

# Tallinn University – the biggest merging project in higher education in Estonia

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TALLINN UNIVERSITY

# BACKGROUND

## Historical facts and trends:

- Estonia: small nation of 1.3 million people
- Between 1990 and 2010 the number of institutions of higher education and students grew rapidly:
  - 49 institutions in 2005
  - 25,000 to 27,000 students in 1990-1996
  - 69,000 students in 2010
- Demographic trend:
  - Age group 20-24 has dropped from 100,000 in 2012 to 60,000 today



# BACKGROUND

## Today:

- 21 institutions of higher education:
  - 6 public universities
  - 1 private university
  - 7 state professional higher education institutions
  - 7 private professional higher education institutions
    - Professional higher education institutions may also provide master's programmes
- 46,000 students:
  - 35,000 in public universities



# *DRIVERS OF MERGING IN ESTONIA*

- Demographic situation
- Academic quality
- Financial reasons, including financing model by state



# *PROBLEMS BY MERGING*

- Different institutions, different laws (public, private, state)
- Different regulations (academic quality, election, organizing studies, scientific work, finances etc.)
- Different organizational culture (including habits)



# *SOLVING PROBLEMS*

- All partners (or at least owners of institutions) have to be motivated to merge
- Creating commission for merging (with sub commissions for management, studies etc. if needed)
- Changing regulations but leaving time there it is needed (e.g. rising quality for academic staff, changing curricula structure)
- Money



# *SUGGESTIONS*

- Everything has to be regulated by merging contract or similar
- Plan long ahead
- Leave enough time for merging, but keep on changes (you can leave time for changes regulations, criteria etc., but you have to change them)
- Take time to build up common organizational culture



# *ADDITIONAL SUGGESTION*

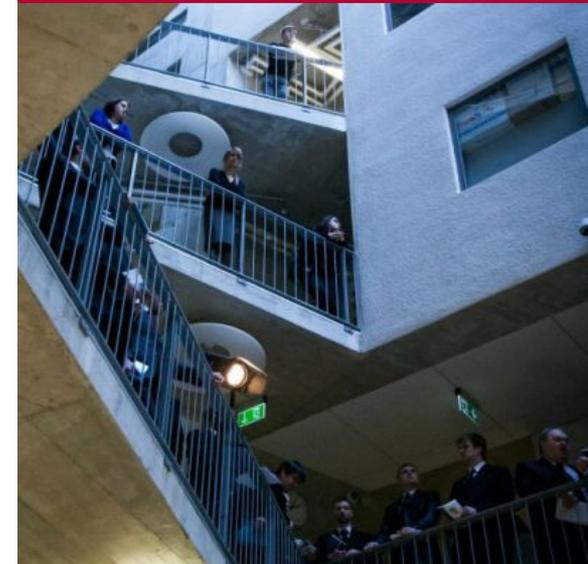
- Ministry has to support merging

*Young  
university  
in the city  
with  
fascinating  
history*

Tallinn University was founded on

**March 18, 2005**

with a Parliament decision to merge  
various universities and research  
institutions in Tallinn



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

# MERGING HISTORY OF TALLINN UNIVERSITY

- 2005:
  - Academic Library of Estonia (1946)
  - Baltic Film and media School (1992)
  - Estonian Institute of Humanities (1988)
  - Institute of History (1946)
  - Tallinn Pedagogical University (1919)
    - Institute of Ecology (1998)
    - Institute of International and Social studies (1998)
- 2009:
  - Estonian Institute for Future Studies (1991)
- 2010:
  - Academy Nord (1991)
- 2012:
  - Tallinn Pedagogical Seminar



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# *STRUCTURAL REFORMS OF TALLINN UNIVERSITY*

- 2008:
  - 23 structural units (institutes) were formed to eliminate overlap between units in research and teaching
- 2015:
  - 6 structural units (schools) were formed by reorganizing existing units to optimize funding and fulfill new strategic goals of the university (mainly interdisciplinarity)



Wishing to contribute more to the society, we have set the goal of becoming the **promoter of intelligent lifestyle** in Estonia.

The term Intelligent Lifestyle stands for making **research-based decisions** in order to improve the society in general and the well-being of its citizens.

Development plan 2015-2020 defines five interdisciplinary **focus areas**.



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

Tallinn University has the leading role in

# PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING AN INTELLIGENT LIFESTYLE IN ESTONIA,

thus supporting both Estonian sustainability, as well as self-actualization of individuals.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE** is to consolidate its activities into **five focus fields**:



**EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION**



**DIGITAL AND MEDIA CULTURE**



**CULTURAL COMPETENCES**



**HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE**



**SOCIETY AND OPEN GOVERNANCE**



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

# 6 SCHOOLS (incl 6 research institutes)

## 2 regional colleges

### Academic Library

#### ACADEMIC UNITS

BALTIC FILM,  
MEDIA, ARTS AND  
COMMUNICATION  
SCHOOL

PRODUCTION  
CENTRE

SCHOOL OF  
DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGIES

CENTRE FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY

SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SCIENCES

CENTRE FOR  
INNOVATION  
IN EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF  
NATURAL  
SCIENCES AND  
HEALTH

INSTITUTE FOR  
ECOLOGY

#### INSTITUTION

ACADEMIC  
LIBRARY

SCHOOL OF  
HUMANITIES

CENTRE FOR  
LANDSCAPE AND  
CULTURE

INSTITUTE  
OF HISTORY,  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND ART  
HISTORY

SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNANCE,  
LAW AND  
SOCIETY

INSTITUTE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIAL STUDIES

ESTONIAN  
INSTITUTE FOR  
POPULATION  
STUDIES

HAAPSALU  
COLLEGE

HEALTH  
PROMOTION AND  
REHABILITATION  
COMPETENCE  
CENTRE

RAKVERE  
COLLEGE

# NUMBERS

~7500

students

8

academic units

9,5%

of international  
degree students

68

countries represented  
by international  
degree students

5

Centre of  
Excellences

42

bilateral partners

118

study  
programmes

822

full-time employees

11,5%

of our academic staff  
are full-time foreign  
lecturers and researchers

6

international networks

34

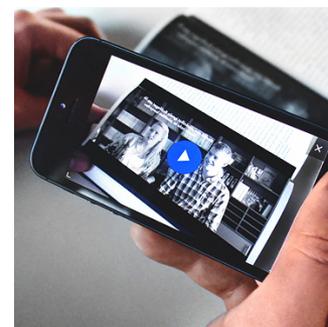
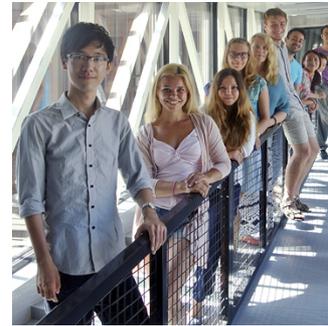
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# *FINAL REMARK*

- Merging in higher education is needed and worth to do



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