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(UN)SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND SOME POLICIES BEHIND: LITHUANIAN CASE

Renata Dagiliūtė

Department of Environmental Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University, Vileikos 8, Kaunas LT-44404, Lithuania,
E-mail: r.dagiliute@gmf.vdu.lt ; Phone: +370 37 327904; Fax: +370 37 327904

Abstract

In the last two decades, countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) have been undergoing some radical development changes. In the beginning of the 1990s economy as well as social and environmental issues have been affected by the transition to the market economy, globalization, and transition to the sustainability at the same time. As sustainable consumption patterns are one of the main preconditions for sustainability, this study focuses on consumption and some related policies in Lithuania, a typical country with a transition economy in CEE. Sustainability was not on the political agenda in Lithuania until 2003 and sustainable consumption was not focused on until 2009, when Lithuanian national strategy for sustainable development was reviewed. The results show that Lithuania inherited both sustainable (like low waste generation rates, refund system) and unsustainable (like high energy and water inefficiency) consumption levels, which were influenced by economic situation and new market mechanisms rather than some special political measures concerning consumption. Now, though efficiency is increasing, the overall consumption is generally growing.

Key words: policy, sustainable consumption, transition country

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