

## INVITATION

### **Workshop "We are family?"**

*An explorative workshop on ownership and control of corporations in the Baltic & Nordic countries*

Time: 8-9 November

Venue: IRES Library, Gamla Torget 3 (3rd floor), Uppsala

Language: English

Participation: attendance is restricted to those who are currently pursuing or hold a PhD degree. Should you be interested in taking part in the workshop, please contact the organizers Ann-Mari Sätre [ann-mari.satre@ires.uu.se](mailto:ann-mari.satre@ires.uu.se) or Mikael Olsson [mikael.olsson@sh.se](mailto:mikael.olsson@sh.se).

In the immediate post-socialist era much attention was given to questions relating to macroeconomic stabilisation, liberalisation and privatisation. In the Baltic States, as elsewhere, the discourse often focused on the question how to (quickly) distribute ownership among a large segment of the population. Widely distributed ownership was a way to gain political support for economic reforms; it was also in line with the at the time dominant discourse of the stock exchange as a disciplining factor when it came to corporate governance.

Public and academic discourse in the aftermath of privatisation has as consequence come to focus on two different aspects; the first being the failures and problems with regard to establishing liquid, transparent and well-functioning stock markets; the second being the influx and in some sectors total dominance of foreign investors. At the same time precious little attention has over the years been paid to one other development of utmost relevance for the business sector, namely the growth and development of domestic and family controlled corporate groupings.

With the benefit of hindsight, this was perhaps both a mistake and a surprise; much attention has indeed been given to questions of cohesion and emulation between the Baltic States and its Nordic neighbours and in the latter group of countries, family ownership has throughout been a dominant force/feature.

The aim of the workshop is to rectify this oversight by jointly exploring the potential for establishing and funding a research project/grouping that can contribute to our understanding of the development, dynamics and execution of ownership in the Baltic & Nordic region.

The approach is multidisciplinary, comparative and long-term in that it brings together researchers from economics, economic history/business administration with those with insights gained from fields of study such as political science and sociology.

The workshop is organized by the Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies in cooperation with Uppsala Centre for Business History and Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace and Justice.

Welcome!