



INFORMED CONSENT

The purpose of this study is to examine residents' opinions on equality and non-discrimination in Vaasa and how these opinions change in connection with deliberative citizen discussions. The study is conducted by the research project STRONG – Implementing Democratic Innovations, funded by the Academy of Finland, in cooperation with the City of Vaasa. The project's responsible researchers are Professor of Political Science Kimmo Grönlund, kimmo.gronlund@abo.fi (Åbo Akademi), and Professor of Political Science Kaisa Herne, kaisa.herne@tuni.fi (University of Tampere).

To participate in the study, you must be of legal age and reside in Vaasa. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time without providing a reason. Please answer the survey questions honestly based on your own knowledge and opinions. To complete the online survey, you will need a smartphone, computer, tablet, or similar device, as well as a functioning internet connection. It takes approximately ten minutes to complete the survey.

Among those who express interest in participating in Vaasa's citizen panel, about one hundred people will be selected, with the aim that the panel will represent a miniature version of Vaasa's population. Participation in the citizen panel requires that you review preparatory material and are willing to attend one small-group discussion lasting about three hours, which will be held online in spring 2026. The exact date and location will be announced later to those selected. Participants in the discussion event will receive a gift card as compensation.

We have obtained your contact information from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency, which has provided a random sample of residents of Vaasa. How we process, anonymize, and store your personal data is described in more detail in the study's data protection notice.