



Recommendations of the BEN project Spatial Planning seminar on Hiiumaa 25th of April 2007

In the Hiiumaa seminar on Spatial Planning 22 participant from Euro-regions , County Governments, NCM, Town Municipalities, Ministries on Interior and Foreign Affairs, Turku info Centre in Tartu and NGO-s were present.

Tiit Toos, from Ida-Viru County Government presented the state of art on Ida-Viru County planning process. The aim of the planning is to analyse the infrastructure investments to ensure the habitation in periphery of the county. As a trend, young people still leave the periphery moving to big towns, esp. Tallinn. Inadequate public transport system, lack of health and education service causing this trend. Ida-Viru is special case among Estonian counties because of many villages were demolished for mining oil shell during the Soviet regime. People do not feel connected to the home site.

As a problem, Tiit Toos sees that some of key ministries (MoFin, MoFA, MoEcon) are not taking part in confirmation of the Spatial Plan.

Meelis Linnamägi, Valga-Valka cooperation, introduced the common planning process between towns of Valga (Estonia) and Valka (Latvia). The new common plan makes possible development of tourist routs, cultural activities, etc.

Problems are in National level of different legislation, esp. in health care support system, and planning procedures that make common CBC activities more difficult.

Jerena Valtanen-Laine, Turku info centre in Tartu. Turku town (Finland) info centre is officially opened in 4th of May 2007 in Tartu (Estonia). Already these two towns have a history of cooperation, esp. between universities. Joint agreement covers activity fields like culture, exchange of info, education, training etc. Turku is also active in other places in Estonia, f.e. island. In Kuressaare, for many years there is centre of Turku University, and a good experience of common projects.

Avo Kütt, Hiiumaa County Government, presented the state of art in Hiiumaa County planning process, mainly demographical analysis. During years 1990-2000,

<http://www.benproject.org/en>

<http://www.b7.org/>

the decrease in populations was almost 2000 people. Currently the population of Hiiumaa is 10 000 people. School is the main service that municipalities offer. If school service is not satisfactory, people often chose to leave the place they live. Indication for 2015 shows that there might remain as little as 735 schoolchildren in Hiiumaa altogether.

As a problem, Avo Kütt highlighted the lack of methodical guidance from the leading planning Ministry of Interior.

Aivi Telvik, Foundation Tuuru (Hiiumaa). County Governor engaged Foundation Tuuru to compile an analysis of existing development strategies on Hiiumaa. As a next step, there will be a strategic agreement made between State institutions and Local municipalities for the joint development of the island of Hiiumaa. Aivi Telvik highlighted the importance of cooperation and communication between all levels of governance in the process of planning and development.