



# LEADER in Tartu County

## LAG Tartu Rural Development Association (TAS)

### TAS IN NUMBERS

- TAS has 112 members, 18 of which are local municipalities, 42 are enterprises and 52 are civil society organisations.
- Tartu County has 22 local municipalities (after municipality reform probably 5), 18 of which are members of TAS.
- The total area of TAS's region of operation is 2,623.9 km<sup>2</sup>, which is about 83% of the county's total area.
- Tartu County has 145,550 residents, 42,553 of whom lived in the region of operation of TAS (29% of the county's residents).
- The average density of population in the region is 15.7 people per km<sup>2</sup> (the county's average with the City of Tartu is 48.3 people per km<sup>2</sup>).

### MAIN GOALS

- Increase the economic viability and competitiveness of micro and small enterprises.
- Increase the capability of communities to shape their living environment.
- Create beneficial conditions for the growth of youth initiative.

### 2008–2013 STRATEGY IN NUMBERS

- The total budget of TAS was **5.09 mln euros**.
- During the 2009–2014 period **1,272 project** applications were submitted to TAS (in the total sum of **13.3 mln euros**).
- **489 projects** were carried out (for a total support sum of **4.06 mln euros**).

### 2014–2020 STRATEGY IN NUMBERS

- The total budget of TAS is **5.74 mln euros**.
- Budget of the measures (for projects) – **4 593 928 euros**:
  - Developing entrepreneurship based on local characteristics and resource – **2 296 966 euros**.
  - Increasing capability of communities – **1 378 176 euros**.
  - Developing cooperation networks – **918 786 euros**.



# Biggest success stories of TAS:

## National Geographic Yellow Window's route in South Estonia

With six South Estonian counties and National Geographic Estonia TAS has opened the Yellow Window's route for visitors in 2013. In cooperation with local communities, 23 sights worth discovering were chosen in order to strengthen regional identity, make region well-known and bring visitors from other places in Estonia and abroad.

## Delicious South Estonia network and farmers market

TAS with other South Estonian Leader action groups and the region's small producers has founded NGO Delicious South Estonia in July 2010. The aim of the NGO is to help develop the South Estonian network of small producers, support joint marketing and find new marketing channels. In August 2010, the NGO opened the Farmers' market in the biggest shopping centre in Tartu. At the moment there are almost 170 producers in the network and two farmers market (in Tartu and Pärnu).

## Tartu County Youth Fund

TAS has established a special "Tartu County Youth Fund", with the aim to foster youth initiatives. In the course of the competition, Tartu County Youth Fund funds projects drawn up by 12–26-year olds. The fund is managed and operated by young people themselves. In 2012–2016, a total of 95 projects were funded by the Tartu County Youth Fund in the total amount of ca 45 000 euros.

## Cooperation of the Lake Peipus region

In 2010 the Lake Peipus region's local municipalities, NGOs, entrepreneurs and Leader action groups decided that to increase the competitiveness of the region and introduce the Lake Peipus region as a whole, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between tourism entrepreneurs, encourage the development of the region, and map the developmental needs and possibilities of the region. In 2011 the NGO Peipsimaa Tourism was founded and Leader action groups hired jointly a Lake Peipus region coordinator to carry out above-mentioned activities.

## LINC

TAS was one of the initiator of LINC conference (Leader Inspired Network Community). In 2012 LINC conference took place in Estonia and TAS was the main organiser of this event.

## ELARD

In 2016-2017 Estonia is ELARD's presidency holder and TAS manager Kristiina Tammets is the first female president of ELARD. ELARD (The European LEADER Association for Rural Development) is an international non-profit making association set up to represent the interests and needs of local action groups and campaign to spread the philosophy, principles and reach of the LEADER method. ELARD has member networks in 24 countries representing more than 2000 LAGs.

## **LOOKING FOR COOPERATION PARTNERS ON FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

- **National Geographic yellow windows**  
(network development, innovation route and mobile app to discover the area)
- **Natural and cultural heritage conservation and development**  
(network development, innovative solutions)
- **Young people**  
(activation and support of youth initiative, Youth Fund as umbrella project)
- **Lake Peipus region**  
(lake festivals, development of cooperation network)
- **Evaluation and monitoring of innovation of LDS**  
(best practise exchange with European partners)

Contact: **Tartu Rural Development Association**  
Vaksali 17A, Tartu  
ESTONIA  
[www.tas.ee](http://www.tas.ee)

**Triin Lääne**  
Project manager  
+372 5302 9203  
[triin@tas.ee](mailto:triin@tas.ee)