

# Valga Municipality



Margus Lepik

Mayor

[Margus.lepik@valga.ee](mailto:Margus.lepik@valga.ee)



*Valga vald*

Valga Vallavalitsus, Puiestee 8, Valga, 68203

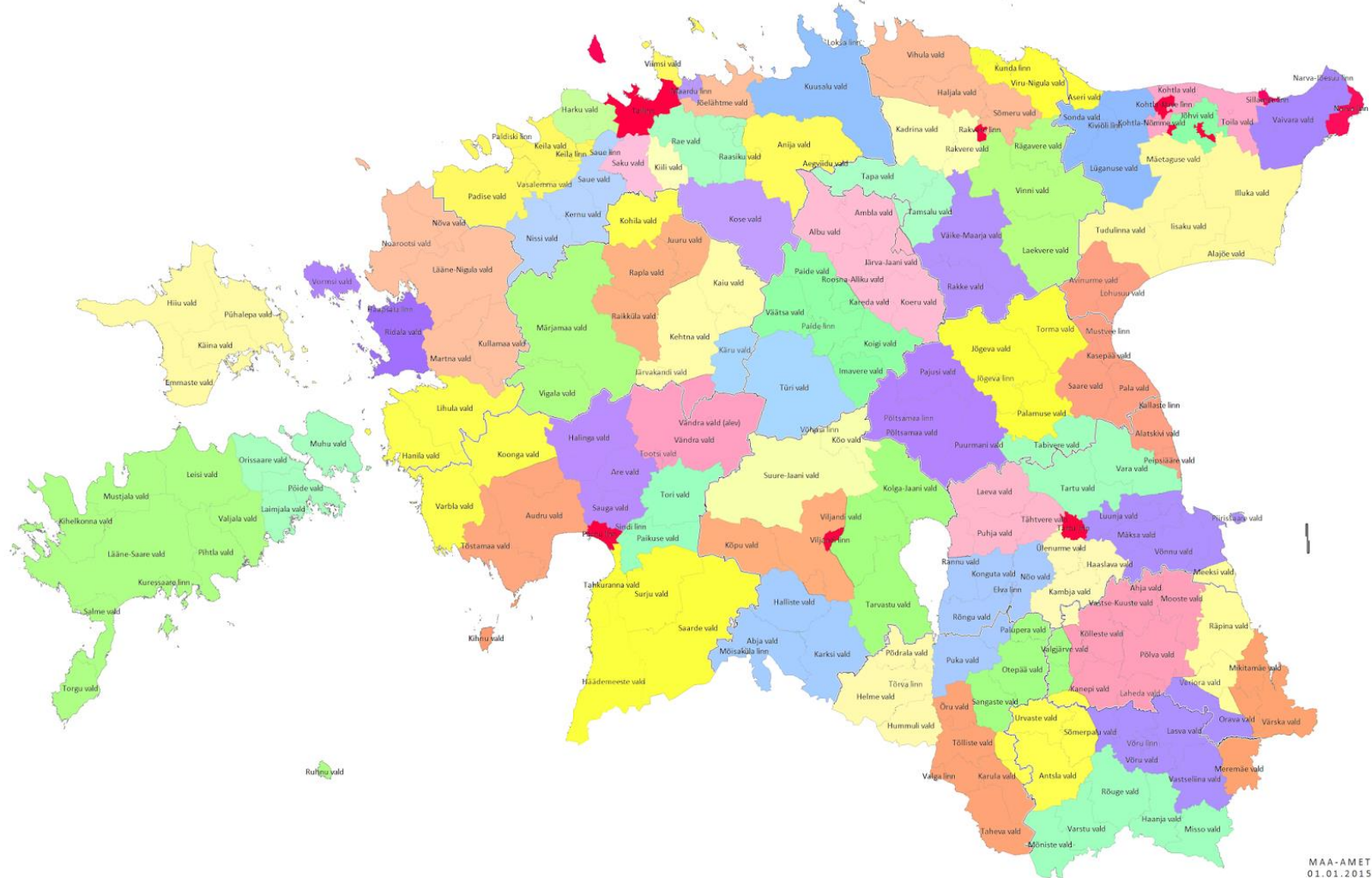
[www.valga.ee](http://www.valga.ee)



# Administrative reform

- The objective of the administrative reform was the establishment of capable local governments that can develop every aspect of local life
- Previous mergers of local governments have demonstrated that better and more accessible services are provided with joined forces and the competitiveness of the region improves
- In 2017 the Republic of Estonia was divided into 15 counties and 213 administrative units (30 towns, 183 rural municipalities)
- After reform:  
15 towns  
64 municipalities





MAA-AMET  
01.01.2015



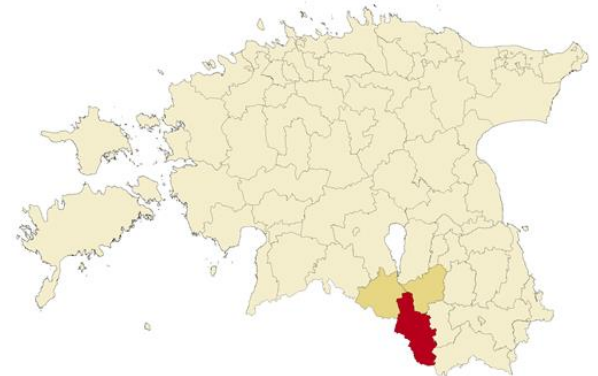
*Valga vald*

Valga Vallavalitsus, Puiestee 8, Valga, 68203

[www.valga.ee](http://www.valga.ee)

# Administrative reform

- Valga Municipality was formed 22.10.2017 by merger of former Karula, Taheva, Tõlliste and Õru rural municipalities
- Valga is the administrative centre of Valga Municipality
- In addition to Valga, there are three boroughs - Laatre, Tsirguliina and Õru and 48 villages in Valga municipality



# General information

- Valga Municipality is located in South-Estonia, lying along the line of the Estonian-Latvian border
- The municipality of Valga extends over 750 square kilometers and has a population of about 16 600 people
- The population is mainly concentrated in the town of Valga, villages and sparsely populated areas covering the rest of the municipality
- According to the population register, as of 01.01.2018, a total of 16 645 people lived in Valga municipality, of which 11 783 people in Valga city



# The history of Valga-Valka



Until their separation in 1920, Valga and Valka were one town

This town was first mentioned in 1266 as it appeared in the credit register of the city of Riga under the German name **Walk**

On June 11th 1584, Walk was granted a town privileges by Stefan Batory, King of Poland

In 1783, during the Regency of Catherine the Great, Walk County (Kreis Walk) was formed

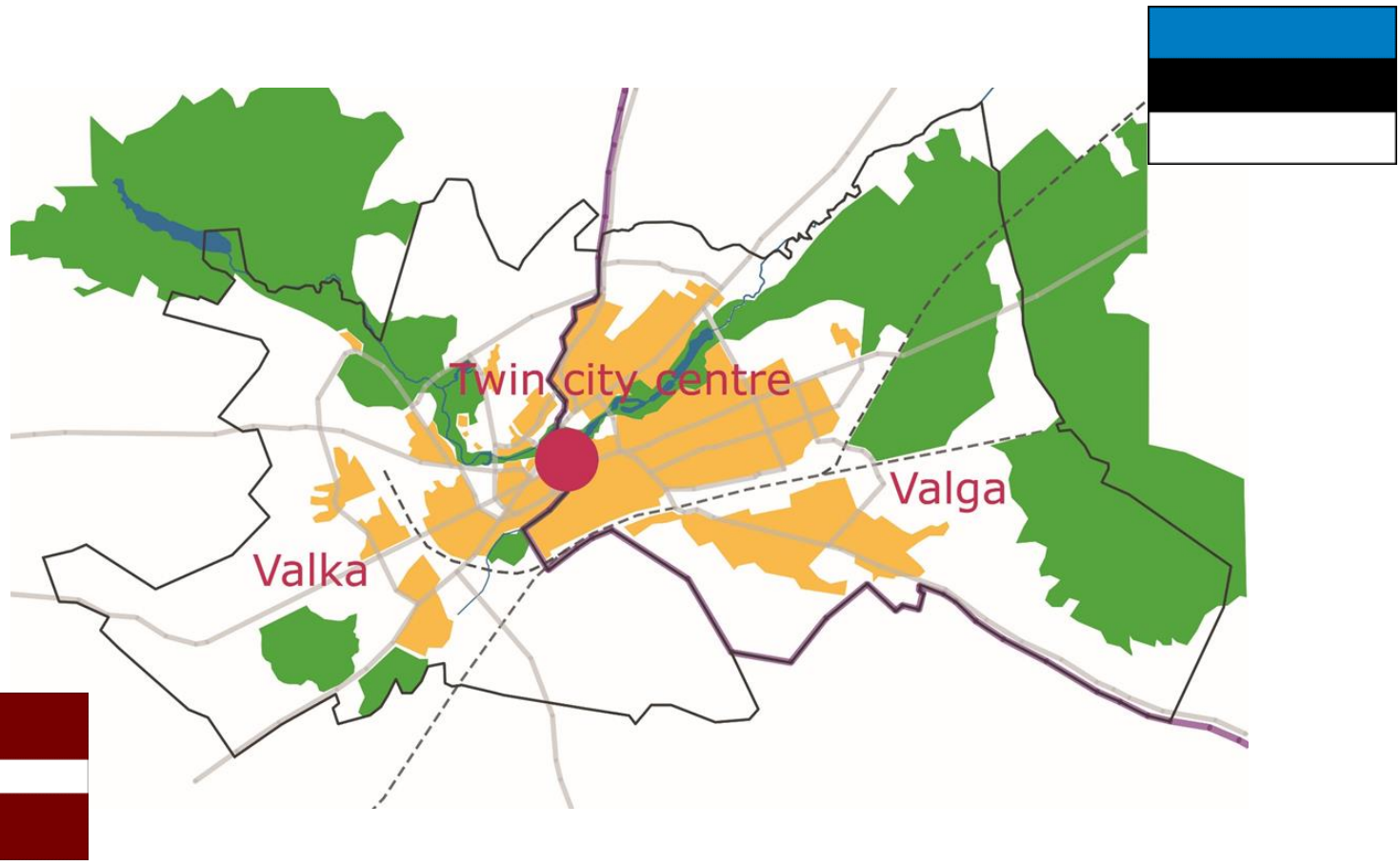
The town went through a fast development period at the end of 19th and the beginning of 20th century due to the establishment of a railway junction (Tartu-Valga 1887, Riga-Valga 1888, Valga-Pskov 1889) and was the most rapidly growing city in Estonia

Number of inhabitants: in 1881 - 4207, in 1897 - 10 922, in 1906 - 16 122, in 1913 over 20 thousand

Johannes Märtson – first Estonian ever to be elected as mayor – leded the City from 1902 to 1917



# Twin town ValgaValka





Valga vald

Valga Vallavalitsus, Puiestee 8, Valga, 68203

[www.valga.ee](http://www.valga.ee)

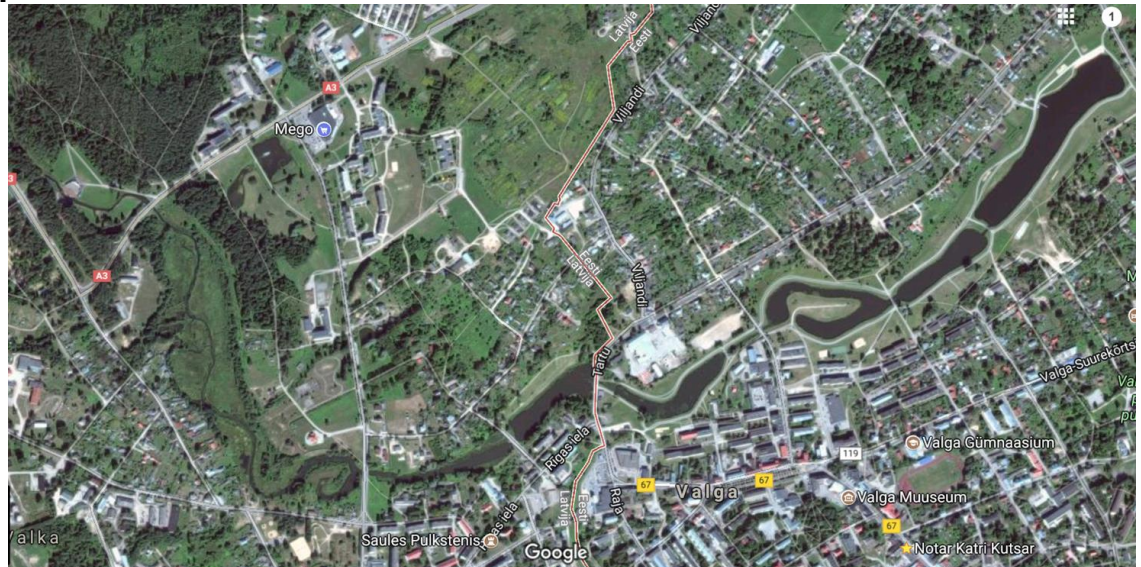
# Best practices of cooperation

- **Art School „WALK“** - 204 students, more than half from Valga. Joint exhibitions and camps
- VALKA- VALGA celebrate every year the **Border Market** in May and **Town Festival** in June
- **Latvian-Estonian Institute**
- Modern **dance studio “Joy”** in Valga – 25 participants from Valka
- **Valga-Valka Race** – 5 km around Pedeli river
- **Estonian - Latvian Race** – 10 km race along the streets of Valga and Valka
- BC Valga Maks&Moorits/BC **Valga/Valka basketball team** both in Estonian and Latvian leagues



# Pedeli recreation area

- Pedeli river- length 31 km, 15 km in Estonia. Watershed 229 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 151 km<sup>2</sup> in Estonia
- Passes through Valga City and is swelled up to 4 ponds with surrounding recreation area
- 7 km light traffic roads, 8 playgrounds
- Different recreational opportunities
- Development continues...



# Developing common City centre

- BSR INTERREG IIIA Project: Valga – Valka Twin Town Centre Development“ 2017-2020
- The common interest and benefit of this project is the development of joint territory – Valga-Valka Twin Town Centre – to improve physical connectivity, unite both towns’ citizens, promote tourism and activate entrepreneurship. The project will help to facilitate economic activity and create long-term development potential for Estonian and Latvian border area.
- Partners: Valka Municipality Council, Valga Town Government
- Total budget: 3 529 412 EUR
- ERDF contribution: 3 000 000 EUR
- Valga 1 751 424 EUR
- Valka 1 777 988 EUR



# Developing common City centre

- Development of a multifunctional cross-border Central Area on the border of Estonia and Latvia
- including an area for open-air markets and festive events
- playgrounds
- innovative street lighting systems
- original urban space furniture
- Creation of Pedestrian Street linking the churches in both town centres (Lugažu Church in the centre of Valka and Jaani Church in the centre of Valga)
- open the possibility for small businesses such as coffees, restaurants, different services, etc.





# Priority areas of Valga Municipality

- increasing buildings energy efficiency through refurbishment
- reducing energy costs through smart renovation of educational institutions
- street lighting refurbishment
- utilization of available solar potential
- waste management
- developing circular economy
- digitalization in public sector to provide more efficient services
- increasing green infrastructure
- raising the quality of public spaces
- increasing reputation and sense of place
- valuing and protecting the natural environment



# Energy saving buildings

Valga Municipality has started concrete local actions for climate protection and energy saving.

We implemented the first passive house renovation pilot project in Estonia, using modern technologies and building design to achieve more than 60% energy savings in the “Kaseke” kindergarten.

This project is drawing extensive attention due to its innovative approach, the huge reduction in energy demand in a cold climate where heating is typically required, and because it was initiated by a municipality.



# Energy saving buildings

Vocational Education Training Centre of Valga county - study complex in Valga (2011)

Low energy building

Most modern technology used

Providing education also for Latvian citizens



On the roof and on the façade of Valga Hospital, solar panels produce energy used for power generation and heating hot water and rooms. A total of 672 square meters of solar panels have been installed, the money saved is directed to the hospital's new energy-saving solutions.



# Renovating educational institutions and historical houses

Buratino kindergarten

Valga Basic School

Valga Priimetsa Basic School

Valga Secondary School

Residential house Kuperjanovi 12



*Valga vald*

# Using structural funds 2016-2020

- Valga old town reconstruction 2 million euros
- Valga industrial and enterprise public area infrastructure reconstruction 1,5 million euros
- Valga railway station front park, parking places and access roads renovation 0,7 million euros
- Valga light traffic road building 2,8 km 0,5 million euros
- Reconstruction Valga Priimetsa Basic School, 3,9 million euros



# Thank You!



*Valga vald*

Valga Vallavalitsus, Puiestee 8, Valga, 68203

[www.valga.ee](http://www.valga.ee)