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Date of acceptance by the Editor: 06/2020**MAPE 2020, volume 3, issue 1, pp. 596-605****Katarzyna Postrzednik-Lotko**

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this article is based on available literature research to present topics related to sustainable development, to provide definitions and to indicate the main assumptions of ideas and principles of sustainable development in the modern world, by also providing specific examples. The rest of the article also indicates the relationship between sustainable development (spatial development and investments) and environmental protection as leading topics in the modern world. Next, attention was paid to the roles of environmental policy and the most important instruments supporting sustainable development policy were indicated, as well as conclusions for the future.

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The concept of sustainable development according to "ekologia.pl" comes from forestry, where it originally meant such a way of managing the forest that it would never be liquidated, i.e. cutting as many trees as possible will allow it to be rebuilt in the future.

According to the Environmental Protection Law, the term sustainable development is understood to mean "socio-economic development, which involves the process of integrating political, economic and social activities, maintaining natural balance and sustainability of basic natural processes, in order to guarantee the ability to meet the basic needs of individual communities or citizens, both modern and future generations".

However, according to "ekologia.pl" sustainable development is „a way of farming in which meeting the needs of the present generation will not reduce the chances of meeting the needs of future generations.

In sustainable development, the natural environment is its foundation, the tool economy, and society's well-being goal".

Thus, the following sustainability indicators by order can be distinguished:

- Social order (including demographic change, public health, social integration, education, access to the labor market, public security, sustainable consumption patterns);

- Economic governance (including economic development, employment, innovation, transport, sustainable production patterns);
- Environmental governance (regarding climate change, energy, air protection, marine ecosystems, fresh water resources, land use, biodiversity and waste management);
- Institutional and political governance (regarding global partnership, cohesion policy and efficiency, openness and participation as well as civic activity).

FROM THE GENERAL IDEA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO THE RULES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"The idea of sustainable development, also known as the idea of eco-development, was created on the basis of the need to introduce profound changes in the global economy. These considerations were the result of the appearance of many unfavorable processes that occurred both in people's living conditions and in the conditions of functioning of ecosystems. Progressing degradation of the natural environment, increasing pollution of air, water and land caused a threat to the health of an increasing number of people. There were also economic arguments about the threat to future economic growth as a result of the depletion of natural resources. Gradually, awareness of the holistic perception of phenomena and processes occurring in the areas of social and economic life and in the natural world was emerging. It was the basis for the mobilization of the world of science, politics and business to develop the basis for joint actions for further and lasting – with future generations in mind - socio-economic development that is environmentally friendly" (Skrobacki, 2011).

The United Nations has reached a consensus on the final document of the new Sustainable Development Agenda entitled „Transforming our world: Agenda for Sustainable Development – 2030”, which includes 17 goals (and 169 tasks), including:

- Eradicating poverty in all its forms around the world;
- Eliminating hunger, achieving food security, better nutrition and the promotion of sustainable agriculture;
- Ensuring a healthy life for all people of all ages and the promotion of prosperity;
- Ensuring high quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning;
- Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls;
- Ensuring access to water and sanitation for all people through the sustainable management of water resources;
- Providing everyone with access to stable, sustainable and modern energy at an affordable price;
- Promoting stable, balanced and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all people;
- Building stable infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and supporting innovation;

- Reducing inequalities within and between countries;
- Making cities and settlements safe, stable, sustainable and inclusive;
- Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its effects;
- Protecting oceans, seas and marine resources and using them in a sustainable way;
- Protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable forest management, stopping and reversing soil degradation, and halting the loss of biodiversity;
- Promoting a peaceful and inclusive society, ensuring access to justice for all people, and building effective and responsible institutions at all levels that promote social inclusion;
- Strengthening implementation measures and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

In addition, according to Aleksandra Kuzior in the book "Aksjologia zrównoważonego rozwoju": "[q]uality of life is the central category of sustainable development and one from the basic values, which, using M. Scheler's typology, can be located within vital values. [...] W. Tyburski's value of life in the axiology of sustainable development mainly refers to human life, although due to the holistic approach to the value of health (human health and the health of ecosystems), as a basic factor determining the quality of life, the range of life values is also extended to other animate entities. [...] The life and quality of human life largely depends on the state of the environment, nature as the home in which it lives, and opportunities for creative development in harmony with nature" (Kuzior, 2014).

For example in the canton of Bern (in Switzerland) "[...] the political work of the executive [...] will include spatial planning with internal concentration, location development in central locations, but also balanced bills and the development of a new tax strategy. The government is also focusing on maintaining, renewing and systematically expanding cantonal infrastructure, as well as promoting an innovation Park and a national center of excellence in medical technology. The government council adopted the government's policy guidelines [...] which set out the main points of its political work. As in the last two legislative periods, the government council has established the principle of sustainable development as a basic maxim [...]" (Regierungsrat, 2014). Specific goals are derived from these three dimensions, such as the environment, society and the economy, and are emphasized where there is a particular need for action in relation to long-term conservation of livelihoods and ensuring the highest possible quality of life for present and future generations.

Actions are taken to achieve these goals in the coming years, thanks to which strategies that have already been initiated can be further promoted. In this way, funds and resources can be used in a targeted and effective way so that the services and investments provided are used by the whole population.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS) AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS LEADING TOPICS

Aleksandra Kuzior notes that "[i]n all documents being the result of the United Nations conferences on sustainable development we deal with a global approach to quality of life" (Kuzior, 2014).

Sustainable development also has a high priority for current European governments, which has been confirmed in all government guidelines as an overarching maxim. In recent years, three political priorities shape the work of European governments, and thus political discussion: finance (developing a tax strategy), spatial development (the use of available land is still being developed, also for further development), and investment and the promotion of innovation, but finally also protection of cultural goods.

Environmental policy should therefore consist primarily of conducting all activities only in a responsible and sustainable manner, which can contribute to reducing negative effects on the natural environment and to ensure that future generations will be able to meet their needs.

And so, as part of our joint efforts to help our Planet, buildings/commercial premises are being improved in all countries where operations are carried out so that they comply with the principles of sustainable development. This involves, among others, reducing the consumption of water and paper, fossil fuels: gas and oil (the use of videoconferencing instead of traveling to meetings by car is promoted), and above all reducing the emission of pollutants and the amount of solid waste generated as part of recycling through education, better monitoring and management of waste streams, as well as by introducing dedicated recycling points in all buildings with public access, in line with the principle that one should act to create a "paperless" environment and to encourage optimization of energy consumption and gas emissions into the atmosphere. The key task is therefore, reducing the "carbon footprint" per one inhabitant (Carbon Footprint – CF), educating all citizens on issues related to environmental protection through revitalization or volunteering.

In addition, providing alternative means of transport (as well as reducing business travel to videoconferencing, or getting to work together), educating and encouraging saving efforts to protect the environment not only in public places, but also outside your workplace, at home and in your area.

Due to the great importance of infrastructure for economic development, it is important that sufficient funds are available for future investments in recent years. On the one hand, they should serve to maintain and renew existing infrastructure as well as targeted enlargements.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY

Environmental policy should be part of the global business management system. This policy is almost an element of the so-called corporate governance. Being aware that only by conducting all activities in a responsible and

sustainable manner, it is possible to contribute to limiting the negative effects on the natural environment and to ensure that future generations can meet their needs, many global enterprises create and implement special programs inscribed in their business policy.

An example is one of the corporate initiatives "Citizen of the Planet" (COTP). It is an activity created to ensure that the business is conducted in a responsible and environmentally friendly manner. As part of our joint efforts to help our planet, buildings/commercial premises are being improved in all countries where operations are carried out so that they comply with the principles of sustainable development. This involves, among others, reducing the consumption of water and paper, fossil fuels: gas and crude oil (the use of videoconferencing instead of moving to meetings by car is promoted), and above all reducing the emission of pollutants and the amount of solid waste generated as part of recycling through education, better monitoring and management of waste streams, as well as by introducing dedicated recycling points in all buildings/premises in which the company operates, in accordance with the principle that one should act to create a "paperless" environment and encourage optimization of energy consumption and gas emissions to atmosphere.

The key task is to reduce the "carbon footprint" per one employee (Carbon Footprint – CF) globally, build experience in the workplace, educate employees on issues related to environmental protection through revitalization or volunteering to create "pro-active eco-citizenship" (cf. Chodyński, 2011) so that they become better inhabitants of our planet, as well as by being an industry leader in conducting business in a sustainable manner, also by investing in improving the quality of the work environment in buildings/premises, in which operations are carried out in accordance with the 'Premises' standard, which contains the principles described in the LEED standard (cf. Certyfikacja LEED w pigułce, 2018) and in providing alternative means of transport, in educating employees and encouraging them not to spare any efforts to protect the environment also outside the workplace, in their homes and in the area where they live.

The above assumptions are also implemented by reducing the impact of information and telecommunications technologies on the natural environment, thanks to the principles of "green IT". These principles recommend taking into account the costs and ecological effects in terms of energy consumption of computer equipment, both in terms of the product - the computer itself and the way it is used.

Also recommended is to reduce business travel (both air and local) across all countries in which a company operates. In addition, mutual driving up to work (carpooling), the use of public transport, educating and engaging employees so that they act for environmental protection also outside the workplace, in their homes and in the area in which they live.

In addition, cooperation should be undertaken primarily with suppliers who consciously implement Environmental Management Systems (cf. Rej et al.) to reduce the amount of waste of all kinds generated.

As part of the global operations of a given company, environmental goals are set and expected results are determined, as well as analyzes of activities in relation to these goals are carried out by regularly reviewing the activities of branches in individual countries in terms of achieving environmental goals and at the company-wide level. All possibilities to reduce consumable consumption are being investigated. In many cases, however, achieving your carbon footprint depends on the country in which your business is operating.

If an employee notices that any of the policies or codes are being violated, he or she can report such situations by sending an e-mail to emergency addresses specially created in companies. Reported situations are analyzed by CSR committees established for this purpose. It is the responsibility of each CSR committee to develop and disseminate relevant rules, answer questions, analyze and prevent any violations of the provisions of individual codes and all previously mentioned policies, as well as provide guidance on the implementation of active measures to maximize the level of consistency and compliance of records and activities .

INSTRUMENTS SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

According to the documents regarding the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Poland until 2025 placed on the website: <http://www.access.zgwrp.org.pl/materialy/dokumenty/StrategiaZrownowazonegoRozwojuPolski/strategia4-6.html> [Accessed 10 Jun. 2020] at the same time, the following discriminated or vulnerable groups requiring the strengthening of their social role were identified:

- Women;
- Children and youth;
- Indigenous peoples and ethnic groups;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Local government structures and organizations;
- Workers and trade unions;
- Entrepreneurs and industrial organizations;
- Scientific and technical circles;
- Farmers.

The most important structures affecting the preparation of an individual for undertaking activities for sustainable development include:

- Family;
- Education;
- All youth and non-governmental organizations;
- Self-government organizations and structures;
- Employee and professional organizations;

- Scientific and technical organizations;
- State administration.

Therefore, the following instruments can be used in the process of implementing the idea of sustainable development:

- Economic mechanisms;
- Appropriate activities of financial institutions and the use of financing;
- Legal conditions;
- Education at all levels;
- Development of science and technology transfer;
- Proper information in decision-making processes;
- Management through the environment and an integrated permit system;
- International cooperation;
- Continuous analysis of indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) of sustainable development;
- Planning and continuous monitoring of the implementation of actions for sustainable development.

"[Therefore] frameworks, directions, instruments stimulating development must be set and then successively put into practice. On the other hand, the effectiveness of actions taken and changes in external and internal conditions must be successively monitored using objective qualitative indicators, and the results of this monitoring should be used for ongoing adjustments of sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programs and plans.

In practice, this means that the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Poland until 2025, in the sphere of program assumptions, must remain unchanged, while in the instrumental sphere [it should be] a living document, open to corrections resulting from an objective assessment of external and internal conditions and forecasts of their changes.

The ideal solution [is] therefore a sustainable balance of three dimensions of sustainable development, ie economic development, social development and rational use of environmental resources (ecological space) and a permanent mechanism of equalization (correction) of levels of development of these dimensions, based on the purely physical principle of connected vessels" (Strategia Zrównoważonego Rozwoju Polski do 2025).

CONCLUSION

In summary, the following points turn out to be the goals that are most relevant to the current and future development of all of Europe:

- Promoting sustainable spatial development – ie spatial requirements to create jobs in Europe;
- Strengthening the business location – further implementation of the economic strategy;
- Infrastructure optimization despite the difficult financial situation;
- Ensuring social stability in areas such as health, education and social policy;

- Careful use of natural resources (promoting biodiversity and supporting material cycle optimization), ie helping to ensure that the natural foundations of life are available to the next generation as much as possible;
- Continuation of an advanced energy policy (reduction of CO₂ emissions in line with target values);
- Strengthening education (continuing to consolidate the education system, improving the conditions for employing teachers, as well as maintaining and developing operating options, ensuring the financial stability of educational institutions);
- Ensuring security (ensuring objective security and improving the subjective sense of security of the population, combating crime, ensuring road safety, restructuring the asylum system and ensuring professional, risk-oriented enforcement of penalties and measures);
- Effective positioning of regions (cooperation between regions that jointly implement key projects and take greater account of common interests at national level).

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Abstract: This article presents the most important aspects of the sustainable development policy and indicates the instruments that have an impact on its shaping. In addition, attention was drawn to the fact that issues related to sustainable development (mainly in the context of spatial planning and investment) and environmental protection are also discussed as leading topics in discussions on the quality of life in Europe. In the conclusions for the future, points were identified that prove to be the most important goals for the current and future development of Europe as a whole, namely: promoting sustainable spatial development; strengthening business location; infrastructure optimization; ensuring social stability in areas such as health, education and social policy; careful use of natural resources (promoting biodiversity and supporting material cycle optimization), i.e. helping to ensure that the natural foundations of life are available to the next generation as much as possible; continuation of advanced energy policy (reduction of CO₂ emissions in line with target values); strengthening education (continuing to consolidate the education system, improving the conditions for employing teachers, as well as ensuring the financial stability of educational institutions); ensuring the safety of; effective positioning of regions (cooperation between regions that jointly implement key projects and take greater account of common interests at national level).

Keywords: sustainable development, security, environmental protection, quality of life