

Foreword

Baltic Journal of European Studies (BJES), the first issue of which you are holding right now, is the direct successor of the peer-reviewed journal *Proceedings of the Institute for European Studies, the Journal of Tallinn University of Technology* (IES Proceedings) published by the Department of International Relations of the Tallinn University of Technology until the 2010. One can say that this is, in fact, the same journal on a conceptually higher level. Moreover, BJES tries to cherish and continue the traditions created by IES Proceedings. There were several reasons why the editors of the journal, upon consulting with the editorial board, decided to change its name. First and foremost, the Tallinn University of Technology underwent some structural changes in 2010 which made the use of the previous name virtually obsolete, but there were also other, weightier reasons for adopting a new name.

Considering the above reasoning and after some discussions with the editorial board, we decided to call the publication *Baltic Journal of European Studies*, emphasizing our determination to represent a larger region. In this connection we are happy to welcome Tove Malloy (European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg, Germany), Göran Hoppe (Uppsala University, Sweden), Tatyana Muravska (Latvian University), Vidas Gaidys (Lithuanian Social Research Centre) and Victor Shadurski (Belarusian State University) as our new editorial board members. At the same time we wish to express our special gratitude to these outstanding academics who have agreed to join the editorial board earlier for their assistance and direct help in finding competent reviewers and advice on other issues related to the development of IES Proceedings / *Baltic Journal of European Studies*. The change of name does not actually represent a change of the course or profile of the journal, but rather the journal's willingness to further evolvement, promotion and deepen scientific cooperation in the Baltic Rim as well as in the Nordic countries and the Central and Eastern Europe. European studies in the broad sense of the term will remain the main focus of the journal.

The publication called *Proceedings of the Institute for European Studies* has quite a long and remarkable history. The first issue under that name appeared already in 2002. It took several years for the management of the Audentes University (since 2006, the International University Audentes, IUA) and its then Institute for European Studies to come out with an idea to turn this irregularly issued publication into an annual peer-reviewed scientific periodical (a yearbook) of international scope. In 2007, the third issue of the IES Proceedings was published following the 5th Audentes Spring Conference. In July 2008, the merger of IUA (together with its Institute for European Studies) with the Tallinn University of Technology took place. In 2009, the Department of International Relations of the Tallinn University of Technology within the Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration (TSEBA) was established on the basis of the former School of International Relations of IUA. The merger gave fresh impetus to the journal and since then IES Proceedings has successfully met the needs of the department and TSEBA.

Since the beginning of 2009, the *Proceedings of the Institute for European Studies* has been issued twice a year. Since 2010, the journal has enjoyed significant financial support

from the Dean's Office of the Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration, which has helped us to raise the level of technical quality and implement the plans for development.

At the beginning of 2009 when the 5th issue of *IES Proceedings* appeared, the publication became a semiannual peer-reviewed journal corresponding to the category of 1.2 as specified by the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS). We have managed to put together an international editorial office in addition to the extensive international editorial board with many distinguished scholars from a large array of countries, and implemented a comprehensive international peer-review system. For two years (2009–2010) the journal appeared under its traditional name, expanding the geographical range of scientific cooperation and gradually gaining popularity among the scholars of other countries.

This is not the first time in the history of *IES Proceedings* / *BJES* for the new issue to come out as a collection of conference proceedings. *IES Proceedings* No. 1, published in 2002, was also dedicated to the conference organized by the Institute for European Studies as the fourth meeting within the framework 'Monitoring Preparations of Transition Countries for EU Accession', Pärnu, 4–6 October, 2002. *IES Proceedings* No. 3 appeared in 2007 as a collection of selected papers delivered at the 5th Audentes Spring Conference 2006, Tallinn, 28 April 2006, but also included other papers submitted in response to our first international call for papers. In this context there is nothing extraordinary in the current issue. *IES Proceedings* No. 9 / *BJES* No. 1, the first issue under the new name, is again a peer-reviewed collection of selected conference papers.

On 8–9 October, 2010, the Tallinn University of Technology hosted the **XXIV International Baltic Conference on the History of Science** and on 17 December 2010 the follow-up seminar of the conference was held (see Mait Talts' paper in the current issue). The Baltic conferences on the history of science have a long history, over half a century, and for the last two decades they have been organized by the Baltic Association of the History and Philosophy of Science (BAHPS) (see Janis Stradiņš's article in the current issue). Peeter Mürsepp, one of the Editors-in-chief of *BJES*, served as Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee. Most of the papers presented at the conference addressed the history of different branches of science and research from the Baltic perspective. In addition, there was a special section dedicated to the problems of philosophy and methodology of science. The organization behind the Baltic conferences is BAHPS with its Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Divisions. Therefore, Philosophy of Science is part and parcel of the event.

The general success of the XXIV Baltic Conference in terms of the academic standard of the papers presented and the geographical diversity of participants gave good reasons to arrange publishing a selection of conference papers in our journal. This move was found to be acceptable by the editorial board as almost all the papers in the current issue fit into European Studies in the broad sense of the term.

The issue consists of the following main chapters: 'Philosophy of Science', 'History of Sciences, Medicine and Technology', and 'History of the Humanities and Education', for example, the history of lexicography of the three Baltic States or the general cultural

context of re-establishing the University of Dorpat (Tartu) in the early 19th century. The editors have decided to include all the texts of the plenary talks given by the most prominent speakers, leaders of different international organizations in the History of Science, into a separate subdivision entitled 'General Issues', even though some could have well fitted under some other chapter.

In some cases the process of peer-reviewing was rather painful but that is the only way to ensure academic quality. However, the vast majority, about three quarters of the papers submitted for the current issue successfully passed the extremely rigorous reviewing process. Both the scope and the volume of the current issue are larger than those of our regular journal issues. It has been expanded with the inclusion of pictures to illustrate some papers on the history of science. The selection of illustrative material was left entirely to the choice of authors and was restricted only by technical factors.

The philosophers of science focused mostly on the problems of practical realism. It is interesting to note that the British philosopher Nicholas Maxwell, whose works have not attracted much attention in the Anglophone world, has become one of the most deeply studied authors among his Estonian colleagues. It is important to keep the discussion going between the philosophers of science, who are traditionally critical towards the shortcomings of the scientific method and the historians of science, who normally do not question the validity of the method but just follow the course of its application in different branches of science.

There are some papers, for example, these by Laima Petrauskienė and Jadvyga Olechnovicienė, the content of which is intentionally presented as polemical, in order to promote discussion in some particular field of human activity. Some of the articles (e.g., those by Mikko Kylliäinen, Raivo Kalle and Renata Šoukand, and others) demonstrate true interdisciplinary approach to the problems under investigation. The paper by Epi Tohvri is not a typical research paper but assumes great importance in the Baltic region, especially Estonia and Latvia, in communicating new interpretations of cultural history and the history of ideas. Some other conference presentations did not match the criteria to become full-fledged original articles, but they are informative by all means. These have been included in the subdivision of 'Short Communications'. Since the current issue includes some papers presented at the follow-up seminar of the 24th International Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, it became necessary to acquaint reader with this event as well.

We sincerely hope that you will find the current issue a fascinating read and approve of its broadened focus. It is important to note that by including 'Baltic' into the title of the journal, we do not intend to limit the range of prospective authors to the citizens of these three countries. By Baltic we definitely mean the wider region of the Baltic Sea countries and even beyond. We are determined to endorse as wide perspective as possible on the European studies, including the humanities aspect of the European studies.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Kait Tamm, Piret Frey and Vlad Vernygora for their personal efforts in editing the current issue!

Peeter Müürsepp and Mait Talts (Editors)