

## Resume

In the Development Strategy for Ida Viru County, the top priorities have been defined for the period of 2019 to 2030 onwards. The Development Strategy is a framework document for organizing the activities of the county's local government units and collaboration partners related to the development of the county, planning joint investments, which has an effect on absolutely all units of the county local governments, as well as for filing applications for obtaining subsidies required for making the investments. On granting a specific case-based subsidy to Ida Viru local government units, planning the investments on the state level, as well as on introducing changes into the availability of services rendered by the public bodies, the targets and goals in the field of development and joint actions planned in the Development Strategy are accounted for in the county.

In 8 units of the local governments in Ida Viru County – in the cities of Narva, Narva-Jõesuu, Kohtla-Järve and Sillamäe, as well as in the rural municipalities of Alutaguse, Jõhvi, Lüganuse and Toila - the total population as of 01.01.2018 was as high as 142,562. The county is the third largest in terms of population following Harju and Tartu counties. The biggest challenge stated in the Development Strategy is to provide availability of qualitative public services in the region that features shrinking and ageing population along with the economic development and growth in its residents' well-being.

In the concept of the Development Strategy, Ida Viru County posture itself as a part of the economic region of the Gulf of Finland, with a multifacet and effective cooperation with the neighbouring regions being of utmost importance from the point of view of the best possible use of the prerequisites for the county development. To ensure the availability of public services and faster transportation of people and goods, it is essential for the county to have fast and convenient transport connection with the neighbouring counties and Tallinn, as well as transborder connections with Southern Finland and St. Petersburg Region.

The Development Strategy makes provisions for many-sided and comprehensive cooperation between the county's local government units and the collaboration partners in those spheres of development which are important for the county, such as: education, culture and sport, social sector; youth work; entrepreneurship and economics; tourism; living environment and infrastructure. Attaining the goals set in the aforementioned spheres requires the partners to use the best possible knowledge and skills to ensure the attaining of goals in a limited resource environment.

Oil shale and power generation industry will remain the largest branch of economy in Ida Viru County during the Development Strategy implementation period; however, to reduce the dependency on only one branch of economy, the activity on diversification of the county's economic environment will be continued. Additional possibilities for the development of the business sector will result in the growth of both industrial investments and the share of the industrial sector not related to oil-shale based power generation, as well as in the development of small business and in the implementation of new smart solutions.

The activities envisaged in the Development Strategy of Ida Viru County and the intended results thereof depend on the changeable external environment. Monitoring of the development strategy and of the action program execution, and, if necessary, its updating in the changeable external environment and in line with the targets and goals set is a constant process to which all important partners are attracted.

The most important criterion for attaining the targets and goals stated in the Development Strategy for Ida Viru County is cooperation between the local government units, collaboration partners, neighbouring regions and the central government of the state.