

## THE THOUGHTS-ATTITUDES OF THE EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE AND THE ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE BOTH ABOUT THE PREVIOUS YEARS AND IN RELATION TO THE YEAR 2023!

We did not manage to organize the scientific conference in 2020–2023 and for several reasons (although we made the preparations which would have ensured conduction of a quite proper conference):

- COVID-19 in the two first years (2020 and 2021);
- in 2022 and 2023 the viruses spread more extensively – also the flu claimed its “clients”;
- in 2022, in addition to viruses (although the spread of COVID had begun to decline), Russian aggression in Ukraine started on 24 February 2022 (which is the birthday of the Republic of Estonia!).

For the above-mentioned reasons, many colleagues from universities of other countries cancelled first of all their participation in the conference (several restrictions and risks at some places) and therefore also writing the papers. They informed us that hopefully the situation would be better in the future. Some authors and peer reviewers also requested additional time and therefore the publishing of the journal was delayed. Often also several restrictions had been set to travelling to other countries. Thus the situation was unpredictable and we hope for better times in the future.

In 2023 the additional factors were *general increases in price levels* and possible *change in the situation at Jäneda*. These obstacles can be explained as follows:

- **The economic and security situation** has become more complicated both globally and in Estonia in the recent years, including the considerable increase in the prices of many products and services. Therefore also the expenses of organisation of the conference have increased.
- The **conference venue** is becoming another problem – Jäneda Mõis OÜ. We have organized conferences there since 2013. A quite nice and suitable venue: working rooms, accommodation, catering, sauna available in the evening, cultural programme and tours, the staff, etc. have been excellent. Also the location near Tallinn is very good (particularly for foreigners flying to Tallinn and renting a car there). There is also smooth railway traffic (which will be even better in the future) to Aegviidu-Jäneda. The company Jäneda Mõis OÜ is planning to sell the hotel-guesthouse and to reconstruct and renovate a former building of the manor complex into a new accommodation complex. The number of beds will be much lower than in the old accommodation, however. Maybe we should start looking for a new conference venue? That will require some preparation, however.

Due to this situation the editorial team together with the organizing committee of the conference adopted the decision at the end of March 2023 not to organise the XXXI International Scientific Conference (from 29 June to 1 July 2023 at Jäneda), and further decisions will depend on changes in the events, conditions and the environment as described above. Our position is that good and effective organization of a conference

assumes also personal communication among participants which we cannot very much arrange over the Internet.

In November-December 2022, many economists from Ukraine, Russia and other countries inquired about possibilities to publish a paper in our journal but this time they probably just could not finish their papers in time. But because of the war in Ukraine it would probably have been impossible for them to come to a conference in Estonia?

Despite everything, our journal and the papers published in the journal have been included in many recognised European and U.S. international databases (incl. Scopus and others) and also the U.S. Congress Library has subscribed to our journal for years. As the readers can understand and see for themselves, our journal will be published as usual also this year, in 2023, and hopefully also in the future.<sup>1</sup>

January-July, at Pirita-Kose home office in Tallinn

In the name of the organizing committee of the conference and editorial board of the journal,

Matti Raudjärv  
(Chief Editor – main organizer)

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<sup>1</sup> In 2001 we started fruitful cooperation with the German publisher Berlin Verlag Arno Spitz (established in Berlin-Dahlem in 1962) for publishing the international collection of research papers on economic policy (current international scientific journal in three languages *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused* (as a scientific journal since 2007).

In 2002 the name of the publishing house was changed to Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag (BWV). In 2011 the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag acquired the company Pro Universitate Verlag GmbH as an Imprint Verlag (i.e., publisher which is no longer an independent company and operates as a publication, and under whose name another publisher continues publishing of books). Since 2015 the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag was acquired by Franz Steiner Verlag based in Stuttgart and thus by the Deutscher Apotheker Verlag media group.

After that the independence of BWV started to gradually decrease and Franz Steiner Verlag began reorganisation of the BWV programme in 2022–2023, refocus the activities and make the employees redundant. In several recent years the employees who also took worked on our journal were replaced. Also the declining economic situation, epidemics (COVID and flu viruses) and the war in Ukraine had an important role here.

Due to these changes and collateral effects, the Estonian publisher Mattimar OÜ and the German publisher BWV published this scientific journal jointly last in 2022 (vol. 1-2/ 2022). This ended the 22 years of substantial, productive and friendly cooperation between the Estonian and German publishers. Initially, at least in 2023, the only publisher will be Mattimar OÜ but cooperation with some foreign publisher in the future is not excluded.

It is interesting to note that the undersigned received an e-mail from India on 21 March 2023 which contained the following idea: "... I am a representative of the **National Institute of STEM-Research (NISTEMR)**, Mumbai, India. Our team is interested in acquiring complete ownership of your prestigious journal (*Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy*-ISSN:1736-5597) and hopes to advance our research careers by collaborating with it. We ensure that the journal's reputation is not compromised, and we maintain a high level of debate secrecy...".

We have received several interesting cooperation offers in the recent years after the recognition of our journal by Scopus: from Georgia, China, Kosovo, Pakistan, Poland, North Macedonia, Germany, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia (Krasnodar, Moscow) and other places. Ukrainians have even been interested in publishing our separate journal issue consisting only of Ukrainian authors.