

# SSE Alumni presentation

How studies at Aalto have helped me during my career?

Jesse Rantala, 2021-11-02

Confidential



# Agenda

1. Education overview
2. Career overview & current role
3. Studies that have helped me throughout my career
4. RELEX introduction



# Education overview



# University background

- **September 2011** – Started studying Computer Science at Aalto University
- **September 2014** – Half a year exchange period in Universidad Carlos III de Madrid studying Computer Science and Software Engineering
- **June 2016** – Finished bachelor's studies majoring in Software Business and Engineering at Aalto University
- **September 2016** – Started master's studies majoring in Software and Service Engineering at Aalto University
- **November 2018** – Graduated from Aalto University





# Career overview



# Work history

- Worked in different jobs in prior and during university studies (post office, grocery stores etc.)
- **May – August 2015** - Localization Tester at Electronic Arts in Madrid, Spain
- **March – June 2016** - PMO at DBSolutions in Santiago, Chile
- **October 2016 – current** - various roles at RELEX Solutions in Helsinki
- **October 2019 – current** - agile coach at Software Project course at Aalto University during 2019 & 2020 and visiting SSE course lectures 2020 & 2021



# Role development at RELEX Solutions

- **10/2016 – 12/2018** Part-time Solution Specialist
  - During my Master's studies at Aalto, I worked as a part-time Solution Specialist, being responsible of data integrations and technical configuration of our customer RELEX environments mainly in Norway and Denmark
- **12/2018 – 06/2019** Senior Technical Consultant
  - After graduating, I worked as a Senior Technical Consultant, leading bigger implementation projects on technical side in the Nordics and newer markets such as South America
- **06/2019 – 12/2020** Technical Delivery Manager
  - As a Technical Delivery Manager I led a team of 17 Technical Consultants responsible for our customer projects mainly in Finland & Baltics, but also providing support globally and in newer markets
- **12/2020 – current** Head of Technical Consulting



# Head of Technical Consulting at RELEX

- Ensure overall success of the technical part of RELEX implementation projects
- Plan and ensure efficient global technical delivery process and tools across all the countries while taking into account country specific development needs
- Prioritize development items according to Customer Operations and Company targets
- Contribute to the development of best practices for new product areas and improvement for existing ones
- Support in implementation projects in emerging and growing markets
- Lead and coach a group of technical consultants and team leads



**Jesse Rantala**

Head of Technical Consulting at RELEX Solutions  
Finland · [Contact info](#)

500+ connections

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessera/>





**Studies that have  
helped me throughout  
my career**



# Courses that I found especially useful from a practical point of view

- **Software Processes and Projects**

→ different frameworks and tools for better management, facilitation, planning and estimation of software projects

- **User-Centered Methods for Product and Service Design & Requirements engineering**

→ how to elicitate requirements and guide the conversations with the customer

- **Web Software Development & Design of WWW Services**

→ More hands-on coding and programming practices from the scratch - gave good foundation to speak the same language with programmers and more techy people

- **Software Architectures**

→ good foundation for how to read and create architecture and how to recognize critical components when designing it

- **Software Project**

→ execution of all the above in practice in a role of Scrum Master with an actual customer

- ***Bonus: Language courses (Spanish)***

→ *helped me to internationalize and find opportunities abroad*

- ***Bonus 2: Internships abroad and in general working while studying***

→ *helped to give better context for things being taught at Aalto*



# Master's thesis and more academical touch

- **Seminar in Software and Service Engineering**
  - helped me a lot in understanding how to conduct academic study and prepared me for Master's Thesis
  - gave me a theoretical insight to Continuous Delivery and Deployment which has been useful when discussing release and deployment models internally and with the customer
- **Master's Thesis - Applicability of Lean Principles and Kanban Method in Managing SaaS Delivery Projects and Tasks**
  - Good opportunity to learn how to apply theoretical frameworks and models in practice, get to know and understand how the company works deep down and gave a chance to cross reference to others
  - *Bonus: good learning of how to guide a project and workshops with various internal stakeholders*



# Soft skills learned and strengthened during studies

- Team work and collaboration with others
  - There's a great chance to work with people with varying backgrounds and skills at Aalto – take the best out of it, you'll face this at work later!
  - You might learn a great deal of things from other students, especially in cross-functional teams
- Communication and presentations – most of my time goes to this in my current role, but would help me a lot no matter what my role would be

Good communication  
is key!





# RELEX Solutions





# RELEX Solutions

- We help retailers and wholesalers
  - Retail optimization covering supply chain, space, promotions and markdowns, and workforce optimization
  - Powered by machine learning and advanced statistics
  - SaaS based business model
- We are an international hypergrowth company
  - Founded in 2005
  - Offices in 14 countries
  - Team of more than 1100 professionals
  - \$200 million investment by TCV in 2019

franprix 🍎

S GROUP

K

marimekko®

WHSmith

STOCKMANN

coop

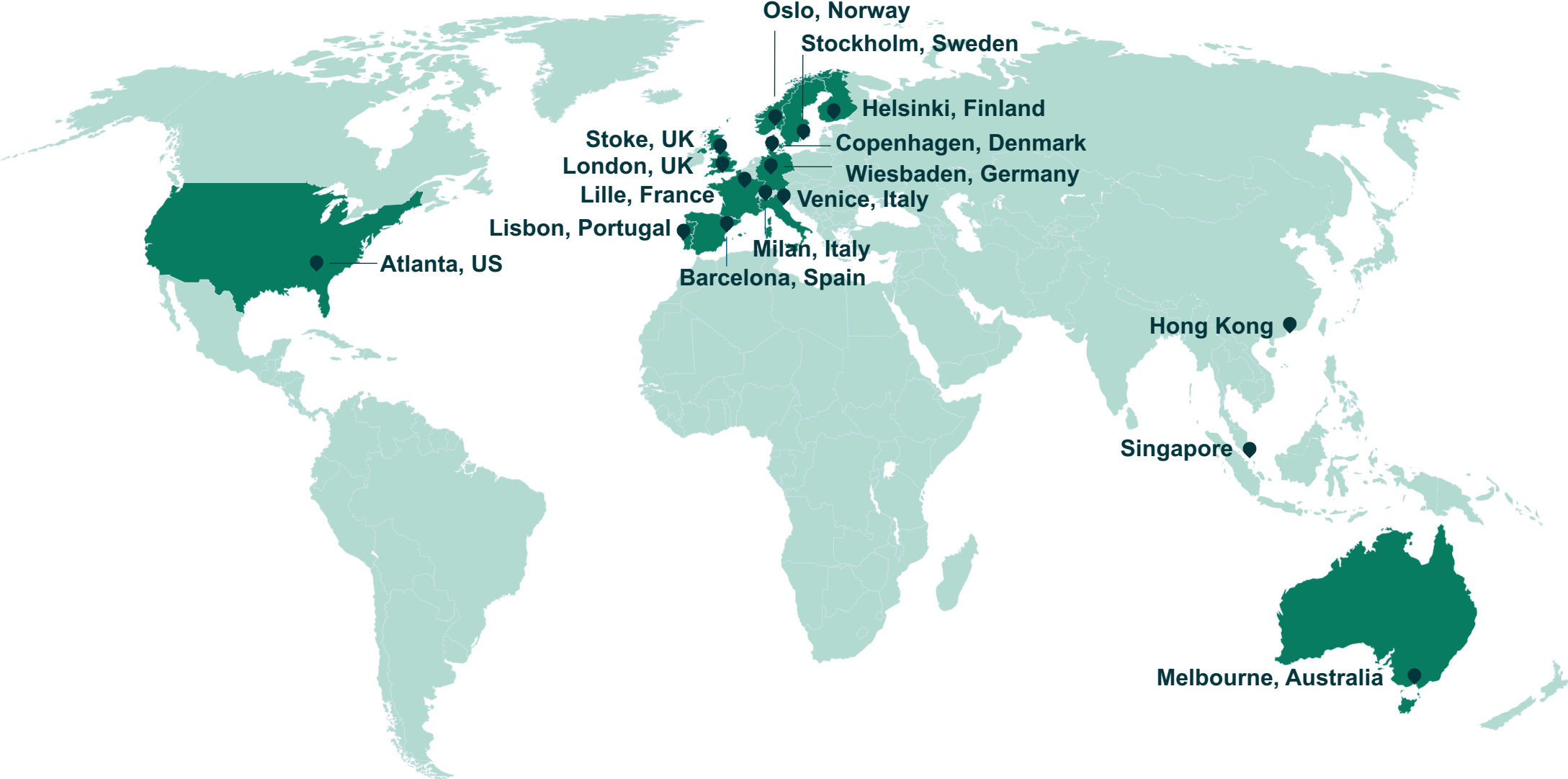
INTERSPORT

BOOTH'S  
FOOD, WINE AND GROCERY

YA<sup>®</sup> Yliopiston  
Apteekki



# Locations of our 16 offices

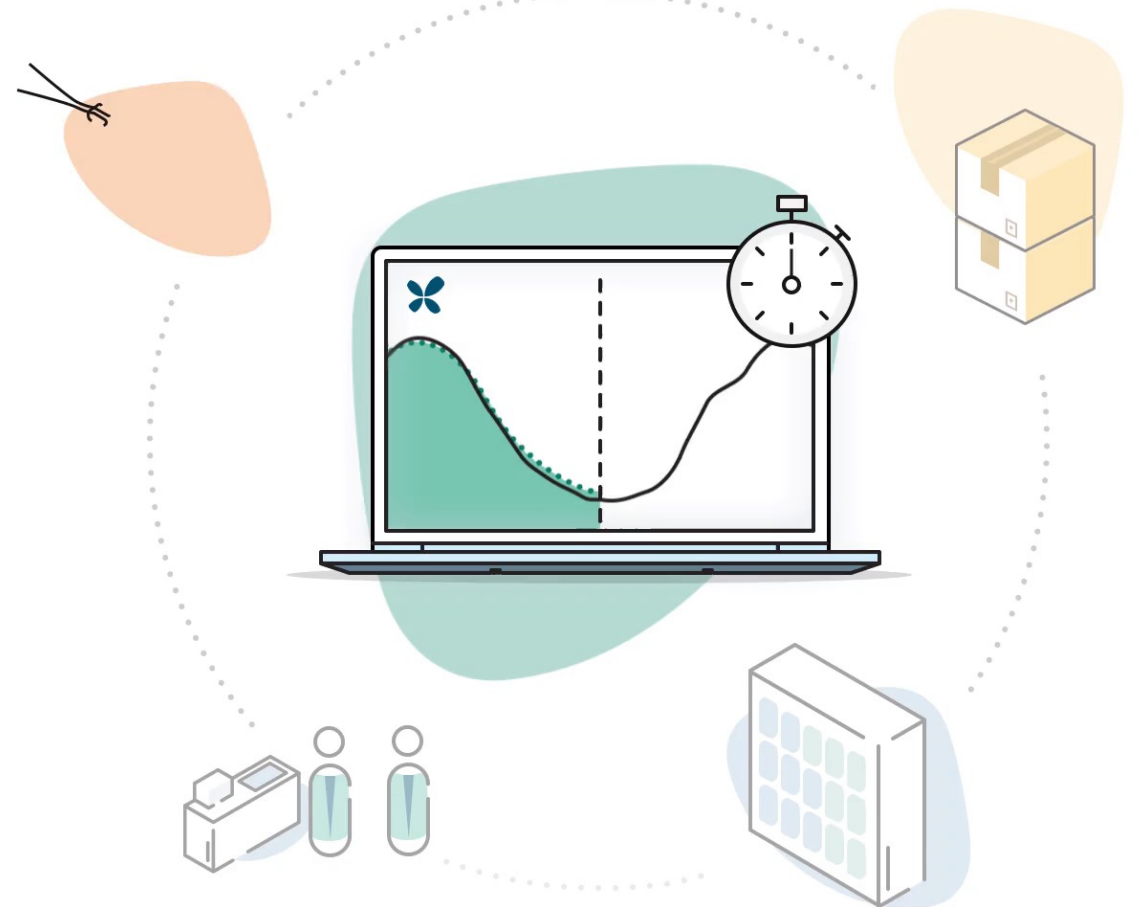


**But what does RELEX  
actually do?**



# How RELEX's offering helps at different stages

1. Our forecasting and replenishment software orders the correct amount of products
2. Our space planning software determines the optimal amount of space for the product so that it always looks full
3. Our workforce optimization software makes sure there is enough employees to always keep products moving from the backroom to the counter
4. If demand drops suddenly our markdown optimization software picks the right discount % to maximize profits while helping clearing stocks





**What is life at RELEX  
like?**





# Life at RELEX

## Great colleagues

- People from different countries and backgrounds
- Cherry picked teammates



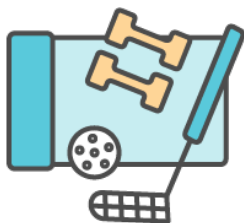
## Awesome work-life balance

- Work from home (now default)
- Flexible working hours
- Overtime is not glorified



## Free time activities

- Orienteering, floorball, yoga, gym and more
- Epic parties and events (not now but have been and will be!)



## Great opportunities

- Short or longer visits to other country offices
- High growth → a lot of great opportunities



# Life at RELEX

Cool company wide events



Traveling with colleagues





# Interested in joining us?

## Technical Consultant

- Responsible for the technical implementation of customer projects, including technical specifications together with the customer, setup and configuration of RELEX environments, building integrations, and guiding the customer to RELEX best practices

Also, a lot of other cool job openings available at

➤ <https://www.relexsolutions.com/careers/>

Instagram: lifeatrelex, Facebook: @RELEXSolutions

Summer Party 2019





# Thank you!

Jesse Rantala

[jesse.rantala@relexsolutions.com](mailto:jesse.rantala@relexsolutions.com)



[www.relexsolutions.com](http://www.relexsolutions.com)

 @RelexSolutions

 RELEX Solutions