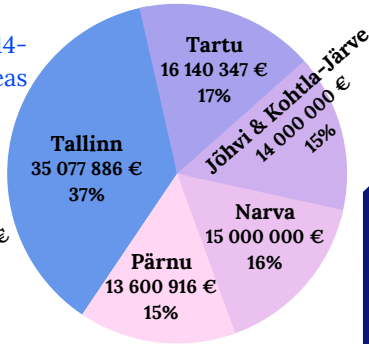




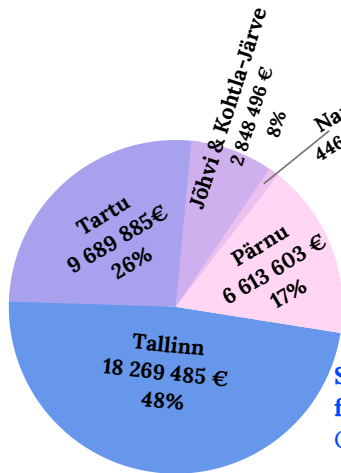
The interim evaluation of the priority axis 9 „Sustainable urban development“ in the Estonian Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014-2020 provides independent evaluation about relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impacts of planned investments.

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE EU SUBSIDIES FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Subsidies planned for 2014-2020 by urban areas



Subsidies allocated for finalized projects up to October 2019 by urban areas



115 million euros are planned for sustainable urban development in 2014-2020, 94 million of which are EU subsidies.

### LIGHT TRAFFIC ROADS

Planned to build: 240 km.  
Delivered by October 2019: 126 km.

### NEW PLACES IN KINDERGARTENS

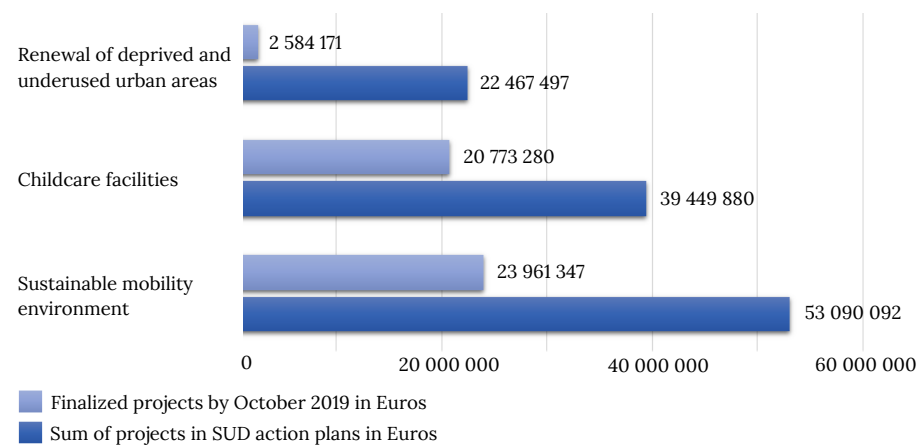
Planned to create: 2525 places.  
Delivered by October 2019: 1172 places.

### NEW OR RENOVATED BUILDINGS

Planned to renew or build: 55 000 m2.  
Delivered by October 2019: 15,6 thousand m2.

### NEW OR RENEWED PUBLIC SPACE

Planned to renew or build: 202 ha.  
Delivered by October 2019: 4,5 ha.



## The success in terms of impacts varies

The target to increase the share of sustainable and ecological transport modes in work related mobility seems to be out of reach. Despite fulfilling output targets, the share of such modes of mobility has in fact decreased in urban areas between 2015 and 2019.

The deficiency of places in kindergartens has decreased substantially and the set target will most probably be achieved both due to the projects implemented and due to the population dynamics in urban regions, where the number of 0-7 and 3-6 year old children is decreasing.

The progress in implementing projects focused on the enlivening of deprived and underused urban areas in Ida-Viru County is still in early stages. Nevertheless, considering the potential of the projects already financed or in the later preparatory phase, the quantitative impact target about increasing the use of renewed urban areas by businesses or other organizations will most probably be also achieved.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Increase the impact of sustainable urban development investments for the regional equality in Estonia by delimiting target area and focusing on urban areas with most problems and with highest need for support – excluding capital city area and the suburbs of other bigger urban centres from the target area of sustainable urban development investments and retaining only towns of Narva, Kohtla-Järve ja Jõhvi, Pärnu and Tartu.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Discriminate urban regions according to the share of co-financing rate, based on the scope of urban problems and different capacity of municipalities to co-finance EU projects – lower co-financing rate for Ida-Viru region.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Discard the practice of preparing ad hoc sustainable urban strategies and integrate sustainable urban development issues into the existing regional strategies – into county strategic plans.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** Discard the practice of prescribing common thematic investment priorities for urban regions by the national authorities, and instead promote local strategy processes to select specific priorities or sets of thematically diverse but integrated projects based on the analysis of local challenges and needs within place-based strategy process.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** Strengthen preconditions for the better integration of projects by broadening the thematic scope of activities within sustainable urban development priority axis with ESF type activities and the scope of organizations eligible for the support (private sector NGOs and businesses, private persons) and motivated to contribute along with municipal authorities (separate tenders are probably needed). In addition, the criterion of project integration should be scaled up within evaluation matrix prioritizing projects.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** Rearrange the hierarchy of monitoring indicators into three levels: (a) output; (b) direct results; (c) policy results or impacts.

