



WROCLAW UNIVERSITY
OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AND LIFE SCIENCES

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The climate crisis as a product of globalization

Introduction

GOALS:

- what is the impact of **unlimited globalization processes** on the climate crisis?
- and
- how we can effectively stop the negative effects of the climate crisis?

Climate crisis

9 barriers to the development of our planet

1. Climate change (climate warming)
2. Loss of biodiversity,
3. Excessive level of agricultural land use,
4. Water consumption,
5. Acidification of the oceans,
6. Exceeding the levels of phosphorus use,
7. Depletion of the ozone layer,
8. Exceeding nitrogen use levels,
9. Aerosol concentration and chemical contamination.



Inefficiency of current global policy to combat climate change

Examples:

- the **increase in global greenhouse gas emissions** by 30-40% in 1990-2009 - despite the assumed decrease
- **new investments in the extraction of fossil fuels** of USD 22.87 trillion are planned by 2035, with a simultaneous investment in renewable, hydro and nuclear energy of only USD 7.32 trillion.
- The estimated value of the oil reserves is only USD 50 trillion.
- It would be possible (economically and technically) to convert the world to **renewable energy** in 2030 at the cost of USD 100 trillion.

Globalization

Process of unlimited globalization, which stimulates unlimited economic growth and thus accelerates climate change.

Globalization (aspects of climate change):

- deprives local and regional communities of control over their environment, (ex. problem of **smog**, which occurs only locally).
- facilitates **offshoring**, i.e. the transfer of production abroad, thus lowering the costs of transport, communication, and customs.
- favours the creation of the **dirty industry migration effect** (*pollution heaven hypothesis*) from developed countries to low-income countries, where the costs of environmental pollution are significantly lower.

Globalization **abuses the system** and accelerates climate change, which is a specific product of globalization.

The question is, can globalization be controlled to counteract climate change?

The concept of economic degrowth

Degrowth is an alternative to the modern based on 3 assumptions:

- resources are inherently limited,
- infinite growth (demographic, economic) in a finite world is impossible,
- GDP is not a good indicator of economic growth.

‘Degrowth’ = ‘deconstruction of reality’ or ‘detoxification of the environment’.

It means growth, but qualitative : i.e. ‘clean’ and green, not measured by GDP.

It’s a proposal to open up a new space for **innovation** and imaginative **creativity**.

The example of degrowth model

2019 New Zealand budget, which focuses on five priority areas:

1. helping the transition to a sustainable and low-carbon economy,
2. reducing child poverty,
3. supporting indigenous peoples,
4. welfare in the digital age,
5. and concern for the mental health of its inhabitants.

ex. Covid-19 pandemic

Social and economic isolation had a **positive impact on the state of the natural environment.**

However, it can be assumed that the situation will return to normal.

Problem: global free market economy doesn't care about the environment

How to change it?

This will require simultaneous **global regulations** and **cooperation** between countries, as no country can solve the climate problem on its own.

Conclusions

- We are currently dealing with an **uncontrolled process of globalization**, which intensifies the cult of economic growth and, consequently, leads to negative climate changes.
- Transforming the process of **unlimited globalization** into **controlled globalization** can counteract climate change.
- The world economy should be reformed in such a way that the end of economic growth (to which we are inevitably approaching) would not mean the end of prosperity.
- Adopting the **model of degrowth** may effectively stop the negative effects of the climate crisis, which may lead to a global economic recession in the future.
- This will require **international political cooperation** due to the fact that it is impossible to solve the climate problem all alone.

Thank you



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