

Eeltoodud viidete juures esitatud MR mõtted on vaid vähene osa vastavate valdkondade arendamiseks, arvestades – hariduse võimalusi, uusi tehnoloogiaid, tööviljakuse problemaatikat, keskkonna vajadusi, tootmise kui ühe majanduse aluse (kui soovite – vundamenti) siivendamist-laiendamist ja palju muud. Kõiki neid küsimusi-probleeme võiks meie ajakirja veergudel avaldatavates artiklites tõstatada-uurida ning ka konverentsidel arutada-diskuteerida!/? ...

Lugupidamisega, Teie MR.

**CALL:
THE CONFERENCE COULD BE CONTINUED QUICKLY
ON THE ESTONIAN ISLANDS**

Compiled on behalf of the conference and journal committees by
Matti Raudjärv (MR)

As a preface

In 2020–2025, our conferences⁶⁸ were cancelled for several objective reasons.⁶⁹ The undersigned has written earlier in this journal that as our first conference was held on the water, on M/S Vanemuine in 1984, during a journey of three days on the route Tartu-Värskä-Pihkva-Värskä-Tartu, it could be repeated if the Tartu River Port found a suitable ship for the Emajõgi River which could be used for conference journey on Lake Peipsi and from there to Värskä.

We can divide the conferences into the following periods (Värskä; Jäneda; forced pause; islands/hopefully?/):

- 20 conferences were held at Värskä (some of them also began in Tartu) (1984, 1994–2012);
- we continued at Jäneda for a change (2013–2019);
- a pause started in 2020 – due to sickness and restrictions due to COVID-19; the following Russian aggression in Ukraine in February 2022; deterioration of the economic environment which meant an increase in

⁶⁶ Eesti metsad. [<https://images.delfi.ee/media-api-image-cropper/v1/78756c54-f273-4aba-8d73-15f14f4b42.jpg?noup&w=767&h=914&r=9:16>] 16.10.2025

⁶⁷ Soomaa rahvuspark: üks paljudest Eesti soodest, kus on mõnus matkata mööda laudteid ja vajadusel puhke kohtades puhata. [https://www.terveil.m.ee/leht/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2219_Soomaa-National-park_Sven-Zacek-1.jpg] 16.10.2025

⁶⁸ The history started with the conferences (the first one was the ship conference) which are related to the development of this international peer reviewed journal in three languages „Estonian Discus-sions on Economic Policy/ Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik/ Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused“.

⁶⁹ The COVID-19 pandemic, aggression in Ukraine, deterioration of the economic environment, etc. – these circumstances limited the movement of people (e.g. businesses and organisations reduced business trips of employees, also people fell ill, etc.) and also increased the expenses of conferences.

- prices in many areas (it has caused also financial difficulties for participants), etc.;
- the situation of the economic environment seems to be stabilising now (2025) and we have analogous hopes also for the near future (2026–2027...).

As we have no ship similar to the above-mentioned ship for the journey on the Tartu-Värskä-Tartu route and for holding the conference on the way, we could continue with conferences on islands which have a considerable population, and we have enough such islands – 12 in total.

22 islands had permanent population in 2017 according to Statistics Estonia.⁷⁰ This includes 10 islands with just a few permanent inhabitants or other circumstances unsuitable for a conference. As the organiser of the conference, I would consider appropriate above all the islands where conference work and catering are possible at the location and also accommodation and spare time activities are available.

For now, we have planned the Manija Island for 2026 and also repeatedly discussed the issue with the local inhabitants. If Manija is chosen, we could do some preliminary work already now, in 2025, through the 1-2/2025 issue of the journal, and introduce the island to potential readers/participants. Although, we will share this information also in the Information Letter of 2026. But more information is probably not bad, also in different sources!?

1. Island of Manija⁷¹ – also the President of the Republic of Estonia Alar Karis has stayed at the Riida Tourism Farm with his staff

Manija, or Manilaid is located in the strait of Kihnu, two kilometres from Munalaid Harbour. Manija is like Kihnu's little brother and the Manija people are like part of Kihnu's people. This small rocky islet was for centuries the meadow and fishing stop of Pootsi Manor on the mainland. In 1933, when the island of Kihnu became too small for Kihnu's people, 22 families moved to Manija. Consequently, the cultural links between the two islands are extremely close. Currently, Manija has a population of less than 40 people, and several households are used as holiday homes.

The Manija or Manilaid Island is located in the Kihnu Strait, at a distance of 2 km from the Munalaid Harbour. Manija is like a small brother of the Kihnu Island and

⁷⁰ Püsielanikud on 22 saarel. [<https://stat.ee/et/uudised/2017/10/23/pusielanikud-on-22-saarel>] 18.10.2025; *MR: compared to 2017, the number of inhabitants on some islands has probably changed by now.*

⁷¹ Manija – Visit Pärnu. [<https://visitparnu.com/manija/>] 8.10.2025; [https://www.google.com/maps/place/Manija,+88112+P%C3%A4rnu+maakond,+Eesti/@58.209593,24.133161,13z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x46edabea5049a761:0xec53453dab7f251e!8m2!3d58.2134569!4d24.1221391!1s6s%2Fg%2F11x7vr_0j?hl=et-EE&entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMD11MTAwNC4wIkkXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D] 8.10.2025

the Manija people are a small part of the Kihnu population. Starting from mid-19th century, only the meadow-keeper of the Pootsi Manor lived on this small rocky islet and it was a stopping place for the meadow of the Pootsi Manor and for fishermen. In 1933, when the Kihnu Island became too small for the Kihnu population, 22 families of fishermen (79 people) moved to the Manija Island. In 1934, a postal farm was opened on the island; it had 43 inhabitants in 1944, 49 in 2006 and 31 inhabitants in 2011. Therefore, the cultural links are very close between these two islands. Currently, Manija has a population of less than 40 people, and several buildings are used as holiday homes.

Manilaid

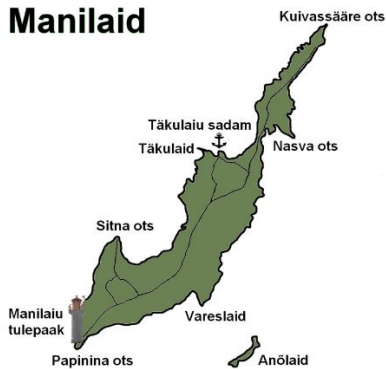


Photo 1: Manilaid or island of Manija.⁷²



Photo 2: Stākilaiu Harbour in Manija.⁷³

2. It is a small island but with quite a few sightseeing opportunities and it is easy to visit the island

Manija became a *landscape protection area* in 1991. The special charms of a small island exposed to the winds are the peace and quiet, the chirping of shorebirds, and the way it moves by itself. The island is a breeding and nesting area for rare plants and birds, and a habitat for endangered natterjack toads. The fields of wildflowers, goats and lambs munching on the grass, and blackberry blossoms ripening at the end of summer illustrate the tranquil island idyll.

All along the island runs a boulder-rich ridge formation and the only road on this island. In the middle of the island, by the road, is the largest boulder in Pärnu County – Manija Kokkõkivi or Kotkakivi. The artefacts found around it, as well as its name, refer to the fact that it was a nesting place for the white-tailed eagle and a resting place for fishermen.

⁷² Manilaid. [<https://www.kalapeedia.ee/u/files/Manilaid.png>] 15/10/2025

⁷³ Manilaid. Saar Eestis. [<https://www.eastbaltic.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/manilaid-image-500x333.jpg>] 15/10/2025

On the south-western tip of the island, on the very edge of the sea, an eight-metre-high lighthouse built in 1933 defies the wind. Here you can enjoy the view from the seating area dedicated to graphic artist, painter, and theatre-maker Vello Tamm. In the centre of Manija Island you will find a *local museum* and a '*sheep shop*' selling sheep products from Kihnu.

3. Visiting Manija Island

Access to Manija Island is from the Munalaid Harbour. The harbour can be reached:

- with a regular bus line from the Pärnu Bus Station;
- by car which can be left at the guarded parking lot of the Munalaid Harbour at a low rate – 2€/24h (the rate in 2025).

Regular vessel traffic from there to the islands:

- *Kihnu Virve Ferry* – three times of week;
- daily smaller *regular boat Manija Mann*.

The islet, which is about five kilometres long, can be hiked from one side to the other in a few hours and a day's walk. As Manija is only half a kilometre wide at its widest point, you can see everything from the road.

Manija offers a quiet getaway close to nature, and guests are welcomed by the cosy *Riida tourist farm*. We recommend enjoying the hospitality of Riida's hostess with an overnight stay, but it is also worth a day trip to taste her rare home-brewed beer and renowned roast lamb.

In addition, the farm has lovely animals on the beach meadow and its own sheep shop. The island of Manija offers true relaxation, the feeling of countryside, the sea, and wonderful sunsets.



Photo 3: Manija Island. In the center is the Riida tourist farm complex.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*: 2



Photo 4: The common room of the Riida tourist farm.⁷⁵

The Riida Tourism Farm planned as the conference site is located near the beacon light in the southwestern point of the island (see the map of Manija above). The farmer Tiit has usually taken at least the luggage of visitors from the harbour to the farm with his own transport.

In conclusion

As the chief editor of the journal and organiser/coordinator of the conferences, I (MR) hope that participants are interested in the conference. **True enough, the conference will only be held if it has enough participants.**

The photos (in addition to these, more have been added to the Estonian text) have been added to provide some overview to the interested people about the island and the tourism farm and the facilities as maybe not everybody has stayed on the Manija Island before.

As the writer of this overview, I can say that I have stayed on the Manija Island and also in the tourism farm for several times – I have seen the sights the island, stayed at the Riida Farm for holiday (had meals and drinks, stayed for the night) and also made steam and whisked myself in the sauna. I have always enjoyed myself and I recommend it also to others!

Welcome to our next, XXVIII International Scientific Conference on the Manija Island.

Also, the detailed Information Letter has been sent out both for writing papers for the journal and participation in the conference. Thus, we wish you good ideas also for writing, the papers are welcome!

Written in October 2025 at the home office at Piritä-Kose in Tallinn.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*: 2