

# The Visby Model of Political Engagement

- Identifying obstacles to foreigners' voter participation

## Information

- Inform about voting rights for EU Citizens from registration/ for Non-EU citizens after 3 years.

## Good examples:

- Community informers of mixed backgrounds, ages etc. making home visits.
- Distributing booklets on local rights and voting rights in different languages.
- Text message reminders before the election day.

## Trust

- Distrust of the political establishment and the political system might be elevated among foreigners.

## Good examples:

- Meeting politicians who visit people where they spend their days: workplaces, clubs, associations.
- Examples of local politicians and what they have accomplished for their community.

## Identity

- Feeling like an active, welcome part of society will increase likelihood of voting to affect the outcome to your neighborhood.

## Good examples:

- Invite the local population to bimonthly meetings with the municipality.
- Web-based panels to include local people's input on local politics.
- Municipal youth council for local issues.

## Choice

- Finding parties and politicians fighting for issues relevant and important to a foreign national.

## Good examples:

- Courses for the elected politicians on how to encourage approaching foreign citizens, and talk to them about the issues that matter to them.
- Debate between local politicians at high schools.
- Include political discussions as a part of language courses for foreigners.

## Ability to choose

- Education, tools and assistance to develop critical thinking and to make informed decisions in a democratic election.

## Good examples:

- Education courses about voting procedures with pictures.
- Visiting high schools and have language courses for immigrants to discuss democracy and choice.