

Leslaw Michnowski
Member of the Committee for Future Studies "Poland 2000 Plus",
Polish Academy of Sciences and
Polish Association for the Club of Rome.
<http://www.kte.psl.pl/artlm.htm>
leslaw.michnowski@gmail.com

How to overcome the EU- and global- crisis?,

After the big, dangerous shock of 2008-2009 world financial crisis and large banks supporting bail-out therapy (maybe leading to hyperinflation) we hear currently that world economy is already on the path of the recovery (G20 Toronto 2010). But in this same time we also hear that we in Europe are on the beginning of the new kind of crisis – the state-debt crisis.

There are two different proposals for overcoming this new form of European crisis.

The first one: to rebuild and sustain economy growth by continuation - for some time yet - economy growth stimulating bail-out policy. It means to go with such new stimulus into larger state-debts - at the cost of not only future generations.

The second proposal: to eliminate state-deficit by means of cutting budget deficits austerity measures i.e. cuts in social programs, pensions and wages.

In both cases such form of European therapy will lead to new, more dangerous phase of crisis together *inter alia* with:

- lower level of European consumption,
- higher level of unemployment,
- lower level of Chinese export to Europe, as well as
- more severe social protests.

From a long time I analyze (with development cybernetics methods) essence of global crisis - recognized by authors of Report „Limits to Growth” (Meadows 1972, 1992, 2004ab) - as well as conditions of sustainable development of the world society. This systems research I am doing with the help of conceptual model of reality: *System of Life*, created by me in an axiomatic way (Michnowski 1994, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009a).

As a result of above analysis I propose to treat current crises - financial, state-debt, social (growing unemployment), hunger – as open elements of above global crisis. These crises are effect of false, egoistic, short-sighted defense strategy of overcoming this global crisis. This false strategy is based on conviction, that the main cause of global crisis is Earth overpopulation, that leads to exhausting global life-resources (Forrester 1971/95, Meadows *Euronatur*, 2009)¹.

Evident proof of reality of this global crisis lies in the continuously progressing and ruthless depreciation (with current patterns of consumption and production) of the life-supporting natural environment and the increasing use of accessible natural resources at a faster pace than their alternatives can be found. Moreover, access to

¹ (1) *We desperately need for population, energy use, material use, and pollution streams to be reduced*, (Meadows *Euronatur*);

(2) *If you want everyone to have the full potential of mobility, adequate food and self-development, then it is 1 or 2 billion*. (Meadows 2009).

these valuable resources is fast becoming the object of battle (even if fought with modern-day means).

In the light of my systems research this crisis is the result of world society's not adjustment to life in State of Change and Risk, in other words in a qualitatively new situation mainly created by the rapid development of science and technology as well as big organizational inertia of nowadays social systems.

In the State of Change and Risk (SCR) - instead of Earth overpopulation – the Obsolete (Moral) Destruction (life-forms not adapted to new life-conditions) is the Main Life Destruction Factor.

To eliminate, in SCR, negative obsolete (moral) destruction effects – Feedforward Control System and more and more Wisdom (including common good ethics) creative activity is essential.

Feedforward Control System is based on information about future life-conditions, life-needs, and consequences of policy own and others. It allows to predict approaching dangers and eliminate them in anticipatory, pre-emptive way.

In order to overcome global crisis world society will have to achieve Sustainable Development – i.e. development without cyclically returning disasters and the shortsighted construction of new forms of social and economic life on the ruins of former life-forms. Sustainable Development - which in sustained way combines social development with ecosocially useful economic growth and environmental protection (United Nations 2002).

This will require human coexistence models that are qualitatively different from the present ones. Instead of global death rivalry, we need Informationally efficient (Michnowski 2006, 2009b), win-win global cooperation (Hu Jinbao 2010, G20 Toronto 2010). With this cooperation, world society intellectual and manufacturing potential large activation and science-technology development - we ought to change properly patterns of consumption and production, and get access to sources of currently deficit and/or new resources.

The emergence of these new social models will be *inter alia* pre-condition of the transformation of the rapid economic and civilizational growth of big societies - like China and India - which until recently were behind in their development into a driving force of world society's sustainable development.

Of prime importance in overcoming the global crisis is the rejection of today's dominating selfishness and individualism in favour of eco-humanism.

Eco-humanism means partnership-based cooperation for the common good/common interest of all people (rich and poor, from countries highly developed and behind in development), their descendants, and natural environment - commonly supported by science and high technology, as well as information culture.

Partnership-based cooperation along "development together with the environment (social and/or natural)" principles will require universal access to knowledge about the complex effects of human activity, including those which take place over time and space.

Eco-humanism is a condition for access to knowledge/information (currently usually in egoistic way used) and building with it an information basis for sustainable development policy and economy. Such a basis will allow the formation of a qualitatively new, sustainable development economy guided by common good - common interest, in their broadest sense. Such an economy must be founded on a complex benefit-cost account embracing its social and environmental aspects, it should also show preference to ecosocially useful creativity.

The eco-humanistic reconstruction of the global economic system will also be necessary for the replacement of today's ecosocially highly costly globalization (Pernicious Globalization) by an eco-humanistic globalization (Inclusive Globalization,

fair globalization, globalization with human face (Merkel 2007) model. Such a new, information efficient, common-good-oriented form of globalization will be crucial for overcoming the global crisis and creating world society's sustainable development.

Thus, in reshaping the global economic system, eco-humanism will allow world society's strongest players to cease securing access to rare resources (fuel, natural, environmental, intellectual) through the physical elimination of rivals to these resources. In place of the social-Darwinistic deprivation of weaker societies of vital resources, access to them will be ensured by the partnership-based cooperation of an adequately educated world society aided by science and information technology.

Building a sustainable development economy will also be crucial for eliminating the defensive terrorism practiced by societies endangered by the present pathological globalization model and for global demographic control.

Above mentioned proposal is generally opposed for pathological "zero growth" method for overcoming global crisis *inter alia* by means of decreasing world population to 1-2 bn (Forrester 1971/95, fig. 8, Merkel 2007, Meadows 2009).

In light of my systems research there are: no limits for Wisdom based growth and sustainable development of Human society.

For limits to growth developmental crossing we have to build - in backcasting (Michnowski 2003, Jablonowski 2009), multi stage way, continuously under development, commonly accessible - worldwide (net and GRID) sustainable development information system for:

- dynamic monitoring,
- long range forecasting, and
- measurable evaluation of policy, economy, work and other changes in the life conditions (of human-beings and nature in general) effects.

Dynamic monitoring (of set: society-environment life-process) is: collecting dates, that reflect this process, and computer simulation (System Dynamics) transforming them into information about its quality, dynamics, and future, as well as predicted dangers (early warning) under condition any intervention intruded of this monitored process.

To change globalization and achieve sustainable development we need to create *inter alia* subsidiarity principle based UN Development Council (Merkel 2009, Benedict XVI 2009) with World Sustainable Development Strategy Center, including UN Information Center for Sustainable Development Strategy (Michnowski 2006, 2009b).

The main task of such global governance are:

- to dynamic monitor and predict dangers, and
- design and disseminate methods of overcoming them.

In European Union we ought to oblige EUROSTAT to dynamic monitoring activity.

Eco-humanism and complex knowledge about the future preconditions the developmental crossing of limits to growth, which is the fundament of overcoming the global crisis and achieving the sustainable development of world society.

Without creation - with help of eco-humanistic global governance - information bases of sustainable development policy and economy it is impossible to base policy and economy on common good principle, and therefore eliminate speculative capitalism, poverty, unemployment, and excessive growth of world human population - also realize Millennium Development Goals. It is impossible then to avoid global catastrophe

To overcome European Union-debt crisis and avoid global catastrophe we need to overthrow – with help of information culture (Forrester 1971/95, Haliniak 2009, Michnowski 2009b) - social-Darwinistic social relations for eco-humanistic ones.

Bibliography

Benedict XVI 2009, *Encyclical Letter Caritas in veritate*.

Forrester Jay, W. 1971/95, *Counterintuitive behavior of social systems*, D-4468-2:
<http://sysdyn.clexchange.org/sdep/Roadmaps/RM1/D-4468-2.pdf>.

G20 Toronto Summit 2010, *The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration*, Toronto, June 27, 2010:
<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communicue.html>

Haliniak M., Michnowski L. 2009, *Sustainable Development Policy Making – Challenges and Opportunities*, paper on Conference: Creativity and Innovation, European Year 2009, International Greening Education Event, Karlsruhe, Germany, 30th September – 2nd October 2009:
http://www.kte.psl.pl/Karlsruhe-wkj_2.pdf
<http://www.kte.psl.pl/MHLMKarlsruhe.ppt>.

Hu Jintao 2009, President Hu stresses the theory of common development, *People's Daily Online*, November 30, 2009:
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90780/91342/6827469.html> .

Jablonowski M. 2009, *Managing High-Stakes Risk, Towards a New Economic for Survival*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Meadows D. H., Meadows D. L., Randers J., Behrens III W. W. 1972, *Limits to Growth*, Universe Books, New York.

Meadows D. H., Meadows D. L., Randers J. 1992, *Beyond the Limits, Global Collapse or a Sustainable Future*, Earthscan, London;

Meadows D. H., Randers J., Meadows D. L., 2004a, *Limits to Growth, The 30-Year Update*, Chelsea Green Publishing Company, Vermont.

Meadows D. H., Randers J., Meadows D. L. 2004b, *Synopsis Limits to Growth, The 30-Year Update*, Chelsea Green I in.:
<http://www.sustainer.org/pubs/limitstogrowth.pdf>.

Meadows D. L., Interview with Dennis L. Meadows, *Euronatur*:
http://www.euronatur.org/Interview_Dennis_Meadows.dennismeadows_en.0.html ,

Meadows D. L. 2009, Interview with US Economist Dennis Meadows: 'Copenhagen Is About Doing As Little As Possible', *Spiegel Online International*, 12/09/2009:
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,666175,00.html>.

Merkel A. 2007, *Opening Address by Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, at the World Economic Forum*:

http://www.bundesregierung.de/nn_6566/Content/EN/Reden/2007/01/2007-01-24-rede-bkin-davos.html .

Merkel A. 2009, *Speech by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum. in Davos*, Fri, 30.01.2009, WEF Davos 2009:

http://www.bundesregierung.de/nn_6566/Content/EN/Reden/2009/2009-01-30-merkel-davos-rede.html .

Michnowski L. 1994, *Kryzys globalny a przywracanie zdolności rozwoju (Global crisis and developmental recovery)*, Aneks 1, [w:] Pajestka J., O orientację na przyszłość w reformach polskich, Megatrendy cywilizacyjne a proces transformacji systemowej, Komitet Prognoz „Polska w XXI wieku” przy Prezydium PAN, Dom Wydawniczy ELIPSA, Warszawa: www.kte.psl.pl/pajestka.pdf.

Michnowski L. 2003, *Analiza zmienności w kształtowaniu strategii trwałego rozwoju (sustainable development) (Changes analysis in shaping sustainable strategy)*, [i:] Filozoficzne i społeczne uwarunkowania zrównoważonego rozwoju, (ed. Artur Pawłowski),

Monografie Komitetu Inżynierii Środowiska Polskiej Akademii Nauk, vol. 16, Lublin 2003:

<http://www.kte.psl.pl/analizazmiennosci.pdf> .

Michnowski L. 2006, *Spółczesność przyszłości a trwały rozwój, Cybernetyczne spojrzenie na przyszłość świata*,. Polska Akademia Nauk, Komitet Prognoz „Polska 2000 Plus”, Warszawa 2006.

Michnowski L. 2007, Eco-Humanism and Popular System Dynamics as Preconditions for Sustainable Development, *Solidarity, Sustainability, and Non-Violence (SSNV) Research Newsletter*, Vol. 3, No. 11, November 2007:

<http://pelicanweb.org/solisustv03n11michnowski.html>.

Michnowski L. 2008, Ecohumanism as a Developmental Crossing, [in:] Sri Sadguru Sainathaya Namah, *Transformative Pathways Attainable Utopias*, (red. [Sangeeta Sharma](#)), Jaipur, India, 2008:

<http://www.kte.psl.pl/Indie.pdf>

Michnowski L. 2009a, Ecohumanism as a Developmental Crossing (with Supplement), *The PelicanWeb's Journal of Sustainable Development, Research Digest on Integral Human Development, Spirituality, Solidarity, Sustainability, Democracy, Technology, Nonviolence*, Vol. 5, No. 10, October 2009:

<http://pelicanweb.org/solisustv05n10page2michnowski2.html>

Michnowski L. 2009b, *To Overcome the Global Crisis (Towards Sustainable Development Policy and Economy)*, Appeal to the Leaders of the UN and G20:

<http://www.kte.psl.pl/ung20footnotes.htm> , [w:]

The Club of Rome, European Support Centre:

<http://clubofrome.at/news/newsflash68.html> , oraz

”Europe’s World”, 3/9/2009: <http://tinyurl.com/mlhynz>

United Nations 2002, *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development/*