

THE STUDY ON IMPACT OF THE FORESEEN THE LOVIISA-KUNDA FERRY SERVICE IS PUBLISHED

The new REFEC report explores impacts of the activation of eastern Finland-Estonia transport corridor which would take place if a ferry service is launched between Loviisa and Kunda.

The impacts consist of comparisons of the Loviisa-Kunda route with the current existing port connections between Finland and Estonia. The comparisons encompass differences in the mileage, travel time, costs, CO2 emissions and impacts to regional development. The study results are based on measurements, statistical analysis, planning documents and interviews of stakeholders of different interest groups linked to regional development.

The comparison of mileages in the transport corridor area towns between Finland and Estonia expectedly shows that Loviisa-Kunda ferry would provide shorter mileage and travel time compared to the routes via the existing ferry services. As for the costs, the new ferry line would provide about ¼ lower costs for the estimated freight potential between eastern Finland and northeastern Estonia. For those eastern Finland cargoes that transit Estonia the Loviisa-Kunda ferry would provide also a competitive alternative when compared to other services although the costs proved to be somewhat higher.

With regard to environmental impact, the Loviisa-Kunda route CO2 emissions are in line with the mileage observations. Another environmentally positive issue would be that the new ferry line would relieve partly the congestion in capital regions caused by heavy traffic.

A new ferry line would stimulate regional development close to the ports in both countries. It is estimated to generate new jobs (Finland 25-37 jobs and Estonia 25-50 jobs), tax income to municipalities (FI 170-250 k€; EE 40-80 k€) and two million euros annual turnover to both ports. Major beneficiaries would be the manufacturing and logistics industries. Moreover, it would add the vitality of the ports and lead to cluster type development with growing mutual benefits in the area. A ferry connection would bring new investments to both regions. The improved accessibility of eastern Uusimaa and western Virumaa would lead to improved Finnish-Estonian economic cooperation of the stakeholders and increased commuting and leisure time travelling.

[Please see the impact study here.](#)