TAL TECH

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

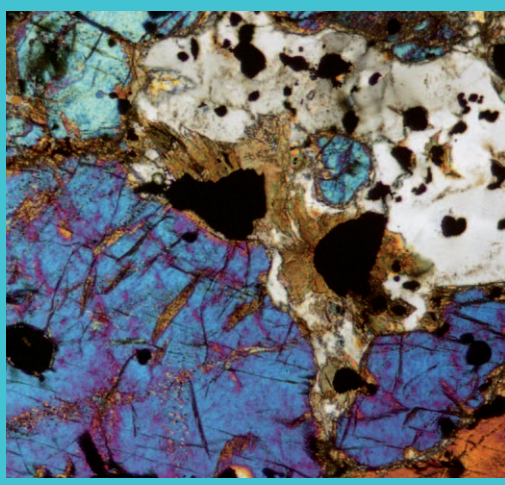
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE













2025

TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE











SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE

Dean: Associate Professor MARI AVARMAA

e-mail: mari.avarmaa@taltech.ee

Vice-Dean for Research: Tenured Full Professor TIINA RANDMA-LIIV

e-mail: tiina.randma-liiv@taltech.ee

MAIN FIGURES 2025

(as of Dec. 31, 2025)

197 Academic staff — Incl. 38 professors, 73 researchers

78 Doctoral students

12 Defended doctoral dissertations

199 Scientific publications*

** Data from the Scopus (as of February 25, 2026)*

DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Director: MERLI REIDOLF, merli.reidolf@taltech.ee

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

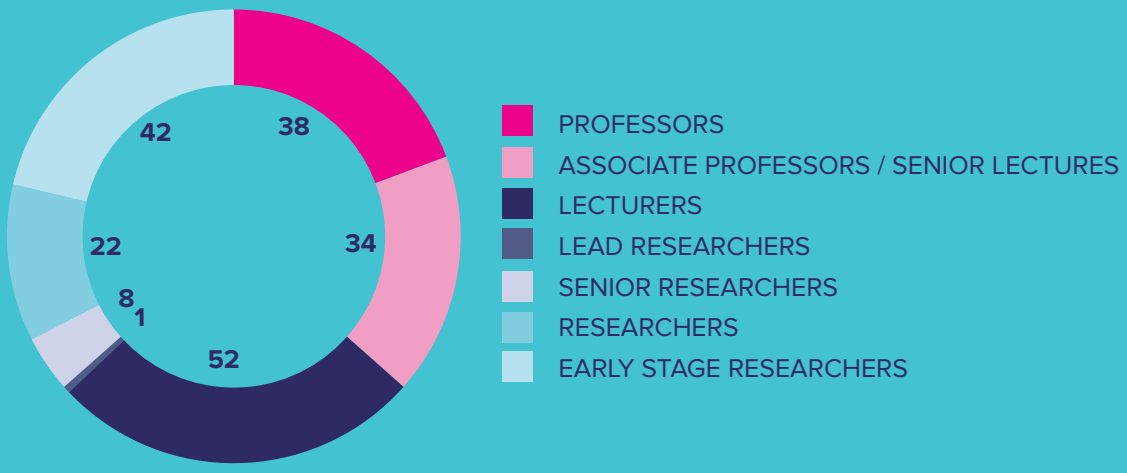
Director: Associate Professor KARIN JÕEVEER, karin.joeveer@taltech.ee

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Director: Senior Researcher ARCHIL CHOCHIA, archil.chochia@taltech.ee

RAGNAR NURKSE DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE

Director: Tenured Full Professor ERKKI KARO, erkki.karo@taltech.ee



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Director: MERLI REIDOLF,
merli.reidolf@taltech.ee

MAIN FIGURES 2025

(as of Dec. 31, 2025)

95 Academic staff — Incl. 15 professors, 34 researchers

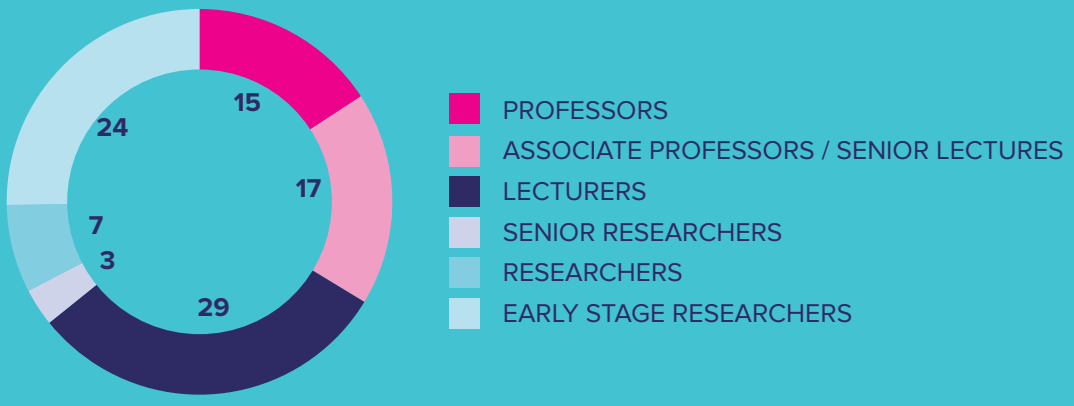
42 Doctoral students — 5 Defended doctoral dissertations

102 Scientific publications*

** Data from the Scopus (as of February 25, 2025)*

THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS RESEARCH WITHIN 5 RESEARCH GROUPS:

- **ACCOUNTING RESEARCH GROUP.**
  Head: Visiting Professor JIRI STROUHAL, jiri.strouhal@taltech.ee
- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH GROUP.**
  Head: Tenured Associate Professor AKI HARIMA, aki.harima@taltech.ee
- **MARKETING RESEARCH GROUP.**
  Head: Associate Professor IIVI RIIVITS-ARKONSUO, iivi.riivits@taltech.ee
- **ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GROUP.**
  Head: Tenured Associate Professor MARI-KLARA STEIN, mari-klara.stein@taltech.ee
- **SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GROUP.**
  Head: Tenured Full Professor WOLFGANG GERSTLBERGER, wolfgang.gerstlberger@taltech.ee



ACCOUNTING RESEARCH GROUP

Head: Visiting Professor JIRI STROUHAL, jiri.strouhal@taltech.ee

Members: Mari Avarmaa, Natalie Aleksandra Gurvitš-Suits, Tarmo Kadak, Paavo Siimann, Vaiva Kiaupaite-Grušniene

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: international accounting harmonisation, financial performance evaluation, critical perspectives in accounting, ESG reporting, accounting education, real-time accounting and digitisation, costing and budgeting, strategic management accounting, green accounting, cash flow management, earnings management, accounting for financial innovations, performance management

The accounting group is active in various related research fields, using both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The research is interdisciplinary and uses critical research methods to explore some of the above research themes.

The group has active and growing links with business organisations both in Estonia and worldwide and is also actively consulting Estonian government institutions on their strategic development and training.



IN 2025 The Accounting research group delivered significant contributions to the fields of sustainability reporting, real-time economy, and digital finance. The research focused on the comparative analysis of ESG preparedness in transitional economies. The group also expanded its scope into future-oriented business modelling, thereby bridging the critical gap between traditional financial reporting and evolving digital business models.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- VHE25017 "*Driving Climate Positive Changes*" (2025–2030)
- VERT23088 "*Training Finance Sector Professionals on Environment Social and Governance Projects and Investments*" (2023–2026)
- LMMAE25044 "*Conducting a training and action plan to raise awareness on real-time economy topics*" (2025–2026)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Kadak, T.; Erkki K. Laitinen (2025). How to predict Performance Management Systems success? Utilization of the critical check points. International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management [in press].

Strouhal, J.; Horák, J.; Resik, A.; Gurvitš-Suits, N. A.; Kadak, T. (2025). Stakeholders' perceptions on ESG reporting: On the case of Czechia and Estonia. JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, 18 (2), 75–93. DOI: 10.14254/2071-8330.2025/18-2/4.

Kumar Dey, R. S.; Strouhal, J.; Hamarneh, I.; Ratilla, M.; Gurvitš-Suits, N. A. (2025). Expounding the Consumption Intention Towards Green Camping Products: Goal Setting Perspective. Journal of Tourism and Services, 16 (31), 122–140. DOI: 10.29036/bj7p2v67.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-business-administration/research-groups#p22765*

ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH GROUP

Head: Tenured Associate Professor AKI HARIMA, aki.harima@taltech.ee

Members: Susanne Durst, Sirje Ustav, Urve Venesaar, Jan Harima, Basel Osama Sayed Ahmed Hammoda, Merli Reidolf, Marianne Kallaste

Doctoral students: Airi Noppel, Tommaso Aguzzi, Elisabeth Paula Martina Kraut, Ekaterina Demiankova, Talshyn Tokyzhanova, Ruzlin Akter, Jaime Joel Rodriguez Santiago, Arsh Arora, Kota Saito, Selma Fitri Ayuanshari

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: entrepreneurial ecosystems; entrepreneurship education, inclusive entrepreneurship; migration; transnationalism; entrepreneurial competencies, entrepreneurial growth, social entrepreneurship, sustainable entrepreneurship; student and academic entrepreneurship; digitalization; twin transitions

The Entrepreneurship research group is dedicated to pioneering research and fostering innovation in the field of entrepreneurship.

We focus on key areas such as entrepreneurial ecosystems, transnational entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship education. Our work spans both national (Estonian) and international contexts, ensuring that our research is comprehensive and globally relevant. We are committed to responsible research practices, aiming to enhance the conditions that foster entrepreneurial activity and growth and providing insights that can inform policies and practices to support diverse entrepreneurial endeavors.

Our mission is to advance the field of entrepreneurship research, develop and deliver innovative educational programs, and make a significant social impact.



IN 2025, the ETAG PSG project "The Digital-Physical Hybrid Governance of the Estonian Entrepreneurial Ecosystem" was successfully launched and has progressed substantially during the reporting period. The research group has further strengthened and expanded its international research collaborations. The research group continuously expands and maintains its global scholarly network, with members regularly presenting their research at international conferences such as ESU and other leading academic events.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- PSG1065 "*The Digital-Physical Hybrid Architecture of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Multi-Level Analysis*" (2025–2029)
- KOHTO7 "*Building a Resilient Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Unpacking Resource Recycling Mechanisms*" (2024–2026)
- MINM23017 "*Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2023 Estonia Study*" (2023–2024)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Harima, J.; Harima, A. (2025). Ecosystem leadership in catalyzing the emergence of entrepreneurial ecosystems: social capital perspectives. International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour & Research, 31 (5), 1381–1399. DOI: 10.1108/IJEBR-01-2024-0084.

Harima, A.; Harima, J.; Freiling, J. (2024). Ecosystem Orchestration: Unpacking the Leadership Capa-bilities of Anchor Organizations in Nascent Entrepreneurial Ecosystems. Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, 48 (6), 1404–1450. DOI: 10.1177/10422587241241824.

Marquardt, L.; Harima, A. (2024). Digital boundary spanning in the evolution of entrepreneurial ecosystems: A dynamic capabilities perspective. Journal of Business Research, 182, #114762. DOI: 10.1016/j.jbusres.2024.114762.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-business-administration/research-groups#p22753*

MARKETING RESEARCH GROUP

Head: Associate Professor IIVI RIIVITS-ARKONSUO, iivi.riivits@taltech.ee

Members: Katrin Paadam, Linda Desire Hollebeek, René Arvola, Kristel Kaljund, Jana Kukk, Liis Ojamäe, Oliver Parts, Volker Kuppelwieser, Aditi Sarkar

Doctoral students: Helen Vaikma, Airi Freimuth, Huma Ittefaq, Eliis Salm, Khadeeja Farrukh

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: consumer/client/stakeholder engagement changes in consumer behavior service design and customer experience sustainable consumer behavior sustainable urban environment slow/sustainable tourism

Research within the group focuses on several interrelated lines of inquiry that examine changes in services, consumption, and urban space from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The service and relationship marketing, research direction addresses the engagement of end-users and business customers in service development and marketing processes, the co-creation of digital value, and communication based on compliance and discipline between providers and consumers, with an emphasis on sustainability and ethical principles. A key component involves the critical analysis of client-provider relationships, service delivery and improvement processes, and customer engagement. These studies have contributed to the development of cutting-edge theories, complemented by research on stakeholder interaction in service and product innovation. The service design focus builds on the dLab initiative, fostering new forms of collaboration, including service design conferences.

The consumption research direction examines consumer behavior theories, customer experience, consumer journeys, and ethical and sustainable consumption. Studies emphasize experience design and holistic customer experiences, including the impact of digital transformation from a marketing perspective.



The urban and housing studies research direction investigates the transformation of urban realities through the interconnections of socio-economic, cultural, and spatial-material processes, as well as the interplay between individual and institutional strategies. Processes related to living space and public space are analyzed from an interdisciplinary perspective, integrating sociological, architectural, urban planning, and business research theoretical and methodological approaches.

IN 2025 Adjunct Professor Linda D. Hollebeek was selected for the Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher 2025 list (for the 6th consecutive year). Her work is widely applied both in industry and in the global academic ecosystem.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- LMMEE23109 "*The Qualitative Part of the Analysis of the Measures Provided by ETAG to Support Foreign Science Collaboration*" (2023–2024)
- VERT25008 "*Agents of Change – Unhurried Horizons: The Future of Slow Tourism*" (2025–2028)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Hollebeek, L.D.; Anselmsson, J.; Adomaviciute-Sakalauske, K.; Krumm, K.; Jansson, J.; Wait, M.; Ooi, B.; Riivits-Arkonsuo, I.; Lubbe, I. (2024). Online Content Creators' and Viewers' Interdependent Journeys. Services Marketing Quarterly, 45 (3), 296–318. DOI: 10.1080/15332969.2024.2364128.

Ittefaq, H.; Akhtar, N.; Siddiqi, U. I.; Islam, T.; Kuzior, A. (2024). The betrayal puzzle: Unraveling the connection between inauthenticity, corporate wrongdoing and brand betrayal with avoidance and reparation. Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services, 76, #103597. DOI: 10.1016/j.jretconser.2023.103597.

Talk, T.; Ojamäe, L.; Paadam, K.; Alatalu, R. (2023). The "Venice Syndrome" in Tallinn Old Town. Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development. DOI: 10.1108/JCHMSD-03-2022-0046.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-business-administration/research-groups#p22757*

ORGANISATION MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Head: Tenured Associate Professor MARI-KLARA STEIN, mari-klara.stein@taltech.ee

Members: Karin Reinhold, Mike Franz Wahl, Marina Järvis, Madison Winter Kurchik, Merle Ojasoo, Liina Randmann, Maris Zernand-Vilson, Aive Pevkur, Piia Tint, Tiiu Kamdron, Tarmo Koppel, Marge Sassi

Doctoral students: Velli Parts, Mari Kurashvili, Olga Tsenter; Rusudan Tsiskaridze, Maria Kütt, Ebru Metin, Kaspar Roost, Ljudmila Linnik, Amit Gupta, Artur Toikka, Anna Litvinenko, Mari-Liis Ivask, Olga Tšernikova, Aleksandr Bosler, Epp Reedik, Jaanus Mugu, Sajani Karunarathne

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: leadership, well-being, responsible and ethical organizational development, leader-follower relationship, strategic management, knowledge and innovation management, risk management, HRM, change man-agement, occupational health, organizational and work psychology, occupational safety and risks, future of work and digital transformation, AI, work and leadership

The research group is active in a number of research fields related to organisation and management, using different theoretical lenses and research methods. The primary research interests can be grouped under responsible and sustainable leadership, AI & future of work, well-being and ethical organizational development.

The group collaborates with a number of internationally renowned researchers working within the domines of organization and management, AI & future of work, occupational safety and related research areas.

The purpose of the group is to extend the scientific body of knowledge concerning the related fields of organization and management and to contribute to practice, by better understanding the opportunities and challenges confronting Estonian organizations and beyond.



IN 2025, thtree major externally funded research projects focusing on platform work, industrial relations, and psychosocial risks and mental health continued under the leadership or with the participation of the group's members. In addition, a new project on e-rehabilitation solutions was launched, and funding was awarded to the project "The Future of Work in Estonia – AI Automation, Skills, and Work Organisation" (starting in 2026).

SELECTED PROJECTS

- MKM-POL50 "*The future of work in Estonia – AI automation, skills, and work organization*" (2026–2027)
- LMMEE24097 "*Impacts and future directions of platform work in Estonia*" (2024–2026)
- VEU23077 "*The opportunities for industrial relations to prevent and manage psychosocial risks in post-pandemic workplaces*" (2023–2026)

SELECTED PUBLICATION

Stein, M.-K.; Shollo, A. (2025). Microfoundations of rationality in the age of AI: On emotions, bodies and intelligence. Information and Organization, 35, 3, #100583. DOI: 10.1016/j.infoandorg.2025.100583.

Prokopenko, O., Järvis, M., Shahnazaryan, N., Chechel, A., Sapiński, A., Batsenko, L. (2025). Bridging Risk Ethics and Sustainability: A Data-Driven Study of Ethical Leadership Practices in Risky Business Environments. Business Ethics and Leadership, 9 (2), 211–224. DOI: 10.61093/bel.9(2).211-224.2025.

Wahl, M.; Shukla, D.; Mansour, H.; Gerstlberger, W.; Lumiste, R. (2025). Multi-Level Leadership and Collective Well-Being During Crisis in Higher Education. Scientific Papers of the University of Pardubice. Series D, Faculty of Economics and Administration, 33, 1, #2235. DOI: 10.46585/sp33012235.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-business-administration/research-groups#p22749*

SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Head: Tenured Full Professor WOLFGANG GERSTLBERGER, wolfgang.gerstlberger@taltech.ee

Members: Gunnar Klaus Prause, Üllas Ehrlich, Tarmo Kalvet, Marek Tiits, Merle Küttim, Tarvo Niine, Jelena Hartšenko, Daria Podmetina, Tarmo Tuisk, Jaana Merisaar, Anne Põder, Ulrika Hurt

Post-doctoral Researchers: Chahinez Ounoughi, Georgi Hrenov, Helery Tasane

Doctoral students: Vera Gerasimova, Tarlan Ahmadov, Mihhail Kirejev, Margit Kull, Arseni Kotov, Narmin Eynizada, Sina Atari, Jaana Merisaar, Jan Terentjev, Jani Taneli Kiljala, Mari Bonnar, Svetlana Saidensal

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: sustainable business development, operations management, sustainable innovation, environmental economics, green economy, smart supply chain management, organizational learning, data science

Sustainable value chain management deals with tasks and processes aiming at preparing and supporting the implementation of growth opportunities and innovations within the constraints of a firm's strategy. Thus, sustainable value chain management is focused on preparing, planning, implementing and evaluating a continuous stream of potential innovations.

The research group investigates potential growth and innovation opportunities within and between organizations by using interdisciplinary approaches from business, sustainability management (e.g. "Circular Economy") and environmental economics, operations and innovation management, engineering, IT, design and social sciences in the context of the European agenda for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Consequently, the research group deals with innovations and growth opportunities in the areas of digitalization, smart production and Industry 4.0, Big Data, strategic alliances and networks as well as industrial strategy and competitiveness studies.



The research work usually takes place in the framework of European and/or national projects and in the context of the university – business cooperation.

IN 2025, interdisciplinary projects were underway, focused on the use of wood residue in industrial symbiosis, on international trade and economic resilience, creating new ESG training modules using AI, reusing construction materials for new buildings and developing new sustainability and digitalization competences through living lab approach and art innovation.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- ÕÜF22 "*Just transition governance models and entrepreneurship pathways: monitoring and analyses*" (2024–2028)
- MNKE25114 "*Economic analyses in the process of updating the 4th period River Basin Management Plans*" (2025–2027)
- VERT25031 "*Development of dynamically changing curricula in ESG education supported by generative AI*" (2025–2027)
- PRG1573 "*Economic Complexity, Machine Learning and Economic Policy*" (2022–2025)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Berthinier-Poncet, A.; Podmetina, D.; Robbins, P. (2025). The art of innovation: How arts-based initiatives can nurture innovation dynamic capabilities. Technovation, 148, #103337. DOI: 10.1016/j.technovation.2025.103337.

Funke, M.; Tasane, H. (2025). Regional economic impacts of the Øresund cross-border fixed link: Cui Bono? Regional Studies, 59 (1), ARTN 2573115. DOI: 10.1080/00343404.2025.2573115.

Tiits, M.; Karo, E.; Kalvet, T. (2024). Small countries facing the technological revolution: fostering synergies between economic complexity and foresight research. Competitiveness Review. DOI: 10.1108/CR-03-2023-0051.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-business-administration/research-groups#p22761*

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Direktor: Associate Professor
KARIN JÕEVEER,
karin.joeveer@taltech.ee

MAIN FIGURES 2025

(as of Dec. 31, 2025)

33 Academic staff — Incl. 10 professors, 6 researchers

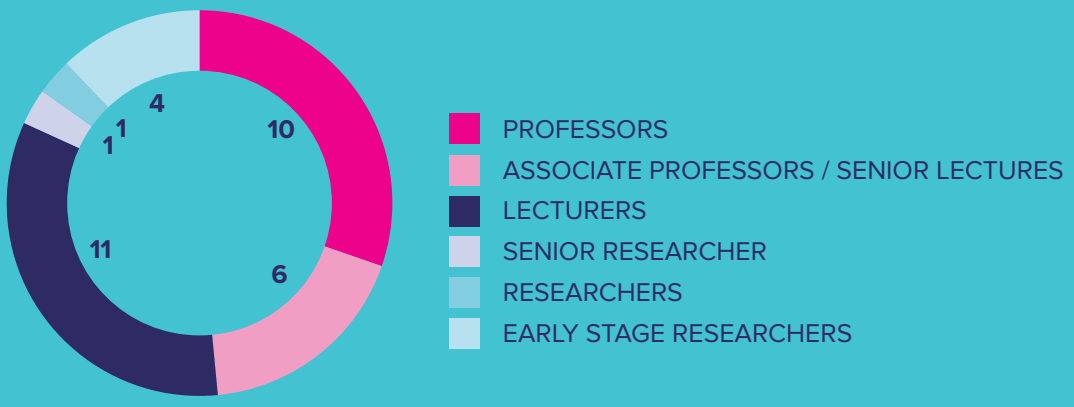
10 Doctoral students — 2 Defended doctoral dissertations

21 Scientific publications*

** Data from the Scopus (as of February 25, 2026)*

THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS RESEARCH WITHIN 4 RESEARCH GROUPS:

- **COMPANIES' PRODUCTIVITY, INVESTMENTS AND EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor KADRI MÄNNASOO, kadri.mannasoo@taltech.ee
- **ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE: INTEGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND POLICY.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor KARSTEN STAEHR, karsten.staehr@taltech.ee
- **FINANCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: FINANCIAL BEHAVIOUR, MARKETS, AND COMPETITIVENESS.**
  Head of the research group: Associate Professor LAIVI LAIDROO, laivi.laidroo@taltech.ee
- **HUMAN CAPITAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Associate Professor AARO HAZAK, aaro.hazak@taltech.ee



COMPANIES' PRODUCTIVITY, INVESTMENTS AND EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor KADRI MÄNNASOO, kadri.mannasoo@taltech.ee

Members: Juan Carlos Cuestas Olivares, Tõnn Talpsepp, Simona Ferraro, Kaja Lutsoja, Jelena Matina, Kirsti Rumma

Doctoral students: Kaido Kepp, Miina Hõbenael, Heili Hein-Sula, Iskandar Mammadzada

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: productivity, industrial organization, innovation, R&D, investments, export, digital economy

Research undertakes comparative studies at the micro, industry, and regional levels. Its core focus lies on capital and labour productivity, human capital, innovation, investment, and competitiveness as key drivers of economic growth in small, open and export-oriented economies. The objective is to determine optimal economic allocations and to identify the drivers and obstacles of productivity-enhancing investments, such as the adoption of new technologies and production processes, human capital development, and R&D activities.

One strand of inquiry explores regional convergence, integrating spatial dynamics and institutional factors into the analytical framework. Another emphasizes the role of digital innovation and digital empowerment, examining their impact on productivity growth and overall economic welfare.

IN 2025, the research group continued its international collaboration within the COST Action CA21163 network in the field of statistical and econometric modelling.

Beginning in 2025, the group also joined the Estonian Research Council's PRG2701 project, contributing to interdisciplinary research by conducting economic evaluations in the field of district heating.

New research directions related to electricity markets have received positive recognition. The paper by Männasoo and Mammadzada (forthcoming 2026) was accepted for presentation at the ICEEEP conference. This study estimated considerable electricity price impacts arising from interconnection interruptions in the Baltic States, underscoring the importance of maintaining adequate buffers to mitigate unexpected disruptions in external electricity supply.

A notable highlight of 2025 was the Bank of Estonia research award in the master's student category, granted to Elina Bõkovskaja for her thesis supervised by Kadri Männasoo.



SELECTED PROJECTS

- VEU22057 "*Text, functional and other high-dimensional data in econometrics: New models, methods, applications*" (2022–2026)
- LMEAE25027 "*Optimal balance between electricity costs for consumers and maintenance of the national energy system*" (2025–2025)
- PRG2701 "*Next-Generation District Heating: Enhancing Sustainability through Multi-Level Energy Cascades and Decentralised Renewable Energy Sources*" (2025–2029)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Kepp, K.; Männasoo, K. (2025). Explaining switching behavior: Consumer attention and choice in car insurance market. Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, 238, #107233. DOI: 10.1016/j.jebo.2025.107233.

Männasoo, K.; Hõbenael, M.; Ridala, S. (2024). Language skills and unemployment: Post-Soviet bilingualism in Latvia. Post-Communist Economies, 36 (2), 222–261. DOI: 10.1080/14631377.2023.2263215.

Männasoo, K.; Pareliussen, J. K.; Saia, A. (2023). Digital capacity and employment outcomes: Microdata evidence from pre- and post-COVID-19 Europe. Telematics and Informatics, 83, #102024. DOI: 10.1016/j.tele.2023.102024.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE: INTEGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor KARSTEN STAEHR, karsten.staehr@taltech.ee

Members: Natalia Levenko, Alice Mikk

Doctoral students: Gerda Kirpson, Katri Urke, Ann Merit Toiger

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: macroeconomics, international integration, international finance, public economics, labour economics, household economics, economic governance

The research group focuses on contemporary policy challenges and seeks to uncover macroeconomic and microeconomic relationships of societal importance. Key areas of research include macroeconomic dynamics, monetary economics, expectations formation, public finances, fiscal sustainability, tax evasion and financial stability. The research is typically policy-oriented and aims to devise measures to improve economic performance.

The research is mainly empirical but always grounded in economic theory. The research typically uses contemporary econometric methodologies using data from public or proprietary sources.



Most of the group members also work in Bank of Estonia and in that capacity participate in decision-making and formulation of policies.

IN 2025

The members of the group worked on several projects that investigated the impact of policies, regulation and external developments on economic performance.

A key area related to public debt accumulation in Europe. What are the macroeconomic and fiscal drivers of public debt, and how does public debt spill over to public and private interest rate? Members of the group also investigated aspects of tax evasion in Estonia. Which firms are prone to evade labour income taxes by underreporting labour income? What are the drivers of individuals engaging in tax evasion?

The group published a special issue on tax evasion in the Baltic Journal of Economics following the 2023 Shadow conference held in Tallinn. Other individual projects include the spillover of minimum wages to the wider wage distribution, sanctions and trade reallocation, drivers of macroeconomic forecast uncer-tainty, and the effect of inequality on house prices.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Kirpson, G.; Staehr, K. (2024). Do Individuals Expect the Phillips Curve? Evidence from the European Consumer Expectations Survey. Economics Letters, 234, #111430. DOI: 10.1016/j.econlet.2023.111430.

Kukk, M.; Levenko, N. (2024). Interest rate spreads: Different stories for different types of loan. Research in International Business and Finance, 72 (A), 102524. DOI: 10.1016/j.ribaf.2024.102524.

Levenko, N.; Staehr, K. (2023). Self-reported tax compliance in post-transition Estonia. Economic Systems, 47 (3), #101047. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecosys.2022.101047.

FINANCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: FINANCIAL BEHAVIOUR, MARKETS, AND COMPETITIVENESS

Head of the research group: Associate Professor LAIVI LAIDROO, laivi.laidroo@taltech.ee

Members: Karin Jõeveer, Mari Avarmaa, Kristjan Liivamägi, Tõnn Talpsepp, Triinu Tapver, Kalle Ahi, Pavlo Illiashenko

Post-doctoral Researcher: Tanveer Ahmad

Doctoral students: Kaido Kepp, Silvia Viidik, Diana Tiidema, Indrek Mäe

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: FinTech, financial literacy, financial intermediation, behavioural finance, financial economics

The research group seeks to contribute to the international academic literature that deals with contemporary topics in financial economics. Special attention is paid to the topics related to financial literacy and the impacts of the green transition and digitalisation in finance (incl., sustainable finance and FinTech solutions).

Traditional and behavioural finance theories are applied to the study of corporate finance, household finance, financial markets, and banking with the goal of better understanding the financial behaviour of individuals, companies and financial intermediaries, as well as the relationships among them (primarily in the European context). An interdisciplinary approach is used to examine the business, legislative and technological aspects of the green transition and digitalisation in finance, along with their economic impact. This is important for identifying factors that could help improve the competitiveness and performance of national economies through the implementation of appropriate regulatory measures.



IN 2025, the group's activities were strongly focused on the personal finance area, linked to ongoing project with the Ministry of Finance. The first drafts of the publications linked to the project in the area of financial literacy were prepared and their publication is expected in the coming years.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- LMEAE22102 *Financial literacy learning outcomes by age group to the Ministry of Finance* (2022–2023)
- RAM-KOS3 "*Competence Center for the Development of Financial Literacy*" (2024–2027)
- TFM25007 "*Development of experimental finance tools and IT environment*" (2025–2026)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Anderson, R. W.; Jõeveer, K. (2025). Bankers' pay and the evolving structure of US banking. Journal of Corporate Finance, 95, #102864. DOI: 10.1016/j.jcorpfin.2025.102864.

Kepp, K.; Männasoo, K. (2025). Explaining switching behavior: Consumer attention and choice in car insurance market. Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, 238, #107233. DOI: 10.1016/j.jebo.2025.107233.

Laidroo, L.; Küttim, M.; Rumma, K.; Siimann, P.; Avarmaa, M. (2024). Mandatory annual report fil-ings of private companies – why late or missing? Baltic Journal of Management, 19, 1, 123–144. DOI: 10.1108/BJM-11-2022-0431.

HUMAN CAPITAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Head of the research group: Tenured Associate Professor AARO HAZAK, aaro.hazak@taltech.ee

Members: Simona Ferraro, Merike Kukk, Tairi Rõõm, Johanna Liuhanen

Postdoctoral Researcher: Leonardo Ivarola

Doctoral students: Liina Rebane, Vladislav Fjodorov, Miina Hõbenael, Heili Hein-Sula

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: institutions, sustainable economic development, efficiency, wellbeing, human capital, individual behaviour, mental health

The research group seeks to investigate the links between health related, behavioural and institutional factors and various economic outcomes, which could have implications for sustainable socio-economic development.development. In particular, the relationship between mental health and economic performance, human capital endowment, socio-economic inclusion and inequality, efficient implementation of modern technologies and work regulation/practices are in focus of the studies, particularly in an interdisciplinary context. Also, sustainable development problems related to climate change are studied. The results may cast light on some possibly latent or underestimated factors contributing to development and wellbeing issues and for inefficiencies in the use of human capital and modern technology in economies.



IN 2025 The most important results were related to studies on the associations between genetic predisposition to psychiatric and sleep traits and economic outcomes, which were carried out in interdisciplinary collaboration with leading researchers from the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and published in high-level scientific journals (Scopus top 10%, WoS Q1).

SELECTED PROJECT

- VFP20046 (H2020), *Individual Behaviour and Economic Performance: Methodological Challenges and Institutional Context* (IBEP) (2020–2023)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Hazak, A.; Kantojärvi, K.; Sulkava, S.; Kukk, M.; Jääskeläinen, T.; Salomaa, V.; Koskinen, S.; Perola, M.; Paunio, T. (2025). Genetic disparities in sleep traits and human capital development: A 25-year study in Finnish population-based cohorts. Scandinavian Journal of Work Environment & Health. DOI: 10.5271/sjweh.4255.

Hazak, A.; Liuhanen, J.; Kantojärvi, K.; Sulkava, S.; Jääskeläinen, T.; Salomaa, V.; Koskinen, S.; Perola, M.; Paunio, T. (2025). Schizophrenia genetic risk and labour market outcomes in the Finnish general population: Are schizophrenia-related traits penalised or rewarded? Comprehensive Psychiatry, 140, #152600. DOI: 10.1016/j.comppsych.2025.152600.

Hazak, A.; Kantojärvi, K.; Liuhanen, J.; Sulkava, S.; Jääskeläinen, T.; Salomaa, V.; Koskinen, S.; Perola, M.; Paunio, T. (2025). Genetic predisposition for morningness-eveningness and economic disadvantage: Evidence from Finland over 25 years. Sleep Medicine, 136, 106811. DOI: 10.1016/j.sleep.2025.106811.

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Director: Senior Researcher
ARCHIL CHOCHIA,
archil.chochia@taltech.ee

MAIN FIGURES 2025

(as of Dec. 31, 2025)

22 Academic staff — Incl. 3 professors, 6 researchers

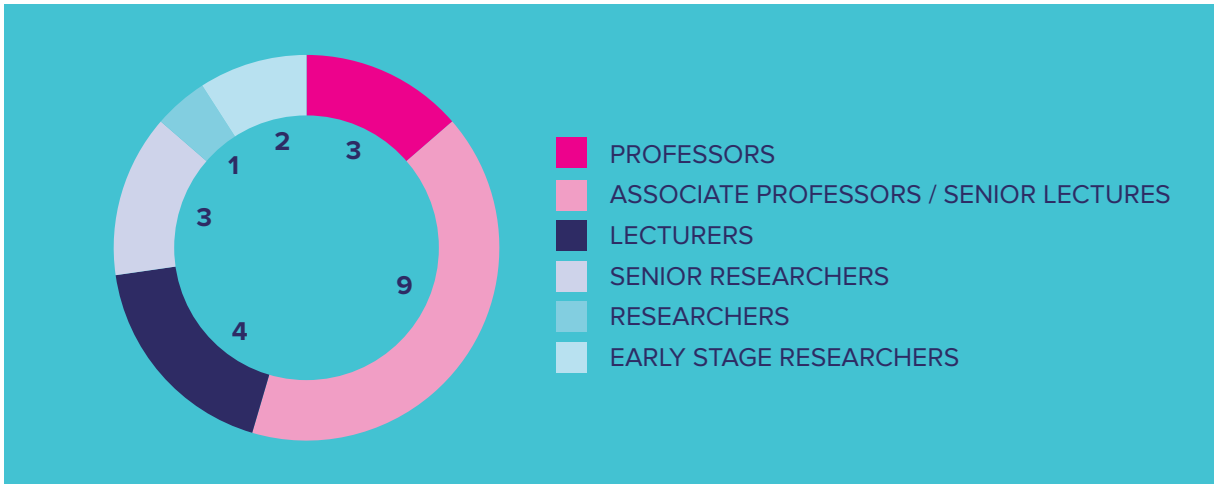
2 Doctoral students — 1 Defended doctoral dissertations

28 Scientific publications*

** Data from the Scopus (as of February 25, 2026)*

THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS RESEARCH WITHIN 3 RESEARCH GROUPS:

- **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SECURITY, LAW AND TECHNOLOGY.**
  Head of the research group: Associate Professor HOLGER MÖLDER holger.molder@taltech.ee
- **LEGAL POLICY AND NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK OF EU DIGITAL MARKET AND TECHNOLOGIES AND IT'S APPLICATION IN PARTNER COUNTRIES.**
  Head of the research group: Senior Researcher ARCHIL CHOCHIA, archil.chochia@taltech.ee
- **PRIVATE LAW.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Assistant Professor THOMAS HOFFMANN, thomas.hoffmann@taltech.ee



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SECURITY, LAW AND TECHNOLOGY

Head of the Research Group: Associate Professor HOLGER MÖLDER, holger.molder@taltech.ee

Members: Katrin Merike Nyman-Metcalf, Evhen Tsybulenko, David Ramiro Troitino, Peeter Müürsepp, Agnes Kasper, Maria Claudia Solarte Vasquez, Archil Chochia

Doctoral student: Javad Keypour

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: cyber and information security; international relations and technological challenges; economic security; political economy; international law; European Union; history of science

The research topics are related to international relations, international security and technology, and international law.

- International relations: International conflicts (post-Soviet space, Middle East). Political and societal reforms of the European Union; the future of NATO.
- New security challenges: Information warfare and strategic communication; information security and digital influence operations; cyber threats and countermeasures; human security.
- Psychological operations: culture of fear and strategic narratives; hybrid threats; energy security, the internet, and international relations; political and legal aspects of artificial intelligence.
- International law, humanitarian law, and human rights.

Senior lecturer Peeter Müürsepp is active in an independent field of research: history of science, philosophy of science.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-law-research-groups#p35014*

SELECTED PROJECTS

- VFP20040 "*Mediatized Discourses on Europeanization and Their Representations in Public Perceptions*" (2021–2024)
- MINV21066 "*Building a legislative framework for securing Georgia's strategic assets*" (2021–2023)
- VERT23015 "*What role for Europe in the Indo-Pacific? Identifying regional policy responses towards the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy* 2022–25" (2022–2025)



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Mölder, H.; Sazonov, V.; Loik, R. (2025). Challenges to Homeland Security in Countering Latent Hybrid Threats During the War in Ukraine: The Case of Estonia. In: Vladimir Sazonov, Holger Mölder, Zdzisław Śliwa, Sergii Pakhomenko, Illimar Ploom (Ed.). Russian Influence Operations and the War in Ukraine: Hybrid Warfare and Disinformation Campaigns. (235–260). Switzerland: Springer, Cham. (Contributions to Security and Defence Studies). DOI: 10.1007/978-3-032-01461-0_10.

Munkøe, M.; Foster, N.; Mölder, H. (2025). Russia. In: Christou, G.; Vosse, W; Burton; J. and Koops; J. (Ed.). The Palgrave Handbook on Cyber Diplomacy. (xxx–xxx). Springer Nature [in press].

Mölder, H.; Voinea, C. F.; Sazonov, V. (2023). Cultural Change in Political Communities. The Impact of Populism and Extremism on the International Security Environment. Cham: Springer Nature.

LEGAL POLICY AND NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK OF EU DIGITAL MARKET AND TECHNOLOGIES AND IT'S APPLICATION IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

Head of the research group: Senior Researcher ARCHIL CHOCHIA, archil.chochia@taltech.ee

Members: Katrin Nyman-Metcalf, Ondrej Hamulak, Abel Polese, David Ramiro Ramiro Troitino, Pawan Kumar Dutt, Maria Claudia Solarte Vasquez, Kristi Joamets

Doctoral students: Olga Shumilo, Kärt Salumaa-Lepik, Melita Sogomonjan, Javad Keypour, Evelin Pärn-Lee, Alexander Antonov

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: law and technology; EU legal policy; Digital Single market, artificial intelligence and law, regulating digital services, metaverse and law

The research topics are related to law and technology and transfer of knowledge of legal skills.

- **Law and eTechnologies:** e-residency, cryptocurrencies, smart contracts, 3D printing, software agents, digital evidence, artificial intelligence legal policies and modern technologies. Privacy law. Cyber security. Ethics of law and technology. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), human rights in European digital era. Rights and duties of digital e-trading.
- **ICT law:** freedom of expression, e-governance, regular legal analysis of media and communications legislations.

More information: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-law-research-groups#p29732*



IN 2025, TalTech Law School strengthened its position as a regional leader in law and technology through conferences such as FutureLaw 2025, LAITech 2025 and TalTech Legal Lab Legal Design Event Series. The school advanced research on legal tech, AI and legal design through new publications and edited volumes, while expanding industry collaboration via a strategic partnership with SuitsLegal to test AI-driven legal solutions.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- VHE25017MO "*Driving Climate Positive Changes*" (2025–2030)
- VHE22069 "*Caucasus and Central Asia Research Social Innovation: Development Assistance, Innovation and Societal Transformation*" (2023–2027)
- VERT25040 "*Supporting Innovative Methods for Pedagogical Learning in Familiarizing Youth with the EU*" (2025–2028)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Göksal, S. I.; Joamets, K. (2025). The Implementation of BCTrustAI.SL Into the Automated Practices of Digital Labour Platforms to Ensure Fairness, Transparency and Accountability. Bratislava Law Review, 9, 1, 9–26. DOI: 10.46282/blr.2025.9.1.949.

Koiava, A.; Chochia, A. (2025). Challenges of GDPR Compliance with the Data Altruism Concept Under the Data Governance Act: Lessons from the Estonian X-Road Model. Baltic Journal of Law & Politics, 18 (1), 16–29. DOI: 10.2478/bjlp-2025-0008.

Kerikmäe, T.; Hamuľák, O.; Mesarcik, M. (2025). Disinformation Tackling in the Metaverse and the Digital Services Act. Cogent Social Sciences [ilmumas].

PRIVATE LAW

Head of the Research Group: Tenured Assistant Professor THOMAS HOFFMANN, thomas.hoffmann@taltech.ee

Members: Agnes Kasper, Tatjana Evas-Peeters, Pawan Kumar Dutt, Maria Claudia Solarte-Vasquez, Kaido Künnapas, Aleksi Oskar Johannes Kajander, Artem Boyarchuk, Pablo Martinez Ramil

Postdoctoral Researcher: Artem Boyarchuk

Doctoral students: Ana Koiava, Marta Terletska, Victoria Kozlova, Yuliia Kravchenko

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: algorithm-based decision-making and liability, blockchain and smart contracts, legal frameworks for Industry 4.0/IoT, private international law, cyber security, consumer law, mediated transaction design, alternative dispute resolution methods (arbitration and mediation), labor law, Legal Tech

Our research group is committed to producing ambitious cutting-edge work in the field of private law, having a special focus on private legal relationships in digital environments. Primarily designed to iteratively develop expertise on these matters, members of the research group aim to share and disseminate their work to complement legal and social discourses and, where identifiable and necessary, actualize societal change therein. We aim to contribute to international, national and regional debates on these matters, address traditional and novel legal problems with a varied toolbox of methods, and, where appropriate, based on developed expertise, propose nuanced policy-recommendations and context-specific legal advice.

Big data, IoT, AI and the respective legal interferences of their implementation and use in society form the core subject of our research, but we have also focused on legal implications of the Gig-economy, competition law and data governance issues in Smart Cities, digital evidence, online dispute resolution and LegalTech. Also research on HCI and HCI research methods, mixed research methodology, international business transactions international mediation forms an essential part of our competencies.



The research group incorporates elements of the Value-Sensitive Design framework into discussions on societally acceptable, inclusive, human-centric and thus innovative governance mechanisms in private legal relationships.

More informatoon: *https://taltech.ee/en/department-law-research-groups#p42490*

IN 2025, the research focus was on contracts in digital environments, algorithm-based decision-making and liability; blockchain and smart contracts; legal frameworks for Industry 4.0/IoT; private international law; cyber security; consumer law; intellectual property law, labour law; and legal tech as such.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- VEU24017 "*Digitalising European Uncontested Claims Enforcement*" (2024–2026)
- VEU24053 „*Conflict Resolution with Equitative Algorithms*" (2024–2026)
- VEU24054 "*I-tools to Design and Enhance Access to justice*" (2024–2026)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Kajander, A.; Liivoja, R.; Naagel, M. (2025). Cybersecurity of weapon systems: international law requirements and technical standards. Journal of Cybersecurity, 11 (1), #tyaf017. DOI: 10.1093/cybsec/tyaf017.

Kajander, A.; Hoffmann, T. (2025). Smart City Data Commons under the Data Governance Act – Lowering the Threshold Toward Introducing Smart City Data Commons. International and Comparative Law Review, 24 (2), 7–24. DOI: 10.2478/iclr-2024-0016 [in press].

Zengin, A.; Chochia, A.; Martínez-Ramil, P. (2025). Copyright in Text and Data Mining: Legal Challenges and the AIA's Role in the EU. International and Comparative Law Review, 25 (1) [in press].

RAGNAR NURKSE DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE

Director: Tenured Full Professor
ERKKI KARO,
erkki.karo@taltech.ee

MAIN FIGURES 2025

(as of Dec. 31, 2025)

39 Academic staff — Incl. 10 professors, 27 researchers

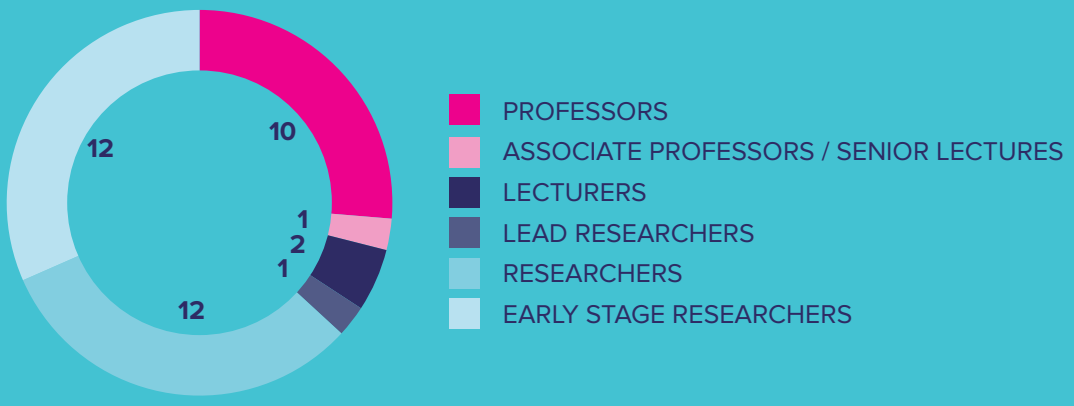
25 Doctoral students — 4 Defended doctoral dissertations

52 Scientific publications*

** Data from the Scopus (as of February 25, 2026)*

THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS RESEARCH WITHIN 7 RESEARCH GROUPS:

- **BIG DATA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Associate Professor ANU MASSO, anu.masso@taltech.ee
- **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor WOLFGANG DRECHSLER, wolfgang.drechsler@taltech.ee
- **FISCAL GOVERNANCE.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor RINGA RAUDLA, ringa.raudla@taltech.ee
- **PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor TIINA RANDMA-LIIV, tiina.randma-liiv@taltech.ee
- **PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor VEIKO LEMBER, veiko.lember@taltech.ee
- **TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION POLICY.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor ERKKI KARO, erkki.karo@taltech.ee
- **TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY.**
  Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor VASILEIOS KOSTAKIS, vasileios.kostakis@taltech.ee



BIG DATA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Head of the research group: Tenured Associate Professor ANU MASSO, anu.masso@taltech.ee

Member: Tayfun Kasapoglu

Post-doctoral researchers: Kateryna Lobanova,

Doctoral students: Mergime Ibrahimi, Pauline Baudens, Jevgenia Polomoshnov, Kai Jääger, Srijoni Bhattacharjee

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: big data and social datafication, social science methods and methodologies, spatial mobility, (digital) social transformations

The research group (DataLab) focuses on fundamental research in spatial mobility, social transformations, and social datafication. Recent work explores data movements, including those driving artificial intelligence development, and their broader social and ethical implications. Methodologically, the group uniquely integrates computational social science and critical data studies, combining large-scale and digital trace data analysis (e.g. mobile phone and everyday mobility data) with innovative extensions of traditional social science methods (e.g. gamified surveys and visual narrative interviews).

Together with the School of Business and Governance, the research group has launched the *Eye-Tracking Lab*, which conducts (quasi-)experimental studies assessing the social impacts of data technologies, algorithms, and AI.



IN 2024–2025, the research group initiated several novel and strategically significant research directions. A theoretical framework for data migration has been developed, conceptualising transborder data flows as social and institutional processes and opening new avenues for the analysis of data-driven societal transformations. In parallel, the group developed an innovative large-scale methodological approach for studying perceptions of autonomous technologies by combining online and laboratory-based eye-tracking methods.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- PRG3205 "*Data Migration: A Social Transformation Framework (DATA-MIGRATION)*" (2026–2030)
- MOB3JD1261 "*The vision of freedom and necessity as factors in the formation of civil identity by Ukrainian men abroad: Multidimensional Socio-Philosophical Inquiry (MSPI)*" (2025–2027)
- VFP19031 "*FINEST TWINS: Establishment of Smart City Center of Excellence*" (2019–2026)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Ibrahimi, M.; Masso, A.; Bellone, M. (2025). Sociotechnical imaginaries of autonomous vehicles: comparing laboratory and online eye-tracking methods. PLoS ONE [in press].

Masso, A.; Gerassimenko, J.; Kasapoglu, T.; Beilmann, M. (2025). Research Ethics Committees as Knowledge Gatekeepers: The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Social Science Research. Journal of Responsible Technology, #100112. DOI: 10.1016/j.jrt.2025.100112.

Baudens, P.; Hassen, M.; Pasini, J.; Mawussi, A. (2025). Mobility capacities and smartphone use of students in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Mobilities, 1–19. DOI: 10.1080/17450101.2024.2445307.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor WOLFGANG JOHANNES MAX DRECHSLER, wolfgang.drechsler@taltech.ee

Members: Vasileios Kostakis, Christos Giotitsas, Shobhit Shakya, Alexandros Pazaitis, Nikiforos Tsiouris, Salah Chafik

Doctoral students: Ülly Enn, Alicia Trepat Pont, Asimina Kouvara, Mehmet Orpak, Karin Kruup

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: governance, P2P technologies, commons-based peer production, non-western public administration, global governance, development policy, sustainability

The Governance group deals with basic, as well as policy-focused, academic research focusing on the analysis of governance theories and paradigms in the context of modern socio-technical changes, led especially by the ICT diffusion. The group participated in the implementation of the ERC Starting Grant '*Cosmolocalism*', and two large grants, '*Centrinno*' and '*Smooth*', funded from the EU's Horizon 2020. The '*FinEst Twins: Helsinki and Tallinn as Smart and Sustainable Cities*' EU Teaming grant, 2019–26, originally emerged from this research group.

Special focus has been on the following topics:

- analysis of global paradigms of governance and comparison of Western and non-Western/Asian paradigms;
- the impact of technological changes on governance, including the emergence of the concept of smart city and the impact of P2P technologies on production and consumption traditions and governance models;
- alternative perspectives on sustainability, growth and post-growth, innovation and their metrics generally.

In all these fields the group is internationally recognized as a trailblazing think tank. This is best exemplified by the fact that both Prof. Drechsler and Prof. Kostakis are affiliates of Harvard University – at the *David Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies* and the *Berkman Klein Centre for Internet and Society* respectively – and the former also at *UCL's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose*, all three usually recognized as the number one institution in their specific field globally.

IN 2025, the completion of the Templeton-funded IPV project was a milestone, culminating in widely cited publications, the establishment of IPV-Net, and a high-profile book launch at The British Library.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of IPV-Net was signed in New Delhi in February 2025. The administrative headquarters of the network is now at TalTech. The network includes core partners from Qatar, Thailand, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

SELECTED PROJECT:

- VHE22044 "*Public Administration Capabilities for Sustainable and Digital Transformation*" (2022–2025)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Ongaro, E.; Drechsler, W.; Maron, F.; Meijer, A.; Shimada-Logie, H.; Tantardini, M. (2025). The contribution of the humanities to the theory and practice of public administration in the 21st century. Australian Journal of Public Administration, 1–21. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8500.70015.

Drechsler, Wolfgang (2025). Rebuilding with Care: Steps in Post-Conflict Public Administration. NISPAcee Journal of Public Administration and Policy, 18, 1, 1–10. DOI: 10.2478/nispa-2025-0001.

Bombaerts, G.; Hannes, T.; Adam, M.; Aloisi, A.; Anderson, J.; Arvidson, P. S.; Berger, L.; Bettera, S. D.; Campo, E.; Candiotto, L.; Caprioglio Panizza, S. Ciaunica, A.; Citton, Y.; D´Angelo, D.; Dennis, M. J.; Depraz, N.; Doran, P.; Drechsler, W.; Edelglass, W.; Eisenberger, I. ... Zheng, Y. (2025). Beyond the attention economy, towards an ecology of attending. A manifesto. AI & Society. DOI: 10.1007/s00146-025-02405-8.



FISCAL GOVERNANCE

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor RINGA RAUDLA, ringa.raudla@taltech.ee

Members: Egert Juuse, Aleksandrs Cepilovs. Johanna Vallistu, James W. Douglas

Doctoral students: Kerli Onno, Nastassia Harbuzova, Riinu Lepa, Olger Nõmm, Gerli Aavik-Märtmaa, Mikk Vainik

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: fiscal governance, public sector financial management, budgeting, financial regulation

The group studies the developments of fiscal governance in Europe with specific focus on the spread of new budgeting principles (participatory budgeting), the impact of fiscal crisis, the evolution of institutional and discursive context. The unique specialization of the group has been to study the impact of fiscal and financial policy bureaucracies (its structure, principles of policy coordination and learning, etc.) on fiscal and financial policies in the Baltic Sea area and EU as a whole. This is a relatively novel theoretical as well as empirical focus since the countries of the region are financially and politically highly interlinked but have also asymmetrical economic relations and politico-administrative differences.

The group has gained global recognition for its research work, e.g. Prof. Raudla is in the editorial board of *Governance* (the leading journal on governance and institutional analysis), in addition to seven other international academic journals. She leads the Permanent Working Group on Fiscal Governance and Administration at IIAS (a governance and public administration research society with the widest reach globally).

IN 2025 the key focus of the group was the implementation of the research project "Experimental approaches and institutional innovations in the domains of fiscal and financial policy" (PRG1125, funded by the Estonian Research Council).

SELECTED PROJECT

- PRG1125 "*Experimental approaches and institutional innovations in the domains of fiscal and financial policy*" (2021–2025)
- VHE25006 "*Renewing Administration through Democratic Anchorage Reforms*" (2025–2029)



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Raudla, R.; Mohr, Z.; Douglas, J. W. (2024). Which managerial reforms facilitate public sector innovation? Public Administration, 102 (2), 771–788. DOI: 10.1111/padm.12951.

Raudla, R.; Juuse, E.; Kuokštis, V.; Cepilovs, A.; Ylönen, M. (2024). Drivers of fintech policy evolution: the role of policy learning and institutions. Policy & Politics, 1–22. DOI: 10.1332/03055736Y2024D000000042.

Raudla, R.; Juuse, E.; Kuokstis, V.; Cepilovs, A.; Cipinys, V.; Ylonen, M. (2024). To sandbox or not to sandbox? Diverging strategies of regulatory responses to FinTech. Regulation & Governance, 1–16. DOI: 10.1111/rego.12630.

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor TIINA RANDMA-LIIV, tiina.randma-liiv@taltech.ee

Members: Külli Sarapuu, Külli Taro, Leno Saarniit, Johanna Madleen Rodima

Doctoral students: Ayberk Soner Kalayci, Steven Nõmmik, Anne-May Nagel, Eva Patricia Peeters

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: public sector management, administrative reform, participation, collaboration, crisis governance, small states

Activities within the research group are based on three research themes, which all address reforms in public management, crisis governance and collaboration in public governance. Throughout the research themes, the members of the group explore both the Estonian case as well as global and European comparative perspectives. Most members of the group participate in the Horizon 2020 financed research project *ROBUST (Robust Crisis Governance in Turbulent Times – Mindset, Strategies, Evidence)*. The project explores how European societies can harness flexible adaptation and proactive innovation to deliver effective crisis responses in situations, where going back to the way things were is neither possible nor desirable.

IN 2025, the research group has dealt with three major topics within the framework of ongoing projects:

- The study of robust crisis management and, above all, the use of hybridity in crisis management, where a unique analytical framework was created, on the basis of which work will continue on collecting data from nine countries with the aim of conducting a comparative analysis.
- Exploring experimental approaches and institutional innovation in public sector management.
- A research project on the "triangle" of public service continued, where political-administrative relations in Europe are studied comparatively.



SELECTED PROJECTS

- VHE22035 "*ROBUST Crisis Governance in Turbulent Times – Mindset, Evidence, Strategies*" (2022–2026)
- VHE22044 "*Public Administration Capabilities for Sustainable and Digital Transformation*" (2022–2025)
- PRG1125 "*Experimental approaches and institutional innovations in the domains of fiscal and financial policy*" (2021–2025)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Sarapuu, K; Trei, M. (2024). Organizational dilemmas of EU-funded policy development: the case of Estonian government task forces. Public Money & Management. DOI: 10.1080/09540962.2023.2203870.

Sørensen, E.; Caponio, T.; Hajnal, G.; Randma-Liiv, T.; Špaček, D.; Triantafillou, P. (2025). Comparing the implications of strategies for governing the Covid-19 pandemic for the political robustness of five European political regimes. Public Administration. DOI: 10.1111/padm.70031.

Torfing, J.; Bentzen, T.; Caponio, T.; Coroado, S.; Douglas, S.; Nommik, S.; Randma-Liiv, T.; Russo, C.; Sorensen, E.; Verhoest, K. (2025). Advancing Robust Governance in Turbulent Times: The Role of Multi-Level Governance, Hybrid Governance, and Negotiated Societal Intelligence. Public Administration, 1–15. DOI: 10.1111/padm.70011.

PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor VEIKO LEMBER, veiko.lember@taltech.ee

Members: Piret Tõnurist, Jinxiao Luo, Johanna Vallistu

Postdoctoral Researcher: Peeter Vihma

Doctoral students:, Steven Nõmmik, Palwasha Ahmadzai Etebari, Kerli Onno, Marc Kristersen, Gerli Aavik-Märtmaa, Karin Kruup, Olger Nõmm, Mikk Vainik

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: digital transformation, public sector innovation, governance of green transition, public-private partnerships

The Public Sector Innovation (PSI) research group focuses on the theory and practice of public sector innovation. Among its key research foci are topics such as the governance of green and digital twin transition, public sector digitalization and its consequences, and the foundations of public sector technological and innovation capacities.

The group has also produced important contributions to other PSI topics, e.g. public procurement of innovation, public service of co-production, public-private partnerships, sustainable communities, and the phenomenon of public sector innovation labs.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- VFP20041, H2020 projekt CENTRINNO "*New Centralities in Industrial Areas as Engines for Innovation and Urban Transformation*" (2020–2024)
- VHE22044 "*Public Administration Capabilities for Sustainable and Digital Transformation*" (2022–2025)
- VFP19031 "*FINEST TWINS: Establishment of Smart City Center of Excellence*" (2019–2026)



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Vihma, P.; Hukkinen, J. I. (2024). Bracing urban governance against climate crises: How to integrate high reliability into strategic decision-making? Environmental Policy and Governance. DOI: 10.1002/eet.2129.

Verhoest, K.; Callens, C.; Klijn, E. H.; Brogaard, L.; García-Ryado, J.; Nõmmik, S. (2024). Designing cross-sector collaboration to foster technological innovation: Empirical insights from eHealth part-nerships in five countries. Public Administration Review, 84 (6), 1200–1217. DOI: 10.1111/puar.13785.

Randma-Liiv, T.; Lember, V. (2022). Engaging Citizens in Policy Making: e-Participation Practices in Europe. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATION POLICY

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor ERKKI KARO, erkki.karo@taltech.ee

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TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: innovation, innovation policy, technology governance

The group is the leading centre for science, technology and innovation systems and policies in Estonia.

The basic research of the group centres on the following topics:

- Techno-economic paradigms and the role of the state
- Future innovation systems and policies
- Innovation bureaucracies and management of innovation policies

The policy-oriented work of the group covers the following topics:

- Green transition and mission-oriented innovation policies
- Tackling societal challenges through innovation
- Drafting and implementing smart specialization strategies and policies in Europe and Estonia
- Management STI policies and instruments
- Evaluations of innovation polices and governance systems
- The impact of Global Value Chains on national innovation systems and policies
- Innovation in the context of smart cities

SELECTED PROJECTS

- MKM-POL30 "*Green Transition Possibilities for the Estonian economy*" (2025–2026)
- VFP19031 "*FINEST TWINS: Establishment of Smart City Center of Excellence*" (2019–2026)
- PRG346 "*Reshaping Estonian energy, mobility and telecommunications systems on the verge of the Second Deep Transition*" (2019–2023)
- VFP21049 "*BoostEuroTeQ: strengthening institutional transformations for responsible engineering education in Europe*" (2021–2024)

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Tiits, M.; Karo, E.; Kalvet, T. (2024). Small countries facing the technological revolution: fostering synergies between economic complexity and foresight research. Competitiveness Review. DOI: 10.1108/CR-03-2023-0051.

Juuse, E.; Karo, E. (2024). New Emerging Industries and Alternative Pathways into Global Value Chains: the Case of Estonian Automated Mobility and Delivery Industry. Journal of the Knowledge Economy. DOI: 10.1007/s13132-024-02236-w.

Müür, J.; Karo, E. (2023). Learning from public sector innovation pilots: the case of autonomous bus pilots. Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, 1–24. DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2023.2286438.



TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Head of the research group: Tenured Full Professor VASILEIOS KOSTAKIS, vasileios.kostakis@taltech.ee

Members: Shobhit Shakya, Alexandros Pazaitis, Christos Giotitsas, Nikiforos Tsiouris

Doctoral students: Karin Kruup, Alicia Trepat Pont, Mehmet Orpak, Ülly Enn, Asimina Kouvara

TOPICS AND COMPETENCES

KEYWORDS: open-source technologies; sustainability; energy transitions; commons post-growth; science communication; impact assessment; action research; alternative organisations

The group explores novel approaches to creating inclusive and sustainable economic systems, intersecting political ecology, technology studies, critical management, and sustainability studies. The group examines how open collaborative practices reshape economic models and technological development, investigating the interplay between global knowledge sharing and local manufacturing. Using interdisciplinary methodologies, including participatory action research, the group co-produces knowledge with communities and stakeholders, maintaining strong ties to grassroots initiatives and commons-based networks.

Current work assesses energy communities, explores commons-based technologies' potential for environmental and social challenges, and investigates open-source solutions for local resilience and global sustainability. Supported by significant grants, including from the European Research Council, the group has published extensively in top-tier journals. It engages in knowledge transfer through academic publications, policy briefs, public lectures, and collaborative projects. By bridging theory and practice, the TGS group contributes to developing more equitable, democratic, and sustainable technological and economic systems.

The group achieved several significant milestones **IN 2025**.

The Kopli 93 and Tzoumakers makerspaces and community centers in Tallinn (Estonia) and Tzoumerka (Greece) secured municipal support and established themselves as vital community hubs.

The group advanced its research agenda through influential work examining energy systems through the lens of 'energy as commons' versus 'energy as commodity'. This led to an ERC Synergy Grant resubmission in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and LUT University.

Through the EU LIFE COMET project, the group helped create a coalition of Estonian organisations, including the Ministry of Climate, to promote citizen participation in tackling energy transition issues.

New international collaborations were established, including a partnership with STAR Hub at The King's University, Canada.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- VFP21005 "*Educational Common Spaces. Passing through enclosures and reversing inequalities*" (2021–2024)
- VHE22044 "*Public Administration Capabilities for Sustainable and Digital Transformation*" (2022–2025)
- VFP19031 "*FINEST TWINS: Establishment of Smart City Center of Excellence*" (2019–2026)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Pazaitis, A.; Giotitsas, C.; Savvides, L.; Kostakis, V. (2025). Reframing Innovation for Post-growth: Lessons from Patent Discourses in 3D Printing. Science Technology and Society, 1–29. DOI: 10.1177/09717218251326836.

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