

## Baltic Europe 2050 challenges of the future, heritage of the past

By Antoni Kukliński

The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Institute in Rome have organized a Conference and have published a charming and path breaking book – Europe 2050 – Challenges of the Future – Heritage of the Past.

The conference and the book should be seen as an inspiration to discover a new perspective to analyze in a philosophical and holistic way the experiences and prospects of Baltic Europe. The most valuable contributions published in the Baltic Rim Economies are following the title of publication formulated inside a broad and yet restricted disciplinary field of economic and institutional sciences.

Maybe *hinc et nunc* it is possible to enter a transdisciplinary field inspired by philosophy, history and futurology.

In this context I would like to propose to organize a Conference and publication: Baltic Europe 2050 – Challenges of the Future – Heritage of the Past. The proposed Conference and Publication would have four features:

1) It will be a follow up of the book Europe 2050 with a specific orientation towards Baltic Europe.

2) It will be a creative laboratory of transdisciplinary thinking integrating the historical and prospective approaches.

This creative laboratory will incorporate:

- *primo* – the dynamic diagnosis of the transformation of Baltic Europe at the turn of the XX and XXI century,
- *secundo* – the visions of Baltic Europe as an element of the global scene of the 2050,
- *tertio* – the scenarios of the development of Baltic Europe in the years 2010-2050.

3) It will face the challenges to compare two civilizations – The Mediterranean and the Baltic Civilization.

For quite a long time I was trying to say that the experiences of Baltic Europe should be seen as a civilization analyzed in Braudelian perspectives. Maybe the proposed Conference could be organized by the Finnish Institute in

Rome (Villa Lante). I am expecting that the comparative reflection related to the Baltic and Mediterranean Civilizations will create a new bridge in the interpretation of the European Past and the European Future.

4) It will be an input into the grand debate “Europe 2050” which is emerging on the global horizon

This grand debate has not yet gained a strong intellectual and institutional take off. The European Union is still not ready to look into the mirror of the global scene of 2050.

This is not a deficiency of knowledge or even imagination. It is a deficiency of intellectual courage to discover the expected and unexpected faces of the future. The proposed Conference Baltic Europe 2050 could provide a demonstration effect promoting a pluralistic stream of thinking related to the Future of Europe *in toto*.

I am convinced that the brilliant Finnish diplomacy, science and culture will see in this suggestion an inspiration for our knowledge and imagination to see Baltic Europe in a new transdisciplinary brainstorming perspective. Especially important in this proposal is the comparative reflection related to the holistic vision of the past and the future of the Mediterranean Civilization and the Baltic Civilization.

The proposed Conference is not outside the open minded interpretation of the experiences of the Baltic RIM Economies. It is only a proposal to see these economies in a holistic transdisciplinary perspective of philosophy, history and futurology.

This preliminary outline should be seen as a starting point in the process of creative thinking related to the Conference – Baltic Europe 2050. The next stage in this process is the preparation of a Feasibility Study which is naturally outside the scope of this short note.

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