

Economy, finance and sustainable development

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Introduction

The principle of sustainable development plays a very important role in the Polish and German legal systems. The implementation of the principle of sustainable development includes many socio-economic activities integrating political, economic and social activity, while maintaining natural balance and the durability of basic natural processes in order to guarantee the possibility of meeting the basic needs of individual communities and citizens of both the current generation and future generations.

The value of sustainable development goes beyond issues closely related to environmental protection. It is also a point of reference for issues involving infrastructure development, building social bonds and shaping the spatial and corporate order, thus gaining a universal nature. The idea of sustainable development should, therefore, be regarded as a set of fundamental postulates of a global nature, the implementation of which will be the most important challenge for modern society in the coming years. In this state of affairs, it was considered necessary to develop a scientific publication covering selected legal matters dealing with aspects of the value of the sustainable development principle in the Polish and German legal orders.

The monograph presents analyses of the impact and implementation of the value of sustainable development on the economy and finance in Poland and Germany. In particular, the paper presents issues related to the principle of sustainable development in international law, sustainable corporate governance, the possible economic activity conducted by national parks, green public procurement, regulations and standards regarding sustainable development in the financial sector, as well as environmental crime and environmental protection measures provided for in criminal legislation.

The monograph also seeks to find answers to whether the provisions of Poland's Entrepreneur Law, shaping the rules for starting, conducting and terminating economic activity in Poland, take into account and refer to sustainable development, as well as whether and to what extent they adapt, specify and individualise the content of this value towards the enterprise and the economic activity it conducts. It also presents the obligations of German businesses resulting from the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act, which entered into force on 1 January 2023.

These aspects of the principle of sustainable development do not exhaust all the issues indicated in the title of this study. It seems, however, that they may become at least a contribution for further discussion on the principle of sustainable development.

The Editors

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