**Voivode of the Malopolska Region, Eng. Krzysztof Jan Klęczar, PhD – biography**

He was born on May 20, 1982 in Oświęcim.

* **Power of science, i.e. the Agricultural University above all**

Krzysztof Jan Klęczar emphasizes his strong relationship with the Agricultural University in Krakow (the Academy of Agriculture until 2008). There he obtained a master's degree in animal science (specialization: fisheries and water protection). At the University of Agriculture in Krakow, at the Faculty of Animal Breeding and Biology, he also obtained a PhD in agricultural sciences, in the field of fisheries, in 2011. He devoted his doctoral dissertation to “The influence of lead on body growth and the concentration of selected metabolic hormones in carp”.

In 2006, he started his professional career in the structures of the university, holding the following positions: head of the Academic Club, head of the Center for Continuing Education, and director of the Technology Transfer Center. He was also the representative of the Rector of the University of Agriculture in the field of project management, European Funds, and intellectual property management. In 2012-2013, he served as the president of the management board of the Innovation Center of the University of Agriculture in Krakow Sp. z o. o.

He was also the coordinator of the University for Youth and the University of the Third Age at the University of Agriculture in Krakow. He is also the co-founder and first chairman of the Student Circle of Children's Friends of the Agricultural University of Krakow. He was also a member of the Alumni Council at the Rector of the University of Agriculture in Krakow.

He received the Rector’s Award of the Agricultural University for special organizational achievements in student activities, the Rector's Award of the Agricultural University of the 2nd and 1st degree and the Commemorative Medal of the 60th anniversary of the University of Agriculture in Krakow.

*- The University of Agriculture in Krakow is particularly close to me. The university shaped me and convinced me of the importance of knowledge transfer, the role of specialized research and educational activities, and the potential of the Krakow scientific community. Krakow is a city of science and we can be proud of it! -* emphasizes the voivode of the Malopolska Region, Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.

* **Development**

Krzysztof Jan Klęczar also developed his interests at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw (Faculty of Psychology in Katowice), there he obtained a master's degree in psychology (specialization: clinical psychology of children and adolescents). At the Higher School of Vocational Education in Wroclaw, he completed postgraduate studies in the field of Master of Business Administration (MBA).

He also completed specialist courses and trainings, including: in the field of intellectual property management, knowledge transfer management, practical project management, effective project team management, management control, public procurement.

In his professional career, he also held the position of a member of the management board of Krakow Technology Park Sp. z o. o., in 2013-2014.

As part of his extra duties, he was also a manager of co-financed projects, including: from HC OP, RDP, MROP funds (the total value of completed projects exceeds PLN 200 million) and an expert in projects related to the development of innovative economy and entrepreneurship. He participated in study visits and expert trips (including in Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Estonia, Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary). He was a member of the Local Steering Group (InTraMed project – C2C, John Paul II Krakow Specialist Hospital).

He is the author and co-author of numerous scientific and popular science publications in domestic and foreign magazines in the field of: fisheries, zootechnics, aquatic toxicology, environmental protection, intellectual property management, knowledge and technology transfer and local government.

* **Local government in the blood**

Krzysztof Jan Klęczar, voivode of the Malopolska Region, emphasizes that he grew up in the local government.

*- I grew up in a family where local government was in our blood. My father was also a local government official - he was the vice-chairman of the Oświęcim County Council, but he was also the head of a budget company for 20 years, first in a budget company, then in a municipal waterworks company in Kęty, the policy and activity have always been present at our home -* says the voivode, Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.

Krzysztof Jan Klęczar was a member of the management board of the “Old City” District in Kęty for two terms. He also worked as a councilor of the City Council in Kęty. In 2014, he was elected to the District Council in Oświęcim (he did not take the oath due to taking up the mandate of mayor of Kęty). He was also a member of the board of the Beskid District-Municipal Association in Bielsko-Biała.

In 2014, he was elected mayor of Kęty in the Malopolska Region. In the local elections in 2018, he took the position again, obtaining almost 80% of votes.

*- It was an extremely important ambition for me to become the mayor of the Kęty commune, especially since I am the third generation living there. My grandfather and father were also socially active. It was a very honorable thing for me* *-* emphasizes the voivode of the Malopolska Region, Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.

He received the Marta Garapich Award for a Local Government Member of Podbeskidzie. He is the winner of the Local Government Person of the Year 2018 plebiscite (“Gazeta Krakowska”, “Dziennik Polski”, SGiPM). He also received a commemorative medal of the 20th anniversary of the Oświęcim Poviat.

*- The activity of local government aims at solving people's problems, building alliances and agreements. It is the essence of politics -* adds the voivode, Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.

* **Serve others**

Krzysztof Jan Klęczar, the voivode of the Malopolska Region, has extensive experience in social activities.

For two terms he served as the chairman of the Student Government of the University of Agriculture. In 2005, he was also the chairman of the Agreement of Student Governments of Krakow Universities.

The list of institutions and organizations in which he was involved includes: Fishermen's Scientific Club, Parliament of Students of the Republic of Poland in Warsaw (member of the Audit Committee), Agreement of Student Governments of Agricultural Universities (member of the presidium), College of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions in Krakow, Malopolska Education Council, A. Kłosiński Museum Council in Kęty (chairman in 2014-2021), GZOZ Social Council in Kęty (chairman since 2014), Program Council of TVP Krakow, Polish Fishing Association – Kęty District (member of the management board in 2012-2014).

He received the Badge of Merit for the Association of Veterans of the Republic of Poland and Former Political Prisoners and the Badge for Outstanding Merit for the Association of Veterans of the Republic of Poland and Former Political Prisoners. He was also awarded the Golden Badge of Merit for the Polish Association of the Blind – the Malopolska District.

He was a volunteer, among others, in care and educational facilities, cultural centers, community centers and non-governmental organizations. He is the owner of an educational farm called “The Green Doctor's Farm” and the originator and leader of the youth group called “The Green Doctor's Pack”.

*- Since I tuned eighteen, I have been working with children and teenagers. It started when I was a student. With my wife, still a girl at the time, we visited orphanages. Volunteering has always been close to my heart. The farm I have been managing for years is an educational farm. I often meet young people and animals, and we talk about various difficult things at work, so I still haven't given up volunteering. I don't want to talk much about it, because it's not about bragging, but there are still several places that I visit regularly, so I undoubtedly associate my future with helping others, although not necessarily professionally* *-* emphasizes the voivode of the Malopolska Region, Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.

* **People's man**

Krzysztof Jan Klęczar has been the president of the Provincial Board of the Polish People's Party in the Malopolska Region since 2021, and a member of the PSL Supreme Executive Committee since 2022. He has been associated with the political formation for years as the chairman of the Kęty District (2011-2016), chairman of the Commune Board in Kęty (2011-2020), vice-chairman of the County Board in Oświęcim (2011-2020), a member of the Provincial Board in Krakow (2012 - present), a member of the Presidium of the Provincial Board in Krakow (2016 - present), a provincial coordinator of the Movement for the Defense of Polish Self-Government, a provincial coordinator of the Forum of Social Thought, a member of the Supreme Council (2018 - present). He was awarded a commemorative medal commemorating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the People's Movement and the distinction “For Merits to the Rural Youth Union”.

*- My grandfather, Władysław, was a people’s man and one of the co-founders of the agricultural club in Kęty in the 1940s. After the war, my father was a member of PSL, and now I am from the generation of people’s men in our house, so my self-government and public service have always been there -* says Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.

* **Privately**

A happy husband and father.

He has sailing licenses – he is a yacht sailor and a motorboat helmsman. He is a referee of fishing sports. For his activities, he was awarded the Medal “For Merit in the Development of Fishing”.

Widely associated with sports. He has the Commemorative Medal of the Malopolska Football Association and the Honorary Badge of the Polish JUDO Association in gold.

* **New mission: voivode of the Malopolska Region**

On December 14, Prime Minister Donald Tusk, at the request of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration Marcin Kierwiński, appointed Krzysztof Jan Klęczar to the office of voivode of the Malopolska Region.

*- The key issue from the point of view of performing the function of a voivode is what the voivode is actually appointed to do. They represent the government in the field, but also exercise – I don't really like the word – supervision. A voivode is a partner, a link between the local government and the government. This is what I would like to focus on -* summarizes Krzysztof Jan Klęczar.