



Opening Pärnu Beach for People with Special Needs

SUMMER PERIOD FEEDBACK

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Estonia – Latvia

PÄRNU LAHE ROTARY CLUB

- THE GOAL OF THE PÄRNU LAHE ROTARY CLUB IS TO PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY.
- *THE CLUB IS COMMITTED TO FULFILLING THE DREAMS OF PEOPLE WHO, DUE TO THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS (DISABILITIES) HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ENJOY THE BEACHES OF PÄRNU BAY AND SWIM IN THE SEA.*
- *THE INITIATIVE WAS BOOSTED BY PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHO INSPIRED US AND LET US KNOW WHAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES EXPECT, NEED AND DREAM ABOUT.*

II SUMMER IN PÄRNU INVARANNA

- Pärnu Invarand was open from June 25 to August 31, 2025. The aim was to provide a safe and accessible beach experience for people with mobility impairments and to involve the community as volunteers.
- Air temperatures ranged between 13–27 °C and wather temperatures between 14–22 °C. The weather was variable and on several days the beach had to be closed due to storm.
- Just like last summer, our club members worked as volunteers at the Inva beach area from 12:00 to 18:00, sharing information, helping users and guiding young people with special needs who help with the work center on a daily basis. The city of Pärnu pays the young people's salaries.
- The young people's tasks were: installing the roller coaster in the morning and bringing it back in the evening, cleaning the boardwalk, installing the roller coaster at the beginning of the day, during the day and other activities that require help.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

In cooperation with the Pärnu City Government a specially sized inva changing room was installed on the terrace.



STATISTICS

- THE SEASON LASTED FROM 25.06 – 31.08.2025, A TOTAL OF **68 DAYS**.
- GREEN FLAG DAYS (WHEN THE FLOATING WHEELCHAIR COULD BE USED): **26**.
- YELLOW FLAG DAYS: **37**
- RED FLAG DAYS: **5**
- FLOATING WHEELCHAIR USES: **39**
- RETURNING VISITORS: **4 PEOPLE**, WHO VISITED A TOTAL OF **24 TIMES**
- FIRST-TIME VISITORS: **15 PEOPLE**



VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

IN ADDITION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PÄRNU BAY ROTARY CLUB, MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND HELPERS PARTICIPATED IN THE DAILY WORK OF INVARAND:

- PÄRNU ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- PÄRNU WHEELCHAIR CLUB
- FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF ROTARY MEMBERS
- TALLINN REVAL ROTARY CLUB
- ROTARACT
- TARTU HANSA ROTARY CLUB
- THANKS TO THESE VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS, INVARAND WAS ABLE TO OPERATE DAILY AND REMAIN SAFE AND OPEN FOR VISITORS.

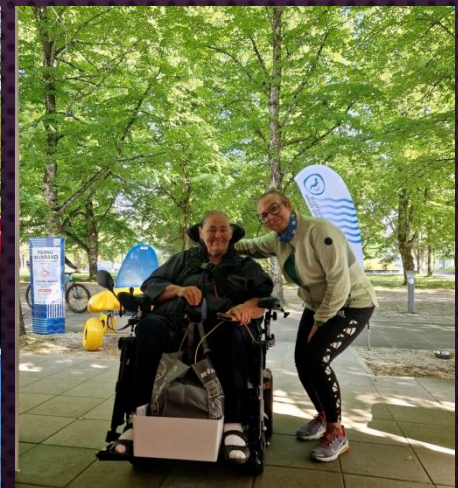
KEY OBSERVATIONS

- The greatest value of Invarand was that people with mobility impairments could safely and with dignity enjoy the sea. For many, it was the first time in years that they could enter the water themselves and experience the restorative power of the sea. These moments became the most memorable of the whole season – smiles, genuine joy, and words of gratitude confirmed how necessary and special this project truly is.
- Guests emphasized that Invarand gave them more than just a beach experience – it gave them the feeling of belonging to a community where they are welcomed and valued. This is an important message for the entire Pärnu community: the sea and the beach belong to everyone.
- Many passers-by and curious visitors also came to the beach, where they were shown how access and safe experiences are provided for people with special needs. Invarand thus became a place of awareness-raising and education – it increased public understanding and highlighted how essential accessibility is for our society as a whole.
- The summer of 2025 itself was not particularly favorable for the beach – rain, wind, and cool weather set clear limits on the season. Only 26 days saw the green flag raised, allowing the use of the floating wheelchair. Precisely for that reason, those few green flag days were especially valuable and memorable for both visitors and volunteers, proving that even under difficult conditions, joy and gratitude can flourish.

SEASON CLOSURE AND NEXT STEPS

- On September 13, 2025, Invarand was moved to its winter storage. The work was carried out as a community clean-up event with the help of 25 volunteers, showing the community's strong unity and desire for the project to continue.
- For the next season, the idea is to place the pavilion on the sand next to the boardwalk and the sun terrace, ensuring even more convenient access for visitors. In autumn 2025, the collection of price offers will begin to determine the necessary investments and the financial feasibility of the project.
- In summer 2026, Invarand will certainly continue with the support of volunteers, but at the same time, negotiations are planned with the City of Pärnu to find a way to eventually transfer the site to the municipality, thereby ensuring the project's sustainability in the longer term.

MEMORIES OF SUMMER



INVA PAVILION RECEIVED ATTENTION

- NOMINEE OF THE PÄRNU CITY COMPETITION "ACT OF THE YEAR
- "WINNER OF THE PÄRNUMAA TEGIJAD COMPETITION "THE MOST OUTSTANDING ACT OF THE YEAR IN THE COMMUNITY“
- NOMINEE OF THE PÄRNU POSTIMEES NEWSPAPER COMPETITION "PRODUCT/SERVICE OF THE YEAR" AND WINNER OF THE PUBLIC VOTE
- PÄRNU CITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2024
- NOMINEE OF THE ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE COMPETITION "ACT WITH GREAT SOCIAL IMPACT"

PLRK PROJECT WEBPAGE

[HTTPS://WWW.LAHEROTARY.COM/PROJEKTID/](https://www.laherotary.com/projektid/)

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