

KS



Co-operation between Estonian and Norwegian municipalities: Examples from the past and ideas for the future

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Two concerns from KS' point of view:

1. The local and regional authorities in the new member countries should be *actively included in the national priorities* in order to benefit from the financial mechanisms in the best possible way
2. Norwegian local and regional authorities could become *partners* with authorities and enterprises in the new EU countries and to help exploring the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms

Why is partnership relevant?

- Mutual learning processes – exchange of experience and knowledge
- Networks and meeting places
- Spin-offs – involvement of schools, NGO's, sport clubs, local SME's etc
- Makes the local government a more attractive working place
- Reflects that the municipality itself is becoming more and more international (youth mobility – population etc)
- Democracy on the local level is the basis for all efforts to strengthen the democratic development and participation
- People-to-people contacts are important.

- Experts, advisers who are practitioners
- Co-operation between public sector, private sector and civil society