

Mid-term evaluation of Operational Programme 2014 – 2020 in Estonia

Implementation of the Operational Programme goes as planned – there are €1.5b disbursed, which is 32% from the total amount (€4.6b). About 20% of total funds is invested into social protection and health, 15% into development of entrepreneurship and innovation, 13% into both education and transport and 11% is invested into R&D.

The Operational Programme’s objectives and activities are relevant also today – there is no **need for substantial changes in the Operational Programme.**

EU funds contribute significantly into structural changes towards knowledge based and lower resource intensive economy, **but the impact can be measured only in longer period.**

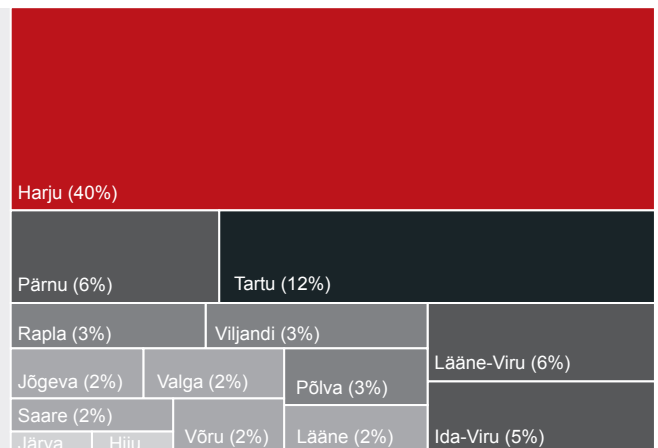
Sustainable urban development remains one of the main challenges:

- About 50% of EU structural funds are invested into the two largest counties in Estonia - Harju and Tartu counties, which makes regional disparities even larger
- EU funds should rather be focused on preventing problems and developing compact solutions in regions
- The role, awareness and competence of local municipalities in managing EU investments has to increase

Consultation with partners in implementation of the Operational Programme can be improved:

- Partners’ consultation process, forms and agenda can be agreed with stakeholders well in advance
- Partners deserve explanation about objectives and barriers of the consultation process in an easy and clear language
- There is a need for a support measure for developing administrative capacity of partner organisations in the next period’s Operational Programme

Additional funding from performance reserve should be focused on activities preventing problems and generating added value like **R&D and innovation in companies, education and regional development.**



Performance of financial indicators by Priority Axis (PA)

