



IT'S TIME FOR TARTU!

Social Democrat's programme for governing Tartu in 2021-2025.

THE HEART OF A LIVING CITY

1. We strive for an enjoyable, safe city for all – children, people with additional requirements, elderly, animals, cyclists, bus users, drivers, etc. We base our plan for mobility on the 8/80 principle.
2. The city centre should become a zone for pedestrians and light vehicles. Instead of parking spots, we will give more room to pedestrians. We prefer parking on underground floors or in parking garages.
3. Vehicles, light vehicles and pedestrians should move safely in separate lanes maintained all year round.
4. We will take a step towards calming down traffic with a 30 km/h speed limit and a street design that would calm down traffic throughout the city.
5. We will establish mobility centres that ensure the comfortable exchange of vehicles entering from outside Tartu for a scooter, bike, bus, tram or taxi and ensure a city centre free of parking hassle.
6. A living city must be safe day and night. We support the establishment of the position of night mayor, following the example of many developed cities around the world.

7. When planning new administrative buildings, we prefer the city centre and surrounding areas. We will develop an open-for-all, culture-rich and consumerism-free city environment.

8. We support the continued development of Autovabaduse puiestee (Car-free Boulevard). We will make Vabaduse puiestee a modern main street that aligns with the cultural centre and allows the creation of a seamless space with green spaces along Emajõgi River.

9. We will make sure that school and university students can use a bicycle hire service for free.

10. We will organise timetables and routes for light vehicles and buses in such a way that students can get from any university building or campus to another university building in between lectures.

11. Toomemägi will yet again become a respectable favourite park for residents of Tartu with a diverse eco-system and leisure opportunities.

12. We will design an uninterrupted river promenade going along the south bank of Emajõgi River from the city centre to Karlova Harbour. We will build a new park between Emajõgi River and Anne Canal.



HAPPY LIFE FOR EVERYONE

1. Tartu is a tolerant university city open to foreigners. All residents of the city, regardless of their origin, additional requirements, gender, religion, age or sexual orientation are treated equally. We will support Tartu joining the Diversity Charter.

2. Tartu supports women – a woman needs to be seen and involved in city life. We will create more opportunities and city spaces for girls and women to spend their free time.



3. We will ensure free feminine products in schools, youth centres and other public spaces.
4. We will actively support the LGBT+ community in their goal to achieve equal rights and opportunities to live a full life. We will make Tartu an LGBT+ freedom zone.
5. We will create a working 'one door' principle in city services – a single channel and approach for people to find help quickly for any kind of problem in life.
6. We will support a leadership-focused coherent and flexible approach in social care. For this, we will increase the number of support workers and improve their competence.
7. Home nursing or nursing home fees are paid by combining the funds of those in need and the city itself in a way that ensures a respectable life for those in need and their families.
8. We will create a municipal house with support services provided by all generations to assist young people entering the rental market and elderly people who lack day-to-day support.
9. We will move towards expanding municipal homes to all groups of residents that lack affordable options on the property market (including the elderly, workers needed in Tartu). We will make sure that municipal homes fit the city environment and the community as well as provide the necessary services.
10. City space, infrastructure and digital information should be accessible for all, including those with additional requirements or those who do not speak Estonian. Braille typeface, street signs for the visually impaired and Estonian Sign Language are commonly used. The city will sponsor free Estonian Sign Language education for residents of Tartu.
11. Children and people with additional requirements can easily open doors in public buildings. The equal accessibility principle is followed indoors as well.

12. We will work to prevent mental health problems. We will become leaders in helping children and teenagers with their mental health. In cooperation with the government and other municipalities, we will create a milieu therapy centre based on the existing Pepleri Therapy Centre at Masingu School.

13. The city will financially assist the activities of interest group protection organisations. Support for women and children's shelters and organisations supporting other groups that need help is stable and does not depend on the availability of project funding.

14. GPs are accessible to foreigners living in Tartu. We will create a system to help foreign students find a GP.

15. We will create Tartu Pet Cemetery.



OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL TO LEARN AND TEACH

1. We will develop Tartu schools using community school principles. We will champion the involvement of parents in school life. We will expand the roles of parental and oversight commissions in school life.

2. We will implement the principle of individual educational paths and offer students more diverse options for choosing elective courses (religious education, ethics, entrepreneurship, etc.)

3. We will develop educational life in Tartu using the 'seamless education' principle – the mobility between different levels of education (e.g. higher education and vocational education) is possible, encouraged and promotes learning and re-qualification at any age or career position.

4. We will treat schools with languages of instruction other than Estonian as important parts of the Tartu educational system. We will support strong integration into Estonian society in schools and kindergartens with other languages of instruction as well as Estonian language classes.
5. In Estonian-language schools, we will create opportunities for in-depth native language and native culture learning for students with a native language other than Estonian (including Russian).
6. We will support the provision of fact-based sexual education in schools.
7. In cooperation with the university, we will mitigate the lack of school psychologists, speech therapists and support personnel. We will create ways for information relating to a child's learning requirements to reach schools quickly.
8. Tartu youth and educational institutions offer local, eco-friendly and diverse food (including vegetarian options).
9. To prevent school bullying, we will dedicate resources to utilise science and fact-based methods of prevention and improve cooperation between specialists on different levels when dealing with more complicated cases.
10. We stand for the growth of the salaries of kindergarten and creative education teachers at the same pace as those of school teachers.
11. The city will offer grants to teachers beginning their careers.
12. We will make sure that classes in Tartu do not exceed the maximum numbers of students and teachers' workload limits.
13. We will make sure that the kindergarten fee in Tartu is not raised. We will stand for abolishing kindergarten fees in the entire country. In Tartu kindergartens and orphanages, food should be free for all students.
14. We will make sure that Tartu Vocational Education Centre is equipped with a modern learning environment and the best learning equipment.

15. We will continue renovating Tartu kindergartens and schools based on the timeline set in the budget strategy and will request additional funding to speed up the process. When renovating educational institutions, ventilation systems are of particular importance.

16. The City of Tartu will build a city-wide student dorm for students of schools and, in cooperation with the universities, create additional student residence spaces so that studying in Tartu is affordable.

17. Educational paths in schools will be made shorter or longer for families of top specialists or foreign professors moving to Tartu.

18. The city will coordinate Estonian-language courses for exchange students coming from abroad to study in Tartu schools.

19. We will double the amount of Raefond grants for students.

20. To encourage student start-up activity, we will create an opportunity to apply for starting capital.

21. The city will support the library being open day and night during the academic period.



LEAD WITH OPENNESS AND INCLUSION

1. The city and city enterprises are led openly, competently and inclusively. Receiving information from officials and giving feedback for their work is a natural and quick process.

2. We will create the position of Diversity Commissioner and Internal Auditor independent from the city government.

3. We will create open opportunities for all to report fake news and ensure that all tips are handled in an unbiased way, keeping in mind that the one making the tip would like to remain anonymous and protected from bullying.
4. All lobbying meetings of city leaders with interest groups are made public based on the good principles of communicating with lobbyists set out by the government.
5. Each resident of the city has the right to initiate public calls for the city council and participate in leading the city through polls and digital referendums.
6. We stand for accessibility of public information and the wider use of open information. We will conduct data revision, based on which we will improve accessibility of information on the Open Data Portal. In cooperation with businesses and universities, we will organise hackathons to improve the use of available data.
7. City council sessions will be translated into Estonian Sign Language.
8. We will make city council commissions' work more substantial. Besides the topics on the city council agenda, other important issues for the city will be discussed by involving experts.
9. If necessary, we will create ad hoc expert commissions at the city council or city government. If long-term commitment is necessary, we will pay salaries to experts (e.g. light vehicle commission working for several years now).
10. Services offered by the city can be easily used by people with additional requirements, the elderly and those who don't speak Estonian. The digitalisation of services takes into consideration people's digital skills; less digitally skilled residents will not be left behind.
11. When sharing information, the city takes into consideration people with different native languages.
12. Representatives of surrounding municipalities will be invited for talks to join the city and cooperate; if the city grows, we will think about adding more electoral districts.

13. All students of Tartu under 26 years of age can vote in participative budgeting initiatives. Participative budgeting will increase from 200,000 euros to one million euros within four years.



DIVERSE TARTU

1. We will enrich the city parks step by step with diverse natural habitats. For each green space, we will devise a specific maintenance plan. Plans for investing in green space networks will be included in the city's budget strategy.

2. We will follow the green balance principle in city development activities. All trees that cannot be kept in their particular locations should be replanted or replaced with new trees.

3. Tartu preserves the natural habitat in Emajõgi River.

4. We will decrease noise and air pollution by calming traffic and re-routing it outside the city. We will avoid unnecessary light pollution and keep in mind communities and their flexible lifestyles when building street lighting.

5. During the nesting period for birds, cutting trees will be banned in city parks (including those bushes that are not classified as parks). In the context of climate change and intensifying heatwaves, we will devise a plan for a ban on cutting grass in the city.

6. We will raise awareness of people's contribution to the city's green space network through private gardens. We will award the Eco-friendly Gardener title to homeowners and apartment blocks. We will consult agencies and businesses on how to create maintenance plans for green spaces.
7. The harbour railway corridor will be transformed into a diverse linear park – an important natural zone and path for the residents and unification for the city's ecosystems.
8. We will continue developing the Tartu climate plan in a way that coordinates contribution to climate change with Southern Estonian municipalities (including Tartu suburbs).
9. We will find eco-friendly solutions to cope with extreme weather conditions in the city. We will create the position of climate advisor, who will coordinate activities in all city government institutions.
10. The city is a champion in sorting and recycling waste and it finances the most exemplary projects. In living environments, institutions and businesses of all types, waste management is organised under equal conditions.
11. We will avoid 'green-washing' and educate the residents on wise choices that are sustainable and globally correct. We will always add lifecycle analysis to the city's ecological solutions.
12. In cooperation with other leaders in the field, we will play a more active role in food rescue as a city. There should be plenty of food sharing boxes in the city and, instead of being thrown away, leftover food in businesses and people's homes should end up on the table.
13. City institutions will analyse the ecological impact of their activities.



SUSTAINABLE AND CONNECTED CITY DISTRICTS

1. Tartu is the city of the quick commute – when planning the city, we will keep in mind that we want all important daily services to be within walking distance of every place of residence or work.
2. When building new apartment buildings, we will make sure that they fit into the city environment and will demand that public spaces (e.g. shared park spaces or playgrounds) are included in the projects. To create a good living environment, we will organise more planning competitions.
3. In each city district, we will build a community garden and a place for residents to gather, e.g. a cafe. To strengthen connections between neighbours, we will facilitate the creation of community centres.
4. We will support residential buildings by providing them with a roof for bicycle parking houses.
5. The city will play a more active role in maintaining the streets during winter and will support home owners and apartment blocks.
6. We will fix city bus routes by involving everyone, guided by the interests of everyone, including the elderly and students.
7. We will continue developing a tram to connect the main destinations in the city. We will involve the residents and communities in choosing a tram route; in cooperation with the government and European structural funds, we will propose a financing scheme for tram infrastructure.
8. In cooperation with Tartu higher education institutions, we will develop mobility methodology for organisations in the city. We will develop mobility programmes for larger institutions and businesses, starting with the Tartu Vocational Education Centre mobility programme pilot project.
9. The speed of rented scooters and their parking is organised in cooperation between the city and service providers in such a way that all road users are safe.

10. In cooperation with businesses, we will launch a river bus and build more access points for canoes, SUP boards and other modes of water transport on Emajõgi River.

11. We will expand open-air opportunities for participating in sports by building new sports grounds and playgrounds so that each city district has sporting opportunities for the whole family. We will also improve accessibility for people with additional requirements.

12. We will establish a fruitful partnership between the city and those institutions that provide safety on the streets. We will partner with the police, the Defence League and other institutions and communities. We support improving working conditions for rescue squads.

13. We will regularly hold community organisation roundtables to discuss major changes in communities' living environments and planned projects. Representatives of community organisations are welcome to attend city council commission meetings.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Tartu is the city of good synergy – the city environment and the forms of cooperation launched by the city facilitate the creation of contacts between scientists, beginner entrepreneurs, global platforms and traditional businesses of Tartu.

2. In cooperation with universities and businesses, we will offer students and graduates job and internship placements and starting platforms for their enterprises. The Tartu Foreign Student Service Centre will help foreign students enter the Tartu job market and networks.

3. We will create an attractive growth environment for start-ups and the creative sector. We will facilitate the interest of risk investors in Tartu's beginner enterprises and support scientific incubation centres.
4. We will develop new industrial and logistics parks so that eco-friendly sustainable science-based industry can establish a foothold in Tartu.
5. In cooperation with the University of Tartu, we will launch a vision competition for creating a modern UT Maarjamõisa Technology City with areas for studying, practising sports and relaxing for locals, employees and students alike.
6. We stand for ensuring that the city has good plane and railway connections. This way, we support the openness of Tartu and the internationalisation of Tartu's higher education institutions and businesses.
7. We will continue issuing conference grants by extending this opportunity to smaller international events. We will support the modernisation of Tartu's conference infrastructure to match modern hybrid communication requirements.
8. We will advertise innovative entrepreneurship in Tartu by supporting entrepreneurs with praise, supportive agencies, necessary contacts, employee discovery and real financial incentives.
9. In cooperation with the Unemployment Insurance Fund, we will make Tartu a city where you can study to become rich. We will ensure that everyone in Tartu has the best educational and developmental path.
10. In cooperation with all sides of the job market, we will agree on the maximum and standard amount for a respectable salary in Tartu. We will make Tartu the area with the highest salary and healthiest working life in Estonia.
11. We will create a network for new businesses that offers fresh knowledge and contacts necessary for growth – we will pay special attention to modern leadership knowhow, work environment, marketing and product development.

12. We will launch a programme involving family members of specialists who move to Tartu for work.



SUSTAINABLE AND CONNECTED CITY DISTRICTS

1. We support the creation and top-level execution of a memorable programme for the European Capital of Culture 2024 title, supported by the close cooperation of the student organisations, culture agencies and municipalities of Southern Estonia.

2. We support the construction of Südalinna Culture Centre, which would bring the rich collection of the Art Museum to the residents of the city as well as a modern city library and black-box theatre for presenting national culture and student activity. Art and literature intertwine in the city centre with a pleasant public city environment.

3. We will launch the restoration of Kuperjanovi Culture House, thus creating a much-needed space for activities for national culture.

4. We will raise the salaries of culture workers employed by the city to the national level in the field.

5. We will preserve the tradition of song and dance festivals by ensuring additional opportunities for paying choir and dance group teachers in Tartu.

6. We will hold an annual competition for reputable action of the year in the field of culture and social studies education.

7. In the city environment, we will commemorate the famous women of Tartu, put female leaders as an example on public events and purposefully highlight the contribution of women during the city's ceremonial events.

8. We will modernise the rooms and expositions of Tartu City Museum and make it a popular and memorable place to visit for residents and guests alike.

9. We will integrate smart codes into city street signs that allow everyone to quickly and comfortably obtain information regarding Tartu's sights, cultural locations and events in Estonian and other languages.

10. We consider it important to expand the holy site support programme to other buildings of cultural value in Tartu.