

Book review*

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Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management Opatija, University of Rijeka, and Glosa Rijeka are the publishers of the professional book and university textbook “*Management of sustainable development: economics, ecology, environmental protection*”, by Ph.D. Mladen Črnjar and M.sc. Kristina Črnjar, Rijeka, 2009. The university textbook is comprised of six interrelated parts on 577 pages structured in 22 thematic units. There are 37 tables, 22 charts and 20 schemes incorporated in the text, and at the end of each part, there are questions for discussion and revision. At the beginning of the book, authors provide the preface and table of contents. List of the used bibliographic units is followed by abstract, list of tables, charts and schemes, index of names, terms and abbreviations, and notes about the authors.

After the *Preface*, the problem matter is presented in the first part, *Introduction*, as well as the scientific problem, subject matter and objective of scientific research. The basic scientific hypothesis was set with five auxiliary hypotheses, and the purpose and objectives of the research were determined. The rating of previous research was provided and the scientific methods used in the research and publishing of results were listed. The basic scientific hypothesis is set as follows: knowledge, insights, skills covering the most important characteristics of environmental pollution, sustainable development, management, interrelationship of education and scientific

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industry and sustainable development. The legal framework of management of sustainable development represents *conditio sine qua non* for creating basic references for planning of management of sustainable development for the 21st century in primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary and quintary industries.

The second part is divided in four subparts entitled *Theoretical characteristics of environmental pollution and sustainable development*. Special attention was devoted to the first subpart, which presents the research results on interrelationship between causes and effects of environmental pollution. Authors emphasise that anthropogenic factors are greatly responsible for contemporary ecological problems which had culminated before the emergence of ecological crisis. Sudden increase in population, the problem of food, lack of petrol, endangerment of biodiversity, environmental pollution and excessive exploitation of natural resources, are a consequence of the ethical paradigm which puts man in the centre of life on Earth. All of this indicates the necessity for sustainable economic development based on the balance between material production growth and preservation of natural resources and the environment. The authors perceive sustainable development as a civilisational challenge, and in the second subpart systematically and briefly explain the term and the principles of sustainable development, types of sustainable development and socioeconomic foundations of sustainable development. The subjects of analysis of the entire third thematic unit are the most significant characteristics of ecological policy as the basic driving force of sustainable development. Strengths and weaknesses of certain instruments of environmental protection policy are analysed separately, and are classified by the authors in three basic groups: regulatory instruments, economic instruments and voluntary agreements. At the end of the first chapter, basic characteristics of ecological systems are elaborated on as pre-conditions of development on life on Earth.

Since negative externalities of various forms of human activity have disrupted the relationship between man and nature, there is a need for prediction of ecological, social and economic effects which a company, state or other organisations may create by their activities. With this in mind, in the third part, entitled *Significant determinants of ecological management*, the authors emphasise the importance of implementation of ecological management as a systematic and holistic approach in protection, administration, and renewal of the environment and the ecosystem. The most important specific characteristics and phenomena of ecological management are elaborated in five thematic units: management – the basic factor of a successful company, basic functions of management, special characteristics of ecological management, management of ecologically sustainable economy and managerial systems and environmental management. By analysing and presenting all aspects of ecological management, the authors placed special emphasis on the systems of environmental management which imply organisation structure, planning activities, responsibilities, procedures, processes and resources for development, implementation, conduction and maintenance of environmental protection policy.

The insights gained from the preceding parts are logically complemented by the fourth part, entitled *Knowledge management in the function of sustainable development*, in which two thematic units are elaborated on: the mission of education systems in global sustainable development and knowledge in the function of environmental protection. After definition of the term «education system» and classification of education systems according to various criteria, the authors explain the role of lifelong learning system in the process of implementation of sustainable development in everyday life. The authors point out that lifelong learning system is a basic precondition of sustainable development because education may stimulate individuals to make the world safer, healthier and more advanced. According to the authors, the purpose of the education system is raising ecological awareness of the society and providing the necessary knowledge for critical thinking and responsible decision-making. Authors point to the fact that lack of knowledge about social and natural processes may become a generator of various ecological problems. However, in order for knowledge to become a resource of global sustainable development, it is necessary to create scientifically founded strategies of knowledge management. The authors deem that such strategies are impossible to adopt and implement without quality human resources, adequate scientific infrastructure, and without contemporary education industries.

In the fifth part, *Legal frameworks of environmental protection management*, the main elements of international, European and Croatian legal system for environmental protection were elaborated on. The authors presented the most important insights about international agents of environmental protection, development of international legal system and categorisation of international rules of environmental protection, and the legal system of the European Union is covered in detail. Special attention was devoted to evolution of the environmental protection programme which helped the integration of ecological aspects and environmental protection aspects in all areas of the Community's policy. By studying historical development of ecological policy, the readers may gain the necessary knowledge about the sixth action programme which focuses on solving the problems of climate changes and global warming, protection of natural habitats and wild animals, solving of ecological and health problems, and preservation of natural resources and waste management. In the final thematic unit of this part, the subject of analysis is ecological problem matter in the Republic of Croatia and Croatian legislation- and description of institutional framework of environmental protection. The authors also state the benefits of implementation of environmental legislation of the European Union in the Republic of Croatia.

Management of sustainable development for the 21st century is the title of the final part. In this promising part, the authors promote innovative management of sustainable development and propose a new philosophy of development for the 21st century. On the basis of analysis of the main trends of ecological crisis, the authors state that failures of recent sustainable development are a consequence

of institutional structure. Since the development of executive and supervisory ecological management, i.e. public and bureaucratic system, significantly lagged behind in solving of ecological problems, the question is posed how to restructure managerial systems which will enable social, economic and ecological benefits? It is concluded that successful ecological management must be based on continuous learning process and re-examination of the acquired insights, and stimulation of innovations in the function of sustainable development. The most significant determinants of the new philosophy of sustainable development are also elaborated on in this part; a definition of new consumption and production philosophy for the 21st century is also provided, and the connection between eco-efficiency and sustainable development is explained.

The work is written in standard Croatian language, in scientific literary style characterised by measuredness adequate for this kind of scientific-professional work. Taking into consideration that this is a university textbook, educational character is especially pointed out, and at the end of each part, there are questions for revision and comprehension check. The authors used 456 bibliographic units which comprise 184 books, 115 scientific discussions, 98 studies, anthologies and lexicons, and 58 other sources.

Taking into account present challenges, such as the world economic crisis, poverty and climate change, it may be concluded that topicality of the contents is one of the most important determinants of this university textbook. The contents of the work point to possible solutions for contemporary development issues, and are stimulating for a more thorough studying of the sustainability phenomenon.

According to its concept and scientifically founded insights on interaction between ecology, management, and economy, the work “Management of Sustainable Development: Economics, Ecology, Environmental Protection” represents a high quality university textbook which may be useful to a number of readers of various occupations, professions, and lines of work with its topical issues. Although it is primarily intended for students, this textbook may help managers and specialists in the creation of sustainable development activities.

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