

## PROF. DR. MATTI RAUDJÄRV– 75 (05.08.1949)

**Matti Raudjärv** was born in Rakvere where he lived with his parents at first in a rented apartment in a requisitioned house and then since 1955 in a one-family house.

In 1965 (after the 9th grade at school), Matti Raudjärv with his parents (Salme and Arved) and sister (Maarika) went to live in Tallinn where they moved one year later to their family home-villa at Pirita-Kose which was built for the most part by his father and mother (in 1966–1972) but was not quite completed and the construction of which he completed over the subsequent years (mainly in the years 1972–1997 but also later; the necessary additional construction works and renovations have continued until now) and where he currently lives. This means that since 1972, after his marriage, Matti Raudjärv has mainly invested in his family home himself and made also other investments.

**Secondary education:** he studied at the Rakvere Secondary School No. 1 (9 years) and graduated from the Tallinn Adult Education School in 1968 (where he completed the two last grades, the 10th and the 11th, in one year).

**Higher education:** he studied at the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute (TPI, the current Tallinn University of Technology (TUT)):

In 1969–1974 as a full-time student at the Faculty of Economics of the TPI in the speciality Service Economics and Organisation and graduated from the TPI with the diploma of an engineer-economist.

During the studies, he was active in research at the Student Scientific Society and won three research prizes at the TPI, two research prizes of the Estonian S.S.R. and one research prize of the Soviet Union with his studies.

### **Statuses and further qualification diplomas:**

Since 1974 – an alumnus of the TPI/TUT.

Degree of a Candidate of Economics – diploma (equivalent to the PhD degree in the Republic of Estonia) (1982).

Professional qualification of Senior Researcher – diploma (1989).

Professional qualification of Associated Professor – diploma (1991).

Since 1990 DAAD-alumnus (Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany).

Since 1 March 2021 – Associated Professor Emeritus of Social Sciences of the University of Tartu.

### **The first work period at a higher educational establishment, theses and first management experience (1975–1982)**

In 1975–1992, he worked in different positions at the Chair of Service Economics of the TPI/TUT (from the positions of a senior engineer – head of the group and lecturer paid at hourly rate to leading researcher and associate professor).

In 1978–1981, he had post-graduate studies at the TPI and defended his theses in 1982 at the Estonian Institute of Economics (Development of a Scheme of Regional Objective (compared to the so-to-say average standards of the Soviet Union) Special Conditions and Economic Indicators for Estonian Meat-Packing and Dairy Processing Enterprises

and Integrated Plants and for the Ministry, and their Implementation in the Planning and Evaluation of Economic Activities, and also Obtaining an Approval from the State Planning Committee of the U.S.S.R. and the Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Processing Industry of the U.S.S.R. for the Implementation of the Results in Estonian Enterprises).

In 1975–1982 economic consultant under contract for all Estonian ministries of industry (industry of construction materials, light industry, local industry, meat and dairy processing industry, timber and wood industry, food processing industry) in addition, the ministry of services (employed as an assistant in charge of contracts of the Associate Professor Juhani Väljataga).

In 1978 the research group of the entire Chair was transferred from the TPI to the Institute of Information after the Head of the Chair, a bright personality of the Estonian economic life, Associate Professor, Candidate of Economics Juhani Väljataga (5.11.1932–28.05.1982) was promoted to the post of the director of that institute. Department of Self-Management of the Estonian Institute of Information was established on the basis of the research group, and the undersigned was promoted to the post of a head of department of the institute (1978–1982). By May-June 1982, all contracts had been fulfilled/completed and the results had been delivered to the government ministries, also the theses had been defended. This completed an important stage in his life.

### **New challenges (1982–1990 and later)**

Now it was possible to face the next challenges:

- a broader range of issues related to research into economics at the Estonian Planning Institute as the Head of the Laboratory of the Improvement of the Economic Mechanism (1982–1984) (incl. **continued discussions of the ideas of Estonian self-management** at the Estonian Club of Young Economists);
- consultant of economics and development at Estonian enterprises (1982–1989);
- Ship Conference of young economists lasting three days in May 1984 (Tartu–Värskä–Pskov–Värskä–Tartu);
- General Editor of the predecessor of the current scientific journal, the collection of research papers (1984; 1994–2006), Chief Editor of the journal (2007 – to date);
- economic experiments of all-Union importance for broadening/increasing the economic freedom of enterprises of the Estonian Ministry of Light Industry at the Mainor Office from 18 June 1984 until 5 January 1987;
- return to above all academic work: at TPI/TUT from January 1987 and for the first time at the University of Tartu from 1996;
- fellowship studies at the universities, institutes and continuing education centres of other countries (Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia) (1989–2017).

In 1982–1989 additionally employed also by the Estonian Management Institute, first as a visiting lecturer and in 1989–1991 as an associate professor.

## **Beginning of the organisation of conferences and publishing of the collection/journal (1984)**

Initiator and main organiser of the scientific conference on economic policy in Estonia (in 1984; the so-called Ship Conference) and its long-term participant (all conferences starting from the first one in 1984, the second one in 1994 ... until today) and the founder and General Editor (1994–2006), Chief Editor (2007 – to date) of the current scientific journal in three languages *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy* (1984), and the author and co-author of many papers/overviews in this journal. In addition to many other international databases, the journal and the publisher Mattimar have been indexed in Scopus since June 2019.

In 1984–1987 the Head of the Department of the Economic Experiment and chief engineer of the project at the Main Office of the Ministry of Light Industry at the invitation/proposal of the Director of the Office, Candidate of Economics Ülo Pärnits. Conduction of an economic experiment of all-Union importance on the basis of Estonian enterprises of light industry – for the purpose of getting more rights to these enterprises (in terms of planning, procurement, marketing, enterprise stores, etc.).

Afterwards, when this work had been completed for the most part, and with good results, he started work as the Leading Researcher, Head of the Research Group of the Chair of Service Economics of the Faculty of Economics of the TPI in January 1987 and in 1990–1992 as an Associate Professor.

An interesting fellowship period of three months followed in the field of economic policy, at two renowned universities of the Federal Republic of Germany at the invitation of their professors – the University of Kiel (October–December 1989) and the University of Frankfurt (Main) (January 1990). The experience gained during the fellowship period then opened an opportunity for a new academic and research orientation – namely the issues of national economy and economic policy.

## **Activities after the first fellowship period in Germany (1990–1997)**

The fellowship period had been quite a success and the new and interesting activities as a faculty member and researcher continued in Estonia. In parallel he engaged in administrative/organising activities as the Vice Dean in Development of the Faculty of Economics of the TUT (1990–1994) and as member of the Faculty Council (1990–1994 and 1997).

As the former chairs of the TUT were reorganised in the framework of the reorganisation of establishments of higher education in 1992, also several new chairs were established (e.g. the new Chair of Small Business, etc.). At the same time, Matti Raudjärv established the first Chair of Economic Policy in Estonia after regaining of independence and he was also its first Head of the Chair and Professor in 1992–1997. He had a choice in the course of the reorganisations – whether to be in charge of the Chair of Small Business or Chair of Economic Policy. He did not hesitate – and chose the Chair of Economic Policy, motivated by his fellowship spent a few years ago and expected further fellowship periods at German universities in the field of economic policy.

In 1992–1999 a member of the Administrative Board of the Pirita District and chairman or member of several of its committees, also co-founder of the Pirita newspaper, in

1993–1997 the founder and chairman of the council of the Pirita Development Fund. Initiator of the idea of re-establishment of the Pirita Gymnasium of Economics and contributor to the reorganisation of the Pirita Secondary School No. 36 into the Pirita Gymnasium of Economics (1993–1996), also a member of the Board of Guardians of the school (1994–1999).

In October 1993 he established the company Mattimar OÜ to support and facilitate the organisation of the conferences and publishing the publications and the reduce the bureaucracy, being its sole owner and chairman of the board, managing director.

### **Cooperation with the University of Tartu and universities of foreign countries (1996–2016)**

Since 1996, he has worked also in parallel with the Faculty of Economics of the University of Tartu at the invitation of its management. The further academic activities were mainly related to the University of Tartu (UT).

In 1996–2019 at the UT (School of Economics and Business Administration, Pärnu College (at the invitation of the faculty member Arvi Kuura), Narva College (at the recommendation of the Director of the Pärnu College Henn Vallimäe)) as a faculty member and researcher in different positions (visiting lecturer, associate professor; contract of employment with the Pärnu College: 2002–2017), 2017–2019 as a visiting lecturer (authorisation agreement on the initiative of Director Henn Vallimäe) at the Pärnu College and the Narva College.

Senior member of the UT Faculty Association (since December 2020). Retired from the UT with the emeritus status in March 2021.

Recurring long-term fellowship periods (1989–2016, 2017) and research work at foreign universities and studies at training centres (in Germany, Austria, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia).

Recurring fellowship periods at the independent, globally renowned Kiel Institute of the World Economy of the University of Kiel (Prof. Dr. Lehment, Dr. Klaus Schrader and Dr. Claus-Friedrich Laaser) and its National Library of Economics (ZBW). Since 1990, DAAD alumnus (alumnus the German Academic Exchange Service).

Besides fellowships he had also successful negotiations with the Kiel Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK Kiel) and with a wholesale company in Hamburg/Albena in November 1990 for the sale of casein (at the proposal of the Pärnu Dairy Processing Plant) and in May 1995 for the sale of leather goods (at the proposal of the Galvi company in Viljandi) with the Osnabrück Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK Osnabrück) to Germany.

### **Teaching in Georgia and cooperation with colleagues from universities of Georgia (from 2014 to date)**

In 2014–2017 every year up to about 4–5 weeks at the Georgian Technical University in Tbilisi at the proposal and invitation of the Head of the Department Professor Dr. Alexander Sichinava with the support of the EU Seventh Framework Programme, Marie Curie Actions: People, International Research Staff Exchange Scheme and other financing

sources (incl. own resources) to conduct teaching and research (lectures both to students and to professors and auxiliary staff), workshops, supervision, consultations; presentations at scientific conferences and publishing of papers); in addition, lectures at the Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Telavi state universities.

Also the next scientific and practical conferences and publishing of papers in the scientific journal of the Georgian Technical University continued during the same period.

Since 2018, only supervision and consultation activities have taken place, above all through Skype and e-mail. It was not possible to travel to Georgia in 2018–2019 for family reasons (severe illness and death of the father (on 26.01.2019, buried in Ambula Cemetery) and mother remaining alone) and particularly due to COVID-19 in 2020–2021 and the aggression and war against Ukraine in 2022–2024.

### **Current activities and expectations for the future**

In Estonia, the main activities since September 2017 have been the following:

- preparation and organisation of the above-mentioned annual international scientific conference;
- periodical annual publishing of the above-mentioned peer-reviewed scientific journal in three languages;
- monitoring and research into/analysis of the Estonian economic policy (in different periods);
- communication with colleagues, economists from universities of other countries mainly by e-mail and through Skype;<sup>1</sup>
- in addition, it is also possible for him now to spend time on his hobbies according to his interests, time and financial resources.

In Georgia: since the academic year 2018/2019, Matti Raudjärv has been elected as a visiting professor of the Georgian Technical University and also as a foreign programme director of doctoral studies and co-supervisor of doctoral students, and has been appointed as the visiting professor and co-supervisor of doctoral students of the Tbilisi State University.

After termination of the contract of employment (of 31 August 2017) and the authorisation agreement (of 30 June 2019) with the University of Tartu, i.e. after retirement from academic work he has annually participated in international online conferences (in Tbilisi, Georgia (Georgian Technical University); in Krasnodar, Russia (Kuban State University)) and published a number of papers in the research publications of these universities (in English and in Russian).

He has received dozens of invitations annually to make presentations at conferences and write papers for scientific journals – but lacks motivation now and takes it more easier as he has done enough already! Also proposals for peer review of research papers.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted here that increasingly more colleagues have reached retirement age and retired with the emeritus status, they have often stopped all contacts with the university to be more available for their family, have holidays and spend time with their hobbies during the remaining years of their life. Some of the already former colleagues have unfortunately also passed away.

*Earlier events in more detail in the journal issue: 1–2/2019*

We wish our valued colleague good health, success, cooperation and good luck for future activities.

Sincerely,

Editorial boards of the journal and the conferences