

Organizations of the European Union – – The Main Actors in the Implementation of Environmental Sustainability Policy

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Summary: *Sustainable development is a multidimensional term becoming increasingly important in modern business conditions and one of the primary issues of scholarly debate. Sustainable development is built on three interwoven pillars: economic, social, and ecological. The economic pillar relates to the decrease of the negative consequences of economies of scale, as well as its reduced environmental imprint. The social dimension of sustainability is based on social justice and the quality of human life. The ecological dimension, which is the most significant, refers to the maximum protection of the natural environment to reduce climate change and maintain the planet. There are several actors on the scene of sustainable development, which are organizations that try to promote sustainability and set goals for the global well-being of human civilization. The study focuses on the presentation of organizations and institutions that play a part in developing environmental protection policies, given that the primary goal of the concept of sustainability is to conserve natural resources. The article will demonstrate the operation of the European Parliament, one of the EU's most important institutions, through a comparative examination. Furthermore, the role of specific institutions that implement environmental protection regulations will be underlined.*

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INTRODUCTION

Modern living conditions, population growth, increased use of limited resources, and numerous environmental problems have confronted Planet Earth with the issue of sustainable development and the need for humanity to act on a global scale in the direction of preserving the planet, making life possible for future generations as well (30). The emerging economy prioritizes environmentally friendly components, rules, and norms used in the economy field: developing production as an integrated system of finance, reviewing environmentally friendly costs, using ecological values and valuing environmentally friendly requirements, creating ecological management, and setting up a “environmentally friendly” economy (17).

The concept of sustainable development is not new and has its roots in the period of classical economic thought in the works of Smith and Sismondi (10). In addition to being an economist, Adam Smith was a professor of logic and moral philosophy who published the book *Theory of Moral Sentiments* in 1759. Simonde de Sismondi is known for his conception of economic romanticism. Sismondi believes that the state should protect individual small producers from “fatal competition” and prevent further technological progress. Sismondi’s greatest contribution was the recognition and characterization of social classes that are in conflict: rich and poor capitalists and workers, which gives an early hint of sustainability, i.e. the social dimensions of sustainable development (7). However, the subject of sustainable development has come to the public’s attention at a time when the global economy is being shaken by challenges such as oil shocks, rising energy prices, inflation, a scarcity of natural resources, and rapid population increase. Biologist Paul Ehrlich outlined the issues of protecting the natural environment in his IPAT equation, which associated the number of inhabitants on Earth, the influence of current technical and technological solutions on the environment, and consumption, i.e. the availability of products (16). This is why the topic of sustainable growth has become a vital part of any nation’s development courses and targets. The concept of sustainable growth is quite complex, as seen by several definitions. Barbara Ward’s 1972 book, *Only One Earth: The Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet*, provided the original and most well-known description of sustainable development (27). Sustainable development is a diverse, complex, and systematic idea that was first articulated in 1980 with the *Global Conservation Strategy* (35). The approach was created within the structure of a coalition of not-for-profit companies: the International Federation for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Program), in which sustainable development is presented from the aspect of development for the preservation of the Earth’s natural resources to engage all states to limit or prevent their exploitation, because it harms the environment. According to Cameron and Abouchar (1991), the precautionary principle is the fundamental principle of law and policy for the protection of the global environment (4). The idea of sustainable development should: allow for a creative “vision” of national and international development; incorporate elements that are crucial for the social community’s growth; eliminate risks in less robust ecosystems in both rich and poor countries; create conditions for resolving social and economic issues

in the world's least developed nations; guarantee better interactions between the public/business, non-governmental, and voluntary sectors; and secure future generations in terms of development resources (3). The European Union's leaders decided in Maastricht in 1992 that environmental issues are not isolated (15). Then, it was decided that the environment must be considered in all of the Union's operations and policy. The precautionary principle and the "polluter pays" premise serve as the cornerstones of EU environmental policy (12). The LIFE program, integrated production policy, environmental agreements, tax collection, the European Environmental Agency's operations, the promotion of "environmentally friendly" products, eco-management, evaluations of environmental programs, and the encouragement of non-governmental organizations involved in this field are some of the ways that environmental policy is put into practice. Everyone is entitled to acquire environmental information (21). It is also clear that there are numerous EU institutions that have environmental obligations or may be significant in the realm of environmental issues. Some of them, like the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union (or the Council of Ministers), the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, and the EU Court of Justice, are general in nature and have formal authority outlined in the Lisbon Treaty. On the other hand, some of them focus primarily on environmental issues. An overview of these institutions' roles, makeup, and capabilities, that is, descriptive methodology—will be the main focus of the article.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The jurisdiction and functions of the European Parliament relate to legislative and budgetary matters. Also, the European Parliament supervises and controls the Council of the European Union and the Commission, since it has powers in the field of control and election of officials. The Parliament has the authority to ask questions submitted to the Commission or the Council of the European Union, as well as to discuss the reports submitted by the European Commission to the European Parliament. With the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Parliament is the only Union institution elected by direct universal suffrage, which will experience a radical increase in its powers and responsibilities, as well as political importance in the "institutional triangle" (Commission, Council of Ministers, and European Parliament). The European Parliament (EP) is the only directly elected multinational parliament in the world and the only directly elected institution in Europe. During the development of European integration, the Parliament initially had less power compared to the strength and position of the Commission or the Council of Ministers, but since the first direct elections (1979), its importance and strength have continuously growing. Each amendment to the founding treaties gave the Parliament more power. The Lisbon Treaty further affirmed that trend and the EP became an institution with significantly greater influence (19). The functions of the EP are numerous. The European Parliament performs, together with the Council, legislative and budgetary functions. The European Parliament is competent in the function of political supervision and consultation by the treaties (Article

11 UEU). The Lisbon Treaty increased the powers of the EP in the area of legislation, budget, and political control - which represents a step forward in the democratization of the EU (20). To compare the composition of the EP from 2009 to 2024, the political groupings during these years are graphically presented.

Out of a total of 754 deputies, EPP - European People's Party and European Democrats had a total of 271 deputies. S&D – The Party of European Socialists and Democrats had 189 mandates. ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe had 85, while Greens - EFA - European Green Conservatives - European Free Alliance had a total of 59 seats. ECR - European conservatives and reform groups were represented with 52 mandates, while EUL - NGL - United Left - Nordic Green Left had a total of 34 mandates, as did EFD - Europe for Independence and Democracy. There were a total of 30 undecided (NI). The “nomadic” way of organizing the EP greatly complicates and complicates the work of this European institution because plenary sessions are held in Strasbourg, where the Parliament's official seat is, committee sessions are held in Brussels, while the EP Secretariat is located in Luxembourg. For the sake of comparison, the authors also highlighted data for the period from 2019 to 2024 (Figure 2). Seven political groups were represented in the last ninth convocation of the European Parliament, which competed in the elections in June 2024, namely: European People's Party (EPP), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), “Renew Europe” (RE), Greens - European Free Alliance (Greens - EFA), European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), Identity and Democracy (ID), and the Left (GUE/NGL).

The European People's Party represents the oldest and most numerous “family” of parties in the EU, as well as the largest group in the European Parliament. In addition to the Christian Democratic parties, the EPP was expanded to include certain conservative parties, as well as right-of-center parties. In the convocation of the European Parliament that was elected in 2019, the EPP was the largest parliamentary group (177 mandates out of a total of 705). Among the most famous members of this group of parties are the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Germany, the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), the Republicans in France, as well as the Croatian Democratic Union. According to the current rules in the European People's Party, only parties from the EU member states can have the status of full members, and parties from other countries of the Old Continent can be either associate members or observers (25). In Serbia, the Serbian Progressive Party and the Union of Vojvodina Hungarians have the status of associate members of the EPP. The SNS joined the EPP in 2016, four years after coming to power. The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats is the name for the parliamentary group in the European Parliament that gathers representatives of the Party of European Socialists (PES). The Party of European Socialists brings together socialist, social democratic, and labor parties in Europe, i.e. parties of the center-left. Full members of the PES can only be parties from the states of the Union and these are, among others: the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), and the Democratic Party in Italy. In Serbia, the Democratic Party and, since last year, the Freedom and Justice Party have the status of associate members of PES.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The task of the European Council is to give the Union the necessary stimulus for development, determining its general political guidelines and priorities. The European Council does not exercise a legislative function. In other words, the European Council represents the general political leadership when it comes to European affairs in the Union (11) The European Council defines not only political but also economic and social guidelines for all areas of the Union's activities. The European Council always acts when a conflict mediator is needed, if existing conflicts cannot be resolved at a lower level. He has a leading role in foreign policy and is a central actor in matters of enlargement, and treaty terms. The composition of the European Council consists of the heads of state or government of the member states, as well as its president and the president of the Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy participates in the work of the European Council. The European Council meets twice in six months, and the sessions are convened by its president. According to the Treaty of Lisbon, the President of the European Council chairs and directs the work of the European Council, takes care of the preparation and continuity of the work of the European Council, in cooperation with the President of the Commission, and based on the proposal of the Council for General Affairs, he tries to ensure cohesion and consensus within the European Council. (23) Also, the President of the European Council submits a report to the EP after each session of the European Council.

COUNCIL OF COMPETENCES

The Council is certainly one of the most powerful institutions in the Union, whose decisions and coordination affect all other institutions and the efficiency of the system as a whole. The basic competencies of the council are numerous. Together with the European Parliament, the Council performs legislative and budgetary functions, then adopts European regulations and the Union budget. At the same time, the Council performs the functions of policy determination and coordination by contracts (33). The Council exercises both executive and legislative competencies, through the co-decision process with the European Parliament (confirms and adopts regulations) and through the monitoring of decisions and regulations, together with the Commission. Given that the Council includes ministers as representatives of the executive power at the national level, who through the process of co-decision with the EP become part of the legislative power at the supranational level, taking over through the Council, part of the competence of their national parliaments. That is why the Treaty of Lisbon strengthened the position of national parliaments and specified the competencies of the Council and the EP in that context, as well as the mechanisms of their close cooperation. The Council is composed of one representative of each member state at the ministerial level, who is authorized to assume obligations on behalf of the government of the member state and to vote. The Council sits in different compositions, the list of which is determined by the European Council, except for the Council for General Affairs and the Council for

Foreign Affairs. The existing work structure within the Council is multi-layered. The head of the organization is the Secretary-General, who is elected by the Parliamentary Assembly for a five-year term (6). He or she is responsible for the strategic planning and direction of the Council of Europe's work program and budget. The General Secretary leads and represents the organization. The Deputy Secretary-General is also elected by the Parliamentary Assembly for five years, in elections separate from the election for the Secretary-General. The Council of Ministers is the decision-making body of the Council and consists of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of each member state or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg. The Committee of Ministers decides on the policy of the Council of Europe and approves its budget and program of activities. The Parliamentary Assembly consists of 306 members of parliament from 46 member states. The Assembly elects the Secretary-General, the Commissioner for Human Rights, and the judges of the European Court of Human Rights. The Assembly provides a democratic forum for debate and oversees elections, while parliamentary committees play an important role in considering current issues (9). The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy. It consists of 612 elected representatives representing more than 150,000 local and regional authorities. The European Court of Human Rights is a permanent judicial body that guarantees the rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights to all Europeans. It is open to countries and individuals, regardless of nationality (14). Forty-seven member states of the Council of Europe are signatories to the Convention. The Commissioner for Human Rights independently deals with human rights violations and draws attention to them. The conference of international non-governmental organizations includes about 400 non-governmental organizations. Thus, the conference provides vital links between politicians and the public and brings the voice of civil society to the Council. The expertise of international non-governmental organizations and their activities on the ground aimed at the citizens of Europe greatly contribute to the work of the Council. The Council of Europe works in close partnership with the European Union and cooperates with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as with many partner countries around the world.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Each member state has one commissioner within the European Commission (EC). The key responsibilities of the EC are numerous. The EC is a key initiator - it promotes the general interest of the Union and undertakes appropriate initiatives for this purpose. The EC maintains a central role and has a monopoly over the initiative for the adoption of regulations, which gives it great political importance. Legal acts (legislative acts) of the Union can be adopted only on the proposal of the Commission if the treaties do not provide otherwise (24). Other acts are adopted at the proposal of the Commission when it is stipulated in the contracts. The EC also proposes key policies or measures for their implementation. The European Commission also has a supervisory function - it takes care of the implementation

of contracts and measures established by the institutions of the Union by the contracts (“guardian of the treaties”). The Commission oversees the application of Union law under the control of the Court of Justice of the EU. The executive function is also in the domain of the European Commission because it executes the budget and manages the programs. The Commission performs coordination, executive, and administrative functions by the contracts. In other words, the EC is not only the custodian of contracts but also takes care of their execution. The European Commission has the task of representing the Union on the external level, except the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), as well as other cases provided for by the treaties. Planning, and ensuring the executive and administration of policies is also in the domain of the European Commission (29). The Commission initiates the preparation of annual and multi-annual programs of the Union to reach inter-institutional agreements. The political structure of the EC consists of the president and commissioners with their cabinets, and the administrative structure further consists of vertical (directorates and services) and horizontal services (general services).

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Court of Justice of the EU is the main judicial body of the Union, based in Luxembourg, established by the Treaty of Paris in 1952. According to the Treaty of Lisbon, the Court of Justice of the European Union includes the Court of Justice, the General Court, and specialized courts. The Court of Justice consists of one judge from each member state, as well as the General Court. The Court of Justice of the EU ensures respect for rights when interpreting and applying contracts (22). Member States shall prescribe legal means sufficient to ensure effective legal protection in areas governed by Union law. The Court of Justice decides in the following cases: a) decides on lawsuits filed by a member state, an institution, or a natural or legal person (disputes); b) Jurisdiction in disputes, which can further be jurisdiction based on a direct claim (when the dispute is settled at the Court) and jurisdiction in the process of deciding on the previous issue (when the dispute is settled before national courts). c) during the preliminary procedure, at the request of the courts of the member states, decides on the interpretation of Union law or the validity of the acts adopted by the EU institutions (gives an opinion in the preliminary procedure); d) The advisory competence of the Court of Justice implies that the member state, the EC, the EP and the Council can request the opinion of the Court of Justice on the compatibility of the international agreement, the conclusion of which is under negotiation, with the founding treaties. The Court’s opinion is binding on EU members and institutions (2).

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

The European Central Bank (ECB) and national central banks (central banks of member states) form the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) (1). The European Central Bank and the national central banks of the member states whose currency is the euro, which

form the Eurosystem, conduct the monetary policy of the Union. The European system of central banks is governed by the decision-making bodies of the ECB. The main goal of the ESCB is to maintain price stability. Without prejudice to that objective, the ESCB supports general economic policies in the Union, to contribute to the achievement of the Union's objectives. The ECB has the status of a legal entity and is the only one authorized to approve the issuance of euros. It is independent in exercising its powers and managing its finances. The institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies of the Union, as well as the governments of the member states respect its independence. The ECB adopts the measures necessary for the execution of entrusted tasks, by the Articles of the Statute and the conditions established by the Statute of the ESCB and the ECB (26). By the respective articles of the Statute, member states whose currency is not the euro, as well as their central banks, retain their competencies in the monetary area. The ECB, in the areas of its competence, is consulted on all proposed acts of the Union, as well as on all regulations at the national level, and can give an opinion on them. Unlike the ESCB, which consists of the ECB and all the central banks of the EU member states, the ECB and the national central banks of the member states whose currency is the euro make up the Eurosystem. The main goal of the ESCB is to preserve price stability. In compliance with the provisions related to price stability, the ESCB provides support to the Union's economic policies, to contribute to the achievement of the Union's goals. The ESCB operates by the principle of an open market economy where competition is free, favoring the efficient allocation of resources and respecting the following principles: price stability, sound public finances, and monetary conditions, as well as a stable balance of payments. Euro paper money with a single value has the same appearance in all countries. The look and design of the banknotes show different architectural styles in Europe throughout history, most often windows or gates on the front, and bridges on the back (in the form of stylized illustrations, not photographs). The banknotes also contain protection in the form of a hologram and a metal thread inside the banknote. Other design elements are the name of the currency (written in both Latin (EURO) and Greek alphabet (ΕΥΡΩ)), the initials ECB (in five linguistic variants, covering the 11 official languages of the EU (as of 2002), the © symbol refers to trademark protection, and there is an EU flag on the banknote. The euro coins are not the same throughout the Eurozone. One side of the coin is the same in all countries (the so-called common side) which shows different maps of the EU that symbolize unity. The other side has a different appearance depending on the country that issues it (the national side of the money). necessary for the execution of entrusted tasks, by the legal articles of the ESCB and the ECB from its jurisdiction, advises on all proposed acts of the Union, as well as all regulations at the national level, and he can give an opinion on them. Unlike the ESCB, which consists of the ECB and all the central banks of the EU member states, the ECB and the national central banks of the member states whose currency is the euro make up the Eurosystem. In compliance with the provisions related to price stability, the ESCB provides support to the Union's economic policies, to contribute to the achievement of the Union's goals. The ESCB operates by the principle of an open market economy where competition is free,

favoring the efficient allocation of resources and respecting the following principles: price stability, sound public finances, and monetary conditions, as well as a stable balance of payments. The basic tasks performed by the ESCB are the following (26): 1) determination and implementation of the monetary policy of the Union; foreign exchange operations by the article of the law (determining the exchange rate of the euro); holding official foreign exchange reserves of the member states and managing those reserves (without prejudice to the holding and management of working foreign currency by the member states); 3) encouraging the smooth functioning of payment systems. The implementation of monetary policy essentially boils down to liquidity management using certain instruments. It is important to note the difference between the decision-making process on the direction of monetary policy, which is determined by the Council of Governors by deciding on the level of the ECB interest rate (discount rate), and the actual operational implementation of that policy, for which the Executive Board is responsible. The ECB plays the role of creator of liquidity in the banking system, thus influencing the short-term interest rate on the money market, and through it, the movement of prices (through the monetary transmission mechanism). The ECB influences liquidity by relying primarily on three instruments: minimum reserve requirements, open market operations, and standing options. The aim is to balance the liquidity of the Eurozone banking system in such a way that the short-term interest rates on the money market are as close as possible to the key ECB interest rate determined by the Executive Board. The European Investment Bank (EIB) was founded in 1958 as an independent credit institution, with headquarters in Luxembourg. The main task of the EIB is to promote the further development of Union members, giving them long-term loans for investments, with favorable terms and repayment terms. Its role is to secure funds for capital investments related to the development and integration of the Union. The bank can invest money only in “safe” investment projects. For projects to be supported by the EIB, they must be from four basic areas: economy, technology, environment, and finance. The bank provides loans for the development of underdeveloped regions, infrastructure development (improvement of trans-European transport, telecommunication, and energy networks), improvement of the competitiveness of European industry and development of small and medium-sized enterprises, environmental protection, and the like (8). The bank owns capital in the amount of over 160 billion euros subscribed by the member states. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was founded in 1990, with headquarters in London, to help the transition to a market-oriented way of doing business, improving private and entrepreneurial initiatives in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as to countries successfully implement the principles of multi-party democracy, pluralism and market economy (32). The Bank aims to help the implementation of structural and sectoral economic reform, including demonopolization, decentralization, and privatization while taking into account the individual needs of countries that are at different levels of transition. Its activities include improving the activities of the private sector, strengthening financial institutions, strengthening the legal system, and developing the infrastructure needed to support the private sector.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The European Environment Agency (EEA) was founded in 1990, and its role is to support sustainable development and achieve significant and measurable progress in environmental protection in Europe, providing important and reliable information to policy-making and decision-making institutions, but also the broadest public. The EEA started its work in 1994 (5). Its seat is in Copenhagen /Denmark/. The agency is open to countries that are not members of the EU but are interested in certain environmental issues, such as Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway, which have been members since the foundation. European Chemicals Agency The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is an EU institution that works to improve the quality of life by ensuring the safe use of chemicals and encouraging innovation. , the main regulations dealt with by this institution refer to chemicals, especially the REACH Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, and Restriction of Chemicals from 2007, and the CLP Regulation on Classification, Labeling, and Packaging of Substances and Compounds from 2009 (13). The Agency ensures the coordination of activities related to the application of these regulations to achieve consistent and consistent application. At the same time, the Agency provides member states and European institutions with appropriate scientific information on issues related to safety and various socio-economic aspects of the use of certain chemicals. The headquarters of the Agency is in Helsinki (Finland).

STATISTICAL BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Eurostat, based in Luxembourg, was founded in 1953. The basic functions of Eurostat are: providing the necessary statistical data to the EU institutions so that they can analyze, conduct, and evaluate community policies, as well as supplying public institutions, companies, educational institutions, journalists, and citizens with statistical data. Community statistics are divided into 9 groups: general statistics; economy and finance; population and social conditions; industry, trade, and services; agriculture and water management; foreign trade; traffic; environment and energy, and science and technology (28). The part related to the environment covers the following areas: waste production, treatment and recycling, water resources and wastewater treatment, environmental protection costs, environmental taxes, plant protection products, air protection and climate change, use of soil, impacts of individual economic sectors (the part on agriculture includes data on pesticides, fertilizers, and organic production, and the part on transport includes various aspects of the environment, including transport efficiency and prices). One of the statistical areas monitored by the Republic Institute of Statistics relates to the environment and includes water, air, chemicals, waste, environmental protection costs, and crimes against the environment (31).

CONCLUSION

The European Union represents a unique political entity whose sovereign member states have combined power in key areas of governance for the realization of common goals. Every citizen of any member state is also a citizen of the EU and has the right to participate in democratic life. Although it has features of both a state and an international organization, the EU cannot be characterized by any of them and is considered a political project - a multi-layered project. What is unique to EU organizations is their supranational character, which is reflected in the powers and functioning of some of its institutions - the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, as well as other institutions mentioned in the paper. Through the work of European institutions, the member states in one way gave up some of their powers and transferred them to the EU. EU organizations play a major role in regulating policies aimed at environmental protection. EU organizations are especially important for small countries, such as Serbia, which are fighting for membership. Serbia applied for membership in the Union in December 2009 and was granted candidate status in March 2012. Accession negotiations between the EU and Serbia began in January 2014., when 22 out of 35 negotiation chapters have been opened. Chapter 27 - Environment and Climate opened in December 2021. During this process, the European Union is helping Serbia to prepare for the accession date in several chapters related to the *acquis* and EU organizations, especially related to Environment and Climate, which requires strong institutions, includes complex legal obligations, qualified staff, establishes financing, monitoring, and mechanisms. European Union organizations support Serbia to achieve its own goals related to environmental protection and climate action in order to gradually raise them to the level of accepted standards, while improving the awareness of citizens, the private sector and the media. EU organizations work in the spirit of Team Europe with EU member states present in Serbia, international organizations, civil society organizations, as well as with private companies, encouraging innovation. Serbia's commitment to consistently achieving EU goals in the field of climate and environmental protection is essential for the country's integration path and will help Serbia to use resources more efficiently. Moving to a clean, circular economy and taking action to stop climate change, while recovering biodiversity loss and reducing pollution, will support people in their efforts to have access to non-toxic air and water, improve the economy and create new jobs. The organizations of the European Union represent the world leader in the field of environmental protection.

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Organizacije Evropske Unije – glavni akteri u sprovođenju politike održivosti životne sredine

Rezime: Održivi razvoj predstavlja složen, višedimenzionalan koncept, koji u savremenim uslovima poslovanja dobija na vrednosti, postajući jedna od bitnih tematika diskusije među naučnicima. Održivi razvoj počiva na tri stuba koji su međuzavisni i povezani – ekonomija, društvo i ekologija. Ekonomski stub se odnosi na smanjenje negativnih efekata ekonomije obima, i na njen smanjeni ekološki otisak na životnu sredinu. Društvena dimenzija održivosti počiva na društvenoj jednakosti i kvalitetu ljudskog života. Ekološka dimenzija, kao najvažnija, odnosi se na zaštitu prirodne sredine u najvećoj mogućoj meri, u cilju ublažavanja klimatskih promena i očuvanja Planete. Postoje mnogobrojni činioci na platformi održivosti i razvoja, odnosno organizacije koje imaju za cilj da vrše promociju održivog ponašanja, i streme ka predviđenim ciljevima, zarad dostizanja dobroti i blagodeti za čitavu društvenu zajednicu. Rad se bavi prikazom organizacija ili institucija koje čiji su glavni zadaci kreiranje politike koja štiti životnu sredinu, obzirom na činjenicu da je suštinska svrha koncepta održivosti proizašla upravo iz potrebe zaštite prirodnih resursa. U radu će se kroz uporednu analizu prikazati funkcionisanje Evropskog parlamenta, jedne od najvažnijih institucija EU, ali i ostalih institucija od značaja za sprovođenje i kreiranje platičkih scenarija i upravljanja u pravcu zaštite prirodnih resursa, odnosno prirodnih bogatstava.

Ključne reči: Održivi razvoj, održive dimenzije, organizacije EU, politika zaštite.

