

Institutional Factor of Sustainable Development of the Countries in Eastern Europe: Methodological Aspect

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Abstract--- *The formation of a new system of political relations in Eastern Europe has a number of features that are insufficient to determine the qualities of the previous era. The study of the positive and negative experience of democratic transit and the subsequent consolidation of democracy in the countries of the region is of interest from the point of view of developing new approaches to the study of transition problems. The study of national models of transition to democracy raises a very important question about the adequacy of the choice of ways to consolidate democracy. Realization of sustainable development goals is a spatially differentiated and cyclical process. In some countries, the movement towards sustainability is faster than in others. Many developed and developing countries have adopted sustainable development policies, ratified international treaties, and made commitments. In others, the concept of "sustainable development" is an abstraction that is remote from the real life of people. A special place in the implementation of sustainable development strategies is held by the countries of Eastern Europe. The article touches upon modern problems of the development of territorial systems. The necessity of the transition from the paradigm of "instability" to the concept of sustainable development is shown. The main provisions of the integral concept of sustainable development and its significance for the future evolution of territories are characterized. The main factors and causes of global environmental, economic and social instability are analyzed. The features of the implementation of the concept of sustainability in the countries of Eastern Europe are characterized.*

Keywords--- *Development, Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, Instability, Sustainability Strategy, Countries of Eastern Europe.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The last decade of the twentieth century. will go down in the history of civilization not only as the time of the collapse of socialist systems in the countries of Eastern Europe and the USSR, the beginning of the era of "the end of history", but also as a decade of rethinking the goals, objectives and ways of further development of mankind. During this period, the first steps are taken towards the practical implementation of the main provisions of the concept of sustainable development developed by the Brundtland Commission, which today has become an integral part of the global political development discourse (Kovalev, 2014). The value of the concept of sustainable development in the world is enormous.

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The Russian thinker Yu. V. Yakovets speaks of it as an epochal innovation of the 21st century, which is comparable in strength to the agrarian and industrial revolution (Yakovets, 2004); German researcher I. Pufe writes about a paradigm shift (Pufé, 2012).

The concept of sustainable development has become a "guide to action" for many planetary and regional projects. Its main provisions are included in the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Declaration on Development and the Environment. The concept of sustainability has become a "guiding star" in the social development of most countries of the world, although the implementation of its principles faces enormous difficulties due to the resistance of conservative political and economic structures (Pavlyuk et al., 2018).

II. METHODOLOGY

Among the works affecting the problems addressed in our article, we can distinguish several groups on the basis of concretization of the studied subject and object. First of all, these are the works of Russian and foreign scientists: G.A. Almond, O.E. Bessonova, L. Boltanski, L. Theveno, V.M. Bychenkova, R. Gudina, H.-D. Klingeman, V. Dementiev, I.E. Diskina, G. Drury, O.I. Zaznaeva, S.V. Patrusheva, etc.

The works of domestic and foreign authors on methodological issues of comparative political science are of paramount importance for our study. Among these should include monographs and articles D.I. Aptera, D.L. Bari, M. Duverger, O.I. Zaznaeva, M.V. Ilyina, L.V. Smorgunova, A.V. Kyneva, A.N. Medushevsky, A.Yu. Melville, P. Mayor, C. Reygin, M.Kh. Farukshin, D. Collier, and others.

The critical approach in the framework of the concept of sustainable development was reflected in the works of V. Bans, V.Ya. Gelman, L. Diamond, P. Dutkevich, M.V. Ilyina, A.Yu. Melville, A.S. Madatov, A. Pshevorsky, D.A. Rastow, I. Samson, V.M. Sergeev, R. Skidelsky, S. Stoyanovich, S. Huntington, O. Kharitonov, G. Shopflin, T. Vanhanen and others.

Consider the essence of the concept of sustainable development (sustainability) as a search for balance, balance between coherent, evolving structures of the territorial system - economy, society, nature, politics, culture, since only on the basis of balanced, soft development, taking into account the whole complexity of the interconnections and interactions of the structures of territorial systems is possible meeting the needs and needs of both living and future generations, both globally and regionally.

III. RESULTS

The concept of sustainable development is the "last chance" (according to the motto of the Rio de Janeiro conference in 1992) for humanity to preserve our planet in a form in which it will be suitable for human life and activity. Realization of sustainable development goals is a spatially differentiated and cyclical process. In some countries, the movement towards sustainability is faster than in others. Many developed and developing countries have adopted sustainable development policies, ratified international treaties, and made commitments. In others, the concept of "sustainable development" is an abstraction that is remote from the real life of people. A special place in the implementation of sustainable development strategies is occupied by the EU, namely the countries of Eastern Europe. Here already in the 1970s.

The main provisions of the common European policy in the field of environmental protection were generated, generating impulses for qualitative changes in the economy, ecology and society. The Amsterdam Treaty (1999), the Lisbon Agreements (2001), the EU Treaty (2007) contain the main directions of the macro-region's sustainability policy. The European Union is positioning itself on a global scale as the flagship of sustainable development policy, the creator of the scale for other states of the world.

According to the Brundt and Commission, sustainable development is “development that satisfies the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs” (Kovalev, 2014). From the definition it is clear that the essence of the concept of sustainable development is to improve the living situation of people living now in different regions of the world, and at the same time to preserve the chances for a full life for the future of humanity. The concept is aimed at saving the natural, economic and social resources of society. It follows from this that the modern generation is responsible for the future, for the conditions of existence and the life of posterity. In addition, responsibility for all living people on our planet. This is the “revolutionary” idea of modernity - a more just world based on not only local, regional or national interests (especially the interests of the political elites of developed countries, which now, unfortunately, has priority), but also taking into account problems and concerns, the needs and desires of all the people of our planet, regardless of their place of residence, color, nationality, level of modernization of the society in which they live. This requires reforming the modern political system of the world, creating global political, economic and social equality.

The needs of people are diverse. They cover both the material and spiritual aspects of people's lives. It is especially important to meet the basic needs of people (food, clothing, shelter, a safe environment). Unmet needs are detrimental to the physical and mental condition of the person. For normal human life, a healthy natural environment is also necessary. The satisfaction of these needs is possible only on the basis of the equilibrium, balanced development of the three most important structures of territorial systems - economy, nature, society. They are closely interconnected with each other, interact intensively and are under mutual influence. When one component of the system changes, “failures” occurs in others. The interaction and mutual influence of these structures is so huge that it speaks of the co-evolution of territorial systems.

The concept of sustainable development sees the co-evolution of territorial systems as an opportunity to improve the socio-economic, environmental situation due to a deliberate change in the relationship between economic growth, society and nature (Sharafutdinov et al., 2019). The most important tasks of sustainable development are the preservation of the environment, which is the basis for human life and economic activity; creating conditions for the development of the economy and thereby for the production of goods and services necessary for the population; the formation of a society based on the peaceful resolution of conflicts, the search for consensus, social equality, solidarity, the equitable distribution of resources and the protection of human rights. Thus, the concept of sustainable development focuses on the interaction and interconnection of structures in the triangle "Ecology - Economics - Social".

If we consider each subsystem of the territory from the point of view of sustainability, then here we can also distinguish three categories of sustainability - environmental, economic and social.

To this is added political and institutional stability as a major factor in development. Environmental sustainability. Requires a new relationship to natural resources. Studies show that throughout the history of mankind, the load on ecosystems has constantly increased. Especially over the past 100 years, human influence on nature has increased markedly. The wave of industrialization has passed through most countries of the world. As a result of this, our planet has changed a lot. Changes affected primarily the ecosystem, of which man is an integral part. Qualitative changes in ecosystems were expressed in a reduction in biodiversity, disruption of the circulation of matter and energy, pollution of ecosystems with waste products and human activities. And now, as we see, despite the wide acceptance of the concept of sustainable development by the states of the world, environmental sustainability remains a priority for the future, and not for the modern generation. The dominant type of economy in the world, its absurdity from the point of view of rational management (product suppliers scattered all over the world), unlimited consumption are in complete antagonism with the goals of environmental sustainability.

Economic sustainability. Human economic activity is the most important aspect of sustainable development. Its main components - raw materials and energy - it takes from the natural environment, anthropogenic waste and industrial waste are thrown into the environment. The level of development of production technologies, specialization of economic activity determine the degree of pressure of the economy on the environment (Ibatova et al., 2018). Economic sustainability implies a departure from traditional, quantitative growth and a transition to qualitative growth without destroying the human natural environment. Its most important goals are the elimination of the antagonisms between economic growth and the environment - development without compromising the natural environment. Within the framework of such environmental growth, the thesis of the "green economy" has become especially popular - the transition to the production and consumption of environmentally friendly, energy- and resource-saving goods. This requires environmental, social and institutional innovations.

Social sustainability. It is understood as the development of society without significant social upheavals and conflicts, as a fair distribution of social resources and benefits. Social benefits include a safe life, health, basic provision with food, clothing, housing, political rights. Their presence and fair distribution in society allows each individual to lead a decent lifestyle, to reveal their inner potential. In addition, the conservation and multiplication of social resources is an essential factor in the sustainable development of society. The social resources of society include trust between people, solidarity, tolerance, orientation toward the common good, and not towards selfish interests, a sense of justice, civic activism, peacefulness, etc.

Institutional and political sustainability. The concept of sustainable development is not feasible in a society (territory) without political decisions. The successes or failures of sustainable development largely depend on the nature of the political system and the alignment of political forces. The coming to power of certain political forces can accelerate the processes of sustainable development. Also, at the international level, without the participation of all states of the world, the implementation of sustainable development projects (conservation of biodiversity, climate, forests, oceans) seems impossible (Yakovets, 2004). The creation of international political mechanisms for the prevention of international conflicts and the escalation of tension is becoming especially relevant today. Modern events in the world (Iraq, Syria, Ukraine) show that the economic, political and other interests of individual states, the implementation of their ideologies, which are behind the economic logic of individual groups, prevail over the

global interests of peace and stability. While the world is considered by individual states as a “great chessboard”, while the prevailing political mode is competition for resources and spheres of influence, there can be no talk of global political stability.

Global instability. An analysis of the geographical features of the consumption of global resources and environmental pollution shows huge differences between the main groupings of the countries of the world. This is reflected in the so-called “global dilemma 20: 80” - 20% of the world's population consume 80% of global resources and, conversely, 80% of the world's population use only 20% of the world's available resources. Rich countries (developed) are the main consumers of natural resources and the main sources of pollution.

According to the Climate Mitigation Services research group, 90/3 of the world's largest companies are responsible for 2/3 of our planet's greenhouse gas emissions from 1751 to 2010. Most of them are TNCs from the USA and the EU. Chevron accounts for 3.5% of all emissions, while Shell accounts for 3.2% (Kovalev, 2014). The difference in the resources consumed and the production of waste between rich and poor countries is clearly reflected in the indicator “environmental footprint” of the state.

“Ecological footprint” is a conditional concept that shows human consumption of biosphere resources. It is measured in the area of a biologically productive territory or water area necessary for the production of the resources we use in accordance with our way of life, as well as the processing of our waste (the main unit of its measurement is ha / person). According to Living Planet Report 2008, the ecological footprint of industrialized countries (6.7 ha / person) exceeded more than three times the environmental footprint of developing (2.2) and 7 times less developed (0.9) (Hails et al, 2008).

The huge differences in the burden on the global ecosystem between developed and developing countries are explained by the unequal level of development of production structures (industry and agriculture), the level of urbanization, motorization, and the development of the transport system. Also, household incomes play an important role in this. The higher the income of the population, the greater the consumption of resources, goods, food.

Excessive consumption of goods and services by the population negatively affects the ecological footprint of states. The main consumers of biological resources and polluters of the global environment are the Persian Gulf countries, the USA, and countries of Eastern Europe. Their contribution to global instability is enormous.

Therefore, one of the strategies for sustainable development is the sufficiency (suffocation) strategy, which requires a departure from a wasteful lifestyle, moderation in the consumption and use of resources. These thoughts were already expressed in 1974 at the UN Development Conference in the Mexican city of Cocoyoque. For the first time, the thesis about the primacy of economic growth over ecology and society was criticized at a high political level, the endless consumption of the West as a source of global problems was exposed (Antoni-Komar et al, 2012).

Least developed countries are another pole of global environmental impact. They are characterized by low incomes of the population, which is mainly employed in agriculture; poorly developed industrial production; low level of population mobility. The small ecological footprint does not reflect the actual environmental situation in these states.

Trying to adapt to the conditions of the global market, countries are intensifying the development of a plantation, export economy, looking for opportunities to develop the natural resources available on their territory. As a result, biological diversity is reduced, forests are disappearing, ecosystems are being destroyed. Poverty stimulates economic growth, but as a result, the environment suffers. Therefore, economic growth alone cannot solve the problems of social sustainability, we need existing political institutions capable of implementing the concept of sustainable development at all levels in these countries.

In addition, despite its poverty, a barely noticeable environmental footprint in the world, the least developed countries are most affected by imbalances, imbalances in the global economic system, which are caused by rich countries. Droughts, floods, hurricanes, biological natural disasters occur mainly in the countries of the South. According to E. Laurent, 98% of all victims of natural disasters in the world are residents of developing countries (Laurent, 2012). The number of victims would be much less if the inhabitants of poor countries had the technical, institutional and other means of protecting the population from natural disasters. Ecological problems, therefore, are closely interrelated with social ones, and those, in turn, are political.

European countries occupy high positions in the world in the consumption of global resources and environmental pollution. However, there are significant differences among EU countries. So, with an average level of ecological footprint of EU countries 4.7 ha / person. In 15 states of the European Union it was significantly higher. The Czech Republic had a particularly "large" ecological footprint. Here, the indicator exceeded 5.5 hectares / person. The group with average indicators is formed by countries with an ecological footprint of 5.5 to 4.0 ha / person. These include Poland. And finally, countries with low environmental footprint - Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria - have an indicator below 3.5 ha / person.

Sustainable Development Policy in Eastern Europe. The European sustainable development policy has been shaped by the global concept of sustainability. The conclusion of the report of the Brundtland Commission (1987) and the conclusions of the Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992) became an integral part of the development strategy of the EU member states. Today, almost none of the political classes in Europe have doubts about the correctness of the main provisions of the concept, but there are huge differences in time, methods and scale of their implementation. It is generally recognized that economic activity has its limits beyond which further management and human life itself are threatened. The future of man is possible only if the natural foundations of his life are preserved. This requires regulation, the creation of an integrated policy for sustainable development, which, with constant adjustment and optimization, will be gradually implemented by national states, regions, and communities (Barmuta et al., 2019).

The topic of sustainability is assigned one of the main places in the Treaty on European Union of December 13, 2007. However, the goals of sustainable development of the EU are included in the economic section. So, in paragraph 3 of Article No. 3, it says: "The European Union creates an internal market. He tries to ensure the sustainable development of Europe on the basis of balanced economic growth and price stability, the presence of a highly competitive social market economy, striving for full employment and social progress, as well as a high level of environmental protection and improvement.

It contributes to scientific and technological progress (Zaitsev, 2011).

Specific sustainable development goals were identified in the European Sustainability Strategy adopted by the EU countries in Gothenburg in 2001. The document states that economic growth, environmental protection and social integration should develop in unity and create balance in society. In July 2006, EU countries approved an updated sustainability strategy, which expanded the scope of the previous strategy. It identified seven main goals of sustainable development:

1. Climate change and the introduction of clean energy sources (reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy saving, increasing the share of renewable energy sources).
2. Sustainable transport system (creation of economical vehicles with low CO₂ emissions, reduction of environmental load).
3. Sustainable consumption and production (the unity of environmental standards across all EU countries, the creation of environmentally friendly goods and services, the maintenance of environmental innovation).
4. Protection of natural resources (integrated environmental protection).
5. Public health (improving the living conditions of the population, clean air, food, water).
6. International cooperation and development (supporting developing countries in their sustainable development efforts).
7. Social integration, demography and migration (improving the quality of life of all segments of the population) (Melguyet al, 2015).

The adopted sustainable development strategy is the basis for developing national sustainability strategies in each of the EU countries. Most states have adopted national strategies with high sustainability goals. A radical introduction of the concept of sustainability is planned, which places high demands on the economy, society and the environment. However, the overall sustainability strategy is for the countries of Eastern Europe rather advisory than mandatory. Countries independently make amendments to the national strategy for sustainability in accordance with changes in the global economic situation, a change in political forces, social sentiments, etc.

In countries of Eastern Europe, a supranational coordinating body for sustainable development has not yet been created, following the example of existing structures in Germany or the UK (green cabinet). Its functions are partially carried out by the European Commission, which publishes a biennial report that analyzes the successes and failures of the EU in achieving the sustainable development goals.

The implementation of sustainability goals in countries of Eastern Europe is proceeding at an uneven pace. In some countries, it is progressing, in others - achieving all sustainability goals seems problematic. In the framework of a small article, it is impossible to give a detailed analysis of the implementation by Eastern European states of the whole range of goals. One can only dwell on the most important of them - the protection of the Earth's climate, since special attention is paid to this problem. Among the goals of sustainability, it comes first. However, the countries of Eastern Europe perceive this problem differently, which is reflected in their climate protection programs. If we compare the policies of the EU member states in the field of climate protection (climate protection index), here we can distinguish three groups of states.

Firstly, these are countries that, according to the non-governmental organization Germanwatch, carry out comprehensive climate protection activities. This group includes Slovakia. A group with an average level of climate protection measures is formed by Hungary, Romania, Slovenia. The third group of countries are states with a poor climate protection index. These include Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. A separate, and last, place in the list is Poland. Its climate policy is rated by a non-governmental organization as very poor (Paveliev & Sidorova, 2015).

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus, despite the common goals of sustainable development in the countries of Eastern Europe, each country has its own national strategies, its own programs.

Their heterogeneity is associated with features of the structure of farms, economic specialization, political power and the influence of lobbying elements. Even in the field of environmental sustainability, there are huge differences between countries within the EU.

What does Eastern Europe expect in terms of sustainable development? According to the forecasts of the Club of Rome, by 2050, the European Union will implement all of its environmental sustainability objectives: it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy consumption, reduce the resource intensity of the economy and the consumption of goods and services by the population (Antoni-Komar et al, 2012).

However, it is difficult to imagine what will happen to other areas of sustainable development - society and the economy. The cyclical nature of economic crises, the growing population of the Earth and the new waves of migration to Europe associated with global climate change, poverty, armed political and ethnic conflicts, are gigantic challenges to the concept of sustainability. Will the countries of Eastern Europe entering the EU find adequate answers, time will tell.

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