

# 100 years of academic forestry education in Estonia

In 2020, the Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering of the Estonian University of Life Sciences celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of academic forestry education in Estonia. In connection with this, the Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering together with the Estonian Forestry Students Association organized a ceremony and alumni reception at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu on August 17, 2020.

At the ceremony speeches were given by Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas, Rector of the Estonian University of Life Sciences Mait Klaassen, Rector of the University of Tartu Toomas Asser, President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences Tarmo Soomere, Mayor of Tartu Urmas Klaas, and other distinguished guests. From the speeches, the thought sounded that care of the Estonian forest should be taken primarily by those people who have a forestry education.



**Photo 1.** 100 years of academic forestry education in Estonia. From left to right: Ivar Sibul (Project Manager – Forestry Education 100), Marek Metslaid (Director of Institute), Jüri Ratas (Estonian Prime Minister), Mait Klaassen (Rector of EMU), Alar Karis (Head of EMU Council; Director of Estonian National Museum) (Photo: EMU)

Dr. Ivar Sibul, project manager of the Forestry Education 100 events, presented the history book “Sada aastat emakeelset akadeemilist metsandusharidust Eestis” (“One hundred years academic forestry education in Estonia”), as well as alumni badges and a thanksgiving medal with a 100-year-old oak image, which was solemnly distributed to forestry teachers and scientists, and active alumni for the promotion of forestry education.

One hundred years ago, at the University of Tartu chair of forestry and geodesy was created by Andres Mathiesen who taught students that axe and saw are tools primarily for forest health improvement. In the spirit of sustainable forestry, for a century in Tartu it has been trained more than 4000 highly educated forestry specialists. The work done in Estonia has received high international recognition – according to QS World University Rankings by Subject, the Estonian

University of Life Sciences is one of top 50 universities in the world in the field of forest science and forestry education.

More information can be found on webpage for: <https://www.emu.ee/metsandusharidus100/>



**Photo 2.** History: book presentation



**Photo 3.** Male choir “Forestalia”



**Photo 4.** Estonian Forestry Students Association

On behalf of the Organizing Team,  
**MAREK METSLAID**  
Director, Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering,  
Estonian University of Life Sciences