



**Professor Sulev Mäeltsemees**

## PROFESSOR SULEV MÄELTSEMEES – ACTIVITIES CREATIVELY RICH IN CONTENT AND SENSE THROUGH DECADES

The second special edition of our journal<sup>1</sup>, 1-2017, is mainly dedicated to Professor **Sulev Mäeltseemes** who was born at Lihula on 7 August 1947. He graduated from the University of Tartu *cum laude* in 1970 as an economic geographer. The subject of his diploma paper (supervisor Prof Salme Nõmmik) was the organisation and optimisation of personal services. His job placement after the university was the post of a junior researcher at the Estonian affiliate in Tallinn (Rahukohtu 3, now known as the Stenbock House) of the Central Institute of Economic Mathematics of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. In 1975 he defended his dissertation of the Candidate of Geography degree *Analysis and Forecast of the Regional Development of Services*, supervised by Hans Jalasto, Candidate of Economics, after which he worked as a senior researcher for three years at the abovementioned Institute of Economic Mathematics.

In 1978 Sulev Mäeltseemes was elected as the Head of the Chair of Service Economics of the Faculty of Economics of the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute (now Tallinn University of Technology /TUT/).<sup>2</sup> During that period he started to develop successful cooperation with his colleagues in the same speciality at the institutes of service technology in Moscow, Omsk and Vladivostok. S. Mäeltseemes was one of the first researchers in Estonia who started to study the experience of foreign countries (above all in the then German Democratic Republic, but also in Hungary and other countries) in the area of development and organisation of services. It was difficult to receive the respective information at that time, even from socialist countries, to speak nothing of Western countries. Therefore he was very lucky to receive a fellowship grant in 1983 from DAAD (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst*) to work at the Institute of Social and Economic Geography of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt-am-Main (with Director Prof Josef Matznetter). In parallel to his fellowship studies he also delivered a course of lectures of 32 hours *Economic Geography of the Estonian S.S.R.* there.

On the initiative of the Director of the Institute Rein Otsason, Sulev Mäeltseemes was elected in 1986 to the post of the Head of the Sector of Social Infrastructure and Regional Economics formed at the Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences

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<sup>1</sup> The first Special Edition 2-2016 was dedicated to Professor Emeritus Janno Reiljan of the University of Tartu.

<sup>2</sup> The undersigned has been in touch with the activities of Sulev Mäeltseemes for decades (sometimes also in cooperation), being a student of the Chair of Service Economics in 1969–1974, then for a long period (1975–1992) a full time researcher of the same chair (1975–1978), external lecturer (1975–1987) and a senior researcher, leading researcher, member of the academic staff – ordinary associate professor (1987–1992); in 1990–1994 the Vice-Dean of Development of the Faculty of Economics of the TUT and in 1992 founder in TUT of the first Chair of Economic Policy in Estonia after regaining independence, the head of the chair and professor (1992–1997); since 1996 until now also employed by the University of Tartu (Faculty of Economics, Pärnu College, Narva College).

after merging the earlier Sector of Social Infrastructure with the Legal Sector. In 1988 he was elected as the Research Director of the Institute of Economics of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. There S. Mäeltsees started research into regional self-management and local government activities which had been forgotten in Estonia in the course of half the century. Local councils of people's deputies were functioning instead of the latter as a part of the central power. Institute of Economics of the Estonian Academy of Sciences became a leading research institute in the field of regional self-management in the U.S.S.R. It represented U.S.S.R. in the International Working Group of Socialist Countries on Regional Self-Management and Local Government Activities, all-Union conferences were organised in Tallinn, publications were published on these subjects (mainly in the form of preprints that could be published fast without Glavlit censure).

From 1988 he actively participated in the preparation of the conception of Estonian Self-management (IME). S. Mäeltsees participated in the Working Group for the preparation of our Basic Principles of Local Government Act which was adopted on 10 November 1989 (on the same day when the Berlin Wall fell). He has participated also later in the preparation of several acts on local government (e.g. the Local Government Organisation Act in 1993, the Local Government Associations Act in 2002).

In December 1989 almost democratic elections (of local municipality councils) were held in Estonia for the first time after half the century and S. Mäeltsees was elected as a member of the Tallinn City Council. In 1992–93 he was the full-time Chairman of the Tallinn City Council. In 1993–96 he was a member of the Tallinn City Council and Vice-Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Tallinn City Centre. He was a member of the Administrative Council of the Tallinn City Centre also in 1996–1999.

From 1990 to 1993 he was in charge of the National Expert Committee of the Administrative Reform, consisting of 26 members (mainly researchers), which had been set up to re-establish local municipalities and which analysed the readiness of municipalities of the first level of the two-level local government structure – the former village soviets, rural towns and cities – to perform the duties of local governments. In 1992–93 S. Mäeltsees was the local government expert at the Constitutional Assembly.

From the end of 1980s S. Mäeltsees made his contribution to the re-establishment of the activities of Estonian local government associations (Association of Estonian Cities and Association of Municipalities of Estonia). He was awarded the Plate of Merit by the Association of Estonian Cities in 2005 and the Gold Badge of the Association of Municipalities of Estonia in 2011 for his work in this area and also for subsequent cooperation with local government associations. S. Mäeltsees was elected as the Chairman of the Council of Elders of the Association of Estonian Cities in 1997 (renamed in 2004 as the Council of Elders of the Association of Municipalities of Estonia).

From 1993 to 1997 he was elected to the post of the Rector of the Estonian Institute of Public Administration, the further training centre of the public service. This period included further training courses organised for thousands of officials of our state and local government agencies and politicians, incl. dozens of business trips abroad for training purposes (e.g. secretaries general, county governors, county secretaries, chairmen of rural municipality councils and city councils, and rural municipality mayors and city mayors), above all to the Federal Republic of Germany but also to England and Sweden and to the EU institutions in Brussels and the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht. He developed close cooperation and conducted joint further training projects with the Federal Academy of Public Administration (*Bundesakademie für öffentliche Verwaltung*) in Bonn-Bad Godesberg (now Brühl) of the Federal Republic of Germany.

After terminating the employment relationship with the Estonian Institute of Public Administration, S. Mäeltsemees worked for the then Minister of Regional Affairs for about a year. In 1996–1998 he prepared the full text of the conception „Basic Principles for the Development of Public Administration“ based on its different parts prepared by the Administrative Reform Committee with about 25 members (members of the Riigikogu, ministers, county governors, heads of local municipalities and their associations, etc.), set up by the Government of the Republic.

In 1998, S. Mäeltsemees was elected as the Professor of Regional Policy of the Tallinn University of Technology and in 2004 as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (which was the Faculty of the Humanities until 2010) and worked at that post until becoming professor emeritus on 1 January 2017. In 2000–2015 he was the Chairman of the Council of the TUT and in 2007 he was awarded the honorary medal „Mente et Manu“ of the university.

In 2003 the Estonian Society of DAAD-Alumni was founded and Sulev Mäeltsemees was elected as the Chairman of the society. He had a DAAD fellowship grant also in 2003, visiting the Federal Republic of Germany – first a month at the leading German institution of higher education in the area of public administration – German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer (*Deutsche Hochschule für Verwaltungswissenschaften Speyer*) with its well-known researcher Prof. Herbert von Arnim. For the second month he stayed at the Institute of Municipal Law of the Osnabrück University (*Institut für Kommunalrecht der Universität Osnabrück*), with Director Prof. Jörn Ipsen.

While in TUT, he continued the development of constructive cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany which had started many years ago, this time with the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences in Brühl (*Hochschule des Bundes für öffentliche Verwaltung*) which is the leading university for preparing officials in the Federal Republic of Germany. Starting from the turn of the century, about 15 students of public administration of the TUT have taken study trips of one week every other year to Brühl and to several EU institutions and also government

agencies of the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen, and in each following year a similar group of their students have visited Estonia.

An Expert Group of the European Charter of Local Self-Government was set up in 1998 at CLRAE – Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and one full member and one substitute member were appointed to the Group from each member state of the Council of Europe. S. Mäeltseemes was the full member for Estonia until 2011. His substitute member was Vallo Olle, Docent of the University of Tartu, Doctor of Law, who has been a full member of that Expert Group since 2012, with S. Mäeltseemes as his substitute member. In 2002–2010, S. Mäeltseemes was an Estonian expert of the working group of the European leading local government research centre DEXIA (in Paris).

In 2002–2005, S. Mäeltseemes was a member of the Committee of Development of Public Administration and Local Government of the Academic Council of the President of the Republic. In 2002 the President of the Republic awarded him with the Order of the White Star, Fourth Class, for his contribution to the re-establishment of local governments. In 2005 the Ministry of Internal Affairs awarded him the Badge of Honour of the Citizen's Day.

S. Mäeltseemes has provided numerous expert assessments in the issues of development of local government and regional management to the Chancellery of the Riigikogu, Tallinn City Council and City Government and to other Estonian local municipalities and their associations. His activities have been above all related to the City of Tallinn. S. Mäeltseemes was one of the initiators of the first International Conference on Management of Capital Cities held in Tallinn in 1996 and the four subsequent conferences held with intervals of a few years (until 2009). Together with his colleagues he has carried out several research projects commissioned by the Tallinn City. In 2002 he published a sizable (306 pp.) monograph *Management of Tallinn* and in 2007 he was awarded the Badge of Merit of the Tallinn City.

S. Mäeltseemes has made presentations at many international conferences in Estonia and abroad and has also organised them in Estonia. He is the author of more than 300 publications, including approximately 50 publications with international distribution, he has delivered lectures in German on the subjects of Estonian socio-economic development and organisation and reforms of public administration (above all local self-government and regional administration) in the total volume of more than 100 hours, including a half of this volume at universities of foreign countries (Düsseldorf, Frankfurt-am-Main, Flensburg, Mainz, Mannheim, Zürich) or presentations in town halls (Kiel-1993, Wismar-1994) and the other half to foreign delegations visiting Estonia.

The main orientations of the academic, research and development activities of S. Mäeltseemes are „Organisation of local government activities in Estonia and its comparison with foreign countries“; „Regional administration in Estonia and in foreign countries“; „Regional policy in Estonia and in the European Union“;

„Administrative reform“. He has supervised two defended doctoral theses (Mikk Lõhmus and Raivo Linnas) and dozens of master theses.

In 2002–2006, S. Mäeltsemees prepared an upper secondary school textbook on Social Geography in 2 parts, with workbooks (published by the Avita Publishing House), which was published also in Russian. In 2012–2015 he wrote an upper secondary school textbook on Social Geography in 2 parts on the basis of the new syllabus, at the request of the same publishing house.

S. Mäeltsemees has been a Member of the Board of the Estonian Geographical Society for years, in 2001–2013 he was the Chairman of the Internal Audit Committee of the society. Since 2011 he has been the Chairman of the Council of the Tallinn House of Scientists.

Professor Sulev Mäeltsemees has almost always participated in the scientific conferences on economic policy (in Tartu-Värsk, Värsk, Jäneda) as a speaker or a moderator since the first conference in 1984 („the Ship Conference“). He is one of the editors of the international journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy* published in three languages. He has been a great support and assistance with his ideas and advice both in the organisation/continuation of conferences and publishing of the journal.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, Sulev is a good and friendly colleague, a caring and supporting companion with deep knowledge, he is composed, capable of in-depth analysis, very interested in global problems and in the preservation of our Estonian society, nature, culture, language and nation. Sulev is a caring spouse and a good-natured grandfather for two grandchildren. He has a cool sense of humour with great variety and fine philosophy! And certainly chess if he finds time – both watching the competitions (for instance, the international Paul Keres chess tournaments which have taken place in Tallinn for years and other chess tournaments) and the interest in testing his abilities and play himself! Surely also other sports activities (above all volley-ball and basketball from sports games, and in the recent years table tennis in almost every weekend) with good company and sauna. The passion from the university times – playing bridge – has been left aside due to the lack of time.

7 August 2017 this year is the 70th birthday of the hard-working, serious and dedicated man, Professor Emeritus Sulev Mäeltsemees! These have certainly been busy decades of his life, rich in content, valuable and interesting!

Congratulations to you, Sulev, we wish you good health, success and efficient cooperation also in the future!

In Tallinn, in February-March 2017

On behalf of colleagues and the conference staff and the editorial staff of the journal,  
Matti Raudjärv, Chief Editor  
Long-time friend and colleague of Sulev