



Rising neighbourhood activism in Tallinn, Estonia and beyond

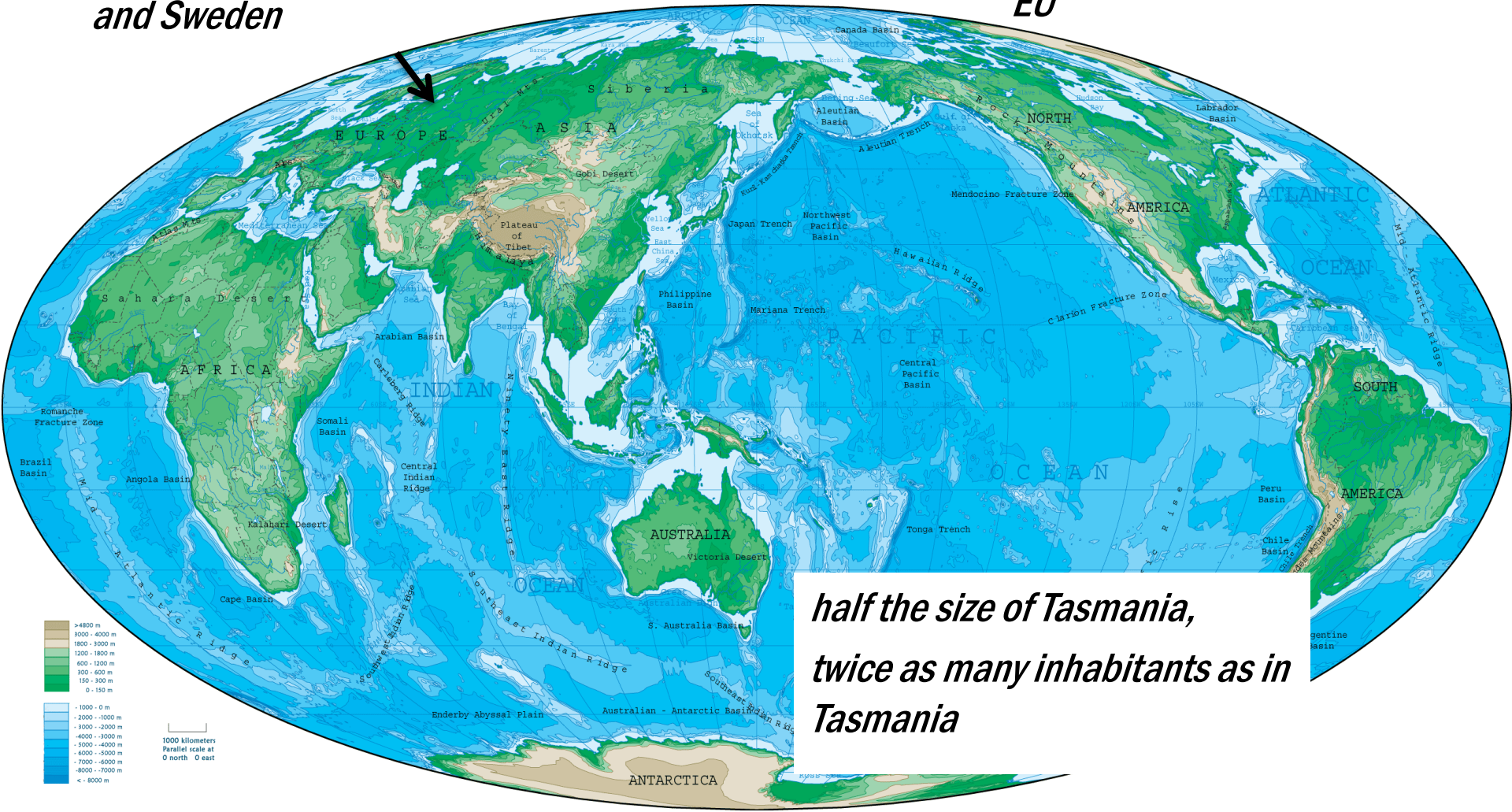
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leader of the Urban Idea initiative

Thriving Neighbourhoods conference, Interest in Architecture“, 29-30 Oct in Melbourne

Estonia?

*in North East of Europe,
between Finland, Russia, Latvia
and Sweden*

*1,3 million inhabitants,
Estonian language, member of
EU*



*half the size of Tasmania,
twice as many inhabitants as in
Tasmania*

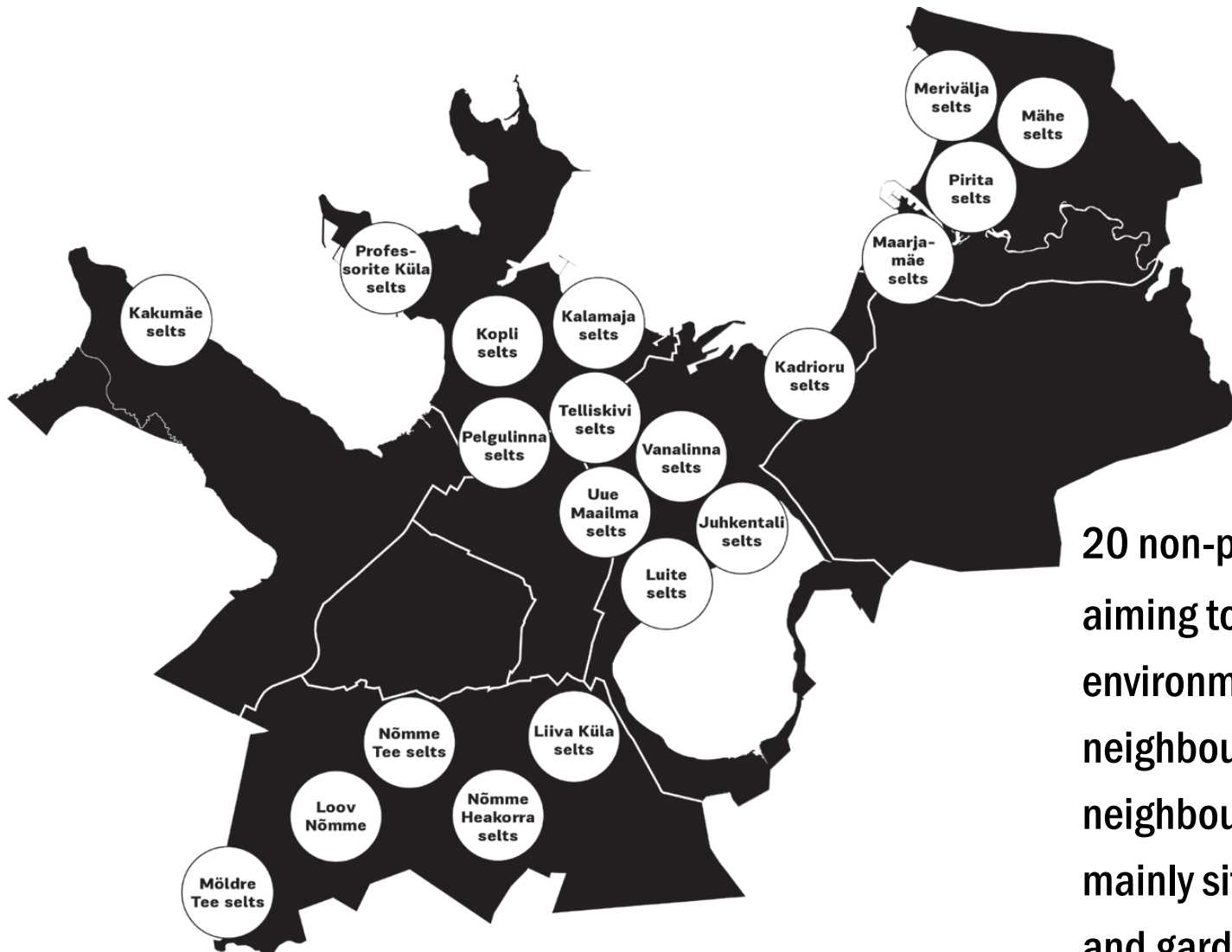
Capital called Tallinn?



by the Baltic Sea
430 000 inhabitants
160 km²

Biggest national groups:
52% Estonians
38% Russians

Active neighbourhoods in Tallinn



20 non-profit associations aiming to improve the living environment, public space and neighbourly relations (average neighbourhood 5-7000 people, mainly situated in milieu districts and garden-city suburbs)

The context for Tallinn neighbourhood enthusiast



Soo street before: one-way street with two lanes, avoided by pedestrians



Soo street after: pedestrian friendly public space thanks to community involvement



Around 500 residents opening the new pedestrian lane of Soo street in September 2013

The mayor opening the car lane with his friends ...

Four pillars of active neighbourhoods in Tallinn

1. Neighbourhood associations have become the voice of common sense in issues of urban planning, enlivening public space, organising local services as well as protecting the values of local neighbourhoods.



Self-initiated library and community radio in Uus Maailm district

2. The more neighbours are engaged in social encounters, the more power they have to shape their living environment in the desired way. The opportunity to shape one's immediate living environment affects the social welfare of citizens as well as the social and environmental wellbeing of the city.



**Celebrating Ao street's jubilee with street party and sauna van
in February 2013**

3. Active neighbourhoods show alternative ways of using space, give places new meanings and function. The more lively the neighbourhoods are, the more attractive they are for newcomers, tourists, developers, etc.



Kalarand beach installations in central Tallinn wasteland where major developments are planned

4. Active neighbourhoods are the local experts! Living locally creates better opportunities for cherishing relationships and sustaining enjoyable living environments.



Neighbourhood watch in milieu districts

**Welcome to Tallinn to discover and
discuss more!**

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