information. No doubt, that accessible information concerning environment, is one of the most valuable and significant in democracy.

Process of democratization of the society needs the transparency of decision-making and public participation in it.

Very often public notice the defects of the projects, offers the alternative variants of its implementation that give the opportunity to avoid the harm of the project and to soften the negative influence on the environment.

The Constitution (Article 50) and the Law on Environmental protection (Article 9) also declare citizen's right on access to environmental information. Thus, we can see that Ukrainian legislative base is substantial and gives legal to public in accessing environmental information, participation in decision-making on environmental problems, access to justice and opportunities to sue authorities if this information was not given (the latest is set by Article 47 of the Law on Information). Ukrainian parliament has accepted laws that deal with environmental information and has ratified The Aarhus Convention (7.06.1999). Public was pleased with the acceptance of the Convention and coming into implementation of it. One of the next steps is to realize it in practice. The process of the working out negotiations, signing and ratification of the Aarhus Convention was an example of drawing of public into the admission of vitally important political decision on the highest international level.

For public the environmental information is important because every person can identify and evaluate the risk possible for his/her health and environment by determination of the sources and the amounts of the potentially dangerous emissions, their transitions and other processes. People will also be able to choose the work taking into account its danger.

Journals and papers being the most important sources of Mass Media very often turn their attention to the problems of environmental information. We can easily find many projects that are proposed by public environmental organizations that are to raise public's awareness. People should know about their ability to participate in decision-making, access to justice and opportunities to sue authorities.

OZONE HOLES

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In May 1985, a team of British scientists stunned the world with an article in Nature magazine that reported a remarkable 40-percent loss of stratospheric ozone over Antarctica between September and October, 1984. Despite extensive research on the subject, no such precipitous decline had been predicted by the atmospheric models the scientists, relied on. The ozone losses were so unexpected that the

investigators at first suspected instrument error and delayed the release of the data. But subsequent satellite readings confirmed the presence this massive ozone "hole"—which covered an area the size of the continental United States. The findings revealed that during the Antarctic spring, ozone levels were becoming low enough to present serious risk of cancer, cataracts, and other health problems in New Zealand and other southern countries.

Suddenly the plodding negotiations turned into an avalanche of key decisions. Just over two years after the discovery of the ozone hole, on September 16, 1987, negotiators meeting in Montreal finalized a landmark in international environmental diplomacy: the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer. This treaty mandated far-reaching restrictions in the use of CFCs as well as halons, another group of ozone-damaging chemicals.

Ozone depletion is a quintessentially global problem: CFCs released mainly in northern industrial countries are destroying a protective layer of the atmosphere nearly everywhere—and doing so most dramatically in the remotest and supposedly unpolluted "upper" and "lower" corners of the world. But ozone depletion is global for another reason: the technologies that cause it are a twentieth-century invention that spread rapidly around the world as a result of the acceleration of global trade and investment that marked the final decades of the century. The response to ozone depletion has also been global, with diplomats around (he world—advised by scientists, and lobbied by businesses and environmental organizations from dozens of countries—breaking new ground in international law and diplomacy in order to turn the problem around.

The successful conclusion of the ozone treaty negotiations in Montreal was widely hailed at the time as a historic event. The protocol was the most ambitious attempt ever to combat environmental degradation on an international scale. Governments from poor countries as well as rich, from the East as well as the West, were involved in the talks. The protocol they agreed on would have extensive effects on the multibillion-dollar global industry that produced the offending chemicals, as well as on the numerous businesses that manufactured products dependent on them, such as the rapidly growing computer chip industry. Billions of consumers also faced changes in products they had grown accustomed to, such as foam coffee cups and car air conditioners. The accord was signed on the spot by 24 nations and the European Community, and has since been ratified by more than 170 countries.

Despite the encouraging decline in CFC production, the world is currently suffering through the period in which the ozone layer will be most severely damaged. This is due to the long time lag between when CFCs and other ozone-depleting compounds are released and when they reach the stratosphere. And once there, CFCs can persist for centuries. The largest "ozone holes'" on record have developed above the Antarctic over the last few years. Ozone losses over mid to high latitudes in both the northern and Southern hemispheres have also increased rapidly, leading to higher levels of UV radiation over populated and agriculturally productive corners of Earth, such as Canada, Chile, and Russia.

The increased levels off UV radiation reaching Earth are thought to be having the expected range of adverse effects on human and ecological health," including impaired immune systems, elevated skin, cancer rates, and disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Current estimates suggest that if all countries comply with the Montreal Protocol, the ozone shield will gradually begin to heal within the next few years, but a full recovery to pre-1980 levels is not expected until about 2050.

THE ROLE OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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1. The system of economic relations has gone to impasse since development has reached such a level of anthropogenous loading on a nature that there is a threat of global ecological accident. Therefore there is a necessity to develop economic and public relations in an essentially new direction - in a direction of the sustainable development (the steady balanced ecological-economic development). First of all it is necessary to provide such a development at the local level. The purpose of a regional policy at the present stage should become a generality of state and regional competitiveness with reduction of spatial disproportions in development potential.
2. Foreign economic activity influences greatly on the local sustainable development. Thus the system "state foreign trade policy – local foreign economic activity" is considered.

Among the factors of foreign economic activity which influence local sustainability are:

- regional policy;
- development of inter-regional cooperation;
- foreign trade – local economy;
- efficiency of commodity structure; qualitative change of the produced goods;
- qualitative improvement of reproduction process;
- the mechanism of financial and economic tools to support local export activity;
- export strategy;
- integration processes.

3. Sumy region has significant experience in inter-regional and frontier cooperation. This allows to form the certain regional policy for local steady