

**THOUGHTS OF A “FELLOW TRAVELLER” ON THIS
SPECIAL EDITION:**

Professor Janno Reiljan – 65 (8.10.1951)

This special issue is published for the first time for the scientific journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy*. The reason is that the long-time lecturer of economics at the University of Tartu and economist, Professor Janno Reiljan, will be already 65 on 8 October 2016 and will continue his activities as a professor emeritus from July 2016. The undersigned has had the opportunity to be relatively well familiar with the activities of Janno Reiljan for about 40 years and we have often had close and constructive cooperation. We have had many joys but also concerns together but the cooperation has still stood the test of time and, all in all, almost everything has been a success! The undersigned is sincerely and gratefully glad about it all!

This special issue 2016-2 of *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy* is dedicated to the above-mentioned jubilee of Janno Reiljan. Janno Reiljan announced at the traditional XXIII International Scientific Conference on Economic Policy at Jäneda Manor on 2–4 July 2015 that 2015/2016 would be the last academic year for him at the School of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Tartu. It is a pity but a lot of work has been done and we have to recognise it and give him credit for that!

In August 2015 it was decided on the initiative and with the support of many people that it would be a good reason to publish a special issue of our journal on that occasion, following the example of classical universities. Janno Reiljan has been an active and effective editor and peer reviewer for the earlier periodical issues of this journal already for years. He has provided practical advice with his remarkable initiative for the development of the journal. Thus it is very relevant to publish a partial overview of these activities in our journal in particular.

In connection with Janno Reiljan I would point out our important joint activities together with many good colleagues at the Estonian Club of Young Economists. Interesting discussions regularly held at the Club were professionally developing and helped also to get acquainted with many people – colleagues. Also annual scientific conferences of young economists were jointly organised during the second half of 1970s and the beginning of 1980s, also the so-called Ship Conference held in 1984. The Värška conferences subsequently held since 1994 grew into traditional annual (since 1996 international) conferences on economic policy. As a result of decades of development efforts, the collections of papers published for conferences at that time grew first into the collection of research papers and for the last six-ten years into the international scientific journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy* published in three languages (with the German publishing house of scientific literature Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag as the co-publisher since 2000).

Cooperation with Janno Reiljan was fruitful and varied for the undersigned also in Kiel, the Federal Republic of Germany in November–December 1989¹, with the emotional highlights of the fall of the Berlin Wall and its immediate implications. I remember that the then Vice-President of the University Association of the Schleswig-Holstein State of the Federal Republic of Germany and Rector of the Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel Professor Dr. Michael Müller-Wille took an interest in Estonia at the reception held in the international centre/hotel IBZ, which was recently, on 01.09.1989 opened for foreign lecturers and researchers with fellowships at the university. After active communication, the rector turned back at the door when leaving the reception, raised his hat and called out resoundingly and clearly in Estonian – „Terviseks!“.

During our fellowship period at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences of the Kiel University at that time we lived in the same guesthouse of the university, on the western coast of the Kiel Fjord which is of great military and historical and economical importance. The internationally well-known Kiel Institute of World Economy is a few hundred metres from there with its rich library – we can even say that it is a globally known and highly appreciated library² with excellent conditions for work and borrowing literature. The duration of the Janno Reiljan’s fellowship period at the University of Kiel was ten months from November 1989 (at the Institute of Theoretical Public Economics, with the Director of the Institute, Professor Dr. Horst Herberg as his contact person), the undersigned spent there three months in total, including two at the Kiel University (at the Institute of Economic Policy, with the Director of the Institute, Professor Dr. Gerhard Prosi as the contact person)³. This fellowship period was fruitful for both of us both in terms of work and communication and allowed us to create excellent contacts with German colleagues which we have maintained until now, and to prepare for further communication and developments.

Fellowship opportunities for several months at the universities of other countries have always been fruitful and broadened our mind. Janno Reiljan and I have both used these opportunities through calls for applications. On the other hand, it is somewhat surprising that many younger colleagues do not want to use these opportunities nowadays. But maybe these people just work at a wrong job, many of them also lack practical experience from working in an enterprise or some other organisation? Professor Janno Reiljan is certainly a person who has gained further knowledge and experience to a significant extent also from fellowship opportunities in foreign countries and has used them in Estonia with considerable success. He has

¹ We both had the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, German Academic Exchange Service) fellowship grants for the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of the Kiel University.

² Also Econis, one of the international databases of this journal, is located in that library.

³ Both Professor Emeritus Horst Herberg and Professor Emeritus Gerhard Prosi (1935–2014) have visited Estonia and delivered lectures at our universities.

been successful both in academic and research activities and as an elected member of the Estonian parliament Riigikogu.

This special edition is largely also a part of the chronicles and I hope that other such special publications and other similar works will be published both in Estonia in general and also within this journal. The undersigned as the current chief editor will be ready to support them in all respects.

But I wish Janno, his family, colleagues and everybody else good health, strength, vivacity and naturally also happiness!

At Pirita-Kose in Tallinn

On behalf of the conference and the editorial staff of the journal,

Matti Raudjärv

Long-time fellow fighter, colleague and friend of Janno