

Editorial

by *Eva Maria Pfostel*

“Generating development, combining the qualitative and quantitative aspects of Well-being in the best possible way. Overcoming inequalities, giving everyone access to Well-being. Investing in innovation and capital stock, adequate in quality and quantity, thus protecting future generations” (Cesaretti Gian Paolo *et al.*, 2020).

This spatial (intragenerational) and temporal (intergenerational) vision of the concept of Sustainability requires the abandonment of the *“Segmented Approach”* to economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions, which characterize the current development model.

Also in this issue, the Review of Studies on Sustainability intends to host papers that analyze in an interdisciplinary and intersectoral way specific case studies related to the different dimensions of development and in particular to some specific objectives of the United Nations Global Agenda (Agenda 2030).

The concept of sustainability is intrinsically linked to that of environmental protection, but in recent years it has experienced a profound evolution: we started from a vision centered almost exclusively on ecological aspects, to arrive at a broader meaning that considers, in addition to environmental dimension, also economic, social and institutional one.

Institutional Sustainability consists in the ability to guarantee conditions of stability, democracy, participation, information, training, justice. It necessarily requires managing the institutions and the obligations of forms of interinstitutional coordination and cooperation, building shared programs, binding commitments and certain operating times, in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity. In absence of institutional sustainability, governance of the pillars of sustainable development cannot be guaranteed. More generally, this component refers to the ability of politicians to “govern governance”, many Italian criticalities and – in particular politics, justice, tax evasion, public administration, research, and others – are often linked to institutional deficiencies.

The authors Tamara Merkulova and Kateryna Kononova, in the paper *“Trust shifting as a reaction to pandemic: cross country analysis”*, focus on

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the current challenge that governance systems around the world have to face with respect to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Today two factors become crucial in the fight against the pandemic and its negative consequences: the state's ability to withstand stress in the economy and society; and civil support and approval of the governments' anti-crisis actions. The study aims to recognize the difference in stress response in different countries of the world. As a criterion for such a response, we consider the level of trust to governments in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Modern society and modern states require big changes. And in order to change the state and people in this state, first of all, changes in the consciousness of citizens of the state are necessary. Only by changing people's minds we can advocate for their conscious and quality life in society. Every citizen should have the choice of voluntary participation and choice in state and public life. And for the growth of consciousness, the spiritual prosperity of people is necessary.

In the article "*The patriotic consciousness of the Kazakh people is the basis for the sustainable development of the state*", the authors, Galymzhan Absattarov, Gulmira Mukhanova, Ardak Abdiraiymova and Aizhamal Sarbassova, consider ideas about spirituality as a necessary essence of patriotic self-awareness. Spirituality is based on the understanding of the spiritual as the fundamental value of the individual and society. Patriotism determines the conscious activity of a person in society.

Both articles emphasize the concepts of *Peace, Justice and strong institutions* set forth in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030, dedicated to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, and also aims to provide the universal access to justice, and to build responsible and effective institutions at all levels.

Economic Sustainability must generate, in a lasting way, in time and space, income and work for the livelihood of the population. The analysis of Economic Sustainability is aimed at assessing the ability of a system to generate lasting growth in economic indicators. For this purpose, the definition of specific economic indicators represents the first level of analysis of a production system. There are several economic indicators that may be suitable for analyzing economic sustainability and in this issue the emphasis was placed on the value of exports, the attractiveness of investments and the listing of corporate Alternative Investment Markets.

In the paper "*Evaluation of export diversification on sustainable growth in Kazakhstan*", the authors Olzhas Shaizandaevich Adil Khanov and Orazaly Sabden, highlight that an element on which to leverage for developing countries is the ability to diversify exports. In fact, the article aims to determine

the effect of export's diversification on sustainable economic growth and evaluate the potential of the processing field on the example of regions of Kazakhstan. The research has given important results, that is, in 4 regions of Kazakhstan are great opportunities to increase the export of metallurgy, engineering and chemical industry. The results of the study will be useful tool in applying export policies of the regions.

Authors Svetlana L. Lozhkina, Alexander A. Novikov, Elena A. Chepkasova and Elena V. Novikova, define “sustainable development” as the fundamental goal, considering this the most important vector of promising transformations of human society. The paper “*Assessment of investment attractiveness for regional sustainable development using methods of economic, statistical and factor analysis*”, presents a methodology for a comprehensive assessment of the investment attractiveness of a region using methods of integrated statistical assessment, including methods of descriptive analysis, and using the method of factor analysis.

The paper “*The Alternative Investment Market Italia listing process: a sustainable Alternative Investment Market for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs)?*” aims to investigate the world of SMEs, deepening the implications related to the sustainability of the listing process in the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) Italy in order to assess whether the listing path could be the ideal choice to support significant growth of these reality. Alberto Manelli, Roberta Pace, Jacopo Montecchiani and Lorenzo Viserta, highlight how the listing process hides pitfalls in terms of economic and financial performance; while the commitment to ESG factors seems rewarding both in terms of trend in share prices and debt burden.

All these articles, in fact, address issues related to Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda: Encouraging lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. It defines that economic and sustainable growth will require companies to create conditions that allow people to have quality jobs, which stimulate economies and at the same time do not harm the environment. In addition, job opportunities and decent working conditions are needed for the entire population of working age.

Social Sustainability, understood as the ability to guarantee conditions of human well-being: safety, health, education, democracy, participation, justice, equally distributed by class and gender, and access to opportunities, is actually the most strategic of the four. This is because in the presence of unfair inequalities and in the absence of social cohesion, economic sustainability, institutional and environmental sustainability cannot be achieved.

Authors Yermek A. Buribayev, Zhanna A. Khamzina, Zhambyl K. Oryntae and Amangeldy Sh. Khamzin, examine some of the implications of gender equality and gender policy at the national level from the perspective of social security guarantees. The paper “*Social Security and Gender Equality in Kazakhstan: Legislative Gaps and Opportunities*” argues that social, political, and economic changes were not accompanied by the development of new gender models at the national level.

The author Francesco Alicino, argues social sustainability with the paper entitled “*The Sustainability of the Human Right to Food*”. The author focuses the attention on today’s multiple facets of the food crises, which prevents from characterizing countries as low-income and undernourished or high-income and only concerned with people overweight or obese. This will allow to underscore the multi-sectorial aspects of the right to food, including the environmental footprint.

The topics covered in these papers are those related to Agenda 2030 goals 2 and 5. Goal 5 “Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls” and Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.

Environmental Sustainability must guarantee, over time and space, the quality and reproducibility of natural resources, the integrity of the ecosystem and biological diversity. The response to the environmental challenge is a development model capable of maintaining the balance between respect for the environment and socio-economic progress, through medium-long term strategies: recognizing the intrinsic value of environmental resources; protect the biodiversity of species and the ecological dimension; protect the health of productive ecosystems, making them sustainable; foster the energy transition using renewable energy sources; designing products, goods and services through a design based on attention to the environment with eco-design; mitigate the effects of climate change.

In the paper “*Agroecosystem Energy, Ecological Human Imprint and Economic Sustainability: Analysis and Impacts*”, the authors Safwat H. Shakir Hanna and Cesaretti Gian Paolo, evaluate the energy of the agroecosystem that continues the demands and the continuous availability with regard to growth of population man by modeling different scenarios. According to the model presented, human population growth will reach 10 billion people or more by 2050 according to the current trend and we may face a reduction in energy availability. The proposal that emerges from the paper is the increase of studies and research relating to renewable energy.

The authors Flavio Boccia, Tetiana Paientko, Gian Paolo Cesaretti and Daniela Covino, in the paper “*Environmental management in a developing*

global business context: sustainable challenges and opportunities”, focus on how economic activities and industrial growth of recent decades have highlighted the need to reconcile economic development at an international level without affecting the global context, proposing an innovative reading of the theme, in order to understand the implications that growing business and commercial development has on the global environment and what are the signs that must be followed, so that the actions of companies in the near future can be more sustainable in a global perspective.

Both papers are linked to specific environmental sustainability objectives reported in the 2030 Agenda:

- SDG 12, Ensuring sustainable production and consumption models;
- SDG 13, measures to combat climate change;
- SDG 14, conservation of oceans and seas and care of marine resources;
- SDG 15, sustainable use of the terrestrial ecosystem, from forest management to combating desertification and loss of biodiversity.

I believe that this issue of our Review also constitutes an important contribution to the goal that research world has set itself within the global strategy of transition towards Sustainability: affirming the need for non-segmented approaches to sustainability by operating through multidisciplinary and multisectoral contributions.

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