

FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR, SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The conference on economic policy held in **2017** was already the 25th, i.e. the first scientific conference held in 1984 was 33 years ago, lasted three days¹ and was conducted as a so-to-say Ship Conference on M/S Vanemuine² travelling on the Emajõgi River to Lake Peipus and Lake Pskov and to Värskä at the Värskä Bay. On the second day the participants travelled also on the Velikaya River to Pskov, Russia and back to Värskä. The conference was started with the opening plenary meeting in the University History Museum on the Dome Hill in Tartu and continued the work on the ship in three sections (the conference work was mainly conducted during the travel on the ship on the routes: Tartu–Värskä; Värskä–Pskov–Värskä). Both overnight stays were at Värskä. The conference was closed on the third day with the final plenary meeting at Värskä after which the participants had a relaxed return trip to Tartu on the ship. In the years 1984, 1994–1995 the conference was held at the then Värskä Training Centre where further training courses for Estonian teachers were held every summer and which was the former (before occupation of Estonia and World War II) North Camp for army officers of the Republic of Estonia, and starting from 1996 already at the excellent premises of the Värskä Spa which offered better facilities. In the same year the conference was also international for the first time, the foreigners participating were above all colleagues from institutions of higher education of the Federal Republic of Germany. Thus, it was an international conference for the 22nd time this year. The XXV International Scientific Conference on Economic Policy which was a jubilee conference this year, was held for already the 5th year at Jäneda, from 29 June to 1 July 2017.

2017 was also the **23rd anniversary** of the continuation of the ship conference as the next, the second conference at Värskä (1994). By that time the ship was unfortunately no longer riverworthy, there was no new ship we could use and we mainly used special bus transport (true enough, we sometimes used also a fast ship to travel from Tartu to Värskä or back but it was not an appropriate place to hold a conference, the ship was just a means of transportation). **In total, 20 Värskä Conferences were held** (1984, 1994–2012). The presentations delivered and discussions held at Värskä were always interesting, in the spare time the participants could attend (starting from the three-day conference of 1997) entertaining concerts and shows of the local Seto culture, health programmes and very enjoyable wildlife trips which enriched the senses (all this has traditionally continued also later and above all thanks to the good ideas of the organising team and constructive cooperation both in Estonia and in cooperation with colleagues from other countries).

¹ The second (27.–28.05.1994), third (25.–26.08.1995) and the fourth (28.–29.06.1996, international for the first time) conference were 2-day conferences, and since 1997 until now already 3-day conferences.

² Organiser of the ship conference at that time, M.R.: It may have been the first ever ship conference (or one of the first and among the very few) in Estonia at that time? Today, conferences and meetings held above all on ships at sea are already relatively common in Estonia but not always affordable to everybody, including particularly to institutions of higher education!

Starting from 2013 the conferences continued at the **Jäneda Manor** (the manor was selected as a result of bids from more than ten potential sites) according to the preferences of the participants and in order to have more variety in terms of the site. This meant not only a new site and other facilities but also a different conception and new developments for the ethnic cultural programmes of the first evening of the conference, for the health and sports activities organised after the conference presentations and discussions of the second day and the wildlife and hiking tours of the third day. Today we can also say that starting from the XXI International Conference on Economic Policy in 2013, our conference has become a **Manor Conference**. 2017 – for the fifth successive year at Jäneda. Why not organise the conference at Jäneda also in the future, maybe also for the tenth time at Jäneda!? Everything is possible if the participants so wish. It would certainly mean a remarkable achievement, so to say, twenty conferences at Värskä and ten at Jäneda. But it will depend on the possibilities and the time will show what will happen.

The journal has published also the Chronicles section in which the “In memoriam” subsection highlights the remarkable Estonian economists, academics of the economics field and research organisers. The Chronicles section also features past conferences, experience gained from other countries, etc.

We have also started publication of special editions, e.g. 2016-2 was published in connection with Janno Reiljan becoming *professor emeritus* and stopping his active participation in the activities the University of Tartu. At the Tallinn University of Technology, Sulev Mäeltsemees has stopped his active participation in the activities, therefore the Special Edition 2017-1 will be published, also the Jubilee Conference 25 at Jäneda in summer 2017 is largely related to him.³

January – July 2017
At Piritä-Kose in Tallinn

Sincerely, on behalf of the organisers of the conference and the editorial staff of the journal,
Matti Raudjärv (Initiator of the series of conferences and the founder and Chief Editor of the journal)

³ Organisers of the conference are also glad to let you know that the XXVI Conference that will be held on 28–30 June 2018 will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia! We will invite also many people and colleagues to participate, both to speak and listen! Let us try to make our own contribution to this dignified jubilee! We have informed also the Office of the President of the Republic of Estonia in autumn 2015 of our planned event and our activities were noted!