

# **Memorandum of Understanding**

between

## **the City of Tallinn and City of Helsinki**

### **General**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets forth the main ambitions of Tallinn - Helsinki cooperation towards reinforcement and implementation of the twin-city concept. The present MoU is a revised edition of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Mayors of Tallinn and Helsinki on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018, and takes into account the recommendations of the third Visionary Report on Estonia - Finland Future Cooperation.

### **Background**

The economic integration of Estonia and Finland and the regional implementation of the Tallinn - Helsinki twin-city concept lay the foundations for the twin-city region's ambition of becoming one of the leading economic centres in the Baltic Sea area. By combining the financial, material and human resources of the two regions the innovation potential of the area can be multiplied. High educational and academic level of both cities, supported by the economic complementarities provide large-scale opportunities both for traditional and new innovative industries. At the same time, solid basis of education and possibilities for diverse cultural activities deliver prosperity, inclusion, mutual trust, understanding, and, in the end, social peace for the whole twin city region.

### **Purpose**

The twin-city concept aims towards raising the competitiveness and visibility of the Tallinn - Helsinki region both on European and global level, facilitating tighter cooperation between innovation ecosystems and enhancing common marketing of the region to attract talents, businesses and tourists. Interoperable intelligent digital solutions and data cooperation offer opportunities to boost the twin city society towards a digital leadership. Developing and supporting joint cultural and educational initiatives and projects is an essential and highly valued part of Tallinn - Helsinki twin-city cooperation.

The key enabler of the twin city concept is the convenient mobility of people and goods across the Gulf of Finland. Improving and integrating sustainable infrastructure services as well as modern solutions to the needs of commuting people are vital to offer seamless mobility possibilities.

Tackling the climate change and wellbeing of the Baltic Sea is the common concern and aim for both cities. To address this challenge, initiating of joint projects and campaigns, learning from each other's best practices and policies, enhancing international cooperation and networking as well as advocating common positions on EU level is essential. UN Sustainable Development Goals and European goals for green economy and their implementation on the local level provide an important framework for this challenge.

### **Enforcement**

The Memorandum of Understanding is a non-binding framework document signed for an unlimited period. To implement the purpose of the MoU, a separate list of strategic priorities for forthcoming years' co-operation will be set. On the basis of the selected priorities, concrete actions will be planned, implemented and monitored. The strategic priorities can be revised and altered during the meetings of Mayors of both cities.

The MoU is signed in Helsinki on 8.4.2022 in English in two equal copies.

City of Helsinki

City of Tallinn

Juhana Vartiainen, Mayor

Mihhail Kõlvart, Mayor