

Alūksne


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Achieving Energy Sustainability in
Peripheral Regions of Europe

Intelligent Energy  Europe

About Alūksne:

Alūksne, the 'Pearl of Northern Vidzeme', is one of the oldest, most beautiful and traditional places in Latvia. It is situated in the North-East of Latvia, 204 km from the capital Riga, sharing borders with Estonia and Russia.

The territory of Alūksne region covers 2243 km³ (3,5 % of the total area of Latvia). It is one of the smallest districts in Latvia with just under 25,000 inhabitants of which approximately 10,500 live in the countryside and 14,500 in towns. The total number of the inhabitants has decreased by just under 10% over the past three years.

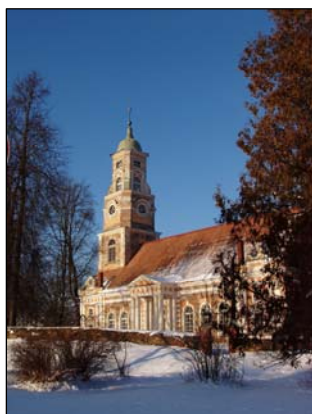


The region is divided into 18 small rural districts; the largest is Alsviķi and the smallest Kalncempji. The town Alūksne is the region's administrative centre and is situated on the shores of Lake Alūksne (total area 1545 ha).



Alūksne region is very rich in forests, as 57% of the total area is valuable woods. This influences the development of present day Alūksne. Enterprises are mostly related with local raw materials – wood processing, construction, production of food products, light industry; in total around 50 small enterprises. The majority of inhabitants of Alūksne are employed in trade and consumer services. Around 400 inhabitants are employed in the public sector, mostly in the educational institutions.

Alūksne's participation in the ASPIRE project:



Alūksne is participating in the ASPIRE project as a core partner. This means that a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) will be developed for the region under the supervision and guidance of a Stakeholder Steering Board (SSB). The SSB will be comprised of key stakeholders and representatives from the region.

The project has already been launched with meetings and events across the various districts. Potential projects and opportunities for increasing energy sustainability are already being identified for inclusion within the SEAP.





Above left & middle: ASPIRE kick off meeting in Alūksne

Above right: Kick-of meeting in Zeltinu district

Partners:

The Institute of Physical Energetics (IPE) is working with the region of Alūksne in the ASPIRE project.



IPE was established in 1946 and currently has 106 staff, including 44 Habilitated Doctors of Sciences (*Dr.habil.*) and Doctors of Sciences (*Dr.*), working at 13 research laboratories and groups. It is the leading institute in Latvia in the field of energy research. Its main activities cover a wide scope of energy research issues, such as the modelling and analysis of the energy - environment interactions, energy – environmental policy studies, the pricing and tariff policy in the energy sector, energy efficiency improvement and energy conservation programmes. Integration of the technologies directed towards the rational use of energy to ensure sustainable development of the Latvian energy sector and optimisation of the heat energy production and consumption systems in Latvia are given special attention in the research work of the institute.

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