

## *Editorial*

by *Antonio Garofalo*

At the dawn of the new millennium, United Nations Organization expressed a clear judgment on the unsustainability of the current development model on an environmental, economic and social level. In this way, the idea that sustainability is only an environmental issue was definitively overcome, affirming the need for an integrated vision of the different dimensions of development. Subsequently, Agenda 2030 once again denounces the unsustainability of the current development model and recalls even more decisively what was recognized in the Millennium Declaration: it is necessary to create a system of multilateral governance to build a path of sustainable development.

In fact, it is precisely the structure of the current incomplete multilateralism and the standardization of production and consumption models that has led the different territorial systems to implement growth policies based on competitive strategies incapable of maintaining a socially shared “dynamic balance between territorial capital and state of well-being”. In other words, at a global and territorial level, the conditions for implementing a development model capable of responding to the needs of Society through a holistic and, therefore, Sustainable approach have failed.

This “vision” of sustainable development encompasses three fundamental needs: the ability of society to know how to pursue the search for an optimal balance between “material living conditions and quality of life”; the ability to overcome every form of inequality; the ability to know how to invest in the future, in the interest of future generations. All this requires the adoption, by the various territorial systems, of a new development model that is capable of: allocating the four stocks of natural, human, economic and social capital in the most efficient way possible; of knowing how to distribute the wealth produced fairly; of accumulating part of the wealth produced and allocating it to investments in favor of innovation.

*Rivista di Studi sulla Sostenibilità - Open access (ISSNe 2239-7221), 2025, 1*

Doi: 10.3280/riss2025oa20406

Copyright © FrancoAngeli

This work is released under Creative Commons Attribution - Non-Commercial – No Derivatives License. For terms and conditions of usage please see: <http://creativecommons.org>

It is therefore evident the profound change that is affecting the competitive paradigms and the contextual recognition of the *knowledge factor* as the epicenter of the creation of value of companies and territories from which research and innovation, training, information and decision support emanate. All this is pushing stakeholders to review, in the range of available tools, those factors that can be recognized as real elements of advantage on which to build sustainable competitive development strategies.

Knowledge represents the main driver for the creation of value in a territorial system because it is able to start a dynamic cycle based precisely on the constitutive elements of an advantage stated above. It, therefore, becomes a fundamental strategic factor for the acquisition of benefits, but above all for their sustainability over time. From this perspective, therefore, it is necessary to recognize the important role that knowledge plays in the creation of value in modern economies, not only because it is the primary element from which the strategic components on which to act derive, but above all as a critical variable on which to focus sustainable development processes.

In this context, the centrality of a System approach to Knowledge emerges where Research, Socialized Innovation, Education and decision support capacity must constitute that Unicum capable of acting as a catalyst for a new Development model, whose fundamental objective is to maintain a dynamic balance between territorial capital and a socially shared state of well-being over time. These elements (Research, Socialized Innovation, Education and decision support capacity) are generated by knowledge: in fact, each of them contains within itself a seed of knowledge, or rather, an element that allows not only its reproduction and regeneration, but also its diffusion and transfer, in a virtuous cycle that is configured as a true “dynamic system of knowledge”.

Knowledge, in fact, enables research; generates innovation; provides training systems with the basic elements for the development of skills and know-how. Finally, in order for knowledge to activate a *dynamic cycle* that sees it as a driving force for research, socialized innovation and training, it is necessary to insert a further piece, that of decision support at the social, political-institutional and economic-entrepreneurial levels.

Starting from these considerations, this issue of Review of studies on sustainability hosts papers that address to activate and sustain the dynamic cycle of Knowledge aimed at building a path of Sustainable Development.

With respect to the Research element, the paper *Immigration-Migration and Ecological Human Imprint Philosophy and Life Perspective*, by the authors Safwat H. Shakir Hanna, Gian Paolo Cesaretti, Immacolata Viola, examines the ecological human imprint of migration and immigration,

emphasizing the impacts of human population growth on global sustainability. The study emphasizes the urgency of balancing human population dynamics with environmental capacity to ensure long-term global stability.

Alessandra Cecilia Jacomuzzi, Christine Mauracher, Eleonora Brotto in *Neuromarketing and Sustainability: Understanding Implicit Bias to Promote Sustainable Eating Habits*, propose with the Implicit Association Test (IAT), as a fundamental tool in accessing the unconscious dimensions of perception, providing valuable insights for marketing strategies aimed at promoting sustainable food choices.

*Sustainable Development Strategies in Organizational Management*, by Sofiia Kafka, Hennadii Mazur, Oleg Kharit, Olena Bulhakova, Maryna Martynenko, examines the impact of implementing sustainability strategies on organizational performance in companies across countries. The paper uses econometric modeling, regression analysis and case study analysis to examine how regulatory frameworks, technological infrastructure, market environment, and social environment culture influence the relationship between sustainability strategies and performance indicators. The findings can be applied across a range of industries, including the improvement of strategic planning and sustainability policymaking.

The authors Vali Isa Valiyev, Volodymyr Shevchuk, Lyudmila Shtefan, Halyna Riabenko, Olena Zhuravel, in the paper *Financial Instruments that Ensure Food Market Sustainability* investigated financial instruments ensuring the food market sustainability in the face of economic and environmental challenges. The research employed the following methods: SWOT analysis, econometric, correlation, and regression analysis. A promising direction for further research is to study in more detail the effectiveness of the use of mixed financial instruments for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

Environmental management of territorial communities is important for preserving natural resources and mitigating environmental risks, which contributes to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). The aim of the paper, *The Impact of environmental management on the sustainable development of territorial communities*, by Mykhailo Pyrtko, Valentyna Abalmasova, Mary Ene Atalawei, Oleksandr Govorun, Liliia Muntian, is to assess the effectiveness and impact of environmental protection expenditure (EPE) as an important tool of environmental management on the sustainable development of territorial communities. The study employs regression analysis, correlation analysis, and comparison methods.

In *Analysis of the institution of parole in the context of criminal law theory and practice*, the author Sandugash Nuridin studies the theoretical and

practical problems associated with its application, including issues of legal guarantees and the effectiveness of the institute as a whole. The article uses a comprehensive approach that includes an analysis of current legislation, judicial practice, as well as a sociological study of the opinions of practicing lawyers and representatives of the penitentiary system.

Vilayat Ismayilov, Nizami Gafarov, Elshan Ibrahimov, with the paper *Shadow economy dynamics: A comprehensive assessment of tax compliance strategies*, conducted an in-depth analysis of strategies to improve tax compliance in a dynamic shadow economy. The study addressed the problem of the shadow economy, which poses a serious threat to the economies of both developed and developing countries.

*The role of socially responsible marketing in increasing the competitiveness of transnational corporations in an unstable market environment*, by Tetiana Kniazieva, Lyudmila Orochovska, Oleksii Zhamoida, Anna Maryna, Oleksandr Chernyshov, analyzes the fundamentals of socially conscious marketing, which are essential to maintaining multinational companies' competitiveness. A series of recommendations for enhancing the efficacy of socially conscious marketing strategies in boosting multinational firms' competitiveness in an unpredictable market environment is the study's practical outcome.

Scientific article, *Regulatory and legal support of the positive reputation of state bodies: on the example of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan*, by Saltanat Ayubayeva, Larissa Kussainova, Alua Ibrayeva, Gulim Ukibayeva, Khalel Kussainov, Talgat Akimzhanov identifies differences from similar concepts of reputation, to reveal the capabilities of state bodies with the right approach to the formation of their reputation. The research is based on the analysis of institutional and theoretical understandings of the reputation of state organizations, as well as on conducting an expert survey among employees of the Central Office of the Agency for Civil Service Affairs of the RK.

With respect to “Innovation” element, authors Vera Sibilio, Gian Paolo Cesaretti, Sawfat H. Shakir Hanna, Irene Paola Borrelli, Kateryna Kononova, Immacolata Viola in the paper *Territories between global competition and Sustainability: Getting out of the Race to the Bottom Trap*, emphasize the importance to implement a change in the economic paradigm, moving from a linear economic system to a circular one, aimed at producing goods and services inspired to three principles: social utility, efficiency and social ethics.

Again, with respect to the “Innovation” element, the papers *Government e-procurement as a type of modern information technology; Digitalisation in Central Asia and material/financial assistance of South Korea* they have

highlighted the benefits deriving from the introduction of electronic processes into the public procurement system and from the requisite state financial development strategy revision. In particular, in *Government e-procurement as a type of modern information technology*, the authors Hiflobina Dermaku, Minerva Dermaku examined the processes of building a system of public electronic procurement as one of the key varieties of modern information technologies. In the course of the study, a combination of theoretical methods of analysis, synthesis, and generalization of information was used. While in *Digitalisation in Central Asia and material/financial assistance of South Korea*, authors Bongchul Kim, Mehmet Fatih Oztarsu, Ho Kim conducted a critically examination Kazakhstan's tax system deficiencies to identify enhancement trajectories, utilizing Polish and Croatian comparative frameworks. Methodologically, the investigation employed statistical analysis, analogical reasoning, generalization techniques, and formal legal-logical approaches. The authors posit that institutional tax structure formation correlates intrinsically with tax policy orientation and implementation.

The third constitutive element of the dynamic cycle of knowledge, Training, involved the papers *Indicators for assessing sustainable development goals in education and their monitoring in Kazakhstan* and *Towards a Sustainable Penitentiary System: Education, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice in the 2030 Agenda*. In the first article, the authors Bespalyy Sergey, Petrenko Alexandr, Mussina Alma, Kolesnikov Yuriy, Bespalaya Yelena analyzed the leading national models of education, which are the most “mature” and developed, with an emphasis on sustainable development. The authors pay special attention to the education system of Kazakhstan, its features in comparison with these models, as well as consideration of initiatives aimed at achieving sustainable development goals in education, which are integrated into national projects and other strategic and program documents of Kazakhstan.

Francesca Latino, Rosabel Martinez-Roig, Francesco Tafuri highlighted the penitentiary system as the key element of Criminal Justice. This system is not free from numerous critical issues related to overcrowding, structural deficiencies and the difficulty of implementing effective re-education programs. The authors draw attention to the role of detention not only as a punitive measure, but as an opportunity for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners. Through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with Goals 4, 10 and 16, the importance of a fair and sustainable approach to the Prison System is highlighted. Innovative strategies, including education, vocational training, and psychological support, are explored to reduce recidivism and promote restorative justice.

Finally, in support of the constituent element "Decision Support", the paper *The use of consulting to increase the sustainability of the higher education institutions in times of crisis*, by Vira Drahunova, Alla Mykhatska, Olena Burluka, Norik Gevorkian, Anatoliy Babichev, identified the main factors that affect the sustainability of HEIs in times of crisis, as well as to analyze the impact of consulting services on ensuring this resilience. The study employed methods of consulting activity analysis, a crisis sustainability survey, and the Workplace Wellbeing Questionnaire. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient and structural equation modeling were used for statistical analysis. The reliability of the research methods was tested using Cronbach's alpha.

I believe that this issue of our Review also constitutes an important contribution to supporting the dynamic cycle of Knowledge in order to contribute to the global strategy of transition towards Sustainability.

To all the authors goes my deepest gratitude.