

COMMEMORATION OF THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR JANNO REILJAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TARTU IN THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Professor Janno Reiljan would have turned 70 on October 8, 2021. Unfortunately, he left us on January 23, 2018. The School of Economics and Business Administration (SEBA) of the University of Tartu and the alumni association Hermes organized a meeting on October 8, 2021, in the DELTA study building in Tartu to commemorate the 70th birthday of Professor Janno Reiljan. The opening speech was given by Professor Kadri Ukrainski, Head of the SEBA at the University of Tartu, who herself has defended doctoral thesis under the supervision of Janno Reiljan. Professor Urmas Varblane gave next an overview of Janno Reiljan's life and his contribution to the development of the Estonian state, economics and the SEBA. The opening of the Janno Reiljan memorial plaque on the wall of the Pathfinders of Economics and Business Administration followed as the major event.

The reminders emphasized that Janno Reiljan's life was closely connected with the School of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Tartu. He graduated *cum laude* in economic cybernetics in 1975, followed by a postgraduate studies and the defence of a first doctoral dissertation at the Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1980. Later, in 1991 he defended his second doctoral thesis at the University of Tartu and became the full professor at the University of Tartu in 1992.

Janno Reiljan, as an economist and excellent leader, contributed to the development of the University of Tartu, its School of Economics and Business Administration and the entire Estonian state. He took the responsibility for the development of the SEBA as the Dean (1993–1996) and as Vice-Dean for Development (1996–1999) during the revolutionary transition period of 1990s. Prof. J. Reiljan contributed to the strategic development of the faculty by applying a number of principles that are still valid today. He always emphasized the importance of academic research and international cooperation. Prof. Reiljan was able to obtain research funding from various external sources e.g. Volkswagen Stiftung or Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. His research was focused on the problems of transformation and economic competitiveness of small countries. In the last years prof. J. Reiljan paid attention on the public sector transition problems related to Estonian administrative-territorial reforms.

Janno Reiljan was an economist for whom it was extremely important, that the results of his research should spill over into the public sector governance of Estonia. In addition to his university work, he was able to work as an economic adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia, Tiit Vähi, in the early 1990s. Janno Reiljan was elected to the Riigikogu (Parliament) and served as a member of the IX, X and XI sessions from 1999 to 2007. He also acted as an observer in the European Parliament.

Tartu, April 2022

Professor Academician Urmas Varblane (Student, colleague and friend)