

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SHAPING A NEW PARADIGM

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The relevance of the researched theme „Sustainable Development: shaping a new paradigm”, remains highly pertinent in today's world. With increasing climate change, the depletion of natural resources, and growing social inequalities, the concept of sustainable development represents an essential approach to addressing these major challenges. The aim is to explore the concept of sustainable development and emphasize the importance of three key aspects of sustainability: the economic aspect, the environmental aspect, and the social aspect. Additionally, it highlights the complexity and challenges associated with these aspects and raises dilemmas that may arise in attempting to balance these objectives. In 1987, when the World Commission on Environment and Development presented its report titled „Our Common Future”, the goal was to resolve the dilemma between environmental protection and development objectives by defining the concept of sustainable development. In subsequent discussions and the application of this concept, the general importance of three key aspects of sustainable development has been recognized: *economic aspect* - a sustainable economic system must be capable of continuously producing goods and services to maintain manageable levels of governance, avoid excessive accumulation of external debt, and prevent significant imbalances in economic sectors that could affect agriculture or industrial production; *environmental aspect* - a sustainable ecological system must protect natural resources by maintaining a balanced basis for them, avoiding the overexploitation of renewable resources, and preventing the depletion of non-renewable resources, only if adequate alternatives exist. This involves protecting biodiversity, maintaining atmospheric stability, and other ecosystem functions that are not typically considered economic resources; *social aspect* - a sustainable society must have a distribution system that ensures access to a complete range of social services, including healthcare and education, promotes gender equality, and implements responsible policies and participation mechanisms.

It is evident that these three aspects of sustainability bring numerous challenges, complicating the initial, simple definition. The expressed or implied goals are complex and bring dilemmas regarding the balance of these objectives and the assessment of success or failure. For example, what happens if securing adequate food and water reserves requires a change in land use that could reduce biodiversity? Or if clean energy sources are more expensive, potentially increasing the burden on the poor, who spend a larger proportion of their daily income on these resources? How do we choose to prioritize these objectives?

In this context, sustainable development becomes a complex process that requires considering multiple aspects and interests, as well as ongoing efforts to find equitable and sustainable solutions.

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