

Editor's preface

With this issue the *Estonian Journal of Earth Sciences* begins its way in science publishing as a separate journal. However, this is not a fully new beginning, but a renovated and modernized continuation of a well-established magazine. The Estonian Academy of Sciences has been publishing the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences* for more than 50 years and *Geology* as a separate series of the *Proceedings* since 1978. *Geology* was internationally peer-reviewed and abstracted or indexed in several journals or databases and during the last decades played an important role in making East Baltic geology more visible in the world. The ties of succession between the two journals are stressed by continued volume numeration. Despite its name, the *Estonian Journal of Earth Sciences* remains a journal of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, yet slightly differing from common academic proceedings.

With the change of the name of the journal our geological community wishes to emphasize that we support an increasing trend in Earth sciences, which can be formulated as strengthening of interaction and complexity of disciplines known as Earth system sciences. At the same time we see that the evolution of Earth systems, especially those highlighted by the science programme of the International Year of Planet Earth, results from the global and regional components of interacting processes. Both these aspects of the Earth sciences will also be the topic of our journal.

Proceeding from such a general policy, the new journal will publish papers covering the whole field of Earth sciences, including, besides different geological *sensu lato* disciplines, also geography and oceanography having certain connection with our part of the world, North Europe and the Baltic area in particular. One of our priorities will be the publishing of papers devoted to the International Year of Planet Earth.

Changes in subject matter seem to be relatively modest, because already the profile of the previous *Geology* series was rather wide. More importantly, along with some subject additions, the Editorial Board of the journal was altered considerably in accordance with the modernized science profile. I thank well-known scientists from different countries, including Estonia, for their consent to become members of the Board and to help the journal reach high standards in Earth science publishing. In order to make our editorial and international reviewing work more efficient and competent, we introduced also four posts of associate editors for main discipline groups, who will supervise, in co-operation with the editor-in-chief, the entire manuscript editing procedure.

The most practical changes introduced in this issue are the increased format and two-column layout, providing more space for text and greater flexibility in accommodating the tables and illustrations. We are convinced that all these and some other technical details, open electronic access policy included, will make the new journal a reliable medium for Earth science publishing.

Dimitri Kaljo
Editor-in-chief