

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Sumy State University. Faculty of Economics and Management
Sumy Local Youth NGO "Council of Young Scientists"

21st International Scientific Conference
"Economics for Ecology"
ISCS'2015



Економіка для екології

Матеріали

XXI Міжнародної наукової конференції

(Україна, Суми, 6–7 травня 2015 року)

Суми
Сумський державний університет
2015

GREEN ECONOMY: BEST EU PRACTICES FOR UKRAINE¹

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Sustainable development involves a complex interrelation between three components – economic, social and environmental. The concept of "green economy" is designed to provide a more harmonious co-ordination between these components, which would be acceptable to all groups of countries – developed, developing and countries in transition.

The concept of "green economy" is becoming more and more popular. It has been actively discussed by experts, politicians, non-governmental organizations. The concept of green economy, in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, will attract further attention as it will be one of two key themes at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio in 2012 (Rio, 2012).

According to the UNEP report, green economy is – low-carbon economy which efficiently uses resources and meets the interests of the entire society. As well known, green growth – is the main driving tool of green economy in manufacturing, agriculture, construction, energy, transport, tourism, finance, in the waste management sector and ecosystem services.

The "greening" of the economy implies a targeted process of economic transformation aimed at reduction of ecological impact on the environment. The concept of greening is realized through a system of organized measures, innovations, restructuring, technological transformations, and environmental policy activities at macro- and micro levels. Special attentions in greening the economy is devoted to the environmental innovations, as they are both profitable and environmentally friendly.

¹ Prepared within the framework of Jean Monnet program "Using best EU practices for sustainable economy forming in Ukraine" (UBEUP) 553 185-EPP-1-2014- 1-UA-EPPJMO-MODULE)

Based on the production-consumption cycle, it is easy to define that to reduce environmental press can bring the refusal of the most damage intensity consumer products (those that have the most ecodestructive chains), shortening of the chain (replacement of primary natural resources on those that waste recycled), production efficiency (increasing the depth of use of material and energy resources) and, finally, the overall reduction of material and energy consumption of commodities.

Europe is leading in implementing environmental policies for energy and resource efficiency. Figure 1 illustrates how European policy priorities relating to material resource use can be represented as a nested and integrated set of objectives.

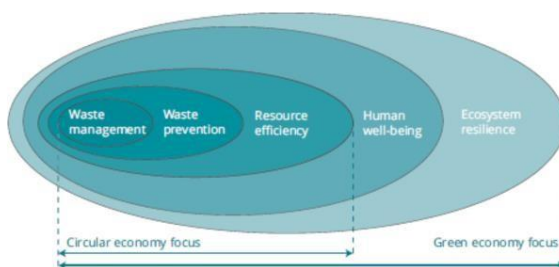


Figure 1 - European green economy policy priorities (The European, 2015)

The sectors of green economy: clean and alternative energy (renewable energy, bioenergy, hydrogen and fuel cells); energy management and efficiency (power electronics, energy saving lighting, energy storage, advanced batteries, etc.); green building (construction and building materials, architecture, community design, green infrastructure, etc.); environmental protection; carbon finance and investment (venture capital, investments, carbon finances, etc.); knowledge (education and training, research and development, information and communication technologies, public administration, etc.) (BP, 2015).

The green economy will cause a change in occupations' employment demand or work and worker requirements such as tasks, skills, knowledge, and credentials. The most crucial perspectives of green economy forming can be achieved by the next directions as development of innovative techniques and technology in environmental field, environmental services in the field of environmental protection, management and safety, increasing of share of alternative energy resources in energy balances, recycling, ecotourism, eco-labeling etc.

References:

1. BP Energy Outlook 2035, London, United Kingdom, January 2015, 98 p.
2. The European environment – state and outlook 2015: synthesis report, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen EEA, 2015, 205 p.