

# Memorandum of Understanding

between

the City of Helsinki and City of Tallinn

on the joint understanding of the challenges and objectives of the Helsinki-Tallinn cooperation towards further development of the twin city concept

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets forth the main ambitions of cooperation towards implementing the twin city concept

## Background

The economic integration of Estonia and Finland and the regional integration of the Helsinki-Tallinn twin-city concept are laying the foundations for the Helsinki-Tallinn region's ambition of becoming one of the leading economic centers in the Baltic Sea area. By combining the financial, material and human resources of these two regions, the innovation potential of the area can be multiplied. Both cities have a high education level, and the economic complementarities bring large-scale opportunities both for traditional industries and for new industries based on innovation.

## Purpose

The Mayors agree that in order to enhance the twin city concept, the following priorities should be set for the next 4 years:

1. The key enabler of the twin city concept is the convenient mobility of people and goods across the Finnish Gulf. We will continue to improve the infrastructure and integrate services to offer seamless mobility possibilities. We will also actively work together with national and regional governments in the framework of the Helsinki Tallinn tunnel.
2. A deeper cooperation means that an increasing number of people will spend a longer time on the other side of the Gulf. We will improve our services for non-residents to enable living, working and leisure possibilities on both sides of the Gulf.
3. The well-being of the Baltic Sea is our common concern and joy. Among other environmental initiatives, we will participate in the international cooperation to improve the environmental condition of the Baltic Sea.
4. The twin city concept is about not only making living and working across the Gulf seamless, but also making the Helsinki-Tallinn region more competitive on the global market. Consequently, we need to enhance the cooperation and knowledge sharing between City officials and promote the twin city brand in certain contexts in other countries. We will work together with the private sector to enhance recognition of the possibilities that the Helsinki Tallinn twin city offers in other countries.

Signed in Helsinki, 29th of May, 2018

City of Helsinki

City of Tallinn

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Jan Vapaavuori  
Mayor

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Taavi Aas  
Mayor

## ACTION PLAN for 2018-2021

### 1 Mobility of people and goods

	Responsible Dept. HELSINKI	Responsible Dept. TALLINN
1.1. Continue the cooperation in the framework of the Helsinki-Tallinn tunnel.	Economic Dept.	Transport Dept.
1.2. Support the best possible realization of smart solutions for public transport and mobility.	Economic Dept., Helsinki Region Transport authority	Transport Dept.
1.3. Participate actively in the cooperation of the ports of Helsinki and Tallinn (the TwinPort projects).	Port of Helsinki, Economic Dept.	Port of Tallinn

### 2 Services for non-residents

	Responsible Dept. HELSINKI	Responsible Dept. TALLINN
2.1. Work actively on developing the services for the arriving workforce and families.	International House Helsinki, Infopankki.fi	International House Tallinn
2.2. Offer free-of-charge short-term working spaces for companies in both cities.	Economic Dept. /NewCo	Economic Dept.
2.3. Research the possibility for efficient utilization of capacities for specialized medical care on both sides of the gulf (e.g. the new Children's Hospital in Helsinki).	HUH, Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa, Social and Health Dept.	Welfare and Health Care Dept.

### 3 The well-being of the Baltic Sea

	Responsible Dept. HELSINKI	Responsible Dept. TALLINN
3.1. Participate actively in international structures to make the Baltic Sea cleaner (e.g. Baltic Sea Challenge, HELCOM, CBSS).	Environmental Dept., Economic Dept.	Environmental Dept.
3.2. Explore the possibilities for externally funded cooperation projects within the circular economy, especially aiming at reducing the inflow of hazardous substances/plastic into the Baltic Sea.	Environmental Dept., Economic Dept., Smart& Clean Foundation	Environmental Dept.
3.3. Organize common campaigns to raise environmental awareness, e.g. 'Shore Cleaning Wave' and 'Clean Beach' campaigns.	Environmental Dept., Economic Dept., Smart& Clean Foundation	Environmental Dept

#### 4 Competitiveness and marketing of the region

	Responsible Dept. HELSINKI	Responsible Dept. TALLINN
4.1. Define the twin-city brand story for certain contexts and utilize it in attracting tourists, businesses, investments, best talents as well as big productions and events, e.g. conferences, cultural and sport events.	Communication Dept., Economic Dept., Helsinki Marketing, Helsinki Business Hub	Strategy Unit, Economic Dept., City Office
4.2. Support the creation of a competitive start-up environment, e.g. by co-organizing start-up events.	Economic Dept./NewCo	Economic Dept.
4.3. Continue knowledge and best practice sharing between City officials and promote short term job shadowing and rotation. Make better use of research data in the twin-city concept development.	Economic Dept. Urban Research Unit, Urban Academy, Forum Virium Helsinki	City Office