

Rural Architecture and Rural Landscape. Study and Maintenance

Development Plan 2007–2010

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. TEMPORAL SCOPE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In the sphere of rural architecture and landscapes the development plan for the years 2007–2010 is the first of its kind in Estonia. Considering the topicality of the issues presented in the development plan, as well as an ongoing necessity for practical solutions, the Ministry of Culture may, after the termination of this period, make a proposal to the government to continue with similar measures during the next period.

Long-term vision

A database network on rural architectural heritage and rural landscapes has been created concerning know-how and objects as well as for finding counsellors and masters-practitioners. The owners of rural buildings value the cultural heritage in their possession and proceed in its maintenance from the principles of sustainable restoration. The buildings or their complexes that have been in disuse until now have been converted, which adds value to real estate.

As a result, milieu-valuable settlements and landscapes have been maintained and building traditions characteristic of the region, as well as building types and the surrounding landscape have been preserved. All this, in its turn, has created additional prerequisites for the balanced development of tourism, employment and, through this, also the whole rural area, for connecting the youth to the homesteads of their ancestors, for safe living environment as well as sustainable and environment-friendly way of life. Despite changes in traditional occupations in rural areas, the structure of village settlement and regional peculiarities have been preserved.

1.2. RELATIONS WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE DOMAIN

Estonia has launched several state strategies, development plans and programmes, which, among other issues, are also concerned with the sphere of rural architecture and rural landscapes. For this particular development plan the following strategies, development plans and programmes qualify as more important:

- *Estonian national strategy of sustainable development “Sustainable Estonia 21”*

The present development plan proceeds from the main aim of “Sustainable Estonia 21” – to combine the success requirement resulting from international competition with the principles of sustainable development and the preservation of Estonian traditional values and unique cultural space. One of the basic factors in estimating sustainability is the scope of Estonian cultural space, whose indicator is the extent to which Estonian culture has materialized in architecture, landscapes and sign environment.

- *Estonian rural development strategy 2007–2013 (responsible ministry: Ministry of Agriculture)*

The bill on Estonian rural development strategy (as of March 2006) provides that it is essential to guarantee the preservation of cultural heritage objects, adopting respectful attitude towards their historical appearance. One of the aims of the strategy is the preservation of the area and the list of priority activities favours unproductive investments contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage and the diversity of landscapes (for instance, erecting, restoring and maintaining stone fences). It is planned to support the improvement of natural and cultural heritage through implementing strategies focused on sustainable usage.

- *Estonian environmental strategy until 2010 and Estonian environmental action programme 2004–2006 (responsible ministry: Ministry of the Environment)*

One of the objectives of Estonian environmental strategy is to ensure the preservation of the diversity of cultural landscapes and at the same time improve the attractiveness of rural areas as well as their recreational value. The abovementioned target is supported by all the measures mentioned in this development plan.

- *Estonian Manor School: preservation of the cultural-historical complexes of manor schools and their conversion into modern study environments 2002–2012 (responsible ministry: Ministry of Culture)*

The national programme of manor schools covering Estonian rural areas emphasises the importance of rural schools operating in manor houses as maintainers of the historical identity of the area. The programme views manor schools as regional centres of culture and education. It also supports the restoration of manor schools as well as the corresponding studies and design work. One of the aims of the manor schools programme – to provide the owners of these schools with the information necessary for the maintenance of the buildings as well as the support of experts and craftsmen – coincides with target 4 in this development plan: A counselling system for the owners of rural architectural heritage exists and support measures necessary for the preservation of the rural architectural heritage have been elaborated.

- *Setomaa national cultural programme 2006–2009 (responsible ministry: Ministry of Culture)*

Among other things, the Setomaa programme supports research into traditional Seto farm architecture as well as the renovation and restoration of architectural heritage. The programme also envisages as one of the activities carrying out studies necessary for heritage and landscape protection and the publication of research results. The aforementioned is related to target 1 of this development plan: Research strategy and methodology have been worked out, continuous investigation is pursued.

- *National programme “Preservation and development of sacral buildings 2003–2013” (responsible ministry: Ministry of Culture)*

The national programme of sacral buildings covers, besides Estonian towns, also rural areas. The aim of the programme is to unite forces in order to preserve and foster sacral architecture and cultural traditions. Systematic support to the preservation of sacral buildings ensures better prerequisites for the general development of rural areas. The programme supports the restoration and maintenance of sacral buildings as well as research (incl. publications and popularization) – the latter coincides with target 3 of this development plan: Activities introducing and valuing rural architecture and rural landscapes are undertaken.

- *Estonian museums in the 21st century. Main development trends 2006–2015 (responsible ministry: Ministry of Culture)*

This development plan (e.g., measures 3.1., 3.2., 5.1. and the Estonian Open Air Museum as the coordinating institution for the implementation of the whole development plan) trusts museums, who, according to the document *Estonian museums of the 21st century. Main development trends 2006–2015* are institutions competent for that, with a great number of

tasks. The research done at museums is diverse and is not confined to the study of museum collections only. Scientific expeditions and fieldwork guarantee that museums are well informed and participate actively in the research on their subject area. This development plan (within the framework of measure 5.1) also reflects the target result described in museum sphere: Museums offer a training base for students from universities, gymnasiums and vocational schools.

- *Estonian architectural policy and action programme for the architectural sphere 2004–2008 (responsible ministry: Ministry of Culture)*

This development plan is based on the objective defined in the document formulating Estonian architectural policy – to guarantee the preservation of historical environment for future generations. The action programme for the architectural sphere envisages the initiation of and support to the preservation and research projects on Estonian architecture (collection, documentation, publication). Main support goes to the activities of the Estonian Art Academy and the Museum of Estonian Architecture as centres of scientific research on the history of architecture, as well as the Estonian Open Air Museum, whose work is focused on the study and popularization of the architectural heritage in the Estonian village. Exhibitions and projects dealing with architectural heritage are subsidized. All the aforementioned activities are related to the sub-objectives of this development plan and in a certain sense it can be viewed as a sub-programme of the development plan of the architectural sphere.

From among the programmes and development plans scheduled to be drawn up in the near future, the following ones are essential from the point of view of the present development plan:

- Programme for studying and recording recent history (Ministry of Culture);
- Development plan “Estonian Natural Sacred Places” (Ministry of Culture);
- Stronghold programme (Ministry of Culture);
- Programme for Kihnu cultural space (Ministry of Culture);
- Development plan for nature protection (Ministry of the Environment).

1.3. MINISTRIES PARTICIPATING IN DRAWING UP THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS

The development plan of the domain has been worked out on the initiative and under the general guidance of the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Estonian Open Air Museum, the National Heritage Board, the Institute of Ecology at Tallinn University, and the Viljandi Cultural Academy of Tartu University. In addition to the aforementioned, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Interior, the Estonian National Museum, the Estonian Art Academy and the Tallinn College of Engineering were involved (participated in discussions and/or presented their opinions in written form).

1.4. BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The notion **rural architecture** denotes here the entire built environment, which has been created outside cities by the country people engaged first in agriculture and later on also other occupations. Its older layer includes, besides farm buildings, also common buildings in villages and boroughs (e.g., schools, commune houses, community centres, inns, stores, fire stations) as well as industrial buildings (e.g., mills, dairies, workshops). Later on, in the capitalist era, smaller industrial and railway settlements in between town and country by their nature cropped up in the countryside. During Soviet time a great number of collective farm buildings as well as those of other institutions and even whole settlements were built in the countryside.

The notion **rural architectural heritage** is used in the text in roughly the same meaning, only with a certain evaluating shade.

Besides rural architecture, the development plan also includes narrower notions like **village architecture** and **farm architecture**. The notion of village architecture covers, apart from farm buildings (i.e., “farm architecture”), also structures erected with the joint forces of village or commune people, such as commune houses, community centres, schoolhouses, dairies, fire stations, cooperative stores, etc.

The development plan does not treat rural buildings separately from each other and the given area. Visible and invisible traces of human activity together with natural environment and the

relation of the human being to this environment make up the landscape. Hence, the landscape is a uniform entity comprising both natural environment and the impact of human activity, meanings and values ascribed to the landscape and its perception. Aiming at emphasizing the fact that the development plan deals with rural rather than urban area, we use the notion **rural landscape**.

From the point of view of rural architecture, the **barn-dwelling** as a representative of its oldest layer is the most important among individual buildings. This ancient, nearly thousand-year-old Estonian dwelling type is unique, and unfamiliar to all our nearest neighbours. This multi-purpose building served as a dwelling for the household; besides that, grain was dried and threshed there, different kinds of farmwork were done and domestic animals were kept there in wintertime.

1.5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.5.1. Peculiarity of Estonian rural architecture

Historically, the entire Estonian architectural heritage, including rural architecture, can be divided into two very different branches: local or national and European or international.

The national farm architecture of local origin is simple in its essence, natural, traditional and quite stable. In the course of time farm buildings, especially the barn-dwelling, have become a significant sign in Estonian national culture.

The international urban, manor and church architecture of European origin, which started to spread here beginning from the mid-13th century, has been more open to changes and more individualistic. These buildings are visual symbols important to Estonia, which connect our cultural space with Europe.

Also, the entire so-called modern Estonian architecture is largely based on international, above all, European examples. Since the end of the 19th century its proportion in our rural architecture has been constantly increasing, whereas this tendency gained particular impetus starting from the 1960s–1970s.

1.5.2. Study and maintenance of milieu-valuable landscapes

While studying landscapes, we have to bear in mind four aspects: form, function, process and context. When preserving landscape appearance, we have to decide if we wish to keep the processes that have shaped the peculiar landscape, or want to restore and preserve the state, i.e., landscape appearance from a certain time period. The landscape where people live and work changes constantly. When maintaining and planning landscapes, it is essential to agree on which values should be kept intact despite all these changes, in order to preserve the most important things – home feeling, the beauty and diversity of the landscape, and the connection with history and culture created by previous generations.¹

After World War II the relative importance of agriculture in Estonian economy has diminished considerably, changes have occurred in land use and, as a result, rural population has decreased. While the 19th century was characterized by a continuous growth of agricultural land use, then the peculiarity of the following century was the opposite process. In the early 20th century ca 67 % of Estonian territory was in agricultural use; yet, a century later it has decreased to one third.

The uneven development of landscapes can be explained with the change of social-economic formations. The primary structures like, for instance, *vakus* – a taxation and administrative unit – are persistent, whereas symbols, meanings and values as well as some functions are re-coded from time to time or disappear altogether. The influence area of power centres expresses itself clearly in landscapes: the borders of many a political and administrative centre are located in relatively unpopulated areas, for instance, in forests or mires. In this respect a principle rules in landscapes that power relations occur in the form of continuous fields with core areas separated by transition zones inside them. The same kind of pattern of core and buffer areas can also be observed in time. In order to understand landscape changes in the 20th-century Estonia, the temporal dimension can be even more important than the spatial one.

In Estonian nature protection landscape issues occupied an especially important place beginning from the 1960s, when guidelines for landscape design were published and the necessity to protect landscapes as cultural heritage was mentioned in both legislative documents on nature protection and the main tasks of national parks. In the second half of the

¹ Maastikuhoolduskavad ja maastikuhooldus. Tallinn: Keskkonnaministeerium, 2002.

1990s an attempt was made to draw up the Law on Landscapes. On the international level the background to this process was the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995) and the European Landscape Convention open for signature in 2000². The latter endeavours to bring under one umbrella the objectives of natural and cultural heritage protectors, emphasizing the valuation and preservation of natural and cultural heritage, first and foremost, at local and regional levels. The preamble of the convention stresses the important role of landscapes in the development of regional and local culture. The landscape embraces an essential part of European natural and cultural heritage. By its essence the landscape is easily influenced and vulnerable, and the technology of agriculture, forestry, industry and mining as well as the rapid development of transport and tourism accelerate the reshaping of landscapes. Thus the landscape can be regarded as a playground of several economic sectors. However, for an individual and society the landscape is the key to well-being. In cultural, ecological and social sphere landscapes have the important role of uniting the general public. This is an economic resource, which, under correct management, contributes to the creation of workplaces.

The nature protection development plan until 2035, which is to be enacted in the Parliament in near future, the environment strategy until 2030, which is being devised, as well as the environmental action programme for the years 2007–2013 use the notion of the landscape, above all, in the context of nature protection.

1.5.3. Study and maintenance of historic rural buildings

Throughout times farm buildings have constituted the most numerous element that has shaped the Estonian rural landscape. In the 20th century three land reforms considerably changed and reshaped our village landscape and rural architecture: in 1920 manor lands were divided into peasant holdings, in the 1940s Soviet rearrangements were made, in the course of which land was nationalized and collective farms were established, and, finally, in the 1990s, land was restituted to its pre-war owners.

During the past hundred years the older and more original part of rural architecture – farm buildings and communal village buildings – has been studied and recorded by museum workers and ethnologists quite thoroughly. Several books and numerous articles on this

² By April 20, 2006, 33 countries had signed this convention and 22 had ratified it. Estonia has not adopted the convention yet.

particular subject have been published. Traditional village buildings are preserved and exhibited to the general public by open air museums: the Estonian Open Air Museum in Rocca al Mare, the Mihkli Farm Complex-Museum in Hiiumaa, the Mihkli Farm Museum in Saaremaa, the Mõniste Museum in Võrumaa, the Põlva Peasant Museum in Karilatsi, the Viimsi Open Air Museum, the A. H. Tammsaare Museum in Vargamäe, the C. R. Jakobson Farm Museum in Kurgja, and so on.

Greater interest in the preservation of traditional rural buildings developed in Estonia in the 1910s, due to the example of the open air museums established in the Nordic countries (Skansen in Sweden in 1891, Seurasaari in Finland in 1901, etc.). In 1913, on the initiative of Oskar Kallas, the Estonian National Museum made a decision to found an open air museum in Estonia. People were appealed to through newspapers to preserve old buildings for the future museum. Although in the 1920s–1930s the idea of establishing the museum failed, the Estonian National Museum started to actively study and introduce farm architecture.

Starting from the late 1940s, a new impetus to the valuation of Estonian rural architecture was given by the activity of architect Karl Tihase. He stressed that it was important to find the rational side of old buildings, which would be essential to be taken over into modern practice. The open air museum with its unique collection would help to introduce the ancient building tradition. Under Soviet rule the Estonian Open Air Museum, which was founded in 1957, became one of the strongest supports for the identity of the politically suppressed Estonians. During the Singing Revolution, one of the leading ideas of the Estonian Heritage Protection Society was to restore the Sassi-Jaani farmstead, which was burnt down at the Estonian Open Air Museum in 1984, as one of the national symbols.

A very small number of buildings of old farm architecture are under state protection today – about ten times fewer than there are manor buildings. The State Register of Cultural Heritage³ includes altogether 50 farmsteads with 256 buildings and facilities, with 9 of them related to historic figures (A. H. Tammsaare, J. Jung, A. Laikmaa, the Liiv brothers, C. R. Jakobson, U. Masing, A. Reinald, J. Köler, J. Tõnisson). By counties the farm buildings under protection are situated as follows:

Harjumaa – 15

Hiiumaa – 18

East Virumaa – 2

³ <http://register.muinasee/> The State Register of Cultural Heritage.

Jõgevamaa – 0
Järvamaa – 2
Läänemaa – 13
West Virumaa – 31
Põlvamaa – 14
Pärnumaa – 5
Raplamaa – 1
Saaremaa – 137
Tartumaa – 5
Valgamaa – 2
Viljandimaa – 11
Võrumaa – 0

From the protected buildings 89 or approximately one third are situated in Koguva village, Muhu Island. Elsewhere in Estonia only 167 farm buildings – a really negligible part – are under protection, whereas none of them is situated in Jõgevamaa or Võrumaa.

22 barn-dwellings, 26 dwellings, 64 storehouses, 21 saunas, 21 barns, 3 stables, 5 summer kitchens, 1 summer cottage, 2 grain driers, 14 sheds, 10 hay barns, 7 wells, 25 cellars plus 4 potato cellars on one farm, 1 longhouse on Ruhnu Island and 7 post windmills are under protection.

In addition to farm buildings, we can classify under traditional rural architecture also part of the 212 mills (61 of them are watermills, 62 – Dutch mills, 38 – post windmills, 6 – sawmills, 2 – woolmills); yet, in the past a great part of mills belonged to manors. According to the count organized by the National Heritage Board in 2004–2005, there are 161 mills or their remnants in Saaremaa and Muhumaa. About 60 of them are in satisfactory condition and it is possible to preserve them as mills. In comparison we can say that in the 1930s there were more than 350 windmills in Saaremaa.

In conclusion, the sporadicity of the information on rural architectural heritage clearly proves the necessity to study and map it.

1.5.4. Barn-dwelling – the most original item in our architectural heritage

For over a hundred years scientists have been interested in the development of the polyfunctional barn-dwelling, which is one of the European largest rural buildings. The barn-dwelling as a common living and husbandry building is supposed to have developed in the early 2nd millennium AD, due to the fact that winter rye became our main grain culture in the late 1st millennium AD. In the cool climate with abundant precipitation, the barn-dwelling perfectly fulfilled the needs of the then farming; yet, as a dwelling, it had several disadvantages.

Already at the beginning of the 19th century attempts were made to introduce changes into the barn-dwelling. Actually, peasants' way of life and, due to that, also their housing culture, started to change only in about mid-19th century, after abolishing serfdom. The most significant modernization in Estonian farm architecture of that period was a dwelling house detached from the threshing barn.

At the same time major improvements and alterations were being made in the barn-dwelling, which had survived unchanged for centuries. An essential innovation was the building of a heating system and a cooking stove with a chimney, which brought along changes in the use of space – a separate kitchen, as well as the building of stoves with hot walls and flues in order to heat chambers, which enabled to live in them all year round.

More significant changes in the exterior of houses were the following: thatched roofs were replaced by shingle and sawn shingle ones, the log walls of chambers were clapboarded, porches (verandas) were added, the number of chambers increased, and their insides were renovated. The traditional barn-dwelling, naturally with a constantly renewing exterior and interior, yet, preserving both its proportions and architectural appearance, has survived besides the detached dwelling throughout the 20th century until today.

The number of barn-dwellings differs by regions – they are more numerous on the islands and in Northern and Western Estonia. On Muhu Island, for instance, 80 % of buildings in the 1970s were either barn-dwellings or newer combined buildings.

The State Register of Cultural Heritage has taken under protection as architectural heritage 22 barn-dwellings, 10 of them in Koguva village, Muhu Island. The barn-dwellings most

characteristic of different cultural regions of Estonia have been transferred to the Estonian Open Air Museum; they can also be found in smaller museums of Estonia (Mihkli in Hiiumaa, Mõniste in Võrumaa, Paduvere in Jõgevamaa, Koela and Põlluotsa in Läänemaa, J. Liivi in Tartumaa, J. Köleri in Viljandimaa).

The preservation of the barn-dwelling has been supported by a very strong ethnic tradition, which is passed on from one generation to the other until social-economic changes make us abandon it. The tradition has proved to have been exceptionally strong as historical changes during the past two centuries have been remarkable.

Ethnologists, historians, architects and lately also archaeologists have been engaged in research on the original Estonian barn-dwelling. A number of longer and shorter studies and surveys have been published on the classical farm dwelling (I. Manninen, G. Ränk, A. Viires, K. Tihase, T. Habicht, A. Peterson, E. Ederberg, and others). These researches dwell upon the development of the barn-dwelling until the mid-20th century; the more recent changes have been dealt with to a considerably smaller extent (J. Saron). By today research on traditional folk culture and rural architecture has come to a standstill. Especially scanty is the information about what happened to farm dwellings due to the ownership reform in the 1990s. Despite the short period, changes are clearly visible already and need to be recorded and interpreted.

1.5.5. Manors and churches

Another important part of rural architectural heritage – manor complexes and churches – has long been thoroughly inventoried and studied by architectural historians and, differently from farm architecture, a considerable part of it has been taken under state protection. Today the State Register of Cultural Heritage includes nearly 2000 manor buildings and 264 church buildings. The state programme for manor schools and sacral buildings operates successfully⁴. One of the most extensive researches on manor ensembles in the past few years (2003–2005) was the inventory project of Tartumaa manor ensembles in their entirety (supervised by landscape architect Nele Nutti), which listed all the 54 former manors situated in Tartumaa. Part of the collected material has been published under the heading “Tartumaa Manors”; yet, a considerable part of it is still unpublished. It is planned to continue the inventory in 2007.

⁴ <http://www.kul.ee/> Valdkonnad > Kultuuriväärtused > Kultuuripärandi programmid

1.5.6. More recent rural architecture

More recent rural architecture, except for the creation of renowned architects, has so far attracted very little public attention. This kind of “everyman’s building” or master builder’s architecture has fallen into the so-called grey zone between the spheres of interest of different institutions and sciences, where nobody considers it as their own. Therefore the overview of the “modern” national rural architectural heritage, which has developed over the past 150 years, is the most incomplete one and the situation here is rather chaotic. From among other rural buildings (i.e., except for farms, mills, manors and churches) only 551 are under state protection.

However, on the initiative of the National Heritage Board, extensive work has been done recently in inventorying and recording this kind of architectural heritage as well. In 2004, by the order of the National Heritage Board the Estonian railway station complexes⁵ were inventoried, and, as a result, a proposal was made to take 151 buildings under protection. The majority of railway buildings are situated in the countryside, and in places they constitute the most interesting and colourful part of local architectural heritage.

In 2005 the National Heritage Board initiated the inventory of dairies – a kind of building remarkable from the point of view of rural architecture. From the 44 dairies inventoried in Järvamaa, 4 are under state protection, and a proposal to take under protection was made about 19 more.

1.5.7. Changes that started in the 1990s

In the early 1990s sweeping changes occurred in Estonian rural life. As a result, the connection of our approximately 100,000 preserved farmsteads with traditional agricultural way of life has faded considerably. This means changes in managing and way of thinking as well as architecture. Although the number of tourism farms, which are engaged in accommodating, catering and creating recreational opportunities (pro: activities) for their visitors, i.e., servicing, is only a few hundred, they set an infectious example to many others. In the case of this kind of economic form, the interior and exterior of the traditional farm building is often changed rather radically, as well as incompetently. As a rule, people who use

⁵ <http://www.muinas.ee/> *Mälestised > Eesti raudteearhitektuur*

hereditary farms as summer homes, change the structure of old houses less than those on tourism farms; yet, here as well quite different attitudes towards historic buildings can be detected.

Buildings are continually modernized with new materials unsuitable for old structures and useless outbuildings are torn down. As a new tendency, historic buildings are also demolished to get building material. On the one hand, it can be regarded as an environment-friendly activity; yet, on the other, it ravages our rural landscape. Transporting log buildings from one location to another has gained impetus. This old habit is maybe not the best from the point of view of heritage protection principles; yet, it can save quite a few buildings from destruction. Apart from all that, the transportation of historic buildings out of the country has become more frequent.

Alongside the stabilization of our society, people have started to value historic heritage, including rural and especially farm architecture. While until recently the preservation and valuation of farm architecture heritage occurred mainly in museal environment, then today farms as a significant part of our cultural landscape are considered as valuable also in nature protection areas and national parks (Karula, Matsalu, etc.). The initiative of national parks is even more important because they value farm architecture not as a museal, but as a working environment.

At present an especially fast and vigorous process of changes is going on in our rural landscape and in near future quite a few essential building kinds and types might disappear. This concerns, above all, traditional farm buildings, many of which lack any function under new circumstances, and even to a greater extent the buildings and facilities of large-scale farms and other enterprises and organizations.

As a sad example, we can mention here the historically valuable and fascinating railway architecture, which has suffered great losses in the course of restructurings and reforms. Due to the changed circumstances a great part of railway station buildings stand derelict or are used only partially. Therefore the state of most of the railway stations ranges from satisfactory to very bad. Among few exceptions we can mention Türi railway station, which has been completely reconstructed and operates as a railway and coach traffic junction. The condition of occupational dwellings at stations is somewhat better and many of them still serve their

primary purpose. However, their residents often lack money and/or heritage-consciousness for proper maintenance and original-sustainable renovation.

A considerable number of former railway station buildings have alternatively been converted into dwellings, cultural institutions, etc., especially the ones along dismantled railway lines. On the other hand, during recent years some derelict heritage-valuable station buildings (Lagedi, Palupera, Pedja, Vaeküla) have been torn down, and it is the likely fate of quite a few other railway stations and occupational dwellings.

1.6. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

1.6.1. Necessity to protect rural landscapes and the traditional settlement scene

The historical settlement pattern, first and foremost, villages as entities, are absolutely unprotected. Today there are still some villages that have preserved their century-old structure and appearance typical of a certain era. On the other hand, during the past 10–15 years townspeople's numerous summer farms, which have nothing to do with agriculture, have cropped up in the countryside, and the number of tourism farms with servicing character, which are a novel phenomenon for our rural population, is also constantly growing.

New rural settlements, which are not related to direct land use but have town-servicing character, spring up around cities. The estate developers dynamically advancing these areas aim at radical changes in the structure of these villages, the appearance of buildings as well as the landscapes of entire regions. Although the developing of rural areas can be regarded as a favourable tendency, it would still need the elaboration of certain principles, which would also consider the building traditions characteristic of a particular region as well as the existing social infrastructure (customs, interests, meeting places, etc.).

The neighbouring communes of our bigger cities are being covered by a network of gradually expanding new settlements; yet, the remote areas are impoverished due to the backward infrastructure and become empty. As a result, the buildings remain derelict and fall apart. In order to avoid this to happen to old buildings valuable from cultural-historical and scientific point of view, local authorities should be supported in their search and implementation of concrete measures to take these buildings into use again.

Researchers investigating rural architecture have to record all the aforementioned processes for future generations, interpret and make suggestions for the preservation of more valuable examples and for the survival of milieu-valuable rural landscapes.

1.6.2. Preliminary work for drawing up the development plan

Due to the dramatic changes, which occurred in Estonia in the second half of the 20th century, during Soviet rule, as well as today's fast development, the preservation of the peculiarity of our rural architecture and rural landscapes is under serious threat. Many institutions, such as the Union of Estonian Architects, the Ministry of Culture, the Estonian Open Air Museum, the Estonian National Museum, the National Heritage Board, national parks, nature reserves, higher schools, the State Forest Management Centre, non-profit organizations (Ambla Forest Society, etc.) and a great number of individuals have come to the conclusion that serious action must be taken in order to preserve the entire rural culture, including architectural heritage and landscapes. On the initiative of the Ambla Forest Society several events have been organized to protect Estonian rural cultural heritage, a number of publications have come out and corresponding methodologies have been devised. The National Heritage Board has compiled a working version of the programme for registering villages and boroughs. The Estonian Open Air Museum has concluded a cooperation contract with the Tallinn College of Engineering, which stipulates that the museum is a study base for the future specialists of architecture. With Viljandi Culture Academy there is a cooperation contract for jointly organizing and providing training to the students majoring in national building. The researchers of the Estonian National Museum, within the framework of cooperation contracts with several higher schools, deliver lectures which also give quite a good survey of farm architecture: at Tartu Art College a lecture course on folk art, at Tartu Academy of Theology a lecture course on Estonian ethnology, and at the department of national handicrafts of Viljandi Culture Academy – a survey course of folk art (wood and other materials).

On the initiative of the planning department of the Ministry of the Interior (earlier on under the Ministry of the Environment) thematic planning of counties was started in 1999 under the

heading “Environmental conditions affecting settlement and land use”, one of the sub-topics of which is “Valuable landscapes”⁶.

In April 2005, on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture, the Estonian Open Air Museum convened a meeting of the representatives of the corresponding institutions as well as experts, in order to discuss the principles of drawing up the development plan for rural architecture and rural landscapes. In the course of compiling the development plan, several thematic meetings of a smaller extent have been organized, with the participation of the employees of the National Heritage Board, ethnologists, cultural geographers, historians and museum workers.

1.6.3. Pilot projects until today

In 2005 two important projects on rural architecture were carried out: on the basis of field studies, which were undertaken by the order of the National Heritage Board and financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Estonian Open Air Museum compiled a historical-ethnographical survey of traditional Estonian stone fences. On the basis of this survey practical guidelines were drawn up for the people who are interested in building, restoring or maintaining stone fences. The great number of interested people (335), who applied for subsidies from ARIB (Estonian Agricultural Registers and Information Board) to build or restore stone fences, proved the fact that our society is gradually developing the awareness of the value of heritage culture in the modern world.

The other project was carried out by the order and financing of the National Heritage Board (together with Harju County Government) by the Institute of Ecology at Tallinn University in collaboration with the Estonian Open Air Museum. In the summer of 2005 fieldwork was undertaken in Rebala Heritage Reserve, Jõelähtme commune, in order to draw up special regulations for the thematic planning of the region. Due to the proximity of Tallinn, the area strongly attracts estate developers and the unique landscapes and architecture of the area have to be zoned much more clearly than so far. The completed document⁷ serves as a basis for the future master plan of Rebala Heritage Reserve, which has to guarantee the sustainable development of the reserve.

⁶ <http://www.sisemin.gov.ee/> Põhivaldkonnad > Rahvastik, kohalik omavalitsus ja regionaalareng > Planeeringute osakond > Maakonnaplaneeringud

⁷ <http://www.rebala.ee/> Seadusandlus > Muinsuskaitsetised eritingimused

Landscape architects have intensively been engaged in drawing up maintenance programmes and plans for traditional landscapes, which deal with historic settlement. Põlvamaa County has expressed especially deep interest in maintenance plans, and has already had long-term cooperation with landscape architects. On Tartumaa County aesthetic evaluation has been compiled within the framework of the theme planning of valuable landscapes, which maps the views of the whole county. On Tartu commune a research entitled “Landscape-Architectural Survey and Analysis of Tartu Commune” has been compiled, which, among other issues, also deals with the problems of real estate development.

For years landscape specialists from the Estonian University of Life Sciences have been engaged in the study and valuation of cultural heritage in national parks and forests as well as in drawing up milieu-valuing pilot plans. In addition to that, over ten landscape maintenance programmes have been drawn up.

Since 2001 the state has, through the Ministry of the Environment, paid nature preservation supports 20 million kroons per year for the maintenance and restoration of semi-natural grasslands (wooded meadows, alvars, meadows), and with this money ca 18,000 hectares a year have been maintained or restored. This can also be considered as one of the most essential activities put into practice in order to preserve landscapes, including heritage landscapes, and this process still continues.

From other analogous undertakings of the kind we can mention, for instance, the project carried out by the order of Jõgeva County Government in 2004 entitled “Milieu-Valuable Areas on the North-Western Coast of Lake Peipsi”⁸ and the master plan of Vihula commune from 2002⁹.

Architectural popularization work in Estonia lies within the competence of mainly three central museums – the Estonian National Museum¹⁰, the Estonian Open Air Museum¹¹ and the Museum of Estonian Architecture¹². To some degree also county and local museums contribute to it.

⁸ <http://www.jogevamv.ee/> Jõgeva maakond > Maakonnaplaneering > Peipsi looderanniku miljööväärtuslikud alad

⁹ <http://www.vihula.ee/> Üldplaneering > Vihula valla üldplaneeringu 2002 seletuskiri > ajalooline külamiljöö ja sellega arvestamine Vihula valla rannakiilades

¹⁰ <http://www.erm.ee>

¹¹ <http://www.evm.ee>

¹² <http://www.arhitektuurimuuseum.ee>

To a greater extent this theme is dealt with by the Estonian Open Air Museum, whose exposition entitled “Estonian Rural Architecture in Memory and Landscape” was visited in 2005 by over 130,000 people (nearly half of them were foreign tourists). The 72 buildings that have been transferred here from the four main historic-cultural regions of Estonia, introduce our traditional rural architecture dating from the 18th century to the first third of the 20th century. The museum’s educational centre actively educates both adults and children of different age-groups; among other programmes there are special ones on rural architecture.

The permanent exposition of the Estonian National Museum entitled “Estonia. Land, People, Culture” also displays architecture: the mock-up of the entire Kiltre farmstead in Torma parish dating from the end of the 19th century, individual rooms of the barn-dwelling exhibited as interiors, the hall of Raadi Manor, living rooms dating back to 1920, 1939 and 1978, and the red corner from 1951.

The collections of the Museum of Estonian Architecture, which was founded to collect, preserve and introduce professional Estonian architectural design, include material (mainly blueprints) on rural architectural heritage beginning from the 1920s until the 1980s. The museum has introduced rural architecture created by professionals also through its exhibitions and publications.

All these projects have provided good experience and ideas for the elaboration of this development plan. In the course of preparatory work we came to the conclusion that, in order to preserve the peculiarity of Estonian rural architecture and rural landscapes and to ensure sustainable development, a long-term development plan is needed, which, proceeding from concrete conditions of inner and outer environment would enable us to devise and put into practice more extensive projects.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, MEASURES AND COURSES OF ACTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The general aim of the development plan is to preserve the peculiarity of Estonian rural architecture and rural landscapes through studying, valuating and maintenance.

The influence indicator for the achievement of the general aim by the year 2010: At least 50% of the objects registered in the rural architectural heritage database (to be created) are either in good or satisfactory condition.

Proceeding from the basic principle of the development strategy *Sustainable Estonia 21* – to combine the success requirement resulting from international competition with the principles of sustainable development and the preservation of Estonian traditional values and unique cultural space – the development plan sets as its general aim the valuation and persistence of our traditional rural architecture and rural landscapes. As a counterbalance to globalization, people more and more tend to value local heritage and everything carrying their identity, including traditional landscapes and architectural heritage. Maintained settlements and landscapes serve as a precondition for the balanced development of tourism, employment and, through this, also rural areas, for connecting young people to their ancestors' homesteads, as well as for sustainable and environment-friendly way of life.

Emanating from the current situation, the development plan is mainly focused, on the one hand, on Estonian rural architecture and rural landscapes in their entirety (regarding both individual objects and their temporal-spatial context) and, on the other, on our most original and unique building type – the barn-dwelling.

To achieve the aim, it is necessary to support the elaboration of research strategy and methodology, the investigation and long-term observation of rural architecture and rural landscapes in their entirety in order to fixate changes, the creation of rural architectural heritage database (during the first four years it is focused on the compilation of a register on barn-dwellings), activities popularizing this sphere, the creation of a counselling system for the owners of rural architectural heritage, the elaboration of necessary support measures for the preservation of the rural architectural heritage, and passing on the traditional buildings skills.

The main target groups (beneficiaries) of the development plan are the owners of rural architectural heritage, local authorities and society as a whole. The realization of the development plan should enhance their awareness of the value of rural architecture and diverse landscapes. The valuation of rural architecture and rural landscapes serves as a prerequisite for taking concrete measures to ensure their preservation.

Objectives for 2010:

1. Research strategy and methodology of rural architecture and rural landscapes have been worked out, continuous investigation is pursued;
2. Database for rural architectural heritage has been created;
3. Activities introducing and valuing rural architecture and rural landscapes are undertaken;
4. A counselling system for the owners of rural architectural heritage exists and support measures necessary for the preservation of the rural architectural heritage have been elaborated;
5. Traditional buildings skills and knowledge of the sphere of rural architecture are passed on continuously.

Influence indicators:

1. Increase in the availability of systematized information, which is proved by:
 - a. Use of research results in theme planning, master plan and various development plans (measures 1.1, 3.1, 3.2);
 - b. Number of enquiries made in the database of rural architectural heritage (measure 2.1).
2. Increasing awareness in society, which is proved by:
 - a. Growth in the number of users of counselling service (a positive trend) (measure 4.1);
 - b. The number of organized trainings and participants in them (measure 4.1);
 - c. The number of ordered expert assessments (measure 4.2).
3. Increase in the popularity of research into rural architecture and rural landscapes, which is proved by:
 - a. The growing number of researchers in this field (incl. students) (a positive trend) (measure 5.1).

Output indicators:

1. Research strategy and methodology have been worked out by December 2007;
2. As of December 2010 the rural architectural heritage database comprises 100% of the known barn-dwellings;
3. Each year at least three activities introducing the studies within the framework of the development plan are undertaken;
4. Each year at least five different activities introducing and valuing rural architecture and rural landscapes are undertaken;
5. Each year at least two trainings for future counsellors are organized;
6. Each year at least ten trainings for the owners of valuable buildings are organized;
7. By 2010 there are at least two counsellors in each county.

TARGET 1:
Research strategy and methodology have been worked out, continuous investigation is pursued

Mostly due to ethnologists' years-long activity, abundant valuable material on older farm buildings has been collected into museums (above all, the Estonian National Museum and the Estonian Open Air Museum). The results of the research based on this material have mainly been published in the yearbooks of the Estonian National Museum and the collections of articles of the Estonian Open Air Museum. Also longer researches and surveys on traditional farm architecture have been published.

More recent (20th-century) rural architecture as well as changes in rural landscapes have until now been recorded and studied to a small extent. Therefore one of the most important aims of this development plan is the investigation and long-term observation – monitoring – of our rural landscape and rural architecture in their entirety, in order to fixate the occurring changes.

MEASURE 1.1: Ensuring continuous investigation of rural architecture and rural landscapes

Activities:

- Elaborating investigation strategy;
- Elaborating methodology;
- Forming an investigation group;
- Establishing a cooperation network;

- Carrying out investigation;
- Creating databases;
- Selecting monitoring areas;
- Monitoring;
- Initiating all-Estonian and international cooperation projects.

On the first stage we have to elaborate common investigation methodology and on the basis of fieldwork carried out according to this, create a general picture of the current situation in our rural architectural heritage and rural landscapes. Hereby we can rely on thematic planning of counties – “Environmental conditions affecting settlement and land use”, with a subtopic of “Valuable Landscapes”.¹³

Considering the great volume of this work, a certain number of monitoring areas are selected for the observation of the condition of rural landscapes and their development. These are settlements of different types together with the surrounding landscapes (e.g., ancient village, settlement village, borough, industrial settlement, former collective farm centre), including villages from Setu and Peipsi-Russian region. The value of investigations is increased by repetitive observations made after certain periods (5–10 years) in order to find out about the changes.

A special study group of rural architecture and landscapes, comprised of specialists who focus only on the project-based tasks of the development plan on rural architecture and landscapes, is going to be formed at the Estonian Open Air Museum. In order to solve interdisciplinary research issues and develop coordinated work division, cooperation agreements are concluded with institutions, higher schools and people involved in the project. The leader of the study group has to find, in addition to state financing, both domestic and foreign co-financing. One of the aims of the project-based research is to provide society with competent assistance in compiling thematic and development plans for different areas.

TARGET 2

Database for rural architectural heritage has been created

¹³ <http://www.sisemin.gov.ee/> Põhivaldkonnad > Rahvastik, kohalik omavalitsus ja regionaalareng > Planeeringute osakond > Maakonnaplaneeringud

Until now data on rural architecture have been scattered and therefore we lack an overview of the volume, location, current use, condition and purpose of the rural architectural heritage. It is extremely essential to gather the information, systematize it and create the database of rural architectural heritage, which would register all the known barn-dwellings during the first four years.

Despite the decades-long collection work done by museums and ethnologists, the majority of Estonian barn-dwellings have not been inventoried and investigated. Therefore the preservation of their historic appearance might become questionable. Quite possibly, either out of ignorance or incapability, much of the architectural heritage valuable from the point of view of history and architectural history might be hopelessly damaged in the course of voluminous estate developments. A significant development trend in today's building intensity is the rebuilding of old houses.

When compiling the database, it has to be considered that further on all the other objects of rural architectural heritage will be included there. To facilitate the map-based processing of the data on rural architecture, milieu-valuable landscapes, nature reserves, etc. in the future, the necessity of integrating the data collected within the framework of the development plan is observed according to the strategy of spatial data of the Republic of Estonia (a bill at present). The database under compilation also considers the connection with the existing databases and registers in this field (e.g., the State Register of Cultural Heritage).

MEASURE 2.1: Developing the rural architectural heritage database

Activities:

- Elaborating inventory methodology;
- Inventory of barn-dwellings within fieldwork;
- Creating and managing a web-based rural architectural heritage database.

Due to the great volumes and shortage of researchers, work in the first four years is mainly focused on the inventory of barn-dwellings. One of the objectives of the development plan is to guarantee the preservation and use of the culturally and architectural-historically valuable barn-dwellings also in the future. Today we lack an adequate overview of the condition of barn-dwellings. Therefore an inventory must be taken and the buildings have to be registered

in the database. As a result, we have to find out the number of existing barn-dwellings in Estonia, as well as their location and condition. Also the legal status of these buildings (ownership) has to be ascertained.

TARGET 3

Activities introducing and valuing rural architecture and rural landscapes are undertaken

The development plan for rural architecture and rural landscapes emanates from the fact that our museums have magnificent possibilities for popularizing this sphere. As the so-called administrators and introducers of history, museums take care of the interpretation and preservation of values and attitudes important for culture.

Any research becomes socially efficient when its results cross the borders of the narrow circle of scientists and become available to society in a broader sense. This kind of disclosing activities do not only value researchers' work but also highlight the regions under investigation and their population. The aforementioned increases the significance of the development plan from the point of view of regional development in Estonia.

MEASURE 3.1: Introducing the results of the studies carried out within the framework of the development plan

Activities:

- Staging exhibitions (incl. web exhibitions);
- Publication of articles and other printed matter;
- Organizing seminars, round-tables and study days.

Exhibitions both in small local museums and in big central ones, published travel guides, as well as virtual presentations and informative materials on the internet help to introduce heritage-valuable regions and increase the self-consciousness of the people living there. The development and/or preservation recommendations elaborated on the basis of research results help to increase the awareness and sense of value-maintenance of the local population, and introduce aid programmes which would enable to find support for the development of a particular region and the preservation of the peculiar cultural space.

MEASURE 3.2: Raising public awareness and influencing value judgements

Activities:

- Organizing competitions on rural architecture and rural landscapes;
- Formulating concepts for museums' permanent expositions;
- Drawing up educational programmes for museums and implementing them;
- Organizing public events and informational campaigns;
- Launching media projects;
- Organizing bees in milieu-valuable areas and valuable individual objects;
- Improving the curricula of general education schools;
- Counselling local authorities concerning the regulations in master plans on maintaining and developing the appearance of valuable landscapes and their regional peculiarities.

As a result of the implementation of the development plan on rural architecture and landscapes it would be possible to fill in the gaps in museum collections and provide new and fresh material for making them more modern, informative and more interesting for the visitor. Today a permanent exposition at a museum is supposed to last not more than 5–7 years, which means that they have to be renewed much more often than so far.

Everyday museum work experience shows that people need more and more practical advice and examples for designing their living places, as well as in acquiring old working methods and adopting and leading a retrospective or environment and history-friendly lifestyle. As the circle of interested people is wide, we have to train a network of volunteers who would help to organize different events introducing Estonian rural architecture and landscapes and popularizing their preservation. Museums' educational programmes are focused on various lecture courses, which teach you new methods, provide background information about Estonian cultural space in general, and so on. Educational programmes operate as non-formal training for students and as life-long adult education.

As master plans are the most essential instruments in the future landscape formation (serve as a basis for drawing up detail planning), local authorities must be advised to include in them regulations on maintaining and developing the appearance of valuable landscapes and their regional peculiarities.

TARGET 4

A counselling system for the owners of rural architectural heritage exists and support measures necessary for the preservation of the rural architectural heritage have been elaborated

With the modernization of society, a great number of buildings in rural architectural heritage have been deprived of their function. Many facilities stand derelict or are converted into modern dwellings or summer homes.

The application of state protection on the basis of heritage protection law for the preservation of structures essential for cultural heritage is possible; yet, it is not reasonable in all cases. Rural architectural heritage actually constitutes people's actual living environment, and we cannot create an environment with major limits in order to preserve housing. Therefore we have to find a compromise between modern requirements and the preservation of the ancestors' heritage.

Within the framework of the target set, the preservation of buildings essential for Estonian cultural landscape is guaranteed by the elaboration and dissemination of respective guidelines, the creation of a counselling system, organization of trainings and elaboration of support measures. The application of support measures on a wider scale will take place after this development plan has been supplemented (beginning from 2011); in 2008 support to ordering expert assessments is started.

MEASURE 4.1: Organizing counselling for owners

Activities:

- Establishing the counselling network (incl. the development of web portal);
- Elaborating, publishing and disseminating guidance materials for repairs and restoration;

- Organizing trainings: generally educative lectures on rural landscapes and architecture, building of traditional wooden and stone fences, making of roofs, building of log constructions, etc.;
- Collecting and publishing information on the manufacturers of traditional building materials.

People's growing interest in the preservation of the historic appearance of the buildings they own requires a constantly operating and available counselling service. It is necessary to establish an all-Estonian counselling network for those interested to obtain information and advice in this sphere – also by means of the internet. It is essential to popularize the manufacturing of traditional building materials and the use of historic working methods. Besides theoretical counselling we should also establish a system of practical training.

MEASURE 4.2: Elaborating support measures and their application

Activities:

- Elaborating principles for allocating necessary supports to preserve barn-dwellings;
- Ordering expert assessments.

Barn-dwellings, which constitute the most unique part of our architectural heritage, have actually been deprived of their primary function. We have to find new opportunities for their preservation, integrate them with present-day expectations, preserving and exhibiting the original idea, form and details.

Within the framework of this measure first the principles of allocating supports and evaluation criteria are elaborated, and the scope of necessary project documentation is determined. After that the owners of rural architectural heritage are planned to be supported in ordering expert assessments. The aim of expert assessments is to evaluate the ethnographical, architectural and cultural-historic value of a building, its technical condition, and make initial proposals for its maintenance and restoration.

If possible, restoration supports are started to be allocated (financing might occur outside this development plan, e.g., through structure funds).

TARGET 5

Traditional building skills and knowledge of the sphere of rural architecture are passed on continuously

An important link in the establishment and development of the counselling system as well as in compiling the corresponding instruction material is higher schools, which teach architecture or specialities dealing with country life on a wider scale.

In Estonia higher education in architecture is provided only by Estonian Art Academy; yet, specialists in the spheres related to architecture (e.g., applied architecture, interior architecture, landscape architecture, landscape protection and maintenance) are also educated at Tallinn College of Engineering, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian University of Life Sciences and, beginning from 2005, also at Viljandi Culture Academy. Ethnology, which treats of traditional rural life and architecture, is taught at the University of Tartu. The Institute of Ecology at Tallinn University is an active investigator and advocate of cultural landscapes.

Until today higher schools and museums have had only negligible direct contacts and agreements. Researchers of the Estonian National Museum introduce Estonian folk culture and folk art through their lecture courses at Tartu Art College and Tartu Academy of Theology; Tartu University Viljandi Culture Academy teaches also the basics of rural architecture. A more voluminous special course (4 credit points) on traditional rural architecture to the students of national building at Tartu University Viljandi Culture Academy is taught by a lecturer from the Estonian Open Air Museum.

MEASURE 5.1: Including the topic of rural architecture and landscapes in the curricula of higher schools

Activities:

- Degree education:
 - Improving degree education in traditional architecture;

- o Organizing lecture and seminar courses on rural architecture and landscapes;
- o Directing students to the research of rural architecture and landscapes.
- In-service training:
 - o Supporting participation in in-service training;
 - o Organizing in-service training for counselling practitioners of building and architecture.
- Training base:
 - o Using expositions at open air museums as training bases for higher schools;
 - o Conducting training in milieu-valuable monitoring areas and at inventorying barn-dwellings;
 - o Organizing study trips to milieu-valuable regions.
- Publication of textbooks.

It is the task of higher schools specializing in architecture to pass on professional skills and information. Under the conditions of globalization, their role in providing know-how and education based on cultural tradition (and therefore unique) is especially significant.

Through the development plan possibilities of educational institutions for using museums as training bases as well as for participating in research projects are expanded.

The plan also previsions the elaboration of special lecture and seminar courses by museums, treating of traditional architecture and its developments in the 20th century.

3. PROGNOSIS FOR THE COST OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN BY MEASURES

The total cost of the development plan for the years 2007–2010 is nine million kroons and it is financed by the Ministry of Culture through its budget. The budget of the development plan guarantees the realization of these measures and does not require participation by the cooperation partners with additional financial means. The administrative costs of the programme include the salary of the project leader at the Estonian Open Air Museum, office expenses and the book-keeper's extra pay for the additional tasks.

Measure	2007¹	2008¹	2009¹	2010¹
1.1. Ensuring continuous investigation of rural architecture and rural landscapes	600 000 EEK	500 000 EEK	1 000 000 EEK	1 000 000 EEK
2.1. Developing rural architectural heritage database	100 000 EEK	100 000 EEK	100 000 EEK	100 000 EEK
3.1. Introducing the results of the studies carried out within the framework of the development plan	0 EEK	100 000 EEK	500 000 EEK	600 000 EEK
3.2. Raising public awareness and influencing value judgments	0 EEK	50 000 RRK	200 000 EEK	400 000 EEK
4.1. Organizing counselling for owners	0 EEK	200 000 EEK	400 000 EEK	400 000 EEK
4.2. Elaborating support measures and their application	100 000 EEK	200 000 EEK	300 000 EEK	500 000 EEK
5.1. Including the topic of rural architecture and landscapes in the curricula of higher schools	0 EEK	150 000 EEK	300 000 EEK	300 000 EEK
Administration of the programme	200 000 EEK	200 000 EEK	200 000 EEK	200 000 EEK
TOTAL:	1 000 000 EEK	1 500 000 EEK	3 000 000 EEK	3 500 000 EEK

¹ Financial means according to the “Strategic Development Plan 2007–2010” approved by the order of the Minister of Culture No. 123, as of March 29, 2006.

4. REALIZATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND MONITORING

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the implementation of the development plan, and at the end of each year they have to evaluate the efficiency of the activities according to the influence and output indicators mentioned in the document, report to the government about the achievement of the objectives set in the development plan and, if necessary, make proposals about the supplementation or termination of the development plan.

At the implementation of the development plan cooperation is carried out with the following establishments and institutions:

- Ministries (participate through their representatives in the work of the Board, except for the Ministry of Education and Research):
 - Ministry of Education and Research (coordinates curricula supplements of general education schools)
 - Ministry of the Environment
 - Ministry of Culture (ministry responsible for the fulfilling of the development plan)
 - Ministry of Agriculture

- Ministry of the Interior (advises local authorities on adopting regulations in master plans about preserving and developing the appearance of valuable landscapes and regional peculiarities)
- National Heritage Board (works out support measures for the owners of rural architectural heritage and organizes their implementation, devises methodological materials, carries out expert assessments; participates as a partner in research as well as the creation and implementation of the counselling system).
- Museums (do research, introduce the results of research carried out within the framework of the development plan, popularize the field through exhibitions, educational programmes and media projects, compile methodological materials, carry out assessments, offer training bases for higher schools, participate as partners in organizing trainings):
 - Museum of Estonian Architecture (main executor)
 - Estonian National Museum (main executor)
 - Estonian Open Air Museum (main executor and institution coordinating the implementation of the development plan)
 - County museums (partners)
- Higher schools (organize degree studies in traditional architecture and lecture and seminar courses on rural architecture and landscapes, guide students to research into rural architecture and landscapes, use museums as training bases; participate as partners in research and the formation and implementation of the counselling system):
 - Tallinn College of Engineering (main executor)
 - University of Tartu (main executor – Viljandi Culture Academy)
 - Estonian Art Academy (main executor)
 - Estonian University of Life Sciences (main executor)
 - Institute of Ecology at Tallinn University (main executor)
- Local authorities (participate as partners in the elaboration and implementation of support measures for the owners of rural architectural heritage, also in counselling the owners and popularizing the field).
- Third sector (advise owners, organize trainings; participate as partners in research and in working out methodological materials):
 - Information Centre of Sustainable Renovation
 - Estonian Union of Producers of Hand-Made Log Houses
 - Union of Estonian Landscape Architects

- Business sector (participate as partners in organizing trainings, working out methodological materials and the implementation of the counselling system):
 - Companies following the principles of traditional architecture
 - Self-employed people

The implementation, evaluation, reporting and supplementation of the development plan is coordinated by the Board set up at the Ministry of Culture, which comprises:

1. representative of the Ministry of the Environment;
2. representative of the Ministry of Culture;
3. representative of the Ministry of Agriculture;
4. representative of the Ministry of the Interior (Minister of Regional Affairs);

The Board has the following tasks:

- confirms the implementation plan;
- carries out surveillance on the realization of the development plan;
- approves the annual reports and the final report.

The institution coordinating the implementation of the development plan is the Estonian Open Air Museum (state institution under the subordination of the Ministry of Culture), who fulfils the following tasks:

- draws up the implementation plan of the development plan (not later than three months from the approval of this development plan);
- hires the project leader and forms working groups for the realization of measures necessary for achieving the aims of the development plan;
- coordinates the activity of working groups;
- orders work necessary for implementing the measures, concludes contracts, provides supervision;
- presents to the Board annual reports and the final report about fulfilling the development plan.