

**Proceedings of the Institute for European Studies,  
International University Audentes  
No. 4**



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
AUDENTES

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL  
ENVIRONMENT: HARMONISATION IN THE  
EU COUNTRIES OF BALTIC SEA RIM**

**A collection of research articles dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the Institute for European Studies**

1918  
 TALLINNA TEHNKAÜLIKOO  
TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Institute for European Studies  
International University Audentes  
Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration  
Tallinn, 2008

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This peer-reviewed collection of articles has been published due to the financial support of International University Audentes at Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration of Tallinn University of Technology

**Published by** the Institute for European Studies, International University Audentes, Tallinn, Estonia

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ISBN 978-9985-9779-4-1 (printed version)  
ISBN 978-9985-9779-5-8 (online)  
ISSN 1736-4949

Printed by Infotrükk, Tallinn

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## Foreword

The book you are holding in your hands is a peer-reviewed collection of research articles, which is the fourth edition in the series of the *Proceedings of the Institute for European Studies*, Estonia. The beginning of the series dates back to 2002. However, in 2008 the Institute for European Studies celebrated its 10th Anniversary, and therefore the range of topics discussed in this Anniversary Collection is wider than ever. Nevertheless, the articles have been selected carefully according to the opinion of peer-reviewers, distinguished specialists of their particular field among those received during the open international call for papers. One of the unifying topics of this collection is the usage of the models of development of socio-economic and institutional environment and the integration of the society, which has been observed both from the perspective of a member state as well as from the perspective of the union.

For example, Ülo Ennuste analyses in his article the veraciousness and availability of the socio-economic information on the example of Estonia, the superficiality and concealedness of which creates serious problems. In his opinion the situation for the rightful planning and economic forecasting of the public sector is highly problematic and does not create optimism. The article by Kari Liuhto dedicated to one of the most interesting issues – the economic relations between EU and Russia. According to him there might be some unused possibilities to improve them, especially from the view-point of energy security.

Olga Nežerenko deals with the problems of Baltic Sea energy resource transit. As the matter of fact, the impact of the increase of the transit by sea has large negative consequences for the nature in this region. The Baltic Sea Strategy underway at European Parliament may become one of the models of sustainable development for Baltic Sea Region. The integration on supranational level cannot be successful without the integration in the member states themselves. This concerns especially new members. Brígita Zepa and Vladislav Volkov deal with the problems of ethnic integration in Latvian society. Aksel Kirch and Tarmo Tuisk focus in their article on the phenomenon of historical memory, which has caused certain alienation from the Present among Russians living in Estonia. Some articles in this collection are dedicated to the problems of the historical development of the European Union. The authors of these articles are David Ramiro Troitino, Vlad Vernygora and Natalia Chaban.

The last concluding article is a review by András Inotai written on the occasion of the publication of the newest book by one of the most well-known Hungarian economists Janos Kornai. Inotai values very much the decade-long work by Kornai.

**Aksel Kirch, editor-in-chief**

## Notes on the Contributors

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