

## ABSTRACTS

### ALLAN PUUR, HANNA VSEVIOV. **Fertility development and the prospects for family policies in Estonia**

*This article presents an overview of changes in fertility and family policies in contemporary Estonia, based on a series of analyses conducted over recent years.*

*The first part of the article provides an updated account of the profound transformation in fertility behaviour which started in Estonia in the 1990s and is still well under way. The most important aspect of this transformation is the postponement of childbearing which resulted in the downsurge in the numbers of births and fertility rates. At present, the small generations born during the 1990s are reaching their prime childbearing years, which further reduces the number of births and sustains the excess of deaths over births for several decades to come. On a positive note, however, the article shows that the decline in completed cohort fertility has been far less dramatic than the annually compiled statistics suggest. In the generations born in the 1970s, which were approaching the end of their reproductive period during this decade, the cohort fertility rate is estimated at 1.80–1.85 children per woman, which is 87–89 per cent of the replacement level. Among ethnic Estonians, the fertility is slightly higher. Unlike the period measures, which are pushed downward by the ongoing postponement of childbearing, the cohort fertility rates in Estonia exceed the EU average, which currently stands at around 1.7.*

*The article also investigates the changes in first, second and higher order births in the generations born in 1965–1985. The results show that the decrease in the mean number of children since the 1990s was driven by increasing childlessness and reduced likelihood of having a second birth. It is estimated that about 13% of women born in 1975 will remain childless, and in the cohorts born in the early 1980s, the proportion may reach 15%. By contrast, the likelihood of having third and higher order births has not noticeably de-*

*creased. These findings draw attention to an increased polarisation of fertility behaviour in younger generations. As regards sub-groups of the population, the negative association between education and fertility in Estonia and the lower fertility rates among the foreign-origin population are discussed. It is shown that better integration of Russian-speakers to the host society may also have a positive impact in terms of fertility rates.*

*The second part of article discusses family policies in Estonia. The persistence of the replacement-level family ideal suggests that family policies could be aimed at reducing the gap between the number of children intended and actually born. Further, the article underscores the need for a more comprehensive approach to policy formulation. In order to be successful, family policies should be complemented by appropriate measures in other sectors (e.g. labour market policies, housing policies, integration policies). It also is important for policy developers to consider the heterogeneity in the needs and preferences of individuals and families. The evidence presented in the article draws attention to some sub-groups for which the gap between intended and actual fertility is particularly wide. Finally, the authors insist that resources allocated to family policies should be regarded not only as costs but rather as investments that serve the future of the country. (Auth.)*

### ALARI PURJU. **Economy of the Baltic Sea Region. Part I**

*The article deals with the influence of the European Union on economic ties in relation to the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).*

*The BSR is the first strategy of an EU macroregion; its implementation started in 2009. The strategy of macroregions is based on various theories dealing with the interaction of different regions. Most generally, a differentiation is made between the old or traditional and the new regionality. Traditional regionality treats the cooperation between regions primarily as cooperation directed top-down to regions of different countries. This is essential, for example, for big infrastructure projects (highways, railways, electricity and gas*