

## REFEC BENCHMARKED SHORT FERRY CONNECTIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

REFEC project benchmarked comparable connections to the anticipated Loviisa-Kunda ferry route in in the Baltic Sea Region. Special attention was paid to features like

- sailing time between the ports
- number and timing of departures
- number of shipping companies and vessels (including types, capacity etc.) operating the connections and
- transported volumes

The preliminary data consisted of 71 point-to-point ferry connections operated by 20 different shipping companies. Connections taking several days or leading outside the Baltic Sea were excluded. There were 23 connections under five hours which were taken into closer look. From these 23 connections **6 connections** were chosen for benchmarking based on sailing time, frequency and vessel types.



The six selected connections for benchmarking. Source map: Ro-ro & ferry atlas Europe 2016/17. Baltic Press.

The transported number of ro-ro units (trucks, semi-trailers) varied from around 15 000 to 60 000 units per year which compares well with the Loviisa-Kunda freight potential of 20 000 to 40 000 ro-ro units. The benchmarked ports typically provided two departures per day from both ports in the route. Vessel capacities in the routes varied from 500 to 2000 lane meters (1300 lm average).

To conclude, there are similar types of ro-ro connections in the Baltic Sea Region like the anticipated Loviisa-Kunda connection, which are operated successfully. Based on the findings of this study, it can be presumed that the Loviisa-Kunda route is also a viable connection for transporting ro-ro cargo between Finland and Estonia, especially if supported with the passenger car traffic.

For further information, please contact

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