

Mazur Volodymyr
PhD in Economics, Associate Professor
Department of International
Business and Tourism
Ternopil National Economic University

SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – CURRENT TRENDS

The idea about environmentally sustainable economic development is not new. Many human cultures recognized the necessity of harmony between environment, society and economy. “Environmentally sustainable economic development” is a synonym to the current concept of “sustainable development”. The goal is to achieve balance/harmony between environmental resistance, economic stability and socio-political stability.

The issue of the sustainable development is an important component of foreign and home policy in many countries. The discussion about the sustainable development in scientific sphere shows about its political and scientific actuality. The peculiarity of its issue is in its sustainable tension. All over the world, governments, scholars, public organizations and ordinary people pay attention to this problem.

D. Meadows, L. Brown, H. Gardner, N. Carter, Sh. Lislet, D. Korten, D. Flavin and D. French investigate different peculiarities of the sustainable development.

Ukrainian scholars investigate some aspects of the given problem. However, we can mention about the following scholars: B. Burkynskyy, S. Herasymov, V. Kukhar, O. Maydannyyk, O. Osaulenko, V. Stepanov, O. Tsarenko, O. Cherkas and V. Shevchuk.

The term “sustainable development” became popular in 1980-s both in the strategy of peace keeping and in the book “Our Common Future” published in 1987. These two publications caused the detailed discussion of consequences of the sustainable development for an academic investigation and organization of policy and actions.

The sustainable development is the development predicting the satisfaction of human needs taking into consideration the future generation’s needs [5].

The United Nations Organization firstly published this concept in 1987 [1].

The sustainable development is the concept concerning the development where the accents are shifted from the short period economic benefits to approach that is more continuous where is the balance between economic, social and ecological aspects [2]. The sustainable development requires the integrated approach to take decisions concerning economy, environment and society but not sequenced approach. This type development is a complex process of interaction between public power, public society and private sector. Stability has an analogical meaning as a sustainable development but it is used when the focus is narrower for example, stability in companies or stability of concrete projects.

The sustainable development is not a simple solution for all human problems. It is only the definition of ideology, which has practical solutions suggested by the United Nations of Organizations to solve many crucial problems of the 21st century.

Nowadays, we have climatic changes caused by people and degradation environmental problems.

Industrial developments made in the middle of the 20th century exhausted resources and caused ecological problems. Industrial activity made problems causing pollution of local, regional and inter-regional landscapes.

The level and intensity of exploitation of resources on Earth during the 20th century caused the essential impact on basic components of biosphere that is atmosphere, land coverings and biological variety. It was caused considerably by a rapid industrialization, forest devastation and urbanization.

The use of resources and economic development increased after the World War II. No doubt, it was difficult to renew the society and economic systems at that time [9]. However, some desperate methods to interfere ecosystem caused current fears concerning potential risk for human life and biological envelope.

At the turn of the 20th century, the sustainable development became the motto for those who took part in improving living conditions. The sustainable development is very popular and resounds with human spirit.

Let us discuss the main parameters of the sustainable development [9]:

1. Environmental stability:

The environmental stability is connected with the support of carrying capacity of natural resources and systems of vital capacity. It emphasizes the environmental protection, conservation of biological diversity, increase of forest cover, water protection and taking cohesive approach.

The decrease of ecological threats, environmental protection and use of environmentally clean technologies are very important for decrease of ecological problems at local and global levels such as the loss of biological diversity and change of climate.

2. Economic stability:

Economic stability supports such important source of energy as accumulator for the support of environmental and social stability. It emphasizes the promotion of economic self-sufficiency of development projects using the following ways: an adequate budgeting, clear budget and financial stimuli.

The area of focusing is the next: decrease of poverty, increase of profit per caput, support of activity generating profit including farms and green small enterprises, fair distribution of benefits and natural resource accounting.

3. Social stability:

Social stability is focused on improving human life quality; realization of the main needs and transformation of a human being from a dangerous animal one into the most important creative resource. It emphasizes that public communities should be well informed about constant ways of the use of resources.

It supports an active part of the public at different levels of the development, common efforts in the sphere of protection and development, improvement in the sphere of health care, education and main needs, decrease of conflict between interested parts in the use of resources. It was achieved owing to public environmental awareness, increase of gender equality and accurate knowledge about economically unprotected groups.

4. Institutional stability:

Plans and programs without their implementation are useless. Demanding realization and monitoring of the corresponding

environmental protection policy, plans, laws, rules and standards are necessary for achieving the goal of the sustainable development. An appropriate qualified and motivated working force and strong institutional capacity to solve environmental and social stability are necessary.

In 2015, countries established “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 17 goals for sustainable development [6]. From 2016, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change became effective; it concerns the necessity to limit the increase of global temperatures.

Governments, enterprises and public society together with the United Nations Organization mobilize their efforts directed on achievement the agenda for the sustainable development until 2030. This program calls all countries to improve the quality of human life all over the world. These goals are directed for poverty reduction, planet protection and support of prosperity for all people within new program for the sustainable development. Each goal has concrete targets, which should be achieved during the next 15 years.

17 goals for sustainable development [6]:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Poverty is more than absence of profit and resources for support of the sustainable existence. Poverty includes hunger and insufficient nutrition, limited access to education, social discrimination and insufficient part in decision making.

2. End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Agriculture, forestry and fishery can supply nutrition for all people and support good profit simultaneously supporting the development of rural regions and environmental protection.

Climate change presses the resources increasing risks connected with such disasters as drought and flood.

3. Support good health and well-being for people at all ages.

A considerable success was achieved in increasing life expectancy. A considerable progress was made in widening access to clear water and sanitary, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis and AIDS. However, considerable efforts should be done to end many diseases and solve different constant and new health problems.

4. Ensure inclusive and quality education for all people and promote lifelong learning opportunities.

A considerable progress was achieved in access to education at all levels and increase of the quantity of schools especially for women and girls. Basic grammatical skills were significantly improved but to strengthen common education goals, it is necessary to make more efforts that are active.

5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will support sustainable economic and social development.

6. Ensure available management of water and sanitation for all.

Clear water supply for all is inseparable part of the world. Fresh water is in sufficient quantity on our earth to achieve this goal. Nevertheless, because of bad economy or bad infrastructure, millions of people, most of them are children die because of diseases caused by bad water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Water deficiency, bad quality of water and insufficient sanitation influence badly food security, the choice of life means and education opportunities for poor families all over the world.

7. Ensure access to reliable, affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the UNO, manages the initiative “Ecological Energy for All” for common access to modern energetic services, increase of efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy.

8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Approximately half of population of the world lives in US \$ equivalent 2 \$ per day. Moreover, in many places, work does not ensure the possibility not to live in poor conditions. That is why, economic and social policy should be reinterpreted and directed to end poor life. Sustainable economic growth requires from the society to create conditions supporting decent work, stimulation of economy not polluting the environment. Vacancies and decent work are necessary for all population able to work.

9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and innovation.

Technological progress is the base to achieve environmental goals such as increase of resources and efficiency. Industrialization can not be achieved without technology and innovations and the development can not be made without industrialization.

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.

The most fragile countries are the least developed countries, and developing ones, those, which do not border with sea and small island countries and developing countries continue to lower poverty. However, inequality still exists and there are big discrepancies in access to services in health care and education and other assets. Policy should be essentially universal paying attention to needs of poor and marginal people to lower inequality.

11. Make cities accessible, safe and sustainable.

Cities are centers of ideas, trade, culture, science, productivity, social development etc. There are many challenges, which cities can overcome and continue to flourish and develop improving the use of resources and reducing pollution and poverty.

12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Sustainable consumption and production is to increase resource and energetic efficiency, support access to the main services, and create decent working places and increase of life quality for all. Its implementation supports to achieve common plans of the development, decrease future economic, ecological and social costs, improve economic compatibility and reduce poverty.

13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Climate change influences each country on each continent.

So far, moderate solutions allowing countries to be in clear and sustainable economy. Speed of changes become faster because more people use renewable energy and other ways to reduce pollution. This issue should be coordinated at international level and it requires international cooperation.

14. Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, shore lines, the most part of our food and even oxygen are supported and regulated by

the sea. During the whole history, the oceans and seas were vital channels for trade and transport.

Intelligent management of this important global resource is a key feature of sustainable future.

15. Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt biodiversity loss.

Forest destruction and desertification caused by people and climate change are serious problems for the sustainable development and influence the life and means of existence for millions of people in combating poverty. Some efforts are used to manage forests and combat desertification.

16. Promote just, peaceful and inclusive society.

This goal is dedicated to promotion peaceful and inclusive communities for the sustainable development, support the access to justice for all and create effective and reporting entities at all levels.

17. Intensify the global partnership for the sustainable development.

A successive program for the sustainable development requires partnership between governments, private sector and public society. These global, regional, national and local levels need partnership relations, which are based on principles and values, mutual opinion and common goals, which put people and the planet in the center. Long term investments including direct foreign investments are necessary in critical spheres especially in developing countries. Here belong sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, and information and communication technology.

In 2017, Sweden achieved these goals in the best way. According to 17 items, Sweden is at the first place among interrogated counties. It is 84.5% on the way to achieve the goals predicted for 2030 [10].

Scandinavian neighbors, Denmark and Norway, are the next ones and Finland is at the fourth place. Western European countries and Iceland (the ninth place) are at the next ten places and four among the first twenty ones.

Canada was at the thirteenth place among the group of twenty, Czech Republic (15) and Slovenia (17). Japan, Singapore and Australia being at 18, 19 and 20 places are the best countries in Asian-Pacific region. [10].

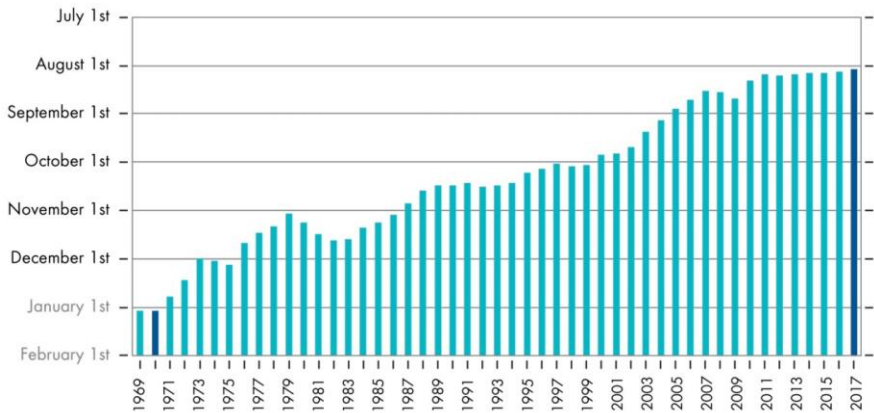
Some the poorest countries are at the lowest positions in rating. Countries, which do not yet demonstrate results, such as Central African Republic, need some help. It can be done using international mechanisms such as direct foreign investments, common use of technologies and global tax reform (thus, poor countries can fight with tax evasion of international investors).

Ukraine is at 46th place in this rating with its 66.4% [10].

American ecologists from Global Footprint Network count the annual standard of the use of land resources. It is a day when human resources consumption exceeds the ability of the Earth to renew these resources during the year. That is the humankind exhausted all renewable resources of the planet. This day is called Earth Overshoot Day. In 2017, it was August/2 and in 1970, Earth Overshoot Day was on December/29, in 2000 – the first decade of October, in 2016 – August/8 [4].

Moreover, in 2017, the biggest debtors were Australia – 5.2; the USA – 5; Russia – 3.4; South Korea – 3.4; Germany – 3.2. That is, if all live like Americans, 5 planets like the Earth are necessary to support global population [4].

Earth Overshoot Day 1969-2017



Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2017

Figure 1. Earth Overshoot Day 1969-2017 [4]

The model of ecological course has been implemented in some countries. It demonstrates energy and resources used per caput in each country to increase awareness and education of the resource demand by population.

In 2002, Environmental Performance Index was developed (EPI). It is the method of qualitative assessment of the number of environmental indices of public policy [7].

This index assesses the efficiency of countries in priority of environmental issues in two spheres: health care and ecosystem protection.

Implemented during the World Economic Forum 15 years ago, EPI is very urgent today more than ever to achieve Targets for the sustainable development of the UNO and fulfill international agreement about climate change.

Table 1.

Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2017 [3]

№	Country	Assessment
1	Finland	90.68
2	Iceland	90.51
3	Sweden	90.43
4	Denmark	89.21
5	Slovenia	88.98
6	Spain	88.91
7	Portugal	88.63
8	Estonia	88.59
9	Malta	88.48
10	France	88.20
11	New Zealand	88.00
12	Great Britain	87.38
13	Australia	87.22
14	Singapore	87.04
15	Croatia	86.98
16	Switzerland	86.93
	
44	Ukraine	79.69

Taking into account this index, the following countries are presented with the best environmentally sustainable policy [7]:

1. Iceland. Iceland is at high position in the rating of EPI taking into consideration its policy concerning the sustainable development in climate change, limit of greenhouse gas and environmental energy, which attract foreign industrial investments because of modernization of aluminum plants.

Iceland is famous for its transformation of energetic system. 100% of energy and house heating are supported by national renewable sources of energy (hydroelectric power stations owing to many rivers and geothermal reserve). This country has a low level of pollution of atmosphere, a high quality of water and buses with hydrogen fuel element in the capital Reykjavik increasing its sustainability. Agriculture diversifies its sector allowing the country to use domestic production of tomatoes, cucumbers and pepper.

2. Switzerland. Switzerland is in the rating of EPI according its environmental and green policy although it has limited resources owing to its geographical location. However, owing to its innovative practice in environment management, Switzerland became one of the most stable countries in the world in the sphere of climate change, biodiversity and environmental protection. In the last 15 years, Switzerland created 15 regional parks and got the highest assessment among other countries taking into account protected land territories. The most dense railway system in Europe is located in Switzerland and free services in waste recycling are here. 31% of the territory is covered with forests that support profitable timber industry creating hundreds of thousands working places. Houses in Switzerland are mainly built from timber. Hydroelectric power stations produce more than half of national energy and 40% is produced from nuclear energy.

3. Costa Rica. It is the most sustainable ecological country in the world owing to its famous programs of rainforest protection and protection of its forest and water systems. 25% of the territory is protected as national parks. According to the data of the UNO, Costa Rica produces more than 90% its energy using renewable types of energy such as hydroelectric power stations, geothermal energy and wind energy.

5% of the world biodiversity is supported by this country despite of its size and pays compensations to landowners for protection of its trees and planting of new ones.

4. Sweden. It was recognized to be the most stable country in the world for its renewable sources of energy, low carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution and green state policy. According to the data of the International Energetic Agency, 44% of energy of the country is renewable energy.

Government of Switzerland consists of many ministries, each of them should use clear resources of energy, making ecologically clear public transportation on its railways and supporting qualitative health care. The country surcharges tax on coal system to prevent the use of oil. Sweden government put an ambitious goal: to end fossil fuel till 2020 and absence of clear emissions of greenhouse gas till 2050.

5. Luxemburg. Luxemburg, being one of the richest countries in the world with the smallest population, is proud of its environmental sustainable policy. The country supported 100% access to fresh water and sanitary. Politics established their national plan for the sustainable development in 1999, which was very effective in monitoring of indices of the sustainable development.

Luxemburg got a high assessment for the development of the program of financing of renewable sources of energy. The country increased subsidies for green energy including biogas and hard biomass.

6. Germany. Despite that Energiewende, the program of transformation of renewable energy in Germany was criticized, the Germans set a record in green energy producing 28.5% of renewable energy of the country in the first half of 2014. Germany is considered a green leader in Europe and it promoted its production of the next types of energy: solar, wind, hydroelectric power stations and biomass. The country got the highest assessments for the water quality and access to water carriage and materials recycling.

7. Columbia. At the beginning of 2000-s, the country was criticized for a high deforestation losing almost 200 000 of hectares of forest annually. However, recently, it became a leader in the sphere of environmental sustainable development with its economically effective mass transit and increase of projects in renewing of ecosystems such as land erosion control and biomass renewing.

8. Singapore. Singapore committed itself to recycle 80% of its waste till 2030 according to “Singapore Sustainable Project”, which has some green targets including 35% of improvement of energy efficiency and 80% of houses certified as green ones. Singapore has high indices of EPI for air quality control, water carriage and sewage water clarification. Unfortunately, the country is the worst in protection of biodiversity and living environment.

9. France. In relation with climate change, cultural capital is highly assessed for decrease of greenhouse gas pollution using the program of nuclear policy, which does not produce carbon dioxide.

New law on energy conversion set ambitious goals directed on increase of renewable energy up to 32% till 2030, limit of CO₂ pollution in 40% and consumption of minerals in 30% till 2030.

10. Norway. Like in many countries of the North Europe, progressive environmental protection law and policy of Norway transformed it into one of the most sustainable country at global level. Nowadays, the country offered \$ 1.6 billions for global protection of rainforests and it is the biggest foreign donor for rainforests. Despite on the tax on carbon, Norway informed about increase of carbon pollution during the last 20 years that enforced the country to renew obligations concerning the development of common European strategy of energy efficiency and to review its transport taxes and rewards according to OECD.

11. Finland. Finland is one of the most sustainable countries in the world owing to its mass biological power and big amount of forest, which are used not so much people. The country is one where general consumption of resources is less than production per capita.

The Sustainable Development Project of Ukraine till 2030 has been discussed since June till December/2016 at regional and national meetings, where representatives of local self-governments and state authorities from all regions of Ukraine, deputies, representatives of institutions of public society, scientists and educationalists, representatives of trade communities, mass media, business and experts from international organizations took part.

It is known that the level of economic development and welfare of Ukrainians differs from possibilities of the country in scientific, technical, agricultural and industrial spheres. It creates serious risks for labor migration and so called “brain drain”. To solve this, the

Strategy emphasizes the role of innovations. The success of such innovative giants as Hong Kong and Singapore or the closest our neighbors Estonia and Czech Republic show that this way should be followed.

Other advantage of this Strategy is correlation between international obligations and requirements of the Agreement between Ukraine and EU. Ukraine can study a lot in its EU partners, which make innovative approaches and have a good experience and the best practices in exchanging experience. EU Strategy for the Sustainable Development was created in 2001. The concept of the sustainable development is in national strategies for the development of some EU countries, some of them were created in 1990-s in such countries as Great Britain, Ireland, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. These countries are innovative leaders [6].

On September/15/2017, the Government of Ukraine presented the National Report “The Sustainable Development Goals: Ukraine”, which identifies the basic indices for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) [11]. The results of adaptation of 17 global SDG were presented in the report taking into consideration the specific national development.

Building the country and implementing new instruments of market regulation of social and economic processes, Ukraine needed clear defined and acceptable for its society the strategy for achievement the development goals. There were essential changes during the years of its independence that required new approaches to the system of strategic planning. After SDG adaptation for Ukraine in 2003, changes in approaches to planning and monitoring of the development were made. Summing up the progress of Ukraine on the way to SDG achievement, we can emphasize some positive changes made till 2013, which were eliminated by the events during the last years.

The poverty incidence according to a relative criterion was lowered to decrease poverty (the part of the population below the national line of poverty decreased in 26.4% in 2000, up to 24.5% in 2013) [8]. However, in the last years, the poverty incidence increased and new forms of it appeared.

To support qualitative lifelong education, some steps were made to reform the system of education. 98.3% of children had possibilities to study at schools, 63.5% of children had possibilities to visit

kindergartens in towns and cities and 39.9% – in rural places. 40.9% of young people from 17 up to 24 years old had possibilities to study at Universities, nevertheless, it is necessary to support the correspondence of educational preparation to the requirements of labor market (taking into consideration predicted tendencies of economic development).

The support of gender equality is a challenge for Ukraine. Achievement of gender equality in public authorities and state management is still actual task despite of achievements and changes at legislative and institutional levels. The gap of average pay for men and women (near 30%) shows gender inequality.

The decrease of children death in twice during 2000–2014 (from 15.6 up to 9.3 dead persons from 5 years of age per 1000 born children) became owing to directed efforts including reforming and development of the system of prenatal support. Positive tendencies were supported on the way to improve of the mothers' health: the level of maternal death in Ukraine decreased during 2000–2015 in 1.6 times [8]. Doctors regularly examined more than 90% of women at earlier stages of their pregnancy. However, it disturbs that more than 40% of adult population of Ukraine (including women of child-producing age) from 18 up to 65 years of age are chronic invalid because of at least one disease. The level of personal responsibility for his/her health among youth is insufficient and the propagation of healthy way of life needs to be promoted. Some results were achieved in propagation of limit of spread HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Some progress was made on the way to support the sustainable environment development. Nevertheless, 70% of fresh water (surface water and soil water) was lost because of anthropogenic interfere. Waste issues and support of centralized water of rural population are problematic. About 4 millions of tons of waste agents polluted the air annually. Owing to economic fall, emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutant agents were shortened.

The forest territory of Ukraine and the areas of national parks and reserves were increased.

Nevertheless, the stagnation and some progress in energetic sphere particularly in its effective use of energy and development of renewable energy were observed.

The influence of unsolved social problems on the level of population's life was intensified by the war conflict in the east of Ukraine. Such reasons as danger for people's life and health, violence, inequality and discrimination, increase of poverty and social interfere, increase of social vulnerable groups negatively influence the human potential of Ukraine. Social injustice and distrust to the majority of public institutions are threats and obstacles for social development [11].

Renew of economic growth and support of the equal access both men and women to economic, social and political life and the main social services (especially in the sphere of education and health care) are vital issues for the support of the sustainable development.

The sustainable economic growth and employment. During transformation processes in Ukraine, economic potential was difficult to improve. However, during structural, energetic and financial crises, which caused unstable development of national economy, the resources, capital and time were lost. Geopolitical conflict lasting for three years limits the possibilities of supporting an effective development. Some vividness of economic activity, observed during 2016, was insignificant. Ukraine still needs systematic institutional and profound structural reforms and implementation of big technological transformations. The priority task of economic policy is to support a real growth of gross domestic product at least twice with simultaneous increase of employment level of population up to 70% during the next 15 years.

The specific problem of transformational period is waste products. The volume of waste products increases and the part of those recycled ones is insignificant. The unchangeable practice to deposit waste products on overfull training grounds is dangerous for environment and people's health. Existing practice of land use causes the worsening of lands conditions and exhausted use of land, forest and water resources causes the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity. The part of national parks (6.6% from the total area of the country) is insufficient to preserve such losses [11].

The considerable reason of negative influence on environment is war conflict in the east of Ukraine. To overcome the consequences of damage of landscapes and infrastructure in Donetsk and Luhansk

regions, it is necessary to make considerable efforts, use resources and time to renew them.

Ukrainian modern society is characterized by a big amount of different problems, the considerable part of which requires the urgent solution. However, to do this, it is necessary to overcome stereotypes in thinking for example, about the controversy between ecology and economy that is an ecological way is unprofitable for production.

The Sustainable Development Project of Ukraine till 2030 was created in Ukraine. It was based on detailed, profound study of current condition of Ukrainian society and it contains the analysis of potential opportunities for its improvement.

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