

## FOREWORD

## ПРЕДГОВОР

The scientific study of the theoretical and practical problems of the sustainable regional development and the opportunities for it in the near future are of the utmost importance in contemporary public and economic life. The active debates on those issues in the whole society are closely linked to the public policies and strategies on different levels.

The first volume of the monograph “Sustainable development and competitiveness of regions” presents topical issues related to the recognition of sustainability and sustainable initiatives and their potential to contribute to solving contemporary problems and challenges in regional development.

The main objective of the present monograph is to analyze and to identify the contemporary challenges facing regional development in the context of the priorities of sustainable development, intelligent and inclusive growth; to outline and to present good practices, to investigate and to propose new tools and recommendations for future development.

In connection with the stated goal, the following research tasks are formulated:

- presenting contemporary challenges to regional policy, management and business;
- analyzing the issues of competitiveness and sustainability of agri-food sector;
- identifying the opportunities for sustainable development of tourism and raising its competitiveness in a global scope;
- analyzing financial and accounting problems in regional economy as part of the world economy and in the context of sustainable development and the application of the concept of circular economy;
- identifying the role of public policy, governmental, educational and other instruments for sustainable development of regions and local communities through specific examples in concrete regions and sectors;
- outlining the modern problems in regional services through the example of health care and the assurance of its quality.

The object of the research is the sustainable regional development and the opportunities for its promotion. The subject of the study are the contemporary dimensions of sustainability on regional level and the variety of sectors to be engaged and initiatives to be implemented.

The scientific value of the monograph lies in the proposed systematic interdisciplinary study of the concept of sustainable regional development and its real dimensions. The monograph is a result of the long-standing work of prominent scientists and university professors with a focus on sustainable development in regions.

The monograph presents an unconventional and complex view on the modern regional development defining sustainability in various aspects, presenting comprehensive discussions and original implications on its different aspects and proposing new solutions and valuable recommendations for future development.

The first volume of the monograph is presented in a completed form, fulfilling the intended objective and related tasks, but poses many questions and ideas for future scientific research. It can be used by a wide range of users - in the scientific work of

researchers and academics, in the training of students, in the work of state institutions and non-governmental organizations, etc.

The book came to the life thanks to the devoted work of the scientific team and the reviewers, their active commitment to the preparation of the collective monograph and the building of a good team ready to continue working together in new scientific projects.

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