

FIVE SUCCESSIVE YEARS OF PUBLICATION OF “DISCUSSIONS ON ESTONIAN ECONOMIC POLICY”

Papers of authors who have written on the topics of economic policy in 2011 have been published already for the fifth year in Estonia in the scientific journal / collection (e.g. EBSCO in the USA lists this publication as an academic journal) which bears the title mentioned in the heading above. Considering also the earlier publications on economic policy, which were directly related to the scientific and educational conferences on economic policy which were held in Tartu / Värskas, Estonia, 2011 is already the 19th year of continuous annual publication of papers on economic policy in Estonia¹. Until the 14th conference (i.e. up to 2006, incl.), the conferences were directly related to the publication of the collections. “Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy” which has been published since 2007 is a phenomenon which is separate from the conference. While a number of the authors of papers also participate in the traditional Värskas Conference on economic policy, some of the authors of the papers published in the journal do not participate in the conference (or do not make presentations) and only write for publication.

Until now, the journal concerned and the papers were represented in two international databases – EBSCO (with the main office in Massachusetts, USA) and ECONIS² (related to the Institute for World Economy of the University of Kiel in the German Federal Republic, well known among the economists of the world). Since July 2011 it is additionally represented in the SSRN (Social Science Research Network, USA) database. We are planning to include it in some other databases as well. In addition to Estonian libraries, the publication is represented in libraries of many universities of foreign countries (above all in Germany) but also, for instance, in the Library of Congress in Washington, USA.

The fact that a publication on the topic of economic policy is appearing in Estonia in 2011 for the 19th year (annual volume) already, has mostly international importance and it is for the most part the result of cooperation between colleagues from several Estonian and above all German institutions of higher education. Here we should point out particularly the comprehensive activities and support from Doctor of Economics, by now Professor Emeritus Manfred O. E. Hennies from the Kiel University of Applied Sciences both in the publishing of the papers and organisation of international scientific conferences on economic policy in Värskas. His merits in activities related with the University of Tartu (also more broadly in Estonia) were

¹ The first collection of articles related to the issues of economic policy was published in 1984 and from 1994 it was published annually until 2006 (when the last collection of articles directly related to the conference on economic policy was published). The scientific journal “Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy” published in 2011 can probably be regarded as the 19th annual volume of this publication.

² This is related to EconBiz – the Virtual Library for Economics and Business Studies, opened in 2010.

recognised in 2010 at the 18th Scientific Conference on Economic Policy held in Värskä where the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Tartu Toomas Haldma delivered the Citation of Honour from the Rector of the University and the Director of the Pärnu College of the University of Tartu Henn Vallimäe granted the Golden Badge of the College to him.

We are glad to mention here that the cooperation with Manfred O. E. Hennies started already in November 1989³ and became considerably more extensive particularly with colleagues from the Tallinn University of Technology in 1990–1991⁴ when the undersigned was the Vice-Dean for Development at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the Tallinn University of Technology. We can add that Manfred O. E. Hennies partly also had the role of the “godfather” in finding the name for the journal. Manfred O. E. Hennies was also one of the many people who financed the creation and installation of the sundial in Pärnu in September 2004 to mark the period of operation of the University of Tartu in Pärnu⁵ (the author is the Estonian sculptor Hannes Starkopf). Manfred O. E. Hennies was also the man on whose initiative the currently fruitful cooperation with the German publisher of research literature Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag (the former Arno Spitz Verlag) was started.

Also Professor of Business Administration of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences, Doctor of Economics Toni Schulz (17.07.1948–06.05.2005) had a very important role in assisting in the publishing of papers in the earlier years, particularly in editing many papers together with his spouse Anu Schulz.⁶

Also Professor of the Greifswald University, Doctor of Economics Armin Rohde together with several of his doctoral students has made an important contribution to the development of this journal / collection. Cooperation with Armin Rohde

³ Matti Raudjärv was participating in a 3 month fellowship programme at that time in the Kiel University and the Frankfurt am Main University.

⁴ In September 1990, a delegation (eight members of the academic staff and three students) of the field of economics of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences visited the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the Tallinn University of Technology. After that, in January-February 1991, Professor Manfred O.E. Hennies and Professor T. Schulz who had visited Tallinn in autumn, delivered lectures in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the Tallinn University of Technology for several weeks as a part of longer cycles of lectures (in addition, Manfred O. E. Hennies delivered lectures for a few days also at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Tartu). In the next years, a number of German students had practical business training of up to one month in many different Estonian companies.

⁵ The University of Tartu was based in Pärnu in 1699–1710. It was intended to install a sundial there to mark the relocation to Pärnu already then but it was not done then due to the lack of funds. It has been done now.

⁶ Cooperation with both Manfred Hennies and Toni Schulz in publishing the papers (they were both also authors of papers) started already in 1995, the pleasant cooperation with Anu Schulz is still continuing. Anu Schulz has also been an interpreter at several conferences on economic policy.

(including publishing of papers together with his doctoral students / assistants) has continued for already twelve years, since 1999.

Professor Emeritus of the Bundeswehr University Munich, Doctor of Economics Peter Joachim Friedrich⁷ who has contributed to the publications since 2006 both as an author and with useful advice in the peer review of papers has had a significant role in the development of the journal.

Until now, the publication (journal / collection “Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy”) has appeared once a year. Starting from this year, 2011, it will be published twice a year, however (19th annual volume, issues 1/2011 and 2/2011). One of the further objectives could be, for instance, to publish papers of national economy in one issue and papers on business administration in the other.⁸ This will, however, be possible only if there are a sufficient number of high-quality papers on business administration related to economic policy. Until now the authors of papers on business administration have not particularly succeeded to achieve this (relation to economic policy) and such articles have not been published here. But for the time being, both issues contain above all papers on national economy and next to them also a few papers on business administration and papers related to economic policy. Time will show what the journal / collection will look like in the future and it will largely depend on the authors! But there will certainly be changes and developments for the achievement of further stability, just like it has been in all earlier years.

Publishing papers in this journal / collection has been one of the opportunities for many doctoral students of Estonian institutions of higher education for publishing their ideas and research results of their thesis (often in cooperation with their supervisor). Also doctoral students of quite a few universities of the Federal Republic of Germany have actively used it (e.g. doctoral students of the Greifswald University which is a cooperation partner of the University of Tartu, doctoral students of the Bundeswehr University Munich, etc.).

In the course of the last five years we have had valuable cooperation also with members of the Editorial Board of the journal and with many peer reviewers from foreign countries and Estonia. Professor of Local Self-government and Regional Policy Sulev Mäeltsemees of the Tallinn University of Technology and Professor of International Economy Janno Reiljan of the University of Tartu have contributed to

⁷ After becoming Professor Emeritus in Munich in 2005, Prof. em. Peter Joachim Friedrich has lived in Estonia, he was the Extraordinary Professor of Public Sector Economics of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Tartu in 2005–2008, after that Senior Researcher of Public Sector Economics of the same faculty and since 2011 Senior Researcher of Public Finance at the same faculty. In 2011 he participated in the publication as an author already for the sixth year (being always also an author or co-author of a paper) and is now also a member of the Editorial Board.

⁸ The general title of the publication would then be the same as before and similar for both issues – “Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy”.

preparations for the publishing the papers with their valuable advice and efforts as editors (being also authors of papers themselves).⁹

The Editorial Board of this journal / collection is international and consists of experts of their field. Peer review of papers has been arranged generally by two but sometimes even more persons. This means that a paper is critically reviewed once or for more times in Estonia and recommendations will be issued to authors for improving their paper, if appropriate. Then the paper will be sent for final peer review to an expert (or experts) of the respective field in a foreign country, in some cases also in Estonia. The so-called “double-blind peer review” policy is followed – the reviewer does not know who is the author of the paper and the author does not know who was the reviewer (except the Chief Editor and partly also editors)¹⁰. For instance, the following professors and doctors (in alphabetic order) have been the peer reviewers in the last five years:

1. Claus Dieter Classen (Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald)*
2. Jörg Dötsch (Andrássy University Budapest)*
3. Raul Eamets (University of Tartu)*
4. Martina Eckardt (Andrássy University Budapest)*
5. Üllas Ehrlich (Tallinn University of Technology)*
6. Eckhard Freyer (Merseburg University of Applied Sciences)
7. Peter Joachim Friedrich (*emeritus*, Bundeswehr University Munich; University of Tartu; member of the Editorial Board¹¹)
8. Lothar Funk (Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences)*
9. Ulrich Hampicke (Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald)
10. Manfred O. E. Hennies (*emeritus*, Kiel University of Applied Sciences; member of the Editorial Board)
11. Peter Hoss (*emeritus*, Berlin-Prieros)
12. Claus-Friedrich Laaser (Institute for World Economy of the University of Kiel)*
13. Enno Langfeldt (Kiel University of Applied Sciences; member of the Editorial Board)
14. Dietmar Meyer (Andrássy University Budapest)*
15. Sulev Mäeltsemees (Tallinn University of Technology; editor¹²)
16. Stefan Okruch (Andrássy University Budapest; member of the Editorial Board)*
17. Tiiu Paas (University of Tartu)*
18. Matti Raudjärv (University of Tartu; Chief Editor)

⁹ Until 2006, also Professor of Economic Policy Jüri Sepp of the University of Tartu was both an author and the editor for the conference collections.

¹⁰ After reading all comments and making the required corrections / additions by the author, the papers undergo general editing and the printer's (incl. CD) versions are prepared. Sometimes papers with corrections / additions are sent back to reviewers before general editing for another review and expressing the opinion.

¹¹ “member of the Editorial Board” – here and below: member of the Editorial Board of this journal (collection)

¹² “editor” – here and below: the editor of this journal (collection)

* has peer reviewed a few papers

19. Janno Reiljan (University of Tartu; editor)
20. Armin Rohde (Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald; member of the Editorial Board)
21. Andreas Thiemer (Kiel University of Applied Sciences)
22. Harry W. Trummer (Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main)
23. Klaus Schrader (Institute for World Economy of the University of Kiel)*
24. Günter Steinmann (*emeritus*, Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg; Andrásy University Budapest)*
25. Jüri Sepp (University of Tartu)*
26. Mart Sörg (*emeritus*, University of Tartu; member of the Editorial Board)
27. Urmas Varblane (University of Tartu)*
28. Harald Zschiedrich (Berlin University of Applied Sciences)*

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The development of this publication will surely continue and the quality and scientific level of the papers published will always have an important role. Next year, in 2012, the publication on economic policy “Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy” will be published for the 6th year under this name (20th annual volume in total). In parallel, we are planning to organise also for the 20th time the scientific conference on economic policy in Värskas on 28–30 June 2012.

Again, our cordial thanks to everybody who have been involved with this publication or with the Värskas Conference and to other supporters but also to our readers! The undersigned is looking forward to fruitful cooperation with all of you!

Matti Raudjärv, Chief Editor

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 January-August 2011 (Tallinn / Pirita-Kose; Pärnu; Lääne-Virumaa / Tapa Rural Municipality, Karkuse Village, Kaasiku Farm – Republic of Estonia)