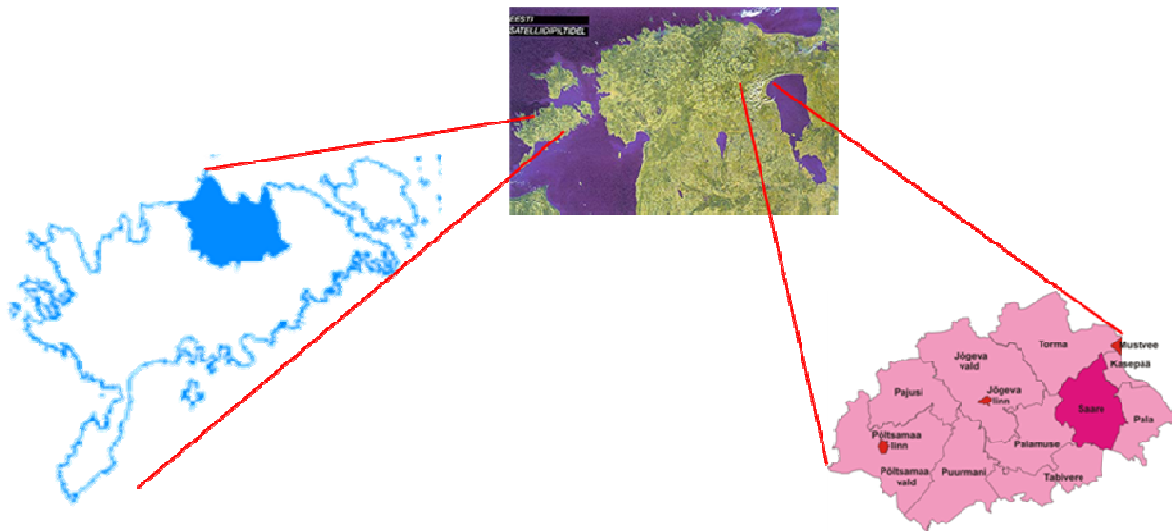




The Bioenergy Promotion (BP) project helps in the Estonian case private forest owners and their associations to take into use so far unused forest resources. Pre-commercial thinning and maintenance of young stands e.g. is needed, but are due to unfavorable tax systems and little market possibilities very unpopular in Estonia, especially in small-scale forestry. Within the project, we try to develop in the two regions summarized below bioenergy villages. These have the following concept: the local association manages a boiler house and purchases wood from local small-scale forest owners, the villagers are supplied by this locally produced heat (and maybe electricity). Workplaces, resources and money will stay within the regions, and local cooperation will be strengthened.

Despite the huge potential in the forest, small municipalities face the following obstacles: little awareness among the population, lack of resources for the reconstructions of pipes and boilers and slow governmental support. The BP project offers the opportunity to these active communities to advise local stakeholders and forest owners by experts on their potentials, to exchange with international colleagues on bioenergy issues and experiences & to work out regional business plans for a sustainable project financing.

The regions in Estonia: Saaremaa, Leisi vald (blue) and Jõgevamaa, Saare vald (red)



Short summary:

- Saaremaa:
 - 90% private forest; 10% state forest (mostly nature conservation), reet resources
 - Island
 - Muhu municipality and Kuressaare: bioenergy boiler houses
 - STÜ (Islands sustainable energy association)
 - Several national and international projects
- Leisi municipality:
 - 348km², about 2200 people; Leisi village: 330
 - Old boiler house with inefficient wood chip use
 - Reconstruction of the boiler house