

St. Mary's County  
Seal



Maryland-Estonia Exchange Council, Inc.  
(MEEC, a nonprofit NGO)



Association of  
Local Authorities  
of Pärnu County



## Memorandum of Cooperation

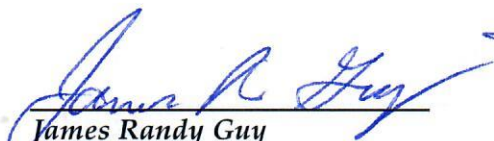
In order to strengthen the cordial relations forged by the Maryland National Guard with the Estonian Home Guard (Kaitseliit) through the State Partnership Program over 25 years ago, and in recognition of the regional initiatives of the Maryland-Estonia Exchange Council, Inc. (MEEC), a nonprofit NGO, with the official Sister State links between Maryland and Estonia, as well as the special ties that have developed between the citizens of St. Mary's County and The Association of Local Authorities of Pärnumaa; St. Mary's County and Pärnumaa (hereinafter the signatories), hereby agree to this memorandum of cooperation. which will form the two areas into a twin/sister county partnership.

The signatories will explore continuing opportunities to cultivate a greater understanding of each other, raise cross-cultural awareness between both areas and generally advance their friendship. Furthermore, we will work together toward sharing information and creative endeavors between St. Mary's County and The Association of Local Authorities of Pärnumaa.

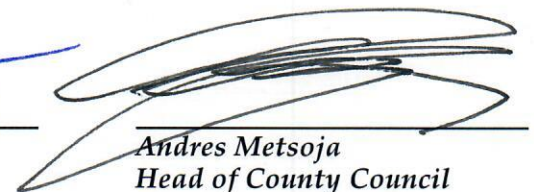
We will develop a climate which fosters educational exchanges, workforce development, healthcare partnerships and mutual prosperity through interaction among recreational and business entrepreneurs promoting investment, expanding commerce and international trade, not only between St. Mary's County and The Association of Local Authorities of Pärnumaa, but also between all of Maryland and all of Estonia. The signatories will initiate and expand cooperative efforts by seeking to identify appropriate areas for collaboration; and in all spheres of mutual interest, work for the benefit and well-being of their respective citizenry.

This memorandum has English and Estonian versions, both being authentic. Each copy is signed by the officials of all parties, and kept by all concerned organizations and local governments. Remembering that in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, Estonia was also known as "Terra Marina" or Mary's Land, it is especially fitting today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that St. Mary's County in the State of Maryland and Pärnumaa in Estonia should agree to this memorandum.

Signed in the spirit of friendship and understanding in St. Mary's County and The Association of Local Authorities of Pärnumaa during \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

  
James Randy Guy  
Commissioner President  
St. Mary's County

  
Toivo Tagamets  
Chair, MEEC

  
Andres Metsoja  
Head of County Council  
The Association of Local  
Authorities of Pärnumaa