

# *Sustainability, Innovation, and Human Development: New Interdisciplinary Paths*

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In the current global scenario, sustainability emerges as one of the key interpretative dimensions through which to analyze the economic, social, environmental, and cultural changes characterizing the 21st century. The intensification of climate crises, rising social inequalities, geopolitical instability, and profound technological transformations require a critical reassessment of traditional development models, primarily based on linear economic growth and the intensive use of natural resources. In this context, the need to develop alternative paradigms within an interdisciplinary perspective emerges.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, represents the main global strategic framework. Through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it proposes a development model geared towards balancing the economic dimension, social justice/cohesion, and environmental protection, promoting a systemic approach to current global challenges. Sustainability is no longer interpreted solely in an environmental context, but as a cross-cutting principle involving governance, technological innovation, education, health, human rights, and social inclusion.

In this scenario, innovation plays a crucial role. It is not limited to the technical-scientific dimension, but encompasses organizational, cultural, and social processes capable of generating shared value and improving collective well-being. Sustainable innovation, in fact, encompasses processes, products, and organizational models aimed at generating positive environmental and social impacts. At the same time, social innovation, defined as innovative practices aimed at solving collective problems through community engagement and cooperation between public and private actors, is gaining increasing importance. Digital innovation, accelerated by the spread of artificial intelligence, big data, and information technologies, is also a central element of contemporary transformations. However, it also

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presents significant ethical and social challenges, such as the risk of digital exclusion, the concentration of information power, and issues related to privacy and algorithmic governance.

For these reasons, innovation cannot be considered neutral, but must be guided by ethical and sustainable principles. Scientific and technological research is therefore called upon to address issues of social responsibility, distributive justice, and environmental impact.

The papers in this issue of the Review of Studies on Sustainability demonstrate this conceptual evolution, offering different yet converging perspectives toward a common goal: building more equitable, resilient development models oriented toward collective well-being.

The contributions present a constant dialogue between sustainability and innovation. In the economic and political spheres, the role of public policies, energy efficiency, and carbon pricing instruments in promoting growth models compatible with the European sustainable development goals emerges. At the same time, the focus on governance and institutional effectiveness highlights how the quality of public decisions is essential for addressing ecological and social transitions.

Technology, and artificial intelligence in particular, occupies a central place in the proposed reflections. From beekeeping to the management of healthcare organizations, AI is interpreted not only as a tool for operational efficiency, but as a strategic lever for generating sustainability, supporting more informed decision-making processes, and improving the ability to adapt to climate and organizational changes. However, the studies also emphasize the need for responsible governance of innovation, based on transparency, accountability, and the valorization of human capital.

Another thematic focus concerns the relationship between sport, education, and social inclusion. Outdoor sports activities, sustainable development programs in youth tennis, and health promotion practices through sport demonstrate how movement and physical activity can become tools for education, relationships, and physical and mental well-being. In these experiences, sustainability takes on the meaning of harmonious personal growth, inclusion, and the valorization of differences.

Finally, the social dimension of sustainability takes on particular importance, explored through new metrics for evaluating human capital and corporate welfare. The introduction of innovative indicators related to parenting and personal well-being demonstrates the growing focus on organizational models capable of combining economic performance and social responsibility.

Taken together, these works paint a picture of dynamic and multidimensional sustainability, requiring integrated approaches, transversal

skills, and ongoing collaboration between research, institutions, and civil society. The variety of topics addressed, therefore, does not represent fragmentation, but rather confirmation that contemporary challenges can only be understood and addressed through an interdisciplinary perspective.

This issue therefore aims to be a space for scientific and cultural exchange, in which different perspectives contribute to outlining new trajectories of sustainable development, placing people, responsible innovation, and the future of communities at the center.