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SMART CITY CHALLENGE 2024

City Challenge

Max 3 pages

send to smartcity@taltech.ee by May 15, 2024

Challenge Title – Water traffic on the Pärnu river

City/county and country – Pärnu City, Estonia

Main contact from your city/county – Elen Kuningas, Pärnu City Government, environmental projects coordinator, elen.kuningas@parnu.ee, +372 508 6812

1. What is the future urban challenge that would need a solution to?

- **Please describe the challenge of your city / county neighboring a city?**

As Pärnu is the summer capital of Estonia, the number of people increases several times in summer. The increased number of people in the summer capital will also have an impact on traffic on the Pärnu River.

The last few years have seen an increase in watercraft traffic on the river, which has caused its own share of problems. There will be more and more situations where people do not have information about competitions, speed limits etc. on the river, which in its turn will create unpleasant or even dangerous situations.

- **Why is it important for your city to solve it? How big priority it is for you and why?**

This is important to our city because sustainable traffic needs regulation on the Pärnu river. The increase of water traffic calls for greater attention to safety. This also applies to rowing competitions and other similar water sports competitions are less risky to organise - which in turn attracts more people to the city of Pärnu who come to organise, compete and watch water sports competitions on the river.

- **Is this a unique challenge/problem of your city, why or is this by your knowledge a challenge/problem that many cities have – which kind of other cities?**

Problem: current situations is that there is no good way to provide operational information to river users, e.g. for safety reasons, about the race or other information. For example there could be road signs/banners on the bridges or on the water with variable information: slow down, don't make waves etc.



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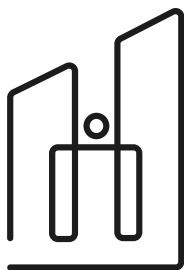


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2. Innovation.

- **How have you solved that issue so far? Why aren't the present solutions good enough? Are there legal obstacles, which ones?**

Today, water traffic is only partially regulated, with only the beginning and end of the route marked. The start and end of the special area are marked, the edge is missing.

- **What should be the main features, characteristics of the future solution to be potentially best for that challenge or problem?**

As the racing stadium is used for different races at different times, clear and comprehensible signage is needed. The best solution would be to install LED signs with variable information on the bridges. Co-operation with the Transport Agency is needed.

3. Expected impact of your pilot solution.

- **What is the expected impact to your city environment you expect to see if the challenge gets solved?**

The river environment would become much safer and the new traffic management would probably be a good example for other cities. A more efficient river traffic system can contribute to a more pleasant living environment for people, as noise pollution on waterways would be minimized.

- **What is the expected impact to your citizens you expect to see if the challenge gets solved?**

Simple and easy-to-understand signage/markings for all water users to prevent accidents on the water. The number of speedings on the river decreases. People have a pleasant and safe journey on the river. Improved traffic management on the river can lead to safer conditions for citizens who use the water for recreational purposes, such as boating, swimming, or fishing. Clearly regulated river traffic can minimize the risk of accidents and collisions, enhancing overall safety.

- **What is the expected impact to your city governance you expect to see if the challenge gets solved?**

City can gain effectiveness in regulating river traffic. Also river traffic information and rules becomes more available and clearer. City will be more attractive in tourists who want to travel on the river, and the organisation of events on the river will be made more understandable and safer for river users.

4. Piloting

- **Why would you be interested to become a piloting partner of a proposed solution to the challenge you are describing here? Describe shortly your capability to participate.**

We would appreciate the opportunity to pilot and implement the proposed solution due to ensure that navigation on the river is smooth and safe for all people. Therefore, we see much potential in improving river traffic management of our city's river while it could be easier to notice/understand notifications and safer for the citizens.



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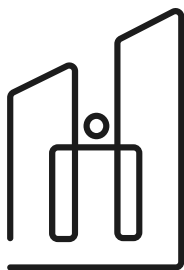


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As a city who is interested in the well-being of our citizens and the sustainable development of our infrastructure, we are keen to explore innovative solutions to enhance river traffic management. With the help of experts, we hope to achieve an exceptional and safe result in Estonia's largest special area.



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