

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> WeGO General Assembly 2014

### Helsinki Open Ahjo

Open Ahjo offers the inhabitants of the municipality a unique possibility to follow the decision-making of the city in real time, for example, by case, field or decision-maker and date. Backed up by this fresh information, the citizens can participate and influence the city operations using different channels. Thanks to the city's feedback system, the handling of feedback has become transparent and the inhabitants of the municipality are now more certain to receive an answer to their questions and feedback.

Open Ahjo offers public information from the city's decision-making system as open data. In 2013, the city decided to open Ahjo's open programming interface (the so-called Open Ahjo; <http://dev.hel.fi/apis/openahjo>), through which the decisions are available and exploitable as open data in machine-readable format. See For example Jouni Tiainen's Ahjo Explorer mobile application <http://www.hri.fi/fi/sovellukset/ahjo-explorer/>.

Open Ahjo offers a unique chance to utilise the data connected to the city decision-making in different kinds of applications. The applications can be used for making it easier for both the inhabitants of the municipality and the public servants to obtain information, to prepare shared cases or participate in the preparation process. Open Ahjo has been presented at numerous events and other cities have been encouraged to follow in the footsteps of Helsinki. Other big municipalities in Finland, such as Espoo and Vantaa, ponder and determine the possibilities to open their decision-making data. In many cities, the problem lies in the old systems, which may prove difficult and expensive to equip with an open interface.

Other parties that participated in the opening project, besides the City Executive Office, were Ahjo deliverer Tieto Finland, Helsinki Region Infoshare (HRI, [www.hri.fi](http://www.hri.fi)), Forum Virium Helsinki and developer Juha Yrjölä, who worked for the City IT Division as the fellow coder of the City via Code4Europe Fellowships Programme.