

# Abstracts

## **Ole Nørgaard**

### *Introduction*

The Baltic states offer a unique opportunity for comparative analyses of post-communist systems. In the course of comparison three separate identities are identified: The identity of post-communist systems, where the Baltic states share the legacies of communism with other post-communist countries; The Baltic identity, where the westward modernization of the interwar period produces a common frame of reference for the three countries; The national identity and cultural orientation of each country created by the ancient history of each nation.

## **Gitte Bjørg Andersen, Lars Thuesen og Helle Willumsen**

### *Economic Reform in the Baltic Countries*

The process of economic transition in the Baltic states - starting with the inefficiency and rigidity of a planned economy, and now heading towards some form of market-based economy - has been very dissimilar in the three states. Concerning stabilization policies, Estonia has clearly taken the lead in efficiently implementing quite radical reforms. Lithuania, has concentrated upon realizing socially just reforms of privatization. It was not until 1993 that Latvia introduced a coherent reform strategy. The differences can be explained by the extent to which the populations are willing to carry the costs of the transition; by the linkage to the question of citizenship, and finally by the extent to which reorganization within public administration has taken place.

## **Tina Friis Hansen og Finn Østergaard Jørgensen**

### *The Baltic Countries on Their Move Towards Europe*

The foreign policy of the Baltic countries is characterized by their intention of being a bridge between the former Soviet republics and the Western countries. Estonia is aiming strongly to be integrated in Europe, while Lithuania is trying to expand its relation to both parts. Both countries wish through their foreign policy to restrain the economic and political dependency of the East and the West. Latvia is seeking to balance the relationship to these parties in fear of being dependent on either of them. The national strategy of security policy is double tracked with a defensive army supplemented by international security guarantees. The Baltic foreign policy is constrained by internal problems and conditions in Russia and Western Europe.

## **Anette Pedersen, Lars Johannsen og Bernhard Trier Frederiksen**

### *Democracy in the Baltic Countries*

In the transition from authoritarian socialism to pluralistic democracy the three Baltic countries have reached the phase of consolidation. The democratic results reached so far must be consolidated so that democracy becomes irreversible. Three central aspects of the process of democratization exist: establishing democratic institutions, organizing the civil society and creating a democratic political culture. Due to their communist past the three countries face a series of common and different problems. The consolidation process must therefore be expected to take different courses since the three countries have chosen different solutions and strategies.

**Andreas Alsøe, Dan Hindsgaul og Thomas Jensen**

*Ethnic Conflicts in the Baltic Countries*

Ethnic conflicts in the Baltic states originate in the social and political conflicts related to the on-going transitional process. Soviet nationality policies have produced a number of political, social and demographic problems leading to conflict between the Baltic populations and the immigrants. Essentially, the conflict is related to the the process of state-building. The Baltic states must decide whether they want to establish exclusive nation-states with full citizen rights for the Baltic peoples only, or to provide for the creation of multi-ethnic societies with equal rights for all groups.