

# Alumni letter 1/2024

- 1. Greetings from the president**
- 2. Introduction of Prodeko Alumni 2024 board**
- 3. Upcoming events**
  - a. Inven XQ 29.2.**
  - b. Meru Health, Apex Heat and Solu MULTI-XQ 19.3.**
  - c. Wappuchampagnes 1.5.**
  - d. Prodeko Seminar 17.5.**
  - e. Place Y 6.9.**
  - f. Leadership retreat sept-oct**
- 4. Update your information in matrikkeli!**
- 5. Guild's update**
- 6. Prodeko fund: Founding donors and next steps**
- 7. IEM Department's update**
- 8. Prodeko Alumni jobs facebook-group**

## 1. Greetings from the president

In these turbulent times, where change is the only constant, it's comforting to have some stability. You can count on the cornerstone events of Prodeko Alumni again this year! The traditional Prodeko Seminar, Wappu Champagne, and Place Y, along with various excursions and smaller-scale activities, will form the foundation of our 2024 Alumni event calendar. A special addition this year will be the "Puolipitkä" in Autumn – or the Leadership Retreat, as you might refer to it at work when explaining your absence. In addition to these events, we plan to update and modernize the rules a bit – for instance, there might be some more effective ways for inviting members to general meetings beyond using the physical Prodeko noticeboard. As part of our focus actions this year, we also encourage everyone to review and update their information in the alumni database. This effort will also help us gather data on companies founded by Prodeko community members. And finally, the Alumni Board is operating entirely in English this year, and we've decided to pilot the newsletter in English as well. Please let us know if you would prefer a Finnish and/or bilingual version – we're happy to use ChatGPT for translations, if needed.

On behalf of the 2024 board (please read the next chapter for introductions),

Meiju Sundelin

## **2. Introduction of Prodeko Alumni 2024 board**

### **Meiju Sundelin**

Moi! I'm fuksi -97 and spent my years in Otaniemi mainly in Prodeko, PoRa and ESTIEM activities. I have a 14 years old daughter and a golden retriever, and I spend my free time hiking, sporting, volunteering, enjoying good food and traveling with my hippie van. I work as consultant.

### **Valtteri Vaskikari**

Hello Prodeko Alumni! My name is Valtteri, and this is going to be my third year on the board of Prodeko Alumni. I am a freshman '14 and I graduated in spring 2020. This year I'm going to help our new chair Meiju with her responsibilities as well as arrange a couple of excursions and the Paikka Y event again in September! So, stay tuned guys, we have a lot of exciting activities for this year!

### **Aaro Arstila**

Moikka! Meitsi on fuksi vuosimallia 2015 ja DI sitten myöhempää vuosimallia. Opiskeluaikoina toimin Prodekon hallituksessa 2017 ja tämän lisäksi erinäisissä muissa toimissa. Vapaa-aikana urheilen, näen kavereita, ja opiskelen matematiikkaa. Töissä tutkin ja hutkin pankin taseen performoinnin parissa!

### **Riku Österman**

Hello everyone! I am freshman '89 and PhD '22 at Tuta. This is my third year at Alumni board, the previous rounds going back to 2000 and 2001. For work, I do strategy consulting at NormannPartners, and also freelance consulting around data. I also have a teaching gig ongoing at Tuta. Besides work I dabble with a cappella singing, saxophones, and orienteering.

### **Angelica Mendez**

Hi Prodeko alumni! My name is Angie, and I am a master's freshman of 19. During my studies, I was a tutor for international students and participated in the Prodeko Pitkä trip in Latin America. At work, I am a management consultant focusing on business development and digital strategy. In my spare

time, I like dancing Latin rhythms, exercising, and traveling. I am really happy to be part of the Alumni board and am looking forward to developing this year's agenda!

### **Joona Soratie**

Hi! My name is Joona, fuksi -15. I currently work as operations/IT consultant. During my studies I was involved in Prodeko mentoring activities, Prodeko Ventures, and the Estiem Lean Six Sigma initiative. In my free time I enjoy all sorts of outdoor sports, mostly running, hiking, and alpine skiing.

### **Iiro Ukkonen**

Heyo alums! I'm Iiro, a fuksi 20', and hopefully a bachelor of technology by summer 24. Now here in the board of the alumni as I'm the current the president of Prodeko but I had my introduction to the board in 2022 when I was the minister of foreign affairs. After that I had a "gap year" from guild activities and spent an exchange semester in the Netherlands. Apart from student events, I like to spend my free time at the gym, watching movies or out in the nature:)

### **Reeta Lalla**

Hi alumni! I'm Reeta, a fourth-year Prodekoian who jumped into the shoes of Vice President of Prodeko this year. Truly excited about what the Guild has in store this year but also eager of getting a glimpse into the activities of Prodeko Alumni!

## **3. Upcoming events**

### **Inven XQ 29.2.**

You're warmly invited to a special gathering hosted by a Prodeko founded startup Inven at their office. This event is a great opportunity to reconnect, network, and learn more about the latest advancements in M&A focused AI tools!

Details:

📍 Location: Lönnrotinkatu 32D 52

🍽️ Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

Time: 29.2. at 17:30

Registration is open here: <https://ilmo.prodeko.org/event/2024-2-29-alumni-inven-xq>

We look forward to welcoming you and enjoying a relaxed and pleasant evening together. See you there!

### **Meru Health, Apex Heat, and Solu MULTI-XQ 19.3.**

Welcome to a multicompany excursion of Meru Health, Apex Heat, and Solu on Tuesday 19.3.! Stay tuned for more information regarding registration on Prodeko alumni's social media closer to the event.

*Meru Health is a pioneer of the fourth wave of mental healthcare—a mind-body approach that uses human support, biofeedback, and digital tools to expand access while delivering superior clinical outcomes. Meru Health was founded in 2016 after learning that access to mental health care was severely lacking—and that the care that was available was often not sufficient. That's why we're building the new standard of mental health care.*

*Apex Heat software helps building owners reduce heating costs and emissions by up to 70-90%. We automate the production of this information (that typically requires hours of engineering desktop work) to make it easy and affordable for owners to know what energy saving actions they can and should take next. We're probably #1 provider in Finland measured by the volume of heating method advisory for residential apartment buildings in Finland last year. You can test our upcoming public service for detached house owners at [apexheat.io](http://apexheat.io).*

*Solu analyzes the DNA of pathogens to prevent infectious diseases. Solu was founded in 2023 by 2 Prodeko and 1 HY alumni, and already works with global health leaders like Stanford and the CDC.*

### **Wappuchampagnes 1.5.**

Welcome to celebrate Wappu with traditional Wappuchampagne at the Alumni's tent in Ullis on 1<sup>st</sup> of May! Come to enjoy champagne, relax, and enjoy the spring together with other alumni. More information will follow closer!

## **Prodeko Seminar 17.5.**

The Prodeko community's biggest annual event, the Prodeko Seminar, is here again - this year with the theme "Humans In an AI world". The event brings together key players from many industries, entrepreneurship, research and education, as well as students, to discuss topical issues. More information will follow closer!

## **Place Y 6.9.**

Place Y is once again being organized next fall on 6.9. – stay tuned, more information coming soon!

## **Leadership retreat (september / october)**

Prodeko Alumni is planning to organize a "Puolipitkä" in Autumn – or a Leadership Retreat. Stay tuned for more information and practicalities!

## **4. Update your information in matrikkeli!**

Hey alumni! Please update your contact information to [matrikkeli](#) – takes only a few minutes! **Especially if you have founded or co-founded a company, please add the company to your work experience and tap on the “I am a founding member”.** This way Prodeko and the Department will be able to keep track of Prodeko founded companies. Thank you!

## **5. Guild's update**

During this year we will be focusing on maintaining the current high level of Prodekoian awesomeness whilst making sure of the meaningfulness of guild work and the wellbeing of our members. This means for example some more casual hang out events, a "failure-night" and a workshop with Jatkuvuuspumppu/Japu. This year is also filled with projects such as PitkäXQ travelling to Southern Africa, PoRa celebrating its 55th year and Prodeko hosting IEM-days in Otaniemi for Finnish IEM guilds. In addition, Diskonttaus 60 -project is also to be initiated this spring! So the spring is looking quite busy, or in other words, we are getting things done ;) Luckily the start of the spring semester also means coming back to sharing the every day life with other Prodekoians and hanging out at the Guild room playing pool, watching Moomins or just chatting.

- Iiro, president of Prodeko 2024

## **6. Prodeko Fund: Founding donors and next steps**

As you probably know, we recently established the Prodeko Fund of Industrial Engineering and Management to support our community and our field. We are very happy to announce that we have 23 founding donors! You can find the names on the Fund website. To become a founding donor one had to donate at least 10.000 EUR. We also realized that there are still many who could consider becoming a founding donor, so we extended that possibility until the end of June this year. Please be in touch with Helena Salminen (helena.salminen@aalto.fi) if you are interested in becoming a founding donor. Note that donations are tax deductible. And to be sure, donations of any size are welcome, and you can make smaller donations directly on the fund website (<https://www.aalto.fi/en/give-for-the-future/the-prodeko-fund-of-industrial-engineering-and-management>).

The fund is managed by a working group that consists of members from Prodeko, Prodeko alumni, the Prodeko advisory board (neuvottelukunta) and the department. The activities supported so far are the Prodeko seminar as the main event of our community, the IEM history book written by Eero Eloranta (all proceeds from book sales go directly to Prodeko) and a master's thesis to study the impact of the Prodeko community through entrepreneurship. Thanks to the donations by the founding donors as well as a few others, there is now a solid basis for the Prodeko Fund to make a larger impact in the future. We are also starting to plan how to take the Fund to the next level. More on that later.

## **7. IEM Department's update**

First of all, we just hired three new persons to our faculty. Frank Martela has started as Assistant Professor in Organization Design in the beginning of the year. Frank's research is about what enables meaningful life and meaningful work. He has been featured not only in Finnish media but also internationally, including BBC, New York Times as well as appearing live on Fox News explaining why Finns are the happiest nation on earth. He's a graduate from the Information Networks program, which our department jointly runs with the computer science department. Siavash Khajavi will start as Assistant Professor in Operations Management on Feb 15th. His research is about topics related to digital operations, like 3D printing and digital twins. He also recently co-founded a company, and he is also a Prodeko alumnus. Finally, Satu Rekonen starts a position as lecturer in organization design and leadership. She will also be supporting the Information Networks program. She is an alumna from the IDBM program.

In addition to these recruitments, we have a number of exciting initiatives we are working on. For example, Professors Jukka Luoma and Henri Schildt started a research project on “Smarter work with generative AI”, funded by Business Finland and involving a consortium of eight companies. We now also want to use the momentum from the “AI Revolution” seminar the department organized and that took place at Aalto University in November last year, which featured speakers like Alexander Stubb, Kimmo Alkio (CEO TietoEvry) and Merja Ylä-Anttila (CEO of Yle) and which was organized by our Professor of Practice Tero Ojanperä. The on-going AI revolution is a topic where the expertise in our department can create a lot of value. But this is just one example, we will hopefully have more interesting initiatives to announce this year.

We continue to work closely with our students and alumni. We are right now jointly planning and organizing this year’s Prodeko seminar, which will take place on May 17th on the topic of “Humans in an AI world”. Mark it in your calendars! We are also working on developing the Prodeko Fund to make sure it will have a major impact. More on that above.

### **Eero Eloranta’s book on the history of IEM**

Our dear professor emeritus and former head of department Eero Eloranta (also known as “Mister Tuta”) has written a book on the history of IEM globally and in Finland as well as our community. It was launched at the Prodeko seminar last year. If you don’t have your copy yet, you can buy it at the Aalto University Shop (<https://shop.aalto.fi/p/1964-ongelmanratkaisijoita-ja-muutoksentekejoita-eero-eloranta/>). This is the Finnish version, and an English version will be available at the Prodeko seminar this year.

## **8. Prodeko Alumni jobs facebook-group**

There is a Facebook-group opened to alumni where interesting career and job opportunities are posted. Prodeko’s alumni and students can post on the page free of charge. The post should be relevant to a Prodeko alumnus with 3 years or more work experience. Jobs aimed for students or recent graduates are forwarded by Prodeko (yrityysuhteet[at]prodeko.org). You can also send your post for publishing to the alumni board or to the alumnicordinator.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/337267370245656/>