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“Energy policy as a tool to implement the concept of sustainable development of Poland’s energy sector after 2004”

A sustainable energy policy is a huge challenge for Poland. Therefore, undoubtedly this subject deserves a thorough analysis. The Poland's energy sector is characterized by a high demand for energy, as well as an inadequate level of development of generation and transport infrastructure of fuels and energy. In addition, the situation is further complicated by the high level of dependence on external natural gas suppliers and almost total dependence on oil supplies. Moreover, numerous restrictions imposed by the EU on the Member States in the area of environmental protection and climate, mean that there is still a lot of to do in the field of energy. The aim of the dissertation is an attempt to assess to what extent the energy policy of our state contributes to the implement the concept of sustainable development of energy in Poland. In order to fulfill such a defined main goal, the following auxiliary goals were specified:

- verification of the development directions and activities of the EU’s sustainable energy policy and the course of this process in Poland, Sweden, Germany and Austria, as an attempt to evaluate the differences in the approach to sustainable development of energy;
- presentation of the current state and prospects for the development of sustainable energy sectors in Poland and selected EU member countries (Sweden, Germany, Austria) and the presentation of differences and similarities in the way the sectors;
- presentation of final conclusions based on verification of specific state actions, as well as barriers and development perspectives facing Poland on the way to a sustainable energy policy.

Many research methods have been used to achieve the above-mentioned goals. The analysis of literature, legal bases and strategic documents was carried out to achieve the first and second objective. Comparative and descriptive analysis was also carried out, and descriptive statistics and graphic description were used. For the purpose of the third objective, strategic documents were analyzed, as well as expert opinions and surveys carried out among students.

Energy policy is a key tool to implement the concept of sustainable energy development, and therefore of sustainable development of the economy. The EU imposes many restrictions and requirements on Member States to make this concept effective. However, Poland’s energy sector operates completely differently from the energy sectors in the analyzed developed EU countries, ie Sweden, Germany or Austria. Therefore, a sustainable energy policy should be adapted to the requirements and individual conditions of the energy sector in Poland.

Currently, Poland's energy policy is not a tool to implement the concept of sustainable development. For this to be possible, it is necessary to have long-term activities, consistency in action and a stable law. In addition, there are many pressure groups in the energy sector that press very strongly on national governments in order to effectively implement their interests. The actual sustainable development of energy in Poland can only be ensured by an energy policy that is resistant to all interest groups and is directed at the actual development of the economy and society, without unnecessary degradation of the natural environment. Only such development of energy will be able to provide safe, stable and cheap access to energy not only to the present, but also to future generations.