

ANNIVERSARY YEARS 2009-2010 FOR THE ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND PUBLISHING OF CONFERENCE PAPERS IN ESTONIA

2009 was the *25th anniversary of the organisation of the first scientific conference on economic policy in Estonia*. The first conference on economic policy was namely held in Tartu/Värskas (“ship conference”) at the end of May 1984.¹ True enough, we can only say that when looking back at it now, as perhaps no one could foresee at the time of the first conference that it would become a tradition.² After all, teaching of subjects of economic policy and research with conscious orientation to economic policy started at the Estonian institutions of higher education only during the first half of the 1990s.³ After an interval of ten years the second conference on economic policy was already organised with the definite purpose in Tartu/Värskas at the end of May 1994.

2010 is an anniversary year as well, both for the organisation of conferences on economic policy and publishing of the respective research papers. 2010 is namely the *15th anniversary of the first international scientific conference on economic policy in Estonia*. The first scientific conference with the participation of economists from other countries was held in 1996, being at the same time the fourth conference held on that subject. The year 2010 is a milestone also because of *ten years of cooperation* (since 2001) *with German research publishers*. The cooperation started with the research publisher Berlin-Verlag Arno Spitz, the operation of which was continued in 2003 by Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag. In 1994-2000, only the Estonian publisher Mattimar published the collections, and since 2001 the above-mentioned German and Estonian publishers have had close, substantial and effective mutual cooperation. The cooperation was necessary due to additional activities for the improvement of the quality and for the distribution of the publications.

The subjects of the conferences have mainly remained within the following fields during the years:

1. Entrepreneurship policy and corporate strategy
2. Fiscal and monetary policy
3. Environmental policy
4. Regional and local government policy
5. Sectoral economic policy
6. Social policy

¹ See also: Raudjärv, Matti. Majanduspoliitika teaduskonverentside traditsiooni kujunemine Eestis/ Die Tradition der wissenschaftlichen Konferenzen über Wirtschaftspolitik in Estland/ Development of the Tradition of Conferences on Economic Policy in Estonia. – Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused/ Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik/ Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy. Berlin, Tallinn: BWV, Mattimar, 2008, nr. 16, lk. 119-139 (in Estonian, German and English).

² The 18th conference will be held in Värskas on 1-3 July this year, 2010.

³ The first Chair of Economic Policy in Estonia was established at the Faculty of Economics of the Tallinn University of Technology by the undersigned in 1992. A year later a Chair of Economic Policy was established also at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Tartu.

7. Employment and income policy

Besides, many single papers have been written also in several other fields of economic policy.

Scientific conferences based on papers in the field of business administration were conducted in Pärnu in January 2003-2006, i.e. in four successive years. The reason was that several authors who studied business administration were not able to sufficiently relate their paper to economic policy. Such organisation of conferences on business administration in Pärnu or somewhere else may be continued and may pave the way to another tradition.

By now the organisation of the scientific conference on economic policy has become an activity which is separate from the publishing of the collection *Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused*⁴ of papers on economic policy. While these activities are interrelated as the authors of many papers make presentations at the conference on the same subject, some of the presenters at the conference do not submit their paper for publishing at the collection. By now, the collections of papers have been included in international databases EBSCO (EBSCO Publishing, Ipswich, Massachusetts, USA) and ECONIS (Kiel Institute for the World Economy of the University of Kiel, Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Federal Republic of Germany). The collection has an international editorial board, the papers are anonymously peer-reviewed by above all foreign but also Estonian experts, and publishing is open to a wide community of authors.

The above-mentioned collection has been published in a new form since 2007⁵ (and under the above-mentioned name), i.e. full papers (generally in English and German) are published on a CD and the abstracts of these papers in another language (at the choice of the authors either in Estonian, German or English) on paper (CD is included in the collection). Besides, the collection includes a chronicles column where short articles on the activities of outstanding economists coming from Estonia are published along with other information both on the organisation of conferences and publishing of papers. It is currently planned to publish the collection up to two issues a year – including above all papers on national economy in one issue and in the future papers above all on business administration (but still related to economic policy) in the other.

According to discussions with interested parties, after the annual publishing of the collection with the current traditional orientation, mainly on national economy (and predominantly in connection with the international scientific conference on

⁴ The collection is listed as a scientific journal in EBSCO databases; in the ECONIS databases as an annual collection/journal.

⁵ “Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy”, which has been published under this name since 2007 and already as the 18th issue in 2010, is a successor to the collections on economic policy published in 1984-2006.

economic policy in Värskas), in May/June (No. 1), it would be possible to publish the second issue of the collection (No. 2), for instance, in December/January with business administration orientation. It could cover all parts of business administration – organisation and management, marketing, corporate finance, accounting, financial management, etc. and also, for instance, business environment, project management, design of services, social entrepreneurship, tourism entrepreneurship and many other fields. Also the second issue of the collection should have an international editorial board, with anonymous peer-review of papers and publishing open to a wide community.

The publication with the business administration content could also be partly linked to the organisation of an international scientific conference in Estonia in the future (why not as a continuation of the conferences held in Pärnu in 2003-2006). This certainly gives some food for thought and discussions. The goal should be to achieve as high-level and integrated research and development as possible, oriented to social and economic development through older and more experienced economists of Estonia and other countries and also economists of the younger generation. There is still a lot of room for development both in the organisation of conferences and preparation and publishing of publications!

The undersigned hereby thanks all the colleagues and people in Estonia and in other countries (above all in Germany) with whom he has had an opportunity to have cooperation both in the organisation/conduction of conferences and in the preparation and publishing of publications. As there have been very many such people in the course of the years, we would not like to list them by name lest someone accidentally remain unmentioned. If the people who have participated in the cooperation are reading these lines and feel that they have made a contribution – your help was sincerely appreciated! The names of most co-organisers (both individuals and companies/organisations) have also generally been printed in all collections.

We wish everybody involved good cooperation, success and best achievements in all your activities also in the future!

At Pirita-Kose in Tallinn
In March, 2010

Matti Raudjärv

Initiator of the idea and main organiser of the conferences
Chief Editor of the collection *Discussions on Estonian Economic Policy*