

- I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Horizon Europe Project
- I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

TOPICS OF INTEREST

HORIZON-CL6-2021-COMMUNITIES-01-01: Grasping rural diversity and strengthening evidence for tailored policies enhancing the contribution of rural communities to ecological, digital and social transitions*

** In this form I am specifically highlighting my potential contribution to the mentioned topic.*

I am also interested in the following topics:

- *HORIZON-CL5-2021-DEST2CSS-01-14: Strengthening Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research communities in climate, energy and mobility disciplines*
- *HORIZON-CL2-DEMOCRACY-2022-01-03: The impact of inequalities on democracy*
- *HORIZON-CL6-2022-BIODIV-01-08: Assessing the nexus of extraction, production, consumption, trade and behaviour patterns and of climate change action on biodiversity in the context of transformative change*

PARTNER INFORMATION

University of Tartu has a long and successful experience with EU Framework Programme participation, and is the Estonian institution with the largest number of Horizon 2020 projects. **The Faculty of Arts and Humanities** is the largest research and teaching centre of the humanities in Estonia.

Description of the Legal Entity

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research Institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry /SME | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please specify</i> |

Expertise of the Team Leader and Department

Dr [Aet Annist](#) is a **social anthropologist** with considerable experience with **devising, and implementing qualitative empirical research** in particular on the **emerging socio-economic and spatial inequalities** and **deriving new concepts and theories** based on such evidence. Her particular contributions include developing innovative theories on **symbolic, social and ethnic dispossessions, shifting meanings of rurality and the emergence of new class relations in changing social settings**. Her empirical focus has been on **rural regions** through which she has analysed **transformations of communities** and the social challenges over the last 30 years. Her present research is focussing on the **environmental dispossession** as well as **protests** triggered by the policy changes that have led to increased clearcutting of hemiboreal forests, and the **links between such processes and climate awareness and transitions**. Her most recent [publications](#) are analysing the **processes that restrict recognition of diversity of interests**.

Annist has contributed to **strategy analyses** of various Estonian ministries and boards. She has trained as a **community and conflict facilitator**, and her outreach work includes supporting **conflict facilitation** cases. Her experiences in intervention development include preparing for a local **Citizen's Assembly** in the UK, and participating at and analysing **community forums** in Estonia. Annist has put forward the initial plans for a **Climate Research Centre** within University of Tartu (to be finalised in the first half of 2021), **led by SSH disciplines** but working in close collaboration with STEM disciplines.

Dr Annist is affiliated with University of Tartu **Institute of Cultural Research and Arts** which focuses on researching various aspects of culture and society, and is working within the **Department of Ethnology and UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage**. The Department of Ethnology carries out diverse research on contemporary transcultural processes on global, regional and local levels. UNESCO Chair focuses on conceptualizations of heritage processes and identity construction.

Annist was one of the researchers who were featured in the Net4Society e-Magazine [ISSUES January 2021 edition](#).

Potential role in the project

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissemination | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: community building facilitation, strategy development, co-creation |

Expertise offered

I can contribute with **research strategies** to analyse socio-economic, behavioural, cultural and demographic drivers of change in the rural areas with my

- extensive experience of devising and implementing qualitative empirical research
- research on the emerging socio-economic and spatial inequalities
- research on the political participation of disenfranchised groups in the rural regions, and within structures geared to support regional equalities, yet failing in this aim
- development of new concepts and theories based on such evidence

With long-running research into rural realities, rural change within global processes from post-socialist collapse to climate and environmental transformation, the institutional frameworks impacting and aiming to channel rural life, as well as the problematic assumptions of homogeneity of rural regions and 'communities', I am well positioned to develop **novel and profound research strategies to overcome the limitations of current approaches, understanding the megatrends and emerging disruptions** across the wider region.

Such insights as well as my involvement in strategy analyses to various Estonian ministries and boards, place me well to **develop, validate and pilot strategies, policies and interventions** related to the topic. I have long-running experience of engagement with policy makers and **offering research driven policy advice**.

Having developed novel conceptual frameworks based on fine-tuned qualitative data to understand the rural plight in post-socialist transformations, as well as during the crises since 2008, having combined methodological approaches from a variety of disciplines and practices, and having had to find ways to access complex and often hidden data (e.g. on the social relations withering away), I am well-placed to figure out **innovative tools for data collection**.

My experiences with projects combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies, as well as interdisciplinary projects would provide skills for **structuring comprehensive research design**.

With experiences as a member of advisory committees on climate change and heritage (e.g. OCM on Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change and the Intangible Heritage Commission of Estonia), I am familiar with the **policy processes and frameworks relevant to rural life**, and through authoring the Agenda 21 gender proofing exercise, I am also acquainted with the **processes of proofing for side-marginalised, peripheralized and more vulnerable groups in the society**.

I have experience of founding a pan-European network of environment and anthropology, contributing into **interdisciplinary research on climate change**, leading the committee organising a network conference bringing together climate artists, activists and researchers and am leading the efforts to establish a national research centre to bridge SSH and STEM disciplines. Therefore I am also well placed to contribute to a **targeted strategy for interdisciplinary collaboration**, as well as to **outreach and engagement activities with stakeholder communities**.

I have long-running experience in **engaging with the national media** and **reaching out to stakeholders** as well as looking after these relations, and **in-depth understanding of the issues faced by stakeholders, including lack of community cohesion**.

Already experience as a	Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
	Partner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
	Expert Evaluator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Project Leader:			
- <i>Mapping the migratory careers of transnational Estonians</i> (Post-doctoral research, 2012-2015)			
Partner:			
- <i>PROMISE: PROMoting youth Involvement and Social Engagement: Opportunities and challenges for 'conflicted' young people across Europe</i> (Horizon 2020, 2015-2019), http://www.promise.manchester.ac.uk/en/home-page/			
- <i>Estonian Environmentalism in the 20th century: ideology, discourses, practices</i> (2020-2024) https://environmentalism.ee/			
Expert Evaluator:			
- Horizon 2020 (MSCA) expert evaluator since 2016			
- ERA.Net RUS Plus 2019 Joint Call panel member (<i>Opportunities for and challenges to regional development and social cohesion</i>)			

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Please send this form back to: contact@net4society.eu