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## **APPLICATION OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION**

**Yakymenko Tetiana**

Senior Lecturer

Department of Management, Finance and Business  
Technologies

Odessa Polytechnic National University

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4434-684X>

The strategy of sustainable development is one of the key and prioritized in all branches of industry and economy. Its principles and main provisions are aimed at achieving harmony between the growth of economic indicators, stability in the social sphere, and environmental protection. Preservation of natural resources, maintenance of their sustainability and transition to resource-saving, energy-efficient technologies is almost one of the key tasks on the agenda.

In recent years, in connection with the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the aggravation of the global security problem, trends in the political and economic development of many countries have changed. The active development of globalization processes is accompanied by a change in the geopolitical situation at the international level. The world economy is undergoing systemic changes at the level of polarization and regionalization of the modern world, with the formation of a new multipolar model and with new regional centres. The issue of developing new scientific approaches to the study of the theory and practice of sustainable development of the region is gaining special relevance. Domestic scientists A. Kolot, O. Stupnytskyi, O. Priyatelchuk, O. Parshina, M. Parshina, T. Chumak, and others are engaged in the study of the interdisciplinary approach. International researchers include T. Bjortzel, L. Kantori, E. Solingen, and others.

It should be noted that in recent years such scientific areas of regional studies as geographical, economic, and historical have declared themselves in Ukraine. A large number of representatives of domestic and foreign scientific schools pay considerable attention to the problem of forming a conceptual apparatus. Modern scientists, in particular I. Aleksandrov, O. Polovyan, O. Konovalov, O. Logachova, M. Tarasova, and others define the concept of «region» as basic not only for geography but also for all economic sciences related to with the spatial and territorial aspects of social reproduction. A significant number of authors (Z. Varnaliy, A. Mokii, O. Novikova, O. Romanyuk, S. Romanyuk, etc.) use the concept of «region» to study economic processes and phenomena at different levels of management, as well as at different levels of practical application.

Given the complex interaction between development and the environment, the main goal of an interdisciplinary approach is to find ways and means to achieve sustainability in all human activities aimed at such development. This, in turn, includes the interaction between society, development, and the environment and their implications for sustainable development; technical, economic, ethical, and philosophical aspects of sustainable development; development, verification, implementation, and monitoring of sustainable development policy; sustainable use of land, water, energy, and biological resources in development; the impact of agriculture and forestry on soil and water ecosystems and biodiversity, and much more.

In the real context, it is becoming more and more obvious that the economic activity of the

region is inevitably connected with the environment. This fact creates a need for a more complex relationship between economic growth and the environment. The need to achieve parity between the desire for economic development on the one hand and environmental protection on the other is urgent. Hence, the focus should be on promoting a green economy and green growth from political, social, and economic perspectives so that sustainable development, poverty reduction, and environmental impact can be achieved. There should be a clear understanding of the relationship between green economy and green growth; ways of engaging change agents for sustainable development must be found (i.e. the influence of the media, higher education, politics, and companies in engaging change agents for sustainable development); means must be found to strengthen the green economy (i.e. carbon taxes, international protocols, virtual water, virtual carbon, eco-industrial parks). An important component of such understanding is the mastery of modern research methodology and the fullest possible use of the potential of an interdisciplinary approach.

Today's societies are globally interconnected, and the effects of climate change can be felt globally. Therefore, the science supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must also be multidisciplinary and international. This is exactly the kind of scientific approach that humanity needs to achieve the SDGs, as the SDGs are linked to almost all disciplines. In other words, the concept of sustainable development plays a role in bringing together all the disciplines that contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Interdisciplinarity is the borrowing and flow of approaches and methods of different sciences (disciplines); it is the ability to see, recognize, and perceive what becomes available within the boundaries of a single science (discipline) using the methods and tools of other sciences (disciplines) [3]. Interdisciplinarity is the fact of involving two or more different subjects or fields of knowledge [4]. In the practice of scientific research, the interdisciplinarity of the economic direction means, on the one hand, the transfer of socio-economic, management methods and tools beyond the study of economics itself, and on the other hand, the interaction of economists with non-economists, borrowing their methodological and applied tools.

There are many factors that affect the sustainable development of the region:

- political and legal, the essence of which is the state regulation of socio-economic processes of regional development based on the development of a legal framework;
- educational, because education always acts as a generator of the main productive force of society in the regional system;
- environmental, which reflect the presence or preservation of natural resources of the region, the scale of its territory, and features of the geographical location, which characterize the conditions of ecological and economic interaction in the regional system;
- financial and economic, which ensure the operation of an effective system of financial and economic tools for regulating the process of economic development in the region;
- innovative and technological, because the presence of high-tech production in the region allows for effective modernization of production and the introduction of the latest resource-saving technologies;
- statistical, which provide accounting in indicators of regional economic development;
- informative, because increasing the level of awareness of society about the importance and necessity of the processes of economic growth and the implementation of the necessary measures facilitate the perception of changes by society;
- social, ensuring the strengthening of the role of the main social groups of the population in the transition of the economy to the path of sustainable development;
- structural, leading to changes in the sectoral structure of the region's economy;
- organizational and institutional, because the creation of appropriate institutions for the implementation of the strategy of sustainable and innovative development in the region is necessary for the activation of all factors contributing to its provision.

It is obvious that even the factors affecting the sustainable development of the region reflect different fields of knowledge. In turn, this means that when it comes to developing approaches, methods, and tools for a positive impact on sustainable development experts from different sectors must be involved. A productive exchange of best practices in every field of knowledge is possible only through interaction and mutual understanding.

Only with the conscious and large-scale use of interdisciplinary tools, real prerequisites are created for the mutual strengthening of economic and non-economic development factors, it is possible to interpret the means of solving old problems in a new way, to identify unused non-economic sources of economic development, on the one hand, and underutilized economic resources of non-economic development, on the other hand.

Factors of both internal and external origin, and among them are radical changes in the structure and hierarchy of the driving forces of economic development, the instability of socio-economic development, permanent crisis phenomena, the growth of asymmetries in the development of the economy and society, the need to provide social development with a sustainable dynamics - significantly actualize the development of economic science. Society needs new economic knowledge, innovative programs, projects, and solutions that have a deep scientific study. In recent years, interest in the knowledge, projects, and proposals offered by economic science has increased dramatically. It would seem that all this should convince both economists and specialists of other fields of the importance and perspective of an interdisciplinary approach to the theory and practice of sustainable development of the region. However, the scope and effectiveness of interdisciplinary practice remain far from desired. Practical measures for the development of interdisciplinarity in all its directions remain insufficient. There is no fruitful dialogue between representatives of related scientific schools regarding the borrowing of methodological tools. There is a lack of joint efforts in solving applied problems.

Interdisciplinarity implies a wider integration and awareness among scientists of theoretical and practical approaches in other sciences. For example, the majority of scientific economic studies, given their inherent object and subject, undoubtedly have a clearly defined interdisciplinary character. It means that the theoretical and applied study of this scientific field requires the involvement of the methodological apparatus and achievements of a whole complex of sciences – sociological, philosophical, economic, psychological, etc. The world is at a stage when hypotheses of innovative interdisciplinary knowledge must be put forward. And if there are a lot of them, the transition from quantity to quality to the stage of concretization and deepening of the created innovative knowledge will take place sooner.

Scientific research should inform how to effectively integrate knowledge into the decision-making context faced by governments, businessmen, and citizens. Interdisciplinarity requires a horizontal and vertical axis. Modern society presents a multidimensional challenge that encompasses not only a horizontal axis that extends through the physical, social, and human sciences but also a vertical axis where academic research is consciously integrated into the diverse contexts of modern life.

Therefore, precisely for the use of an interdisciplinary approach to the theory and practice of sustainable development of the region:

- an understanding of the nature, sources, and driving forces of ensuring sustainable economic and social dynamics emerges;
- it becomes possible to realize the modern role of man as a resource, bearer of values and the goal of social advancement;
- the whole palette of risks and mechanisms of transformation of challenges into resources of sustainable development is revealed.

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