

СЕКЦІЯ 2. СТАЛИЙ РОЗВИТОК І ЕНЕРГЕТИЧНА БЕЗПЕКА



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SLOVAK EXPERIENCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR URBAN AREAS

Sustainable development is traditionally defined as development that meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. However, such an interpretation does not make it possible to quickly determine whether a country or region is in the process of transition to sustainable development, or the degree of current "sustainability" of the territory. In particular, the territorial dimension of sustainable development requires a more rapid approach to sustainability, adapted to the regional or local territorial context.

Urban territories have become modern centers of demographic, economic, and technological growth. They face critical challenges to maintaining post-crisis economic resilience, preserving social inclusion, stimulating creative potential, and transitioning

to a low-carbon economy. Recent geopolitical shifts have shown that external factors such as foreign investments and credits, supply channels, manufacturing systems, sales markets, and foreign labor are rather unreliable sources of local welfare. Both Slovakia and Ukraine are close to the frontlines between different civilizations, which generates the threats of higher intensity. In such conditions, the endogenous forces of territorial development (local exclusivity, human and social capital, renewable economy, etc.) are dominant.

Here's a summary of Slovak experience to implement sustainable development practices in its cities:

Early Efforts:

- Started in the early 2000s, focusing on aligning with international initiatives for sustainable development.
- Faced challenges in creating a long-term national plan.
- Relied on government ministries and environmental NGOs to push these initiatives.

Current Approach:

- National Urban Policy reflects global trends for sustainable cities, like the UN's Agenda 2030.
- Focuses on areas like reducing car dependence, improving public services, and community engagement.

Slovakia has made notable strides in applying sustainable development principles to its urban areas. Through various initiatives and policies, the country has focused on achieving a balance between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection within its urban landscapes.

One key aspect of Slovakia's sustainable development approach is urban planning and design that prioritizes compact, mixed-use developments, efficient public transportation systems, and the preservation of green spaces. This promotes walkability, reduces carbon emissions from transportation, and enhances the overall quality of life for urban residents.

Furthermore, Slovakia has invested in renewable energy projects, energy-efficient buildings, and waste management systems to minimize its environmental footprint in urban areas. This includes promoting green building standards, incentivizing sustainable practices among businesses, and encouraging community engagement in environmental conservation efforts.

Socially, Slovakia has focused on creating inclusive and resilient urban communities by investing in affordable housing, cultural amenities, and social services. Initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, improving access to education and healthcare, and fostering social cohesion have contributed to a more equitable and livable urban environment.

Thus, Slovakia has good experience in applying the sustainable development approach to its urban areas (e.g., creative class initiatives, green roofs and walls, sustainable transportation systems, waste reduction, energy-efficient improvements, healthcare and social interaction systems). For a long time, territorial development and infrastructure issues were under the control of a single ministry. This approach considers both global trends adapted to the local peculiarities of regional development. Thus, Slovak practice could be essential for Ukraine, given the challenges of promoting polycentric and balanced regional development.

Moreover, since 2020 spatial issues in Slovakia are under the competence of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. Thus, the new accent on local progress becomes vivid – sustainable development (see Methodology of creating and implementing programs of economic development and social development of regions, development programs of municipalities and groups of municipalities by applying the principles of sustainable smart development).

Due to the war in Ukraine, numerous cities, towns, and settlements have been destroyed, some of them almost completely wiped out. This tragedy raises the problem of postwar recovery of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. It also presents an opportunity to start everything from a clean slate, using contemporary approaches to the territorial organization of economic and social life.

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