The conference is moderated by Mart Noorma, Professor in Space and Defence Technology, University of Tartu.

**10.00–10.15 Welcome addresses**

**10.15–11.15 Making the University of Tartu one of the top 100 universities in the world**

"European universities in the rapidly changing world – the benefits of cooperation and mobility"

Eva Åkesson, Professor, Vice-chancellor of Uppsala University

"How can we make the University of Tartu one of the top 100 universities in the world?"

Kristjan Vassil, Vice Rector for Research, University of Tartu

Presentations are followed by a panel discussion between Eva Åkesson, Kristjan Vassil and UT doctoral student Jason Dydynski

**11.15–12.15 University of Tartu as the accelerator of Estonia’s future economy**

"How can we change the world? One student at a time!"

Dan Bogdanov, Head of the Department of Privacy Technologies, Cybernetica AS

“The hidden intersection of research and entrepreneurship”

Heli Lukner, Senior Research Fellow in Physical Optics, University of Tartu; Head of Autonomy Development, Milrem AS

Presentations are followed by a panel discussion between Heli Lukner, Dan Bogdanov and UT student Martin Käärik

**12.15–12.45 Coffee break**

**12.45–13.45 University of Tartu – the only top-level, Estonian-language comprehensive university in the world**

“University and independence”

Meelis Friedenthal, Senior Research Fellow in the Intellectual History of the Baltic Sea Region, University of Tartu

“How university that released the mind”

Ilmar Raag, Professor of Liberal Arts, University of Tartu

Presentations are followed by a panel discussion between Meelis Friedenthal, Ilmar Raag and UT alumna Janeli Harjus

**13.45–14.00 Summary and closure**

**18.00 Rector’s reception in the White Hall of the University of Tartu Museum**

Questions and proposals: www.slido.com, event code: # A2025
The University of Tartu is the only Estonian-language universitas, comprehensive university, in the world. Despite the small size of Estonia and the small number of Estonian-speaking people, the University of Tartu has been recognised as the best university in the so-called New Europe.

The fact that the university is Estonian-speaking has a great value for Estonia as well as for the whole world. The mission of the University of Tartu is to preserve and develop the Estonian language, education, culture and heritage; this duty is eternal, extending beyond the term of any strategic plan. The Estonian language would not survive without the teacher education provided by the University of Tartu – teacher education that is based on close cooperation with schools and supports the Estonian school system as a whole.

The University of Tartu is the university for the entire Estonia. It is a symbol that people in Estonia are proud of, a symbol that makes Estonia and Tartu well known in the world. However, universities are known not only by their name or location. Universities can become well known through top-level scientists, who with their research contribute to the development of the world, including technological innovations and the survival of languages and cultures.

Available knowledge is concentrated at universities to form new sets of knowledge, yet also academic freedom is needed. The stronger is the research done at universities, the better and more attractive is the teaching and studies offered there. Groundbreaking progress and innovations stem from solid fundamental research and are often achieved in international cooperation. To guarantee the highest level of competence in disciplines taught and to develop new ones, the University of Tartu fills academic positions by way of international competition.

As a successful partner in research cooperation programmes, the University of Tartu brings new knowledge and additional funds necessary for research studies to the Estonian society. This way, the university also keeps up to date, developing new interdisciplinary specialisations with good prospects in the future. The university offers Estonian young people an international learning environment, which opens a world of opportunities for them. Academic mobility enables students to acquire new skills and knowledge anywhere in the world.

Estonian society, including entrepreneurs, expect the university to produce faster and more results to contribute to social and economic development, and improve the international competitiveness of enterprises. These results materialise primarily through the university alumni who – by applying their knowledge, skills and attitudes – contribute to the development of Estonia.

The employees and students of the University of Tartu are the backbone of the society and its development both now and in the future. Researchers and entrepreneurs cooperate to bring research results faster into economy. For productive cooperation, they need to fully understand the mutual interests, and it is also important to have flexible possibilities for sharing working time, research infrastructure and intellectual property between the university and the enterprises. The importance of research-intensive and high value-added businesses in Estonian economy will increase when existing enterprises form effective development teams and new smart enterprises are established, operating in Estonia.

These different roles of the University of Tartu must not be set against each other. The University of Tartu will remain a universitas only in case it offers a wide range of disciplines and operates both as Estonia’s national university, an international university and a developer of the society, including economy.