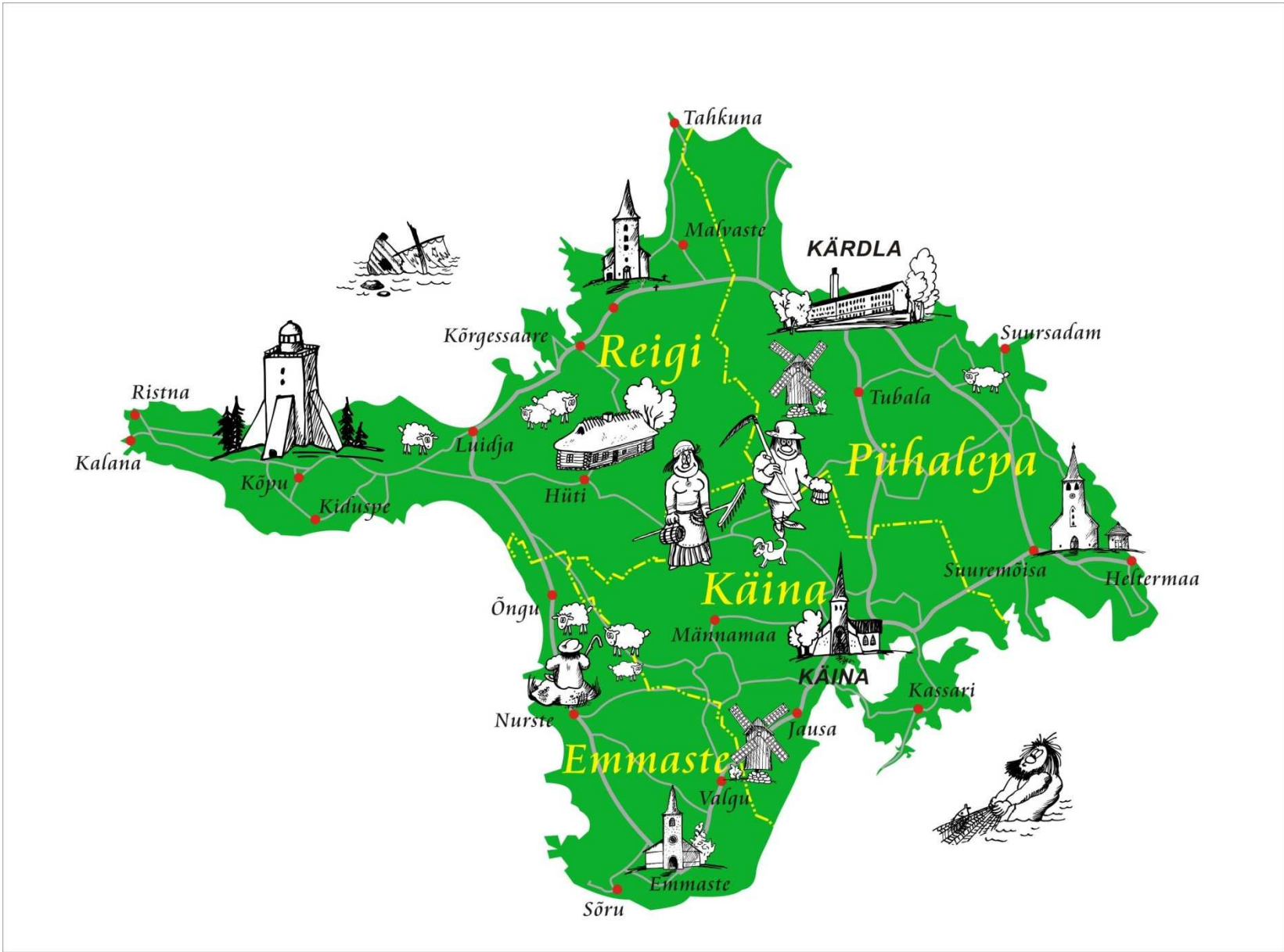


# Mapping out intellectual cultural heritage in Hiiumaal

Helgi Põllo



# The goal of pilot project is uncertain

- What and how to gather?
- Lack of certain guideline, comprehension, attitude, technical criteria?
- Persons were not trained for this job.
- How it would be done? Where to find personell?  
Who finances? How to form the result?

# Discussed many hours about

- Whom to involve?
- Whom to inform?
- Whom to train and how?
- Are the people on Hiiumaa slow-minded?
- How fast and what can we do beside the other work?
- Is the gathering a teaching at the same time?
- How many times is it needed to film a person to reach the „truth“ and result?

# General or single, skill or person?

- Do we emanate from common skill or last skillmaster?
- What kind of information is truthful, what represents traditional??
- To fixate a skill we need general study or comparison from Estonia.
- How our midsummer bonfire differs from others? We just do not know the others so well.
- Is the fixation just a list or is it an instruction how to do?

# What is common, what is special?

- The opinion of bystander is very important

# Do we fixate common things?



# Sheep shearing in Hiiumaa way





# Summary

- We as citizens of Hiiumaa are interested in everything which is from times of self making and keeping it alive in community (island)
- We could not understand what part of our common life would be interesting for Estonia? World? What is more important?
- Our greatest wish was to keep something you can't hit with camera or learn by book – how to be a native. Times and customs are changing anyway.

# Goal – collaboration withcommunity

- Projects of village associations
- Activation of pupils (notice life around you)
- Questioning the amateurs
- Meetings with elders (what meaning has memoir of memoir?)
- Studies, interviews, descriptions, photos
- Courses and trainings for adults
- Activities of museums
- Supporting community with knowledge about archive materials

# Gathering, making, introduceing



# First activities to involve and inform the community

- **questioning** , to find out what is important for them
- **meetings in municipalities**, bring up questions, finding people
- meetings with different organisations
- Talking with skillmasters on different general or specific topics (preparing scythe, sheep shearing etc)
- Organised working days with filming

# First activities....

- Involving student through the schools (-our common life, description of some work or activity)
- One question. (Ex. What have you learned at home? – to find skillmasters)
- Questions about language, storys
- Looking for storys about Hiiumaa all over Estonia – to find out what makes us different

# Questionary to find out reference values

- Some examples from answers: Every woman should know how to make a meal of fish. She would know how to repair socks.
- A man would know how to smoke fish or how to make a wooden spoon. Would know what kind of clouds bring rain.
- Would know how to dry flatfish or salt whitefish. Sauna hank and hurdle making should be know, important things are rocking , small carts etc etc.

# Pahlakilu –favorite meal in Hiiumaa



# To study 1-2 % of population - is it inough?

- We found that 1-2% of population would be intresting to study
- How many sock knitters can we find?



# Who knows how to ask questions?

- To get a good explanation is needed detailed question. Otherways we cant film. , skillmaster knows it anyway.

# What is important?

- From the history of Hiiumaa we know few masters but many skilled people.
- If we find somebody – ist he/she representative of community or himself/herself, is she/he good or average skillmaster?
- Is it important at all?

Or is it time just to find a man who knows „snake spell“?

# Is this a skill or a dream or a lifestyle?



# Who needs it?

- We do not need many things any more today. (“I can do it but nobody needs it ”)
- What use have we from knowledge that somebody can do something? More important is to perpetuate the skill in the best way.
- Where can we get the materials for samples?

# Problems

- If there are some clever people who can find out the way if doing something just by looking on old sample is this intellectual heritage?
- What is it if the process is different but the result is the same?
- If some tradition is very old but still active in different places? (voluntary work in village)

# Samples

- Cellars and buildig of them
- Wells – digging and building of them
- Repairing things and logic behind it
- Making a rocking chair



# How to fixate the answer?

- Is there place for sly work description? How to perpetuate this? How to make sure that everybody understands it?

# Back strokes

- Many bad result of filming or photos – equipment, ignorance, bad luck
- These activities often need professionals, so cooperation is needed between experts



# Status today

- Community is aware of cultural heritage, growing interest
- Village associations are active
- Joint action is more popular (midsummer bonfire, gatherings, voluntary work)
- Involving students (different projects and activities)
- Emmaste School started courses of national handiwork and fishery
- Studies and summaries connected to local traditions

# Student Conference of heritage oct 2009



# Course of selfculture 2009



# More about:

- New joint undertakings which evaluate traditions and lore ( Hiiu Folk, Day of Coffee shops in Kärđla, village days etc)
- Intellectual and cultural heritage is important issue in Museums (making a small cart, straw roofs, coloring with plants etc)
- NGO historical skills
- Suuremõisa college and training centre Tuuru is selfculture study running years
- Redaction of book „Hiiumaa“
- Village books, with additional CD-d

# We need to know these old things



Work in archives and museums brings out relevant



# What would you choose?

- Drying and eating flatfish
- “Hapud makid, käkisupp ja vehe jõudnd kalad”
- Making a rocking chair
- Making a small cart
- Bringing a self drawn New Year wish to neighbour
- Preparing and using a ice road
- Humour and use of words in Hiiumaa

# Desire to restore a skill





# Made in 2009

- A horse and a sledge from one piece of wood



- Scythe handle



# Do it yourself



Too common?



# Self making in Hiiumaa before and now



# What to choose?

## Use of materials, skill, belief?



# Best result now

- Project “studied from Master”
- Copper needleworks
- First tin sheaths have been made



# Necessary to know the details and try





# NB!

- All activities which help self being durability of community are welcome in Hiiumaa.

# The base of register is ready

- Lets start to fill the register, but opinions are still opposite!