

WHY INVEST IN THE ESTONIAN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET NOW

TAX-HUNGER-GAMES IN PRIVATE LEASE SECTOR:

WHAT STATE DOES TO WIN?

Dr. Kaido Künnapas

Senior associate



www.sorainen.com



PROBLEMS

- 400 000 dwellings / 10-15 % leased
- **Problem 1:** 20 million Euros tax revenue lost every year



- **Problem 2:** Unfair competition – enabling lower rents, administrative costs (accounting, annual reporting)



PROBLEMS

BUT WHAT HAS BEEN THE **REAL** PROBLEM?

1. Higher tax burden for individuals
2. Directing business to OÜ-s may not increase tax revenue
3. Choice given - „all or nothing“



TYPICAL TAX FRAUDS

- **TRANSFORMED INCOME**
- Recovery works *versus* upgrading apartment, ordering construction works
- Problem of evidence
- Problem with income-based tax assessment

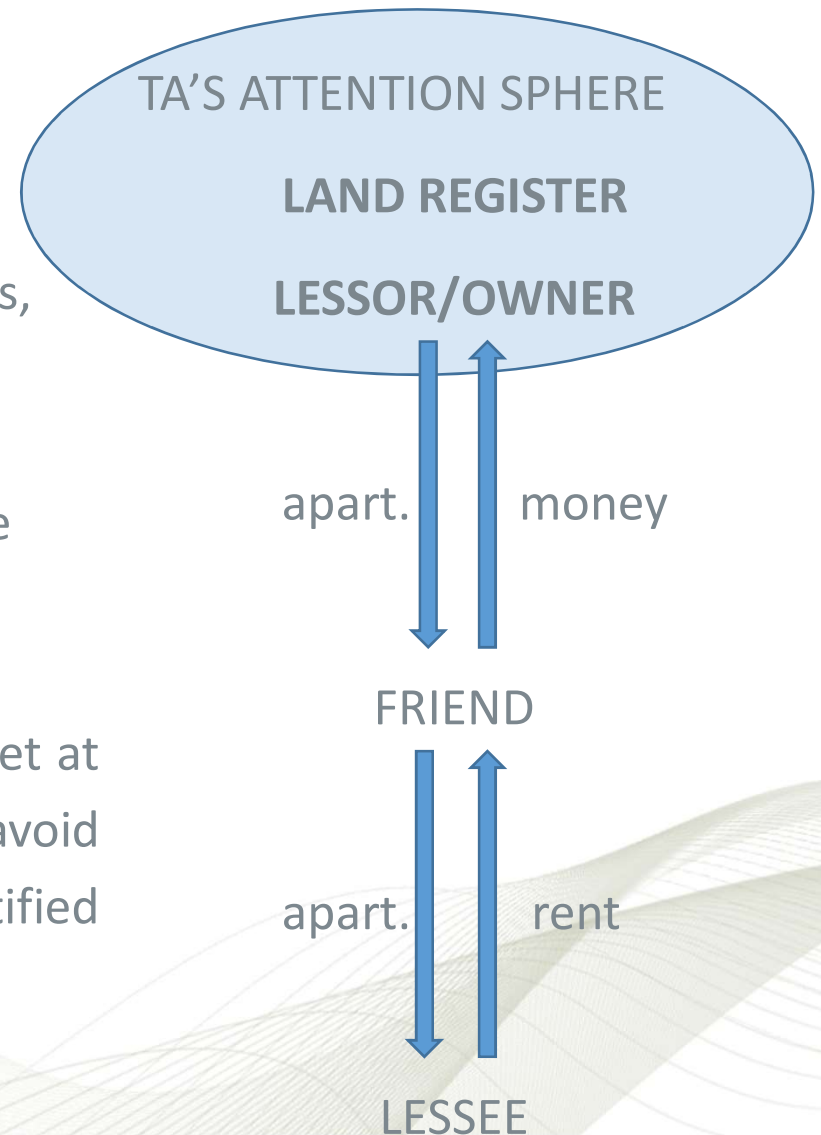




TYPICAL TAX FRAUDS

■ CREATING A CHAIN

- State's attention is on apartment owners, not on other persons
- Free sub-lease to some friends who take care of the leasing
- Transferring money? – sale of some asset at personal disposal (no income tax) → avoid assessment of income from „unidentified source“





SOLUTIONS

Which LEGISLATIVE button to push and how to do it?

LESSOR

TAX BENEFITS?
THIRD PARTY REPORTING?
NO TAX AT ALL?
REGISTER?

LESSEE

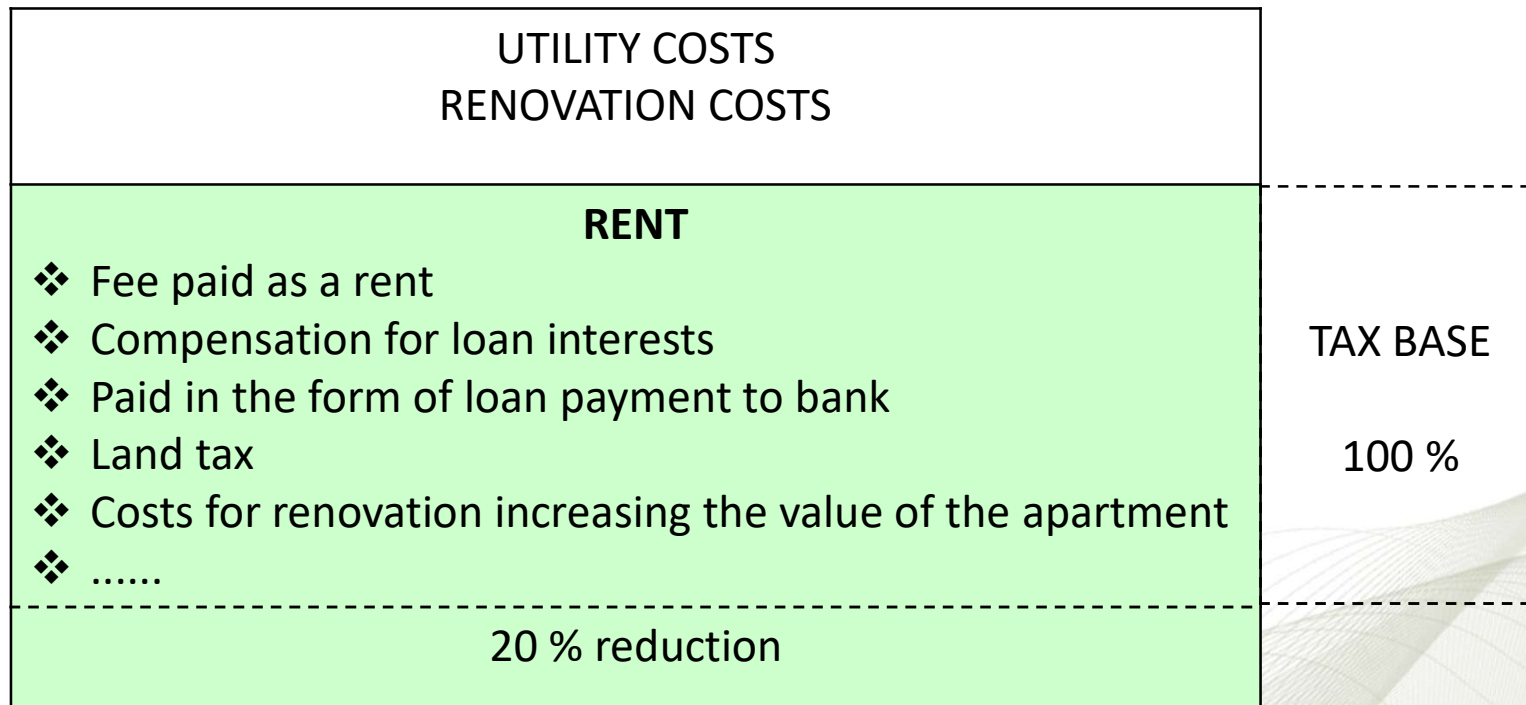
TAX DEDUCTIONS
LOSS OF RIGHTS?



STEPS BY STATE: A 20 % „COOKIE“

- Automatic deduction of 20 % of the income from **dwelling lease**
- Problem: not applicable to Airbnb, Booking.com, sub-lease

PAYMENTS TO THE LESSOR FROM THE LESSEE



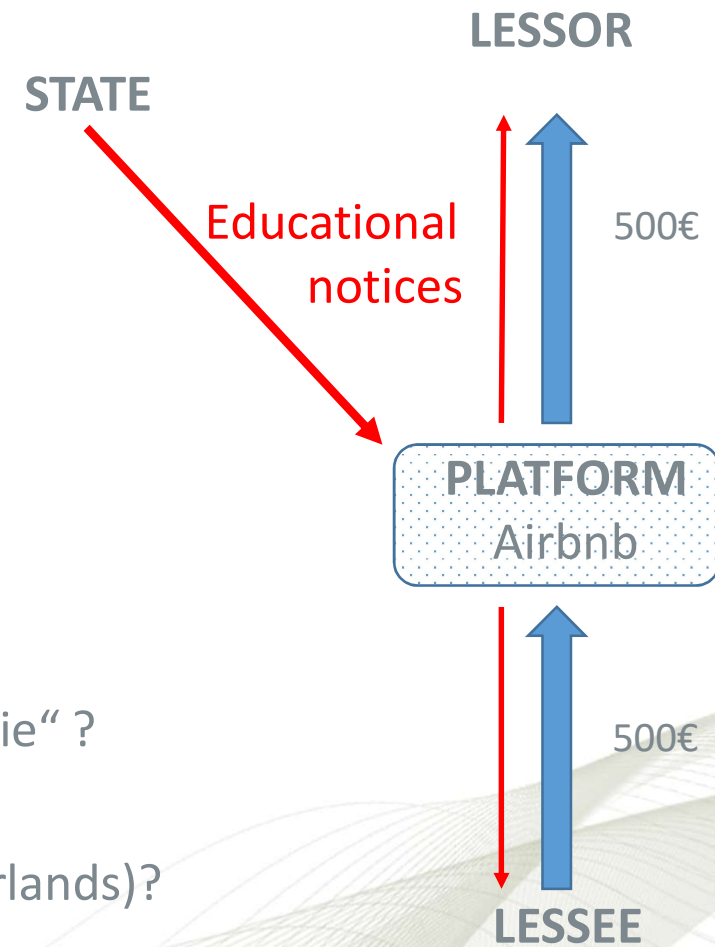


STEPS BY STATE: INVOLVE INTERMEDIARY

- **COOPERATION** with Airbnb regarding educative announcements
- **DATA SHARING** (Example from France)
- **AUTOMATED DATA TRANSFER**
 - Uber, Taxify, EstateGuru
 - Current problem?
 - Smart contracts?

Ideas:

- Why not to cover with 20% income „cookie“ ?
- No tax on short-term lease (USA)?
- Enable reduction of expenses (the Netherlands)?





STEPS BY STATE: OVERALL DATA COLLECTION

- Lessee applies for social benefits – need to show place of living in the application
- Idea: CROSS-USAGE OF DIFFERENT DATABASE INFORMATION
 - problem: cross-usage does not work
 - legal problems with having such authority
- Manual scanning of commercial web pages, Facebook



IDEAS: RENTAL AGREEMENT DATABASE

- All rental agreements must be registered in a public database
- If not registered:
 - lease agreement is not valid - maybe causes too much mess?
 - „no cheque from taxi driver → no pay“
 - limit some of the lessee's rights
 - if not registered, then also lessee fined
 - if registered, then tax deduction for the lessee



Thank you !

Kaido Künnapas

E: kaido.kunnapas@sorainen.com

P: +372 5668 4020

ESTONIA

Pärnu mnt 15
10141 Tallinn
phone +372 6 400 900
estonia@Sorainen.com

LATVIA

Kr. Valdemāra iela 21
LV-1010 Riga
phone +371 67 365 000
latvia@Sorainen.com

LITHUANIA

Jogailos 4
LT-01116 Vilnius
phone +370 52 685 040
lithuania@Sorainen.com

BELARUS

ul Internatsionalnaya 36-1
220030 Minsk
phone +375 17 306 2102
belarus@Sorainen.com

www.Sorainen.com

