

VALVE KIRSIPUU
(05.03.1933 – 20.09.2017)
IN MEMORIAM

The well-known Estonian economist and politician Valve Kirsipuu was born in Tallinn on 5 March 1933. She left our midst on 20 September 2017.

Valve Kirsipuu graduated in 1958 from the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute (current Tallinn University of Technology) *cum laude* in the speciality of Industrial Management and Planning. This was followed by post-graduation studies in Moscow, in the Central Institute of Economic Mathematics of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. The subject of the candidate of sciences thesis of V. Kirsipuu was “Methods of Economic Cybernetics in Internal Planning in an Enterprise”.

In 1966, Valve Kirsipuu started work as the Research Secretary of the Institute of Economics of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. She remained at that position for 20 years. She became a brilliant research organiser. With the increasing workload as the research secretary (the Institute of Economics had more than 200 employees in 1980s) she had to stop her own research activities.

In 1984, Rein Otsason became the Director of the Institute of Economics and V. Kirsipuu did not have good cooperation with him and gave up the post of research secretary and continued as a senior researcher of the Sector of Research Economics. This was already the period of democratisation (*glasnost*) and fast changes (*perestroika*) which V. Kirsipuu got involved with immediately.

In 1988, the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law was established at the Estonian Academy of Sciences and Valve Kirsipuu was invited to the position of its research secretary. V. Kirsipuu worked at that post until 1992 when she was elected to the Estonian parliament Riigikogu where she was the Chairman of the Finance Committee. She had become very well-known in politics due to her work as a commentator on economic issues in the Estonian Radio in 1965–1993. In 1994 she became a founder member of the Estonian Reform Party. V. Kirsipuu was a member of the VII, VIII and IX Riigikogu. In 2001, Valve Kirsipuu was awarded the Order of the National Coat of Arms, V Class.

Sulev Mäeltseems,
former colleague