

TEN YEARS FROM THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE JOURNAL „ESTONIAN DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC POLICY“

This journal has been published under the current name for the tenth year already, since 2007. At first, one issue was published every year and since 2011, two issues have been published annually. When looking back at it now, the publication is a successor of the first collection of papers of the scientific conference on economic policy published in 1984 and to the following analogous collections of papers published since 1994 for many years. Since 1996 also colleagues from institutions of higher education of the Federal Republic of Germany and later also from other countries have been added to Estonian authors. Thus these publications with the economic policy orientation can already be regarded as the 24th annual volume.

The subjects of the papers have covered economic policies and their subject areas of many countries on the basis of case studies from one or several countries and considering their mutual relations and comparisons. Economic policy of 19 countries has been studied in the papers published¹ and also several other countries have been briefly discussed. Economic policy of such regions, associations or subject areas as Europe and the European Union, EU regions, European green capitals, the Baltic States and the Scandinavian region, Eastern and Central Europe, Northern Europe, OECD countries, etc. has been discussed.

In 2007–2015 the authors of the papers published have represented nine countries.² In addition to the countries mentioned, also Belgium, Lithuania, Poland, France and Finland had been represented through the papers published before 2007. The Editorial Staff of the journal hopes that the geography of economic policy of papers and the list of authors also by countries will expand in the future.

Although the journal has primarily an economic policy orientation, also papers in business administration are always welcome in all subject areas if they cover:

- the impact of national economic policy on businesses and/or
- the impact of businesses on the national economic policy.

Or, in other words – papers on business administration have to be related to economic policy! The authors have succeeded that to some extent but unfortunately not always. This means that people engaged in business administration should also know the problems of national economy better. On the other hand, economists engaged in national economy should also sufficiently understand the problems of business administration.

Considering the relatively fast changes taking place globally, incl. in Europe and in the EU and in its Member States, these should certainly also be treated in studies and papers on economic policy in addition to the above-mentioned areas of economic policy (service society, digitalisation / Industry 4.0 / topics related to refugees, etc.). Thus the

¹ In addition to Estonia, these have been Georgia, China, Ireland, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Germany, Slovakia, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Hungary, U.S.A., Russia.

² Austria, Estonia, China, Latvia, Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia.

range of topics which need studying and writing is increasingly expanding. The Editorial Staff of the publication is ready to deal with it!

From the very beginning, in the initial years of the publication it became necessary to evaluate and peer review increasingly seriously the papers submitted. At first this was done by doctoral students in addition to editors, after some time already above all by Estonian economists with a doctoral degree and during the second half of the first decade of this century also economists with a doctoral degree from other countries (mainly from Germany, Austria and Hungary) have been added. Since 2007 we have consistently applied a two-stage peer review procedure.³

The first stage has consisted in a so-to-say preliminary peer review by economists with a doctoral degree from above all Estonian universities (the School of Economics and Business Administration and the Pärnu College from the University of Tartu, and the Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration and the Faculty of Social Sciences from the Tallinn University of Technology). Then, after the amendments and additions made to papers according to the comments of preliminary peer review and their recommendation for peer review to foreign peer reviewers, the *second stage* has taken place – final peer review by economists with doctoral degrees from other countries.

Peer review is so-to-say blinded both at the first and the second stage, i.e. the reviewer does not know who the author of the paper is and the author does not know who has been the reviewer. Thus the minimum number of reviewers has been two or three but sometimes even up to five reviewers have participated in the evaluation of one paper. The authors have to take into account any sensible and reasonable comments of all reviewers and this will be checked in its turn by the editors of the publication. Quite a few peer reviewers would like to see later, before publishing of the paper, to what extent the author has taken into account their comments. Only then the papers get the so-called green light for publishing.

Suitable papers and their annexes are published in this research publication prepared in three languages⁴ and consisting of two parts (materials printed on paper and the CD):

- full texts of papers are published on CD which is a part of the publication and will be inserted in the pocket of the back cover of the journal;
- summaries in another language are published as a part of the publication in the journal on paper and belong to the research paper found on CD.

Papers published in this journal have been presented and distributed by the following international databases: EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), EBSCO Central & Eastern European Academic Source, DOAJ, EBSCO, EconBib, ECONIS, ESO, SSRN. In addition, the publication has been represented in the libraries of Estonian universities

³ Such a work procedure is in effect also now.

⁴ The papers on CD are either in English or German and the printed summaries on the paper version of the journal are in a different languages, i.e. in another language – German, English or Estonian. Also the chronicles are published on paper: A. Memories of Estonian economists, academic staff of economics and research managers; B. Brief overviews of scientific conferences on economic policy and other related events, and chronology of Estonian scientific conferences on economic policy; C. Other necessary information.

and also libraries of universities of several other countries and international databases of libraries. For years already also the world's largest library, the Library of U.S. Congress in Washington, founded in 1800, has subscribed to this publication. The publication has also been sent to many libraries of universities of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and several other countries and Estonian libraries and it is annually distributed also by the German publishing house for research literature BWV through different channels.

The publication has currently both the ISSN and ISBN index in Estonia and the ISBN index also in Germany as the Estonian publishing house Mattimar OÜ has had cooperation with German publishers of research literature already since 2001,⁵ the current co-publisher is the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag (BWV).

The Editorial Staff of the journal hopes that our activities and publications have been interesting and perhaps also satisfactory for the readers but we are always ready to listen to noteworthy suggestions and to discuss and also take into account any developments of the publication.

And finally a call for both cooperation and friendly distribution:

The journal is ready to accept and publish research papers with economic policy orientation or related to economic policy which conform to the requirements of the journal from any authors regardless of their nationality, country or continent! We wish good cooperation to both current and future authors and interesting reading matter to readers! In the name of the Editorial Staff of the journal we would hereby like to thank all authors, subscribers to the publication and the readers! As the chief editor I would like to thank all our colleagues – members of the Editorial Staff – and our supporters! We wish everybody a lot of success for the future!

In Tallinn,
August 2015 – April 2016

Matti Raudjärv
(Founder and editor of the publication since 1984,
Editor)

⁵ Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag GmbH is the legal successor of the earlier publishing house Berlin Verlag Arno Spitz GmbH since 2003.