

# Qualitative Mechanisms of Modern Economic System's Development

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The article attempts to substantiate the author's concept of the latest qualitative mechanisms for the development of the modern economic system. The evolution of the concept of quality in philosophical and economic discourse is considered. The content of the synthetic qualitative approach as a theoretical and methodological basis for the formation of the concept of qualitative economics, based on the fact that the main principles of its modern development are based on the functional of quality. The basic principle of functioning of the theoretical and reference model of qualitative economy and its substantive essence are determined. The modernization changes that take place in the key mechanisms of economic development and signal the formation of a qualitative economy are identified. These changes concern the provision of resources, the restructuring of production methods, the processes of exchange and consumption, the reform of the institution of property and the emergence of new economic elites. At the same time, its qualitative aspects, values, social capital and social trust become an integral part of economic development. The author's vision of the logic of economic qualitzation is presented. The basis of the sign of a qualitative economy is outlined. It is noted that the speed of modernization changes allows us to say about the qualitative revolution in the economy.

*Key words:* quality, qualitzation of economy, qualitative economics, synthetic qualitative approach, economic development, sustainable development.

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**Introduction.** Systemic changes in the economy began long ago, but the pace of change in recent decades has been uniquely rapid. Technological innovations, new ways of producing and conducting business operations, forms and types of work in the digital society - all these changes form new approaches to management, which requires a radical revision of the paradigmatic principles of finding sources and mechanisms of economic growth. After all, his criteria in relatively recent economic theories were: the development of productive forces (Marxism); satisfaction of consumer needs and development of the market, the institution of property (Austrian School of Economics); full employment, efficiency of investments and savings (Keynesian economic theory). However, the crisis of mass consumption patterns, the understanding of resource depletion and the imbalance of the energy balance are forcing us to look for other criteria and starting points for economic growth. Volumes of economic development on such a scale have disturbed the balance of natural forces and environmental sustainability. Threats have arisen that have called into question the value of quantitative approaches to production in the economy. Quantitative criteria were replaced by others - qualitative. According to Blaug [1], in economics more and more attention is paid to empirical research, which distances economists from the theoretical platforms of science. This violates the integrity of economics, as different applied results do not agree with each other. Less attention is paid to theoretical issues of economics. While the speed of change in social and

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economic mechanisms determines the objective qualitative changes, the restructuring of the basic foundations of economic science and practice. This is not so much in the construction of a new paradigm of science, as in the formation of its *polyparadigality* and *interparadigamality*, as rightly noted in the study of T. Gaidai [2].

**Preliminary research.** This article takes into account a wide range of scientific achievements in theoretical areas, the development of scientific approaches to the study of the latest mechanisms of economic development. The works of Ukrainian economists A. Chukhn [3], V. Bazylevych [4], L. Melnyk [5, 6] and others are devoted to the development of new paradigms of economics. The methodological basis for substantiating the study were also the works of the classics of economics K. McConnell and S. Brew [7]. The concept of qualitative economics proposed in the study is based on the postulates of sustainable development, noospherism (V. Vernadsky), and human development (A. Sen). Important in the context of the topic are the provisions of qualimetry and qualiology (G. Azgaldov, A. Kostin [8], A. Subetto [9]), the energy concept of economics M. Rudenko [10], the study of creative economy S. Davymuka, L. Fedulova [11], B. Yuskiv, O. Plyashko [12], digital economy I. Buleyev [13], V. Lyashenko and O. Vyshnevsky [14] and others. These studies develop the above work in the direction of substantiation of the latest qualitative mechanisms of economic development. A broader coverage of the author's approaches can be found in [15].

**The purpose of the study** is to substantiate the latest qualitative mechanisms for the development of modern economic systems – mechanisms based on the functionality of quality.

**Results.** The logic of objective qualitative changes in the mechanisms of modern economic systems should be derived from the justification of the concept of quality. Quality in the modern economy has become an integral sign of development. As a category, quality has come a long way in filling with new content. Originating in philosophical thought as a sign of things in modern days has a conceptual significance of the engine and mechanism of development<sup>ii</sup>.

The formation of the category of “quality” in the economic context actually begins with the development of mass production. The objective preconditions for this were the need to meet the needs of a constantly growing society by producing goods available to the population. In technical, technological and economic terms, the quality requirement was transformed from the required property of the product to the object of general management. Growing demands on the quality of products and services have launched in the economy processes of its *qualitization*<sup>iii</sup>.

The concept of quality in the production economy has evolved from a quality control system through inspection and testing (1950s), quality assurance (60s), quality management (70s-80s) and to overall quality management. 90s). At the same time, current trends in the socialization of the economy require the extension of the concept of quality to economic phenomena also outside of production and consumption. The need to build a holistic scientific paradigm on the basis of existing theoretical, methodological and applied achievements led to the emergence of the science of qualitology, as well as made it possible to conceptualize a *synthetic approach*<sup>iv</sup> in *qualitative economics*. The chronological conditionality of the approaches to the formation of the theoretical and methodological interdisciplinary basis of qualitative economics and the grouping of some of them are reproduced in table 1.

The synthetic approach has absorbed the theoretical and methodological achievements of all other scientific fields and on this basis the main provisions of qualiology and its part –

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<sup>ii</sup> According to the provisions of synergetics, quality is the result of the evolution of the system due to fluctuations that occur when its thermal (energy) balance is disturbed.

<sup>iii</sup> The word comes from Latin. *qualis* - which in quality, equivalent in English *quality*.

<sup>iv</sup> The author of the synthetic qualitative approach in philosophy is Subetto A. (see, for example [9])

qualimetry, which in the projection on the economy allows to talk about its new phenomenon – qualitative economics.

Table 1  
Some scientific approaches that have formed the scientific and methodological basis of qualitative economics

Approach	Concepts and paradigms	The essence, accents of approaches
Philosophical, methodological	Ancient Greek (V century B.C.) Metaphysics of modern times, rationalist metaphysics (XVII - early XIX centuries.) Positivism (1930s) Neo-positivism (10s of the XX century) Dialectical (XIX century) Existentialism (at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries) Noosphere approach (20-40s of the XX century) Synergetic (late 60's of the twentieth century)	The evolution of the category of "quality" from the sign of things that can not go beyond form (Aristotle), properties that express the essence of things (B. Spinoza), to the certainty of being (G. Hegel). Quality – the result of the evolution of the system due to fluctuations that occur in violation of its thermal (energy) balance (synergetics)
Technical and managerial	Technological quality management (1920s) Integrated product quality management systems (50s - 70s of the XX century) System quality management (80s of the XX century) Total Quality Management (TQM) (1990s)	Quality theory, which focuses on quality as an applied category, based on needs and levels of satisfaction, as well as on aspects of product quality assurance in accordance with the needs and not below the established standards. The idea of total quality management
Socio-economic	Quality of economic growth Quality of life (60s and 70s of the XX century) Quality of working life Quality of education (late 80's - early 90's of the twentieth century) Consumerism (second half of the XIX century) Theory of corporate social responsibility (1920s) Quality of labor (social and labor) potential, human capital, human development	The goal of each state's policy, as well as the requirement for business, should be not only quantitative economic growth, but also one that is accompanied by qualitative parameters and sustainability. Quality of life is determined by the level of satisfaction of human needs, as well as safety of life Socio-systemic quality of education, work, development in unity with the spheres of social practice and social life
Synthetic	Qualitology (60s of the XX century) Qualimetry (1967-69) The paradigm of sustainable development <i>Qualitative revolution in the economy</i>	Quality is a reference point for development, balance, harmony of life, education, safety and work. The growth of real and potential human qualities and, accordingly, its needs

Source: systematized by the author

Qualitology (from the Latin *qualis* – which by quality and *logos* – science) – the science of quality, the object of which is the general quality of objects and phenomena of the human world, and specific scientific (economic) subject – a set of properties that make up the quality of economic objects and processes man in the system of management and socio-economic development. Here it is necessary to clearly define. *Qualitative* – one that is based on the functionality of quality. *Qualiological* – one that is positioned within the scientific approaches

to *qualitization*. In this context, it is necessary to clarify the essence of the author's interpretation of qualitative economics and its *qualitization*.

According to the definition given in the "Economic Encyclopedia": "Economics (Greek. *Oikonomike* – economic management) – the most important sphere of public life, in which based on the use of various resources is the production, exchange, distribution and consumption of human products, formed and constantly evolving system of productive forces and economic relations governed by different types of economic laws" [16, p. 380-382]. In our opinion, this scientifically classical definition covers all parts of the economy as an institution, but does not fully correspond to modern economic realities.

With the establishment of post-classical type of scientific rationality in science there are paradigmatic shifts in economic theory of the XXI century, which is reflected in the emergence of theoretical human-centred concepts [4]: 1) *behavioral economic theory*, which explores the role of reflections and socio-emotional aspects of management; this is evidence of the role of human qualities in the economy; 2) *ethical economic theory* – the introduction of ethical norms of behavior in the theoretical basis of economics (we interpret as a normative component of the formation of qualitative markers of economic development); 3) *economic theory of happiness* – the study of happiness as an economic value and a criterion for the success of governments (in our opinion, embodies a value-based approach to economics).

Pluralism of modern economic theories is a sign of diversity and freedom of scientific research, but sometimes leads to narrowing the rationale for economic efficiency and development of one of the many concepts that define the modern economic system: information, institutional, digital, behavioral, creative, knowledge, virtual, network economy. At the same time, each of these concepts states the emergence of a qualitatively new economic system. As Chukhno A. A. generalizes, the transition from industrial to post-industrial economy was so rapid that it changed the established methodology of economic theory and led to a *qualitatively new* [3, p. 17]. Each of them is based on specific approaches to understanding modern forms and interactions in the economy, based on the *quality of man, information, technology or communication* and which, in our opinion, are synthesized into one platform – *qualitative economy* (Fig. 1). However, all these types of new economy, proposed in modern economics, "are not internally contradictory, because each of them reflects a separate perspective (plane) of endogenous changes in the foundations of the world economic system" [17].

Another classical definition that will add arguments in substantiating the concept of qualitative economics is the approach of the classics McConnell and Brew [7]: economics is a study of human behavior in the production, distribution and consumption of material goods and services in conditions of limited resources. The definition is based on people's needs and satisfaction. In this case, *the needs of people* act as a *subjective aspect* of economic reality, because it is the needs that are incentives for activity and motives for management, thus reflect the active activity factor. *Limited resources* to meet them characterizes the *conditions of the environment* and its exhaustion, especially in conditions of exacerbation of environmental problems, thus reflecting the *objective side*. At the same time, *normative restrictions* regulating economic activity are all values and socio-cultural, socio-environmental priorities of modern society, which are documented in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Human Development Goals, Sustainable Development Concepts, Decent Work Concepts and others, and indirectly implemented in modern mechanisms. economic efficiency through new social institutions: social trust, social quality [23], social responsibility and others. Based on this, *the basic principle of the theoretical and reference model of qualitative economy is embodied in the mechanism of subjective influence of people and their associations through the formation and*

*specificity of their constructive needs (according to the law of needs), economical use and optimization of production methods to create conditions to improve the quality of their lives and the growth of human potential within the value-normative field, which indirectly allows to influence the conditions of their existence.* This reveals the main features of a qualitative economy: human-centeredness and human-dimensionality, economic growth based on the quality of resource use and processes, as well as the functionalities of quality of life and human development in the framework of sustainable development. In practice, in a *qualitative economy there is a problem of forming and meeting human needs and the ability of the environment to meet them at the required level or at a level not lower than what has already been achieved.*

Type of new economy	The basis of economic growth is based on:	Summarized in:
Post-industrial	Information and knowledge that create a new quality of life [18]	<b>Qualitative economy</b>
Digital	Development of qualitatively new economic methods of production and relations based on electronic technologies <sup>v</sup>	
Knowledge economy	Specialized and modern knowledge; intellectual potential of society [20]	
Innovative	Inventions and discoveries as intellectual activity and the basis of structural dynamics	
Network	Networking as a new quality of communications	
Behavioral	Human qualities in the formation of economic policy	
Ethical	Moral and ethical principles of economic development	
The economy of happiness	Building economic policy based on the goal of achieving happiness	
Virtual	Development of intangible resources and qualitatively new ties	
Hi-Tech Gift Economy	Information as a commodity and a gift, the formation of the institute of intellectual property protection [21]. Cyberspace as social democracy	
Attention Economy	Managing employee attention as a new reserve for efficiency [22]	

Fig. 1. Pluralism of modern economic concepts and their integration

Source: summarized by the author on the basis [18-22]

Revealing the function of needs in the modern economic system, it is advisable to refer to the works of Melnyk L.G. [5], who notes that the main function of the socio-economic system is to meet the material and spiritual (personal) needs of people, which also form the content of individual components of the system, ie is a means of functioning of the system. At the same time, the satisfaction of physiological needs has an optimizing character, while spiritual needs are not limited in their development. This wording allows to further substantiate the proposed definition of a qualitative economy, as unlimited and improving the content and ways to meet

<sup>v</sup> Sectors of the economy that use digital technologies are growing faster, cheaper and better. Areas of activity, including education, medicine, transport, which are modernized through digital technologies, become more efficient and create new value and quality [19].

spiritual needs has unlimited reserves for human quality, which triggers processes of immense improvement as a driver of the system and its future development.

Thus, the *qualitative economy is a sphere of social life, a modern type of economic system, production methods and resource security which are based on quality (as properties of economic resources and economic relationships), the functioning of which must meet human needs of material and intangible nature. quality of life; its economic efficiency receives new impulses of growth due to immeasurable improvement of quality of processes, interactions, communications and mechanisms of competition in it; at the same time, the limits of its growth are regulated by the requirements and values of sustainable development, respect for human rights and freedoms, humanization and the priority of human development goals.*

Thus, the qualitative economy is a modern phenomenon, where quality is created not only in the physical dimension of products (or intangible - services). Strong reserves of quality economic growth are contained in the changing structure of resource supply. Knowledge, education, “soft” skills, and social ties become capital-intensive. Due to the change in the content of labor, the pace of its productivity is increasing. That is, radical changes are taking place in all key mechanisms of the economy:

- resource provision: in the conditions of exhaustion of natural resources and in the conditions of scientific and technical progress the primary role belongs to labor resources, especially those based on technology, information and intelligence, which, accordingly, changes the structure of production costs and requires investment in new technologies, research and development, professional skills and knowledge of employees. The use of natural resources is regulated by the requirements of sustainable development;

- the institution of property has been supplemented with such components as intellectual property, copyright, ownership of intangible assets, among which software products, licenses and certificates (including quality systems), know-how, brands;

- economic efficiency and economic growth are determined by such factors as scientific, intellectual, educational intensity of labor, which increases its productivity, technological progress, investment in human development;

- the goal of economic growth is human development, in particular through the creation of an environment conducive to it, and its main criteria - well-being, empowerment and equal access to the benefits of civilization.

*The concept of qualitative economics is based on the theoretical postulates of the paradigms of sustainable development, noosphere, and human development.* This determines the purpose of the economy, its resources and the main factors of economic growth (Fig. 2). Modernization features of the qualitative economy in comparison with the traditional are summarized in table 2.

Thus, *the qualitization of the economy is the process of acquiring the features, characteristics, characteristics of a qualitative economy.* Qualitization of the economy – an objective process, due to historical, economic, political, technical and technological, globalization, social, cultural reasons. The formation of qualitatively new needs (for example, Internet access), as well as new problematic security perspectives to meet basic (physiological – the need for clean water, living space or safe nutrition), new ways to meet them (the need to communicate – through virtual channels) due to global trends of global development, and Ukraine does not stay away from them.

Thus, the main features of the qualitative economy, which illustrate its development in the world economy, and accordingly projected into the Ukrainian:

1. Economic development based on quality.
2. Objective need to adhere to the principles of sustainable development.
3. Socialization of the economy.

4. Synergy of quality and competitiveness.
5. Formation of new types of production relations, new types of employment, changes in the content of labor and approaches to finding reserves of labor productivity due to technological development.
6. Increasing the pace of spatial and other types of population mobility.
7. Institutionalization of quality.

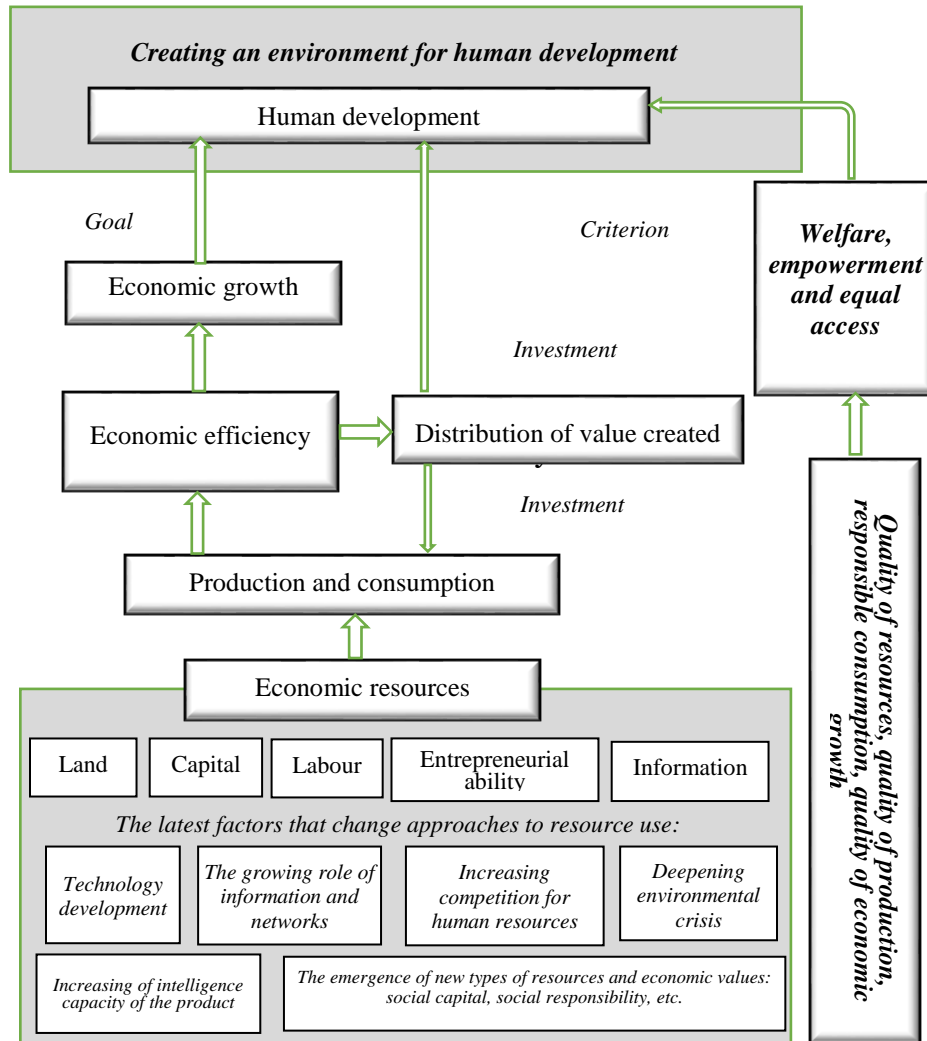


Fig. 2. Mechanisms, goals and criteria of the development of a qualitative economy  
Source: developed by the author

Understanding the process of qualitzation of the economy logically follows from the above theoretical justifications of the qualitative economy. The logic of the gradual spread of the qualitzation of the economy and its theoretical basis is shown in Fig. 3.

Table 2

Modernization features of qualitative economy

The main components of economic mechanisms and features of the economy	Traditional economy	Qualitative economy
Resources	Land, labour, capital, entrepreneurial skills	The main and most important resource along with traditional - the quality of man as a carrier of labor: health, education, knowledge, values
Method of production	The set of production forces and production relations	The set of productive forces and the spiritual state of society, its values <sup>vi</sup>
Exchange	Based on market pricing and money performance of its functions. The money is provided by the real sector	Changing the cost structure based on the growth of the price of intellectual labor and the cost of environmental measures. Virtualization of exchange and money; financial market growth based on virtual calculations and algorithms
Consumption	Quantity of goods and services in accordance with consumer quality	Consumption of quality: from the quality of things to the quality of impressions
Institute of Property	Based on ownership of the means of production	Based on ownership of intangible assets
Economic elite	Owners of means of production, financiers	Owners of corporations, networks, financiers (also), intellectocrats <sup>vii</sup> , passionaries, creatives

Source: developed by the author

The qualitization of Ukraine’s economy is reflected in its acquisition of all features of a qualitative economy: accelerated development of individual regions based on qualitative changes in the structure of the economy (IT-oriented regions), digitalization, the emergence of new forms, employment, labor change and others. Institutionalization of quality has become an integral part of the activities of organizations in the market – the introduction of internal quality assurance systems based on ISO standards, preparation of non-financial reporting according to GRI standards or Progress Reports on the implementation of the UN Global Compact.

The qualitization of Ukraine’s economy is manifested not only in ensuring quality in the production process, in the principles and methods of management, standardization and motivation of personnel. People’s organizations, formal and informal ties, as well as *social cohesion, the cultural context* of the creation and consumption of quality, *corporate culture*, and other intangible values become important in the processes of quality creation. Their importance in quality systems has been recognized through the adoption of ISO 10018: 2020 “Quality management – Guidance for people engagement” which provides guidelines for building employees’ emotional commitment to the organization, improving productivity by creating a corporate culture, and uniting teams, which is a continuation of work to improve the quality creation process. This changes the concept of quality in economics and management: its achievement should be based not on discipline and control, but on motivation, aspiration, cohesion and improvement of “soft” skills, which can sometimes be lacking in highly qualified

<sup>vi</sup> Reasoned in: [13, с. 43].

<sup>vii</sup> The word is formed by the author from κράτος (Greek) - power, ie means a cohort of persons who have economic power on the basis of intellectual achievements (author).



workers. It is worth noting that such approaches are already being implemented in the advanced management systems of Ukrainian companies. Such changes in the approaches to corporate governance are a signal for educational institutions to adapt to the requirements of a qualitative economy in the formation of competencies of future professionals.

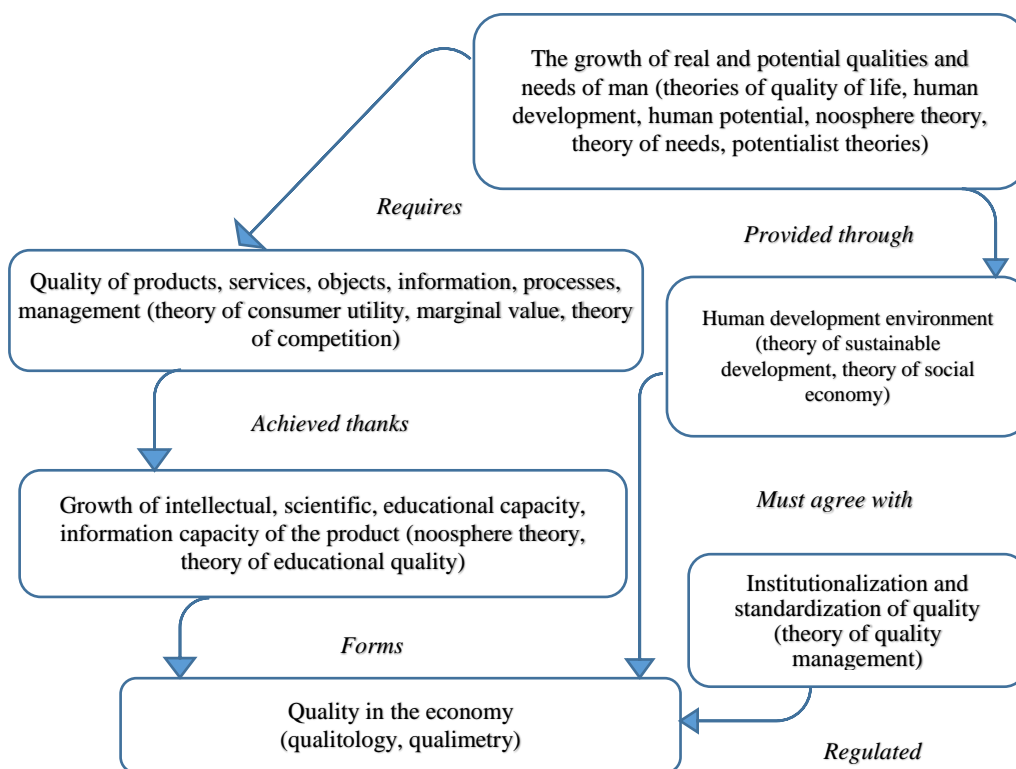


Fig. 3. The logic of qualitzation of the economy and its theoretical implication  
 Source: developed by the author

**Conclusion.** Thus, the emergence and formation of a qualitative economy occurred as a reaction to the growing demands of society, first to ensure the quality of consumer goods and services, then – on the quality of processes. Modern features of such an economy are the growing demands on the quality of human resources, as well as real and potential human qualities, the transformation of human needs. This requires the formation of an appropriate environment, a sign of the quality of which is the possibility of human development.

The concept of qualitative economy defines it as an economic system whose mechanisms are based on quality and which is designed to meet the needs of people and improve the quality of life, taking into account the imperative of respect for human rights and freedoms and values. Significant changes in the main economic mechanisms and institutions are qualitative structural changes and the acquisition of new qualitative states and ways of organizing economic processes. At the same time, the speed of change allows us to say about the qualitative revolution in the economy. Among the features of a qualitative economy: higher efficiency of economic growth based on quality, which leads to a deepening asymmetry of world development;

objective need to implement and adhere to the principles of sustainable development; socialization of the economy; strengthening competition in the markets primarily through quality creation mechanisms; formation of new types of industrial relations, forms and types of employment, changes in the content of labor; institutionalization of quality.

Contradictions in terms of objectivity of qualitzation of Ukraine's economy are in the process of closing the qualitative characteristics of man, new features and qualitative content of human needs and opportunities to meet them under *the dominant value of the imperative value approach to the functioning of qualitative economy*. This formulation of the problem outlines the directions of further research.

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#### Квалітативні механізми розвитку сучасної економічної системи

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У статті зроблено спробу обґрунтувати авторську концепцію новітніх квалітативних механізмів розвитку сучасної економічної системи. Розглянуто еволюцію концепту якості у філософсько-економічному дискурсі. З'ясовано зміст синтетичного квалітативного підходу як теоретико-методологічної основ формування концепції квалітативної економіки, виходячи з того, що основні засади її сучасного розвитку базуються на функціоналі якості. Визначено основний принцип функціонування теоретико-еталонної моделі квалітативної економіки та її змістовну сутність. Означено модернізаційні зміни, які відбуваються у ключових механізмах економічного розвитку і сигналізують про формування квалітативної економіки. Ці зміни стосуються ресурсного забезпечення, перебудови способів виробництва, процесів обміну і споживання, реформування інституту власності та появи нових економічних еліт. При цьому невід'ємною складовою економічного розвитку стають якісні його аспекти, цінності, соціальний капітал і соціальна довіра. Викладено авторське бачення логіки квалітизації економіки. Окреслено основні ознаки квалітативної економіки. Зазначено, що швидкість модернізаційних змін дозволяє твердити про квалітативну революцію в економіці.

*Ключові слова:* якість, квалітизація економіки, квалітативна економіка, синтетичний квалітативний підхід, економічний розвиток, сталий розвиток.

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