

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
HELI TIIRMAA-KLAAR  
DIRECTOR – DIGITAL SOCIETY INSTITUTE**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Introduced** cyber security as a separate topic to the United Nations Security Council in the context of preserving international security and peace

**Initiated** and led negotiations on the 2013 and 2017 EU Cybersecurity Strategies

**Prepared** the first whole-of-government national cyber security strategy in the world and built a new cyber organisation in Estonia after the 2007 large-scale cyber attacks

**Created** the cyber diplomacy entity in the EU External Action Service together with a broader network on international cyber policy coordination within the European Union

**Developed** the first comprehensive NATO Cyber Defence Policy in 2011

**Set up** an academic department and graduate programs on International Security Studies

**Led** the preparation for Estonian NATO accession at senior level

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Director of Digital Society Institute**

**European School of Management and Technology, Berlin, Germany, January 2022 -**

### **Ambassador at Large for Cyber Diplomacy**

#### **Director General of the Cyber Diplomacy Department**

**Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tallinn, Estonia, 2018-2021**

- Introduced cyber security into the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for the first time in UN history
- Co-chaired the Trust and Security Working Group of the UN Secretary General High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation
- Participated in the UN Group of Governmental Experts to develop norms of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace
- Organised cyber training modules for senior foreign policy decision-makers globally

### **Head of Cyber Policy Coordination**

**European External Action Service, Brussels, Belgium, 2012 – 2018**

- Co-led the preparation of the 2013 and 2017 EU Cybersecurity Strategies
- Coordinated EU cyber diplomacy and cyber defence policy implementation within the EU institutions, and with EU Member States
- Led EU diplomatic cyber dialogues with strategic partners – US, China, Japan, India, Brazil, South Korea etc
- Initiated EU cyber capacity building efforts and launched cyber training programmes in different regions globally
- Developed EU Joint Framework to Respond to Malicious Cyber Activities, the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox

### **Cyber Defence Policy Advisor**

**NATO HQ International Staff, Brussels, Belgium, 2010-2011**

- Developed and negotiated the first comprehensive NATO cyber defence policy
- Coordinated NATO cyber defence efforts with Allies and private sector stakeholders
- Advised senior civil servants in NATO countries on the establishment of national cyber defence systems

**Executive Director of the National Cyber Security Council**

**Senior Advisor to the Minister of Defence, Tallinn, Estonia, 2007-2010**

- Led the preparation and coordinated the implementation of the nation's first Cyber Security Strategy
- Built a national Public-Private Partnership to protect critical cyber assets
- Managed the National Cyber Security Council consisting of top civil servants and private sector executives
- Briefed the Cabinet of Ministers and the Prime Minister on cyber issues

**Head of International Studies Department**

**Tallinn University, Estonia, 2004 – 2006**

- Founded a new academic department and led the development of graduate curricula for International Relations and Security Studies
- Lectured MA courses in International Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis

**Lecturer in International Economics and Negotiations**

**Estonian Business School, Tallinn, Estonia, 2001-2003**

- Lectured graduate courses for MBA students in International Economics and in International Negotiations

**Head of NATO and International Organisations Department**

**Estonian Ministry of Defence, Tallinn, Estonia, 1997-2001**

- Designed policies and strategies for Estonia's integration into NATO
- Negotiated the country's accession with senior leaders of NATO countries
- Administered the major Partnership for Peace defence co-operation programme between Estonia and NATO

**Head of Security Policy Planning Division, Estonian MOD, 1995-1997**

- Prepared security policy analyses and recommendations on international security issues
- Drafted speeches for the Defence Minister on NATO and international security topics

**EDUCATION**

**PhD candidate, University of Helsinki, Finland**

**Fulbright Fellow at George Washington University, 1998-1999, Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington, D.C., U.S.**

**M.A. in Political Science, 1995, The Central European University, Budapest College, Hungary**

**B.A. in Sociology, 1993, Tartu University, Estonia**

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- Chosen by Politico to be among the 28 most influential Europeans of 2018 for setting up EU cyber policies
- The Estonian Ministry of Defence Service Cross in Gold, 2002
- Fulbright Fellowship, 1998-1999
- Open Society Fellowship, 1995-1996