Project Summary

Project Background
The regional development plans for the two West-Estonian Islands Saaremaa and Hiiumaa specified the improvement of skills of the labour force and enhancing vocational education and training as development priorities. Handicaps due to the geographic periphery such as the relative infrastructural underdevelopment, difficulties in market access, delays and high costs for exporters had to be overcome by raising the qualifications of the labour force. The project addressed these problems by provision of vocational education and training combined with measures for better cooperation between social partners.

Project Objectives
The project pursued two-fold objective, namely to “boost human capital by enhancing education and skill levels and to improve the employment prospects of the unemployed”. The overall objective was “to support the economic and social development through a highly qualified labour force capable of meeting the changing needs of industry and the global economy”.

Project Activities
Project implementation were structured into four output clusters (components):
1. Development of Regional Training Centre and training institutions network (4 training providers; priority sectors engineering/electronics, tourism, food processing, boat building)
2. Development of pilot work-linked training programmes (integrated work-linked training; curricula development; training of in-company instructors)
3. Development of career guidance and counselling services for the region (career guidance and counselling within schools and training institutions);

Implementation Features
Two avenues for vocational education and training were pursued in parallel: delivery by traditional training providers (the Kuressaare Vocational School, the Tallin Technical University College in Saaremaa, the Suuremoisa Vocational School and the Tuuru Foundation in Hilumaa) and the establishment and promotion of distance learning and especially work-linked training.

Services Provided
- Training needs assessment
- HRD strategy for the two islands
- Development of a Regional Network and Training Centre
- Career guidance and counselling
- Distance learning and work-linked training
- Certification scheme for trainers

Estonia

Enhancing Human Resources Development in West Estonian Islands

Client
European Commission / EC

Duration
2002 - 2004

Personnel
- 1 int. LTE as team leader, (11 PM)
- 5 int. STE (3 PM) for curricula development, work-linked training, distance learning, career guidance
- 4 local experts and trainers (20 PM)