

“Engineering Economics”: Publishing Steps

When in 1940 Law faculty and its unit of Economics of Vytautas Magnus University were moved to Vilnius University, Kaunas was deprived of economics centre that could concentrate both research and publishing activities. There appeared some kind of a gap in the training system of engineers because their qualifications required not only technique and technology but also production management, enterprise economy knowledge. This was well perceived by the authorities of Kaunas University technical faculties and later by the authorities of Polytechnic Institute. Thus, as early as 1940 while restructuring Vytautas Magnus University the basics of public economy and enterprise management were joined together and formed the course of industrial enterprise and work management. In 1948 there were some attempts to establish the Department of Industrial Economics, however, it functioned only for a year. In 1949 the University authorities agreed to set up the Faculty of Engineering Economy, but the idea was not realized.

It should be noted that since 1945 a well-known specialist of management science V. A. Graičiūnas delivered lectures at the Faculty of Construction of Kaunas University. The research and practical experience of this scientist could become a good foundation for the formation of a serious center of management science at Polytechnic Institute. However, in 1948 V. A. Graičiūnas was expelled from the University. In 1951 he was imprisoned and after some time he died in prison.

The development of economics and management science was closely connected with the establishment of the Department of Industrial Economics and Organization in 1952. The department became the centre that engaged pedagogical personnel and conducted research in the field of economics and management as well as started publishing research papers and other materials. That was not an easy task as most of the staff were part time lecturers who worked at different industrial enterprises and organizations. It was difficult for these people to do research, prepare research papers and dissertations.

Till 1969 economists had no special periodical that could publish research papers and other materials. Most research papers were published in the journal “Mokslas ir technika” (“Science and Technology”), “Liaudies ūkis” (“Country Economy”) and other daily papers.

The researchers P. Kasperavičius and B. Matrinkus were among those who published a lot of papers dealing with economics and management. P. Kasperavičius did a very important research in the field of patenting. He took part in various conferences in Lithuania, Moscow, Tallin, Riga. The information about B. Matrinkus and P. Kasperavičius research can be found in special bibliographical issues.

Before the establishment of the Faculty of Engineering Economics in 1968, the first teaching materials and course books were published: V. Gubavičius “Economic Effectiveness of New Techniques” (1963); A. Masiliūnas “Automobile Repair” (1959); A. Orinauskas “Mathematical Methods in Economics and Planning” (1966), “Mathematic Methods of Management and Planning” (1968). P. Kasperavičius “Patent Science” (1968), later was developed into the course book “Invention and Patenting”. Course book publication was a rather complicated work in the sense of its preparation as well as in publication as at that time much depended on Moscow decisions.

Publishing possibilities became much more accessible when the Polytechnic Institute started organizing scientific technical conferences. It was for the first time that in 1968 such conference had a special section of industrial economics and organization. The section included two subsections: economics and production management and organization. Both subsections were headed by V. Gubavičius. Faculty researchers, postgraduate students, the representatives of special laboratories and enterprises were able to take part in those conferences and publish the results of their experiments and present their considerations. Since 1969 the proceedings of such conferences were published in a special series of publications. The first issue that was devoted to economics and management was called “Economics and Organization of Industrial Enterprises” (300 copies). Summaries of 23 reports presented at the conference were included into the publication. Since 1970 that issue was published under the heading “Economics”. It contained not only research results in the field of management and economics but also papers concerning labour safety and political economy problems. The chief editors of the publication “Economics” were B. Pečiūra and P. Vanagas.

Although the papers published in “Economics” were rather small in their volume, however, the publication in itself was very important for those interested in the development of the science of economics and management as it influenced some changes in the faculty. Moreover, the issue opened the possibility for the teachers, postgraduate students and other specialist to publish the results of their research and practical experience.

In 1990 the publication “Economics” turned into a serious journal “Engineering Economics” (the chief editor – B. Matrinkus). The journal played a very important role for the developments in the field of economics and management, and especially in the change from planned economy to market economy.

The journal has undergone a lot of changes during the period of its existence: the change of its form, structure, contents, periodicity. Now the journal is published five times a year.

English has become the main language of the journal since 2004.

“Engineering Economics” presents a very good opportunity for young specialists to publish papers about their research results.

Contemporary scientific journal “Engineering Economics” is one of the best publications of Kaunas University of Technology. It is devoted to theoretical and practical problems, engineering decisions, new technological achievements,

economic and managerial models, evaluation methods, etc. The periodical presents a very good opportunity to disseminate economic knowledge, new findings, research results and their practical application.

The journal gives a wide evaluation of published text-books, monographs and other works. Special attention is paid to the experience of foreign countries in market economy and management. Knowledge and skill gained by Lithuanian enterprises from this experience are in the focus of most papers published in "Engineering Economics". The same could be said about the issues dealing with European integration, contemporary globalization and knowledge society formation.

The success of the journal is very much dependent on the work of Editorial Board and its close contacts with the authors of the papers presenting valuable information. The articles are presented by local and foreign researchers. Constant communicating with the representatives from Poland, the USA, Germany, Denmark, Finland and other countries helps to keep up with the latest achievements in economics, innovations in management science and their application in organizations. Most of these contacts are fostered by the professor B. Martinkus who has been for many years and still is the chief editor of the journal. It is for the attempts of B. Martinkus that prominent researchers from Lithuania and foreign countries agreed to form the Editorial Board of the journal.

The efforts of B. Martinkus and the Editorial Board resulted in some successful achievements: the journal "Engineering Economics" is reported in ISI Web of Sciences (Social Science Citation Index), international Bibliography of Social Scien (IBSS), Business Source Complete, Corrent Abstracts, TOC Premier data basis (EBSCO), Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), ALL-Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information (VINITI). This makes the journal accessible for foreign researchers, and their evaluation inspires the Board of Editors to look for higher quality in both the form and content. Recently the papers presented in the journal are characterized by pithy theoretical and practical investigations, multidiplicinarity, integration aspects. "Engineering Economics" has become a very important source of research information among Lithuanian scientific journals. It has successfully filled up the niche of knowledge in contemporary science of economics and management.

In 2007 the journal society celebrated the 50-th copy issue. The participants of the festivity discussed the path of the journal development, the changes of its form und content, analyzed drawbacks and foresaw the means of further growth.

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