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SELF-PROMOTION OF THE MONOGRAPH "OUTLINE OF THE THEORY OF THE STATE AS AN ECOLOGICALLY SAFE ORGANIZATION IN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH"

Four concepts – ecological security, social responsibility, sustainable development, and environmental management – are analyzed to show that the same terminology can represent different meanings and approaches to the development of a state or urban areas. This research implies a discussion on (i) a transformation leading to confrontation and rapprochement between states and nations, (ii) ecological security as a complex, multi-level, and multi-threaded concept of state development, (iii) social responsibility because the essence of state development lies in breaking traditional social behaviors that use environmental resources, (iv) practicality of the sustainable development concept because it determines social justice and joint responsibility for the theory of state development, and (v) environmental management inspiring the integration of the above-mentioned development trends. The results are discussed. Formulated definitions of the state's ecological security and of socially responsible and sustainable development of the city are given.

Keywords: ecological security, regional cities, environmental management, social responsibility, sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to answer the question about the consequences of global environmental problems that are perceived as local problems because they were created in those places and have their effects in those places (Zhang, 2020; Salvioni, Astori, 2013).

The global effects and implications of social and economic growth usually result from states' governance processes.

The source of the practical significance of the development of states as ecologically safe organizations can be found in the concept of *freedom*. Freedom should not be confused with "independence", of which there are different types depending on the sphere of life that freedom concerns (Rykiel, 2006; Balcerowicz, 2017).

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The environmental impact of states' environmental policies relates not only to the protection of health and life or the environment, but also to social and economic justice and equality of countries. These challenges are burdening local governance structures and systems.

The global market has not developed specific proposals for an objective and independent of will or worldview combination of three concepts: ecological safety with social responsibility, sustainable development and environmental management. Meanwhile, the interpretation of their essence and role in states results from new philosophical directions that were not referred to in the period before the annexation of Crimea by Russia (in 2014), the COVID-19 pandemic (in 2019–2022) or the Russian-Ukrainian war (since 2022).

The aim of this article is to promote the monograph "Outline of the theory of the state as an ecologically safe organization in empirical research" published in 2022 by the Publishing House of the Rzeszów University of Technology resulted to some extent from editorial limitations. The modest size of this work was due to some extent to editorial limitations. The monograph sets out a theoretical framework for determining when a state is ecologically safe, using the example of Polish regional cities.

The thematic scope of each book is always a matter of choice. This is partly due to the definition of the scientific discipline – rarely unambiguous – that the book is to address. The thematic scope of the book was the result of a conscious choice by the author. It resulted especially from the awareness of the colossal knowledge that had to be selected and organized.

The monograph has 572 pages and 11 chapters. These are: "Introduction", theoretical part entitled "Multi-aspect considerations on the development of the state" with 6 chapters, empirical part entitled "The influence of regional cities on ecological security" with 4 chapters, "Conclusion" and "Bibliography".

In terms of content, the monograph is based on five assumptions. First, it is written for the reader from the point of view of his or her interests and cultural traditions. It should be understood in a conservative way – more as a collection of knowledge that the reader should know and less as a collection of information that the reader is more likely to read in order to confirm their views.

Secondly, the narrative convention adopted in the monograph acknowledges the fact that some explanations refer to formal or structural properties of the system (Huneman, 2018). These structures are usually expressed in biological, physical, mathematical or philosophical terms (Shapiro, 2017; Batterman, Rice, 2014; Jones, 2014; Lange, 2013; Rice, 2012; Dorato, Felline, 2011; Huneman, 2018). This fact distinguishes these explanations from mechanistic explanations (Craver, Darden, 2015), and from general processes (Woodward, 2003).

Thirdly, the monograph is based on the assumption that the development of the state as an ecologically safe organization is not reduced to describing *how it is* and *how it should be*.

Fourthly, the monograph concerns the macrostructures and microstructures of political management on a local and regional scale, including intra-city ones.

Fifthly, the topic of managing other forms of state security was consciously abandoned because – in the author's opinion – the issue of security deserves much more than a few generalities to which it would have to be limited.

This article, and the discussed monograph, implement the goals of the "National Urban Policy 2023" (2015). Importantly, the monograph is the first description of the author's research. The presented research was conducted in 2019–2022.

2. LITERATURE REVIEV

The article discusses the state as an ecologically safe organization characterized by terminological and conceptual discipline. The author draws attention to the fact that the concept of *ecological safety* has never been formally defined. However, it was sometimes used interchangeably with the – also essentially undefined – concept of "concrete actions" aimed at protecting citizens and their future generations from threats resulting from insufficiently harmonised social and economic development with the requirements of environmental protection (Leśniak, 2014; Paczuski, 2005).

The author refers to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland (1997), which may currently seem to some political organizations or individuals to be an anachronistic remnant from an earlier period when, before the development of the new power, legal obligations necessarily rested with private citizens and not with public officials. However, values support the constitutional legitimacy of even a not always robust and routine environmental law enforcement program.

Environmental protection as a tool for ensuring ecological security should be guided by the principle of sustainable development. Ensuring this obligation assumes achieving such a state of the natural environment that allows for safe residence in it and enables the development of humans – using its resources (Wyrok K 23/05). The environmental protection order includes two actions by public authorities (Wyrok K 23/05): preventing and improving the deterioration of the environment. However, considerations of environmental protection law lead to the conclusion that by implementing this law, each organization becomes an ecological organization without going into details of how ecosystems function.

Sustainable development is an argument for social responsibility in the context of justifying the existence of the state organization. The main objection to a coherent understanding of the terms *social responsibility* and *sustainable development* is their partial adoption and mutation by various interests. Real development requires that *pure economics* should apply only to those practical development modifications that are useful for environmental management (Lemaître, Vitcheva, 2020).

The implementation of the environmental management concept requires adopting the correct orientation – in the policy of organizational order, dissemination of values and ethical principles – common to the network of organizations. The objectives are the adopted control systems for preventing environmental risks because they are interdependent with the conditions of global responsibility and sustainable development of countries. This Community strategy combines the environmental aspects of market and non-market practices in the development of techniques for environmental safety (Salvioni, Astori, 2013).

The extreme formalism of this statement is that it is a purely nominalistic understanding and – like all such proofs – has little scientific value. Transferring this idea to the constitutionality of ecological safety, it turns out that the concept of *environmental protection* is synonymous with *the appropriate state of the environment* (Leśniak, 2014). This means that public authorities are obliged to ensure the state of the environment in accordance with the needs of socjety (Wyrok K 23/05).

In theory, state security is considered traditionally: in terms of territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, presence of authority, subject to the same laws, to create unity in each local community (Fierke, 2015; Sesboüé, 2012). Community security policies – in the context of local communities' histories, different cultures and shared values – tend to renew ineffective rules, but if left under control, they should be removed (Fierke 2015; Rothschild, 2008). Tradition is therefore presented not as being placed next to the content of security but as being consistent with the content of creating and enforcing security. The discussion on ecological safety is therefore related to the way in which a person, group or society understands this safety and their awareness of functioning in a safe social space (Rothschild, 1996; Rothschild, 2008).

The article does not omit the basic theoretical formulation: *cross-border security* that is ambiguous and encompasses border communities. The concept of cross-border environmental impact – as a real social object – is based on the assumption of additivity, i.e. independence of the elements of the whole of a mechanistic type. Mechanistic wholes can be treated – in response to cross-border events – as unorganized sets, i.e. those that do not exhibit internal organization. The connections between them are coincidental and irrelevant. The components included in or excluded from the set do not undergo any changes, which indicates the lack of links integrating such a set. The features of the team as a whole therefore coincide with the sum of the features of its components, considered separately (Rykiel, 2001). The author relates this reflection to constitutional principles and changing international conditions.

At the methodological level, the author makes "a synthesis" of ecological security, but without success because she notices that it is acceptable to reject innovations in creating this security when they may increase costs. The excess of these traditional behaviors leads to a loss of value (Sesboüé, 2012; Rykiel, 2006).

Practical solutions for ensuring security remain a subject of research to confirm the conclusion that a progressive state expresses its influence on the sense of security in its historical locations in socjety (Gu et al., 2019; Fierke, 2015). However, the science of security cannot justify the facts because at the same time as the announcement of unknown circumstances of the threat and increased security, the realization of anti-security is announced.

The author emphasizes the fact that in security policy two reasons have legal force: in the context of the increase in the speed and quantity of international information transfer, there has been an increased interest in human security and knowledge about crimes against man, as well as ways to prevent these crimes; in the context of increased access to the amount of information, there has been an increased interest in threats because even distant countries can be included in international interventions. This is due to the much smaller power of reaction and influence in local conflicts. Other countries can defend freedom more effectively than formally constituted political local authorities.

Assuming that the failures of governments in the policy of ecological security are the result of the influence of powerful economic groups, the author encourages us to accept the challenge of improving the development results of countries by improving the tools of ecological security.

3. METHODOLOGY

The author does not separate the definition of *a state* from the definition of *a nation* or *a society*. Many of these definitions were presented and after some time they were

unsatisfactory because they omitted some aspect of the study of the state in which the discipline became interested during that time.

In general, definitions of *the state* can be divided into two groups: normative definitions and descriptive definitions (Rykiel, 2006). The definitions from the first group tried to present what the state should do or what it does do; they always refer to space. The definitions from the second group tried to indicate what the state actually does.

The author uses various metaphors to capture the relationship between the state and its forms of organization. They are useful in understanding how the state shapes the natural environment to maintain this *public interest* in various social spaces. Institutions specify the concept of *social interest* when such a situation occurs in order to explain its content and demonstrate that such interest speaks for or against the proposed solution. The concept of *social interest* is not an abstract concept, it is a concrete concept and must result from a specific situation requiring the defense of this interest even by violating the good name of another person, group of people or institution (Wyrok SN 1973).

It is worth noting that in a state governed by the rule of law, the concepts of *social interest* and *public interest* are semantically identical but are not synonymous with the concept of "state interest" (Żurawik, 2013). In addition, the public interest cannot be considered as *the economic* or *fiscal interest* of the state (Wyrok SN 1993). The process of satisfying the public interest can therefore be expected to eliminate the negative effects of market mechanism imperfections – from the point of view of global and local ecological security.

The aim of the monograph was to establish a theoretical framework for determining when a state is ecologically safe, using the example of Polish regional cities. The continuation of this goal was to provide, among others, a definition of *the ecological security of the state*, as well as the definition of *a socially responsible city* and the definition of *sustainable development of the city*.

The subject of the article could then be defined as an outline of the theory of development of an ecologically safe state based on the study of whether Polish regional cities are ecologically safe.

The thesis was adopted: the concept of an ecologically safe state is based on the concept of cities as an object of knowledge – as opposed to cities as a tool for action. In this article – unless otherwise stated – the state or city are always understood as an object of knowledge.

In this context, this article explains, among other things, the meaning of the definition of *the ecological security of the state*, *social responsibility and sustainable development of the state*, and *environmental management of the state*.

The selection procedure of the community focused on the most developed cities in Poland. It was assumed that the community of regional cities of Poland has features resulting from the advanced social and economic development of these cities. This means that cities cooperate internationally and have extensive use of digitalisation and conceptualise direct or potential social and economic benefits from the natural environment in line with theoretical frameworks and initiatives supported by government, regional or local authorities, based on the development policies of these cities. Statistical certainty was increased by the purposive selection of regional cities. The sample could not be drawn because no public statistics data contain information on the individual characteristics of cities that are difficult to record. The individual characteristics of cities become apparent only when fulfilling obligations (e.g. resulting from the global pandemic or the war between Russia and Ukraine).

Ultimately, 18 regional cities of Poland were considered, i.e.: Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Katowice, Kielce, Kraków, Lublin, Łódź, Opole, Olsztyn, Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, the capital cities of Warsaw and Wrocław, as well as Toruń and Zielona Góra – the seats of the provincial assemblies. The names of regional cities in the further record were replaced by numbers (from 1 to 18) and the order of numbers does not correspond to the alphabetical list of these cities. Research is not a process of assigning definitions regarding the behavior of a specific individual or group of individuals, which would result in assigning them characteristics or labels according to which they could be assessed by others. The analysis and evaluation only refer to the development in the face of the civilization challenge of catching up with more developed cities.

The article is based on five data sources: presentations by other authors (conference papers, peer-reviewed journals, article and reports of university, industrial or organizational nature); 18 strategiach rozwoju miast regionalnych; 18 environmental protection programs of regional cities in Poland; national "EMAS Register – list of organisations registered in the eco-management and audit system" (Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009); author's questionnaire on the "model of an integrated eco-management and city audit system with the goals of sustainable urban development and urban social responsibility". The first data source was discussed in the theoretical part of the monograph and the remaining four data sources are described in the empirical part of the monograph.

A multi-criteria comparative and descriptive analysis of the collected material was used because it is a helpful instrument for implementing social responsibility and sustainable local development when they are integrated with spatial planning. In urban development, decision support systems are an instrument of urban planning when they combine planning alternatives and scientific knowledge and facilitate stakeholder consensus. Consequently, the combination of multi-criteria analysis with a decision support system offers a tool for quantitatively solving spatial decision problems. This tool does not provide an objective answer in terms of *what and how to do best*, but supports decision-makers in three ways (Ringenston, Höjer, 2016): identifies decision criteria; evaluates action options that refer to decision criteria; analytically combines assessments. The synthesis of evaluation techniques creates a basis for decision analysis.

Two criteria were adopted for the analysis of an ecologically safe state: social and economic development factors and the influence of adopted regional cities development strategies. These criteria were related to environmental aspects and the analysis was based on the adopted forms of development and the expected effects of urban development. Multi-criteria analysis enabled the integration of diverse interests of cities and the assessment of their ecological safety.

The theoretical issues were established in the context of the coherence of four international concepts: ecological security, social responsibility, sustainable development and environmental management.

The empirical issues of the study are summary in nature because they refer to the entire population.

The results were generalized to the entire population because specific regularities of the studied phenomenon were detected with a clear and concise characterization of ecological safety. Probability theory was not used because inference is made when the study is representative in the context of a random sample.

The practical application of these results can be seen in four contexts: strategic assessment of the values that need to be implemented to achieve real ecological security; determining mitigation measures to cope with counteracting environmental benefits in

solutions leading to ecological security; determining top-down or bottom-up approaches in the development of ecologically secure cities; determining the state's competences in the field of ecologically secure solutions and such management of cities that ecological security initiatives are coordinated.

4. RESULTS

There is no ecological security policy not only outside of time and space but also without a group of people practicing this policy and without the subject of this policy (Rykiel, 2006). Ecological security is considered in the context of the question about the subject of formulated spheres creating the structures of cities and spatial forms of cities – as places covered by development strategies.

The analysis of the current state of development and quality of 18 regional cities of Poland identified six specific common features of these cities: administrative centers of their regions, economic centers of their regions, labor markets of their regions, educational centers of their regions, cultural centers of their regions and centers of influence on the ecosystems of the regions. These common features of Polish regional cities are not common because other urban centres do not have them. In the objective sense, regional cities – as special places for investing capital within the region or even the country – are also the largest markets for producers and consumers within their region or country.

The analysis of the surveys revealed a diverse approach of the authorities of regional cities to providing reliable information based on the survey questionnaire as a source of information often used by researchers (Tetrevova, Jelinkova, 2019; Tetrevova et.al., 2017). The survey contained 79 questions and 13 tables, and the time to complete the survey depended on the substantive preparation of the individual. By opting for electronic correspondence, presidents of regional cities had the opportunity to be among those creating the best management model.

It is worth mentioning some research results from the empirical part of the monograph (Lipińska, 2022). Nine regional city offices did not respond to the survey: Katowice, Lublin, Olsztyn, Opole, Poznań, Szczecin, Toruń, Wrocław and Zielona Góra. The survey was partially completed and returned by three city offices: Białystok, Gorzów Wielkopolski and the capital city of Warsaw. A different response was provided – recorded in writing – by nine city offices: Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Kielce, Kraków, Łódź, Rzeszów and the capital city of Warsaw. In the context of these other responses, substantive explanations on the city management system were provided by six city offices: Bydgoszcz, Kielce, Kraków, Łódź and Rzeszów (however, without returning the survey questionnaire) and the capital city of Warsaw. Nine city offices directly reported the lack of an implemented integrated eco-management system: Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Kielce, Kraków, Łódź, Rzeszów and the capital city of Warsaw.

It can therefore be stated that the three survey questionnaires obtained from city offices (Białystok, Gorzów Wielkopolski and the capital city of Warsaw) represent a response rate of approximately 17% for all 18 voivodeship city offices in Poland. A good summary of the survey experience was the provision of other substantive written explanations by six voivodeship city offices (Bydgoszcz, Kielce, Kraków, Łódź, Rzeszów and the capital city of Warsaw), which constituted approximately 33% of other explanations.

The survey questionnaire was handled by two offices in two city offices whose names were clearly related to the concept of environmental protection: Environmental Protection

Department of the City Office in Białystok, as well as the Department of Integrated Development and Environment of the City Office in Bydgoszcz.

The survey questionnaire was handled by two offices in two city offices with names that clearly corresponded to the concept of sustainable development: Office for Intelligent Sustainable Development Management of the Kielce City Office, as well as the Department of Integrated Development and Environment of the Bydgoszcz City Office.

Finally, the survey questionnaire was handled by six offices in six city offices whose names did not correspond to the research issues: Secretariat of the Deputy Mayor of the City Office in Gdańsk, Department of Integrated Territorial Investments and Strategic Programming of the City Office of Gorzów Wielkopolski, Department of Organization and Supervision of the City Office of Kraków, City Strategy Office in the Department of Architecture and Development of the City Office of Łódź, Department of Organization and Administration of the City Office of Rzeszów, as well as the Department of Work Organization in the Organization Office of the Capital City of Warsaw. The last one indicated that three offices cooperated in preparing a written response as an additional attachment to the survey.

The survey question about the objective coexistence of the environmental management system with social responsibility and sustainable development concerned not *the best* but rather *the actual* or *structural* framework of this system, not so much *justified* but rather *determined*, not so much by *the arrangement* but rather by *the operation* of the system elements. The question of the objective existence of the city was not *a material object*, but *a system* consisting of elements that were physically connected, especially *functionnally*.

The analysis showed that nine (i.e. 50%) regional cities participating in the survey admitted that they did not have a decision on implementing *a city environmental management system*.

By conducting self-criticism, officers were able to objectively assess the scope of cities' management tasks. Four officers did so (i.e. 22%). This criticism revealed the earlier possession of implemented standards – i.e. a quality certificate confirming compliance with standards for the quality management system (PN-EN ISO 9001:2015), environmental management system (ISO 14001:2015) and environmental management in the context of assessing the eco-efficiency of product systems (ISO 14045:2012) – but without continuation during the research period.

The empirical analysis covered the national EMAS Register to draw attention to the need to distinguish the issue of geographical individuality of regional cities from the issue of the location of their borders. Sectoral reference documents of city offices – regarding best environmental management practices, environmental performance indicators and development excellence criteria – refer not only to the public administration sector but also to other sectors.

The analysis showed that 4 106 708 entities conducted business activity in Poland. Of these, 91 entities, i.e. 0.002%, were recorded in the national EMAS Register (as of 25.07.2021). This fact does not mean, however, that all these entities were economically active. Among these 91 entities were organizations that: suspended their activities and information about this fact was recorded in the national EMAS Register; ceased their activities but information about this was not recorded because it is not in the Central Statistical Office database or they are not entrepreneurs but foundations and associations. There were 65 active entities, i.e. those with current environmental declarations and therefore recorded in EMAS, i.e. 0.001% of 4 106 708 entities with a potential impact on the environment.

The analysis revealed that only one city had a current environmental declaration (as of 25.07.2021): the Wrocław City Office registered in 2012 and verified in 2020 in the EMAS Register. The lack of an environmental declaration in the remaining 17 regional cities means that they cannot promote themselves as environmentally managed.

In the case of social and ecological activity of regional cities, the author of the article identified 16 city development policies and 18 sub-policies of development of these cities, the scope of which depended on the internal and external conditions of these cities. This context was described in the chapter "Catalogues of elements of the structure of the development strategy of regional cities in Poland".

The author developed 13 catalogues: a catalogue of city development challenges (128 elements were classified); a catalogue of city development strengths (92 elements were classified); a catalogue of city development opportunities (132 elements were classified); a catalogue of city development weaknesses (126 elements were classified); a catalogue of city development threats (96 elements were classified); a catalogue of city development directions (121 elements were classified); a catalogue of city development activities (91 elements were classified); a catalogue of city strategic development goals (108 elements were classified); a catalogue of city detailed development goals (82 elements were classified); a catalogue of city operational development goals (97 elements were classified); a catalogue of city strategic development tasks (105 elements were classified); a catalogue of tasks for detailed development of cities (94 items were classified); a catalogue of results of development activities of cities (114 items were classified).
These classifications are illustrated in 13 tables, with development challenges arranged according to 7 development directions and the remaining elements arranged according to 18 development sub-policies. These documents lacked information on environmental aspects. On this basis, the author concludes that there is no real environmental management system in regional cities and no real ecological security of these cities.

Finally, it should be noted that in the literature, the issue of recording environmental aspects is not directly addressed, although these issues are referred to in publications (Tetrevova, Jelinkova, 2019; Tetrevova i in., 2017). It can therefore be stated that the lack of progress in the development of ecological safety is evidence of the lack of social responsibility and sustainable development of such communities. Security that is purposeful, prudent, effective and meets needs is based rather on the study of the effects of previously existing crisis situations.

5. DISCUSSION

The research method revealed several facts.

From the point of view of selecting Polish regional cities for the study, this selection was not intended to fully present how the country's ecological security is achieved. It was intended to show what this process looks like in Poland because it also has international significance. The author is aware that the selected regional cities are seriously overrepresented in the selection and other developing cities have not been included.

From the point of view of analyzing national and English-language literature, in-depth descriptions of urban projects were not always available even on the internet. A complete listing of all available web applications in each literature database was not considered a realistic intention within the study.

From the point of view of the development strategy of regional cities, the examples selected for analysis cannot be perceived as comprehensive solutions for achieving

ecological safety. Similarly, the selection of regional cities was not intended to fully present what an ecologically safe city currently looks like in Poland or even the world. The documents examined are visions or dreams transformed into policies, plans, projects and programmes as the initial capital of the expectations of city stakeholders. Their course was not monitored and their effects were not analyzed, but possible effects were discussed. No reliable monitoring studies were found on the environmental impact of these plans, projects and programmes. Superficial or common information was found (although colorful, attractively designed presentations of the cities' products and services). No comprehensive data was found on the effects of political decisions that led to the non-implementation of a policy, plan or project due to a lack of knowledge about the environmental aspects of cities. The lack of such political decisions could be due to two reasons: this information is not available on the Internet and implementations in such cases abandon formalized public information principles.

From the point of view of the national register of organisations in the environmental management system as important public information, this environmental certification system enabled the rapid identification of Poland's regional cities.

From the point of view of the surveys, the idea was to obtain information on the voluntary environmental management of regional cities in Poland.

From the point of view of data analysis, the aim was to obtain results that would reveal the actual ecological security policy through mutual correlation, i.e. indicate differences or similarities in the management mechanisms of implementing the development strategy of regional cities in Poland.

The processes and results of urban development activities were compared with the intensification of their use to determine the environmental aspects of these cities. This analysis describes how urban development strategies can support the reduction of negative environmental impacts and the use of natural resources in cities. Such a social transformation is essential to increase the ecological security of the country. This fact may apply to other state management implementations.

The justification for the current development of Poland as an ecologically (un)safe organization required the inclusion of target values (i.e. environmental aspects) in the analysis in order to make two terms realistic: *social responsibility* and *sustainable development*.

6. CONCLUSIONS

This article is a self-promotion of the monograph “Outline of the theory of the state as an ecologically safe organization” (Lipińska, 2022) based on the theoretical and practical context of the development of Polish regional cities. It is advisable to begin a concise summary of the most important theses of this monograph by emphasizing that ecological security is a universally desired phenomenon in every period because it is related to the political, social, economic and institutional development of the state and the spatial development of cities and their regions, as well as to the accumulation and dispersion of sources of negative impact on the natural space and its degradation.

The article draws attention to the fact that various concepts and terms related to *social responsibility* and *sustainable development* and *environmental management* are created, but their complexity leads to different opinions because they can be considered in many different ways. They often blur and hinder real protection because public and private

organizations see other opportunities for their development or are encouraged to use different methods of management.

In this article, in line with the author's concept of the monograph, an attempt was made to improve the clarity of understanding the state as an ecologically safe organization according to the implications of ecological safety, social responsibility, sustainable development and environmental management. Analyzing the differences in the conceptual structure of these four concepts can help clarify ambiguities in theory and research and hidden assumptions to uncover inconsistent findings on the social and ecological impacts of decisions made in other countries as well.

The author formulated, among other things, a definition of

> the ecological security of the state: and it is comprehensive security, i.e. protection of the health and life of people and protection of the environment, protection of cultural heritage and protection of property, i.e. a rigorous and broad-based system of protection in advance, which consists in preparing and effectively responding to an emergency (e.g. natural disasters, cyberattacks, pandemics and potential war invasions).

The author formulated a definition of

> socially responsible and sustainable development of the city: and socially responsible and sustainable development of the city as an organization means universally accepted ecological issues, i.e. in the process of city management, in the system of organizing the urban community and in economic relations with interested parties. The city as an organization creates a coherent system of values of the community using the natural and technical space of the city. This space serves to achieve real ecological security of the city. In this context, environmental aspects of the city are continuously identified in all its spatial forms, i.e. production, consumption, power, symbolism, exchange and residence.

These definitions are an incentive for the authorities to reach for the environmental aspects of their public and non-public organisations, in order to catalogue these aspects and to fully respect only positive aspects in development investments, or to update the development strategy of regional centres.

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