

THE TWENTY THIRD INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC POLICY, FOR THE THIRD TIME AT JÄNEDA

The XXIII International Scientific Conference on Economic Policy "Economic Policy in the EU Member States – 2015" was held in Estonia from 2 to 4 July 2015 and already for the third time in the buildings of the Jäneda Manor. The working languages of the conference were traditionally Estonian and German (with also consecutive interpretation from these languages). Some presentations were delivered in English without interpretation.

The conference was opened in the afternoon of Thursday, 2 July by **Matti Raudjärv** (University of Tartu (UT), Pärnu College), the initiator of the series of conferences and main organiser/coordinator of the XXIII Conference. This was followed by the **plenary meeting** which was fully dedicated to the subject of local government issues and was chaired by **Sulev Mäeltseems** (Tallinn University of Technology, TUT) who made also the first longer presentation on the subject "*The Association of Local Authorities – One or More?*". The second longer presentation was made by **Janno Reiljan** with Annika Jaansoo as the co-author (both from the University of Tartu) – "*Commuting as a factor in local public finance in Estonia*". The presentations were followed by questions and discussions.

Four sessions of 1.5 h each were held on Friday, 3 July. The **first session** in the morning was chaired by **Claus-Friedrich Laaser** and **Klaus Schrader** (Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany). The presentations were:

- **Armin Rohde** (University of Greifswald, Germany) – "*Potential Risks of Recent Monetary Policy of the Eurosystem*",
- **Karen Cabos** (University of Applied Sciences of Lübeck, Germany) – "*Monetary Policy at the Zero Lower Bound*",
- **Klaus Schrader, Claus-Friedrich Laser** – "*Challenging the Baltic states' trade relations with Russia: caught in path dependencies?*".

The **second session** was chaired by **Armin Rohde** who participated already for the 16th time at our conference (for several times with his doctoral students). The presentations were from the following authors:

- **Viljar Veebel** (Estonian National Defence College) – "*Economic Sanctions as an International Retaliatory Measure?*",
- **Matti Raudjärv** – "*Economic and trade relations of Estonia as a EU member state, incl. with Russia and Ukraine*",
- **Jelena Rootamm-Valter** (UT, Narva College) – "*Changes in Economic Behavior of Russian Tourists and their Influence on Estonian Border-Area Economy (Case of Ida-Viru-maa)*".

The **third session** held in the afternoon was chaired by **Janno Reiljan**. It consisted of three presentations as well:

- **Vija Melbārde** (University of Applied Sciences of Vidzeme, Latvia) – "*Human kapital research: regional aspects*",
- **Karin Lindroos** (TUT) – "*Implementantion of the theoretical concept of green procurement and supplier selection in estonian shipbuilding industry*",

- **Viktor Trasberg** (UT) – *“Alcohol excise duties in the European Union“*.

The last, **fourth session** held on Friday was chaired by Sirje-Ilona Pädam (TUT) and the following presentations were made:

- **Helli Lepasaar** (TUT) – *“Seminal communities of Estonia as valuable environmental good“*,
- **Tea Nõmmann** (SEI Tallinn) – *“Societal Benefits of Avoiding Marine Oil Pollution: Estonian case study“*,
- **Sirje-Ilona Pädam** (TUT) – *“Environmental policy and externalities in Estonia“*.

The conference was closed by **Matti Raudjärv**. The participants, authors of papers in the journal *“Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy“*, peer reviewers, editors, interpreters and everybody who contributed to the success of the conference were thanked. Authors were also encouraged to finish their papers and everybody was invited to participate also in the next, XXIV Conference in 2016.

In addition to conference work, the programme also included spare time activities: cultural programme on Thursday evening (Mandolin Orchestra of the Tapa Rural Municipality), sports and talks programme on Friday and nature programme on Saturday (Vargamäe Literary Farm Museum and Järva-Madise Church).

Welcome to Jäneda from 30 June to 2 July 2016!

In Tallinn, in July-August 2015

Matti Raudjärv

Initiator of the series of conferences and main organiser/coordinator of the XXIII conference