

## I am self-employed (FIE) Aino Suurmann.

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A restless soul, who needs to be constantly on the move, and who must act and be independent. In order to be independent, one must act and so, one is dependent on the other. I have a higher education in economics. I also actively participate in the activities of the Orava network of country women/entrepreneurs launched as a Phare CBC project.

The attractive side of my activity is handicraft and tourism, and the other side is being a support person for those who are looking for opportunities to start acting and to improve the quality of their life and make it more interesting.

The handicraft products that I produce are very varied. I use genuine and natural materials. I produce sauna hats from flaxen felt, and folk-art style sewn products from linen fabric. Traditionally, flax was grown in this area.

I use lamb's wool to make felt, and make felt hats and bags from it. I also knit smaller consumer items.

Different emotions are poured into my painted silk scarves. Doing this work, I forget everything around me and have a chance to rest. Sand is one of the materials that I use to produce local souvenirs. Sand is interesting as a material, but it is difficult to keep thinking up new products. I talk about sand because my personal business is in Southeast Estonia in the vicinity of the Piusa caves, close to where I live. Piusa is a very beautiful place; glass sand has been excavated here. For children, this is a large sandbox and the Sahara for adults. There are various layers of sand here, and every layer is a different colour. The sand caves are the largest winter habitat for bats in the Baltic States. During the warm weather, tourists come here to see the museum caves, which are 10 meters high and several hundred meters long.

If you are ready to make your vacation plans, then please be aware that I await your visit. I will serve as your guide in Piusa, light candles in the caves, to make them exciting and romantic. I will acquaint you with my area and help you discover a pleasant memory of Piusa – with your reminiscences or with a souvenir, made in Piusa and characteristic of the people who live here and the materials that can be found here. You will also have the opportunity at trying your won hand to make yourself a nice souvenir.



My products can also be purchased in the Handicraft Cellar in Võru, where, together with me, eight countrywomen have launched the activities of the Handicraft Cooperative ESI and keep a lovely small handicraft shop. All the products in the store are produced in Estonia and over 90% of them in Võru County. At the initiative of the women in the Handicraft Cooperative, and with my active participation, the Võro Keriguplats Fair takes place very spring, on the last Saturday in May, and in August, we help the Võru Town Government organize the Town Birthday Fair for Võru.