

## **IIPF, Hebele, Barbara**

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**Von:** CESifo <office@news.cesifo.de>  
**Gesendet:** Freitag, 24. Juli 2020 11:30  
**An:** hebele@iipf.org  
**Betreff:** The passing of Erkki Koskela (1946-2020)

Dear friends, IIPF members and CESifo Research Network members,

I am very sad to inform you that our colleague and friend Erkki Koskela passed away on June 28, 2020. Seppo Honkapohja wrote the following obituary.

Professor Erkki Koskela, CESifo research fellow since year 2000, passed away on June 28, 2020. He was born in 1946 and received his PhD at the University of Helsinki in 1976. Erkki was appointed Professor of Public Finance in 1981 and he worked in the University of Helsinki for his whole career. In 2006 he became Academy (Research) Professor for a five-year period which unfortunately was interrupted by a serious illness.

Erkki had extensive international scientific connections and collaboration. He was elected to the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters in 1993 and in 2000 to Academia Europaea. In 2002 he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Oulu.

Erkki was passionate about economic research and his own research was characterized by unusually extensive knowledge of the literature in economics. He followed very actively new developments in many fields of economics, which feature probably explains why his research covered numerous different areas. He published significant empirical and theoretical research in the following areas of economics: credit markets, savings behavior, macroeconomics, taxation, labor markets, and environmental and resource economics.

Erkki's contribution to the training of Finnish economists was remarkable for several decades. His work was particularly important in post graduate training. He supervised over 50 PhD dissertations in economics. He served as one of the Directors of the Center for Research in Economic Structures and Growth, which was a national center of excellence in 1995-2008.

Erkki's research dealt with topics that were important for economic policy issues and over the years he served several times in key expert advisory capacity's. He was also an active and respected contributor to economic policy discussion in Finland.

Erkki is certainly a key figure in the post 1970's generation of Finnish economists and had a strong influence on the process of modernization and international orientation of economic research in the country. Erkki's work was a source of inspiration to both his collaborators and, more widely, to young Finnish economists.

Clemens Fuest  
CESifo and IIPF President