



LEADER COOPERATION PROJECT

“GREENPARK”

OPENING EVENT

04-08.08.2025

LAG ARENDUSKODA

Katrin Suursoo, Sirje Kuusik



LAG Arenduskoda area

Geographic scope: Tapa, Kadrina, Haljala, Kuusalu municipalities and Loksa town.

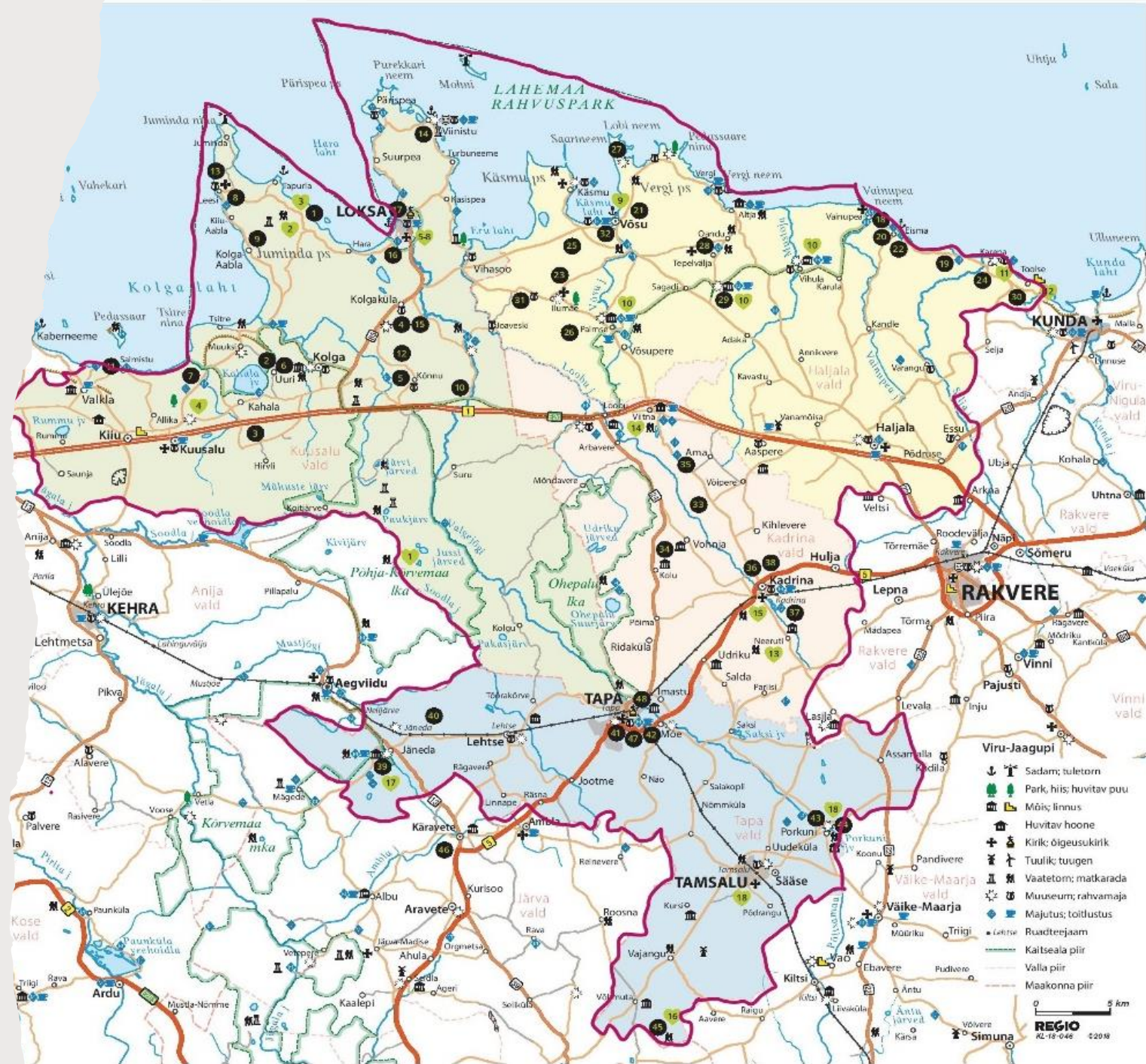
Total area: ~1,698 km².

Population: ~23 100 (2025).

Key regions: Includes core of Lahemaa National Park (Estonia's oldest and largest national park, est. 1971, 747.84 km²).

Enterprises: ~ 2,600.

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing is the dominant sector, representing covers 17% of enterprises.
- Wholesale & Retail Trade 12%.
- Construction and Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities 11%.
- Manufacturing 9%.
- Transportation, Storage & Other Services 6%.
- Other Sectors 5%.



Key Development Preconditions

- **Geographical unity:** interconnected municipalities.
- **Cultural cohesion:** shared traditions and rich cultural life.
- **Economic unity:** diverse economy (agriculture, tourism, processing).
- **Social cohesion:** similar demographic composition, active communities.
- **Lahemaa National Park:** the oldest national park in Estonia.



Strategic Goals

- **Empower Local Communities**
→ Support youth engagement, active citizenship, volunteer networks.
- **Boost Rural Economy**
→ Micro-business support, creative industries, value-added local products.
- **Enhance Infrastructure & Accessibility**
→ Transport, e-services, housing solutions.
- **Protect Nature & Cultural Heritage**
→ Landscape management, sustainable tourism models, heritage mapping.
- **Integrated Governance & Partnership**
→ Cross-sector collaboration, municipality alignment, stronger NGOs.



Powering Development: Funding measures 2023- 2027

- **Total 3,837,715.00 EUR**



Funding Measure	Total budget, EUR	Maximum amount per project (EUR)	Support
Measure 1.1. Development of Micro and Small Enterprises	1,505,085	50,000	50%
Measure 2.1. Support for Community Investments	1,277,125	30,000	60-80%
Measure 2.2. Active and Dynamic Community	312,000	10,000	85%
Measure 3.1. NGO Arenduskoda Cooperation and Sustainability	80,000	100,000	90%
Measure 4.1. Social Inclusion in Communities	663,505	~5000	100%








NGO Arenduskoda Funding and Financial Sustainability



- NGO Arenduskoda is a non-profit organization.
- Funding sources include:
 - Membership fees,
 - Income from economic activities (service fees),
 - LEADER program support.
 - Additional funding is sought from other funds and programs when possible, including Social Fund.
- Members demonstrate strong interest and commitment, supporting the organization's continuity.
- Membership fees vary by target group, reflecting their financial capacity:
 - Local governments pay the highest fees, based on population (1.50 EUR per resident).
 - Businesses and third-sector representatives pay a fixed fee of 40 EUR.

NGO Arenduskoda financials




Assets and Liabilities

-  **Total Assets:** €304,291 (+79.6% from 2023)
-  **Cash and Cash Equivalents:** €274,075 (+131%)
-  **Short-term Liabilities:** €15,462
-  **Long-term Liabilities:** €161,153 (mainly earmarked funding)
-  **Net Assets:** €127,676 (↓ from €156,683 in 2023)

Income and Expenses

-  **Total Income:** €198,209
 - Membership Fees: €36,492
 - Grants & Donations: €152,913
 - Other: €8,804
-  **Total Expenses:** €227,237
 - Direct Project Costs: €152,913
 - Other Operating Costs: €60,483
 - Staff Costs: €10,745

 **Net Result:** –€29,007 (slight improvement from –€32,526 in 2023)

-  **Operating Cash Flow:** +€155,594
-  **Cash Change:** +€155,594
-  **Cash at Year-End:** €274,075



Cooperation projects until 2024

1. Sustainable entrepreneurship in rural areas.
2. Diversification of sustainable rural entrepreneurship in national park areas.
3. Empowerment of sustainable rural entrepreneurship in national park/protected area regions.
4. Transnational cooperation for the development of sustainable tourism in national park areas.
5. From the capital to the border town.
6. Joint development of diverse sustainable tourism entrepreneurship.
7. Strengthening the Viru LEADER network (2 projects).
8. Local food of Northern Estonia (2 projects).
9. Limestone flavors of Northern Estonia.
10. Food culture of Northern Estonia – Limestone flavors.



Sustainable development of the Lahemaa National Park Tourism Area = Arenduskoda area

- The strategy 2019–2024 has been implemented through 3 direct cooperation projects and several other initiatives.
- The total budget managed by Arenduskoda across these 3 projects amounted to EUR 250,000.
- We have been awarded 3 times.
- A total of 18 partners from 8 countries participated in the project cooperation network, including 4 from Estonia, 3 from Latvia, 1 from Lithuania, 3 from Slovenia, 2 from Portugal, 1 from Greece, 3 from Finland and 1 from Slovakia.
- Several stakeholders contribute to the implementation of the strategy.
- The implementation rate of the strategy 2019–2024 achieved is 96%.
- Lahemaa National Park has:
 - EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Charter 2019 (renewal in 2025),
 - Green Destination Platinum Level 2023 and Gold Level 2021,
 - EUROPARC Business Recognitions (2023, 2025),
 - Natura 2000 Network since 2004,
 - HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Areas.



New project “GREENPARK”

- The project has 14 partners (LAGs) from 6 countries: Estonia (Arenduskoda, East Harju Partnership, LAG Saarte Koostöökogu, Kodukant Läänemaa), Latvia (Cesis District Rural Partnership, Business Association of North Kurzeme, Partnership of Resekne District, LAG of Society Partnership for rural and sea), Croatia (MURA-DRAVA, Medimurski doli i bregi), Slovenia (Between Snežnik and Nanos, Bogastvo podeželja), Greece (Kenakap SA), and Portugal (ATAHCA)
- The total project budget is approximately €567,000+, with Arenduskoja's budget being €110,000.
- Contributes to the implementation of the Lahemaa National Park strategy 2025-2029.





What we plan to do in our LAG 2025-2027 in GREENPARK

Preparation of the monitoring report of Lahemaa NP region strategy and supplement of the strategy (DONE)

Expert evaluation of the Lahemaa NP region strategy (DONE)

Coordination of certification of the Lahemaa NP region strategy (DONE)

Marketing bags (DONE)

Meeting with EUROPARC Federation in Brussels (18-20.11.2025)

Recycling workshop 1 ja 2 renewal of old things with EPO (02.-04.2026)

Study tour for our own region actors in our own region: Kadrina municipality (06.2026)

Study tour to Ida-Harju partner region (09.2026)

Study tour for our own region actors in our own region: Haljala municipality (10.2026)

Study tour for our own region actors in our own region: Kuusalu municipality and Loksa town (02.2027)

Study tour for our own region actors in our own region: Tapa municipality (03.2027)

Study tour to Saaremaa (08.2027)

Study tour to Põlvamaa (10.2027)

Recycling workshop 3 - ennobling (11.2027)



Transnational activities

- Opening Event in Estonia – now ☺
- Summer University in Croatia – 13-19.09.2025. Estonian group will participate 7 days in total.
- Summer University in North-Portugal – **02.-08.05.2026** (main activities are from 4.-6 or 7.05). Estonian group has already booked the flight tickets.
- Summer University in Latvia – **5-9.10.2026?**
- Summer University in Greece – **9.-15.05.2027?**
- Final Event in Slovenia – **6.-12.06.2027?**





Thank you
and
see you in
Croatia!