Prodeko Alumni Newsletter 4/2026

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1. Greetings from the Chairperson

Dear Alumni,

The end of the year is approaching. And so is my second two year-term in the Alumni Board. These years have been interesting and rewarding. It has been a pleasure to lead this active, ambitious community of good people, who also get things done. While doing that I have got to know so many of you Alumni, as well as many wonderful students.

The fall was active - summary of activities below. I'd like to thank you, who participated in the Prodeko 60 events, and especially those who organized them - ranging from (just to name a few) Prodekon Alumni Leadership Summit, to Wappu Champagnes, Prodeko 60 Seminar, PorAlumni sailing on the Mediterranean, to Diskonttaus. Without you, the year wouldn't have been the same! So many encounters with old friends, so many new people met, so many exchanges of thought on growth, AI, strategy, passion, business ideas and everyday life.

In this letter, you will also find the invitation to our fall meeting, taking place on December 3rd, after an excursion to a Prodeko-founded startup, Atenos. If you'd like to be part of the Board next year, don't hesitate to be in touch.

-Mailiina

2. Past Events

The fall has been intensive and interesting… If you couldn't join all the events, here's a summary for you:

- **Paikka Y - 28.8.**

On the last Friday of August, we gathered at Café Marga to exchange thoughts and meet fellow Alumni. Always good to mingle with old friends and new acquaintances, drinking a glass of sparkling. Cheers!

- **PorAlumni Sail 5.–12.9. -** See chapter 4
- **Event for 1966-1975 freshers 24.9.** - See "Greetings from the Department"
- **Prodeko 60 documentary film premiere 2.10.**

Presented in Bio Rex, the Prodeko 60 documentary film was entirely scripted, filmed and edited by a team of Prodeko students. If you missed the show, you can watch the film on Youtube.

- **Diskonttaus 9.10. -** See next chapter

3. Diskonttaus 60 - thank you to our partners and participants

On 9 October, Prodeko turned 60 and we celebrated it as one Diskonttaus in two venues: the Guild at Clarion and Prodekon Alumni at Tapahtumatalo Bank, with a joint afterparty at the end of the night. Around 750 Prodeko alumni, students and friends took part, far more than a single hall could have held. The evening at Bank brought together 260 alumni for thought-provoking speeches by Guild Chair Aaron Katainen, Alumni Chair Mailiina Turanlahti and Tuukka Seppä of BCG, the first NK Growth Awards, the anniversary-year Doctors and Professors of the alumni point card, the old dances and, above all, an evening with old friends and new ones.

None of this would have been possible without our partners, who made it possible to try a new concept for the first time. A special thank you to BCG, main partner of the anniversary year, and to Kemira, Sievo, Terveystalo, Relex and Valor, whose support carried the evening at Bank from the welcome drinks to the last coffee. Thank you also to SAP, TEK, QMill and Oras Invest for supporting the celebration. The two-venue format was new to all of us, and we will take what we learned into the next round-number celebrations, starting with Prodeko 65. Photos from the evening are in Petri Mast's gallery (please credit [at]petrimast when you share them), and if you would like to be part of making the next one happen, alumni[at]prodeko.org is the place to start.

4. PorAlumni Sail ⛵

At the beginning of September, PorAlumni and PoRa student members set out to check the sobriety levels of the Croatian islands with around five sailing boats (one Alumni boat and four student boats).

To make sure our coverage was as wide as possible, the Alumni boat and the student boats mostly followed different routes. For one evening, however, the two expeditions joined forces to share information and help the people of the island of Vis get rid of the evil alcohol. The evening was a success.

Overall, the weather was nice and sunny, the sea was warm, and the Aperol Spritz was cold 🍹Definitely worth doing again.

5. Upcoming Events

- **Pre-party for the Pig Party 27.11. & Pig party 27.11. – for Freshers from 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986 etc.**
- **Excursion to Atenos + Prodekon Alumni Fall Meeting 3.12.**
- **Anniversary Exhibition at Student Culture Museum during the fall**

6. Atenos Excursion and the Prodekon Alumni Fall Meeting 3.12.

Atenos Excursion – How Are the Best Companies Led in the Age of AI?

What? Atenos is a fresh startup with Prodeko roots, inviting Prodeko Alumni to visit, explore its operations, and discuss leadership in the era of artificial intelligence. Light refreshments (food and drinks) will be served alongside thought-provoking discussions. To kick off the conversation, Atenos co-founders will share their insights: Risto Siilasmaa presents key takeaways from his new book on leadership in the AI era, Juha Äkräs highlights the latest research on AI and strategic management, and Sara Ikonen demonstrates through a product demo what AI-assisted leadership could look like in the future.

Where? Founders House Helsinki, Sähkötalo, Kampinkuja 2, 00100 Helsinki.

When? December 3rd. Doors open at 16.00. The program starts at 16.15. The Prodekon Alumni Annual Fall Meeting will continue at the same venue at approximately 18.30.

❗ **Registration** opens on Monday 9.11. at 12.00 **on Ilmokilke** ❗

It is worth joining the waiting list even if the excursion is fully booked.

🍂The **Prodekon Alumni fall meeting** will take place after the excursion, approximately at 18:30. The meeting is open to all Prodekon Alumni members, also those who do not participate in the excursion. We encourage meeting face to face, but if you cannot make it,

and would like to participate remotely, please let Mailiina Turanlahti (mailiina[at]iki.fi / 050 486 3811 / TG: mailiina) know at least the day before, and we will send you a remote meeting invitation.

The agenda is as follows (in Finnish, as Finnish is Prodeko Alumni's official language):

Syyskokous 3.12.2026, 18:30

Founders' House Helsinki (Kampinkuja 2, Helsinki) & Google Meet (if needed)

1. Kokouksen avaus
2. Valitaan kokouksen puheenjohtaja, sihteeri, kaksi pöytäkirjantarkastajaa ja näiden henkilökohtaiset varamiehet sekä kaksi ääntenlaskijaa.
3. Todetaan kokouksen laillisuus ja päätösvaltaisuus
4. Hyväksytään kokouksen työjärjestys
5. Päätetään liittymis- ja jäsenmaksujen suuruudet eri jäsenryhmille seuraavalle kalenterivuodelle
6. Vahvistetaan toimintasuunnitelma sekä tulo- ja menoarvio
7. Valitaan hallituksen puheenjohtaja
8. Valitaan hallituksesta kalenterivuoden päättyessä poistuvien tilalle uudet jäsenet
9. Valtuutetaan rahastonhoitajalle Prodekon Alumnin Nordea Pääkäyttäjäoikeudet
10. Valitaan kaksi toiminnantarkastajaa ja heille varatoiminnantarkastajat
11. Kokouksen päättäminen

7. Applying for the Prodekon Alumni Board 2027–2028

Three members of the board - Mailiina Turanlahti, Santeri Hietanen and Mikael Huhtamäki - will step out of the Prodekon Alumni board at the end of the year, after a term of two years. In addition, our Prodeko representatives, Aaron Katainen and Kalle Kinnala, will step out, and the guild will nominate two new members.

If you would like to be part of Prodekon Alumni Board during 2027-2028, you can show up at the annual meeting, or (preferrably) let the current board know about it beforehand, e.g. by e-mailing / messaging Mailiina (mailiina[at]iki.fi / 050-486 3811 / TG: [at]mailiina).

8. Anniversary Exhibition at Student Culture Museum

Welcome to the **Prodeko 60 Anniversary Exhibition** at the Student Culture Museum!

To celebrate Prodeko's 60th anniversary, we've put together an exhibition that gives you a glimpse into what Prodeko has been up to over the past decade! This time, alongside the big moments in Prodeko's history, we're highlighting the everyday traditions and funny little things that make Prodeko what it is. Ever wondered what you'd find in a typical Prodeko member's wardrobe, or what Prodeko people are chatting about on Telegram? Come find out! You'll also get to try out some super fun pig-themed mobile games! 🐷

📍Where? Student Culture Museum, Jämeräntaival 3 A, Otaniemi

📅 When? The exhibition will be open every Sunday from 14 to 16, starting October 25 and continuing throughout the autumn. We're also organizing a visit just for Prodeko members on November 18 at 18! Sign-ups are now open **on Ilmokilke** !

🎟️ Admission: Free during the group visit. Otherwise, admission is free for students and 3.10€ for non-students.

9. Sikajuhlat Pre-party [Freshers 2016, 2006, 1996…]

The traditional Sikajuhlat alumni pre-party will be held on Friday, November 27, 2026. The event is intended for anniversary-celebrating year classes, meaning those who started their studies 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years ago. This year, the invited freshman year classes are 2016, 2006, 1996, and so on.

If your freshman year is 2016, ... , XXX6 and you have not yet received an invite, or if you know someone who fits that profile, please contact the person responsible for organizing the pre-party, Teemu Isotalo, at teemu.j.isotalo[at]aalto.fi.

10. News from Prodeko Ventures

The third share issue of Prodeko Ventures (PV) has closed, raising the targeted ~€1M in new equity. We are especially happy to welcome a large number of new Prodeko alumni as PV shareholders. Thank you to the 100+ participants for joining or continuing to support Prodeko-based entrepreneurship!

This year's 10-year anniversary also brought the first capital return to PV shareholders. Outcomes for early-stage ventures naturally vary, but overall development has been positive, with real success stories. Hyperco is a great example. It entered the booming data center market early, grew rapidly, and secured scale and capital for long-term growth by joining the DAMAC Digital group. Besides the strong growth story, the staged exit has returned about 8x on PV's original contribution, which helped get the project started in 2021.

Investment activity has been steady. Kletta and Catalys Engineering have joined the PV family, Calectra received a follow-on investment, and we are in discussions with several promising new projects. We are always looking for more. If you know of Prodeko-related teams building ambitious new ventures, please let us know! You can find the criteria for PV backing and contact details on the PV website. We look forward to hearing from you!

11. News from aTalent

Since spring 2026 I have represented Prodeko Alumni on the board of aTalent. The year is going well, even though the recruitment market is far from easy and the sales team has to work hard for every deal.

Recently, the board has focused on strategy and on finding new opportunities for growth. aTalent is moving towards services that bring steadier, recurring revenue and better margins, such as HR as a Service and the newly launched Executive Search.

aTalent's working-life research has received plenty of media attention, and the company is increasingly seen as an expert on the working life of highly educated professionals.
Recent media coverage (in Finnish):

- Helsingin Sanomat: People are now quitting their jobs more readily than before

- MTV3: How to negotiate a raise for yourself

- Talouselämä: A clever new tactic is being used in salary negotiations – have you tried it too?

- MTV3: Survey: Most people have considered changing jobs in the past year

Hanna-Kaisa Sävelkoski
Board member, aTalent

12. Greetings from the Guild

Hi all,

Diskonttaus came, went and was a huge success! Was wonderful seeing so many alumni also attend the event, even at the afterparty! Hopefully all of you enjoyed the occasion, we at least had a blast. Now the guild is headed to its regular fall activities; the search for the 2027 president, board and guild officials has opened, the sikajuhlat is on its way and the TIMES qualifications are being arranged. More irregular activities that have happened include Vuono Group joining the Prodeko Network, touch-ups to the guild room and Burnout week, a well-being themed week that was organized for the first time this year.

Wishing all a wonderful rest of the fall,
-Prodeko Board '26

13. Greetings from the Department

Greetings from the department,

We just kicked off several research projects that we expect to make a difference for growth and renewal of Finland. One project (funded by Business Finland) focuses on how to build capabilities for scaling. We're grateful to collaborate with some of our alumni in this project, like Johanna Småros from Relex and Seppo Aaltonen from Iceye. In parallel we set up a scale-up course to educate the next generation of scale-up operators. This is a very hands-on course taught by our alumni Riku Mäkelä and Marianne Vikkula, supported by Lauri Saarinen from our faculty.

We're also connecting more closely with decision-makers. In September we organized the first Aalto CEO Growth Circle on the Aalto University campus, gathering 25 CEOs of some of Finland's leading companies to discuss about how to get Finnish companies to grow again.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Prodeko and the TUTA program, we invited the first ten cohorts of the program to a joint event in September. Great memories, and for some it was the first time in decades that they had come to Otaniemi. Many things have changed, but some are still the same. Fun fact: the lecture hall where we met was in the "old" former main building of TKK, but that part of the building (the Y wing) hadn't yet been built when our alumni were studying.

We were also happy that about 30 of our alumni joined the alumni workshop at the Becoming an IEM Professional course. This course helps our students with key worklife skills and getting started into their careers. We are especially grateful to Nora Rosendahl, Tatu Heikkilä, Eveliina Dahl and Juhani Kankaanpää for sharing their career stories.

14. Prodekon Alumni Point Card - Doctors and Professors of Prodeko 60 Anniversary Year

As promised earlier this year, we celebrated and rewarded the Prodekon Alumni doctors and professors, who actively participated in the community events and funding opportunities, at Diskonttaus.

Congratulations to Prodeko 60 Professors, also awarded Prodeko 60 Doctor title:

- Pirkka Palomäki
- Jarno Alhonen

And Prodeko 60 Professors, also awarded Master of Prodeko 60 title:

- Anne-Mari Paapio
- Antti Salminen
- Christine Korjus
- Hannu Suonio
- Heikki Kivilaakso
- Martti Vuopio
- Sampo Korppi-Tommola
- Tomi Torri

Thank you for your active participation!

15. Prodeko Advisory Board Growth Rewards

Prodeko's first Growth Awards

At the Diskonttaus 60 gala in October, the Advisory Board handed out the first Growth Awards. The theme of our anniversary year was growth, and the criterion was simple: has this person driven growth on a scale that affects the whole Finnish economy.

Nine members of our community received one.

Risto Siilasmaa — founded F-Secure in 1988 and built Finland's first major cybersecurity exporter, chaired Nokia through the pivot that kept it a major Finnish employer, and has invested in over forty startups.

Ilkka Paananen — co-founded Supercell, one of Europe's most valuable tech companies and one of Finland's largest sources of individual tax revenue. He has also mentored and backed the generation of founders who followed.

Johanna Småros, Mikko Kärkkäinen and Michael Falck — founded RELEX Solutions in 2005 out of our own department's logistics research group, grew it into a multi-billion-euro business, and raised the largest private funding round in Finnish history. They have since put €100M into a foundation.

Riku Mäkelä and Marianne Vikkula — both led Slush, then brought that operational discipline to Wolt and its record Finnish exit. Vikkula is Wolt's CEO today. The two recently launched a scaling-up course with our department.

Timo Ahopelto — co-founded CRF Health and Lifeline Ventures, and has been the first institutional investor in numerous Finnish unicorns. He also co-wrote Startup-käsikirja and hosts the Startup-ministeriö podcast.

Jorma Eloranta — turned around Kvaerner Masa-Yards, then nearly doubled Metso's revenue in four years. Since then one of Finland's most respected board chairs, named Nordic Chair of the Year.

Each recipient received an academic decoration designed for the anniversary: the Prodeko gear in silver, crossed by a hockey stick in rainbow colours.

Congratulations to all nine!

16. The Channels of Prodekon Alumni

In case you didn’t know, we also keep our members updated on different social media channels:

- **WhatsApp channel:** https://chat.whatsapp.com/H7LUMR2r4I18txJWTllBBV
- **Facebook group:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/358203460857/
- **LinkedIn group:** https://www.linkedin.com/groups/37349/
- **Telegram channel:** https://t.me/prodekonalumni

17. Alumni data update

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!