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ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL POLICY AS A CHALLENGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. THE PERSPECTIVE OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONSEQUENCES IN POLAND

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ABSTRACT: The central objective of the article is to determine the basic links between social and environmental policies in the context of sustainable development and to evaluate the challenges of environmental issues for particular social policy sectors. The primary research method applied in the following article was a systematic review of the available literature on the subject, thematic reports, statistical data and legal acts. The main areas of concern analysed are the identification of the most significant challenges facing social policy in the 21st century in the context of environmental protection and of the most significant effects of climate change and other environmental threats on sectoral social policies (population and family policy, education policy, labour market policy, social security policy, health care and housing policy), along with the directions of necessary changes. Currently, environmental issues are still greatly neglected in social policy debates. The article presented here is a comprehensive attempt to assess the environmental and climate challenges for social policy. Moreover, it points out the necessary directions for change.

KEYWORDS: sustainable development, social policy, climate change, environmental risks

Introduction

Traditionally understood, social policy has developed as a research discipline and academic field that addresses the social risks arising from the rapid pace of economic development and the risks associated with these processes. Present-day welfare states have been built on the premise of economic growth, high levels of employment, and material well-being. Contemporary challenges of climate change and the environmental crisis call for a revision of social policy approaches. Environmental protection is becoming increasingly integrated with social issues, and traditional welfare state models need to adapt to the new reality. While the social policies of the 20th century were designed to meet the challenges of industrialisation, urbanisation and globalisation, the social policies of the 21st century must counteract the inequalities and conflicts arising from climate and other environmental policies. It is vital that 21st-century social policy not only responds to the effects of the climate crisis but also acts preventively and promotes sustainability.

The focus of this paper is to identify the basic links between social and environmental policies in the context of sustainable development and to assess the challenges of environmental problems for the different social policy sectors.

Research methods

The primary research method applied in the following article was a systematic review of the available literature on the subject, thematic reports, statistical data and legal acts relating to the research problem and to the research objective formulated in the introduction. Subsequent steps included organising and analysing the available material and generating cause-and-effect inferences based on the information obtained. Hence, the article does not include a separate subsection containing only a literature review.

Ecologically sustainable social policy aims to improve the long-term well-being of society by striving for a balance between meeting social needs, economic competitiveness and environmental protection. Hence, certain core issues need to be addressed. Moreover, such notions must be resolved in the European and national dimensions and in the context of sustainable development. These are:

1. Identification of the most significant challenges facing social policy in the 21st century in the context of environmental protection,
2. Determination of the salient implications of climate change and other environmental threats for sectoral social policies (population and family policy, education policy, labour market policy, social security policy, health care policy, housing policy), together with the directions of necessary changes.

Social policy in the concept of sustainable development and new environmental challenges for social policy

Sustainable development as a socio-economic strategy was introduced primarily with the aim of creating suitable conditions for humans to function over the long term (multi-generation) in a healthy and friendly natural environment. Social issues have always been part of the concept of sustainable development. For example, the formula of “sustainable development”, according to the United Nations (1987), includes the following elements:

- ecological sustainability,
- economic development,
- social justice between and within each generation.

Considered collectively, these elements imply sustainable and equitable development. According to this report, sustainability of growth means that present needs are not satisfied at the expense of reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The sustainability and self-sustainability of growth, therefore, imply not only short-term but also intergenerational equity. This report treats the environment and development inseparably, based on the assumption that the spiral of poverty, social inequality, and environmental degradation means a loss of development opportunities

and resources. At the time, it was recognised that in order to implement the concept of sustainable development, it was necessary to define environmental and economic policies. These include the need to revive economic growth, meet humanity’s basic needs in terms of work, food, energy and hygiene, stabilise the population, preserve natural resources, change management models and the profile of technology to be environmentally friendly. Apart from the preservation of natural resources, the necessity to meet people’s basic needs and eradicate poverty, as well as the multi-generational promotion of development, are given significant importance (Lorek, 2017).

An interesting overview of approaches to defining sustainable development is demonstrated by Hopwood et al. (2005). This presents a modified map of approaches to sustainable development (Figure 1).

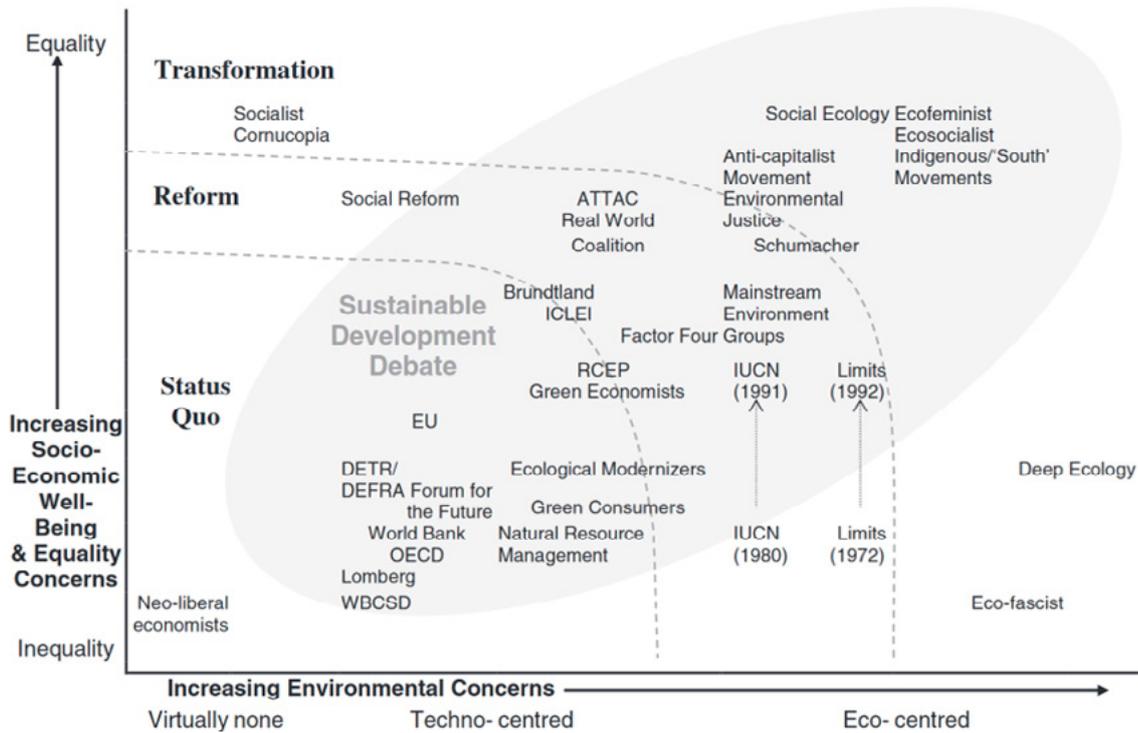


Figure 1. Map of approaches to sustainable development

Source: authors’ work based on Hopwood et al. (2005).

The vertical socio-economic axis reveals the level of importance attached to human well-being and equality, while the horizontal environmental axis indicates environmental priorities. These range from low levels of concern for the environment to technocratic approaches to ecocentrism. The central shaded area of the map indicates the range of views within the sustainability debate linking socio-economic and environmental issues. The emphasis placed on the interactions between the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development makes the authors’ notion of sustainable development unique and different from previous conceptions of development.

Nowadays, sustainable development policy is part of overall state policy, integrating and harmonising three policies, i.e. social, economic and environmental, which are linked by a strong relationship. This policy stimulates the introduction of changes of a civilisational nature at every level of governance. At the same time, the policy of sustainable development is formed by three basic sub-policies: social, ecological and economic (Lorek, 2006). In the first, it can be seen that, on the one hand, this issue is present in the discussion on sustainable development, both in the political dimension (Sohn, 1973; United Nations, 1987; United Nations, 1992; United Nations, 2002; United Nations, 2015), as well as scientific (Berkes & Folke, 1994; Munasinghe, 1993; Atkinson et al., 1997; Hediger, 2000; Torjman, 2000; Blewitt, 2008; Fleetwood, 2020; Ruggiero, 2021). It is often, however, considered to be the least explored, both in terms of theory and application (Lehtonen, 2004). Despite these obvious links, so far, there have been weak relations between social and environmental policy.

Although the social dimension of sustainable development is widely accepted, there is a lack of studies explaining exactly what it means and what elements and activities it covers. In addition, with regard to academic studies, it can be argued that until recently, there has been a lack of research on interconnectedness. Indeed, scholars have tended to conduct research in the two areas without much cross-fertilisation (Dempsey et al., 2011; Murphy, 2012; Vifell & Soneryd, 2012; Kamali et al., 2018). It is further relevant to note that environmental issues are largely overlooked in social policy debates. Most social policy scholars do not consider the direct and indirect challenges of climate change as “social” risks – and consequently continue to ignore these.

Currently, among the most important challenges facing social policy, the authors of this study include:

1. The existence of a global environmental crisis (particularly climate change and the decline of ecosystem services).
2. The changes taking place in public policies (population and family policy, education policy, labour market policy, social security policy, health care policy, housing policy), as well as the introduction of new comprehensive eco-economic policies, e.g. the “Green Deal” policy of the European Union.
3. There is a need to establish a closer relationship between social and environmental policy (relationship both in terms of practical activities and the delineation of new directions for interdisciplinary research).

The climate crisis is a new structural state for all societies. There is no scientific doubt that it also poses significant challenges for welfare state organisations and social policy. While the social policies of the 20th century were designed to meet the challenges of industrialisation, urbanisation and globalisation, the social policies of the 21st century must counteract the inequalities and conflicts arising from climate and other environmental policies. So far, social policy has been deeply rooted and dependent on a society characterised by high productivity, excessive consumption and rapid economic growth, as well as national planning and short-term time scales. These are goals that most variants of “green thinking” oppose. Future social policies need to create a synergy between social and environmental objectives and help build public support for new sets of eco-social policies (Boström, 2012; Hirvilammi et al., 2023). An example is the need for social policies (educational activities, mitigation of social impacts of implementation) for the newly introduced ETS 2 – ETS 2 (set up in 2023 as a novel, separate scheme covering fuel usage in buildings, road transport and ancillary sectors). Low-income households are already spending a higher proportion of their income on energy-intensive needs, such as heating and cooling, and will thus be most affected by the overall increase in energy prices. Such social risks put pressure on existing social protection systems, which need to take into account old and new social risks while finding new ways to capture the ecosocial risks and potentially regressive side effects of decarbonisation strategies. Rethinking and reorganising in favour of green social policies and social protection – i.e. social sustainability – is both a key task and a very big challenge.

Selected sectoral social policies in the light of climate change and environmental risks

Rajkiewicz, an eminent Polish economist and social politician, defined social policy as a national-level sphere of action that is concerned with shaping the living conditions of its population, as well as the interpersonal relations, especially in the living and working environment (Rajkiewicz, 1998). Kurzynowski, in turn, highlights that social policy is a public policy aimed at shaping the general conditions of work and life within a nation’s population, as well as the pro-development social structures and social relations that should be built upon equality and justice, and be conducive to the satisfaction of social needs at an acceptable level (Kurzynowski, 2003).

The key sub-disciplines (sectoral policies) of social policy defined in this manner are population and family, education, labour market, social security, health care, housing and, more recently, senior citizenship, which has a horizontal character, i.e. combining various elements of the above-mentioned sectoral policies relevant to meeting the needs of the elderly (Reisman, 2001; Koczur, 2012; Spicker,

2014; Firlit-Fesnak & Męcina, 2018; Golinowska, 2018; Grewiński, 2021). At the same time, it should be noted that climate change poses a particularly large challenge for all the aforementioned.

It has been demonstrated in both national and international literature that contemporary climate change is having a negative impact on human health, inter alia, in the form of an increase in the incidence of cardiovascular diseases (strokes, dehydration resulting from heat waves, heart attacks associated with both heat and violent weather events), allergies, skin cancer, vector-borne diseases (infectious diseases carried by disease transmitters such as flies, mosquitoes, ticks or rodents), as well as food- and water-borne diseases (Michalak, 2019; WHO, 2018; Watts et al., 2015). Population groups particularly vulnerable to the indicated risks are the elderly (over 65 years of age), children (for whom the body is just learning thermoregulation), people with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, the homeless, and people working outdoors (especially in industries such as construction, transport, agriculture, forestry, certain types of services) and in heated, non-air-conditioned spaces. The literature on the impact of climate change on population health estimates that, globally, the direct economic costs of climate change associated with the deterioration of population health could range from USD 2 to USD 4 billion per year (WHO, 2018; Muras, 2019).

In the context of ongoing climate change and the risks it poses to the health of the population, the main challenges for health policy are recognised as:

- identifying and monitoring the increasing health risks associated with the effects of climate change,
- preparing the health care system for an increased number of illnesses, including those requiring hospitalisation due to diseases resulting from extreme weather changes, droughts, floods, and the spread of vector-borne diseases,
- enhancing prevention among groups most vulnerable to the effects of global warming,
- training future medical professionals in environmental medicine and the effects of climate change, including mental health.

The implementation of the above-mentioned actions will require not only greater financial outlays on the health care system (already underfunded in Poland – see e.g. Kapera, 2023; GUS, 2023), but also the development of the necessary health care infrastructure, as well as addressing the shortage of medical staff in some countries (including Poland). In Poland, there is already a significant shortage of personnel in all medical professions (Figure 3). At the same time, it is clearly evident (see Figure 2) that healthcare expenditures are among the lowest in OECD countries. At the same time, it should be emphasised that the implementation of the above-mentioned tasks requires the involvement of not only the critical and general health care system (which primarily includes remedial medicine) but also the public health system, which comprises disease prevention, health promotion and epidemiology (Sygit, 2018). Both in one and other areas of activities in the field of health care, local government units play a vital role, affecting not only the state of health care infrastructure and employment in its facilities but also public health activities (see e.g. Karaczun & Michalak, 2019).

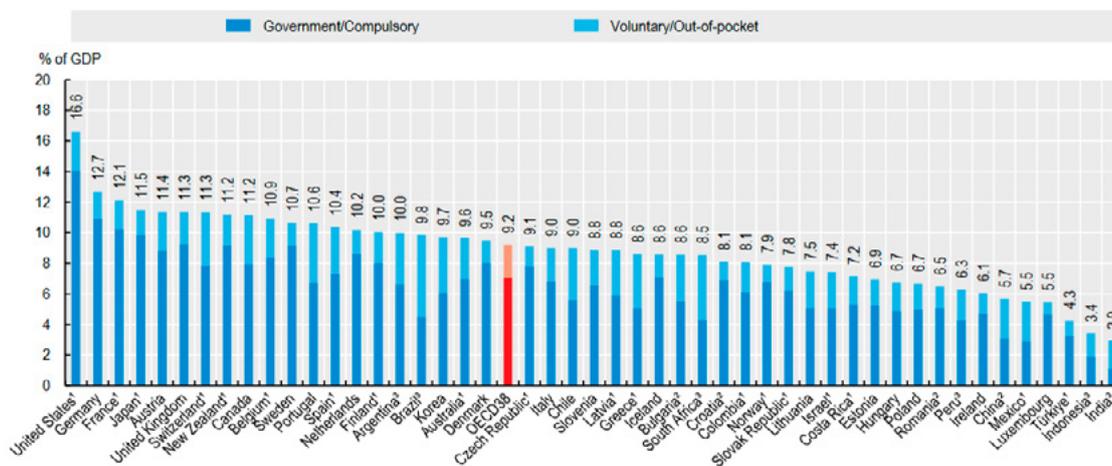


Figure 2. Health expenditure as a share of GDP, 2022 (or the nearest year)

Source: authors' work based on OECD (2023).

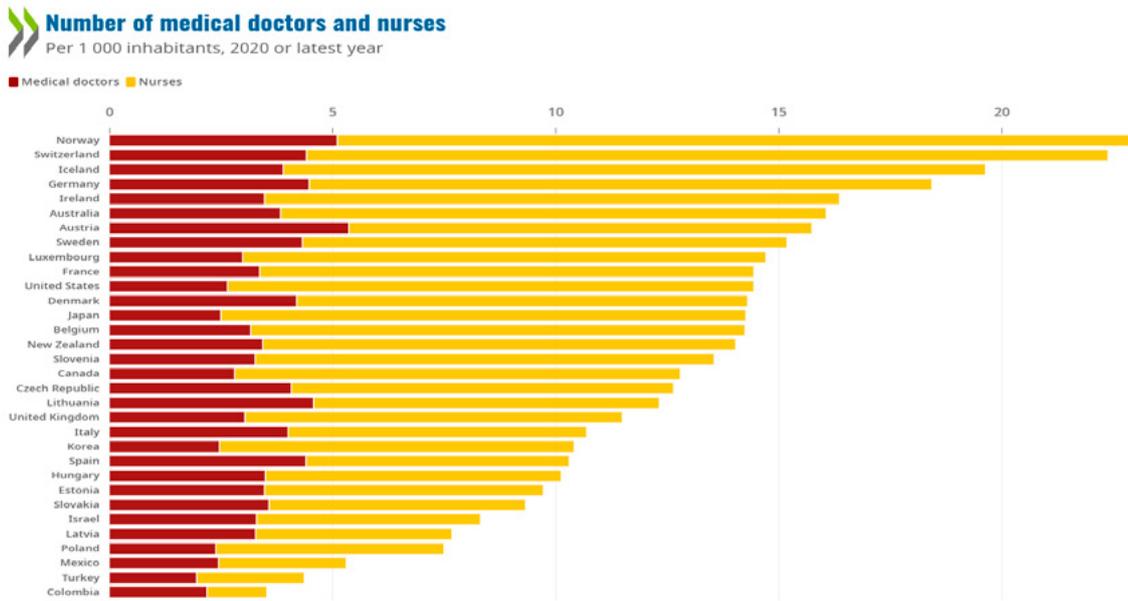


Figure 3. Number of medical doctors and nurses (per 1 000 inhabitants, 2020 or latest year)

Source: authors' work based on OECD (2021).

Ongoing climate change also translates into significant challenges for social security systems involving various types of benefits in cash, in kind and in the form of social insurance, social provision and social assistance services. Citizens are entitled to such aid due to the occurrence of a type of social risk defined in social legislation, including inability to work due to a health condition (both short-term and long-term), disability, inability to live independently, or due to the occurrence of a natural or environmental disaster (Koczur, 2010; Koczur, 2016; Uścińska, 2021). The above-mentioned negative impact of climate change on the health of the population, including above all those working and subject to social insurance on this account, is already resulting in an increase in expenditure on benefits from sickness insurance, insurance for accidents at work and occupational diseases and social disability insurance.

As has been argued in the related literature, the main challenges for social security systems associated with ongoing climate change are illness and premature death due to overexposure to heat (both in the residential and working environment), as well as occupational and other injuries related to thermal stress. This form of stress can result in fatigue and decreased concentration at work, which may lead to an increase in occupational accidents. This, in turn, implies the need for further, more dynamic development of therapeutic and occupational rehabilitation than before. In the case of Poland, while therapeutic rehabilitation solutions (implemented both by the Social Insurance Institution and by the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund within the framework of the so-called "pre-pension prevention") can be assessed generally positively, the vocational rehabilitation model functioning in our country is deemed to be underdeveloped, with low effectiveness of measures (Czuderna et al., 2019). A separate challenge for the social security system, this time for the public social assistance included in it, is connected with climate change and involves the potential increase in expenditure on benefits under this system due to the risk of a natural or ecological disaster, as specified in the case of Polish social law in Art. 7 point 15 of the Act of 12 March 2004 on social assistance (Sierpowska, 2023; Uścińska, 2021).

Climate change also results in significant challenges for national labour market policies. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the increasing frequency and intensity of climate change and environmental hazards caused or exacerbated by human activities have already led to a decline in labour productivity. Between 2000 and 2015, 23 million jobs were lost globally each year as a result of these hazards (European Trade Union Conference, 2020). Documents from the aforementioned international organisation also stress that, by 2030, the projected rise in temperatures will contribute to the prevalence of thermo stress and a 1.9% reduction in total working hours in G20

countries. Sectors particularly at risk are agriculture, forestry, fisheries, construction, transport, and public utilities (European Trade Union Confederation, 2020). In contrast, European Commission documents indicate that the implementation of appropriate adjustment measures may even result in a significant increase in employment. With regard to the Member States of the European Union, it is estimated that by 2050, as a result of the intensification of adaptation measures, at least 500,000 new jobs may be created directly or indirectly (WHO, 2018), primarily in the business services sector, the public services sector and the construction industry.

In the implementation of labour market adjustment policies, the creation of so-called “green jobs” and the acquisition of so-called “green competencies” by workers play key roles. The former, the International Labour Organisation defines as jobs related to direct employment and the reduction of the negative impact of economic activities undertaken on the state and quality of the environment, both directly and indirectly (ILO, 2019; Kozar, 2015). In turn, the concept of green competences includes the following dimensions:

- green knowledge (total knowledge of the natural environment),
- green skills (skills of both a professional and general nature, necessary for all professions affected by the green transition),
- green awareness (concerning the impact of human activity on the environment),
- green attitudes (understood as the perception by individuals of the value of environmental protection in their routine professional and non-professional activities),
- green capabilities (important for self-development of employees and increasing their productivity in the green economy),
- green behaviours that support environmental sustainability (ILO, 2019; Cabral & Dhar, 2019; JRC, 2022).

At the same time, it should be highlighted that green competencies are horizontal in nature, i.e., they are concerned not only with green occupations but also with industrial and professional activities that are not directly related to green transition. According to current research, such competences are deficient in the Polish labour market. This constitutes a serious challenge for the system of life-long learning and, most notably, for particular industrial entities employing people. This situation has come about due to the need to organise and finance the acquisition of the competencies discussed by employees, including through courses, training, etc.

A major challenge for employers, apart from the aforementioned reduction in labour productivity and increased risk of accidents at work due to thermal stress, is also the increase in expenditure on improving working conditions due to climate change (including, inter alia, the cost of installing air conditioning systems, the cost of providing employees with cooling drinks and personal protective equipment) and the increase in the cost of financing incapacity benefits due to climate change. In Poland, this means sick pay, which is regulated in Art. 92 of the Act of 26 June 1974 of the Labour Code (Act, 1974). A separate issue remains the ability of Polish employers to cope with the increase in the expectations of job recruits (mainly young people) in recent years regarding the pro-environmental attitudes of hiring entities (Skwarska, 2021).

Housing policy is a sectoral social policy that is significantly challenged by climate change. This is both in terms of meeting housing needs and in shaping housing conditions. Residential buildings and their accompanying infrastructure can be vulnerable to climate change due to their load-bearing structure (e.g. low resistance to storms and hurricanes) or location (areas at risk of floods, landslides, avalanches). There is also the growing issue of buildings being overheated due to rising temperatures and episodes of extreme heat, and this has a significant impact on the living comfort and health of the occupants. So-called “heat islands” – a climatic phenomenon involving higher temperatures in cities relative to the surrounding peripheral areas – have become a challenge in Poland. Of note, the urban heat island is all the greater, the greater the density of a city and the less biologically active areas, i.e. greenery and water, within it. Indeed, the temperature difference between the city centre and its periphery can reach up to 10 degrees Celsius (IOŚ-PIB, 2019).

The green building movement, which also includes green infrastructure, is seen as a remedy for the state of affairs indicated above. Here, the importance of high-energy buildings (i.e. energy-efficient buildings, which generate 70% of the energy demand; low-energy buildings with 45% of energy demand; passive buildings with 30% of energy demand; and zero-energy buildings, which are self-sufficient in energy) is particularly emphasised. The investments already made in this area show

that residing in low-energy and zero-energy buildings improves health and well-being and that such buildings are cheaper to maintain thanks to the use of renewable energy sources. Moreover, they have lowered greenhouse gas emissions and thus slow climate change. Furthermore, they ensure the responsible use of resources through extended building resource circulation, thus reducing mismanagement of raw materials. Finally, such structures create a sustainable urban fabric, protect biodiversity and also support the economy through the creation of new jobs (IOŚ-PIB, 2019).

Another relevant action is the introduction of greenery into the urban centre in the form of urban forestation, e.g. vertical forests. Such action is an effective tool for mitigating the climate crisis. Examples of this that have already been implemented include the Bosco verticale in the Porta Nuova district of Milan and the International Congress Centre in Katowice.

In emphasising the importance of green infrastructure, it is worth stating that ecosystems provide many essential services for urban areas. Trees, parks, green roofs, gardens and urban forests help improve air quality, reduce noise, attenuate extreme summer temperatures and reduce flood risks. They also provide intangible benefits such as recreation, education, cultural and aesthetic values, and help maintain social relationships. Establishing and nurturing functioning urban ecosystems is therefore crucial in future urban policy and planning. Increasing urbanisation should be accompanied by enhanced attention to the proper design and impact of urban green infrastructure so that cities can become more sustainable and increasingly resilient. Integrating urban green infrastructure into urban planning requires vision, innovation, and awareness-raising among planners, stakeholders and citizens, as well as applying appropriate tools to monitor progress towards policy goals or to support the policy-making process.



Figure 4. Example of implementation of the vertical forest concept (bosco verticale)

Source: authors' work based on Bianchini (2023).

The ongoing climate change also poses very big challenges for education policy. There is no doubt that climate education should be an indispensable element of human professional and social competence. In Poland's case, measures should be taken to improve children, adolescents, and adults' level of knowledge about the causes and consequences of climate change. Thus it is necessary to modify the current core curriculum for each stage of education in order to include current climate education content. With regard to the social functions of climate education, in particular, it is necessary to point out the need to broaden climate knowledge, bring about the formation of green competencies (including the ability to apply climate knowledge in everyday private life) and motivate individuals to act for

the benefit of climate and environmental protection. This requires inducing a change in the behaviour of the population in the direction of reducing their carbon footprint or accepting appropriate protective actions at the local, national and international levels (Bokwa et al., 2022).

A postulate that is also vital and still relevant in our country is the need (raised in the scientific literature for a long time) to extend economic education in order to include climate education. Such action will allow shaping, notably, among economists, attitudes converging with the idea of sustainable development (Lorek et al., 2008; Lorek, 2013; Lorek et al., 2023).

Conclusions

Sustainable development, introduced as a socio-economic strategy, aims to create conditions for humans to thrive long-term in a healthy and environmentally friendly world. The concept, as outlined in the 1987 Brundtland Report, includes three main elements: ecological sustainability, economic development, and social justice between and within generations. Together, these elements promote sustainable and equitable growth, where the needs of the present do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The report stresses that environmental protection, poverty eradication, and meeting basic human needs (e.g., work, food, energy, hygiene) are crucial, as is transforming economic and technological practices to be environmentally responsible.

The approach to sustainable development has evolved into a policy that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions, aiming to drive civilisational changes at every governance level. This policy includes three sub-policies: social, ecological, and economic. However, while the social dimension is widely accepted, it is often insufficiently explored both in theory and application, and the social and environmental policies remain weakly connected.

Recent challenges for social policy include the global environmental crisis, especially climate change, and the need to harmonise social and environmental policies. Ecologically sustainable social policy is not only a concern for environmental protection but also for the health, safety and well-being of a country's citizens. It is, therefore, a key issue in the 21st century and requires a comprehensive approach, as well as cooperation at many levels, from local governments to international organisations.

The climate changes taking place today in Europe and globally represent a significant test for current social policy practices. Particular challenges associated with these changes (financial, infrastructural, human resources, and other natures) are already being observed in the sphere of sectoral policies such as those of health, labour market, and housing.

Climate change exacerbates a wide range of health issues, including cardiovascular diseases, allergies, skin cancer, and vector-borne diseases. Vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, people with pre-existing health conditions, and outdoor workers are most at risk. The direct economic costs of these health impacts are estimated to be between USD 2 to 4 billion annually. Health policy challenges include monitoring health risks, preparing healthcare systems for increased illnesses, and promoting prevention, especially for vulnerable groups.

Significant increases in expenditure will also be required for the efficient functioning of the social security system (in terms of insurance and social provision, as well as social assistance), which is burdened with the additional scope of protection associated with climate change. Climate change is increasing healthcare costs, particularly due to rising cases of heat-related illnesses and accidents caused by heat stress in workplaces. This leads to higher expenditures on sickness and disability benefits. The social security system faces growing demands for therapeutic and vocational rehabilitation, as well as increased costs related to natural disasters.

Climate change is reducing labour productivity, especially in sectors like agriculture, construction, and transportation. Between 2000 and 2015, climate-related hazards led to a loss of 23 million jobs globally per year. By 2030, the rise in temperatures could reduce working hours in G20 countries by 1.9%. However, adaptation measures could create new jobs, particularly in green sectors. The development of "green competencies" (knowledge, skills, and behaviours necessary for environmental sustainability) is crucial, yet there's a significant gap in these skills in the Polish labour market. Also, climate change impacts housing through increased vulnerability to extreme weather events, overheating of buildings, and the phenomenon of urban heat islands, where cities experience signifi-

cantly higher temperatures than surrounding areas. Green building practices, such as energy-efficient buildings and urban green infrastructure, are proposed as solutions to mitigate these effects. Green infrastructure (trees, parks, green roofs) not only helps reduce temperatures and improve air quality but also offers recreational and aesthetic benefits, supporting both health and well-being.

Alongside increased funding for the above-mentioned spheres of social policy and the application of new infrastructure solutions (including social infrastructure), as well as the introduction of new measures (including normative) in the labour market, climate change also determines the need for permanent climate education. This should be at all levels of formal education and include the development of informal education in this regard.

All in all, 21st-century social policies need to counteract inequalities and conflicts arising from climate and other environmental policies that are related to unequal spatial distribution and the degressive effect of new environmental burdens. Unlike past policies focused on industrialisation and economic growth, future social policies must align with environmental goals and support vulnerable populations affected by climate-related costs, such as increased energy prices. Future social policies must also create synergies between social and environmental objectives and must help build public support for new eco-social policy agendas.

The contribution of the authors

The article was written in collaboration by all authors.

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Wiesław KOCZUR • Agnieszka LOREK

EKOLOGICZNIE ZRÓWNOWAŻONA POLITYKA SPOŁECZNA JAKO WYZWANIE XXI WIEKU. PRESPEKTYWA KONSEKWENCJI ZMIAN KLIMATU W POLSCE

STRESZCZENIE: Głównym celem artykułu jest określenie podstawowych powiązań pomiędzy polityką społeczną a ekologiczną w kontekście zrównoważonego rozwoju oraz ocena wyzwań związanych z problemami środowiskowymi dla poszczególnych sektorów polityki społecznej. Główną metodą badawczą zastosowaną w poniższym artykule był systematyczny przegląd dostępnej literatury przedmiotu, raportów tematycznych, danych statystycznych oraz aktów prawnych. Podstawowe problemy poddane analizie dotyczą: określenia najistotniejszych wyzwań stojących przed polityką społeczną w XXI w. w kontekście ochrony środowiska oraz określenie najistotniejszych skutków zmian klimatycznych i innych zagrożeń środowiskowych dla sektorowych polityk społecznych (polityka ludnościowa i rodzinna, edukacyjna, rynku pracy, zabezpieczenia społecznego, ochrony zdrowia, mieszkaniowa) wraz z kierunkami koniecznych zmian. Aktualnie kwestie środowiskowe wciąż są w dużej mierze pomijane w debatach dotyczących polityki społecznej. Prezentowany artykuł stanowi całościową próbę oceny wyzwań środowiskowych i klimatycznych dla polityki społecznej i wskazuje niezbędne kierunki zmian.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: zrównoważony rozwój, polityka społeczna, zmiany klimatyczne, zagrożenia środowiskowe