

JĀNIS VANAGS, ILONA BUTĀNE, GEORGS MOTE, HELMA JIRGENA

Jānis Vanags, Dr.oec., Riga Technical University, Assoc. Professor, Latvia

Ilona Butane, Ph.D student, Riga Technical University, Latvia

Georgs Mote, Ph.D student, Riga Technical University, Latvia

Helma Jirgena, Dr.oec., Institute of Economics, Latvian Academy of Sciences, Director, Latvia

THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF MATERIAL NEEDS

Abstract

Key words: sustainable social development, sustainable ecological development, renewability of the biological capacity

The main problem of the study is the uncertain content of the notion of sustainable social development and the uncertainty in implementing it within the conception of sustainable development. The object of the study is the aspects of sustainable social development and how they fit into a consolidated system of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development is impossible to be implemented under the growing limitations of natural resources unless the attention is paid to the prevailing social problems pertaining to the options to satisfy the needs of individuals in countries of diverse level of development; the solution to the issues of sustainable social development lies in a systemic approach and in emphasizing the social aspects in order to diminish the environmental degradation effect and to maintain the renewability of the biological capacity of the Earth.

The main obstacle to maintaining sustainable social and ecological development is the conservative institutional setting, the contents and forms of which are not sufficient for diminishing the destructive effect that the economic globalisation has on the environment and for the necessity of maintaining the capacity of reproduction of the biological system. Being aware of the global limitations of natural resources, on the one hand, and recognising the correspondence between the goods and services that are necessary for satisfaction of the basic needs and the available renewable and non-renewable amount of resources, on the other hand, provide for a new possibilities of sustaining the Globe as a healthy living place for the generations to come.

These study results identify the most significant social aspects within sustainable development, update the content of the notion of sustainable social development and reveal its connection with the other key elements of sustainable development.

To attain the goal of the study, the following methods are used: the methods of induction and deduction, the methods of analysis and synthesis and other methods to the point of the study contents.