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## ECOLOGICAL COMPONENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TERRITORIES IN UKRAINE

*In this paper the theoretical and practical principles of environmental components of sustainable development of rural areas in Ukraine are presented. The genesis of environmental components of sustainable development is described. Perspective directions for further research of socio-economic development of villages and preservation of ecological safety are determined.*

*Keywords:* sustainable development; rural areas; ecological safety; eurointegration.

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## ЕКОЛОГІЧНА КОМПОНЕНТА СТАЛОГО РОЗВИТКУ СІЛЬСЬКИХ ТЕРИТОРІЙ УКРАЇНИ

*У статті обґрунтовано теоретичні та прикладні засади екологічної компоненти сталого розвитку сільських територій України. Окреслено генезис екологічної компоненти сталого розвитку. Виявлено перспективні напрямки подальших досліджень соціально-економічного розвитку у поєднанні із збереженням екологічної безпеки.*

*Ключові слова:* сталий розвиток, сільські території, екологічна безпека, євроінтеграція.

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## ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ КОМПОНЕНТА УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ СЕЛЬСКИХ ТЕРРИТОРИЙ УКРАИНЫ

*В статье обоснованы теоретические и прикладные основы экологической компоненты устойчивого развития сельских территорий Украины. Определен генезис экологической компоненты устойчивого развития. Выявлены перспективные направления дальнейших исследований социально-экономического развития сел наряду с поддержкой экологической безопасности.*

*Ключевые слова:* устойчивое развитие, сельские территории, экологическая безопасность, евроинтеграция.

**Formulation of the problem.** Full integration of Ukraine into the European and global processes is closely linked to the processes of shaping modern developed nation capable of providing its own national interests. The major focus of government regulation is to ensure environmental and social components, along with economic development. Rapid industrial development began to deplete the existing resources and environment that can accelerate the time of global crisis, which will cover various aspects of human life. Prevention of the crisis and state preventive measures are the major challenges of the XXI century human civilization.

**Analysis of the latest research and publications.** Environmental education was raised in the works of philosophers-scientists of different ages, such as: Marcus Aurelius (1914), F. Bacon (1620), R. Descartes (1644), J.J. Rousseau (1998) and others. The famous British scientists D. Pearce and K. Turner (1993) wrote about the advantage of environmental criteria over economic. Sustainable development and environmental safety in rural areas of Ukraine are considered by the leading nation-

al scholars: I.M. Vakhovich (2007), I.A. Irtyshcheva (2011), A.M. Potapenko (2011) and others.

**Unsolved part of the problem.** These studies provide a substantive theoretical and methodological basis for the study of problems of sustainable rural development. However, there is no common vision of performance-based management approach and methodological basis for the formation of the concept of ecosocio-economic development of rural areas in Ukraine; technology development strategies and priorities, sound economic development, methods for evaluating the effectiveness of achieving the objectives and instruments of their implementation are not defined.

**The aim of the study** is to substantiate the theoretical and practical foundations for sustainable development of rural areas of Ukraine in the context of environmental security as the basis for European integration processes.

**The main results of the study.** At the beginning of the XXI<sup>st</sup> century a crisis deepened in many areas of the world development. In this situation humanity faces the need for a new vision, new values, moral and ethical criteria and correction of objectives and priorities. The most appropriate target for the near future is sustainable development of the mankind. The concept of sustainable development may offer a new approach to the world order. It provides for significant changes in all spheres of public life. In connection with the transition to sustainable development the political system faces new goals and challenging tasks, which require a certain transformation of the system. Thus, sustainable development puts on the agenda the question of a civilized dialogue between nature and society (Irtyshcheva, 2011: 51).

The sustainable development of rural areas of Ukraine depends on a number of factors and conditions. Environmental factors take one of the most important places in the system of these factors. Special attention is paid to it due to the increased level of human impact on the environment, the rapid development of scientific and technical progress. Contemporary state of rural areas is associated with negative changes in ecosystems of the biosphere, a significant reduction in biological productivity and biodiversity, depletion of soil and mineral resources, while unprecedented growth of pollution of geosphere. This leads to the destruction of human habitat.

The interaction of rural population and nature is a fundamental condition for the existence of village communities and agriculture. Patterns of combined, complementary development of society and nature form a certain space where the features of the first component of life become the conditions for reproduction of the second one, their interaction is a part of the social sphere, and as a result, is subject to its laws. Population, as a part of society follows the laws arising from social processes. Population is only the consumer and the regulator of natural wealth reproduction. And environment in turn affects human race.

Therefore, the investigation of the phenomenon of sustainable rural development should occur in the search for mechanisms of social cohesion, environmental and economic laws at different stages of social development. If imperative is understood as the obligation, then environmental, social and economic dimensions will be considered the imperative components of sustainable development of rural areas.

Thinkers of the ancient world paid attention to the importance of environmental components of society. They believed that harmony in the interaction between man and nature is achieved when a human being follows the natural laws and does not

violate its equilibrium. Roman emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius wrote that man being reasonable must always act in such a way as to maintain a balance between himself and nature. In his book "In solitude. Reflections", he notes that if one takes something from nature, it must be returned in the same amount, and if one brings back more, then it will do good, not only for contemporaries, but also for future generations, who gratefully will enjoy the benefits of nature that predecessors left them (Marcus Aurelius, 1914: 14).

Interpretation of nature was contradictory in medieval Christian culture. On the one hand, the nature was considered lower than man, because only a human being was endowed with a soul. On the other hand, there was an understanding of nature as God's creation. It was believed that God gave people two books: Scripture and the Book of Nature.

During the Renaissance (XIV–XVII centuries) people became aware of the necessity for the harmonious and balanced coexistence with the environment. Society begins to extol the beauty of the surrounding nature, treat it as a source of joy.

The new time thinker F. Bacon (1620) invoked to treat nature as a friend, not as an enemy. According to him we can conquer the nature only obeying its laws. Harmonization of interaction in the system "man – nature" is closely linked to scientific and technical progress, which makes it possible to change the nature and refine it. J.-J. Rousseau wrote about a return to life in the open air in the original meaning. "As long as people retained their original innocence, they did not need any direction, except the voice of nature" (Rousseau, 1998: 48).

However, new trends appeared among the thinkers of those times. If for F. Bacon man was "the servant and interpreter" of nature, Descartes (1644) considered man as "master and lord" of nature. That is, in the views of modern philosophy was emerging the trend of balancing the interaction between man and the environment with a mix of scientific and technological progress, i.e. emerging progressive direction of the relationship between man and nature.

Views on the relationship between man and nature historically changed. There were the perception of nature as the highest treasure and the perception of a human being as the master of nature, i.e. there were both the prevalence of nature over man and vice versa. However, there have always been thinkers who recognized the importance of the environment for the society development.

Well-known British scientists D. Pearce and C. Turner distinguished 3 main approaches that prove the benefits of environmental criteria on economic (Pearce and Turner, 1993: 87):

1. Intelligent person should not rely solely on economic rationality, one should pay more attention to the benefits of the public, the use of which causes external effects.
2. A new approach to economic development requires reproduction of economic system and all its components on a regular basis.
3. Over time, economic growth must become more neutral to environment, the impact must be minimized.

Some supporters of these approaches offer to freeze economic growth for the environment. However, proper use of environmentally safe way of rural areas and agricultural lands can provide sustainable economic development and sustainable natural basis. Rural areas are important for Ukraine and for any country in the world.

On average in the world, rural areas make up to 75% of the total areas, which is home to 51% of the world population, 32% of total GDP of the world. The proper use of agricultural land is closely related to food safety and quality of life.

The UN World Commission on Environment and Development Report, prepared in the 1980-s with the participation of the Prime Minister of Norway, G.H. Brundtland, entitled "Our Common Future" affected the formation of the concept of sustainable development in rural areas. In this report, sustainable development is seen as meeting current needs without risking the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Such an interpretation is still relevant and applicable today. Thus, definition of sustainable development in rural areas coordinates the needs of the population with the possibilities of the nature.

However, the greatest attention to the notion of "sustainable development" has been given in the materials of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), where the term was "legalized". Here, this concept is defined as development that allows stable economic growth for the long term without causing degradation of environment. It is particularly emphasized that access to the level of sustainable development gives the opportunity to meet the needs of both present and future generations. The Conference adopted a number of important documents, among them the "Agenda for the XXI Century", which was supported by representatives of nearly 180 countries. According to the Conference in Rio de Janeiro, sustainable development combines the steady improvement of economic and social conditions with prolonged preservation of natural foundations of life. Therefore, the concept of "sustainable development" is gaining new content, the content is not only environmental, but also social and economic (Vakhovich, 2007: 20).

The main outcome of the Conference in Rio de Janeiro was the proclamation of a new concept of human development, based on an understanding of the monolithic unity of environmental, economic and social problems, and the fact that they can only be solved comprehensively in cooperation and coordination of all members of the world community. Safety of the planet and some states require a systematic approach to the deep analysis of the processes of joint functioning of human society and the environment in order to maintain the constancy of the parameters of the integral protection of human life and biodiversity. As a result of study on the genesis of the environmental components of sustainable development, it is possible to recognize the importance of this phenomenon in rural areas of Ukraine. Sustainable rural development is a socially-oriented economic development of villages with environmental and food security, and effective restoration of natural resources.

The concept of rural development should include the development of key documents: state programs of social infrastructure and settlement network, integrated socioeconomic development of rural communities and rural councils, regional integrated socioeconomic development of the rural district and region; annual plans and budgets of social development of rural communities, rural district, area (Irtyshcheva, 2011: 113).

Ukraine's eurointegration process should be accompanied by adapting the requirements of corporate environmental policy of the EU. The experience of other post-socialist countries that are already members of the EU shows that it is one of the most difficult tasks. Accession Agreement with the EU provides a short transition

period to full transfer of environmental policy, which is defined in more than 200 EU directives. The interpretation of this condition means the full compliance of national legislation with the EU legislation, not only theoretically, but certainly practically. Therefore, the planned accession to the EU envisages the harmonization of national legislation of Ukraine with the environmental directives of the Union and the administrative capacity to monitor its strict compliance.

Ukraine requires a gradual approximation of its policies to the EU standards, which should take into account the national interests, conditions and opportunities, and the main thing to focus on new and promising environmental and economic mechanisms that are currently being implemented in the EU as a part of its sustainable development strategy and the model of eco-social market economy. The need to improve the environmental situation in rural areas of Ukraine is noted in the Concept of the State Target Program for sustainable rural development for the period up to 2020. However, there is no effective mechanism to ensure environmental security and villages of our country, as a whole, which shows the necessity and urgency of further research of the subject.

**Conclusions.** Analyzing the abovementioned we can draw the following conclusions:

1. Nature should be viewed as a human habitat. It is wrong to consider natural resources and the Earth's mineral wealth as inexhaustible and soil fertility everlasting. Economic development, social growth and technological progress must be combined with the process of regeneration of natural resources and the sustainability of the ecosystem. Competition with nature can damage the development of the society.

2. For the rural areas nature is the basis of economic development and social uplift.

3. Environmental component is a significant imperative for sustainable development in rural areas of Ukraine, which will ensure the safety of reproduction and food security of Ukraine.

4. Sustainable rural development in the context of environmental safety is a definite challenge to the Government of Ukraine and Ukrainian scientists. Response to this challenge will allow, on the one hand, development and implementation of a new model of eco-social economy of rural areas, which will focus on the comprehensive improvement of the quality of human life. On the other hand, it will serve as a foundation for the process of European integration of Ukraine, since the criteria for sustainable development and environmental safety will be a priority.

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Стаття надійшла до редакції 24.12.2012.

## **КНИЖКОВИЙ СВІТ**



### **СУЧАСНА ЕКОНОМІЧНА ТА ЮРИДИЧНА ОСВІТА ПРЕСТИЖНИЙ ВИЩИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНИЙ ЗАКЛАД НАЦІОНАЛЬНА АКАДЕМІЯ УПРАВЛІННЯ**

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**Сучасні проблеми розвитку національної економіки і шляхи їх розв'язання: Колективна наукова монографія / За наук. ред. д.е.н., проф. М.М. Єрмошенка. – К.: Національна академія управління, 2008. – 452 с. Ціна без доставки – 50 грн.**

У монографії розглядаються теоретичні і практичні проблеми розвитку економіки України, пропонуються шляхи їх розв'язання з метою зростання її конкурентоспроможності та ефективності.

Буде корисною для аспірантів, викладачів вищих навчальних закладів, практичних працівників.



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