Historical Schools as the Carriers of Local Identity in Rural Settlements

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Estonia:
- 45 339 km²
- Population 1 313 271 (29pax/km²)
- 26661 monuments:
  - 1268 history
  - 6632 archaeology
  - 5262 architecture
  - 13433 art
  - 12 conservation areas
  - 50 technology
  - 2 UNESCO WH sites
- 80 listed rural schools; 66 listed manor schools

1200-2000 manors

Manor was/is a heart of rural community
1919 Land reform
- Land
- Manor industries (distilleries, dairies, mills etc)
- 1920 Abolishment of ranks

New use
- Schools 218 (every fourth manor was turned to a school)
- Nurseries
- Hospitals etc

Problems
- Too many
- Too big
- Too fancy
- Careless owners
- Heritage restrictions

Urbanization
- Decrease of number of the schools 300/ca 66
Ideal use for heritage protection:
- Open to the public
- Suitable room programme
- Under surveillance
- Important for local people
- Promotes the values of heritage

Programme outcomes:
- 1) 14 restored manor schools
- 2) 14 development projects to create new usage, jobs for locals, strengthen identity
- 3) School programmes based on manor heritage – for local schools, but also for kids from urban schools
- 4) Awareness creation
- 5) Confidence for locals (teachers, municipalities, students, parents)

Thank You!