

OULU BOOST EVENT 2019: Upscaling Digital Solutions in Cities
Toimumiskoht: Oulu Finnkinno Plaza / Hotel Scandic Oulu City, 10-11.12.2019

10.12.2019 09:00-12:00 Plenaarsessioon

Sõnavõtt orienteeruvalt kell 10.00

Jutupunktid

- Dear Mayor of Oulu, Dear Mayors, ladies and gentlemen

- Digitalisation is the most powerful trend that is transforming our economies and societies today, similarly to what industrialisation and urbanisation have done before. It comes with opportunities and challenges. In Estonia, we generally see it as a welcome development. Mostly because digitalisation can help us to connect directly with each individual. Citizens receive public services more conveniently, and they can easily be engaged in policy and decision-making. This is good for our democracy.

- Cities and rural municipalities are where people and businesses receive most of their public services. We as policymakers must support our local government level to benefit fully from technological innovations. We must prepare appropriate legislation for the digital age and also allocate enough funding for municipalities to develop their digital services.

- The current state of digitalisation among European cities is very diverse. Large cities tend to be at the forefront of digital development because of higher demand for more complex services. And they have also more capacities to develop and provide such services. Smaller cities and towns tend to cover a smaller range of services digitally. But even the smallest towns may have very clever solutions that could be upscaled all over Europe.

- Estonia is well known as a leader in digital public services, e-government and a forerunner in digitalisation of health care. In our experience, digital technology is a very good tool to organise our public services and make them more efficient. Mostly it benefits the citizens who save time and efforts to use the public services. It makes interacting with the city and state more convenient for them. We strongly support spreading this trend all over Europe.

- It has been a pleasure for us to lead together with the Cities of Oulu and Sofia the Digital Transition Partnership under the Urban Agenda for the EU. Together with another 15 partners we have worked hard for three years to propose solutions to most pressing digital challenges European cities face today. I would like to express my sincere thanks for our partners for the efficient and pleasant cooperation and wish good luck for upscaling best digital solutions over Europe. I would like to add that Estonian cities and rural municipalities are very interested to cooperate with European partners on exchanging best practices and develop joint digital solutions, so please feel free to contact us.

- I am happy to sign the “Join, Boost, Sustain” declaration here today to support every city in Europe in getting necessary help for its digital development and to spread its best practice all over Europe. I encourage all Member States to join this declaration and help our cities with digital transformation. Kiitos!