



Geological education and geotourism in Estonia and southern Finland – a new EU Interreg IIIA project

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The geology of northern Estonia and southern Finland has been the subject for scientific research for more than 100 years. However, there is much more to be done in the field of popularisation and introducing geological monuments of these countries for general public. A project entitled “Promotion of geotourism in Estonia and Finland – get acquaintance with the Earth’s history” was established in July 2005. The purpose with the project is to create popular information about the geology and related subjects in both countries. The main idea is to introduce people about the extensive time span of Earth history that covers the two areas: Proterozoic formations in southern Finland (1900 – 1275 Ma) and early Palaeozoic formations in Estonia (700-300 Ma). Both areas share the latest geological history manifested in the Quaternary formations and landscape. The geological targets on focus in Finland in the beginning of the project are selected around the popular archipelago ring road in SW Finland. To get the needed local information and logistics, the project established cooperation with the community cluster Region Åboland and local history associations. Besides EU support, in the Finnish side the project is supported by State Provincial Office of Western Finland and K.H. Renlund foundation. Main geological targets in Estonia include Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian sedimentary rock, Palaeozoic fossils, Estonian famous oil shale, limestones and dolomites, karst processes and others. Several subprojects are planned to cross the border between Finland and Estonia, such as erratic boulders, bogs and glacial landscape forms in Estonia and Finland. In total 16 booklets and 13 educational videos (DVD) and exhibition will be prepared during 2005-2007. From the Estonian side the project is co-financed by the Ministry

of Internal Affairs, NGO GeoGuide of Baltoscandia and the Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology. A number of leading geologists from both countries are involved as experts.