

25 YEARS OF *POLEMOS*

The founding of *Polemos, Journal of Interdisciplinary Research on War and Peace*, in 1998, three years after the end of the Croatian Homeland War, was an enthusiastic, logical and, as it soon turned out, justified step. Various aspects of security studies and strategic studies, including studies on war, peace and the role of the armed forces in modern societies, have become important subjects of research by experts from various disciplines in Croatia, but foreign experts have also contributed.

Years of dedicated work by the former editors, especially the two editors-in-chief, have meant that *Polemos* celebrated a quarter of a century of publication this year, 2023. The previous editorial boards left behind a total of 25 volumes, i.e. 50 successfully edited and published journal issues.

As is fitting, important anniversaries are a good time for a kind of recapitulation and thanksgiving, but also for changes that the (scientific) spirit of the times demands to maintain continuity, which is by no means a difficult task.

The journal was published jointly by the *Croatian Sociological Association* and the *Association of Croatian Veterans of the Homeland War* (UHVDR), and already in the second issue of the first year of publication, 1998, the *Jesenski i Turk* publishing house became co-publisher instead of the UHVDR, which is still the case today.

The founding of the journal meant not only the opening of a space for experts specialising in the above-mentioned fields to share and exchange knowledge but also the establishment of a scientific (sub-)discipline of the army and war with a strong sociological focus.

It is not inappropriate to mention that the topic, which was then “appropriated” by *Polemos* as a scientific journal, could not previously be considered and discussed outside the framework of the politics and mythology of the (former) state. *Polemos* was therefore also a cog in the democratisation process.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the journal’s publication in 2018, numerous difficulties in the history of the journal’s publication were mentioned, but also numerous positive facts that were crucial for its continuous publication. Under the conditions of rather limited budget allocations for social sciences in Croatia, as well as numerous other aggravating circumstances, this fact in itself represents a significant success.

Today, without formally celebrating the quarter-century of publication of *Polemos*, it must be pointed out that the well-thought-out concept of the journal and the enthusiasm of the editors-in-chief were certainly the key to the success of its continuous publication and its recognition in the academic world as well as among the general public. These are facts that bind the new editorial team, which took office in May 2023, and impose a great responsibility on it.

Taking on an editorial assignment has something to do with relay races. The goal of the race in this case is to run well and not miss the baton, i.e. to maintain the continuity of output and the standards previously set, while adapting to the new

times and the new trends that legitimise scientific journals and working to create new, even higher standards for the quality of scientific work.

With this in mind, the new editorial board is facing very difficult times and ambitious goals. To achieve these goals in a timely manner, *Polemos* has already switched to the online first publication format for articles with issue 50. Furthermore, *Polemos* ceases to be a double issue with issue 51, the second one for 2022, and from 2023 and issue 53 *Polemos* becomes an annual journal. The new categorisation of scientific papers, the introduction of new sections and the involvement of young scientists from Croatia and abroad in the editorial board should contribute to an even greater dynamism and recognition of *Polemos*.

We expect that the complex security picture of the world will be reflected in the next issues of the journal and that *Polemos* will present the national and international scientific public with the latest findings on peace, wars, (in)security and related topics from the viewpoint of various sciences and disciplinary perspectives. The openness of *Polemos* to different points of view and the acceptance of polemics in the context of scholarly (academic) discourse will remain the policy of the new editors.

We'd like to thank the previous editors, authors and contributors and hope that many of them, together with new contributors, will shape the future of *Polemos* and write new pages of its history.

Danijela Lucić, Editor-in-Chief