



## Living University of the Blue Economy 20-23 August, on Estonian islands

Learn, share and experience about Blue Economy to inspire your business, personal or social life.

We will visit established companies, examine potential business models, dialogue with experts, and meet people from various sustainability creation fields, learn creating cascades of production with added value and multiple cash flows in your initiatives. Recognized innovator and entrepreneur Gunter Pauli will accompany us on this journey of mutual discovery. You will recognize the keys of leadership of the projects on the Estonian islands.

### The program

August 20 arrival to capital [Tallinn](#)

17:00 departure from Tallinn airport by a comfortable bus (onboard program intro)

19:00 ferry to island [Hiiumaa](#) – onboard get to know at ferry dinner

20:30 Green Island of Hiiumaa – welcome by mayor Hergo Tasuja

21:30 *accommodation*

August 21

09:00 Windtower experience, kite wind energy

10:00 Novamont's green polyethylene factory [Dagöplast](#). Transforming bioplastic pellets to sheets that degrade in the sun, the sea and the soil.

11:30 Environmental conference of Dagöplast with the keynote by Gunter Pauli on Blue Economy perspectives for Hiiumaa, founder of [Blue Innovations](#), and Peep Pitk on using local biomass in chemical components, CTO of [Fibenol](#) (*lunch integrated*)

15:00 Hiiumaa's sunny climate is ideal for lavender – farm visit

16:00 Kõpu historical [lighthouse](#)

17:00 Electric bike renewable [system](#) - founder Peep Lillemägi. 30 Estonian-made Ampler electric bicycles can be rented on the island, the batteries of which are charged in special solar energy stations designed in Hiiumaa.

19:00 Dinner in [Hõbekala](#) accompanied by some Hiiumaa related creative persons

August 22

7:30 *departure*

08:15 Ferry to island [Saaremaa](#) (onboard breakfast)

09:30 Historical windmills at [Angla](#)

10:30 [Kaali](#) meteorite crater

11:30 [Est-Agar](#), the only producer of the unique texturant from the red seaweed - Urmas Pau. Production and sales of gelling agent furcellaran; trawling, gathering, processing, and sale of red seaweed *Furcellaria lumbricalis*.

13:00 Lunch with mayor of Saaremaa - Mikk Tuisk

15:00 Baltic [Workboats](#) next generation vessels. Patented wave-piercing technology enables to deliver stable, safe, and crew-friendly workboats.

17:00 Blue economy focus on islands - open discussion in Kuressaare college

19:30 *accommodation*

20:00 Dinner at Windmill restaurant with the eco-egg producer explaining the happiness from chicken to customers

August 23

8:30 *breakfast*

09:30 European islands' energy independence roadmap - Sulev Alajõe

11:00 Biodegradable drinking straws from reed by [Sutu](#). Reed is a good alternative to plastic and is suitable for both single and repeated use.

12:30 Pajuvärava ecofarm – Heidi Hanso. A great and fun experience for anyone who hasn't seen farm animals, run around the farmyard or had a ride on a horse in a long time. Everything at Pajuvärava is a bit like visiting Pippi Longstocking: homely and a little scattered, full of discovery.

13:30 Sheep wool new applications on [Muhu](#) island, *optional shopping*

14:40 *lunch on ferry*

17:00 Arrival to Tallinn (airport)

We would be delighted if you decide to join the Living University of Blue Economy 2023 in Estonia!

We kindly advise applying for the whole program for the price of €580 euros for twin accommodation, €680 for single, covering all costs of transportation, lodging, visits, and meals (except two dinners).

**Please let us know your attendance on [this registration link](#) by June 30th, 2023!**

## **Hiiumaaa island: breakthrough innovations start from the periphery**

By Prof. Gunter Pauli

Chairman of Novamont

When I visited Hiiumaa island in 2020 I had only one purpose: to learn about the Dagöplast Factory which our company in bioplastics (Novamont) acquired a year later.

This island emerged from the Baltic Sea 8,500 years ago and the first settlements date back to 5,500BC. The original settlers were seal hunters. I knew that this island may be the second largest of Estonia, but it is a tiny mark on the world map. All too often, these observations offer a wrong sense of insignificance.

Hiiumaa has transformed itself into the largest transformer of bioplastic pellets to sheets in Northern and Central Europe that degrade in the sun, the sea and the soil. This is a remarkable achievement thanks to the vision of entrepreneurs and a clear commitment of the political and social leadership to make a difference for its citizens.

While no one was aiming at moving mountains, the focus on results, and the capacity to persevere set a series of milestones that can well evolve in a continuous transformation of the island. Any economic activity in the periphery needs a unique vision and in the case of Hiiumaa it is all about how the breakthroughs realized can now set the pathway towards a sustainable future, not just for the clients of Dagöplast, but for the citizens of the island for generations to come.

Children can only imagine what their role will be on an island if there are challenges that call upon their creative minds. No region in the outskirts of the center of learning and entertainment has a chance to keep their young and eager by merely offering comfort and security. The only constant we know is change, and therefore one has to offer an environment where the next generation can surf the waves and have the clarity that it can make a difference and be the change.

When one lives in the large urban centers, one not only drops into oblivion, one has the sense of helplessness. The waves take you. But when one becomes an active part of the communities that build on a strong tradition and commitment to a space with unique problems and opportunities, then the future can be shaped by those who imagine it.

Hiiumaa cannot predict the future, but it can certainly create its own, if one decides a clear direction for the common good. Thanks to the decisions of the past, defying the logic of the globalized economies, Hiiumaa has carved out its place in the world of sustainable industries. It is now up to all to build on this fact and use it as a springboard to go beyond. That is how futures with a vision are transformed into a reality for all.