

**“Transportation infrastructure,
adopting a holistic approach to societal progress”
Meeting 5 hosted by ANETPA, Paphos, Cyprus**

**Holistic approach in transportation infrastructure
in Järva Municipality, ESTONIA**

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How transport reduces inequality in Järva municipality?

- In Järva municipality, inequality is often caused by **long distances** between homes, schools, jobs, and services rather than income alone
- Many residents **live in small villages** where access to transport determines whether daily life is manageable
- Public transport is treated as a **basic public service**, not a profit-based business
- A county-wide bus network ensures that even small villages have **regular connections**
- **Request-based stops** allow buses to serve very remote areas without unnecessary detours
- **School transport** guarantees that children can attend school regardless of family income or car ownership



How are transport decisions made?

- Transport planning is based on **shared responsibility** between authorities, operators, and residents
- Public authorities set goals such as **fairness, accessibility, and coverage** across the whole municipality
- Transport operators focus on running services **efficiently and safely**
- Citizens contribute by sharing **everyday experiences, problems, and needs**
- The municipality **connects** residents' feedback with county-level planners
- The main challenge is making sure people can see **real changes** resulting from their input

Connecting communities through transport

- In rural areas, communities can become separated simply because **people live far apart**
- Public transport **connects** villages to **shared places** such as schools, healthcare centres, and **cultural activities**
- **School transport** brings children from different villages together every day
- Shared travel helps children and families feel **part of one community**
- The focus is on **practical connections** rather than large symbolic projects

Supporting linked trips in daily life

- Many residents combine **several tasks in one journey**, such as school drop-off, shopping, and medical visits
- This is especially important for **caregivers, elderly residents, and low-income households**
- Bus schedules are **coordinated with school** times and service opening hours
- **Social transport** supports people who cannot use regular buses
- Home-care workers help residents reach **essential destinations** when needed



Järva valla noortevolikogu tõstatas bussiliikluse kitsaskohad



Eva Klaas
reporter

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Bussipeatus Paides FOTO: DMITRI KOTJUH

Source: <https://jarvateataja.postimees.ee/7747687/jarva-valla-noortevolikogu-tostatas-bussiliikluse-kitsaskohad>

Changing perceptions of public transport

- Public transport was long seen as a service **mainly for children and elderly people**
- Data showed many users are **parents, caregivers, and working-age adults**
- **Poor timetable** coordination had previously **discouraged** everyday use
- **Adjustments** made public transport more suitable **for daily life**
- **Communication** helped residents understand that **public transport is for everyone**



What success means for residents?

- Success is not only about **how many people** use a bus or **how fast** it is
- Success means villages **remain connected** over time
- Residents **feel confident** that transport is **reliable** and **predictable**
- People can attend **school events, healthcare appointments, and community activities**
- **Reduced isolation and increased independence** are key outcomes

Transport and community resilience

- Transport planning supports **access to healthcare, food, and social services**
- Reliable mobility is especially important during **extreme weather** or **economic difficulties**
- Residents without cars are less vulnerable when **transport systems are well integrated**
- Transport helps **keep communities connected** during challenging times

What EU projects changed locally?

- EU-funded projects helped **improve cooperation** between municipal departments
- Transport, social services, and schools **worked together** more closely
- New ways of **listening to residents** were introduced
- Successful practices **continued** after project funding ended
- Projects strengthened **long-term local capacity**, not just infrastructure



Photo: Igor Kotjuh

Source: <https://jarvateataja.postimees.ee/8222833/imaverre-tuleb-kergliiklustee>

What GreenMove changed?

- GreenMove helped **shift focus** from transport systems to people's daily lives
- **Cooperation** between transport planners and social services **improved**
- **Practical solutions** for elderly residents and caregivers were **strengthened**
- **Small changes** proved to have **big impact** in rural areas



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Looking Ahead:

- Järva municipality is **committed to continuing GreenMove**
- Future focus includes **climate-resilient rural mobility** and **fair access**
- The municipality contributes **practical rural experience** and **community-based solutions**