



First Communication

**IV Warsaw Conference
Perspectives of the XXI Century – The Gordian Knots and Alexandrian Solutions**

Warsaw, 24-25 OCTOBER 2008

The Global scene 2050 is changing into a new scientific, economic, political and cultural identity. We don't know the results yet. We have to be prepared for different scenarios related to the vision of the world 2050, also these pessimistic or even dramatic. Our perception overburdened with the real or fictitious problems of today, is not able to acknowledge the simple truth that the long horizon of 2050 is *de facto* a short term horizon. In the present demographic structures the majority of now living inhabitants of the world will see World 2050 inside the individual experiences of their life. They will not only see the Global scene of 2050 – they will also participate in the glory and misery of this scene.

Taking into account a great need for finding the answer for the question how to invent our future, the Polish Ministry of Regional Development has established a new international research programme on the future of regions – The Regio Futures Programme and series of publications Regional Development Forum REDEFO.

Now in the framework of the Regio Futures Programme the Polish Ministry of Regional Development, the Club of Rome and the Polish Economic Society are organizing the IV Warsaw Conference “The Regio Futures Programme – Gordian Knots and Alexandrian Solutions – The Perspectives of the XXI Century” which will be held on 24th - 25th of October 2008 in Warsaw.

The main mission of the conference is to integrate the concept of “Gordian knots and Alexandrian solutions” in the framework of the interpretations of the historical experience of the XX century and the interpretations of the perspective of the XXI century.

We are planning to enrich the Regio Futures Programme via extension of the methodological framework (Gordian knots).

The strategy of the conference is developed around introductory session and 6 panels which will create a consistent core of the conference. In the introductory session we are planning to have the presentations of the representatives of the European Commission, the OECD, the Committee of the Regions and the Polish Government.

The first panel of the conference will focus on the discussion related to the new programme of the Club of Rome “A New Path of World Development”.

The second panel of the conference “Gordian knots and Alexandrian solutions – concepts, theories and methodologies” will be devoted to achieve three main goals. *Primo* – to create a new synthesis of the methodology of the Regio Futures Programme. *Secundo* – to incorporate in the Regio Futures Programme the concept of “Gordian knots and Alexandrian solutions”. *Tertio* – to introduce into methodological controversy of the conference the book of Nassim Taleb “The Black Swan” (Paunguin books 2007).

The mission of the third panel will be an interpretation of the XX century. The panel will answer the question what is our past and its output and if the concept of “Gordian knots and Alexandrian solutions” is an innovative instrument in the interpretation of this experience.

The fourth session is an attempt to interpret different visions of the XXI century using the concepts of “the Gordian knots and Alexandrian solutions”.

The fifth session will interpret the experience of the European regions with a special attention to the cases of Southern Italy, Eastern Germany and Eastern Poland. In the context of the conference these three regions are called *Triple Mezzogiorno*.

The sixth panel “Quo vadis Polonia?” will try to outline the crucial strategic problems of the Polish development in the XXI century.

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In toto the conference can be seen as *quintet* of contributions:

- ✓ A contribution to development and creation of the future (Regio Futures Programme)
- ✓ A contribution to a development of the new programme of the Club of Rome “A New Path for World Development”
- ✓ A contribution to new interpretations of “Gordian knots and Alexandrian solutions” in historical and prospective analyses
- ✓ A contribution to the interpretation of the European scene especially to the Triple Mezzogiorno
- ✓ A contribution to a grand discussion “Quo vadis Polonia?”

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The background of the conference is created by six publications:

- The Future of European Regions (Warsaw 2007)
- Problematyka przyszłości regionów. W poszukiwaniu nowego paradygmatu. (Warszawa 2008)
- Gordian knots of the 21st century (Warsaw 2008)
- Faces of the 21st century (Pruszkow 2008)
- The future of regions in the perspective of global change (in print)
- Report on intellectual capital in Poland (in print)