

Events »

- 4.3. The public defense of technological innovation, network formation
- 4.3. Researcher Meeting Finland brain tumor research to establish an association
- 4.3. Public lecture Nursing Homes in transition - where and how people are treated?

News »

- Study: Nokia patents in college papers (03/03/2015)
- Study: Cultural Foundation distributed 23 million - the University of Tampere 33 scholarships (03/02/2015)
- Research: the son of the generated high number of children exposed to old infections (02/03/2015)
- University of the Russian research to stimulate discussion (02.03.2015)

Blogs »

- LTL blog: understanding the world of the world's migrants - where to get them? (04/03/2015)
- Speech Communication blog: Madness season of the year (03/03/2015)
- Beginning I: gender equality policy policy? (03/03/2015)
- Researcher Blog: Girls studying and teaching (03/02/2015)



STUDY GUIDES

TEACHING 2014-2015

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENT

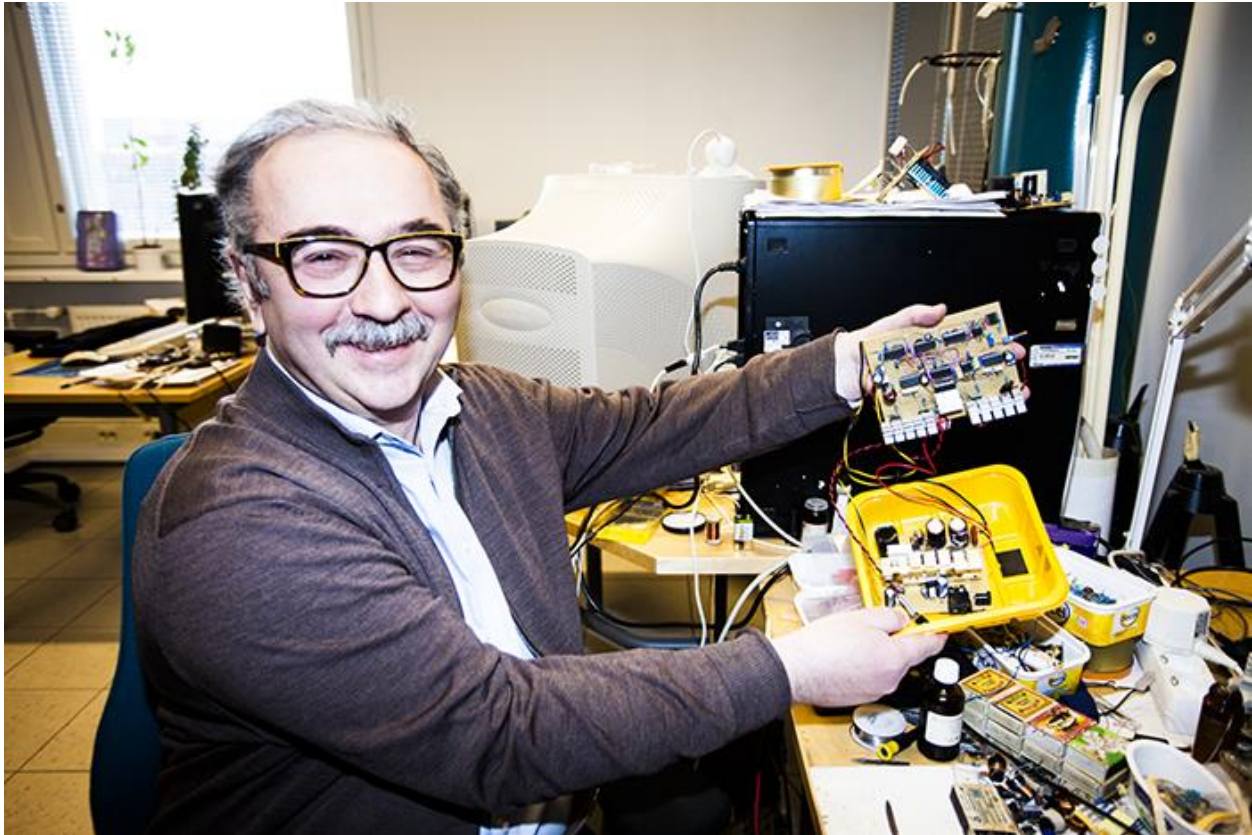
ACADEMIC TRAINING MODULES

CAREERS

RESEARCH CENTRES

The patent factory in Information Sciences

03/03/2015



This room of inventions. Grigory Evreinov enjoys researcher's work so much that he chooses to spend even his holidays, at work. Photo: Jonne Renvall

Roope Raisamo research group of the University innovative

Roope Raisamo's research group is the most innovative at the University of Tampere.

The patent factory at the University of Tampere is located in Roope Raisamo's research group, which has already acquired four new patents since the beginning of 2015. According to Raisamo, the most productive innovators are researchers **Grigori Evreinov** and **Ahmed Farooq**.

The list of patents is headed by **Jari Kangas**, who is also a member of Raisanen's group. His name comes up with as many as 11 inventions in the University's database. However, they come from Kangas's previous workplace at Nokia Research Center where he worked for about ten years. **Ismo Rakkolainen**, another



member of the research group, also has patents to his name.

Is producing patents the main task of your research group?

“No, but we have an innovative group and plenty of ideas which correspond to what companies currently need,” Roope Raisamo says.

Ahmed Farooq clarifies that the ideas are more important than new products or gadgets.

“Companies want to have new ideas and we try to provide them. If they like our ideas, they can patent them, and eventually those patents may bring them more money.”

Grigori Evreinov says that we should check which universities get the most corporate and industry funding. They are such top universities, as Stanford, Oxford and Manchester. They receive funding because they are able to produce top-notch research and their education is not organised in order to publish just more research papers.

“We like to work in a way that takes account of industry interests,” Raisamo adds.

Evreinov thinks that the principles according to which the Academy of Finland and Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation, allocate funding are muddled. Especially Tekes should be more interested in patents.

Research papers are not sold like patents

At least in Finland, patented inventions do not make university researchers rich.

“The common practice is that the university banks half of the profits and the inventor gets the rest. However, it takes a lot of time before a new patent starts to bring any revenue,” Raisamo says.

If a company outside the university pays for the patenting, it will first deduct its own expenses and pay the inventor and university according to what has been agreed.

Grigori Evreinov, who got his first patents for innovations he made in the Soviet Union, knows that getting patents requires a good support system. In Russia, patents are included in the researchers’ annual work plans.

“It’s impossible to sell research papers,” Evreinov says.

Patents have to go through a more thorough inspection than research papers.

“Patents are a complicated process in which very hard demands have to be met sometimes,” Farooq explains.

Evreinov clarifies the price difference between patents and publications: one article costs perhaps 2,000 euro if it is published in a peer-reviewed conference publication. Acquiring a patent in one of the five most important countries: the United States, UK, Japan, France and Germany can cost as much as 50,000 euro. This is the price you have to pay in order to make the electronics giants, such as Samsung and Apple, acknowledge the legal status of the patent.

Evreinov says that patents acquired in Russia are sold to large corporations, such as Apple. In the neighbouring countries of Russia, such as Estonia and Latvia, many researchers patent their inventions in Russia first, after which they are sold in the United States.

Students lack incentives

The research group agrees that students should be encouraged to make patents also in Finland. At present there are no incentives to do so.

Ahmed Farooq is writing his doctoral dissertation, but he cannot use his patents in his thesis.

“From the point of view of my doctoral dissertation, the patents are a waste of time. In many other countries, such as Norway, France, UK and the United States, students are encouraged to patent their work. Patents are peer-reviewed just like any other scientific publications. There is no such incentive in Finland,” Farooq says.

People who complete their doctoral degrees in Finland end up with only their degree certificates because the patents they have developed have been sold abroad or left in the desk drawer. They cannot be used as a part of the dissertation.

Roope Raisamo comments that the long waiting time involved in patent applications is problematic for researchers who are working towards their doctorates. You cannot reveal any information in the dissertation on a product whose patenting process has only just started.

More support is expected of the University

Researchers who get their inventions patented need more support from the University.

“The University should invest both at the innovation and commercialization stage of the process, but so far our University has been reluctant to do that. Because we have no know-how on this issue at the University, we should acquire it elsewhere,” Raisamo says.

Support services are available at least at Tampere University of Technology and Aalto University.

“Why couldn’t we share these resources in Finland? We should have a joint innovation service to help all researchers. However, that would entail that all the participants agree and are willing to share the costs,” Raisamo suggests.

According to recent legislation on innovations, the University gets the rights to innovations made by their employees. This system does not motivate researchers because nothing can come out of their good research results.

“The motivation to keep doing the inventions is rather small because it just brings extra work. It takes time and the rewards are not that big. At best it is a few hundred euro if the invention involves several inventors and the invention leads to a patent.”

Does the University benefit from innovations without first doing something to get them?

“Well, we are the University and patenting innovations is not our main task. However, no practical support is offered by the University. We do the innovations and report on them, negotiate with companies, prepare the patenting documents and answer the company’s questions. The company pays for all the costs and if the patent starts to yield some revenues, after all this has happened, it is only then that the University and the inventors can earn any money. That is after a long time has first elapsed.”

Inventors earned 40 roubles in the Soviet Union

Grigori Evreinov is the most industrious inventor in Roope Raisamo’s research group. He made his first patented innovation in the Soviet Union in 1975 when he came up with an idea for a new kind of amplifier.

Evreinov was paid 40 roubles for his innovation. The amount equaled about a half of a research assistant’s monthly salary, which was about 70 roubles at the time.

Evreinov sought employment in Raisamo’s research group and came to Finland in 2001. He came up with new ideas so fast that Raisamo did not have the time to consider them. The other members of his research group first filtered the ideas and Raisamo was only presented with the best ones. There were enough of those, too.

“We were able to get initial funding from the Academy of Finland and were able to invite Grigori to work in Finland with a research grant. After that Grigori’s work has been able to pay for itself. There has always been a new project or a new cooperation with a company. This has helped to finance his research. Eventually, Grigori became the first person in my research group to be permanently employed,” Raisamo says.

Where do all these ideas come from?

“I don’t know. I gather a lot of information,” Evreinov says.

Evreinov never takes any holiday, even though Roope Raisamo has urged him to. Even if he does take the occasional day off, the work just continues at his office at home.

Text: Heikki Laurinolli



Ahmed Farooq is working on his doctoral dissertation, but he will not be able to make use of his patents in his thesis. He thinks Finns should learn to encourage students to obtain patents for their innovations. Photograph: Jonne Renvall

Roope Raisamo research in 2015 patented inventions:

A biological stimulation device for training animals: Authors: Evreinov Grigori, Farooq Ahmed, Raisamo Scrooge, Hippula Arto, Takahata Daisuke, Tetsuya Arasawa, Kazuyuki IkeHama

Haptic covering for the steering wheel (Haptic Device): Authors: Evreinov Grigori, Farooq Ahmed, Raisamo Scrooge, Hippula Arto, Takahata Daisuke

Haptic Device: Authors: Evreinov Grigori, Farooq Ahmed, Raisamo Scrooge, Hippula Arto, Takahata Daisuke

Tactile Imaging System: Authors: Grigori Evreinov, Ahmed Farooq, Roope Raisamo, Arto Hippula, Daisuke Takahata

Read also:

[Nokia patents in college papers: Jari Kangas is a prolific inventor of the University of Tampere, Nokia these years, thanks](#)

[More research news](#) | [Subscribe to research news to your email](#)