it!

# INFRASTRUCTURE

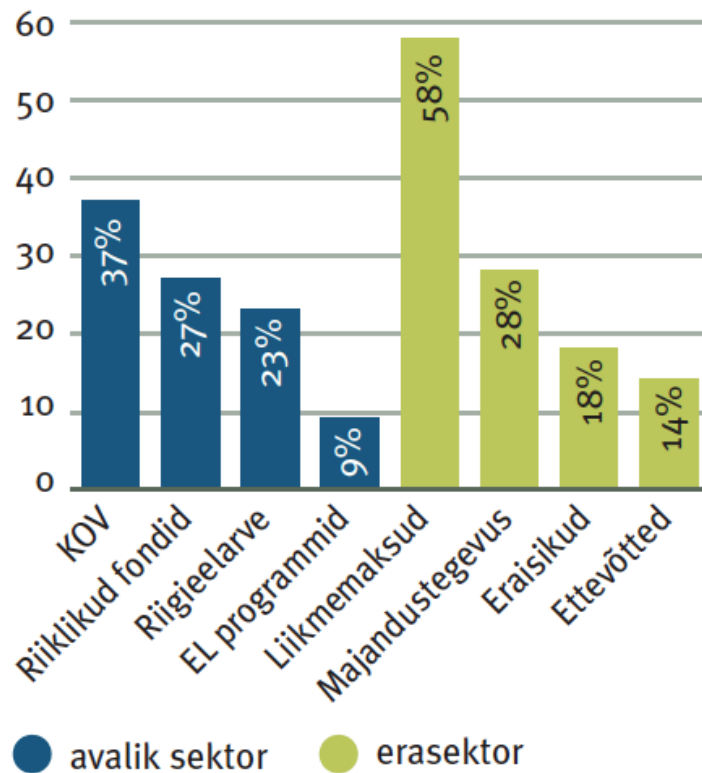
- Funding
- Advice
- Strong umbrellas
- Networks and coalitions
- Working groups and councils



# INCOME & RESOURCES



**Kolme olulisema hulgas nimetatud  
sissetulekuallikad vabaühendustes**



Allikas: TLÜ “Kodanikualgatuse  
institutsionaliseerumine Eestis” (2014)

## Three most important income sources for civil society organisations:

- local governments
- state funds
- state budget
- EU structural funds
- membership fees
- revenue from services
- private donations

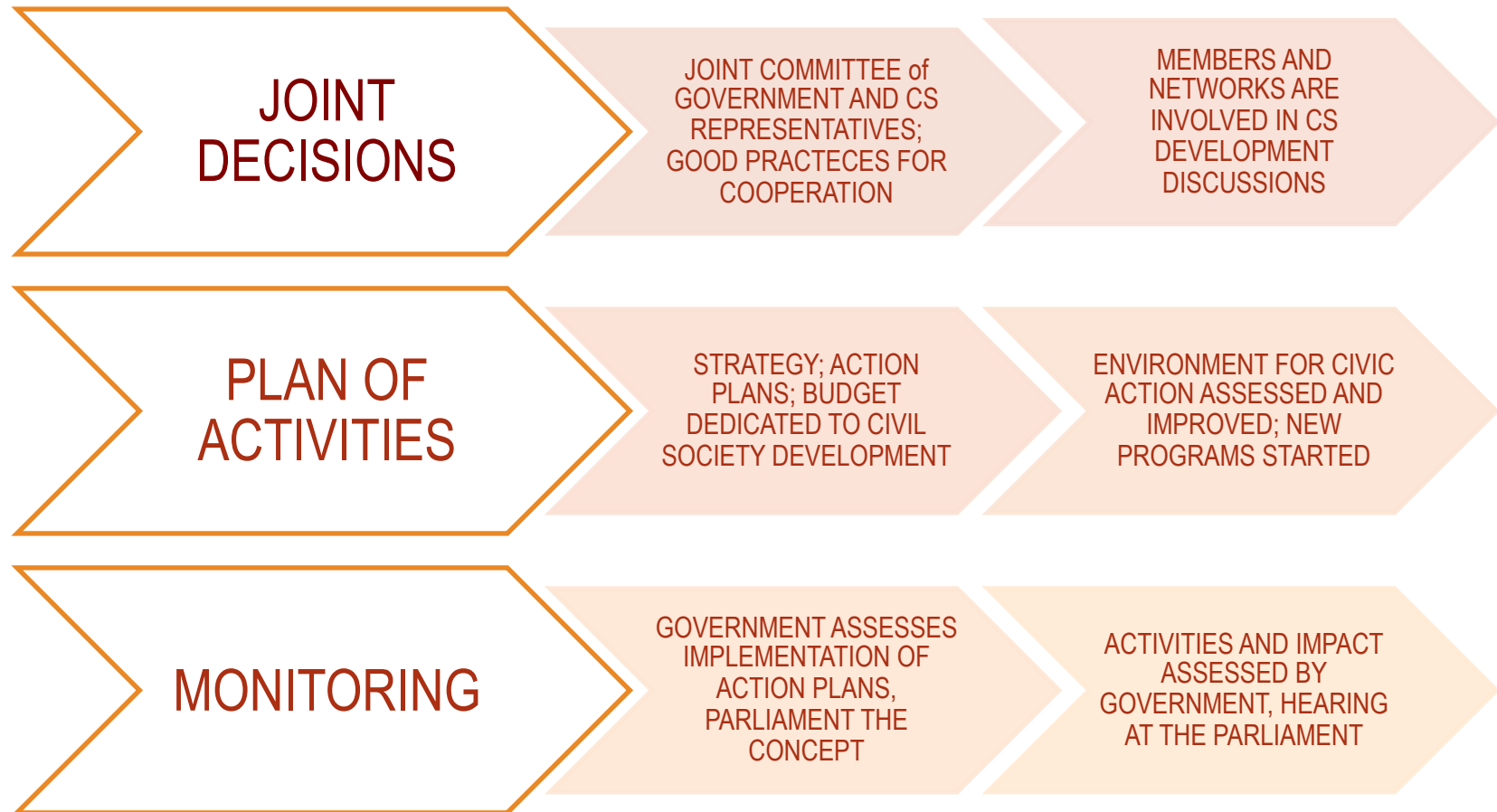
## Framework for development and cooperation – **Civil Society Development Concept**

- Initiated by civil society
- Approved by the Parliament in 2002
- States aims and principles for cooperation for civil society development
- Implementation: Joint Committee; action plans; public hearings
- National strategy (Development Plan) for civil society for a 4 year period
- **Results:** NFCS, attention to civic education, volunteering, guidelines for funding from the state budget; good practice of involvement, etc



## Civil society is a policy area: value of institutionalised civil society development

- 



## Estonian Civil Society Development Concept (2002) describes the framework for CS-government cooperation

Good Practice of  
Involvement

Guidelines for Funding  
CSOs from State Budget

Open  
Government  
Partnership

Open  
consultation  
platforms

Boards and  
committees for  
involving interest  
groups

National  
Foundation for  
Civil Society  
Development

Monitoring  
transparency,  
accessibility and  
impact of funding

Capacity building  
of civil servants,  
social partners  
and CSOs



Implementation of civil society development concept

# New topics

- Social innovation and social enterprises
- Digital services and e-democracy
- Populism and CS role in integration
- Community involvement and community services
- etc

## Developments

- Well functioning cooperation structures – formal and informal
- Frameworks for involving: Good Practice of Involvement, involvement coordinators, monitoring of principles
- Concept of strategic partnership
- Growing awareness in the potential in communities
- Supportive infrastructure: legal environment, advice, trainings
- Funding for capacity building

## Need to work with

- Transparency and impact of funding
- Main problems in involvement practices: objective setting, involvement in early stages, feedback.
- Lack of skills to back up good practices
- Capacity of advocacy organisations
- Trust and belief in the potential of civic activism, political will
- Need for more strategic philanthropy
- Gap in the capacity of CSOs

# Civil society as a strategic partner to the government?

- Agreed consultation channels
- Support for advocacy initiatives
- Participation and representation of civic organisations in cooperation:
  - implementation of EKAK
  - open governance
  - funding issues
  - task forces (social innovation)
- Longer term stability for the organisation



# NENOs role in networking

We speak up only on issues that influence civil society on the whole

- All members can raise issues
- NENO has a legitimacy to work as an expert
- Partnerships and informal collaboration

- knowing the needs of members and the network
- consultations for opinions
- sharing information to NGOs
- gathering information

# How we involve our members:

- General Assembly
- overview members
- member-gatherings
- short consultations on website
- issue based gatherings
- quarterly reporting on advocacy efforts
- feed-back survey once a year

# **EXPECTATIONS TO STUDY-VISIT**

# Wednesday, May 3

## Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organisations

- Introduction to the civil society landscape in Estonia, including characteristics, organization of citizens and CS groups, main statistics, challenges and best practices. Role of NENO as main CSO network.
- Introduction to the legal environment in Estonia, types of NGOs, their foundation and taxation.
- Role of Civil Society Development Concept in the perspective of CSOs: how the agreement can be used as an advocacy tool as well as a guide for planning CS development. Code of Ethics as a self- regulation tool supporting accountability of the sector.

# Thursday, May 4

## Government Office

- Cooperation measures to enhance participation. State policies for regulating and monitoring involvement of civil society and social partners.

## Ministry of the Interior

- National strategy for civil society development: concept and execution plan. Joint committee as a structure for cooperation between government and civil society

## Civil Society Support Group in the Parliament

How can it support civil society development, what are its goals and activities

**Best practice:** the People's Assembly as a method for crowd sourcing

# Friday, May 5

## National Foundation for Civil Society

- **Best practice:** advocacy on funding mechanisms
- State funding for CSOs in Estonia. National Foundation for Civil Society: establishment of the foundation, involving civil society in decision making, strategy for supporting civil society development, measures and open calls.

## E-Estonia Showroom

- An overview of the success story of e-Estonia: the underlying mechanisms of digitalizing a society, an overview of the main challenges and policy, an understanding of the infrastructure, e-solutions and services.

## Ministry of Finance

- **Best practice:** State Budget Portal and transparency of the use of public budgets.



Contacts:

Maris Jõgeva

info@ngo.ee; maris@ngo.ee

[www.ngo.ee](http://www.ngo.ee)