



Maarja Kruusmaa

Maarja Kruusmaa is professor and vice-rector of research, Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia
Professor, NTNU, [Centre of Excellence of Autonomous Marine Operations and Systems](#), Norway.
Member of the Board, Estonian Academy of Sciences

PREVIOUS POSITIONS OF RELEVANCE FOR NOMINATION

2009-2016 Fits.me, co-founder and R&D director

2017- 2020 Head of [Estonian Centre of Excellence in IT Research](#)

RESEARCH

Prof. Kruusmaa is a head of Centre for Biorobotics in Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech). She has coordinated and participated in ca 15 international research projects, the majority being funded by the European Framework programs FP7 and H2020. She has experience of leading and participation in field campaigns in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and High Arctic.

Prof. Kruusmaa's research work predominantly addresses underwater technologies and their applications for robotics, environmental monitoring and modelling natural processes. As such, she has considerable practical experience in developing and commercialising technologies, as well as leading and conducting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work.

TEACHING

As program director of PhD studies, she designed the study program and modernized the concepts of PhD education, attestation, and recruitment and provides personal guidance to ca 100 PhD students. She has supervised 13 PhD thesis.

EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCE IN THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

Innovation Policy Committee, since 2019, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Estonia.
Estonian Education Strategy 2035, member 2018-2020, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia

Future Emerging Technologies Advisory Group (FETAG), 2016-2019, European Commission

DG CONNECT Advisory Forum (CAF), 2012-2015, European Commission

Information Society Advisory Group (ISTAG), 2010 – 2012, European Commission

EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCE IN THE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE

Participated in the Estonian Academy of Sciences COVID-19 Advisory Council to facilitate dialogue with decision makers and communicate to the public via national media, 2020.

Initiated a [voluntary network for providing support in STEM subjects for children on home-schooling](#) and drawing attention to the rising educational inequality during Covid-19 crisis, 2020.

Featured in "[Plektrum](#)" with a 45 min TV interview on the relations between technology and society.

Sailed 1200 nautical miles on board the [S/V Admiral Bellingshausen to commemorate 200 years from discovery of Antarctica](#) to raise awareness on ocean pollution and climate change, 2019.

Featured under the title "[Inspiration and Independence](#)" in IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine: Women in Engineering, 2018

Her research is regularly featured in the international press, e.g. Wired magazine, Discovery News, Science Daily, New Scientist, Euronews, and in national media e.g. in Norway, UK, Germany, etc.

Public installations of underwater robotics at the London Science Museum, World Expo, EuroScience Open Forum, Estonian National Museum, Estonian Maritime Museum, among others.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2016 State decoration: The Order of the White Star 4th class for founding the technology company Fits.me and founding Centre for Biorobotics in TalTech.

2017 Estonian National Science Prize

2019 Burr Steinbach scholar of the year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Woods Hole Oceanography Institute

2019 Voted the best programme director of Tallinn University of Technology – doctoral programme 'Information and Communication Technology' responsible for educating ca 100 PhD students

[Detailed CV in Estonian Science Information Database](#)
[Google Scholar Profile](#)