Transnational LEADER Cooperation Project

“GREENPARK”

Estonian partners’ report

Katrin Suursoo
Project Manager

~60% of the project implemented

Strategies and EUROPARC certification

Lahemaa and Matsalu NP strategies monitoring and update, expert evaluation and certification coordination. Awarded by EUROPARC Federation in November 2025.











Kadrina municipality

Local study visit for our own community. 30 participants explored businesses, development projects and a nature trail.



Reuse workshops 1 and 2

Participants renewed old objects with epoxy resin and gained skills to continue restoring items independently.





Promotional materials

Arenduskoda ordered project bags and other promotional materials.



Saaremaa study trip

Local enterprise, heritage and nature tourism offered ideas for our own regions.



Climate change and biodiversity conservation

Environmental change, biodiversity loss and cooperation between rural businesses and protected areas.



Circular economy: key issues and first steps

Circular economy principles and practical first steps.



A pilgrimage and cultural route Olavitee in development

Saaremaa Municipality leads the route development. Saarte Koostöökogu supports the municipality through a LEADER project under GREENPARK.

Progress to date

Requested preliminary approval from the coordination group in Norway for the Saaremaa route location and name.

Walked and mapped the route in Saare County.

Started negotiations with landowners where the route requires their consent.

Prepared materials on service providers and attractions along the pilgrimage route.

Visited established Olavitee routes in Finland and Norway.



International activities: opening event in Estonia

Arenduskoda welcomed the international partners and introduced the GREENPARK programme.

Visits and workshops shared local approaches to sustainable tourism, cultural heritage and community enterprise.

The event created opportunities to exchange experience and build relationships between partner regions.





International activities: Summer Universities

Croatia



Protected-area tourism, local producers and interactive heritage experiences

Portugal



Community tourism and cooperation around Peneda-Gerês and Litoral Norte

Current and next activities

2026

Summer University in Latvia

Sustainable Tourism Information Day

Local study visit: Haljala municipality

Study trip to East Harju

2027

Local study visit: Tapa municipality

Local study visit: Kuusalu municipality and the town of Loksa

Study trip to Põlva County

Reuse workshop 3: decorative wood graining

Summer Universities in Greece

Final event in Slovenia

Challenges and lessons

Limited accommodation capacity

Large international groups and short planning periods reduced suitable options.

Engaging local entrepreneurs in seminars

Entrepreneurs are often difficult to engage without a clear, immediate benefit. Financial pressures made participation harder.

Changes in the composition of participants

Cancellations at the last moment, and replacements must be found quickly.

Future LEADER funding

Funding uncertainty made long-term planning and continued cooperation difficult.

What participants found most valuable



Learning from local entrepreneurs

Visits showed how local food, nature and heritage can become meaningful visitor experiences.

Skills we can use at home

Reuse workshops offered practical restoration skills.
Study visits provided ideas for local tourism services.



International relationships

Informal conversations and shared activities helped partners exchange experience.

Future cooperation: developing projects together

Joint learning between businesses

Pair entrepreneurs across partner regions to develop and test new tourism experiences together.

Shared examples and pilot results

Collect useful practices, adapt them locally and share what worked in each region.

More time for partner exchange

Bring international teams and protected-area businesses together to develop the next joint project.

