# Tallinn neighbourhood associations becoming the experts of local living

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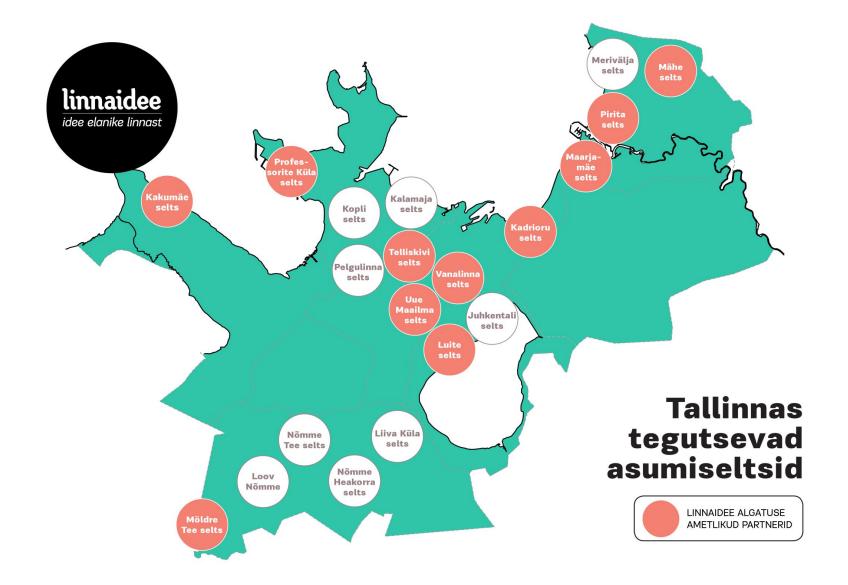


Sander



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Linnalabor [Estonian Urban Lab] is an independent competence centre of urban thought and action



20 neighbourhood associations in Tallinn with pink the most active ones

# Form of action

- \* formed as non-government organisations
- \* representing local inhabitants for the city government, protecting and redefining local values, organising public events
- \* mostly in gentrifying neighbourhoods (Kalamaja, Pelgulinn, Uus Maailm, Kadriorg, Vanalinn) or in residential suburbs (Nõmme, Pirita, Kakumäe)
- \* membership ranging from 20 to 200 people

# Neighbourhoods as social innovators

- \* showing alternative ways how space and lifestyles can be understood, shaped, used, etc
- \* thriving towards systemic change
- \* encouraging civic action, sommon sense & culture jamming (term by Kalle Lasn)

## some examples of what the associations are doing

#### Fotoalbum

### Professorite Küla Seltsis

03.08.2012

#### Meediaga seotud artiklid

"President väisas Professorite küla", Postimees, 4. august 2012



#### Soovita <350

President Ilves külastas Professorite Küla Seltsi © Aldo Mett



## 'Branding' places & neighbourhoods

in Professors' Village



Working with streetscape, protecting the rights of the 'minorities' (pedestrians, bikers) Baby pram ride in Kalamaja, May 2012



## **Promoting local economy models**

Local market days & street cafes during festivals



## Defining local collaborative democracy

Forum series between city officials and local inhabitants 2010-2011



# Reclaiming and revitalising public space

Public sauna party on Kalarand beach, next to Lindaline harbour, July 2012

Everything looks glory.

Where's the problem?



# Here! The mayor of Tallinn and his huge propaganda machine

- no real interest to collaborate with associations "participation" has almost become a swear word
- active citizens are seen as pesky disturbers, not as potential collaborators
- majority of land in private ownership the city government not leading spatial planning processes
- weak collaboration culture

# So, as the local elections in October 2013 are approaching....

The neighbourhood associations decided to put down their vision of how to achieve city governing that sets the inhabitants' wishes first.

After half year of meetings and discussions among associations, the initiative LINNAIDEE – URBAN IDEA was started in March 2013.





Linnaidee (Urban Idea) is aiming to improve cooperation between the residents of Tallinn caring about their living environment and the representatives of the city government.

### **Results:**

 collaboration manifest between the city government and associations by October 2013
clear definition of a neighbourhood association as an expert of local living by October 2013

In a good city the leaders and residents work for the same goals!





# How?

Through discussions, debates, negotiations, questionnaires, public seminars, bike tours...

And by sheding more media light to what associations are doing all the time!





# Who is behind Urban Idea?

- Linnalabor as the leader of the initiative
- Tallinn neighbourhood associations as the main beneficiaries
- sociologists, ideologists, journalists, volunteers
- LIST union of neighbourhood associations in Berlin
- Helka union of neighbourhood associations in Helsinki
- supervisory board of representatives from four biggest political parties and experts of civil society and businesses

If you wanna know more, contact us:

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And follow our success on <u>www.linnaidee.ee</u> (English site coming soon!)