



LAG Saaremaa

West-Estonian Island partnership NGO

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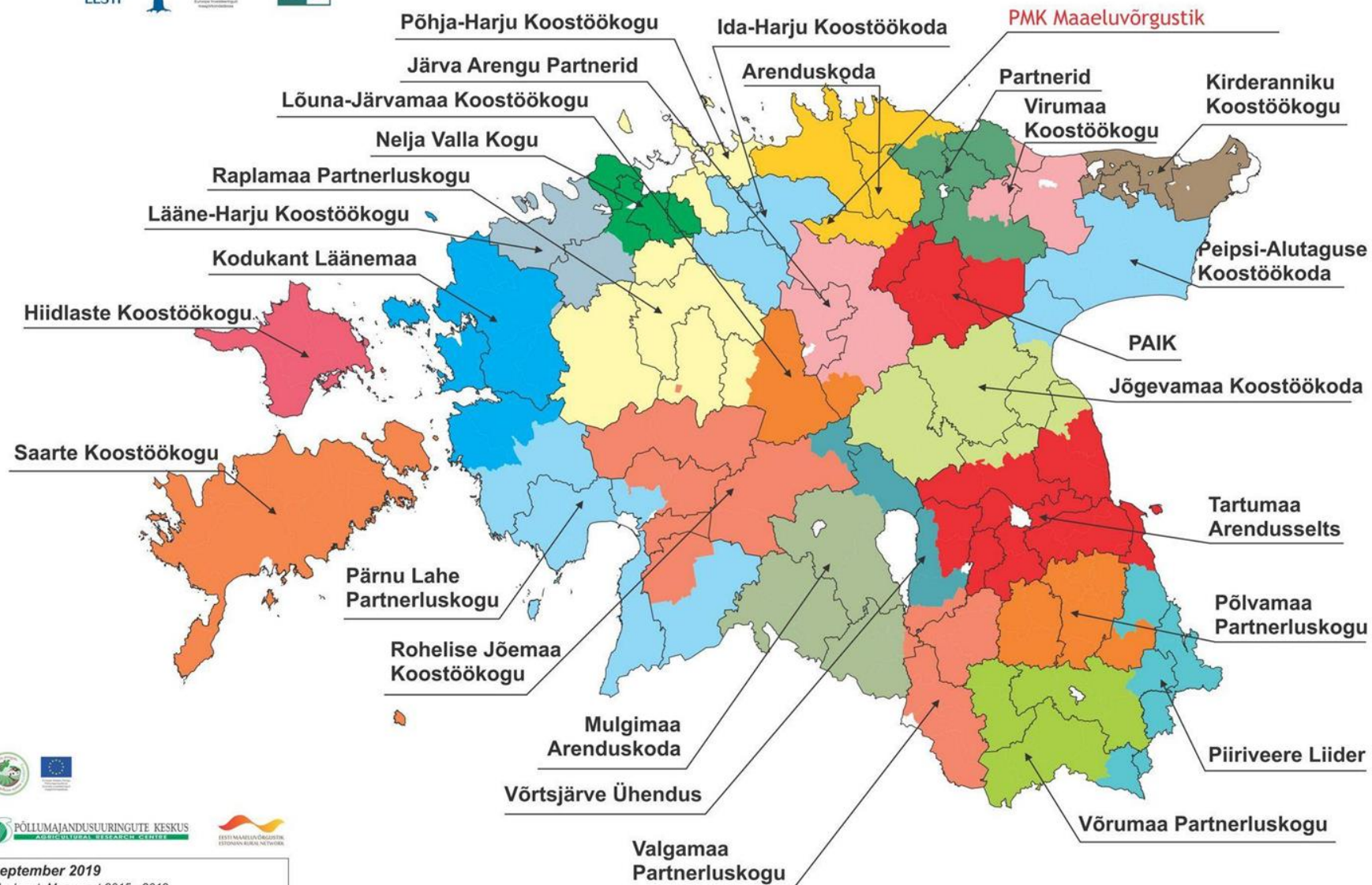
Kaasrahanud
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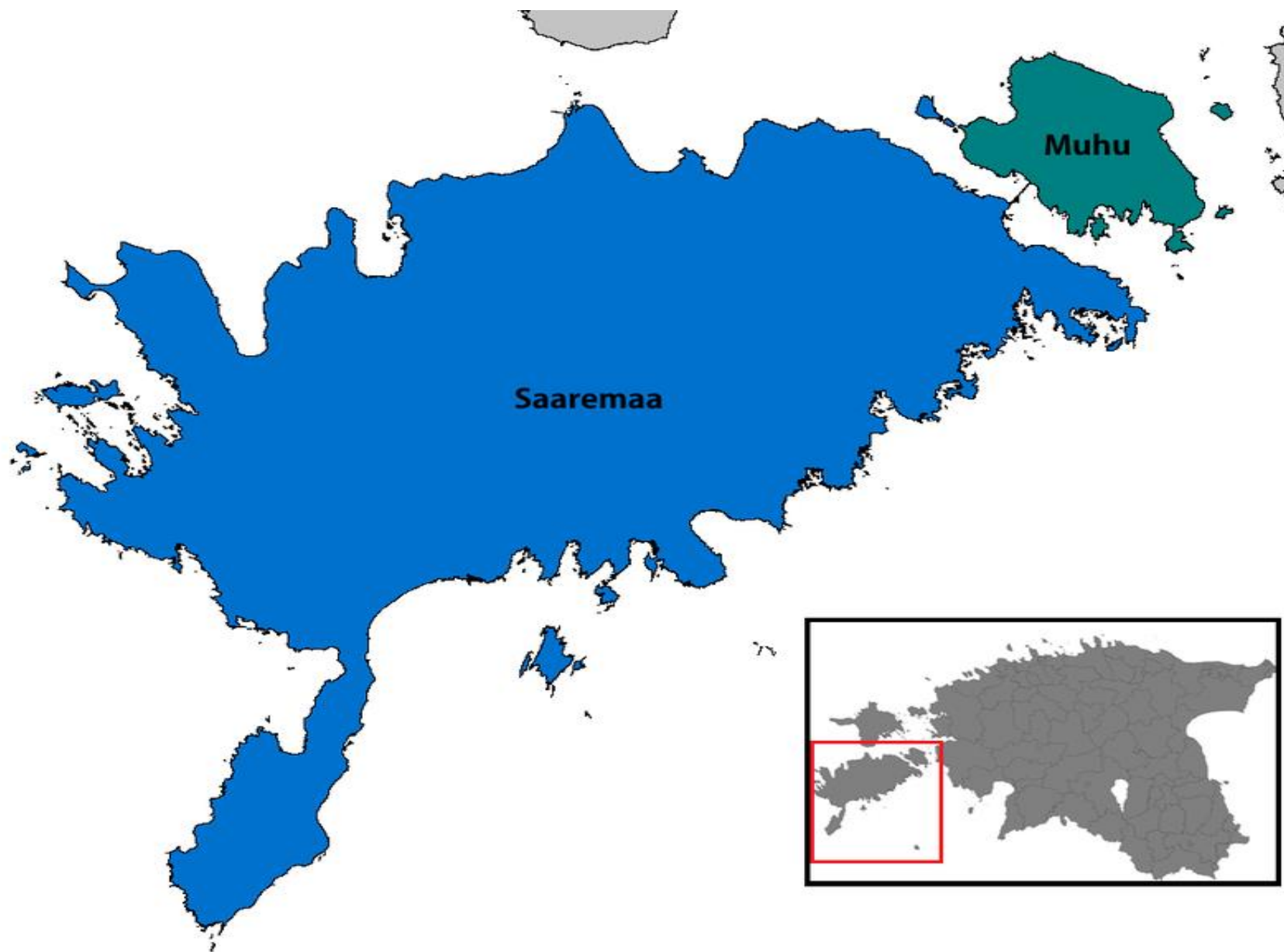
The content
of the
presentation

Introduction of
Saaremaa and our LAG

Introduction to planned
activities in the
GREENPARK project

LEADER TEGEVUSGRUPID EESTIS





Ruhnu



Saare maakond



Saaremaa lipp



Saaremaa vapp

Pindala: 2938 km² (2017)^[1] ✎

Elanikke: 32 021 (1.01.2024)^[2] ✎

Rahvastikutihedus: 10,9 in/km²

Maakonnalinn: Kuressaare

Kuressaare



Kuressaare linnus

Pindala: 15,5 km² (2023)^[1] ✎

Elanikke: 13 185 (1.01.2024)^[2] ✎

EHAK-i kood: 3655^[3] ✎

Koordinaadid: 58° 15' N, 22° 29' E







LAG

Saarte Koostöökogu - *NGO West-Estonian Islands Partnership*

90 members

- 3 local governments (municipalities)
- 58 NGO-s
- 29 enterprises
- 5 members of the Board
- 2,6 office people

www.skk.ee, info@skk.ee,
<https://www.facebook.com/saartekoostookogu>



Main priorities of LAG

The goals of our strategy

The islanders - communities and entrepreneurs are open to cooperation, are coping well and value heritage and traditions.

- Our islands are a valuable living and working environment.
- Communities and enterprises operate in networks that contribute to each other's success, preserving regional identity.
- By managing sustainably, preserving the environment and surroundings, and valuing traditions and heritage, a vibrant living and business environment is promoted, where young families want to live and fulfil themselves.

Keywords:

- Sea and islands – insularity!
- Uniqueness mainly thanks to our location and isolation – beautiful folk costumes, different use of language, traditions e.t.c.
- Pure nature and valued living environment

Challenges:

- Emigration of younger population
- Disappearance of traditional occupations and necessary skills and knowledge from rural areas

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Period 2014- 2023 summary (finished)

The last application period (M1, M2) was on September 2023.

Number of projects supported: Leader (M1, M2, M3, Covid) 295

2014-2020 budget was ~6 million € (LEADER measure from RDP budget in Estonia was ~88 million €)

2021-2022 intermediate years budget ~2 million €

A yellow dashed line in the bottom right corner, consisting of several short, curved segments.

Budget summary for 2024-2027

EAFRD 3 500 000 €

ESF+ 250 000 €

For different measures ~ 3 million €

For administrating cost of LAG and activities
for revitalization of area 777 000 € (~20,6%)

We started to implement a new strategy from
the end of April 2024, first application period
was on september 2024.



Budget for period 2024-2027

Measure	Name	Sum	% of budget
M1	Enterprises	850 000	22,6%
M2	Communities	850 000	22,6%
M3	Big projects	440 000	11.7%
M4	Cooperation projects	600 000	15.9%
M5	Social	250 000	6,6%
	Admin costs	777 400	20,6%
	Total	3 767 400	100%

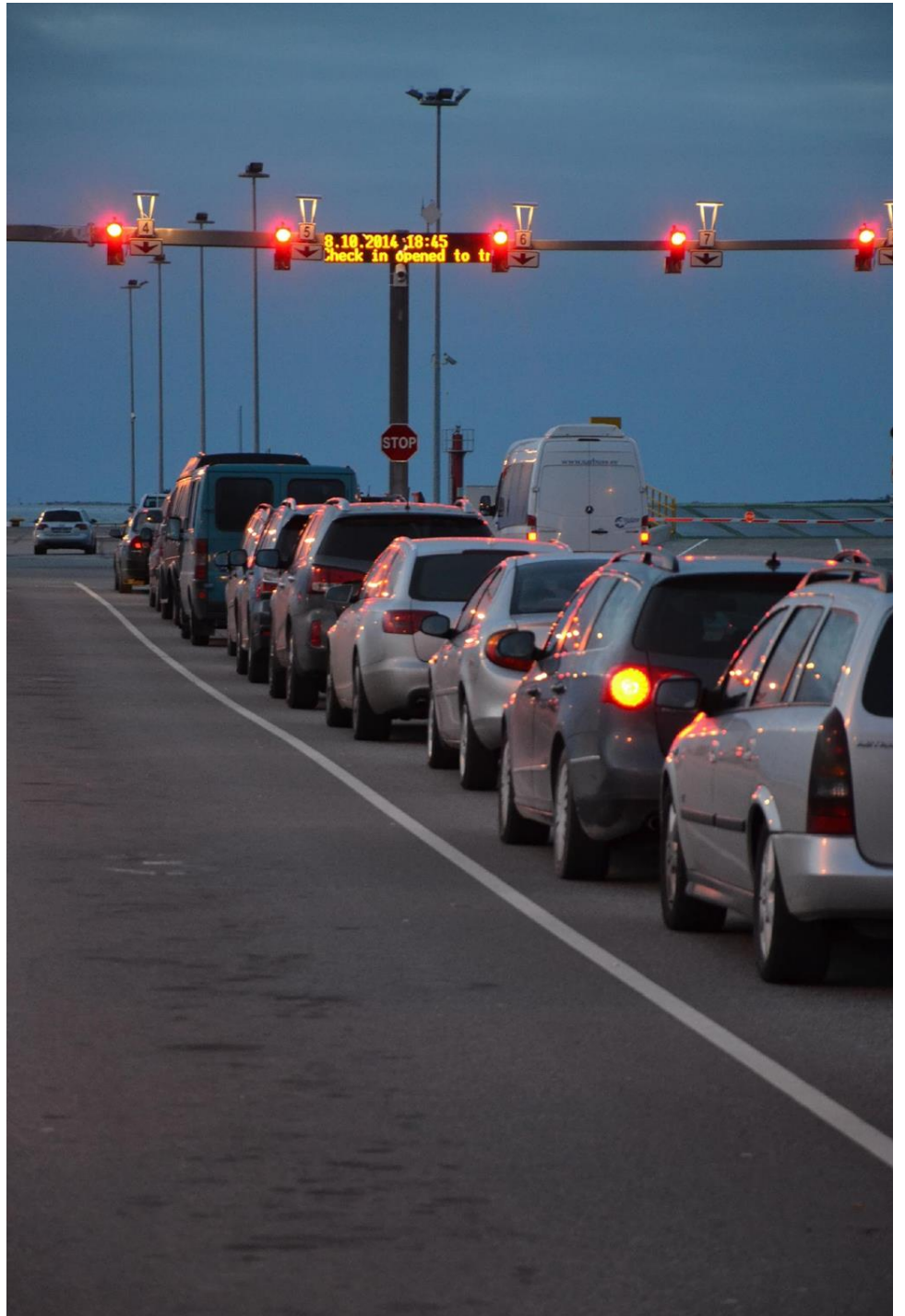
Geographical quality sign „Saaremaa EHTNE“

- Owner: LAG Saaremaa
- Founded: year 2012
- Number of members who use the sign: 150
- Homepage: www.ehtne.ee

The label refers to the local origin of the product or service - the product is made in the pure natural environment of Saaremaa and Muhu island, with the work and experience of local people









Growth of rural entrepreneurship & empowerment in national parks/protection areas regions GREENPARK

Joint activities with international partners, participation in summer universities, budget 20000 €

Activities in the LAG area of operation - construction of the Olav Way Cultural Route, budget 60000 €

Saaremaa Olavitee

Olav Way through Saaremaa and Muhu
A Cultural and Pilgrimage Route



Pilegrimsleden / St. Olav Ways



“Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certified in **2010**



ST.OLAV WAYS
THE PILGRIM PATHS TO TRONDHEIM

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe

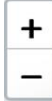


<https://www.pilegrimsleden.no/en/>



ST.OLAV WAYS

THE PILGRIM PATHS TO TRONDHEIM

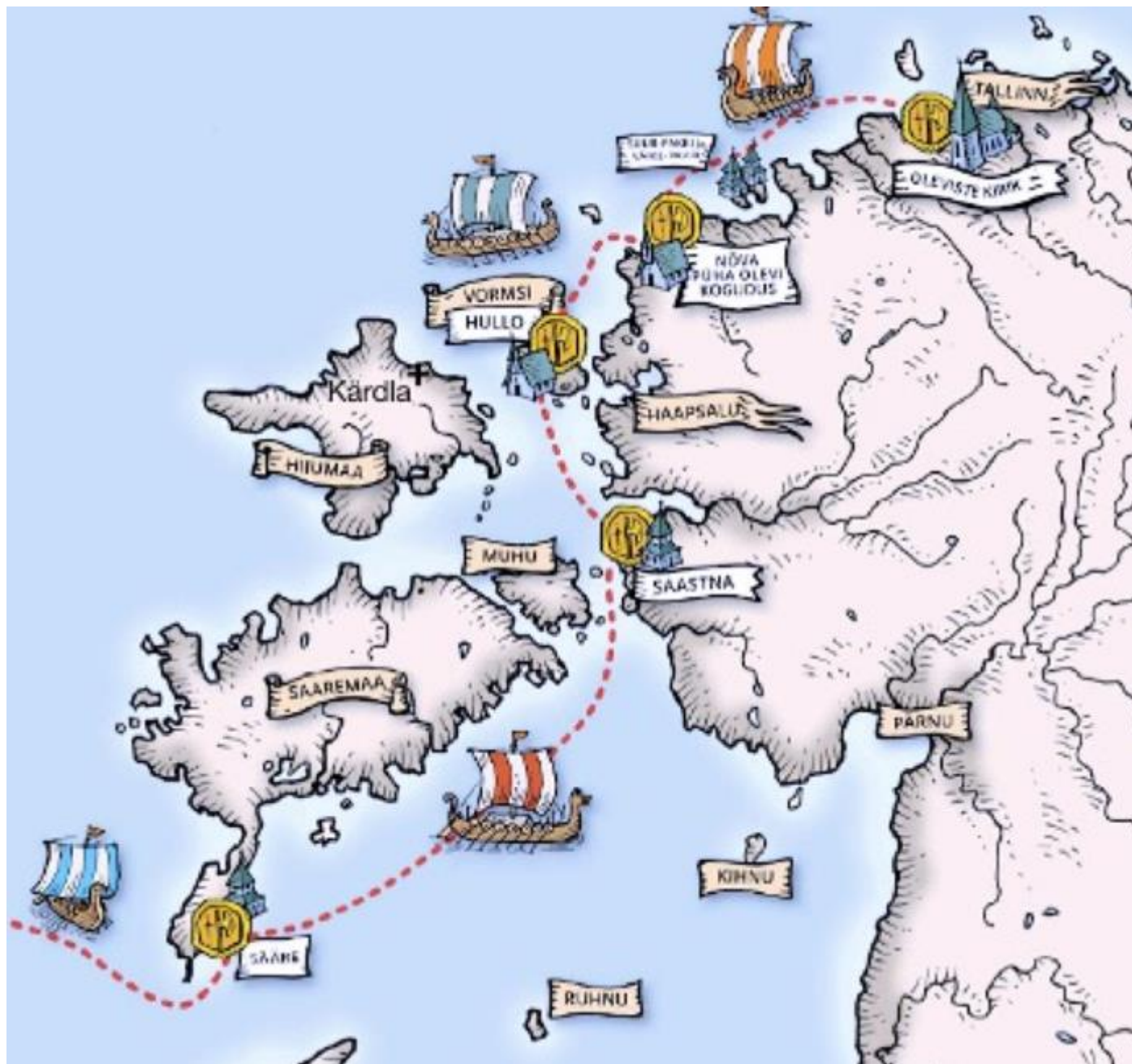


North Sea



Cultural routes of St. Olav Ways



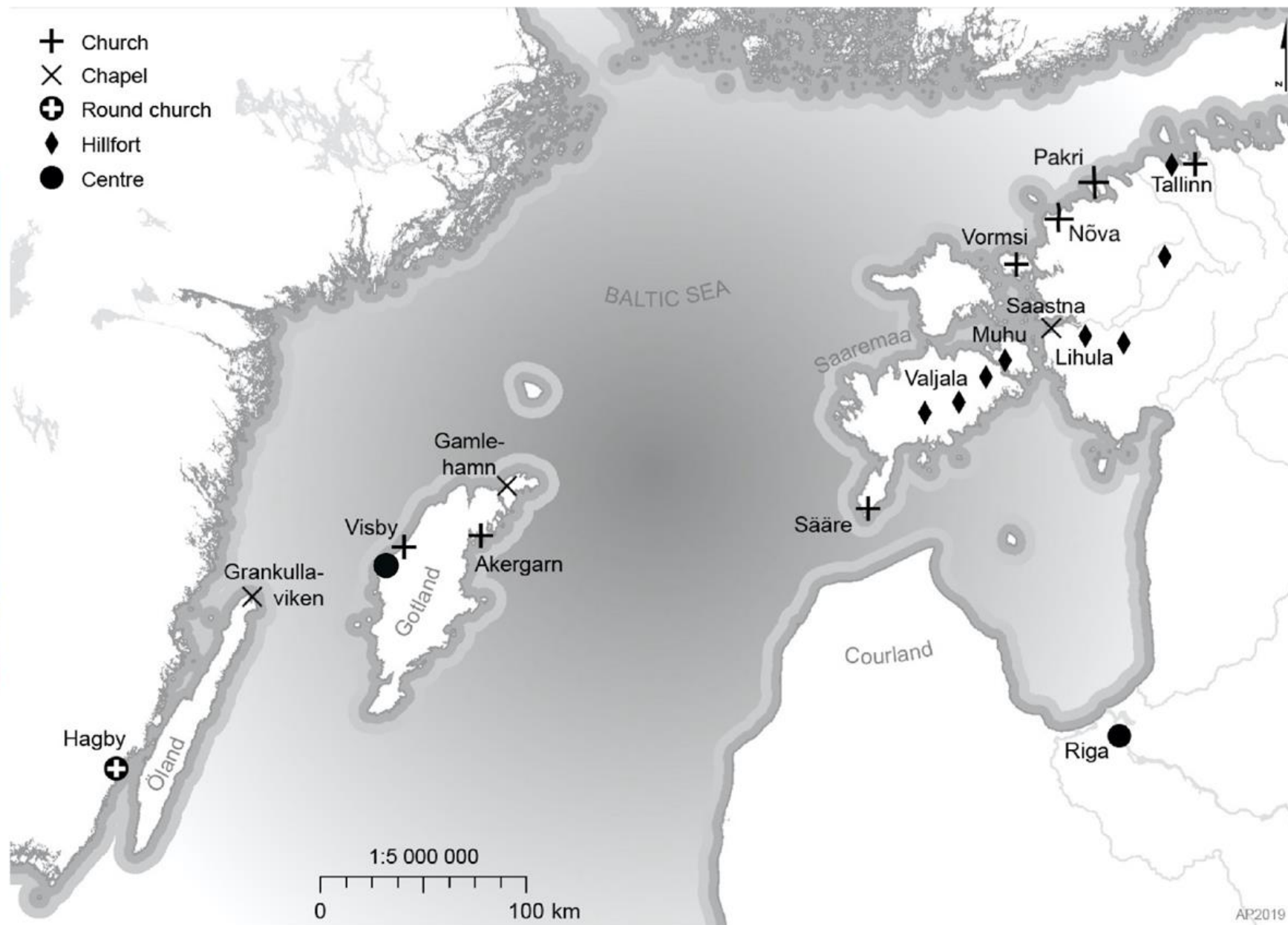


The route follows the historical path of Viking ships along the Estonian coastline.

St Olav's churches

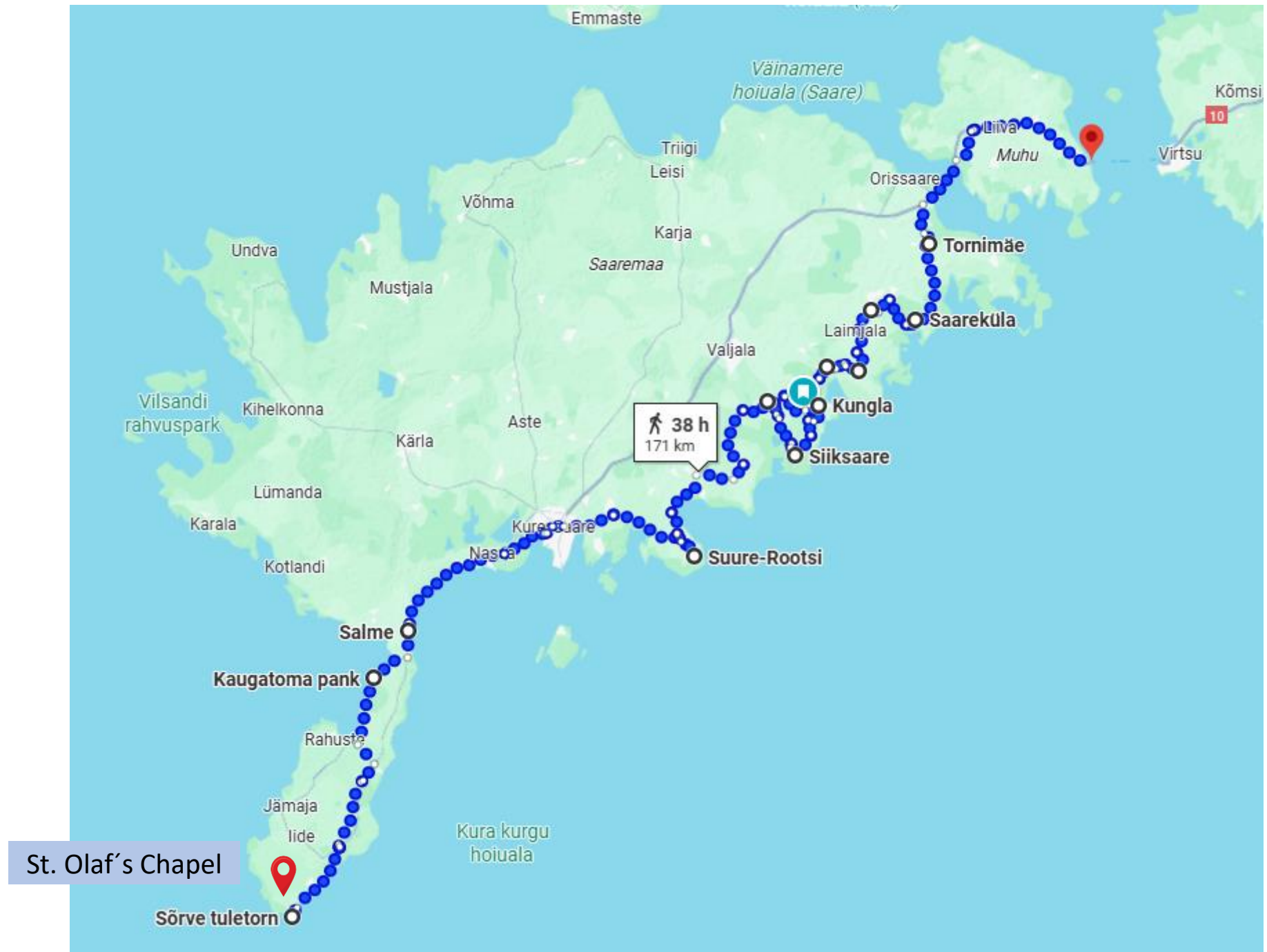


St Olav's church in Tallinn



Cultural route through Saaremaa and Muhu

NB! This is not an officially
confirmed route



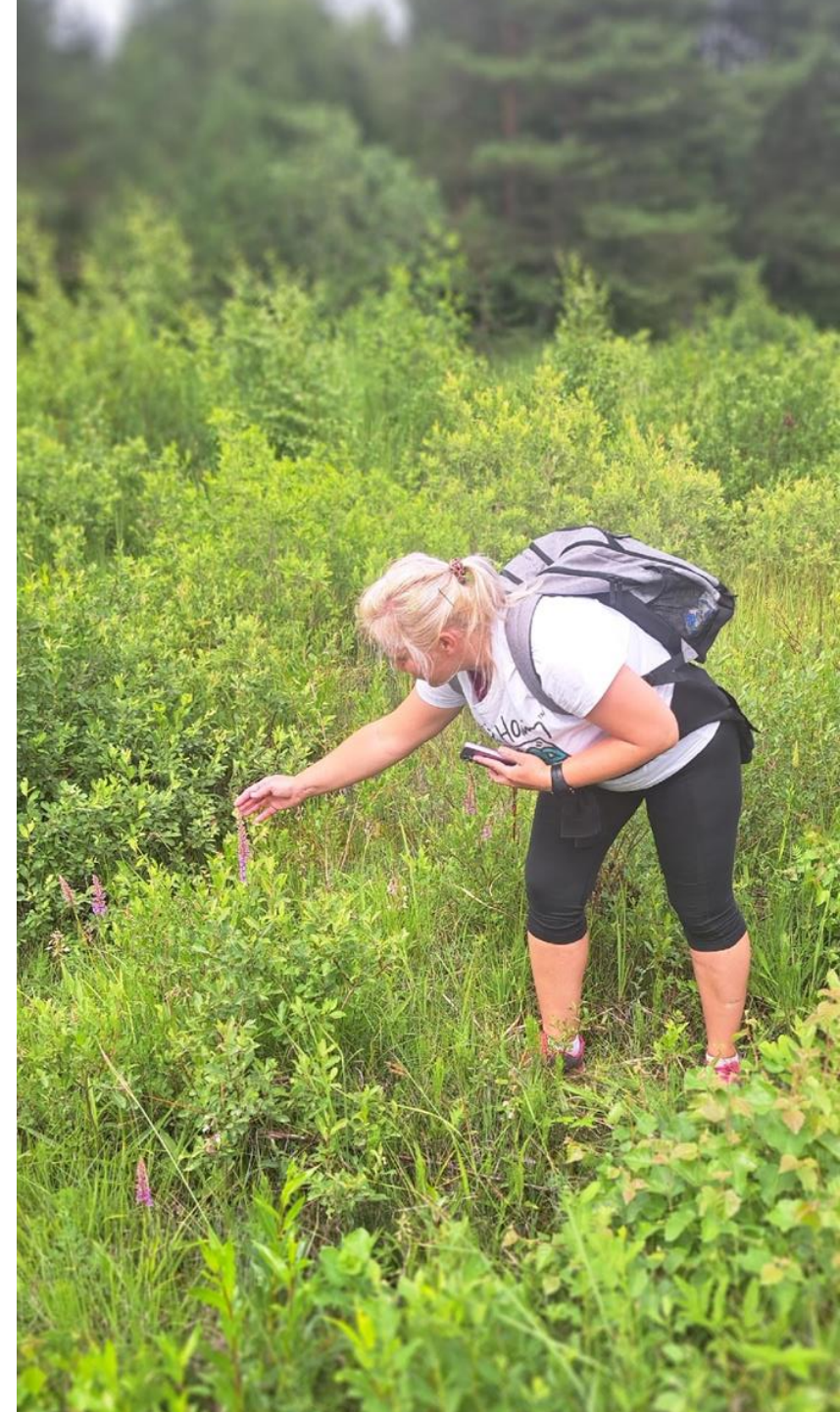
What does the Olav Way bring to Saaremaa?

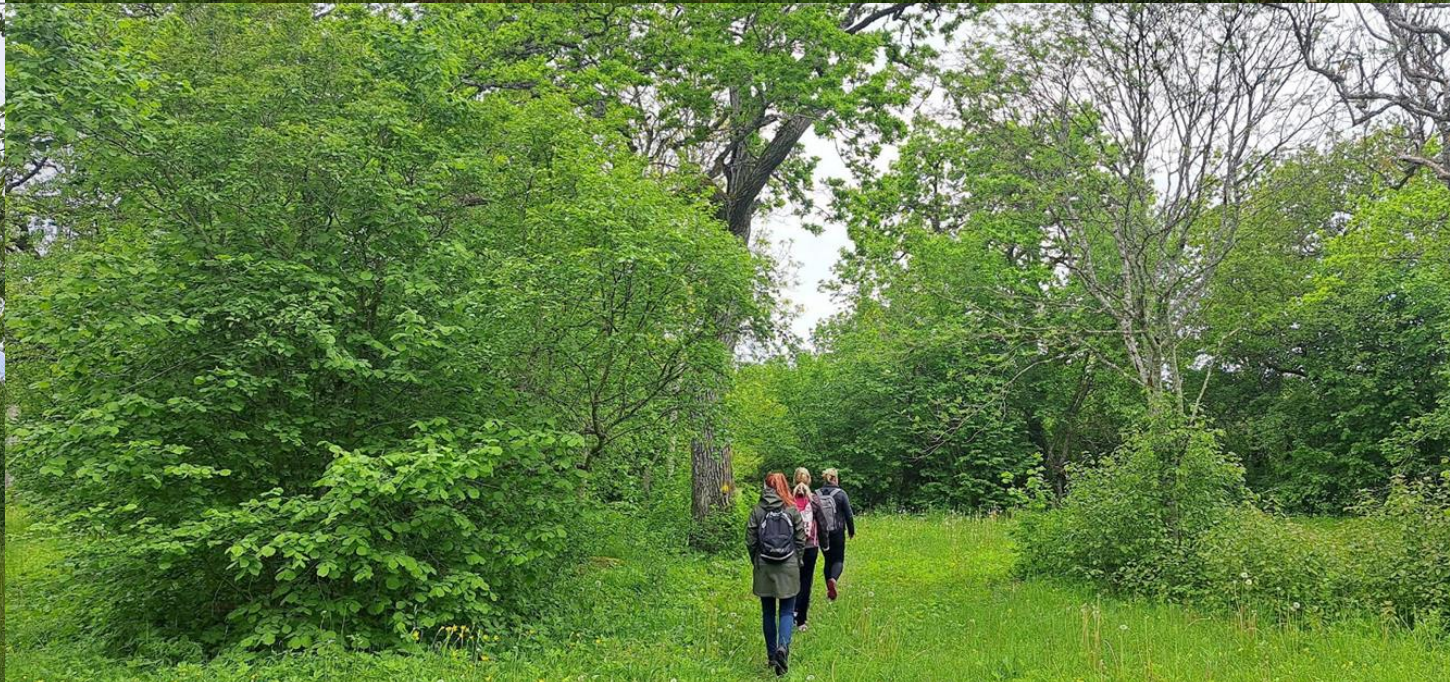
- **International visibility:** Joining the St. Olav Ways network increases Saaremaa's recognition among hiking and pilgrimage enthusiasts worldwide.
- **Growth in visitor numbers:** Climate change and increasingly hot summers are pushing European hikers to look north – including towards Estonia.
- **Community involvement:** Developing the route creates opportunities for locals – whether through accommodation, food, services, guiding, etc.
- **Educational value:** Schools gain a new way to organise hike days while learning about nature and cultural heritage.
- **A path for everyone:** The Olav Way invites both locals and visitors to slow down and experience peaceful movement through Saaremaa's beautiful landscapes.



Activities Related to Route Development

- **Mapping** services along the route and building a cooperation network
- **Creating** a cultural and historical background for the route
- **Marking** the route
- **Developing** an interactive map application
- **Publishing** route information on a website, digital map, and other informational materials
- **Organising** a study trip for businesses involved in the Olav Way network to a country where a similar St. Olav Ways route has been established







Thank You!

Questions?