

INTRODUCTION

The scientific discussion on sustainable development has been held in world literature for several decades. The publishers of the University of Warsaw have joined this discussion thanks to their publication. Researchers from the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies of the University, together with colleagues from Latin American universities, study the application of sustainable development strategies in Latin America and Poland's regions and cities, legal and institutional issues of environmental protection, grassroots development initiatives based on respect for nature, social conditions for the implementation of sustainable development strategies, environmental education and others. This joint research, discussions during seminars and international congresses in Poland and Latin America have resulted in many monographs and scientific articles that have been published over the last decade.

Undoubtedly, an important voice in this discussion are the works published in recent years by the WUW (The University of Warsaw Press), among others, under the scientific editorship of geographers from the University of Warsaw. Among these works one should mention: Czerny M., Serna Mendoza C.A. (eds.). (2018). *Globalización y desarrollo sostenible*; Czerny M., Serna Mendoza C.A. (eds.). (2018). *Texto y contexto en el desarrollo sostenible*. Warsaw: WUW; Czerny M. (2016). *Rozwój zrównowazony obszarów wiejskich na globalnym Południu*. Warsaw: WUW; Czerny M., Doroszewicz W. (eds.). (2015). *Sustainable development in peripheral regions*. Warsaw: WUW, as well as monographs published by other publishers: Czerny M., Córdova Aguilar H. (2018). *Sustainable Development. The Context of Use of Indigenous Plants for Local Economic Growth*. New York: Nova Science Publishers; Córdova Aguilar H., Czerny M., Novoa Goicochea Z. (comp). (2016). *Ordenamiento territorial y desarrollo rural*. Lima, Perú: Sociedad Geográfica; Czerny M., Córdova Aguilar H. (com.). 2015. *Desarrollo sustentable en regiones rurales y periféricas*. Quito, Ecuador: Ediciones Abya-Yala, and others.

This volume on sustainable development is the result of a scientific discussion that has continued for many years with scientists from Latin American universities. Together with the researchers from the Universidad de Manizales, the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México in Toluca and others, we point out new elements in thinking about sustainable development and the directions of change in both the concept itself and its application.

The texts presented in the monograph analyse six key areas in which discourse on sustainable development is conducted. The first section includes three articles on general sustainability issues. A specific introduction to the whole monograph is the noteworthy article by *Ciro Alfonso Serna Mendoza*, *Eutimio Mejía Soto* entitled “Eco-accounting: a vision for »the Care of the Common Home« from the thought-feeling perspective”, in which the authors address current problems related to the implementation of the sustainable development strategy. The two other texts in this section deal with different aspects of understanding sustainable development.

Part two contains texts on regional issues. As far as regional development is concerned, various processes that have an impact on sustainable development, or lack thereof, are presented and analysed.

In the third part, the invited authors show urban space through the prism of sustainable development. Eight different texts are presented, which are devoted to the issues of metropolisation, architecture, green policies and the role of public space in Polish and Latin American cities.

Part four extends the field of investigation of our monograph to social issues and governance. This part shows examples from Colombia. It emphasises governance issues in the context of sustainable development. Undoubtedly, from a cognitive point of view, the most important article in this part is *Hernando Gil Tovar*’s text on “Citizen electoral participation for Colombian sustainable development”. In general, sustainable development issues in Colombia’s regional strategies and plans are very clearly articulated and can provide a basis for discussion on the role of the authorities in drawing up development plans using this strategy and the active participation of various social groups in this process.

The fifth part contains texts that refer to the original principle of sustainable development, namely environmental protection and conflicts between the use of resources and the human economy. There are six articles, of which the text by *Yuri Sandoval Montes* and *Gema Elvira Ríos Aranibar* on the risks the Amazon faces draws particular attention (“Industrialisation of the Amazon, a dialectical antagonism”). In the same section, we have included two articles on COVID-19, a new approach to spatial (geographical) analysis in a pandemic situation. One of the authors is *Marcela Virginia Santana Juárez*, a specialist in medical geography from the UAEM, who writes with her team about “COVID-19 in Mexico. Space-time behavior from the socio-spatial constraints, February-October, 2020”.

Finally, a short sixth part on education about and application of sustainable development concludes the monograph.

As we mentioned above, this is another joint Polish-Latin American volume on sustainable development issues. Of course, this time, too, we have not exhausted all the possible topics worthy of discussion. With this volume we are initiating a discussion about new challenges and problems – conflicts,

COVID-19 and environmental awareness, unconventional solutions for greenery in cities and others.

This monograph was created as a set of scientific articles for the pre-congress discussion “Local and regional challenges in the context of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals”. The congress was held at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies of the University of Warsaw online from 17 to 19 March 2021 and both the congress and the publication are financed by NAWA – Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.

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Warszawa – Manizales, January 2021