

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

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Summary: Sustainable development as a modern concept implies economic development aligned with the social, economic and environmental component. This paper will analyze precisely its environmental aspects. The aim is to show to what extent environmental awareness is present in favor of achieving economic growth, and whether or not they are positively correlated. A dynamic economy, coupled with social equity and sustainable use of resources, form the basis of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development has emerged as a result of the belief that environmental management and the rational use of natural resources are a necessary precondition for achieving economic growth without ecological degradation. economic development. The authors analyzed the correlation between economic growth and environmental protection, and the existence of a strong link between them, which is confirmed by the fact that economic development offers new opportunities for environmental protection, by creating conditions for the implementation of advanced ecological technology and management systems, but also by stimulating ecological similar consumption patterns. On the other hand, economic growth can contribute to sustainable development, but can also cause enormous damage to the environment in the absence of adequate measures.

Keywords: sustainable development, environment, ecological aspect, ecological technologies, economic growth

1. Introduction

Sustainable development is an economic, environmental and social, as well as a moral and general development concept, which seeks to ensure that the needs of present and future generations are balanced, given that it is considered the key to the reproduction and life of the human species. The whole philosophy of sustainability is set to ensure the continuity of positive civilizational trends.

The term "sustainable development" itself was first used in the 1987 UN World Commission on Environment and Development.

The Commission then offered and defined a concept as a possible solution to the global problems of ecological degradation, the depletion of natural resources, poverty and the destruction of planet Earth by the people who actually belong to it and must live on it. The need for economic growth to achieve faster progress in developing countries is acknowledged, but it is underlined that overall development must be sustainable. It was further defined by the Commission as "developing towards meeting the needs of present generations, which does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to meet their needs".

The report points to the danger of pursuing then-economic development policies if the Earth's ability to renew resources is not taken into account. This meant shifting the focus from economic growth to an approach that, in addition to economic encompasses, environmental and social development goals. Other issues were then considered: the role of the international economy in future development and its environmental implications; the challenges facing the world regarding the planet's population; ensuring the safety and sufficiency of food; ecosystem protection and conservation; use of energy resources; the implications of further industrial growth and changes in growth quality; integrating environmental and economic development goals in decision making. Sustainable development, as the Brundtland Commission report suggests, integrates two key concepts:²²

1. the concept of needs, above all the basic needs of the poor, who should be given the highest priority,
2. the idea of constraints, the imposed state of technology, and social organization, which diminishes the ability of the environment to meet present and future needs.

The concept of sustainable development provides a framework for integrating environmental policy and development strategy, thus breaking the belief that environmental protection can only be achieved at the expense of economic development. Since the report was made public, many countries and international

organizations have agreed that there is an urgent need to pursue policies that will contribute to achieving more sustainable forms of development.

When it came to the conclusion that sterile sectoral debates about the state of water, forests, arable land, air and biodiversity, beyond the relevant concept of social and economic development - the concept of sustainable development emerged, first shyly in economic theory and later as a development concept in other sciences.

It is the idea that people have the right to live better, produce more, enjoy the benefits of higher employment and higher income, but without depriving future generations of the same right, so this principle is usually defined as “intergenerational justice”.

2. The concept of sustainable development

Sustainable development is first defined as a development that gives the present generations a chance to live better without denying the same right to future generations. Or, more precisely, sustainable development is a development that implies economic progress and income growth, but in such a way that it provides approximately the same opportunity for future generations. It involves the exploitation of nature and its use for the economic progress and well-being of humans, but in such a way as to preserve the necessary natural balances and assumptions of development that will not be questioned by the way humans treat nature today.²³

²² Jovanović Gavrilović, B., (2007)“Serbia Facing the Challenge of Sustainable“, u G. Rikalović – S. Devetaković, (eds.): Contemporary Challenges of Theory and Practice in Economics - Economic Policy and the Development of Serbia, Faculty of Economics of the University of Belgrade – Publishing Centre, Belgrade, p. 87-98

²³ Đukic, P., (2011), Sustainable Development - Utopia or Chance for Serbia, Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, p.12

The idea of sustainability came from the need to protect a largely threatened environment, but the idea of the natural environment, resources and environment could not remain purely without economic concretization. People's lives are based on their economic activities, and the way in which these activities are carried out, through technology and engineering, largely determines that long-term negative consequences spill over to the environment, resources and nature in general.

In any case, economics is responsible for concretizing the notion of sustainability, so the concept immediately received specific economic interpretations as well as interpretations from a socio-philosophical standpoint. Sustainability was transferred to the sphere of economics, law, politics, sociology, so that three basic dimensions or three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) were started to be discussed. In this context, a fourth institutional dimension can be added, since the concept always implies certain institutional arrangements arising from strategies, conventions, laws and other normative frameworks, as well as systems organized by people at national, regional and international levels implementing development concepts and strategies.

Sustainable development itself has become an integral concept of something that does not question any dimension of social development, that is, it harmonizes economic, technological, environmental, social, political, cultural and moral goals so that society manages to develop without endangering any of these aspects.

3. Contemporary perception of sustainable development

Sustainable development is a modern

development concept that simultaneously respects and embraces three key dimensions - economic, social and environmental. This concept has been widely used over the last few decades both in the strategic documents of the business world and in macroeconomic policy at the level of state institutions.

Sustainable development provides guidance for future development, while striking a balance between social, economic and environmental components.

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy was presented at the Gothenburg Summit in June 2001. The main threats to sustainable development, which pose a challenge for the further development of the EU, are: climate change, global warming, loss of biodiversity, increasing traffic. This Strategy represented the preparation for the forthcoming Johannesburg World Summit in 2002.

Significant topics discussed at this Conference were the role of companies in solving the global environmental problems and implementing the concept of sustainable development. It was pointed out that companies should take a more significant role in solving environmental problems. However, it was emphasized at the Conference that this goal can only be achieved in partnership with different companies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and local communities.²⁴

There is no generally accepted definition of sustainable development concept in the literature. In this sense, we can define sustainable development as a development path that ensures that the per capita well-being does not decline over a long period of time. The concept of sustainable development should be accepted as a

²⁴ Serbia Approaching the Summit on Sustainable Development – Johannesburg 2002, Preliminary

Seminar, Ministry for the Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment, Belgrade

process in which there are ongoing changes in the relations between social, economic, and natural systems and processes. This process is long-term and requires a carefully guided and gradual development policy, as the challenges at the global level that humanity faces are very complex. Some of the challenges on the path to achieving sustainable development are: the formation of new environmental awareness, increasing responsibility, greater involvement of science in solving current environmental problems.²⁵

The essence of the concept of sustainable development is the ethical principle, that is, care for the heritage. This means that the quality of future generations must not be worse than the quality of life of today's generation.

There are several characteristics of the concept of sustainable development that result from this definition. The most important are:²⁶

- Equality, because the definition of sustainable development clearly highlights the issue of equality. The concern for future generations and the demand for at least equal quality of life for today and future generations explicitly emphasize this dimension of sustainability.
- Ethnicity. Namely, the needs of the present generation must not be met at the expense of the needs, ie well-being of future generations. This characteristic of sustainable development is known as intergenerational equity.
- Efficiency. Economic efficiency is one of the key conditions for optimal use of natural resources.

The definition of the concept of sustainable development itself has been considered by a number of relevant institutions and relevant international actors. One interesting definition of sustainable development, which the authors found interesting, is the following.

The definition of sustainable development by one influential organization, such as the London Sustainable Development Commission, reads: “sustainable development is a dynamic process that enables all people to realize their potential and improve the quality of life in a way that protects and promotes Earth's life support systems.”²⁷

The concept of sustainable development implies a modern approach that incorporates all relevant factors as limiting factors that are viewed in a holistic way, all with the aim of improving the living environment and making it a more comfortable place for all people on the planet to live.

4. Environmental component of sustainable development

Ecology is an important component of international activities with a significant impact on product quality conception, pricing policy, promotion and traffic channels in international flows. Respect for economic postulates can today be considered as an integral part of the untouchable value package that enables certain firms to achieve competitive advantages, which is very important from the point of view of building the overall competitive advantage of the firm.

²⁵ Jovanovic, S., Radukić, S., Petrovic-Randelovic, M., (2011), Theoretical and institutional framework for sustainable development, Niš, p. 53

²⁶ Hussen, A., Principles of Environmental Economics, Routledge, New York, 2004, p. 269.

²⁷ London Sustainable Development Commission, http://www.lsx.org.uk/whysus/page_2760.aspx [pristup 18.09.2017.]

Finkelstein²⁸ points out that neither the first nor the second industrial revolution had any sense of the environment, so that land was often mercilessly exploited and air and water represented free goods, according to classical economic theory. However, today most experts understand that the mechanism of a traditional cost-based economy too narrowly defines the real price that society pays for misusing the environment.

There is doubt that foreign direct investment (FDI) promotes economic growth but it should be noted that they can simultaneously have a negative impact on the natural environment.²⁹ Environmental regulations are a major means of internationalizing environmental costs through the economic activity of the firm. Therefore, in order to attract foreign investment, governments in developing countries tend to threaten the environment through a relaxed relationship with foreign investors or fail to enforce regulations. As a result, businesses shift their operations to those developing countries where they have a lower unit cost of production. It is believed that foreign companies make better use of management and advanced technologies that lead to a healthier environment in the host country. However, it has been shown in practice that environmental trends by foreign companies are unsustainable. Empirical evidence does just that, and especially in energy-intensive and technology-based sectors.

Economic growth through rapid industrialization is also driven by growing environmental consequences. The link between environmental quality and

economic development has sparked heated debate in the last decade. Empirical studies have also supported this relationship between environmental degradation and economic growth.³⁰ The assumption is made that environmental degradation initially increases, reaches a maximum and subsequently decreases, as does economic development. This systematic U-shaped inverse relation is denoted as the Kuznets curve (EKC).

Unprecedented economic growth has been accompanied by the problem of environmental pollution. For example, the average annual CO₂ emissions per capita increased from 3.38 tonnes in the period 1988-1990. at 3.82 metric tons in the period 2000 - 2005. The results show that the Kuznets curve is confirmed in selected countries, namely 110 observed countries, and that foreign direct investment contributes to the increase of environmental degradation. The literature also points out that the economic success of countries is also achieved at the expense of environmental degradation. Grossman, and Krueger³¹, have shown that economic growth leads to environmental degradation when GDP per capita is less than US \$ 8,000.

A dynamic economy, coupled with social equity and sustainable use of resources, form the basis of sustainable development. Considering that the concept of sustainable development was created as a result of the belief that ecological management and rational use of natural resources are a necessary precondition for achieving "development without ecological degradation", the question arises as to how

²⁸ Finkelstein, J.,(1991) Capitalism and Technology, The World &I (November)

²⁹ Xing, Y. And Kolstad, C. (2002) „Do lax environmental regulations attract foreign investment?“ Environmental and Resource Economics, p.21

³⁰ Rothman, D.S. (1998) „Environmental Kuznets curve – real progress or passing the buck?:A case for consumption-base approaches, Ecological Economics, 25 p.186

³¹ Grossman, G.M. and Krueger, A.B. (1995)., “Economic growth and the environment”, Quarterly Journal of Economics, 60 p. 233

it is possible to achieve a more harmonious relationship between environmental protection and the need for accelerated economic development.

5. Correlation between economic growth and environmental protection

The existence of a strong link between economic development and environmental protection is confirmed by the fact that economic development offers new opportunities for environmental protection, by creating the conditions for the implementation of advanced environmental technology and management systems, and by encouraging environmentally friendly consumption patterns. Economic growth can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, but it can also cause enormous damage to the environment in the absence of adequate regulation and lack of market regulators and democratic decision-making.

Environmental policy aims to solve numerous and increasingly significant environmental problems while ensuring economic growth, that is, maintaining ecological balance while accelerating the dynamics of economic development.

The key principles of environmental policy are as follows:

- harmonization of economic development with the need to preserve ecological balance,
- acting to create new needs that are in line with the principles of environmental safety,
- the focus in the application and commercial valorisation of those

highways of modern scientific and technological progress that are maximally in the function of meeting increasingly stringent environmental standards,

- conducting an appropriate demographic policy. In the context of the ecological dimension, it is a policy that seeks to provide population growth that can seamlessly support existing economic growth and current science and technology development.³²

Over the last few decades, the role of multinational companies as direct representatives of foreign direct investment in sustainable development has been one of the most controversial debates among economists focusing on environmental issues and problems. Views on the role of foreign direct investment in sustainable development differ and range from:

- those who find them the main culprits for the growing ecological degradation and unsustainability of current development models,
- to those who see them as the main driving force behind development and a leading factor in removing barriers that divide countries and hamper international economic relations, as well as factors contributing to reducing developmental disparities and achieving a vision for global sustainable development in the context of global change.

Environmental economists are critical of foreign direct investment and their relationship to sustainable development and environmental protection, and they are pessimistic about their contribution to environmental protection and conservation

³²Cvetanović, S., Jovović, D., (2006) Economic policy of the European Union - a new European economy, Faculty of Economics, Niš, 2006, p. 192.

in developing countries. In their view, driven by profit motivation, multinational corporations, as carriers of foreign direct investment, will relocate environmentally risky products from one country to another until they find the right market for those products. Under pressure from burning development problems, less developed countries are forced to prescribe poor environmental standards to attract foreign investors. Due to the high costs of complying with more stringent environmental standards in the developed world, developing countries will, as a result, become ports for the environmentally damaging industries of multinational corporations in the developed world.

These findings have been confirmed by numerous studies that have supported the thesis on the reallocation of dirty industries to developing countries. For example, UNEP (1981) provided evidence of the reallocation of some at-risk industries from the United States to Mexico precisely due to environmental factors. For Korten, therefore, “economic globalization provides greater opportunities for the wealthy to pass on their environmental taxes to poorer exports of waste and environmentally damaging factories. Mani and Wheeler point to the migration of some of Japan's dirty sectors, as well as the US, to their trading partners.”³³

However, this trend is not typical of developments within European industry. The weakness of environmental regulations may be a stronger foreign direct investment side in these sectors compared to less polluting industries such as electrical and

non-electrical machinery, transport equipment and food production. Mabey and McNally point out that dirty industries, whether resource-intensive or pollution-intensive, in which environmental costs are higher, can run toward less robust regimes of environmental regulation. Similar evidence was provided by Rasiah³⁴, who, by analyzing the relationship between multinational corporations and the environment in Malaysia, found that multinational corporations were transferring environmentally inferior machinery to Malaysia due to lower environmental standards in Malaysia.

In contrast, neoliberal economists argue that multinational corporations are the most important drivers of sustainable development, as they emerge as creators and owners of modern and cleaner technology, and because they follow better management practices that can be directly transferred to their affiliates in developing countries. As a result, instead of pollution ports, foreign direct investment through multinational companies creates haloes of pollution in developing countries through the export of modern technology. “Available facts show that in some sectors, haloes of pollution do exist. This hypothesis has also been validated in the energy sector, where the use of newer and superior technology can bring significant environmental savings”³⁵

6. Conclusion

To ensure that foreign direct investment does not cause significant environmental damage, it is necessary to build the regulatory capacity of most countries so

³³ Mani, M., Wheeler, D., In Search of Pollution Havens? Dirty Industry in the World Economy 1960-1995, *Journal of Environment & Development*, No. 7:3, 1998, p. 215-247.

³⁴ Rasiah, R., *Transnational Corporations and the Environment: From Pollution Havens to*

Sustainable Development, WWF-UK Report, July 1998. p.41

³⁵ Arandelović, Z., Petrović-Randelović, M., Does Foreign Direct Investment Harm the Host Country's Environmental Performance? An Analytical Assessment, *Economic themes*, No.6/2006, Faculty of Economics, Niš, 2006, p. 4

that it is able to implement and be consistent with higher national and international environmental standards. Improving standards may simply include better implementation of existing EIA legislation or investor liability rules. Attention should be focused on the functioning of meso-level institutions (regional, municipal and local authorities), because at these levels planning, use of resources and private activities are directly controlled.

It is now generally accepted that multinational corporations apply standardized technology and environmental management systems when pursuing their cross-border investment activities, regardless of the degree of development of the host country and the level of application of environmental regulations.

Whether it follows green growth from an economic or environmental perspective, the recommendations are still somewhat known.

7. Literature

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INQUESTS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN THE AREA OF THE CITY OF ZAGREB AND SAFETY OF ROAD TRAFFIC

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Summary: The investigation and investigation of traffic accidents, especially criminal ones, by police officers and other entities handling such events require both explicit and tacit knowledge. This is especially important if the accident was caused by an unknown driver, whether he or she was moving away from the scene with or without a vehicle. In cases where the driver escapes from the scene of the accident, in addition to the quality of the investigation, a quality criminal investigation is required by police officers and the competent State Attorney's Office. The primary objective is to determine all the circumstances of the event and the consequences at the scene as well as to identify the driver. In this paper, in addition to processing the statistics of traffic accidents with unknown drivers, the manner in which police officers acted during such an investigation is presented and the process of criminal investigation of a traffic accident caused by an unknown driver, who left the scene arbitrarily. On the basis of the collected data and the analyzes of traffic accidents, guidelines for action have been proposed for the purpose of better performing the inspection and improving the safety of road traffic.

Keywords: car accident, investigation, unknown driver, criminal investigation.