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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE QUESTION OF ITS **SOCIAL** DIMENSIONS

1.

Introduction

Social Dimension of Sustainable
Development

SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- A **holistic** approach to improving the quality of life
- Different levels of development of the countries
- Interaction between developed and less developed countries and **globalization** initiated the **debate** on sustainable development
- Variety of interpretations and **definitions** of sustainable development

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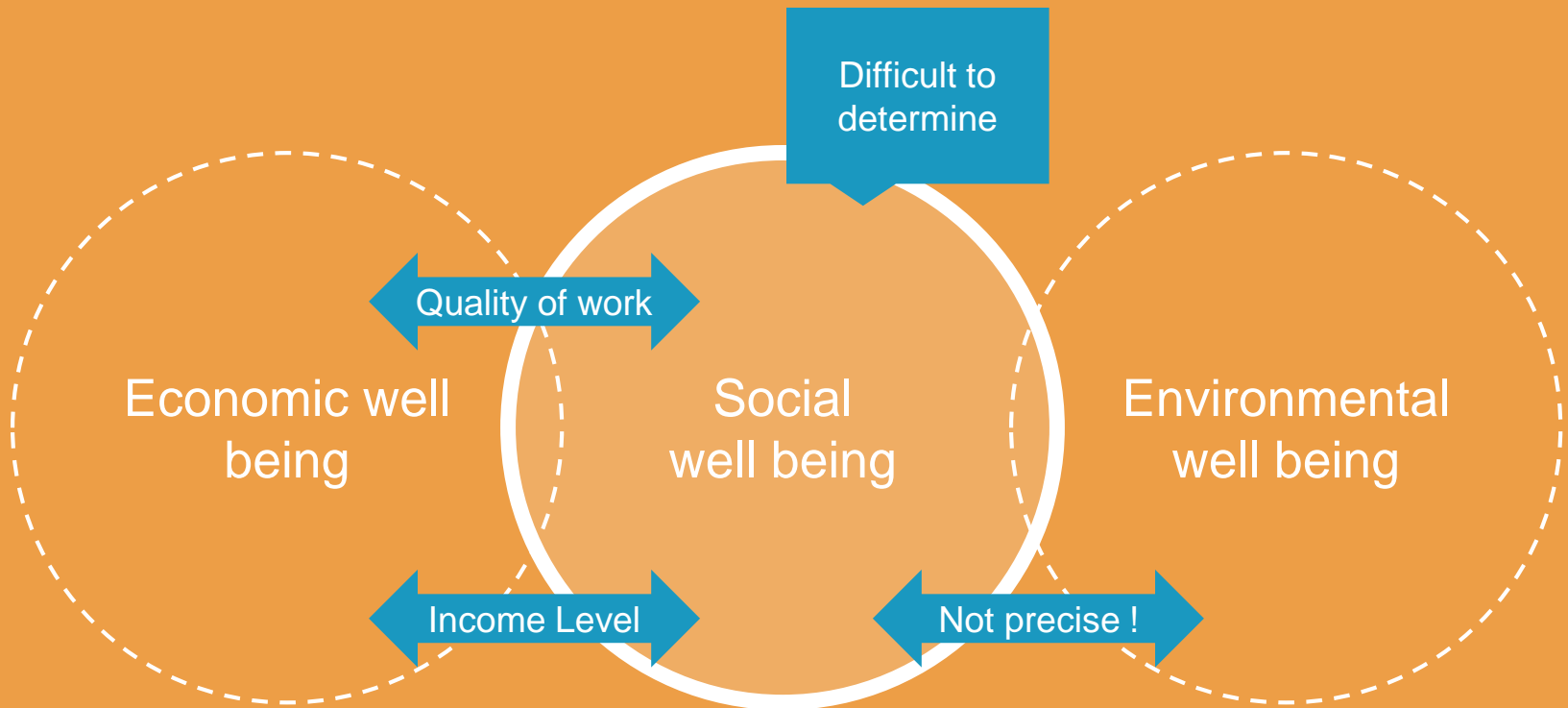
*Development that meets the needs of
the present without compromising the
ability of future generations to meet
their own needs.*

Brundtland Report, 1987

SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

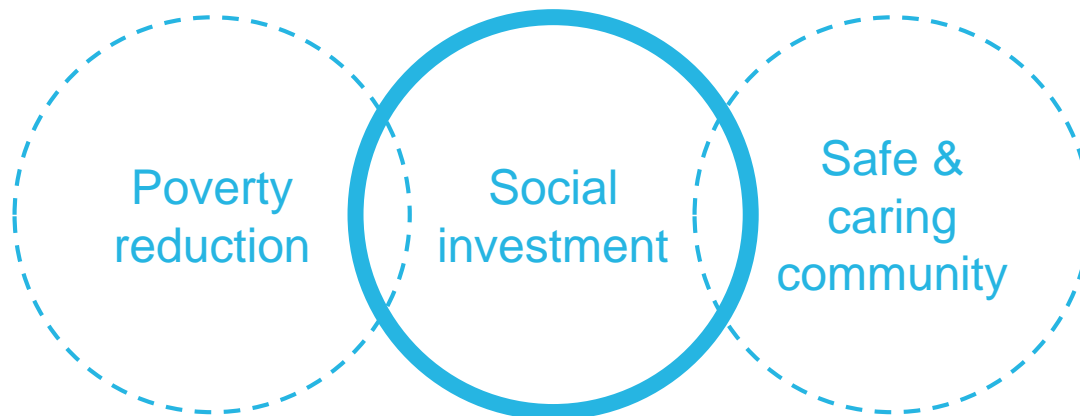
- Economic, social and environmental well-being are closely interrelated
- Human well-being cannot be sustained without a healthy environment and a vibrant economy
- Hard to determine the social aspect of sustainable development

COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



DEFINING SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ITS GOALS

- Difficult to make a distinction between **social, economic and environmental** goals of sustainable development
- Some **social actions** are more consistent with the concept of sustainable development than others



DEFINING SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH 8 FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS



Existence



Protection



Devotion



Understanding &
self-awareness



Participation



Recreation



Individuality



Freedom

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 8 FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS

- Comprehensive for all countries
- Do not depend on the level of development and public welfare
- Do not depend on the location and the geographical situation
- Do not depend on culture or tradition
- Do not depend on legal system
- Do not depend on religion
- Suitable for international comparisons

DEFINING SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



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Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all

Bristol Accord, 2005

2.

United Nations

Social aspect of sustainable development in
UN conventions

UN RESOLUTION TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015



TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015

- Sets out a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives
- Insists on interconnections between the new goals and targets
- The goals are global, closely interrelated and depend on each country's circumstances

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015

- Goals that are more important for the social dimension of sustainable development than the others:
 - 1) Eradication of poverty
 - 2) Ending hunger
 - 3) Ensuring inclusive education
 - 4) Promoting full employment and decent work
 - 5) Reducing inequality
 - 6) Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies
 - 7) Providing access to justice

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015

- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge
- Eradication of poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development
- Should be achieved by providing a basic standard of living through, among other, social protection systems

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015

- Social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of natural resources
- Natural resources should be used sustainably
- Biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife should be protected
- Sustainable tourism should be promoted in order to combat drought, desertification etc.

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2015

- Links sustainable development to peace
- Promotes right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation
- Each country is responsible for its own economic and social development
- National policies and development strategies have to remain consistent with relevant international rules and commitments

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017

- 767 million people live on less than 1.90 US dollars a day
- 793 million people routinely confront hunger
- Gender inequality is deeply rooted in many countries
- Young people are facing very high rates of unemployment
- Inequalities within and among countries still exist
- Difficult position of people living in slums
- Higher income inequality triggers higher levels of violence
- Poor countries face more human trafficking and corruption

3.

European Union

Social aspect of sustainable development in
EU documents

The European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development 2001

- Purpose: to identify and develop actions that would enable the EU to improve the quality of life through sustainable communities
- 1) Efficient management and use of resources
- 2) Increase in economy's ecological and social innovation potential
- 3) Ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion

The European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development 2001

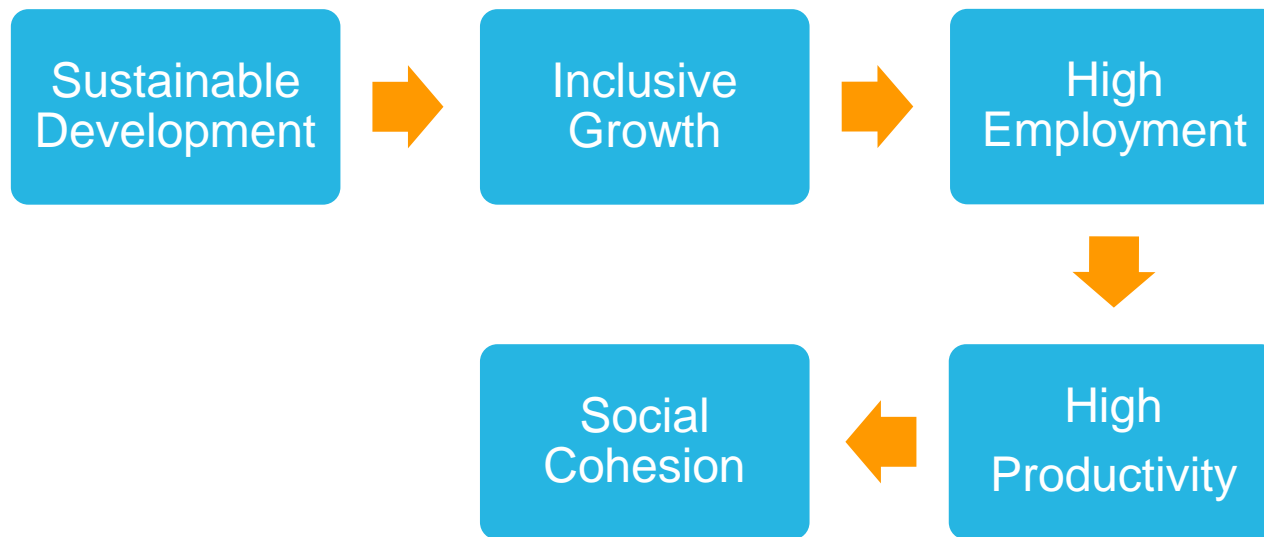
- Key problems in the EU
 - 1) Emissions of greenhouse gases causing global warming
 - 2) New antibiotic-resistant strains
 - 3) Increasing threats to food safety
 - 4) Poverty, social exclusion and unemployment
 - 5) Ageing of the population
 - 6) Accelerated loss of bio-diversity and soil
 - 7) Increasing transport congestion in urban areas
 - 8) Regional imbalances

The European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development 2001

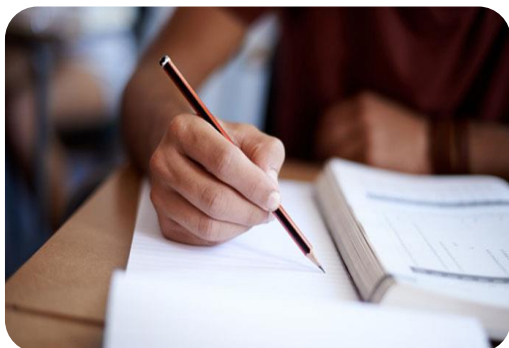
- Some unsustainable trends continued (climate change, the ageing of societies, a gap between the rich and the poor...)
- The enlargement of the EU increased instability
- Further globalization and changes in the world economy
- Renewed in 2006
- Need to change unsustainable consumption production patterns
- Moving towards a better integrated approach to policy-making

Europe 2020: A strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 2010

- Adopted in the period of globalisation and economic crisis
- Takes into account the concept of sustainable development
- A framework for a **more sustainable future** based upon:



Europe 2020: A strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 2010



Smart growth:
developing an
economy based on
knowledge and
innovation



Sustainable growth:
promoting a more
resource efficient,
greener and more
competitive
economy



Inclusive growth:
fostering a high-
employment
economy delivering
social and territorial
cohesion

TARGET GOALS



75 % of the population aged 20-64
should be employed



3% of the EU's GDP should be invested
in research and development



The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets
should be met



The share of early school leavers
should be under 10%



20 million less people should be at risk
of poverty

Europe 2020: A strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 2010

- Member States should be given **assistance** in developing their strategies to return to sustainable growth and public finances
- Integrated **guidelines** at EU level to cover priorities and targets
- Country-specific **recommendations** addressed to Member States
- Policy **warnings** in case of inadequate response
- Monitoring by the European Commission

4.

The Republic of Serbia

Social Dimension of Sustainable Development
in Serbian Strategic Documents

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Sustainable development is a target-oriented, long-term (continuous), comprehensive and synergetic process with impacts on all aspects of life (economic, social, environmental and institutional) at all levels.

National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, 2008

Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia 2008 - Goals

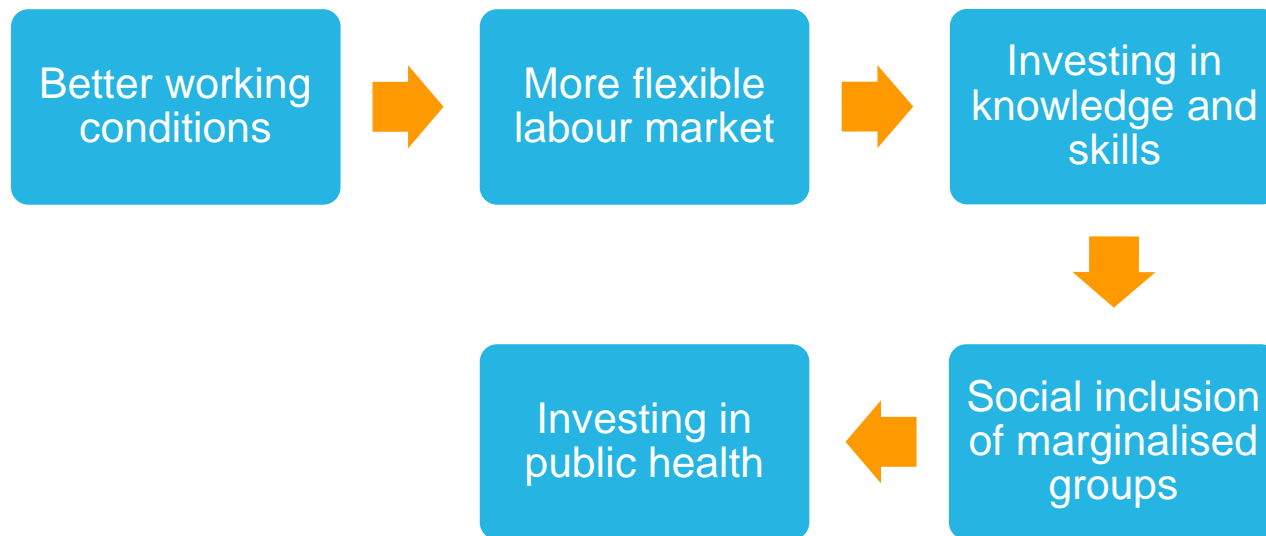
- 1) Intergenerational solidarity and solidarity within each generation,
- 2) Open and democratic society
- 3) Knowledge as the pillar of development
- 4) Inclusion in social processes
- 5) Integrating environmental issues within other policies
- 6) Prevention of negative environmental impacts
- 7) The polluter/user pays
- 8) Sustainable production and consumption

THREE PILLARS OF **SUSTAINABLE** DEVELOPMENT



Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia 2008 - Priorities

- Social aspect of sustainable development is the third priority (Development and education of citizens etc.)



Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia 2008 – Social Dimension

- Equality and understanding of interdependence among the members of a community represent key precondition for achieving an acceptable level of quality of life
- Wealth, resources and possibilities must be shared in the manner that allows all citizens to enjoy fundamental human rights and social benefits
 - Every inequality may affect the stability
 - Social standard depends on natural resources and infrastructure

Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia 2008 – Social Dimension

- 1) Protection and development of new social values and capital
- 2) Equal rights of all citizens before the law
- 3) Comprehensive health protection and safety
- 4) Decent education
- 5) Solidarity within and among generations as well as solidarity with marginalised groups, the poor and the deprived

Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia **2008 – Lifestyle Goals**

- 1) Creating more convenient economic circumstances
- 2) Promoting and development of sustainable lifestyles
- 3) Promoting political liberalism, participation, market-oriented production and social justice
- 4) Increasing the level of citizens' trust to the institutions
- 5) Developing culture on the grounds of identity policy
- 6) Increasing cultural capital through conservation, affirmation and presentation of cultural heritage
- 7) Development of risk management policy

Other Strategic Documents Relevant to **Social Aspects** of Sustainable Development

- 1) National Youth Strategy
- 2) National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis 2014-2018
- 3) Industry Development Strategy and Policy of the Republic of Serbia 2011-2020
- 4) Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia 2014-2024
- 5) National Employment Strategy 2011-2020
- 6) Education Development Strategy in Serbia by 2020
- 7) Social Protection Development Strategy
- 8) National Social Housing Strategy
- 9) Strategy of Social Inclusion of Roma for the Period from 2016 to 2025
- 10) Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination

5.

Conclusion

Suggestions and Recommendations

Conclusion: Suggestions and Recommendations

- 3 dimension of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental are closely **interrelated** and interdependent
- They must be kept in **balance** not only in theory but also in practice
- Conservative institutional environment is considered the greatest **obstacle** for sustainable social and ecological development
- Negative environmental impacts often have **harmful social impacts**
- Communities that depend on the exploitation of natural resources
- Environmental discrimination
- Environmental racism

Conclusion: Suggestions and Recommendations

- Social dimension is the most conceptually **elusive pillar** in sustainable development
- It is not given the same treatment as the other two pillars
- A universally applicable **definition** of social aspect of sustainable development should be created
- It should consider **different** social, economic, cultural, political and other characteristics of states and communities
- Universal **8 needs** should be taken as “starting point”
- A hollistic approach is required
- New strategic documents should be adopted or the existing ones could be updated in order to be in harmony with the Agenda 2030

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Thank You for Your
Attention.
