

ON SUPPORTING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

The period for the celebration of the Jubilee of the Republic of Estonia is from April 2017 to February 2020. Last year, in 2017, the XXV International Scientific Conference on Economic Policy *Majanduspoliitika Euroopa Liidu riikides / Die Wirtschaftspolitik in den EU / Economic Policy in the EU Member States* was held at Jämeda in Estonia (29.06–01.07.2017), which was the jubilee conference. Also the publishing of the international scientific journal in three languages (English, German Estonian) *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused* continued (it was already the 25th annual volume for our journal if we take into account also the previous publications; this year would already be the 26th annual volume of publishing the journal and for the 8th successive year with two annual issues!) in which it is also intended to point out this important jubilee of the Republic of Estonia.¹ Considering that our conferences have traditionally taken place at the end of June – beginning of July, it is possible for us to celebrate the Jubilee of the Republic of Estonia in three years (2017–2019).

In addition, there are also other wonderful possibilities for the celebration of this birthday, such as: in autumn 2013 the undersigned planted acorns in soil in the joint country home of ourselves and our close ones, the Kaasiku Farm (in Tapa Rural Municipality, Lääne-Viru County) and in the family garden at Pirita-Kose in Tallinn. In autumn 2017 the sprouted plants were transplanted to take them to the planned permanent sites and plant them there in spring 2018.

The undersigned thus responded to the appeal published in the *Metsamees* (Forester) journal in 2 December 2013 by the Government Office of the Republic of Estonia to plant 100 oaks for the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Republic of Estonia and registered his participation respectively. For me as a citizen of the Republic of Estonia this small action and participation is a modest contribution and commitment for the benefit of the Republic of Estonia and for the enhancement of our state.

It is planned to plant the transplants in the year of the 100th birthday of the Republic of Estonia partly in the park built in the meadow around the forest farm / country home with the help of our family and friends (the undersigned then celebrated his 50th birthday and conifers from different countries of origin were planted in the park built at that time!) and also to expand the existing park with a micro-oak-forest, so to say. A mini-birch-forest has already been built by the undersigned and his mother² in the territory of our farm park five-six years ago (although wild boars, roe deers, mice and hares have considerably reduced/thinned it!).

¹ Also this brief article serves that purpose.

² Mother Salme had her 91st birthday at the time of writing this article (born on 11.12.1926), father Arved's 91st birthday was a little earlier (born on 18.07.1926). Despite the old age and health problems of mother and father we have coped fine and optimistically by now.

Since there is not enough space for all transplants anyway in the meadow/park of the farm as a full-grown oak will take up a lot of space, it has been planned to give a number of transplants as gifts to our neighbours there and to friends, acquaintances and other people interested (assuming they have so much free space in their gardening plot or farmland that full grown oaks would not be in the way in the future!?).

As we have organised the international scientific conference on economic policy for 25 years now (1984, 1994–2017) in Estonia together with our many good colleagues both from Estonian universities and those of other countries, we had an idea to plant oaks also in the current and earlier venues (Värskä and Jäneda) of the conferences in April–May 2018 (due to the appropriate weather conditions) as a memory of our conferences held.

The mini speed chess tournament started at the XXV Jubilee Conference last year, in 2017, a chess event that will hopefully be repeated also at the future conferences, could also be dedicated to the jubilee of the Republic of Estonia. Why not, since last year we commemorated the world-famous chess player Paul Keres, and the 100th birthday of the Republic of Estonia and legendary Paul Keres (2016–1975) could very well be celebrated together. The chess genius Paul Keres has done a lot of good things and brought fame to Estonia – he is surely worth remembering with good words and activities also in connection with the events of the 100th birthday of the Republic of Estonia. He lived his life for Estonia!

Together with his colleagues, the undersigned hopes to make a small contribution with all the above-mentioned activities to the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Republic of Estonia. But also to making the surroundings of our farm houses and Estonian landscapes in general more beautiful. We wish all this also to other good people living in Estonia and our friends and guests!

Already from the initial years, the organisers and the organising committees have made efforts to support with all the conferences organised, collections of papers published and the current journals published the development of research and academic studies both in Estonia and other countries. Hopefully, both the academic staff and researchers and undergraduates and doctoral students but also other people interested have found something interesting for themselves. Supporting both research work and academic studies has been a way to contribute to the development of Estonia. Therefore, the undersigned believes on behalf of the organising committees concerned that the rather long series of conferences and publishing of the collections/journals have been a modest contribution and gift from all participants and authors for the 100th birthday of the Republic of Estonia!

Congratulations and may you live long – the Republic of Estonia!

September 2017 – July 2018

At Pirita-Kose in Tallinn and Kaasiku Farm in Lääne-Viru County
Sincerely, on behalf of the organising committees of the conference and journal,

Matti Raudjärv

Comment: The 100th anniversary of the start of the Estonian-language national technical university in Estonia will be celebrated in September 2018. Being myself a graduate of the Faculty of Economics of the Tallinn University of Technology (former Tallinn Polytechnic Institute) from 1974, the undersigned certainly encourages both the participants of our International Scientific Conference on Economic Policy and the authors of the international scientific journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused* published in three languages and other people related to this publication to keep in mind and celebrate such an important anniversary, including by planting oaks in Estonia.

We wish happiness, a lot of strength and further outstanding achievements in all respects in both academic studies and scientific research – to you, dear *Alma Mater!*

M. R.