



THE ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: PRESENT AND FUTURE

MART SAARMA

Science Diplomacy
Estonian Academy of Sciences
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THE ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Founded in 1938 as an association of leading scientists and scholars

committed to advancing scientific research and representing Estonian science nationally and internationally.



FIRST PRESIDENT



Karl Schlossmann

(19 Feb 1885 Puurmani Parish (now Põltsamaa), Kreis Dorpat – 17 Dec 1969, Stockholm) was an Estonian microbiologist and a member of the Estonian National Assembly (Estonian: *Rahvuskogu*).

Karl Schlossmann medal in medicine and related areas

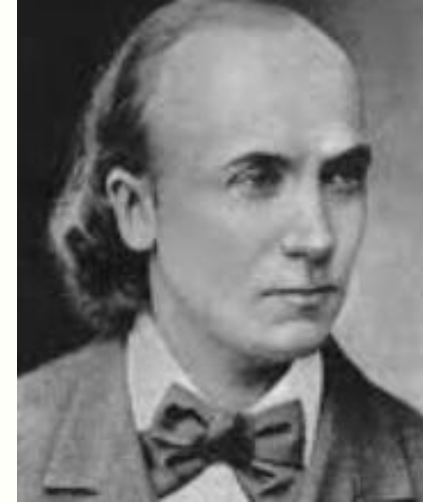
In the first yearbook of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, published in 1940, President Karl Schlossmann stated: “No nation or state should nowadays build its foundations on fairy tales and dreams, because reality has become a complex mechanism; in the event of a misstep, not only individuals, but also nations and states can be destroyed.”



HISTORIC STATEMENTS

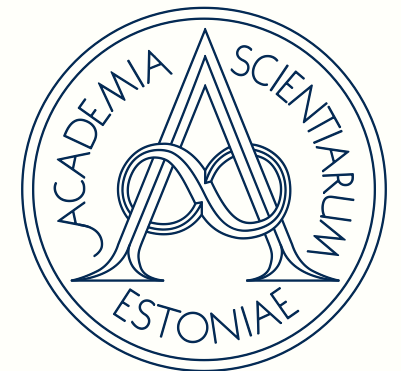
Jakob Hurt's appeal to the Estonian people:

- "*to become great in spirit,*" formulated in 1870, has not lost its relevance.



Karl Schlossmann, the first President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, said in 1938:

- “No nation or state should nowadays build its foundations on fairy tales and dreams, because reality has become a complex mechanism; in the event of a misstep, not only individuals, but also nations and states can be destroyed.”



MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMY

There are 77 members (12 of whom are women) and 19 foreign members.

4 divisions: Astronomy and Physics; Informatics and Engineering; Biology, Geology and Chemistry; Humanities and Social Sciences.

Membership in the Academy is for life. The youngest member is 42 years old and the oldest is 97.

The number of Academy members is limited to 60; members over the age of 75 are not included.



ACADEMY BOARD

13 members:
the President, 2 Vice Presidents,
the Secretary General,
the Heads of Divisions
and the non-executive members
5 of them are women.



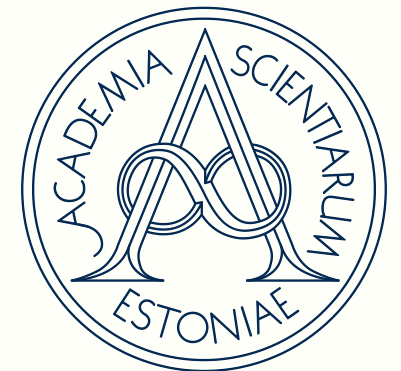
GOOD NEWS FROM STOCKHOLM

The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to a foreign member of the Academy, Svante Pääbo, for his discoveries about the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.



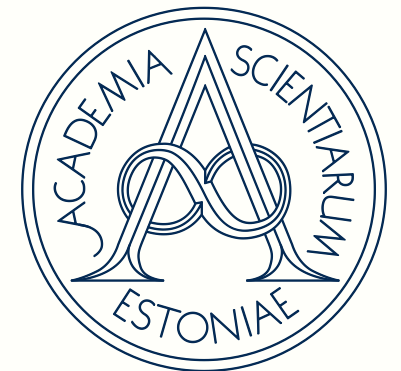
ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

- Development of **research, development and innovation** (RDI) is key for long-term economic growth and competitiveness.
- **Basic research** explains how things work; technologies implement these discoveries.
- **Radical innovations** (Internet, genetic engineering, etc.) and major breakthroughs rely on basic research.
- Most **applied research** takes place in companies.
- Companies' share of basic research is growing (profits of large IT companies reach hundreds of billions of euros).



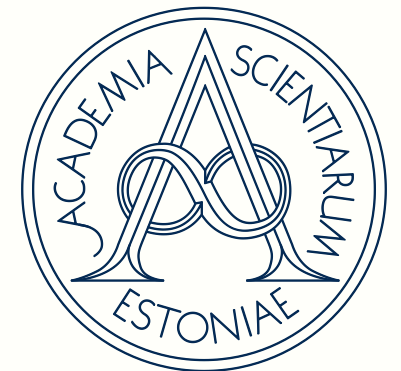
ESTONIAN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Estonia's development since regaining independence has been undeniably successful.
- The Estonian education and healthcare sectors are of a good standard, with significant achievements given our limited resources.
- Estonian science – especially basic sciences – has developed rapidly. The citation rate of Estonian scientists' articles is over 80% above the world average, placing us third after Iceland and Singapore.
- However, results in patenting and implementing inventions remain modest. There is considerable progress yet to be made.



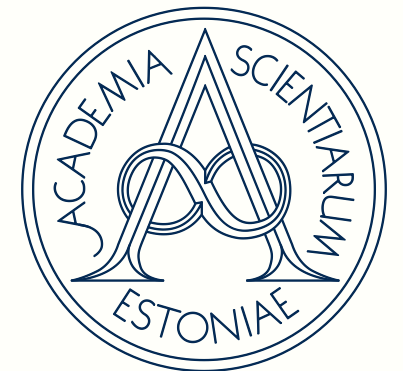
THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION

- PISA is an international study that assesses the knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students in functional reading, mathematics and science literacy.
- Estonia's results are phenomenal, but staying at the top requires a lot of effort.
- The ranking of Estonian universities is not phenomenal, but compared to former socialist countries, both the University of Tartu and the Tallinn University of Technology are among the best.
- Is it realistic for our universities to rise to the absolute top?



WHAT IS THE BASIS OF OUR SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT?

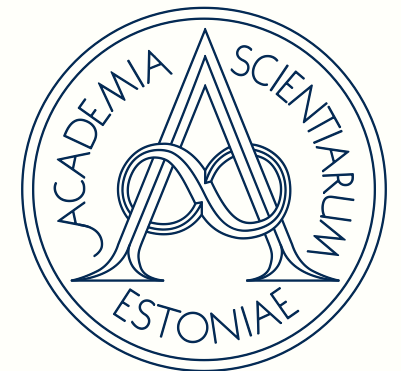
- Quality – this is the keyword – a small country can only compete with quality.
- High-quality education at all levels.
- Focus and bold decision-making (Tiger Leap).
- Creating new and original services and products.
- Finding and retaining talent.
- The world is changing rapidly and possibly quite radically.
- We must achieve a situation where the rest of the world needs us.



EXPERT PANELS

Thematic councils and committees operating at the Academy, bringing together Estonia's top independent experts

- Assembly of Female Academy Members
- Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Brain
- Committee on Education
- Committee on Energy
- Committee on Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Committee on Environment
- Committee on Estonian Polar Research
- Committee on Global Changes
- Committee on Marine Sciences
- Committee on Mineral Resources
- Committee on Meteoritics
- Committee on Medical Science and Healthcare Innovation
- Committee on Science and Higher Education
- Council for International Exchanges
- Publishing Council
- Standing Committee on Cyber Security

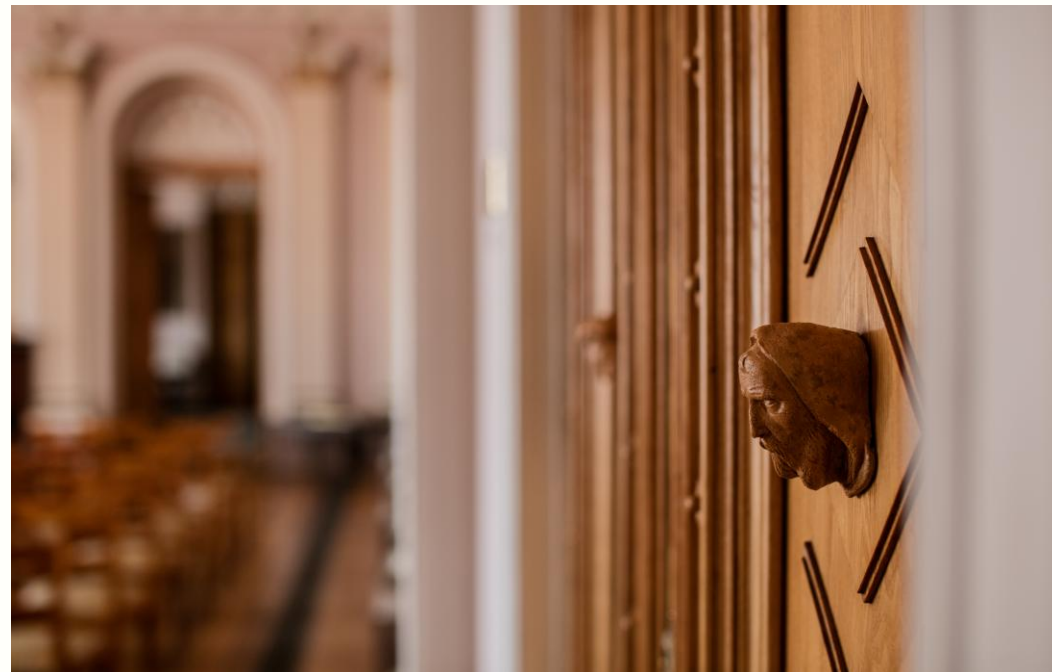


ACADEMY RESEARCHER-PROFESSORS

The programme was established to allow internationally recognized scientists to focus more on their scientific work for a certain period of time.

The first Researcher-Professors were elected in 2002.

There are currently 5 Researcher-Professors, including in Artificial Intelligence and in Estonian Language and its Teaching.



NEW INITIATIVES

1. Focusing on applied research and the development of a knowledge-based industry.
2. Joint sessions with the Riigikogu and the President.
3. Searching for new funding sources.
4. Establishing a new Foundation that supports RDI.



AWARDS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

- State Science Awards
- π -Awards for students
- 3-minute lecture contests for PhD students (Science in 3 Minutes)
- Women in Science fellowships
- Summer Schools
- School visits



THE ESTONIAN YOUNG ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (EYAS)

Established in 2017 as an initiative of the Estonian Academy of Sciences.

Members of the EYAS are outstanding scientists and scholars under the age of 42.



ESTONIAN ACADEMY PUBLISHERS

Issues 7 peer-reviewed, open-access scientific journals that have an international editorial board.

ACTA
HISTORICA
TALLINNENSIA

TRAMES

Estonian Journal of
Earth Sciences

2024
73/1

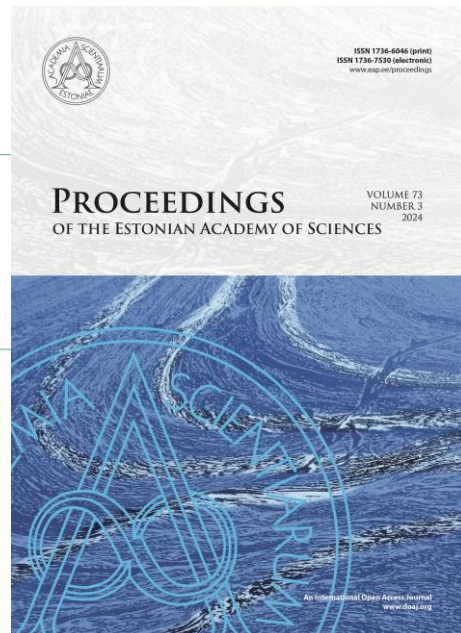
ISSN 1738-4728 (print)
ISSN 1738-7557 (electronic)
Estonian Academy Publishers
www.eap.ee/earthsciences

Oil Shale

ISSN 0208-189X (print)
ISSN 1738-7492 (electronic)

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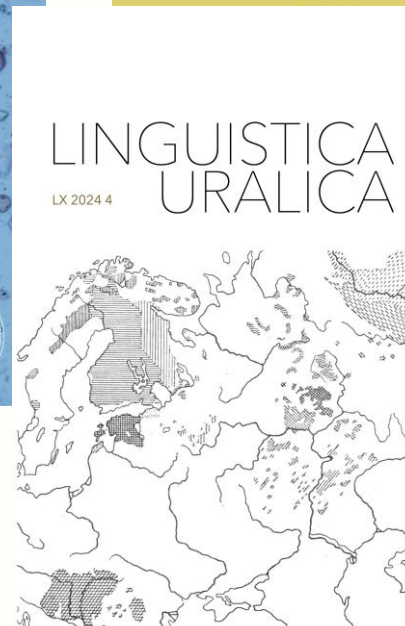
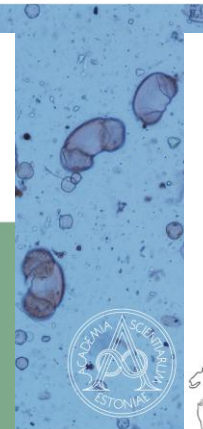
2024



the Humanitie
Social Sci
Vol 28, No 3,

ESTONIAN
JOURNAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY

Eesti Arheoloogia-
ajakiri



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103
115
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144

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Thank you for your attention!



Kaari Saarma photo

