

ANOTHER CYCLE OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN GEORGIA

The undersigned (Matti Raudjärv) worked at universities of Georgia from 13 October to 14 November 2016 with the support from the Marie Curie action of the EU 7th Framework Programme, delivering lectures and doing research.¹ Mainly in the Engineering Economics Department of the Business-Engineering Faculty of the Georgian Technical University but also at the Kutaisi State University, Telavi State University and Tbilisi State University. Besides teaching and research activities there were also opportunities for getting acquainted with Georgia briefly during the spare time.

All activities in Georgia for which the undersigned received no remuneration according to the contract were dedicated to different areas of economic policy but also the subjects which have been topical for countries of the world and their economies for many years already, such as services and the services society and Economy 4.0, Industry 4.0, Power engineering 4.0, Trade 4.0 and others were not left aside together with developments in innovation, digitalisation and technologies and robotisation. These issues were discussed in the contexts of both the public sector and the regional and local government policy (incl. the respective administrative and state reforms planned in Estonia).

First (14 to 15.10.2016) another, fourth two-day international conference organised by the Business-Engineering Department of the Georgian Technical University (GTU) took place in GTU and at the Kutaisi State University on the subject *National Economic Development Models: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*. For the first day at GTU in Tbilisi, the organisers had requested from the undersigned a presentation for the plenary meeting of the conference on the subject *Estonian Fiscal System and its Development Trends*.² The presentation was a success according to the audience. In addition to the presentation made, a sizable paper on the same subject was published in Russian in the research journal of the university, and also Georgian government agencies have already expressed their interest in it.

On the second day the participants travelled to Western Georgia where the conference continued at the Kutaisi State University. The undersigned made his second, spontaneous presentation there, talking on economic policy in general (structural policy; process policy, incl. correlation between the increase in labour productivity and increase in salaries, and other topical issues), also on developments in the cooperation between the universities of the two countries, incl. about the international scientific conferences on economic policy held in Estonia and on possibilities for

¹ The undersigned stayed in Georgia with the support from the same programme also in March-April 2014 for about five weeks and the activities were analogous with those of this year.

² The undersigned visited also the third conference at Tbilisi-Kutaisi in October 2015 and made a presentation at the plenary meeting on the economic and trade relations between Georgia and Estonia. Also a paper was published in the research journal of GTU on the same subject.

publishing papers in the journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused*.

Starting from 17 October the undersigned delivered the already usual lectures and provided consultations, supervised research papers, conducted workshops and heard presentations/defences/discussions of term papers in the GTU lecture rooms, also delivered lectures at the Telavi State University. The lectures were intended both for students and the academic staff and the other activities were above all for students. Meetings-consultations at the Tbilisi State University took place with the objective of planning further cooperation with the academic staff and doctoral students.

The universities mentioned above received again (or for the first time) copies of our international scientific journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy* which is published in three languages (No. 1-2016) together with an invitation to visit Estonia, participate in scientific conferences on economic policy and write papers for publishing in our journal. GTU even planned to design and publish their journal³ following our example.

January 2017

Sincerely,
Matti Raudjärv

³ The undersigned performed an analysis of the economic journal of GTU and gave his assessments already during his stay in Georgia in March 2014. The undersigned is a member of the editorial staff of this journal since 2016.