

## ABOUT THE FORMER FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, CHAIR OF SERVICE ECONOMICS, OTHER CHAIRS, AND GRADUATES OF 1974 OF THE TPI, THE CURRENT TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

In 1960s, the officials in the Soviet Union started to understand that besides heavy industry, including arms industry, people need also a functioning service industry. In 1967, the all-Union curriculum for the specialisation of Economics and Organisation of Services was approved. Admission of students to the 5-year studies of economic engineers in this specialisation started in the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute (TPI) already in the academic year 1968/1969 as one of the first educational institutions in the Soviet Union. It became a specialisation with one of the tightest admission competitions at the institute.<sup>1</sup>

During the first 2 years, the Chair of Economics and Organisation of Production organised the studies of this specialisation but in 1970 the separate Chair of Service Economics was established,<sup>2</sup> at first with 5 faculty members (in addition, certainly also the auxiliary staff): the initiator of the new specialisation and establishment of the chair, economist, Candidate of Economics (1963), Associate Professor (1967) and Merited Cultural Figure of the E.S.S.R. Juhani Väljataga was the first Head of the Chair (in 1970–1978). Other members and co-establishers of the chair were (in the order of subsequent passing away):

- Candidate of Economics (1963), Associate Professor (1967) Peeter Lageda<sup>3</sup>;
- Senior Teacher Lembit Valdmaa;
- Assistant, later Senior Teacher Elvi Lageda, and
- Candidate of Engineering, Associate Professor, Merited Innovator of the E.S.S.R. (1963) and Associate Professor *emeritus* Aimar Halling.

The chair was one of the first chairs of the services area in the whole Soviet Union, the specialisation was Economics and Organisation of Services (the first admissions were in 1968 and 1969). The last admissions to the specialisation under its updated name Economics and Management of Services were in 1988 and 1989. In total, 482 economic engineers graduated from the Service Economics (abbreviated as TL) specialisation with a diploma from 1973 to 2000, including 27 people from 1995 to 2000 who had not managed to graduate earlier for some reason.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Teenindusökonoomika kateeder. Rmt: Tallinna Tehnikaülikooli majandusteaduskond 1940–2010. Tallinn: TTÜ kirjastus, 2010, lk 70.

<sup>2</sup> For additional information, see also: Teenindusökonoomika kateeder. Rmt: Tallinna Tehnikaülikooli majandusteaduskond 1940–2010. Tallinn: TTÜ kirjastus, 2010, lk 70–75.

<sup>3</sup> Graduated from the TPI in 1963 with the specialisation of Technology of Inorganic Substances of the Faculty of Chemistry and Mining.

<sup>4</sup> Teaduskonna edasiarendamine (1960–1989). Rmt: Tallinna Tehnikaülikooli majandusteaduskond 1940–2010. Tallinn: TTÜ kirjastus, 2010, lk 25–48.

The Chair of Service Economics was also in charge of the administration of the specialisation of Economics and Organisation of Food Processing Industry (abbreviated as the TT specialisation), the admission to which was held in 1966–1970. In total, 105 economic engineers graduated from the TT specialisation with a diploma from 1971 to 1975.

A few years later (1975), the Senior Teacher, later Associate Professor (1983) and Associate Professor *emerita* Helgi-Annika Reisenbuk<sup>5</sup> (21.01.1936) and the Candidate of Economics (1967), part-time (0.5) Senior Teacher, later the Associate Professor (1977) Hans Jalasto<sup>6</sup> (15.10.1927–20.08.1992) joined.

The Chair was expanded with researchers from 1975 (with Matti Raudjärv as the Head of the Group and Laine Luup (02.10.1938), Ene Ilison and Jüri Kats (26.01.1953) as members). The Head of the Chair Juhani Väljataga had signed long-term research contracts with all Estonian ministries of industries and also with the Ministry of Services.

Then Juhani Väljataga was transferred to the position of the Director of the Estonian Information Institute in 1978 (1978–1980; in 1980–1982 he was the Deputy Director on his own initiative to dedicate more time to writing his doctoral thesis), taking with him also the researchers-engineers of the Research Group (Matti Raudjärv, Laine Luup (2.10.1938), Ene Ilison, Jüri Kats (26.01.1953) who were employed by the new Department of Self-Management of the Information Institute; Matti Raudjärv as the Head of the Department continued the teaching at the chair as an adjunct lecturer and started his post-graduate studies and writing the thesis at the TPI).

After the death of Juhani Väljataga and defending of the thesis by the undersigned (1982), our department was transferred to the Estonian Planning Institute under the name of the Economic Mechanism Laboratory (1982–1984).

On the basis of the results of the thesis of the undersigned, Estonian enterprises of meat-packing and dairy industries received the exclusive right in the Soviet Union to use the economic indicators recommended in the thesis. All other so-called Soviet republics worked on the basis of common all-Union economic indicators which did not ensure objective planning or evaluation of the activities of the enterprises. These rights were given to Estonia with the respective Decision of the State Planning Committee of the U.S.S.R. and the Order of the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry of the U.S.S.R.

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<sup>5</sup> Graduated in 1955 from the Türi Secondary School No. 1, in 1960 from the Faculty of Economics of the Tartu State University (UT); Candidate of Economics (1970, UT).

<sup>6</sup> Graduated from the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute in 1950 with the specialisation of Finance and Credit.

Later, associate professors Sulev Mäeltsemees<sup>7</sup> (1978–1986), Ardo Kamratov<sup>8</sup> (1986–1990) and Rein Lumiste<sup>9</sup> (1991–1992) were heads of the chair.

With the reform of institutions of higher education in 1992, chairs were reorganised at the Faculty of Economics. Matti Raudjärv organised the first Chair of Economic Policy in Estonia (having acquired continuing education at the University of Kiel and University of Frankfurt (Main) in Germany and reoriented his specialisation to areas of economic policy; later also at other German universities and training centres) and was its first Chairman and Professor.

In 1996, the undersigned was additionally employed by the University of Tartu at the invitation of its management, as a part-time visiting faculty member. The working conditions at the University of Tartu were much more flexible than at the Tallinn University of Technology.

In 1998, the undersigned already accepted a full-time job at the Chair of Economic Policy of the University of Tartu (the Chair has been established later than at the TUT, at the end of 1993). As I had had several fellowship periods in German universities and also in Austria, and had become familiar with their work procedures and communication traditions, I preferred to become a member of the more creative staff of the University of Tartu.

A few years later, in addition to the work at the School of Economics and Business Administration, the undersigned started work part time at the Pärnu College of the University of Tartu, then from 2001 already full time. Some years later also part-time work at the Narva College of the University of Tartu started. In August 2017, the contract of employment with the University of Tartu was terminated and an authorisation agreement was in effect until June 2019. This ended the teaching and research work at the university. In March 2021, the undersigned obtained the *emeritus* status in the field of Social Sciences.

In 2014–2017, I was a visiting professor and teaching with partial EU financing at the Georgian Technical University. In 2018, I was elected as a visiting professor of the Georgian Technical University and external supervisor of doctoral studies and appointed as a visiting professor of the Tbilisi State University.

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<sup>7</sup> Born in Tallinn on 07 August 1947. Sulev Mäeltsemees has acquired his research degree at the University of Tartu and has worked among other positions as the Director of the Department of Social Infrastructure and Regional Economics of the Institute of Economics of the Estonian Academy of Sciences (1986–1992).

He was the Professor and Head of the Chair of Regional Policy of the Tallinn University of Technology, worked in TUT already in 1978–1986 and was also the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

In 1992–1993, he was the Chairman of the Tallinn City Council and in 1993–1997 the Director of the Estonian Institute of Public Administration which was the central continuing education establishment for civil servants.

<sup>8</sup> Vice-Chairman of the TUT Board, a member elected by the Senate. Chief Financial Officer of the University in 2004–2014. Honorary member of the University. Board member since 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Before employment by the TPI/TUT, he worked for a long time at the Säte Services Enterprise in Pärnu as the Chief Economist.

**On 15 August the last founder-member of our Chair, Associate Professor Aimar Halling passed away** (27.12.1930–15.08.2024), the dignified funeral ceremony was held in the small hall of the Pärnamäe Crematorium in Tallinn, on 24 August 2024. However, Juhani Väljataga (05.11.1932–28.05.1982) was the first to pass away, followed by Peeter Lageda (11.08.1926–15.01.2003), Lembit Valdmaa (15.03.1930–12.07.2000), Elvi Lageda (05.04.1932–22.08.2023). In 2022, also Rein Lumiste (14.01.1939–30.01.2022) passed away.

In the afternoon of 7 August 2024, the former students, alumni of the Chair of Service Economics celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation from the TPI in 1974 in the banquet hall of the Pirita Yacht Club. The Chair was in charge of two specialisations: TL, i.e. the specialisation of Economics and Organisation of Services, and TT, i.e. the Economics and Organisation of Food Processing Industry. The TL specialisation had 21 graduates and the TT specialisation 20 graduates.

9 persons from of TL specialisation attended the event (3 coursemates did not come for health reasons) and also 9 persons from the TT specialisation (6 coursemates did not come for several different reasons). Thus, 10 coursemates of the TL specialisation and 5 persons from the TT specialisation have passed away.

At the beginning of the reunion, the undersigned greeted all those present and wished a pleasant experience to all people attending. Then we stood in mourning to commemorate all our coursemates who had passed away after graduation from the university.

After that the undersigned, the former head of the group of the TL specialisation and also initiator of the reunion, was congratulated on his 75th birthday which had been on 5 August. Marje Kull and Jaak Liivik (both TL) and head of the group of the TT specialisation Ene Kuri had taken care of the more detailed organisation the reunion and managed it very well.

While sitting at a long table, everybody took turns for about 5 to 7 minutes to talk to the others about their life during the time that had passed meanwhile.

As a feedback, several participants wrote that it was a fine event and a great success! This is wonderful and the undersigned is glad!

End of August – beginning of September 2024

At the home office of the undersigned at Pirita-Kose

Sincerely,

Matti Raudjärv (alumnus of the TPI/TUT from 1974)<sup>10</sup>

Holder of the Badge of Distinction of the University of Tartu – 2017

(in 1996–1998 as a visiting teaching staff member, in 1998–2019 as a full-time teaching staff member and researcher at the School of Economics and Business Administration, the Pärnu College and the Narva College)

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<sup>10</sup> Also the undersigned had an invitation to the celebration of the awesome anniversary in Pärnu but due to family reasons and those related to health I unfortunately could not participate.