

COMMEMORATING OUR BACKGROUND AND JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH JANNO REILJAN

I knew the respected Professor Emeritus Dr. Janno Reiljan who left us so early, for a very long time (approximately during the years 1975–2017; i.e. for almost 42 years – which is a very long time! The undersigned met Janno Reiljan first in the second half of the 70s of the last century when we actively participated in the activities of the newly established Estonian Club of Young Economists. We both participated in the regular workshops/meetings of the club and annual conferences and other events. Very good relations developed with Janno then but also with other wonderful people and Estonian economists. We could even say that thanks to the young economists of Tartu and Tallinn (including particularly Janno) the communication/cooperation between the universities of these two cities became considerably closer. That was a good sign for the future, which was excellently confirmed and evidenced by the mutually understanding relations with Janno and others! We had all just graduated from the university and were ready for post-graduate studies, libraries, serious research, writing our theses, defending them, etc. We had a lot to talk about and held exciting discussions.

Many mere colleagues became good friends during that period (which did not mean agreeing to all positions of each other in the discussions, we had nearly always many disputes and disagreements – but this led us further and contributed also to the regaining of independence of the Republic of Estonia!). We should only be glad about it and wish Estonia success also in its further development. Among other things, the possible self-management of Estonia was discussed at the Estonian Club of Young Economists already in relatively great detail at the beginning of 1980s. The Estonian Club of Young Economists became somewhat less active during the second half of 1980s as many people had already defended their theses, many so-called “young” economists had outgrown from their young status (i.e. became older than 35 years of age) and increasingly more people were busy with the practical issues of Estonian self-management and independence, or, in other words – they had to start solving relatively unfamiliar and unforeseen issues of economic policy.

The years from approximately 1975–76 to 1987–88 can be conditionally regarded as the *first period* in relations with Janno and also others. During that time we actively participated also in scientific conferences of other union republics and regional and all-union conferences (we had generally no access to other countries, particularly Western countries!).

The second period (partly parallel/overlapping with the first period of the Estonian Club of Young Economists) in our relations with Janno was characterised by *two main orientations*:

- *fellowship opportunities abroad* (above all in countries with market economy) which became relatively regular and self-evident for many people; they understood the importance of fellowships for the international activities supporting the development of both their own institution of higher education and Estonia. Besides, additional colleagues, friends, information, experience

and a broader outlook on life were acquired. We could say that Janno Reiljan led the way for others in a sense as he was at first one of the few colleagues who managed to get fellowship grants in “the West” during the deep stagnation period.

Janno acquired a fellowship grant of 10 months from DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst; German Academic Exchange Service) for the University of Bonn in the Federal Republic of Germany already in 1983–1984. The undersigned had the first fellowship grant of three months through DAAD in the Federal Republic of Germany at the Kiel University and Frankfurt (Main) University in 1989–1990. We both worked together at the Faculty of Economics of the Kiel University and stayed at the university hotel from mid-November 1989 (when Janno arrived at the Kiel University for another fellowship and was a great help to the undersigned with his earlier experience) to the first days of January 1990. During that period we spent a lot of time with Janno, having discussions and communicating with our joint German colleagues.

- At the end of May 1984 a *three-day scientific conference on economic policy*, the so-called „Ship Conference“ was held in Tartu and Värskä (also during the trip to Pskov on the second day); the conference was continued 10 years later, in 1994, and has now been organised every year since then (for the 25th time already in 2017). Thus the series of conferences has become a *tradition*. In connection with the conferences also papers were written and published in collections of papers. Since 1996 also colleagues from other countries have participated in our conferences; Janno Reiljan participated (very often with his doctoral students) in almost all conferences since the first one until our XXV Jubilee Conference at Jämeda in 2017 (both with presentations, publications and by chairing the sessions).

Since the XV conference at Värskä in 2007, Janno was the main representative of the participants from Tartu in the preparation/conduction of the conference and peer reviewing the papers and compiling the collection (the forerunner of the current scientific journal). Janno was actively preparing also the next conferences and publishing of the journals in autumn/winter of 2017 (i.e. the autumn semester) until the unfortunate evening of 29 December 2017 ... and the stairs ... and ... Tartu University Clinics ... and ... 23 January 2018 at about 23.00 ... and finally 1 February 2018 at 11.00 in the Assembly Hall of the University of Tartu...

The Estonian blue-black-white flag was at half-staff on the main building of the University of Tartu on 1 February. At the end of the funeral ceremony, Janno’s coffin was carried out of the main building of the university by his fellow members from the academic corporation *Fraternitas Livionensis*, accompanied by the flags of corporations and family and colleagues, with many other friends and acquaintances standing on both sides of the way, and Janno was taken away ... Mourners went to the White Hall of the History Museum of the University of Tartu to commemorate Janno.

Professor Janno Reiljan has unfortunately left us – he was a very capable man in all respects and very hard-working. This should certainly be honoured and respected!

Dear good friend Janno! We had planned to do so much more! I remember these things and I also hope to achieve them with the support and involvement of our other common friends. I believe, Janno, that you would be satisfied with our activities!

Professor Janno Reiljan belonged to the organising committees of both our conference and the journal, including being one of the editors and peer reviewers on the Estonian side. Janno was always rich in ideas, worrying about the success of both the conference and the journal. Janno did excellent and thorough work (sensible and justified critical comments, notes, recommendations for amendment, etc.) in peer reviewing the papers (before sending them to foreign reviewers) in order to publish the papers of the authors in an as good shape as possible. His activities essentially consisted in providing friendly assistance to the authors of papers.

Janno, 2018 is the year of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia. Also you have made an important contribution to the existence of the Estonian state and making it as successful as possible to ensure the continuation of the Estonian people, Estonian language and Estonian culture! Thank you so much for this!

Also our next international conferences at Jäneda and the international journal in three languages have given and will give a small present to the Estonian state (the period of celebration of the jubilee of the Republic of Estonia is from April 2017 to February 2020). You, Janno, will definitely participate in it! We have taken care of it – our joint conference and the journal will present a festive address to Estonia and in addition we will plant oak trees at the venues of our conferences, both at Väraska and at Jäneda. You, dear friend and good colleague, will be present and will participate in these events!

Janno – we will not forget you! Janno has left, long live Janno!

27 January – 27 February 2018
At Pirita-Kose in Tallinn and in Tartu

In grief, in the name of the organising committees of the conferences and the journal, authors, participants and supporters,

Matti Raudjärv

Longtime friend and colleague, (initiator/main organiser of the Estonian scientific conferences on economic policy held at Väraska and Jäneda, Chief Editor of the research journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy*)