

Jouko Väänänen was born in 1950 in Lapland, Finland. He studied in Helsinki, Oslo, Warsaw and Manchester and got his Ph.D. from Manchester University in 1977. He was nominated an associate professor of mathematics in the University of Helsinki in 1983, full professor 1998, and a professor of mathematical logic in the University of Amsterdam in 2006.

His research interests lie in logic and foundations of mathematics, especially set theory, model theory, finite model theory, generalized quantifiers, and infinitary logic.

He has organized several logic international conferences, and he is a member of the editorial boards of “Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic” and “Logica Universalis”.

He served as the Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics during 2004-2006, Vice-chair 2010-, a member of the Senate of the University of Helsinki 2004-2006, and Vice-dean of the Faculty of Science 2008-2009.

Jouko Väänänen is a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters since 2002. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Association for Symbolic Logic (ASL) and the chairman of the Committee for Logic in Europe of ASL 2007-2009.

In his opinion the EMS has a very important role in supporting the mathematical community and emphasizing the role of mathematics in modern society on the European level. More and more of research funding is channeled through EC instruments putting pressure especially on basic research such as mathematics to have its voice heard. The role of mathematics in the society is growing, calling for engaging and accessible methods of mathematics education. At the same time the competition for the time and intellectual attention of the facebook generation has become harder and harder. In the multi-lingual and multi-cultural European scene the EMS has a special role in both taking its own initiatives and in helping the national organizations meet this challenge.