



Editorial

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Issues discussed in papers presented in volume 17(4) of Economic and Environmental Studies focus mostly on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, environmental aspects and principles of sustainable development in different business activities as well as socio-economic problems at different levels.

The first five papers are devoted to problems of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. In the first paper, Javier Esquer, Jorge Rafael Morales-Sau, Luis E. Velazquez, Juana Alvarado-Ibarra and Nora Elba Munguia present results from an energy efficiency program in the construction of a business complex in Hermosillo, Mexico, aimed at reducing energy consumption in constructive processes related to reinforcing steel activities. Nesrin Demir and Osman Tekir in the second paper elaborate the goals and targets of the global powers on the energy resources available in the Eastern Mediterranean. The meaning of participation and communication for energy efficient refurbishment is analysed and discussed by Antje Bretzmann, Thomas Bäumer, and Stephanie Huber. The paper written by Alicja Małgorzata Graczyk focuses on stimulants for renewable energy investments in Polish agricultural holdings. Finally, Michał Ptak discusses major public funding sources available to promote investments in renewable energy projects in Poland. The Author put emphasis on the amount of public support for renewable energy in Poland, after comparison of funding programmes implemented by environmental funds and EU funds managing authorities.

Ibrahim Olateju in the next paper examines the effects of the application of project management techniques on health care project success in the Badagry General Hospital in Lagos State in Nigeria. Based on his findings, the Author presents key recommendations for improving the healthcare system in Nigeria. Another study related to socio-economic problems existing in Lagos State in Nigeria is presented by Stella Toyosi Durowoju, who examined the impact of technological change on small and medium enterprises performance. Oluwaseun Olowoporoku, Adetayo Salami, and Olamide Akintifonbo present in their paper the assessment of residents' neighbourhood confidence in Abeokuta, as an example of an African traditional city. In turn, Sunday Stephen Ajemunigbohun and Sunday Adekunle Aduloju evaluate brand equity measurements on service delivery of insurance companies in Nigeria and provide valuable recommendations for Nigerian insurance sector. In the next paper, Oluwaseun Olowoporoku, Oluwole Daramola, Wilson Agbonta and John Ogunleye investigate residents' perception of development control activities in Ibadan, Osogbo, and Ado-Ekiti – three capital cities in Nigeria. Segun Oluwaseun Olabode, Atinuke Regina Adesanya, and Akeem Abayomi Bakare presented the study aimed at analysis of the effects of ergonomics on employee performance by ascertaining the level of ergonomics awareness in Nigerian organizations, identifying the factors hindering the use of ergonomic, and the best practices and methods adopted by various organizations across industries. Socio-economic characteristics of the urbanites and their travel pattern in Nigeria are the main topic of paper written by Samuel Babatunde Adedotun, Nurain Bola Tanimowwo, and Rafiu Babatunde Ibrahim. Findings showed, that about 92.5% of the variability in the observed travel pattern is explained by the socio-economic characteristics of urban residents.

In the next paper, Elżbieta Kuźniak-Król elaborates selected aspects of the bottom approach in measuring sustainable development. The Author uses examples of the EU member states. Problems of challenges and opportunities for Polish cities, resulting from the New Urban Agenda, are deeply discussed by Anna Bernaciak. Arnold Bernaciak, Agnieszka Rzeńca, and Agnieszka Sobol underline the role of participatory budgeting in Polish cities, focusing on environmental aspects and the quality of urban environment. Natural capital changes in Poland are analysed by Ivan

Telega and Agnieszka Telega. The Authors adopted the criteria developed in an economic model of land use to assess changes in land cover in Poland in the years 2000-2012. Michał Łukowiak, Elżbieta Szopińska, and Zbigniew Kuriata elaborate the usefulness of landscape evaluation and valorisation methods for managing suburban areas. A similar topic is discussed by Damian Panasiuk, who presents the restrictions of the use of the contingent valuation method based on the example of the Forest Refugium in the Silesia Park in Chorzów (Poland).

One of the important problems of ageing society is presented by Tatiana Wrocławska. In her paper, the Author discusses the dilemmas of retirement or employment by older people, based on Polish legal regulations. Joanna Wieprow elaborates the metrics of effectiveness as a tool of capital structure management of an enterprise, based on the consolidated financial statement of Ursus S.A., a joint stock company, over the period of 2014-2016. A study of an enterprise is the essence of the next paper as well. Damian Ostrowski employs the basic assumptions of Lean Management for a survey research on the perception and involvement of employees working for a specific enterprise in the functioning of an employee suggestion scheme. Mateusz Kurowski focuses on logistics issues from the perspective of environmental aspects and their place in the concept of CSR.

Grażyna Krzyminiewska and Hanna Pondel study the role of culture in the sustainable development of voivodships in Poland. In conclusion, the Author state that cultural activities (in terms of institutional approach) taken in Polish voivodships are important for the level of their sustainability. Hanna Sikacz presents the results of bibliometric analysis of the scientific studies concerning the issue of sustainable development. According to the Author, there are four main sub-areas of research related to the issue of sustainable development: education for sustainable development, resource efficiency, technological solutions geared towards sustainable development, and regional scale sustainable development. The holism principle in agriculture sustainable development is elaborated by Józef St. Zegar and Wioletta Wrzaszcz. In their paper, the Authors focus on different agriculture levels – farms, sectors and the global level. An important problem is the topic of the next paper. Michał Kuzia and

Adam Przybyłowski present challenges for urban sustainable mobility, based on results of a survey research among workers and students of the Gdynia Maritime University.

The next papers are dedicated to the more technical topic related to environmental issues. Mirosława Kaszubska, Małgorzata Wzorek, and Krzysztof Koszyk present the results of a study on the application of landfill biogas by applying an example of a biogas power plant situated on-site at the municipal landfill in Opole (MSO). In turn, Joanna Boguniewicz-Zabłocka and Andrea G. Capodaglio elaborate the case study of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions for rural communities' and present differences between the public (centralized) or individual (on-site) systems. The method of removing petroleum pollutants from river water by the way of using centrifugation is discussed in details by Anna Gacek, Przemysław Szopa, and Jacek Czerniak. Iwona Klosok-Bazan and Aneta Witsanko – Sniezek present an analysis of effects of hard water treatment in Grotowice in Opole (Poland) on the reduction of emission of contamination to the environment. An economic analysis of selected filter beds used for water treatment is the topic of the paper written by Iwona Skoczko, Ewa Szatyłowicz, and Łukasz Malinowski.

In the last four papers, different aspects of sustainable development are investigated. Bartosz Fortuński analyses the impact of the Poland foreign trade on its real CO₂ emissions. Olga Okrzesik focuses on the ongoing activities in the Silesian Voivodeship for the purpose of developing enterprises from the SME sector, inter alia, through increasing innovation. Anna Dubel and Kaan Bas present results of a survey research on the social perceptions and attitudes towards climate change in Poland and in Turkey. In the last paper, Janusz Reichel elaborates general challenges resulting from the need for sustainable development.