

# Transition Towards Sustainable Development in South East Europe: Practices, Public Attitudes and Socio-Economic Effects

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At the end of 2019, the European Commission announced the European Green Deal to foster the transition towards sustainable economy and make Europe "the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050".<sup>1</sup> The socio-economic effects from this ambitious project, as well as the public attitudes towards its implementation are of particular relevance to the SEE region. The challenges about it as well as the prevailing skeptics are enormous. In particular, for Bulgaria, whose government, represented by the Prime Minister, stated that "for Bulgaria, the Green Deal is a big problem, 60 percent of electricity comes from coal plants."

At the same time, social research on the transition towards sustainable development globally has grown exponentially in the last 20 years, both in terms of the number of publications and their citation. An interdisciplinary research field is emerging which focuses its interest on the border between technology, innovation, economics and politics.

The applied added value of such research is to answer the question of how to achieve diverse socially-embedded innovation models that operationalize socio-economic and natural resources in a particular region in an optimal / sustainable way.

The focus offered to Southeast Europe is not new. From a macro-sociological point of view, there is already research on the link between sustainable development and the socio-economic development of the region (Domazet / Marinovic-Jerolimov 2014)<sup>2</sup>. The current volume seeks to both research on the development of successful practices for the transition towards sustainable development (examples of eco-innovations and technologies in energy, transport, agriculture, etc.) and on public attitudes to a deeper understanding of the processes of

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_bg](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_bg)

<sup>2</sup> Sustainability Potential of the European Semi-periphery: Exploring the relationships between environment, society and economy." Edited by Dinka Marinović Jerolimov and Mladen Domazet, Institute for Social Research – Zagreb and Heinrich Böll Stiftung Hrvatska. 2014, [http://gef.eu/uploads/media/Sustainability\\_Perspectives\\_from\\_the\\_European\\_Semi-periphery.pdf](http://gef.eu/uploads/media/Sustainability_Perspectives_from_the_European_Semi-periphery.pdf).

transition in the specific context of the region, as well as the link between social inequality and sustainable development, and the socio-economic effects of this major change.

Through the role of people and groups, of trust and participation, of local communities and civil society, the task is to analyze the specific parameters of the transition to sustainable development in Southeast Europe, understood as achieving a sustainable balance between nature, culture and economy.

### **Draft structure**

1. Technological changes in the process of sustainable development and social structure - social inequalities, wide middle class or polarization of society?
2. Sustainable entrepreneurs and their place in the middle class
3. Sustainable development and social trust - the participation of civil society and new social movements
4. The impact of education and eco-technologies (e.g. circular economy technologies) on labor market change
5. Successful practices in the transition to sustainable development in transport, agriculture, energy and others.
6. Managing the transition to sustainable development - policies, socio-economic effects and dependencies
7. Everyday practices and sustainable development - dissemination, social impact and sustainability
8. Geography of the transition to sustainable development - regional specifics and innovative models
9. Public attitudes, preferences and perceptions of the transition towards sustainable development

For the successful preparation of the thematic issue 2/2020 of the Journal Sociological Problems "Transition to Sustainable Environmental Development in South East Europe: Successful Practices, Public Attitudes and Socio-Economic Effects", we invite you to send an abstract of your article (up to 250 words) by July 15, 2020.

By September 15, 2020, your full texts are expected to be submitted, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Journal.

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