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Planning for Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Legal Factors in the Public Administration System



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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the article is to improve the sustainable development planning system in the region. For this purpose, Poland and its features of sustainable development were chosen as the object of study. It should be noted that the scientific task was to improve the efficiency of the public administration system in the region, which will enhance the process of sustainable development planning itself. To do this, it is necessary to highlight the most problematic legal negative factors. To this end, the research methodology involves the use of graph theory through hierarchical analysis and SWOT analysis. As a result of the study, the SWOT matrix itself was presented and a list of the most significant negative factors influencing sustainable development planning was identified. The calculations carried out demonstrated the most significant negative factors and their ordering made it possible to present a counteraction plan in accordance with priority. The study is limited by considering only legal factors. Further research should be devoted to taking into account socio-economic factors too.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development planning embodies a forwardlooking approach designed to foster economic growth, environmental integrity, and social equity for current and future generations. It seeks to balance the trifecta of these core domains to ensure that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The essence of sustainable development lies in its commitment to integrating and addressing the economic, social, and environmental aspects of developmental activities. This holistic approach encourages the efficient use of resources, reduction of waste, and mitigation of environmental degradation while promoting social inclusion, diversity, and equity. It is a dynamic and adaptive planning process, responsive to changing conditions and emerging challenges, aiming to achieve long-lasting benefits. Within this framework, the system of public administration plays a pivotal role in orchestrating sustainable development planning. Public administration refers to the governmental bodies and agencies responsible implementing policies, laws, and programs that govern the nation. Its essence in sustainable development planning lies in its ability to formulate strategic policies, coordinate efforts across different sectors, and ensure the effective allocation of resources to achieve sustainability goals. Public administration acts as the bridge between policy formulation and on-the-ground implementation, translating high-level sustainability objectives into tangible actions and outcomes. It involves a wide array of activities, including regulation, facilitation, partnership-building, and monitoring, all aimed at steering society towards a more sustainable path.

The journey towards sustainable development is fraught with complexities and challenges. As public administration navigates this path, it must contend with a myriad of negative factors that can hinder progress. These include but are not limited to economic constraints, such as limited financial resources and conflicting investment priorities; environmental pressures, like climate change and biodiversity loss; and social issues, including inequality, poverty, and resistance to change. Each of these factors poses significant obstacles to sustainable development, requiring careful consideration and strategic planning to overcome. Ignoring these negative factors is not an option if the goal is truly sustainable development. Economic constraints demand innovative financing and prioritize investment strategies that sustainability. Environmental pressures require robust policies and practices that protect natural resources and mitigate climate impacts. Social issues call for inclusive development strategies that ensure equitable benefits and opportunities for all segments of society. Public administration must integrate these considerations into their planning and decision-making processes, recognizing that failure to address these challenges head-on will undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The main purpose of the article is to improve the sustainable development planning system in the region. For this purpose, Poland and its features of sustainable development were chosen as the object of study. The structure of the article includes a review of the literature, a description of the methodology, a presentation of the main results of the study, their discussion and conclusions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review explores an array of scholarly contributions that shed light on various dimensions of public administration systems, legal frameworks, and their intersection with sustainable development goals. Yemanov et al. [1] delved into the modeling of public administration systems, emphasizing cybersecurity within the broader context of ensuring safety and security. This study underscores the critical role of robust legal and institutional frameworks in safeguarding digital infrastructures against emerging threats, a vital component of sustainable development in the digital era. Complementing this perspective, Kostrubiec [2] examined the role of public order regulations in Poland, highlighting the significance of local laws in the performance of public security tasks by local self-governments. Together, these studies illustrate the foundational role of legal mechanisms in maintaining the security and integrity of systems critical to sustainable development.

Further expanding on the legal dimensions of public administration, Kohler and Dimancesco [3] analyze the risk of corruption in public pharmaceutical procurement, proposing anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability measures as essential to mitigating these risks. This focus on integrity and transparency aligns with the broader sustainable development goal of ensuring equitable access to essential services. Hafer and Ran [4] contribute to this discourse by exploring public participation from a citizen's perspective, emphasizing identity construction as a motivation for participation in governance processes. Their insights into the dynamics of public engagement offer valuable implications for fostering inclusive and participatory approaches to sustainable development planning.

In the context of economic growth and security, Kryshtanovych et al. [5] investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state governance, underscoring the pandemic's implications for economic stability and growth—a core aspect of sustainable development. This research underscores the importance of adaptive governance structures capable of responding to unforeseen challenges. Similarly, Cascetta and Pagliara [6] highlight the critical role of public engagement in the planning and design of transportation systems, suggesting that participatory approaches are essential for achieving sustainability in urban development [5, 6]. Kryshtanovych et al. [7] further contribute to the conversation by modeling the planning of sustainable development potential within the public administration system, specifically focusing on social security. Their work emphasizes the need

for integrated planning processes that consider the social dimensions of sustainability. This body of literature, collectively, underscores the multifaceted nature of sustainable development planning within the realm of public administration. It highlights the critical interplay between legal frameworks, cybersecurity, public participation, economic stability, and participatory governance in shaping sustainable futures.

Building on the foundation laid by earlier studies, the realm of anti-crisis management within financial security systems of enterprises illustrates the critical nature of adaptive legal and management strategies in navigating economic turbulences. This work suggests that resilience in the face of crises is a vital component of sustainable development, especially in ensuring the financial stability of key economic actors. Similarly, Al Azzam [8] explored the adequacy of international cooperation in combating cybercrime and the formation of creative thinking in legal education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, respectively. These studies underscore the evolving legal and educational challenges in the digital age and their implications for sustainable development, emphasizing the need for international collaboration and innovative thinking in legal practices. Castanho et al. [9] provide an insightful exploration of territorial management and governance in the Azores, discussing the interplay between regional public policies and tourism development. This case study highlights the importance of tailored governance strategies that align with environmental and socio-economic conditions. illustrating a practical application of sustainable development principles. Gil-Garcia et al. [10] further enrich the discourse by examining the crossroads between digital government initiatives and public management research, pointing to the transformative potential of digital technologies in enhancing governance processes and outcomes in the pursuit of sustainability [8-15].

In sum, the reviewed literature emphasizes the complexity of planning for sustainable development within the context of public administration, pointing to the crucial role of legal factors in shaping effective, equitable, and resilient governance structures. These studies collectively highlight the importance of integrating legal frameworks, public engagement, and adaptive governance strategies to address the multifaceted challenges of sustainable development.

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to explore the process of planning and ensuring sustainable development in one of the regions of Poland in the context of research into regulatory frameworks and obstacles, we used a combination of methods. First of all, the graph theory method was used to demonstrate possible relationships between negative legal factors affecting the sustainable development planning system in one of the regions of Poland - Warsaw. The graph theory method is a mathematical tool for studying the relationships between different objects or entities.

The content of this methodology is to form a graph consisting of vertices (or nodes) representing key factors and edges (connections between these factors).

Graph theory allows you to define, model, and analyze complex networks and systems that have applications in many areas of scientific research.

In the context of graph theory methods, the method of hierarchical analysis and systems analysis methods were used.

These methods are important tools for decision-making and analysis of complex systems, and therefore, of course, the scope of planning for sustainable development of the region. Systems analysis methods focus on the study of complex interactions within and between systems. System analysis includes the study of objects as single integral systems, analysis of their structure, functions and interaction of components.

The SWOT analysis stands as a prevalent method in the strategic planning for sustainable development, offering a structured approach for the analytical examination of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This tool distinguishes between internal factors — strengths and weaknesses that an entity can influence — and external factors — opportunities and threats arising from the environment that are beyond the entity's control. Specifically, our focus has narrowed down to a singular territory and its sustainable development system, with a deliberate selection of the public administration system of the Warsaw territory for our study.

To identify key negative legal factors, the method of expert analysis was used with the involvement of leading experts in the field of sustainable development and legal support for these processes.

Thus, to conduct this research, we formed a group of 40 leading experts in theoreticians and practice in the field of government regulation, sustainable development planning, public administration in the city, ensuring legal security, and public administration. The Delphi method was chosen for direct questioning. The use of this method involves the formation of a primary questionnaire. After processing the initial questionnaire, a repeated questionnaire is generated with clarifying questions and clarifications. The use of the Delphi method is actively and effectively used in other scientific studies.

The reason for choosing the expert analysis method is that this method serves as a reliable tool for determining legal factors in managing the sustainable development of a region. This is because it uses the in-depth knowledge and experience of specialists to identify potential legal risks and barriers. In addition, legal and urban planning experts can analyze complex legal systems and develop appropriate recommendations that will help cities avoid or minimize these risks in adapting sustainable development principles.

4. RESULTS OF RESEARCH

Prior to initiating the planning process, it is essential to thoroughly examine the region to identify existing problems, which will be considered in subsequent planning stages. The findings from the SWOT analysis are detailed in Table 1.

Subsequently, based on the results of a survey of experts and our own analysis, we identified a set of negative legal factors, constituting a set of $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5\}$, the relationships of which, in the context of the chosen method, were presented through arrows and lines. First, let's present a list of threats we have identified (Figure 1). It should be noted that all the experts who took part in the study are recognized professionals in the field of sustainable development and its legal support. In addition, all experts gave consent to conduct the study; all personal data of the experts was anonymized.

Table 1. Matrix of SWOT analysis (developed by the author)

S	W	0	T
Robust Transportatio n Networks	Challenges in Information Security Assurance	Formulate and Implement a Novel Sustainability	Escalating Inflation Triggered by War in Central
Enhanced Sustainable Security Measures Solid Infrastructure Foundation	Inefficiencies in Sustainability Planning Issues within the Public Administratio n System	Revise the Territorial Administratio n Framework Overhaul the Legal Framework	Europe Outdated Database Systems Deficiency in Sustainabilit y Planning Expertise



Figure 1. A set of negative legal factors influencing planning for sustainable development in the region under study (developed by the author)

The factors we have identified, according to the authors and experts, have the greatest impact on the planning and implementation of the principles of sustainable development in Warsaw. This is because the manifestation of these factors limits opportunities for innovation, efficient resource management and attracting investment in sustainable infrastructure. But a nonspecific and mass response to all factors together may be ineffective. Given this, it is important to determine the level of influence of each factor.

Next, you should build the graph of connections between certain factors that negatively affect planning for sustainable development in the region today in the period 2022-2023 (Figure 2).

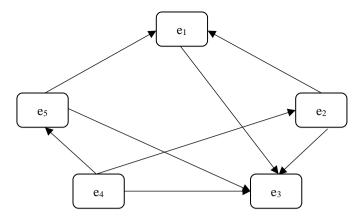


Figure 2. Graph of connections between certain factors that negatively affect sustainable development planning in the region (developed by the author)

Table2. Dependency and adjacency matrices for the constructed connection graph (developed by the author)

Negative Factor	Dependencies				
Negative Factor	e_1	e_2	e_3	e_4	e ₅
e ₁	0	0	1	0	0
e_2	1	0	1	0	0
e_3	0	0	0	0	0
e ₄	0	1	1	0	1
e 5	1	0	1	0	0
Negative Factor	Reachability				
Negative Factor	e ₁	e_2	e ₃	e4	e ₅
e_1	1	0	1	0	0
$egin{array}{c} e_1 \\ e_2 \end{array}$	1 1	0 1	1 1	0	0 1
-	1 1 0	0 1 0	-	0	0 1 0
e ₂	1	0 1 0 1	-	0	0 1 0 1

Based on the graph we generated, we will describe the key interdependencies in it. Thus, arrows indicate the existence or absence of interdependence of one factor to/from another. If depends exists, then this is according to the rules of the method, the value is 1, in other cases the dependence is indicated by the value 0. In this case, it is possible to construct a dependence matrix and a reach matrix of 5×5 size (Table 2).

Thanks to the formation of the reach matrix, we built an iterative algorithm to form the level of importance of factors related to ensuring sustainable development. We note all these threats that are achieved in the matrix on $S(e_i)$. The indicated arrows indicate a certain dependence of one factor on another. If a negative factor influences another factor from the position/vertex of which the arrow is directed, then we denote such a set as $P(e_i)$. Due to mathematical dependencies, the importance level can be set using the following formula (1):

$$R(e_i) = S(e_i) \cap P(e_i) \tag{1}$$

Moreover, when the equality $R(e_i)=P(e_i)$ is satisfied, it becomes possible to determine the level of influence of each factor. Based on this, we will form a table for the formation of iterative levels of importance of factors (Table 3).

The data indicated in Table 3 demonstrate compliance with factor 4 "Low financial support". Thus, this factor occupies the lowest level in the hierarchy in the period 2022-2023. Therefore, this factor is removed from the iterative algorithm. In the future, levels of influence will no longer take this factor into account. All factors will be assessed in the same way. The iteration ends when all factors have been removed. Thus, at the highest level there will only be one negative factor left. In our case, this is factor 3 "High level of corruption". It should be the key when planning a new strategy for ensuring sustainable development in Warsaw in the public administration system (Figure 3).

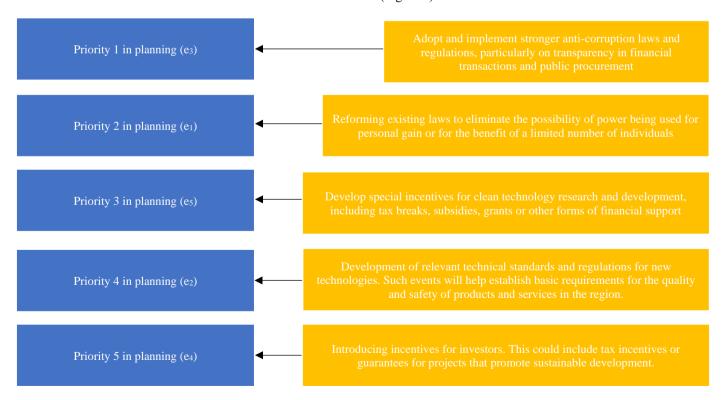


Figure 3. Planning to counteract negative factors in the system for ensuring sustainable development of the region (developed by the author)

Table 3. Table for the formation of iterative levels of importance of negative factors (developed by the author)

ei	S(e _i)	P(e _i)	R(e _i)				
F	Formation of the lowest level						
e_1	1;2	1;2;4;5	1				
e_2	1;2;3;4	2;4;5	2				
e ₃	3	1;2;3;4;5	3				
e 4	1;2;3;4;5	4	4				
e 5	1;2;3;5	4;5	5				
F	Formation of the fourth level						
e_1	1;2	1;2;5	1				
e_2	1;2;3	2;5	2				
e ₃	3	1;2;3;5	3				
e ₅	1;2;3;5	5	5				
	Formation of the third level						
e_1	1;2	1;2	1				
e_2	1;2;3	2	2				
e ₃	3	1;2;3	3				
F	Formation of the second level						
e_1	1	1	1				
e ₃	3	1;3	3				
F	Formation of the highest level						
e ₃	3	3	3				

Thus, when planning the legal aspects of sustainable development in Warsaw, we can conclude that taking into account and responding to negative legal factors is of critical importance in this area. This is because sustainable development requires anticipating and managing risks associated with environmental, social and economic challenges. The key role in the fight against these challenges is played by the system of combating negative legal factors. Warsaw, like any other major city, faces challenges such as air pollution, traffic jams, climate change, inequality and the need to protect natural resources. Recognizing and proactively addressing these issues allows a city to provide a healthy and quality life for its residents, promote a resource-efficient economy, and ensure balance with the natural environment. Resolving these issues can be facilitated by the formation of new strategies and plans to counteract negative legal factors in the system for ensuring sustainable development.

5. DISCUSSIONS

Discussing the results of the study, you should compare them with the previous ones. Aldrou et al. [16] explored developing an information model for e-commerce platforms, emphasizing the importance of legal compliance in modern socio-economic systems amid global digitalization. This research underscores the critical role of legal frameworks in adapting to digital transformations, a theme resonant with our findings on the legal challenges in sustainable development planning. The digital landscape's legal compliance aspects mirror the broader legal challenges in sustainable development, highlighting the necessity of agile and responsive legal systems. Yesimov and Borovikova [17] discussed the administrative and legal implementation of business entities' rights, shedding light on the intricacies of legal frameworks that govern business operations. This analysis parallels our study's focus on legal negative factors, suggesting that the clarity and efficiency of legal provisions significantly impact sustainable development efforts. The emphasis on legal rights and frameworks reflects a shared understanding of the foundational role of legal systems in fostering or hindering

sustainable development. Kronivets et al. [18] delved into the legal foundations for utilizing artificial intelligence in educational processes. While their focus is on education, the legal groundwork for incorporating advanced technologies into societal frameworks offers valuable insights for sustainable development planning. The importance of a robust legal foundation, as identified in our study, is critical for integrating innovative solutions within public administration systems, highlighting the need for legal systems to evolve in tandem with technological advancements.

Sylkin et al. [19] and Kryshtanovych et al. [20] respectively explored the impact of international tourism on regional sustainable development and the public and environmental aspects of restoring sustainable regional development amid military actions. These studies emphasize the multi-faceted impact of external and internal challenges on sustainable development, resonating with our findings on the importance of addressing legal negative factors. Both pieces of research underscore the interconnectedness of environmental, public, and legal factors in shaping sustainable development trajectories. In contrast, Sylkin et al. [21] and Russo et al. [22] examined public administration and decision-makers' perceptions regarding rural tourism development and city logistics for sustainable development. These studies highlight the significance of stakeholder perceptions and the practical implications of administrative and logistic decisions in sustainable development efforts. The need for comprehensive planning and legal frameworks to support these endeavors mirrors our study's emphasis on enhancing the legal aspects of sustainable development planning [19-23].

Saleh et al. [24] explore the legal management of cryptocurrency assets within national security systems, emphasizing the urgent need for regulatory frameworks that can adapt to the rapidly evolving landscape of digital currencies. This research highlights the broader challenge of ensuring that legal systems remain responsive to technological advancements, a principle that resonates with the legal challenges identified in our study of sustainable development planning. Russo et al. [22] discuss city logistics, focusing on the interplay between international visions and local knowledge in fostering sustainable development. The regional role in planning and public engagement underlines the necessity of a participatory approach in sustainable development efforts. This insight complements our findings by underscoring the importance of legal frameworks that facilitate public participation and local knowledge integration into sustainability planning. Ongaro and van Thiel [25] provide a comive overview of languages and public administration in Europe, shedding light on the diversity and complexity of administrative systems. This diversity necessitates tailored legal frameworks that can accommodate varied linguistic and cultural contexts, further emphasizing the legal nuances in sustainable development planning. Bryson et al. [26] delve into the design of public participation processes, advocating for inclusive and well-structured engagement mechanisms. This research echoes our findings on the need for legal frameworks that support robust public participation, ensuring that sustainable development planning is both democratic and reflective of diverse stakeholder perspectives. Dunlop et al. [27] propose a research agenda for public policy and administration scholars in the wake of COVID-19, emphasizing the pandemic's implications for public administration and policy. The call for adaptive and resilient governance structures resonates with our study's emphasis on

legal reform to enhance sustainable development planning. Alazzam et al. [28] and Sylkin et al. [29] further explore the legal challenges in e-commerce and the financial security of engineering enterprises, respectively. These studies highlight the multifaceted nature of legal challenges across different sectors, reinforcing the importance of comprehensive legal reforms to support sustainable development initiatives [22-29].

In synthesizing these findings with our research, it becomes evident that legal challenges in sustainable development planning are multifaceted, spanning digital compliance, education, tourism, and beyond. Our study contributes to this discourse by specifically highlighting legal negative factors within the public administration system of Poland, offering a focused lens on the legal obstacles to sustainable development planning. Future research, as suggested, should broaden this perspective to include socio-economic factors, thereby enriching our understanding of sustainable development's complex ecosystem.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The principal objective of our study, as articulated within the framework of this article, has been to enhance the system of sustainable development planning within a specific region. We directed our focus toward Poland, leveraging its distinctive characteristics related to sustainable development as our primary study object. A pivotal scientific aim underpinning this investigation was the augmentation of the public administration system's efficiency in the region, a step we identified as critical to improving the overall process of sustainable development planning. To achieve these ends, our research methodology incorporated the utilization of graph theory alongside hierarchical and SWOT analyses, tools that collectively facilitated a comprehensive examination of the subject matter.

Our findings, crystallized through the development of a SWOT matrix, brought to light a spectrum of significant legal challenges impeding the advancement of sustainable development planning. Through meticulous analysis, we not only identified these negative factors but also hierarchically arranged them, thereby laying the groundwork for a structured counteraction strategy aligned with their respective priorities. This prioritization is crucial, as it provides a clear roadmap for addressing the impediments in a systematic manner, thus enhancing the effectiveness of sustainable development initiatives within the region.

The study, however, is not without its limitations. A significant boundary of our exploration was the exclusive focus on legal factors, a choice that, while yielding valuable insights, necessitates further investigation into the socioeconomic dimensions of sustainable development planning. Future research endeavors should aim to encompass these broader aspects, offering a more holistic view of the challenges and opportunities inherent in the pursuit of sustainability.

In conclusion, our research underscores the imperative of refining public administration systems to bolster sustainable development planning. By pinpointing and prioritizing legal hurdles, we provide a foundation for targeted interventions. The insights garnered from this study not only contribute to the academic discourse on sustainable development but also offer practical guidelines for policymakers and administrators committed to fostering a more sustainable future. The pathway

forward, as illuminated by our findings, calls for an integrated approach that spans legal, economic, and social spheres, ensuring that sustainable development planning is both comprehensive and effective.

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