



## Peipsiääre

### **Culture and Resilience Action Plan summary**

Like many small rural municipalities in Estonia, Peipsiääre Municipality faces the challenges of an ageing and declining population. The primary concern is the departure of young people from their hometowns after completing basic education, as well as competition between villages within the municipality.

However, the distance from major urban centers has instilled in our residents an appreciation for their roots and local cultural heritage. Our region is exceptionally rich in culture, and we proudly present three unique cultural traditions to visitors and the community. These include the distinct Kodavere culture, the culture of the Russian Old Believers, and the Baltic-German manor heritage.

As part of this project, we plan to launch a hackathon in 2025 to bring youth ideas to the table and foster their development. Based on the ideas' potential, we are prepared to integrate them into the municipal development plan, offering support and guidance for implementation.

Additionally, we will conduct two youth camps aimed at introducing young people to their cultural heritage and equipping them with contemporary skills.

To strengthen local ties and increase community engagement, we will organize a Kodavere Cultural Dance Festival in collaboration with municipal residents and interest groups. We also plan to lobby for Kodavere-language news on Estonian Public Broadcasting. The municipality's smallest town, Kallaste, will be featured at the Rural Living Day. Furthermore, the entrepreneurial network organized under the NGO Sibulatee will continue to run traditional events, particularly the high-participation Sibulatee Buffet Day, which attracts a large number of locals and visitors.

Through these activities, we aim to engage approximately 100 local youth and 700 local residents. We anticipate around 9,300 visitors, who will have the opportunity to participate in public events, experience our culture, and potentially consider relocating to our region.

By the end of the project, we will have a cohort of youth who are more aware of their local heritage, familiar with each other, and understand their potential role in the municipality's development. Additionally, we



expect to have more residents motivated to leverage cultural heritage as a source of livelihood or to play a significant volunteer role within the community.