



Implementation of sustainable development



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Multilateral international environmental agreements (conventions) are one of the oldest forms of cooperation in solving issues of climate, nature, environment and sustainable development

After the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, international environmental agreements have become the main way of global environmental governance

However, contracts are more tended to emphasize the international diplomacy rather than simplify technical understanding and performance of environmental problems



Since 1920, around **140 international agreements** have been signed, ratified and entered into force, but the number of complementary documents, such as protocols and amendment, is much higher

Conventions actually can be considered as international laws that have been agreed by independent countries

Particular importance is paid to protocols and conventions regarding the ozone layer degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change



The development of international environmental agreements is worked out not only by politicians but also scientists are involved, e.g., group of professionals, scientists and experts named Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Panel (IPPC)

IPPC has contributed to understanding about current environmental problems, as well as has helped to build a unified climate change mitigation policy

IPPC Panel Award – Nobel Peace Prize in 2007

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

Historical background
of economic growth



«Economic growth occurs whenever people take resources and rearrange them in ways that make them more valuable»
Paul Romer

How to measure this added value?

To assess the «monetary» economic growth, it was invented to summarize the state of the monetary economic growth at the level of countries – gross domestic product (GDP)

GDP reflects also the labor efficiency and economic activity

However, GDP as a measured value has many imperfections

For example, it is wrong to assume that disasters, accidents and even wars contribute to the increase of GDP, because a nation mobilizes its economics to recover and reconstruct the country after a disaster or plans forced attack to another country

In addition, many types of costs related to environmental degradation or deep social inequality, often leads to increase of GDP, but reduction of adverse effects is more related to decrease of GDP

«Business as usual» refers to the physical expansion with monetary convergence of economic growth, without assessing quality and mode of growth, and it ignores the systemic growth restrictions



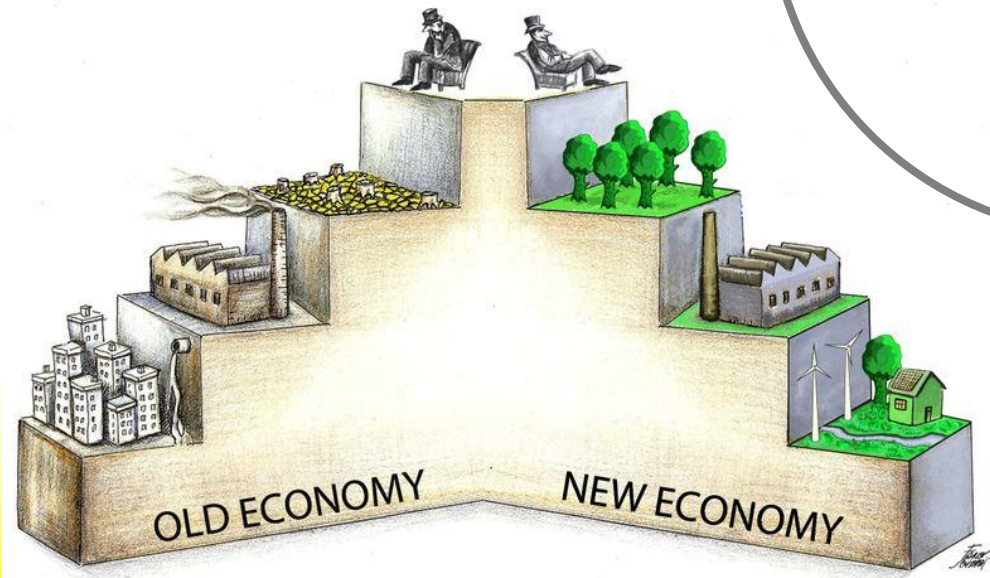
In recent years, the criticism to the use of GDP as a key tool for evaluation of national development has reached the highest level in a number of national governments

«New economy»

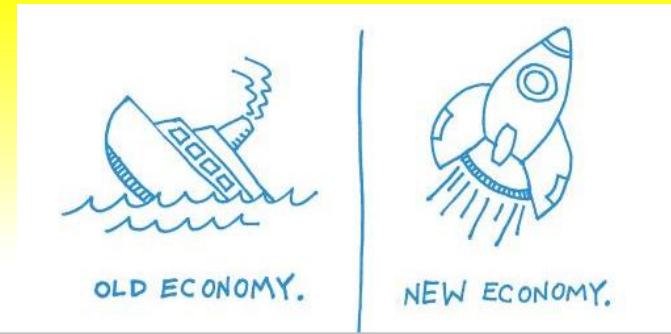
«New economy» is the economic philosophy and theory which is more based on the ideas of sufficiency rather than growth

It takes into account also existing limitations of the Earth's system, but evaluation of these limits and search for solutions to diminish the limits is less important

Currently thinking in the mode of «New economy» covers enlarging number of supporters, and among the leaders are Nobel Prize laureates in economics, as well as leaders of world's countries



Distinctions between «New economy» and current model of growth can be assessed as follows:



Wider and more humane objectives – «Business as usual» is focused on a simple expansion, supported by the belief that growth always guarantees a human progress

Instead «New economy» is focusing on the tangible results – the well-being of the population

Ethical orientation – «Business as usual» underestimates the ethical issues of wealth enhancement today, despite its implications for the future; it tends to concentrate values not to divide them equally

«New economy» grapples with inequalities not only for today but also for tomorrow, emphasizing intergenerational fairness

Certain ecological limits – «Business as usual» often ignores the reality that the ecosystem services and natural resources are limited

«New economy» use these restrictions as beginning around which a new operating system can be created to develop society, employment policy etc.

More systemic indicators – «Business as usual» is using simple indicators, mainly emphasizing GDP

«New economy» is using modern measurements in order to get the correct answers to the questions that are truly important for the population, including the assessment of subjective happiness and quality of life

Elements of «New economy» currently are in the process of joining the economics of dominant majority – its economic concept, policies and measures will become increasingly important for public or governmental decision-makers

«New economy» also retains its specifics – it is an alternative, but it is not yet fully arranged, because its various proponents have not yet agreed on a common framework that promotes different formulations, descriptions and visions of relatively similar concepts

In recent years, there has emerged an indication that the dominance of the model «Business as usual» begins to weaken

The evidences are overwhelming the centers of power, as the world's leading economists are started to be heard by leaders of powerful countries



«Green economy»

«Green economy» is the United Nations' initiative which was introduced and supported essentially within the framework of the UN Environment Program (UNEP)



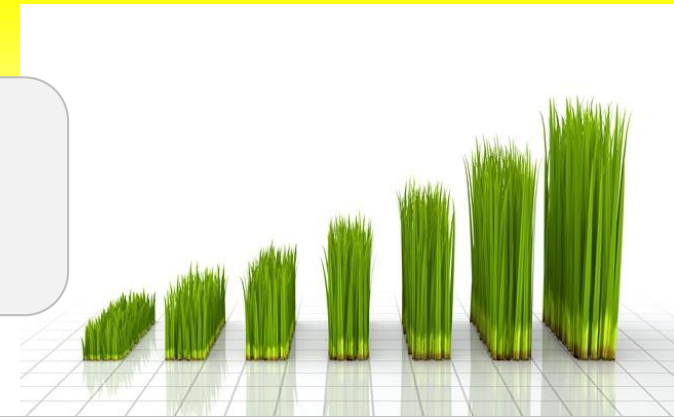
GREEN economy

«Green stimulation package» supported by the UNEP, in 2008 during the financial crisis, identified certain spheres where large-scale public investment could put «Green economy» in motion





«Green growth»



Intellectual center «Green growth» is associated with Korea where the Global Green Growth Institute is functioning

«Green growth» reflects ideas of economic philosophers Nicholas Stern and Jeffrey Sachs

«Green growth» mainly means the approach «from top to bottom» which is driven by governmental initiatives, but it is not yet so important for communities and investors as classical understanding of sustainable development

«Green growth» is criticized for the limited way of «green attitude», and it is opposed by some ecologists and environmental experts

«Green growth» program of the UN emphasizes sustainable consumption approach that the main interested party in the development process is the poor – it supports vulnerable communities, providing social services to the poor and creating a favorable environment for sustainable development



The UN disposition reflects the high importance regarding sustainable development, and it has become a general concept of planning management

Many countries are preparing strategies, programs or plans for sustainable development, however, these documents often have quite weak position in relation to the economic decision-making of a country

The idea of sustainable development accepts that growth must be at least driven and oriented, but in some cases limited due to the ability «for future generations to meet their needs» not to be endangered

The UN Economic and Social Council has published a set of documents on measurements and indicators for sustainable development listing 96 indicators, 50 of which are identifiable as the basic indicators

«National happiness»

Concept of «National happiness» was introduced by Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the king of Bhutan in 1972

Later the concept was developed to the survey method adopted for the Bhutanese Research Centre to assess the level of welfare of the population of Bhutan

Now the basics of this concept are sufficiently developed to be able to assess the welfare of the people, the country's development progress and the compliance with the policy-making in countries of different development level



Measuring
Social Value

Traditions, psychology, health, environmental problems, relationships and modern technologies – these all have the place in the Bhutan's concept of national happiness, but their use is not only theoretical

Some of indicators of «National happiness» in Bhutan:

frequency of selfishness sensation	reading and writing skills	household income
family relationships	trust to neighbors	education level
number of persons in a room	purchase of second-hand clothes	frequency of generosity feeling
attendance of community events	help to community members	sufficiency of income for daily needs
trust to public media	knowledge about plants and animals	traditional gaming

Unlike other systems and indicators, in Bhutan «National happiness» has a politically significant value



In the current economic situation, with serious disorders of Western economics and monetary system when political leaders are trying to «re-establish growth», it is difficult to imagine a real transition from «Business as usual» to «National happiness»



How's Life? 2015

MEASURING WELL-BEING



However, the changes that are taking place now indicate that in not too distant future «country's happiness» indicators can start serious competition with traditional indicators of economic growth

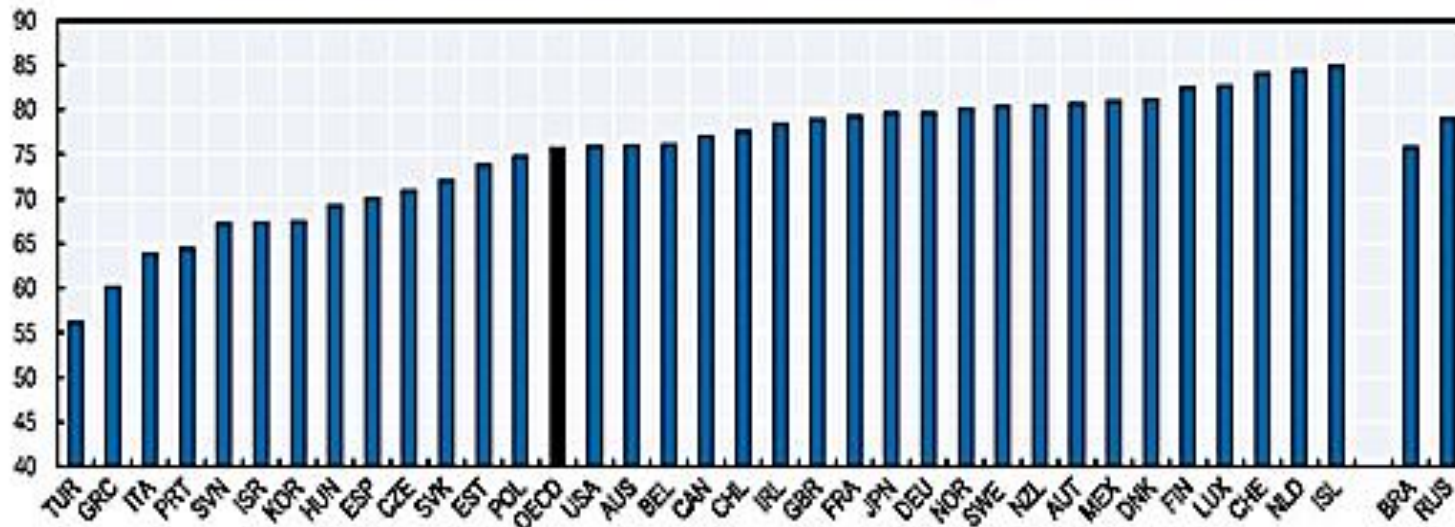
It is evidenced by the first published «National Happiness Index» in 2012 in the UK, and by the parliament of Germany actions to set up an official committee for studies and implementation of the «National happiness index»

The OECD report «How's life?» confirms that similar efforts, ranging from country-wide consultation processes to statistical information collection, are already under the way of implementation in many countries

Each of these initiatives has been adapted to their national contexts and in a special way for each nation's cultural perspective with regard to the happiness and well-being

Direction towards a «fortune» and away from «growth» marks «a change in the results table» with the potential to serve the interests of dominant policy

To offer traditional economic growth is becoming increasingly difficult for developed countries such as France, Germany or Japan, because there are existing aging demographic problems and declining economic power, in contrast to the economic developments in China and India



The results of the OECD study «How's life?» in 2014 – number of people (%), who responded more positively than negatively

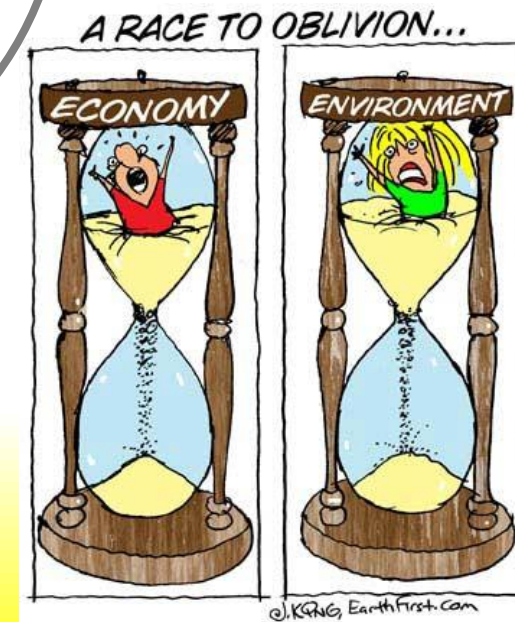
Happiness, well-being and quality of life are not closely linked to economic growth and income, once the country has reached a minimum material economic level of comfort

«No-growth»

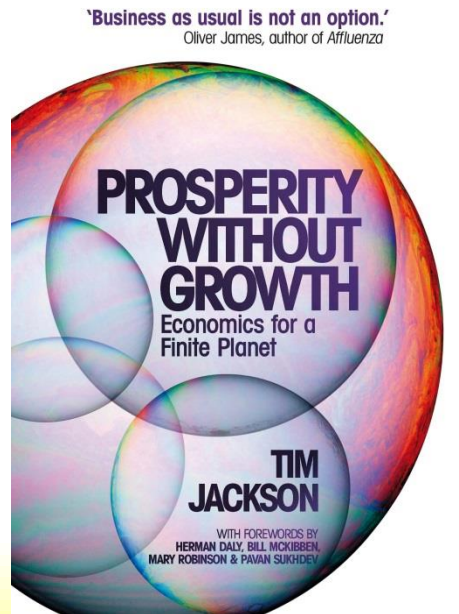
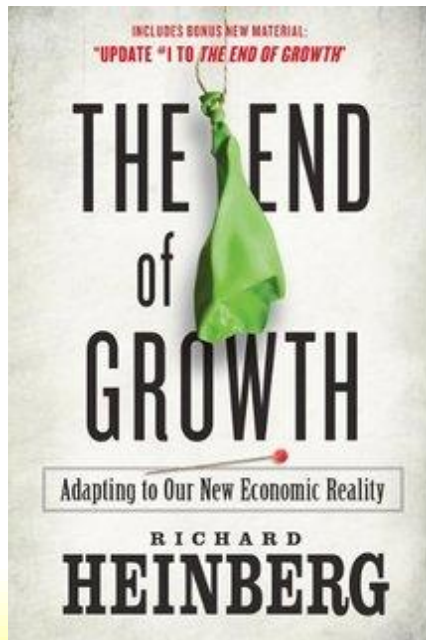
Concept of «No-growth» is the most radical concept in relation to alternatives to replace the economic growth model

«No-growth» means situation opposite to «growth», a run-down

«No-growth» movement is represented by the academic researchers and economic network of activists who promote the idea that the goal is the economics of lower scale which will lead to greater human well-being at the same time reducing the pressure on natural resources and ecosystems



Concept of «No-growth» gained the international attention after the publication «Prosperity without Growth?» written by the economist **Tim Jackson**; afterwards published as a book



Jackson's arguments can be summarized in the following summaries:

Growth is not sustainable

«No-growth» is not stable

Decoupling will not operate

Initiators of «No-growth» concept have developed the policy proposals and even alternative economic models which proves that there exist other different economic development paths; an estimate of the necessary changes include:

Need for a radical inspection of capital investment markets in order to reduce speculations with goods or services, such as food or financial derivatives (hedge funds), and to increase investments in low carbon technologies, transport systems, health care, education and energy-efficient housing

Need for a termination of uncontrolled speculation at expenses of customers and taxpayers through tighter regulations of business activities and encouragements for new forms of corporates incentives that would include stricter management rules, requirements for enterprises to work for the public interest to ensure implementation of proper social, environmental and economic conditions

Need for significant changes in the cultural consciousness in order to reduce the emphasis on consumption and other benefits, but to increase the overall progress towards «good nutrition, adequate housing, high quality services, stable communities, decent and secure employment and healthy environment»



Spectrum of alternatives

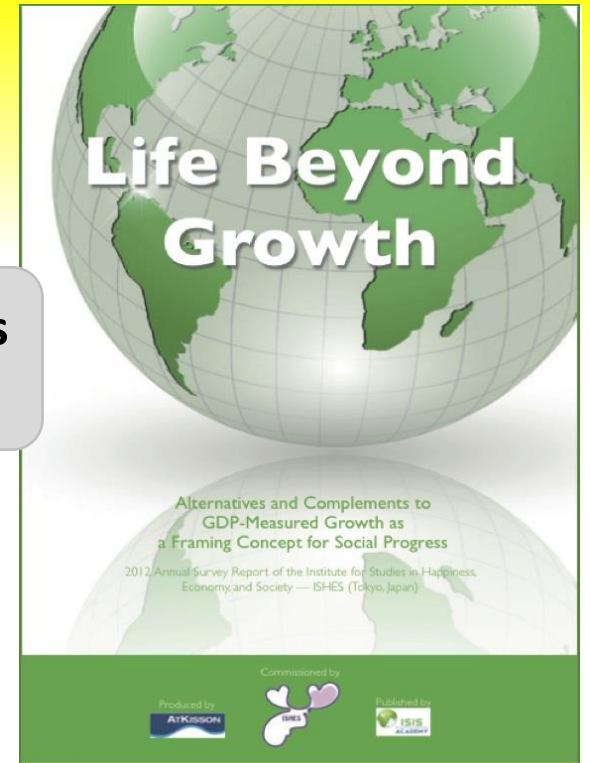
Achievement of broad agreement on alternative models need to be performed at least in four key points:

1. «Business as usual» is not sustainable in long-term

2. GDP is inappropriate or even misleading indicator of progress

3. Alternatives are necessary and possible

4. Happiness and human well-being are essential for any economic setting of goals



Frameworks

DE-GROWTH

Sustainable Development

Green Economy

Green Growth

GROWTH AS USUAL

Gross national Happiness

Genuine progress indicators

Genuine savings

Green GDP

GDP

Indicators

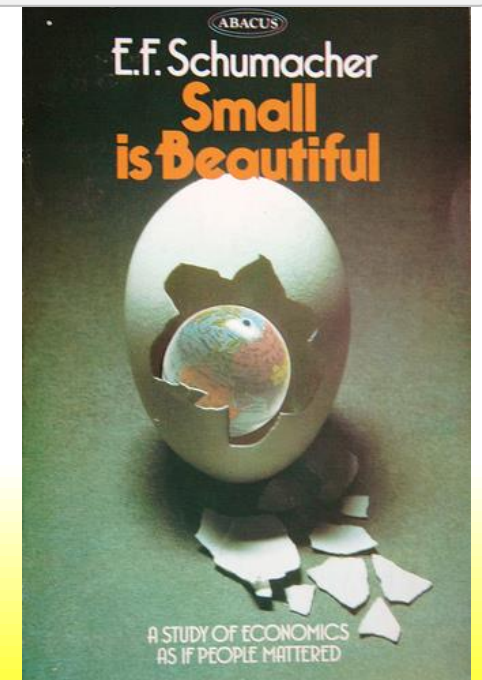
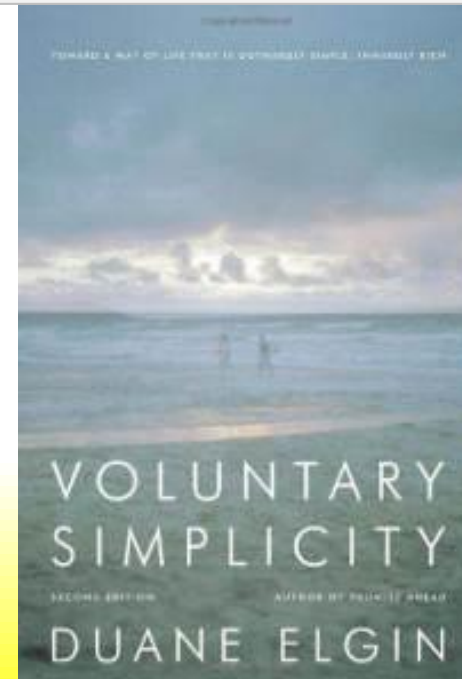
Spectrum and indicators of alternatives for development in different economic systems

OPTIONS OF SIMPLER LIFE



The idea of a simpler life means to live not increasing the expenses in order to reduce the impact on the environment, but at the same time striving to expand own freedom and a sense of inner peace

The choice in favor of simplicity and resistance to «squirrel wheel» caused even the interest and involvement of magazines and television, in particularly in 1990, when the issue of lifestyle was brought into forward



It simultaneously created a parallel movements of «**Slow Food**» and «**Slow City**» associated with the idea of simplicity and non commercialized action to promote a higher quality of life

The aim of «Slow Food» is promotion of sustainable food and local small business development, as well as political actions against globalization of agricultural production



The concept of «Slow Society» gained recognition among the business leaders in Japan in the beginning of the 21st century

The concept of «Slow City» provides:

- **Makes life better for everyone who lives in urban areas**
- **Improves the quality of life in cities**
- **Resists against urban homogenization and globalization**
- **Protects the environment**
- **Promotes cultural diversity in selected cities**
- **Creates inspiration for a healthier lifestyle**

Some people have moved to form new communities and to implement alternative economic and environmental principles – so called «**Eco-Villages**» usually are small-scale settlements, which were established in marginal areas of industrial society (abandoned industrial areas, suburbs or rural areas)



Inhabitants of eco-villages are united by shared ecological, social, economic, cultural and spiritual values; often there are people who have chosen an alternative power supply, water and sewage system

Such optimistic approach offers a hope that we can provide a satisfactory life for all and will be able to avoid mistakes that can happen on the way to a sustainable future

At present, all the world's major economies have a common dependence on growth

Economic success of each country in the world is measured by how quickly each of countries uses the resources, implements production of goods and services and as a result expands the flow of cash

Rapid growth is better than slow growth, no-growth is bad, but the recession is considered as catastrophic if it lasts longer than a few months

Researchers are calculating for how many decades (or centuries) still will be available fossil fuel and other resources ...

In such conditions the thinking that the growth can continue indefinitely is wrong

If growth has not stopped earlier or the economy has not moved closer to capability of natural systems, then a collapse is inevitable



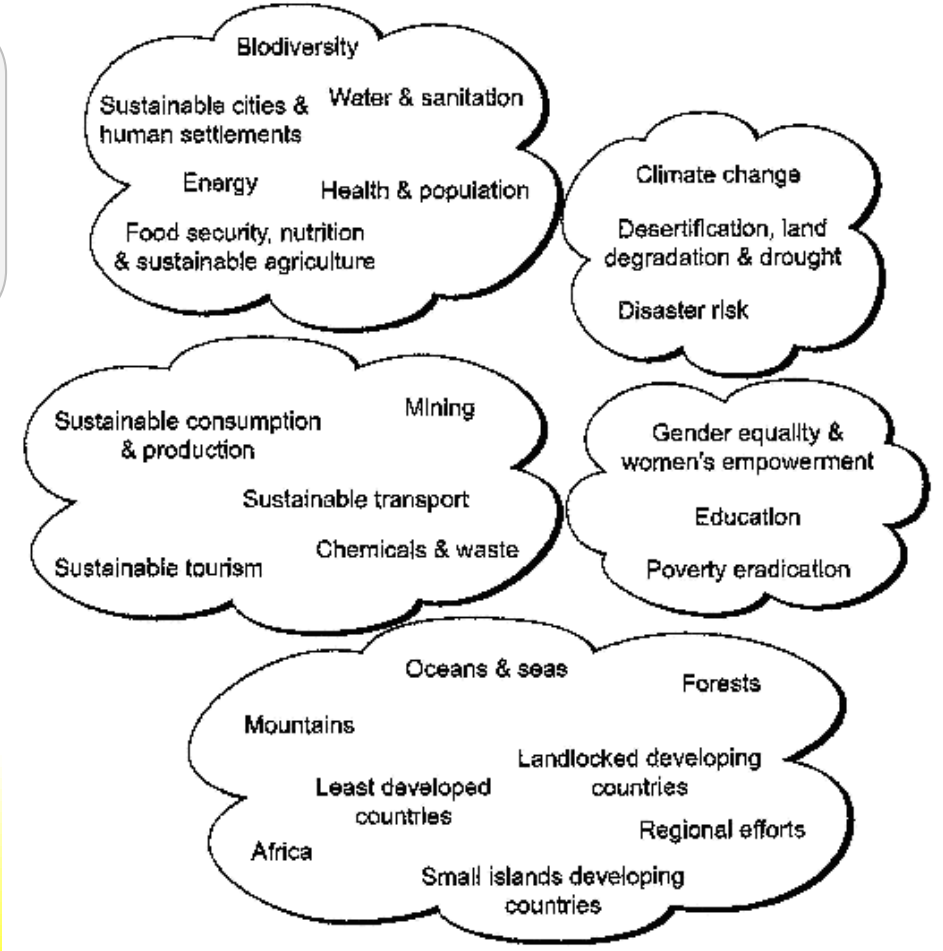


IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UN conference «Rio +20» on Sustainable Development in 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, certainly will serve as a great historical turning point in promoting sustainability

In overall, this event involved about 50,000 people; two main topics of the conference were «Green economy» and «Institutional framework of sustainable development»

Based on the agreements from previous conferences, at the forefront was nominated 7 key areas – unemployment, energy, urban development, food security, water, ocean protection and natural disasters





The main document of the conference «The Future We Want» has six chapters

I. Our common vision

II. Recovery of political commitment

III. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and extermination of poverty

IV. Institutional framework of sustainable development

VI. Modes of implementation

V. Most important actions and achievement of goals



UN Millennium Development Goals

The UN Millennium Declaration and Development Goals were adopted in 2000 and are including unprecedented challenges to make the world better and more acceptable to all nations





Eradicate extreme poverty
and hunger



Achieve universal
primary education for all





Promote gender equality and empower women



Reduce child mortality

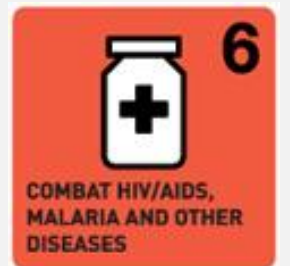




Improve maternal health



Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases





Ensure environmental sustainability



Global partnership for development



In 2015, the UN General Assembly was held which decided on the implementation of the Millennium Goals and new goals were set «Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development»

1



1. Poverty termination

5



5. Gender equality

2



2. Hunger termination

6



6. Clean water and sanitary conditions

3



3. Good health and prosperity

7



7. Available and clean energy

4



4. Qualitative education

8



8. Adequate work and economic growth

9



9. Industry, innovations, infrastructure

10



10. Reduced inequality

11



11. Sustainable cities and communities

12



12. Responsible consumption
and production

13



13. Climate change actions

14



14. Water life saving

15



15. Terrestrial life saving

16



16. Peace, justice and strong
institutions

17



17. Global cooperation in achieving
goals of sustainable development

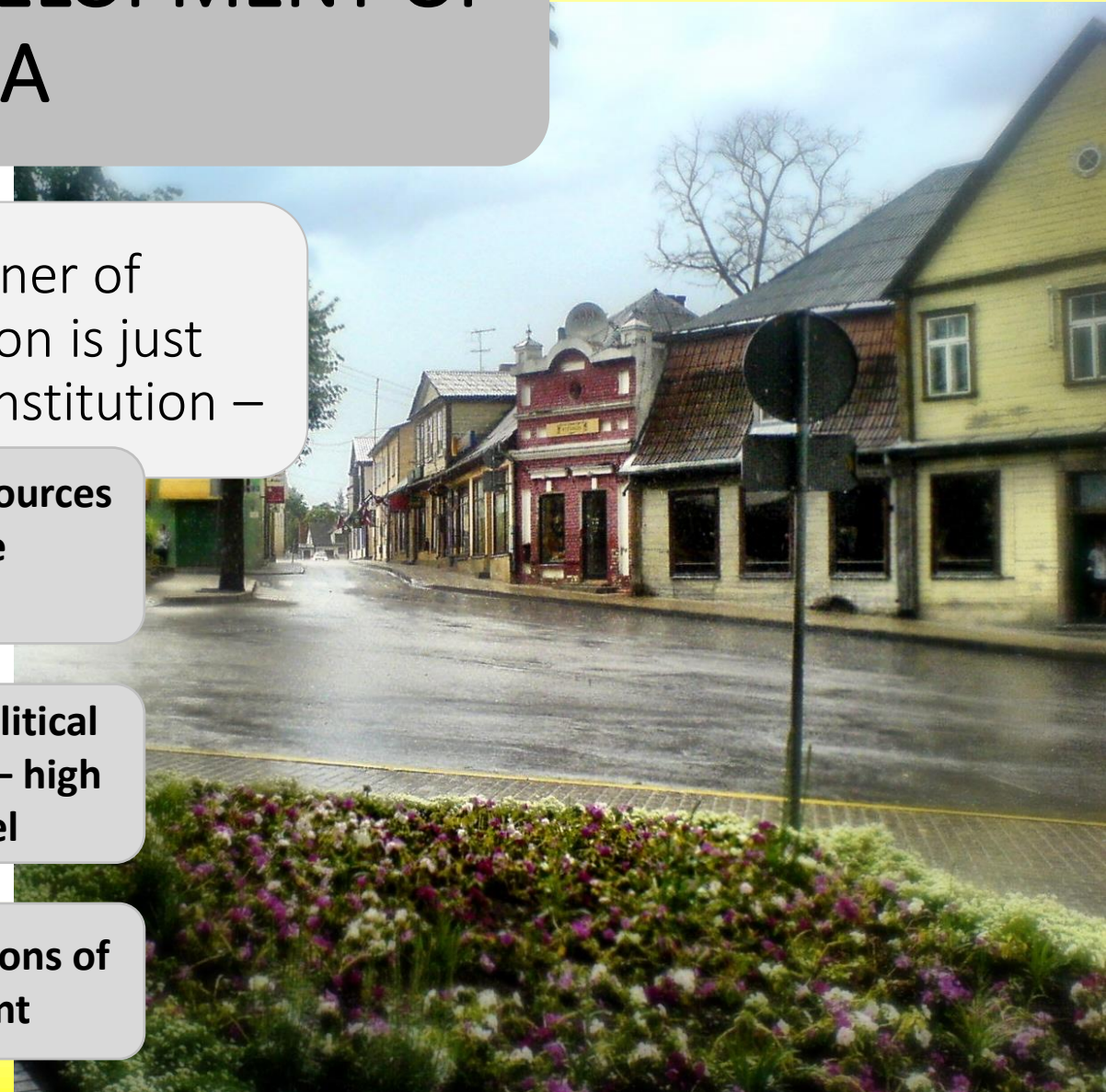
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LATVIA

In Latvia, a coordinated and systematic manner of sustainable development and its implementation is just beginning, because still there is no an adequate institution –

Therefore, a large amount of functions and scarcity of resources is an explanation for the slow process of sustainable development in Latvia

Involvement of sustainable development issues in the political debates primarily was motivated by the external factors – high priority of these questions at the EU and the UN level

Unfortunately, the participation of governmental institutions of Latvia, political forces and public has been insignificant



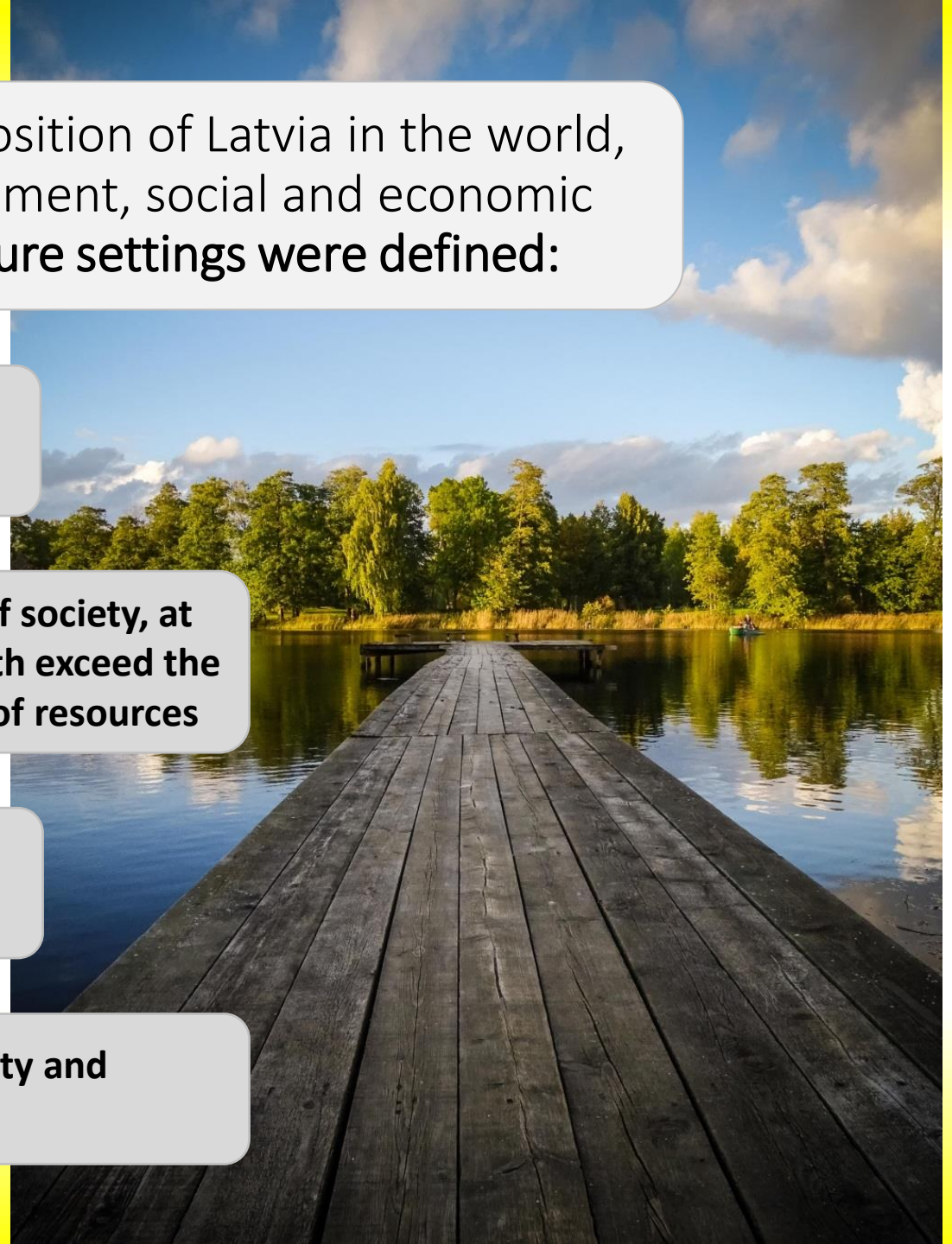
Directions of national sustainable development too solve the main problems, as well as the policy objectives of individual sectoral policies were initially adopted in the **Sustainable Development Guidelines of Latvia** already in 2002 –


However, the guidelines did not set out the certain deadlines of objectives and activities



Taking into account the geopolitical position of Latvia in the world, characteristics of nature and environment, social and economic development and progress, **the future settings were defined:**

- **To create welfare society which appreciates and develops democracy, equality, fairness and cultural heritage**
- **To build a stable economy that provides the needs of society, at the same time ensuring that speed of economic growth exceed the speed of environmental pollution and consumption of resources**
- **To contribute to a safe and healthy environment for present and future generations**
- **To take measures for conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem protection**





- To develop the responsible attitude of society towards natural resources and constantly to increase the efficiency of use of resources

- To become a country that is able itself to meet its own needs and, if necessary, to provide assistance to other countries

- To ensure integration of environmental issues and to develop a wide range of environmental policy instruments applicable to other policies

- To ensure that the market economy mechanisms are serving for sustainable development

- To ensure public participation in sustainable development processes

- Continually to assess the country's progress for implementation of sustainable development goals set

Proof of previous ineffectiveness of sustainable development is that due to the development of the national economy and an increase in household income –

In Latvia, individual consumption has sharply increased, as well as a gap between the rich and the poor has increased, and that basically is the opposite trend of sustainable development objectives

After the retrieval of independence and accession to the European Union, Latvia does not have an ambitious strategic goal, while, taking into account the important role of sustainable development in the modern world and development of the EU, it is highly necessary



For local development of Latvia also a promising political and practical strategic objective is needed

Decisive factor for sustainable development of Latvia is ability of the management system to deal with plans and strategies of different levels and land use and **to subordinate them under the single long-term and sustainable framework**

Application of sustainable development model in conditions of Latvia is influenced by several specific factors:

- **Relatively low level of environmental pollution and low environmental degradation (compared to Western Europe countries)**
- **Limited availability of resources and relative weakness of industrial production**
- **Dependence on imported resources**
- **Need to restructure the economic system**
- **Increase of problems in social environment**



However, in overall, **Latvia** has an option to use the **Western experience** of improvement of environmental protection systems and planning of community development taking into account solutions for reduction of environmental impact

Unfortunately, there are a number of obstacles to implementation of sustainable development in Latvia:

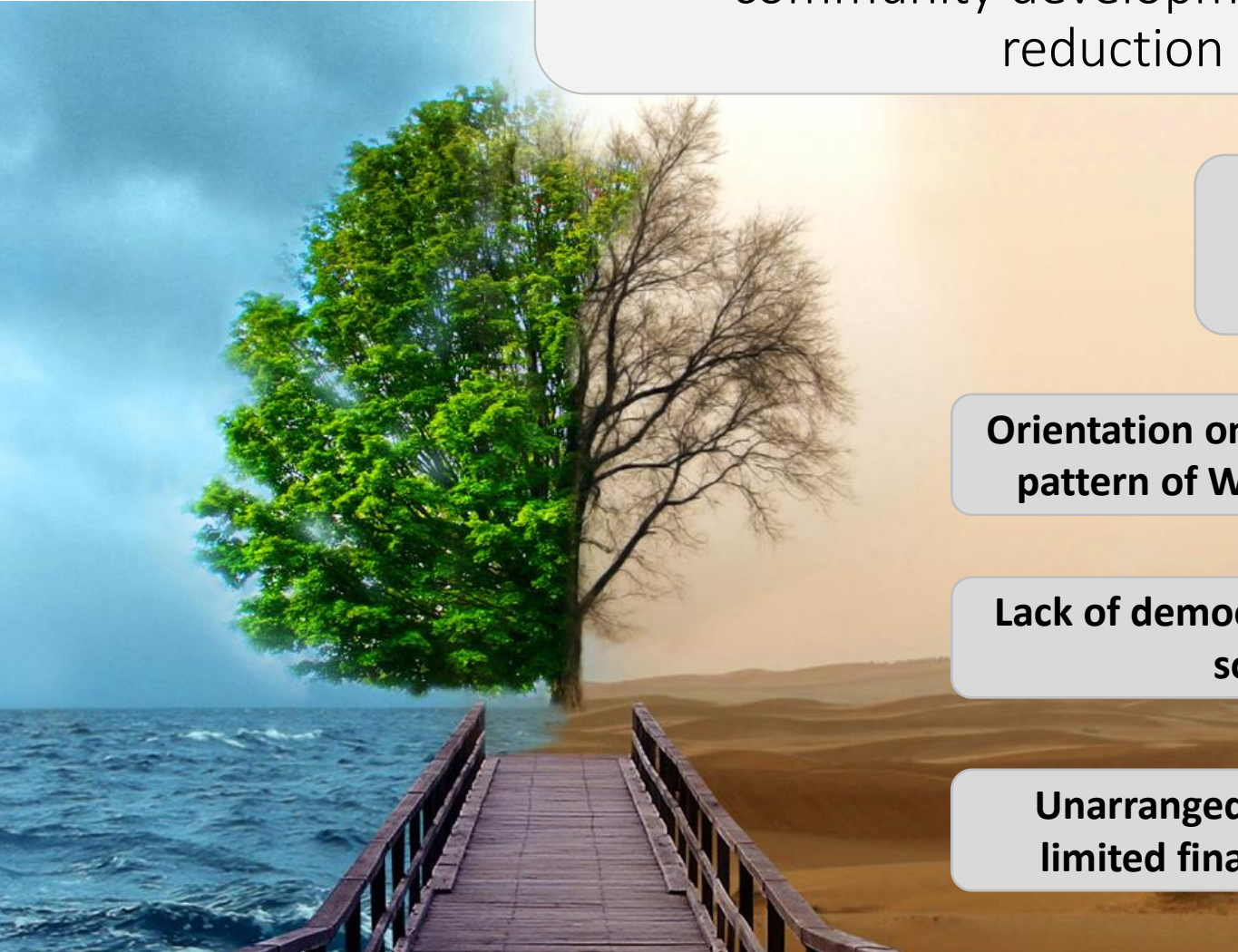
Orientation on the consumption pattern of Western countries

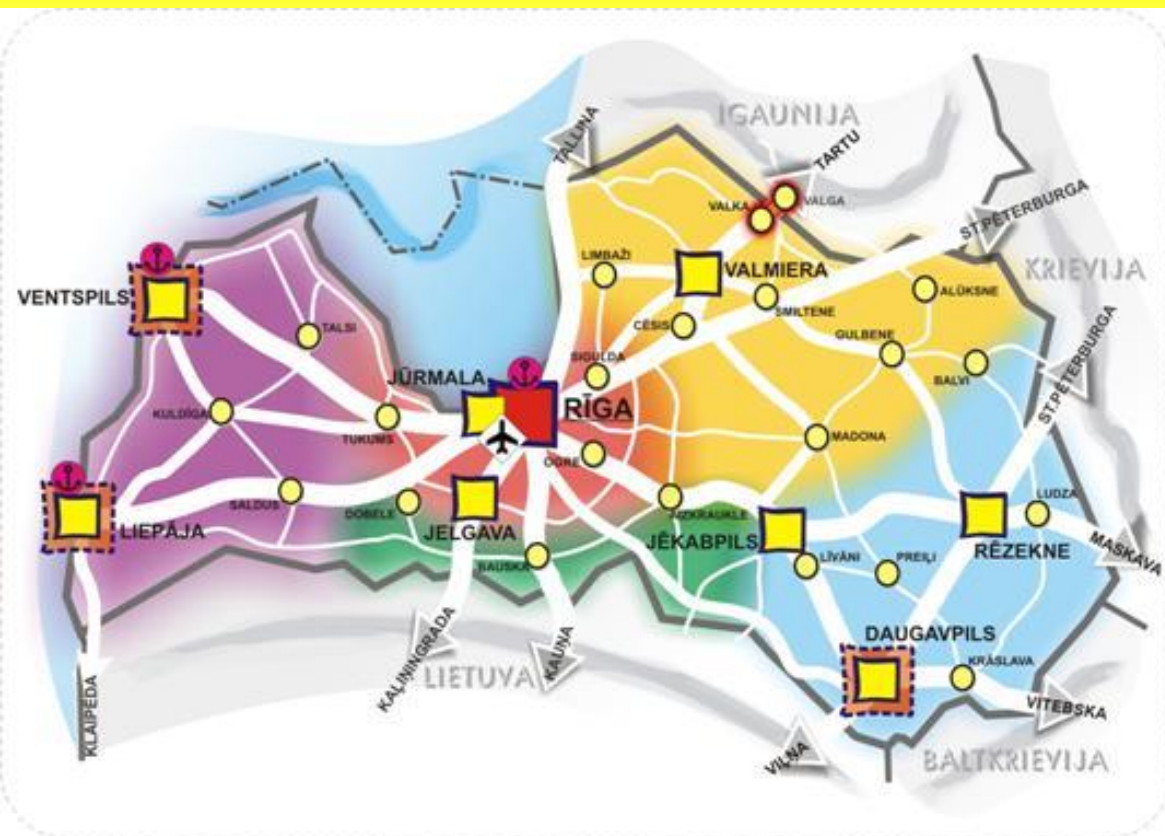
Lack of democratic traditions in society

Unarranged legislation and limited financial resources

Low awareness level of environmental and social problems

Lack of knowledge on sustainable development





Development centers and functional networks of Latvia

Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia has been developed and approved by the Saeima (03.06.2010.)

The basic objectives of the strategy are as follows: a happy man in a welfare country, sustainable and healthy lifestyle, creative and tolerant society, competitiveness generated by cooperation and the country as a reliable partner

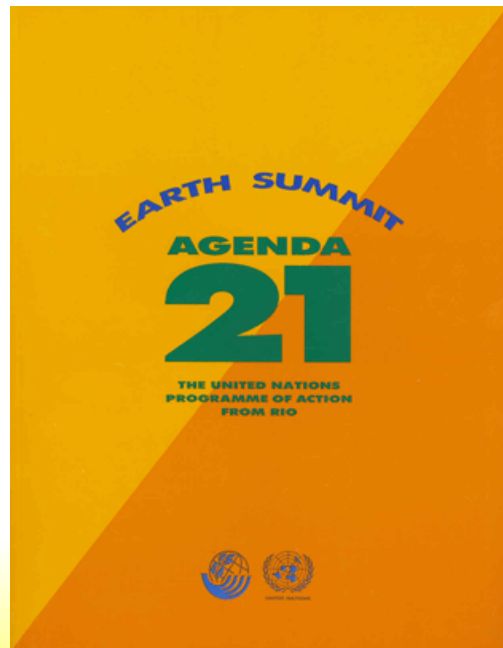
MUNICIPALITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There are 119 municipalities in Latvia – 110 counties (around 520 parishes) and 9 cities:

Rīga, Jūrmala, Valmiera, Liepāja, Ventspils, Rēzekne, Daugavpils, Jēkabpils and Jelgava



Local municipality establishes and maintains economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversees the process of planning, establishes local environmental policy, as well as supports national environmental policy



Many problems and their solutions mentioned in the UN document «Agenda 21» are rooted in the level of local municipalities, therefore, local development plans should be developed based on the principles of sustainable development

«Agenda 21» aims to involve inhabitants, as well as municipalities and various interest groups representing the society and also enterprises in overall process of development

The first municipalities, that in Latvia have taken an initiative in relation to the local «Agenda 21», were Jurmala and Jelgava, at a later stage they were joined by Talsi, Cesis, Rezekne, Rujiena, Riga, Ventspils, Kuldiga, as well as some parishes

Local municipalities have undertaken to consider the principles of good and sustainable governance in towns, villages and rural areas

This is a serious basis for the strategic planning and sustainable local economics focusing on efficient, but at the same time responsible, use of local resources

In Latvia one of the main tasks would be to reduce the inequality of social security system and to turn it into the direction of equality

In order to reduce the inequality of income, the load of taxes on low-wage earners should be significantly reduced and the European Social Charter point on an equitable wage need to be ratified



VIDZEME



**IESAISTIES VIDZEMES
ATTĪSTĪBAS PRIORITĀŠU
NOTEIKŠANĀ!**



CILVĒKS VIDZEMĒ IR VĒRTĪBA!



JĀPALIELINA REĢIONA KONKURĒTSPĒJA!



**MĒS ZINĀM KĀ PALIELINĀT IEDZĪVOTĀJU
SKAITU VIDZEMĒ!**



ZEMGALE

zemgale
pilsēta izaugsmei!

ZEMGALES ILGTERMIŅA ATTĪSTĪBAS STRATĒGISKAIS MĒRĶIS

APDZĪVOTAS ZEMGALES PILSĒTAS UN LAUKI

CILVĒKS

Izglītots, radošs
un uzņēmīgs

EKONOMIKA

Konkurēt-
spējīga un
inovatīva

DZĪVES VIDE

Ilgspējīga,
kvalitatīva un
iekļaujoša
pilsētās & laukos

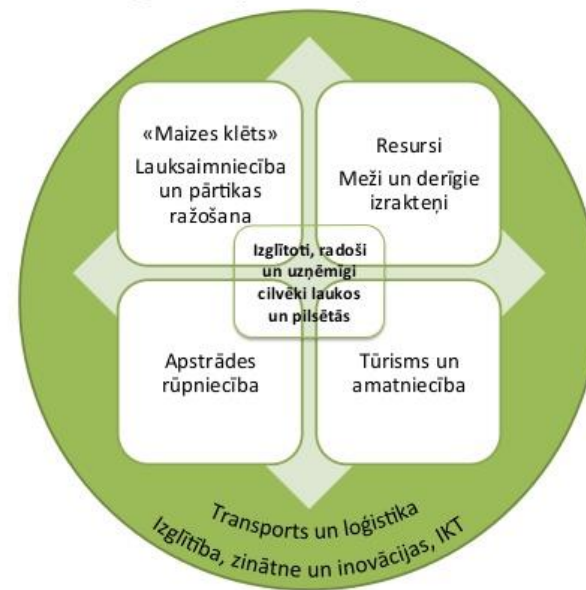


ZEMGALES ILGTSPĒJĪGAS ATTĪSTĪBAS STRATĒGIJA
2030

ZEMGALES ATTĪSTĪBAS PROGRAMMA 2020



Zemgales plānošanas reģiona ekonomikas profils –
galveno jomu mijiedarbība



LATGALE



Skaties globāli, rīkojies lokāli!
Pat viens cilvēks spēj ietekmēt
notikumu gaitu.

*Eiropas gada attīstības labas prakses vēstnesis
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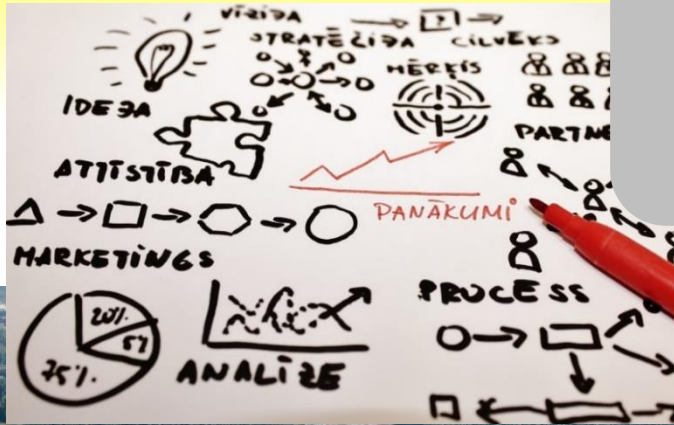
KURZEMES
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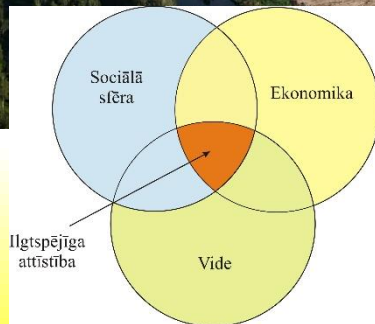
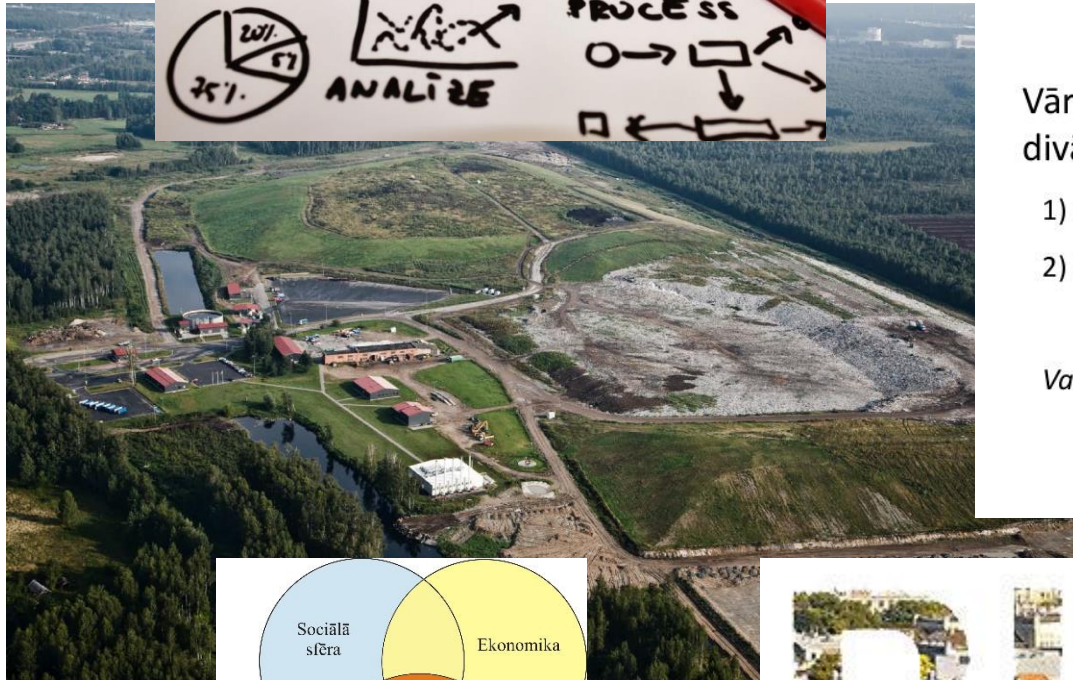


Vārds 'ilgtspējīgs/-a' tikt lietots divās nozīmēs:

**BEIGU
JAUTĀJUMS**

- 1) kā kaut kas, kas ilgst ilgi...
- 2) IA koncepcijas ietvaros.

Vai 'ilgtspēja' drīkst atrasties ārpus IA?



Thank you
for the attention!

