



Imants Breidaks, Mana Balss



An experience transfer project is a story about maintaining and growing democracy both at home and in the neighbourhood. IMANTS BREIDAKS, the Head of the Foundation “Sabiedrības Līdzdalības Fonds” [Society Participation Foundation], which is better known as Manabalss.lv, is assured that this is the last independence of Latvia and therefore we should do everything in order to make Latvia our dream-land. The experience of Manabalss.lv shows that at the moment when an organisation is stable and has stable values it should grow in its development and be prepared to give and to do more.

Manabalss.lv is a society participation platform providing an opportunity to change their country Latvia to its users. New ideas about new laws can be proposed by delivering

<https://manabalss.lv>

them to the decision makers in the Saeima [the Parliament of Latvia]. This is the most successful platform of this type globally and in the field of digital economy Latvia has achieved a very good result serving as a successful role model to other countries.

Collective cooperation exerts pressure on policy makers which is very important in new democracies. The Head of Manabalss.lv emphasises that this is the way to make Latvia better, more stable and more successful.

“I would like to see that also other organisations become aware that democracy is a value that needs to be protected by implementing actual measures. The freedom of the word is now successfully used for deconstructing democracy.”

- IMANTS BREIDAKS

The first experience transfer project was implemented with the support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was support for development of democratic and civic society in Ukraine Miy golos. This is an experience transfer project implemented by Manabalss.lv. The

“Not doing anything does not help anybody!”

- IMANTS BREIDAKS

platform Miy golos has been officially started and it ensures developing of digital democracy in Ukraine.

The first stage of the project, in particular, establishment of the team and the platform, was implemented with the attracted financing for development cooperation provided by the ministry. However, a big amount of financing for the information campaign was missing for delivering the platform to the residents of Ukraine.

Essential challenges emerged during the process of experience transfer, for example, a different political and media environment prohibiting access to the media environment under the conditions of lack of financing. Also adjustment of methodology and practice to a country which is 20 times bigger is a true challenge, as Imants Breidaks, the Head of Manabalss.lv emphasises.

