

## ESTONIA

# Local development

### Location

Hiiumaa

### Programming period

2014 – 2020

### Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local  
development

### Measure

M19 – LEADER/CLLD

### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 181 203

EAFRD 97 622

National/Regional 10 847

EMFF 18 034

Other 54 700

### Project duration

2014 – 2017

### Project promoter

NGO Halulaev

### Contact

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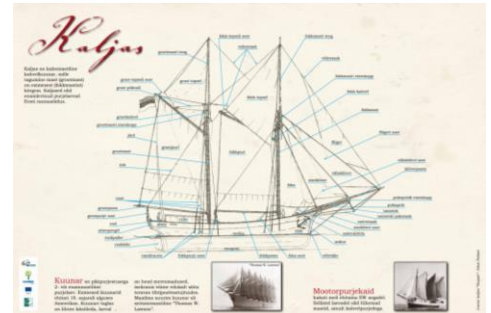
### Website

[www.halulaev.ee/](http://www.halulaev.ee/)

A Local Action Group combined funding from the EAFRD and the EMFF in order to revive the long-lost heritage of traditional shipbuilding on Hiiumaa island.

## Summary

A 'Kaljas' is a two-masted traditional schooner, which was the most common sailing ship on Hiiumaa island. There was a long tradition of building these boats; however, during the Soviet era, construction of these wooden ships was interrupted and the traditional shipbuilding techniques and knowledge were almost lost.



The Local Action Group (LAG) Hiiumaa started a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) initiative, which brought together a wide range of partners and combined European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and European Marine and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) funding to revive this traditional shipbuilding and the island's cultural heritage. The project partners also organised training courses and workshops that allowed for transfer of knowledge and skills around these techniques, while generating income for the local community.

## Results

Within the project period, two schooners were built. The boat "Lisette" was designed with the help of the LEADER measure under the EAFRD and built with the help of the EMFF.

This initiative helped enliven the traditions of sailing and navigation among young people and other citizens.

The ships that were built are actively in use for training and other maritime activities. In the future, the plan is to keep developing these activities and traditions.

About 200–300 people have participated so far in the training days. A quite remarkable number of attendees were young people, especially for the beginner seamen trainings.

## Lessons & Recommendations

- The success of this initiative is mainly attributed to the successful use of different European funds. The project actors also worked with INNOVE (a lifelong learning and development foundation) to develop a European Social Fund (ESF) supported project titled "Be successful in the labour market in Hiiumaa". They have also implemented CLLD through projects under the EMFF.

## Context

Hiiumaa is the second largest island in Estonia and is part of the West Estonian archipelago in the Baltic Sea. In the past, the 'Kaljas' was the most common sailing ship on the island and there was a long tradition of building these boats. It is a two-masted sailboat with fork sailing, which was suitable for sailing along the Baltic Sea coast. In the old days, these ships transported firewood to big cities, and as a result, they came to be known as firewood ships.

During Soviet times, however, building of traditional wooden ships was interrupted and the knowledge and skills essential to this special process were almost lost. The local people needed to learn, teach and re-start building wooden boats in the traditional way so that the cultural heritage and traditions would carry on and revive.

## Objectives

The objective of this long-term initiative was to restore the local heritage and traditions associated with the building of wooden transport ships, as well as to stimulate economic activity by offering a diverse tourism opportunity.

## Activities

Activities carried out included the construction of two traditional wooden sailing boats. The project also financed the acquisition of the necessary equipment to make the ships ready to sail.

Training days on shipbuilding were organised in cooperation with the Estonian Historic Ship Society. Workshops were also delivered on traditional shipbuilding, covering topics such as hull impregnation and finishing; manufacturing of superstructures, portholes and hatches; a timber anchor system for ship systems; turning work for the production of nails; blocks and steering wheels; seasonal maintenance of wooden hulls etc.

Maritime tourism services were also developed. The services were delivered onboard the historic sailing ships HiiuIngel and Lisette. Different packages for sea tourists were developed and tested, such as one hour at sea, 2–4 hours at sea, 1–2 days at sea with meals and overnight stays etc. The packages included, depending on the length of the workshop, catering, a sea guide service and sea rescue training.

Project partners were:

- the LAG Hiiumaa Cooperation Network as the initiator of the maritime projects;
- the State Forest Management Centre (RMK), which supplied the wood for the boat building;
- the Estonian Historic Ship Society and its members, who provided the know-how about traditional boat building and sailing during the practical trainings they organised and delivered;
- the Traditional Ship Association of Ihana from Finland, who also provided know-how on boat building and sailing and delivered practical trainings onboard their traditional boat Ihana; and
- the Hanse Sail and Baltic Sail Associations, who contributed through international cooperation and networking.

## Main results

Two schooners were built. The boat "Lisette" was designed with the help of the LEADER measure under the EAFRD and built with the help of the EMFF.

This initiative helped revive the traditions of sailing and navigation among young people and other citizens.

The ships that were built are actively in use for training and other maritime activities. In the future, more development of these activities and traditions is planned.

About 200–300 people have participated so far in the training days. A quite remarkable number of them have been young people, especially in beginner seamen trainings.

Trainings for boat builders and networking activities were set up with historical ship-building associations from other Baltic Sea countries, fostering cooperation and learning.



## Key lessons

The success of this initiative has been mainly due to the organisation of joint activities. Together with INNOVE (a lifelong learning and development foundation), the project holders developed an ESF-funded project titled "Be successful in the labour market in Hiiumaa", and they have implemented CLLD through other projects under the EMFF.

## Additional sources of information

n/a