

МІЖНАРОДНЕ МОРСЬКЕ ПРАВО

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INTELLIGENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Summary. The article raises three basic conclusions: thanks to the intelligent and sustainable development in the RMB, there was a greater standardization of diverse system of countries expansion in the region in the field of ecology and economics, and thus drastic differences in the so-called soft safety disappeared; operation of countries of the region in a selected range of economic and ecological activity have intensified; evaluation process of the above mentioned issues led to accelerate the process of internal solidarity and cooperation between RMB countries in the multilateral efforts to support each other in various aspects of social and political life.

Key words: sustainable development, standardization, cooperation between countries, aspects of social and political life.

Formulation of the problem. A contemporary phrase “intelligent development of the Baltic Sea Region” might be used interchangeably with the phrase “sustainable region’s development”, because they both feature mainly economic and ecological aspects in the name of the so called society’s future development; therefore, intelligent and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region can be defined as an ability to a self-sustaining development of economy, which does not degrade ecological factors and, at the same time, ensures a safe development of a given region’s society.

The aim of the article is to examine the rational and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

Statement of the base material. The Historical Report “Our Common Future”, created already in 1983, under auspices of The Global Environment and Development Committee of the United Nations and guidance of Mrs Gro Brundtland, Norwegian Prime Minister, beautifully defines the phenomenon of the so called “sustainable development”, i. e. the right to fulfil present generation’s aspirations of development without restricting future generations’ rights to fulfil their developmental needs. The above term shows, that the current generation’s economic and civilizational development should not come at the expense of neither renewable resources exhaustion, nor environmental degradation – for the sake of future generations, which will have their development rights as well.

Further, intelligent and sustainable development is therefore understood as a social-economic development, in which an integrational process of political, economic and social activities takes place, keeping environmental balance and basic environmental processes’ consistency, aiming at ensuring possible fulfillment of the respective societies’ or citizens’ needs, of both current and future generations. Universal principles of the above development have been given, being:

- unalienable human right to make use of the environment and its resources;
- environmental protection for future generations;
- obligatory protection of ecosystems and biological diversity within each country;
- obligatory conduct of estimations of the environmental consequences of the intended economic activities, etc.

The international project, which is presently prioritized, is the program called Operational Intelligent Development 2014–2020, prepared under the regulation of the European Parliament and the EU Council № 1303/2013, dated 17 December 2013, constituting common rules concerning the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Marine and Fisheries Fund, and constituting general rules concerning the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund and the European Marine and Fisheries Fund, and repealing the Council regulation № 1083/2006 (“general regulation”), and also pursuant to act of 11 July 2014 on regulations for implementation of programs in respect of financial cohesion policy in the financial perspective 2014–2020 (“implementation act”).

In the 2014–2020 programme, the following projects are and will be supported, including cooperation in fields of: innovation, effective natural resources management and sustainable transport. Most of the funds have been earmarked for priority 1 (Potential for innovation) and 2 (Effective management of natural resources) [1]. This Programme is also a support for the realization of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Ecology. For several years, majority of the governments of countries of the BSR have respective environmental and natural resources ministries that pursue the country’s environmental policy. Apart from these, there are functioning governmental agencies of environmental protection and qualified research

labs responsible for controlling and monitoring the state of the environment, and in parliaments, in turn, there are committees working on environmental issues, maintaining their own policy. Apart from this basic disparity on structure, the differences between the above countries lie in the mode of organizing work for the environment. Baltic countries have more or less specific programmes of improvement in the state of the environment, apparently different from one another, depending on the degree of convergence with political programmes and legislation of environmental protection.

The need for international cooperation is almost always included in country's efforts to improve the environment. In western parts of the region, programmes of environmental protection have had richer tradition and have been already respected since the sixties – e. g. programmes concerning waste management and air pollution have been already functioning there for several years, while in eastern Europe new programmes and agencies are just being created [2].

According to the European Commission, the upcoming years will bring changes in the BSR in the domain of ecological security and environmental protection – there will be a probable raise in maritime traffic, Which Will Increase the accident risk and expose the environment to pollution. There is also a raising tendency in the intensity of liquid natural gas transport. Such activities bring danger to natural environment, especially during winter, when transport conditions are much harder. Because of that, further steps seem to be necessary in order to improve cooperation, coordination and cohesion between institutions responsible for maritime security and surveillance, and also in the area of preventing possible disasters. Furthermore, the region should be prepared for a suspected increase in number and intensity of extreme atmospheric phenomena expected to happen as a result of climate change, predicted for many years. We must also bear in mind basic matters of ecologic security and maritime protection, especially in the agricultural sector. Additionally, fume catalytic converters, obligatorily installed in all cars, will help reduce nitrogenous pollution even by 90%. We must therefore take into account large-scale changes – and moving away from current transport system towards alternate solutions is one of them. It is worth emphasising that, for example, stationary resources combustion emission can be reduced by applying a simple technical solution – installing filters on chimneys. Another solution to the problem of environmental degradation is to bring to a minimum the usage of resources causing pollution, e. g. paraffin products – although costs of this will probably result in partial lessening of company's profits and in indirect consequences regarding other producers and consumers.

Other means of reducing negative effects of the Baltic Sea pollution are worth considering – e. g. ecologic engineering inventions. Its technologies are based on the supposition, that nature is a living composition, which can be controlled and utilized, considering social and environmental wellness – e. g. by recreating water and wetland environment that makes use of nature's ability to self-cleaning of biogenic substances. Reconstruction of the coastal wetlands will cause retention of some of the transported nitrogen and other pollutions – thereby, harmful substances will never reach the Baltic Sea [3].

The Following documents constitute some of the legal and organizational basis for the protection of clearness of Baltic Sea waters [4]:

- “EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region” 2010;
- “Baltic Action Plan” HELKOM, signed in Cracow in 2007 [5];
- Convention on the environmental protection of the Baltic maritime area – so-called Helsinki Agreement (1992);
- Convention on Fisheries and Marine Life’s Protection in the Baltic Sea and Beltach – so-called Gdansk Agreement (1973);
- Convention on Preventing Sea Pollution by Ships of All Kinds and Oil Platforms (1973);
- Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).

With reference to ecologic state of the Baltic Sea, the most alarming and controversial is the matter of disposing on the seabed the chemical weapons and ammunition sunken after World War II. So far, no one has taken care of the problem – one-time shake-ups of governments and of respective state institutions happened only in cases, when the sea cast out these remains or when they were passed by keelboats. The situation also motivated scientists from Baltic States to conduct research and publish the results which clearly show, that corrosion and possible release of chemical weapon and deposits on the bottom into the waters contribute to maritime pollution and put all Baltic living organisms at risk [6].

It Conclude, worth mentioning is the role of the NGOs, vibrant and supportive towards protecting the Baltic Sea ecology, i. e of: World Wide Fund for Nature, Coalition Clean Baltic and Greenpeace International.

Scientific organizations should also be mentioned, supporting activities for ecologic protection of the Baltic Sea, i.e. International Counsel of Maritime Research, Baltic Oceanographers’ Conference and Baltic Maritime Biologists’ Organization.

Economy. The topic of development in the region shall mention the initiative of the RPMB, established during the Ministerial session in Nyborg in 1998 (Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region – “Baltic 21”) [7]; Focusing on the following seven sectors of fundamental importance for RMB in economic and ecological importance: agriculture, energy, fisheries, forestry, transport, tourism, industry, and the so-called “Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010” (VASAB 2010).

It is worth mentioning the initiative of the EU towards the Baltic Sea – the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This strategy includes the following four pillars [8]:

- a) transformation of the Baltic Sea region into an environmentally sustainable area;
- b) transformation of the Baltic Sea region into wealthy area;
- c) transformation of the Baltic Sea Region into accessible and attractive place;
- d) transformation of the Baltic Sea region into safe and protected area.

Certain inequalities of an economic nature in RMB are the result of primarily historical circumstances – the period of the Cold War has led to differences, how-

ever successfully coped with by especially post-communist countries, which are members of the EU [9, p. 4].

The only country, except for Russia, with the status of superpower in the Baltic Sea Region is Germany – thus their intensive relations with other countries, not only in the dimension of the Baltic Sea, but also Europe-wide and largely Atlantic – have become a major topic of research, reflection and discussion of political scientists and economists of the European countries [10].

Severe disturbance of developmental processes, occurring in the economies of many countries as a result of the global financial recession in 2007–2008, significantly hamper the assessment of the actual performance and effectiveness of the implementation of the objectives of public policies these years. Eurostat data as of 2014 shows that the highest growth level among the EU member states was recorded in Ireland (4,8%), Hungary (3,6%), Malta (3,5%) and Poland (3,4%). However, the analysis covering the entire past decade indicates that the effects of the financial and economic recession have led to a deterioration of the overall performance of the economies of EU Member States. Average annual growth rates in the EU-28 and the euro zone (EA-19) in the years 2004 to 2014 were respectively 0,9% and 0,7%. The largest increase measured by this indicator was recorded for Poland (average increase of 3,9% per annum) and Slovakia (3,8% per year), followed by Romania (2,7%), Bulgaria, Latvia and Malta (all these countries – 2,5%) [11].

Upon the implementation of the above-mentioned key reforms/ political strategies and the establishment of the necessary institutions, market liberalization, privatization of companies and accession to the EU by the countries, which were the most advanced in the reform process, the Baltic Sea Region began to attract major foreign investors. The following items grew: productivity and competitiveness, so income and standard of living have significantly improved.

Democracy, prosperity and the free market are closely related to each other – all three elements of the triangle are of great importance, and the first two are not able to function without a third one for a long time. One cannot forget the Index of Economic Freedom in RMB, prepared using data of Index of Economic Freedom Country Rankings 2016. The final score obtained in the Index is calculated on the basis of 10 factors, among others: freedom of investment, trade freedom, freedom from corruption and fiscal freedom. Data from the Economic Freedom Index of 2016 shows that the vast majority of the economies of the world are defined as “moderately free”. The following economies are regarded as the most constrained: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Greece and Russia and the following two are referred to as the so-called “repressed” economies – Ukraine and Belarus. Russia lost 1,5 points and it is dangerously close to become the so-called “repressed economy”. Countries that have introduced the principle of expenditure cuts in the state sector in the 22-year history of the above mentioned Index gained an average score of 60,7. Thirty-two countries, including the RMB countries: Germany, Lithuania, Poland also achieved their highest Index results in 2015 [12].

The next stage of the transformation of civilization is the economy based on knowledge (KEI, eng. *Knowledge Economy Index – KEI*), necessary to be taken into account in the implementation of medium- and long-term economic development strategies. The economy, both now and in the past, was based on knowledge, without which, the economic growth would not be possible, but today's model of management uses knowledge fully than in the past [13]. And finally, the question arises, what the economic situation is like in the countries of RMB in comparison with the economy based on knowledge.

The results of the analysis carried out by the World Bank in terms of the index of Knowledge Based Economy in 145 countries (as of 2015) shows that out of the 50 countries classified in 2015 at a scale of 1 to 100, Poland was at the 25th position, obtaining 73,51 points. Russia, from our region, has been classified above – at the 14th position (80,96 points). The highest position in the ranking was taken by South Korea, obtaining 96,30 points, and respectively: Japan – 90,58 points, Germany – 88,41 points, Finland – 88,38 points and Israel – 86,97 points. Other countries of the region took the following positions, respectively: Slovenia – 26 obtaining 73,50 points, Czech Republic – 31st position and 68,26 points, Hungary – 32nd position and 65,37 points, Slovakia – 42nd position and 58,97 points, Lithuania – 43rd position and 57,94 points. It is worth noting that in 2014 Poland was on the 24th position [14].

Conclusions. The article raises three basic conclusions:

- thanks to the intelligent and sustainable development in the RMB, there was a greater standardization of diverse system of countries expansion in the region in the field of ecology and economics, and thus drastic differences in the so-called soft safety disappeared;
- operation of countries of the region in a selected range of economic and ecological activity have intensified;
- evaluation process of the above mentioned issues led to accelerate the process of internal solidarity and cooperation between RMB countries in the multilateral efforts to support each other in various aspects of social and political life.

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Руневич-Ясинская Рената. Разумное и устойчивое развитие региона Балтийского моря

Аннотация. В статье автор доказывает, что благодаря разумному и устойчивому развитию денежной системы жэньминьби произошла значительная стандартизация разнообразной системы широкого круга стран региона в сфере экологии и экономики, и таким образом исчезли резкие различия в «мягкой» безопасности. Доказано, что активизировался процесс производства в экономической и экологической деятельности стран данного региона. Осуществленный анализ вышеупомянутых проблем привел к ускорению процесса внутренней солидарности и сотрудничества между странами, которые используют юань и стремятся всесторонне поддержать друг друга в различных аспектах социальной и политической жизни.

Ключевые слова: денежная система, стандартизация, сотрудничество стран, аспекты социальной и политической жизни.

Руневіч-Ясінська Рената. Розумний і сталий розвиток регіону Балтійського моря

Анотація. Сучасна фраза «розумний розвиток регіону Балтійського моря» може бути використана як взаємозамінна для фрази «сталий розвиток регіону», оскільки обидві мають переважно економічні й екологічні аспекти майбутнього розвитку суспільства. Таким чином, інтелектуальний і сталий розвиток регіону Балтійського моря може бути визначений як здатність до розвитку економіки, яка не погіршує екологічні фактори та водночас забезпечує безпечний розвиток суспільства цього регіону.

Крім того, розумний і сталий розвиток розуміється як соціально-економічний розвиток, у якому відбуваються інтеграційні процеси політичної, економічної й соціальної діяльності, зберігаючи екологічний баланс та основні екологічні процеси, спрямовані на забезпечення виконання потреб суспільства або громадян як сучасного, так і майбутніх поколінь.

Універсальними принципами розвитку є право людини на використання навколишнього середовища та його ресурсів, охорона навколишнього середовища для майбутніх поколінь, обов'язковий захист екосистем і біологічного різноманіття в кожній країні, обов'язкове проведення оцінок екологічних наслідків запланованої господарської діяльності тощо.

У статті автор доводить, що завдяки розумному й сталому розвитку грошової системи женьмінбї відбулася значна стандартизація різноманітної системи широкого кола країн регіону в галузі екології та економіки, і таким чином зникли різкі відмінності в «м'якій» безпеці. Доведено, що активізувався процес виробництва в економічній та екологічній діяльності країн цього регіону. Здійснений аналіз окреслених проблем привів до прискорення процесу внутрішньої солідарності й співпраці між країнами, які використовують юань та прагнуть усесторонньо підтримати одна одну в різноманітних аспектах соціального й політичного життя.

Ключові слова: грошова система, стандартизація, співпраця країн, аспекти соціального та політичного життя.