



## Tartu Arena of Sustainable Education Christo Alliksoo, DD Foundation

**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union



RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

**We make transition!**



FOUNDATION



LÄÄNE-  
HARJU  
VALD





## Lääne-Harju Arena - Sustainability in Education

- Systemic process through which local communities co-create a vision and action plan for transitioning to sustainable and impact-driven education.
- Including people from schools, kindergartens, private sector organisations, NGO-s, parents, municipal officials and youth.
- 3 full day workshops (33 participants) + inclusion meetings with different stakeholders











## Main challenges

- **Youth Wellbeing Concerns** - Low satisfaction among students with physical activity options.
- **Outdated Learning Environments** - Many school environments lack accessibility, flexibility, and outdoor learning opportunities.
- **Environmental Responsibility** - A real need to instill environmental awareness and sustainable practices in daily school life due to climate challenges and the municipality's coastal location.
- **Fragmented Environmental Education** - Environmental themes are inconsistently integrated into learning, limiting students' understanding of sustainability and ecological systems.
- **Need for Community Connection** - There's a drive to better connect students with their surroundings—nature, local businesses, and cultural heritage—to foster responsibility and belonging.





## Two pathways:

1. Providing valuable input to the Lääne-Harju Education Strategy 2035 on the topics of:

- Nature and Sustainability
- Health and Wellbeing

2. Empowering actors from the community and the field of education to share perspectives and create new solutions for sustainability and students wellbeing.







# Lääne-Harju Education Strategy

## Nature and Sustainability

- Improving **energy efficiency** in schools (e.g. audits, retrofits).
- Waste sorting and **food waste reduction** (currently being implemented).
- Climate and environmental education for students and teachers.
- Designing of a new study programme with Estonian Maritime Academy (currently being implemented).
- Marine ecosystem education: trips to harbors, learning about biodiversity and water safety in cooperation with local rescue services.
- Hands-on sustainability practices: repair workshops, use of recycled materials in arts.



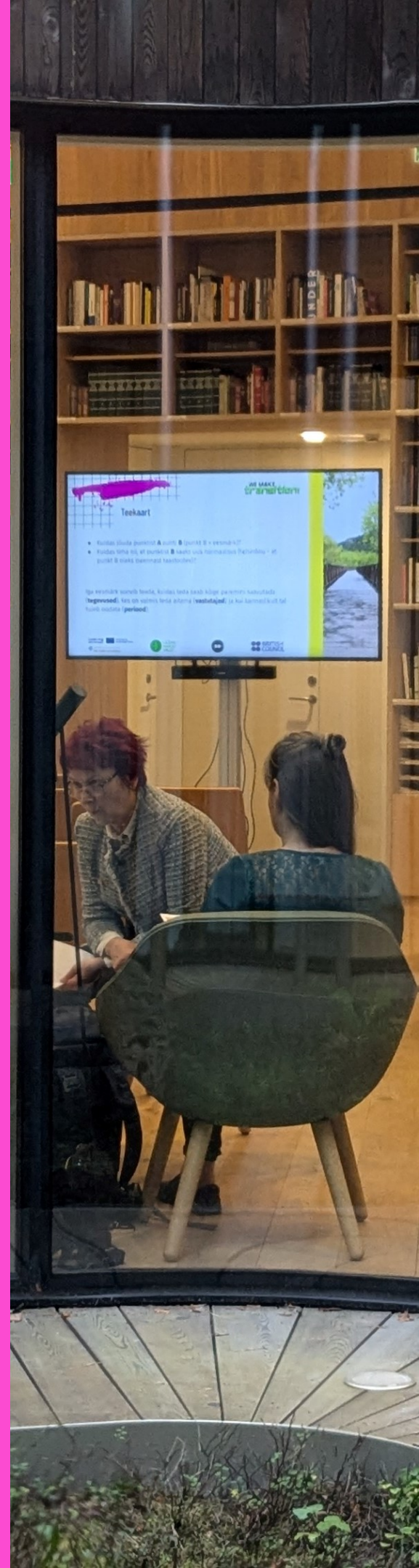




# Lääne-Harju Education Strategy

## Health and Wellbeing

- Wellbeing-Centered **Learning Spaces**:
  - Pilot block lessons to support concentration and balance.
  - Accessibility audits of school buildings.
- Movement and **Outdoor Learning**:
  - Developing schoolyards and gardens for learning and recreation (currently being implemented).
  - Expanding safe cycling and walking paths (light traffic roads).
  - Designing areas for active rest (e.g. climbing zones).
  - Building bike shelters at all schools and expanding bike lanes.
  - Creating nature trails near schools.
  - Incorporating outdoor education and frequent field trips to museums and landmarks.





# Lääne-Harju Education Strategy

## Health and Wellbeing

- Strengthening **Mentorship** and Belonging (currently being implemented):
  - Redefining the class teacher role to enhance support and mentoring.
  - Increasing salaries and training for class teachers.
  - Promoting trusting relationships and positive classroom climate.
- **Healthier Eating:**
  - Broader selection of **nutritious school meals**, including **plant-based options**.
  - Regular provision of fruits and vegetables.
  - **Student involvement** in meal planning.







THANK YOU!

Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union



RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

We make transition!

