Introduction

The "Baltic Region" academic journal is published in collaboration with Saint Petersburg State University and the Russian Immanuel Kant State University of Russia, both situated in Russian cities on the Baltic Sea. The two universities are home to serious research groups addressing various problems of the Baltic Sea: ecological, historical, political, economic, and social ones. The mentioned problems are manifold and complex in their character. Nevertheless, a specialised journal dedicated to the Baltic Sea Region has not been published in Russia yet. The present journal is meant to fill in this gap.

The editorial board of the journal brings together representatives of different Russian and international research centres. We hope to encourage eminent scientists in different fields from all over the Baltic region to contribute to the journal. It allows "The Baltic Region" to give a comprehensive review of the socioeconomic, political, and economic situation in the region and to analyse controversial questions from different perspectives. Special attention is paid to different aspects of international and cross-border cooperation.

The journal is meant for a wide audience of experts in the Baltic region, heads of different federal organisations, academia, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The third issue of the journal is devoted to energy issues in the Baltic Sea region.

The journal opens with the ***"Energy in the contemporary world and international energy policy"*** section, which comprises three articles. ***Prof. Stanislav Zhiznin*** defines the concept of national energy security, understood as a long-term, stable and economically appropriate provision of the optimal combination of different types of energy that ensures sustainable economic and social development of the world and inflicts minimal damage to the environment. The article analyses the role of Russia in global energy geopolitics and geoeconomics and examines factors determining it. Energy diplomacy as an instrument of foreign policy is considered at the global and regional levels in view of the changes in the corporate policy of energy companies. Prof. Zhiznin offers a scheme of the international energy security architecture. ***Prof. Yuri Mishalchenko*** and ***Prof. Andrei Toropygin*** analyse the International Energy Agency (IEA) data on energy reserves from the perspective of global and national energy security. The authors come to the conclusion that global risks to energy security have dramatically increased and explain the causes of this increase. The article compares the instruments of energy market regulation employed by the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Community and stresses the need for the application of the EU experience. The article by ***Prof. Yuri Kosov*** and ***Wim Mallon*** considers the interdependence of energy and environmental security. The authors argue that further reduction of the global environmental impact of energy can be achieved in two ways. The first, short-term one implies raising energy efficiency. The second, long-term one means a gradual increase in the share of renewable energy. The most promising renewable energy source is hydro-

power. A significant number of geothermal, wind, and solar power plant projects are likely to be launched in the next decade. The authors believe that the new area of global energy should be less costly, more economically efficient than the energy of the previous generation.

The next section entitled ***"Energy strategies of the Baltic Sea States"*** is dedicated to the strategy aspects of regional energy. ***Dr. Yuri Zverev*** addresses the problems of competition and cooperation in the energy industry of the Baltic region, first of all, the ones related to the export of Russian oil and oil products and the construction of the Nord Stream pipeline and NPPs in Poland, the Kaliningrad region, Lithuania, and Belarus. Prof. Zverev shows that, although Russia and the EU occasionally pursue opposite goals, there is considerable interdependence between them and any confrontation is disadvantageous for all parties. This circumstance opens up new opportunities for cooperation, though does not exclude competition. ***Prof. Gennady Kretinin*** addresses Lithuania's search for energy independence in the interbellum and the Soviet period. The article considers peculiarities of the republic's energy policy after the restoration of independence in the 1990s. Prof. Kretinin assesses the existing opportunities for the diversification of energy supply to Lithuania. ***Prof. Jurgis Vilemas*** analyses the key stages of development of the Lithuanian energy policy since 1990 as well as the factors, affecting the formulation and the character of the Lithuanian energy strategy during the country's pre-accession period and after its accession to the European Union. The article offers prediction estimates and principal strategic recommendations concerning national energy policy developed by the experts of the Lithuanian Energy Institute.

The third section - ***"Energy of North-West Russia: current situation and future prospects"*** section is generally dedicated to the energy industry of the exclave Kaliningrad region. The article by ***Prof. Valery Belei*** assesses the state of the electric power network in the Kaliningrad region and gives recommendations on the methods of increasing its energy efficiency. Prof. Belei argues that the Kaliningrad region needs large energy facilities (the Kaliningrad CHPP 2, the NPP). He also believes that, instead of the planned building of several CHPPs fuelled by coal and local peat, there is a need to focus on the construction of generation facilities using renewable energy sources: wind, biomass, water resources, etc. The article considers prospects of the integration of the Kaliningrad energy system into that of the Baltic region. ***Prof. Viktor Gnatyuk*** offers an interpretation of the development of the Kaliningrad regional energy system stipulating the balanced development of all key subsystems: the main energy generation complex, the backup generation complex, the regional electrotechnical complex as well as the resource and technical support system. The author believes that the orientation towards large energy facilities (the CHPP 2 and the NPP) is not preferable. He is convinced that there is a need for the modernisation and restoration of the existing energy facilities (the state district power plant, the thermal power plant, the CHPP, and the hydroelectric plant) as well as for the construction of several smaller CHPPs with a unit capacity of 30-60 MW in the regional centres of heat and power demand. Moreover, 40-50 smaller

power plants with a capacity of 1-3 MW should also be built in the region, i.e. mini hydroelectric plants, wind power plants and other environment friendly energy sources).

The issue closes with the section entitled **"Energy policy in the context of socioeconomic problems".** ***Dr. Larisa Yemelyanova and Diana Latnak*** analyse the results of research carried out in the Kaliningrad region in the framework of the "Development of the Russian Energy Sector: Social and Environmental Consequences and Prospects" network project by the Centre for Advanced Studies and Education. The authors assess the structure of the regional energy and its influence on the economy on the region according to key indicators. The authors analyse the influence of the energy industry on the social environment on the basis of a survey conducted for Kaliningrad. ***Prof. Remigijus Ciegis and Dr. Rasa Pusinaite*** estimate negative externalities and analyse opportunities for achieving sustainable development in the field of energy. The analysis shows that the most advantageous approach to the internalisation of externalities is the employment of government mechanisms – economic and command-and-control ones – as well as the mechanism of voluntary agreements. The theoretical analysis enabled the construction of a model of internalising externalities into production costs. This methodology can provide the basis for research aimed to develop a strategy of externality internalisation. The article offers a calculation of externalities in power generation at Lithuanian power plants.

Prof. Andrei Klemeshev,
co-chair of the editorial board,
rector of the Immanuel Kant State University of Russia

Prof. Konstantin Khudolei*,*
co-chair of the editorial board,
vice-rector for international relations, Saint Petersburg State University