

Current situation in Võru region

Võru County (2305 km²) is situated in the Southeast corner of Estonia, close to the Latvian and Russian borders. Võru is peripheral to the capital Tallinn (265 km), but only 75 km from Pskov. There are ca 35 000 inhabitants in the county, 14 000 of them living in the centre, Võru town.

In Tartu region and North Estonia there exist the first villages (Maarja, Campbell, Haraka) for intellectually disabled persons where they have protected work places and possibility to live in communities.

At the moment there are 37 children with intellectual disabilities learning in Võru Järve School, 30 persons already graduated, 30 persons with intellect disabilities are learning in Vana-Antsla Vocational School and 16 persons graduated this school. As there are no employment support services or support networks, these people are unemployed and lose their skills at home. Their parents are forced to stay with them and cannot work in labour market. In this way the special educational schools are “producing” unemployed persons in several levels.