

# Käru Heade Tegude Muuseum

Käru Museum of Good Deeds

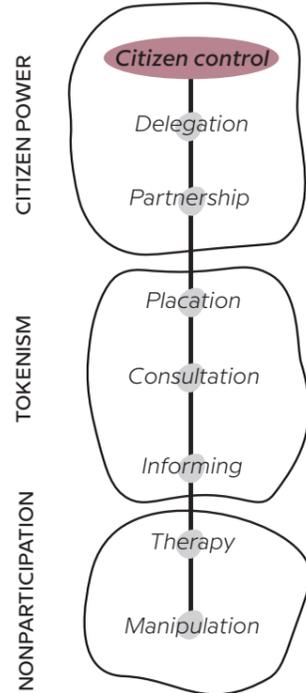


LOCATION  
**Käru, Estonia**

TIME PERIOD  
**Since 2018**

## THE PROJECT

The project takes place in two houses from the pre-war era near Käru railway station, which have previously been empty for years. It consists of a museum of local history which focuses on barrows and trolleys (Käru can be translated as a barrow or cart in English). The idea was to bring more active cultural life to the countryside, to involve the locals and to show the liveability in the countryside in the 21st century.



## RESULT

The Käru Museum of Good Deeds seems to have reached its aims, although a lot is to be done according to the initiators. Through effective inclusive work, a number of local people have already been reached to volunteer to keep the museum running. **This new landmark in Käru has become a gathering place for locals** who are clearly the main beneficiaries of the project. The initiative is thus well received by them, especially by active community members. The museum has a strong binding effect on the whole community and is an inspiration to many. An increasing number of them are also ready to take part in the work of the museum, and there has been significant growth in this aspect.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Käru is a small borough of less than 400 inhabitants. Located in the middle of the country, it is connected with major cities by a railway, some bus lines and roads that are in good condition. Locals benefit from a good diversity of daily-life-support facilities that fit their needs. The remoteness of this place comes from other criteria such as a **lack of economic activity**. Moreover, the **declining population** of Käru also faces alcoholism and a **low level of education** which do not help to develop creative activities which are seen as elitist.

## INITIATION AND ACTORS

The idea of creating a museum in Käru has been carried out by Aljona Suržikova. After acquiring the abandoned houses next to the railway station on June, 22nd 2018,

the activities started.

## ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

**After the acquisition, an active discussion began in the Käru community on how to restore the buildings and what should be done there.** The idea of creating a museum of barrows and trolleys in Käru was born and a campaign to collect carts was launched. The local community is actively involved in the work of the museum. As a matter of fact, **nine local volunteers work in the museum.** This action has also raised awareness about volunteering in the borough by **trying to involve those who would otherwise remain invisible.** This place is more than merely a museum, it has become a place where locals can share their general concerns and ask for help.



Käru Museum Open Day  
©Käru Museum – photo by Sergei Trofimov



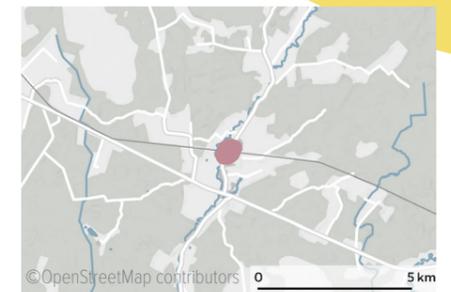
Exhibition  
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Exhibition  
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Käru, Järvamaa, Estonia

more about this project

