

1. ЕКОНОМІКА ПРИРОДОКОРИСТУВАННЯ І ЕКОЛОГО-ЕКОНОМІЧНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL IN POLAND: SELECTED ISSUES

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This article deals with selected problems related to the implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) strategy in Poland. The first part of the article presents the place and importance of the EGD in the ecological and agricultural policy of the EU. The second part of the article is an elaboration of selected challenges related to the implementation of EGD in Poland. The goal of the EGD is for the European Union (EU) to become climate neutral by 2050. Poland began to notice many obstacles to the implementation of the EGD: the high cost of energy transformation, inflation, low share of renewable energy sources in the economy and the Russian-Ukrainian war. These are only the first conclusions since the announcement of the EGD idea in the EU. Future research may focus on solving current and future problems related to the introduction of climate neutrality in Poland.

Keywords: European Green Deal, European Union, Poland, energy policy, decarbonization, energetic safety, economy.

JEL Classification: N54, Q57, O43

Introduction. The subject of this article are selected problems related to the implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) concept in Poland. In recent decades, around the world, especially in Western Europe and North America, awareness of the growing threat to the global environment has grown rapidly. In December 2019, the European Commission presented the idea of the European Green Deal. It assumes that the European Union (EU) will achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The purpose of this article is to present and develop selected problems of the European Green Deal in Poland. To achieve this goal, in the following parts of the paper, an attempt will be made to answer the following questions: What is the place and importance of European Green in the agrarian and ecological policy of the European Union?; What challenges does the European Green Deal pose for Poland? The starting point for the article was the analysis of the content of European Union documents as well as scientific works and opinions in the field of European studies.

Place and importance of European Green Deal in the agricultural and ecological policy of the European Union. The European Green Deal is part of other concepts strongly related to ecology, agriculture, law, development and the common economy.

The EGD is an integral part of the strategy developed by the European Commission during the term of office of President Ursula von der Leyen, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals themselves [13]. The European Green Deal, in accordance with the activities of the European Commission, is to additionally support the establishment of sustainability and well-being of citizens as a priority of the EU's economic policy [4, point 3]. The EGD action plan also assumes mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies [3, p. 4].

Also an integral part of the European Green Deal is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In 1962, the CAP was introduced with the following aims: increasing agricultural productivity, ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers, guaranteeing the availability of supplies, stabilizing the market, establishing a secure supply chain with reasonable prices and harmonizing competition rules across all countries [7]. In the years 2021–2027, approximately 40% of the CAP budget is to be allocated to care for the climate and the environment.

The European Commission has also presented the 'Farm to Fork' concept, which is at the heart of the European Green Deal. It assumes:

- preservation and restoration of ecosystems,

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- enabling farmers to produce safe, cheaper and wholesome food,
- guaranteeing farming families decent living conditions [2, p. 110].

Thanks to this, agriculture and fisheries are to play an important role in "The Just Transition Mechanism", i.e. reducing the use of and dependence on pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics and the risks associated with them in order to reduce the use of plant protection chemicals by 50% by 2030 [14, p. 127].

The Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 also has a central place in the EGD concept. It was presented in 2020 and assumes, among others:

- protecting at least 30% of the land and sea areas of the European Union,
- restoration of at least 10% of agricultural land that contains landscape features of high diversity,
- strengthening measures to protect soil fertility, reducing soil erosion and increasing the content of soil organic matter,
- increasing the area of forests by planting at least 3 billion trees by 2030 and ensuring the condition of all primary forests and old-growth forests in the European Union,
- restoring significant areas of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems by 2030 and reversing the downward trend in the number of pollinating insects [14, p. 128].

The 'Farm to Fork' and the EU biodiversity strategies, which were jointly presented by the Commission in 2020, share multiple goals and targets: for instance the reduction in the use of pesticides and fertilisers, the restoration of agricultural land and the management of water [6].

Particularly important from the legislative point of view for the EGD is the 'Fit for 55' concept, which creates the EU climate law. It is to adjust the climate, energy, transport and tax policies of the European Union in order to reduce net GHG emissions (greenhouse gas) by 2030 by

at least 55% (hence the name of the concept) compared to the 1990 level. This is to help the European Green Deal achieve climate neutrality by 2050 [5, p. 3].

Challenges for Poland. The goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 is not equally achievable by all European Union countries. More developed countries have declared that they will be able to achieve this goal earlier, e.g. Finland (until 2035), Austria (until 2040) and Sweden (until 2045) because they have been using energy generated by wind or nuclear power plants for a long time. Poland does not yet have sufficient sources of renewable energy in its resources. Compared to other EU countries, Poland will have to make a very big effort to achieve climate neutrality. According to an economist from the Polish Economic Institute, Dr. Piotr Arak, Poland will probably achieve climate neutrality by 2056 [1]. In order for the Polish economy to be carbon neutral from 2020 to 2050, it requires a contribution of EUR 380 billion, which is an average increase of approximately EUR 13 billion per year [10, p. 10]. As part of establishing the EGD in Poland, the energy transformation is a serious obstacle.

Another problem that is constantly being solved is the level of share of renewable energy sources in the Polish economy. Since Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004, a constant increase in the share of renewable energy sources in the economy has been noticeable. One of the most important goals of the EU and EGD climate policy is the energy transition (Figure 1). Taking into account the global climate situation and the gradual depletion of natural resources, it is necessary for Poland to become independent of fossil fuels as soon as possible [15, p. 108].

Despite the fact that in 2020 the share of coal in energy production was lower than 70%, and renewable sources are beginning to gain importance in energy production, Poland still remains one of the most expensive energy markets in Europe [9]. The high costs of transformation will be

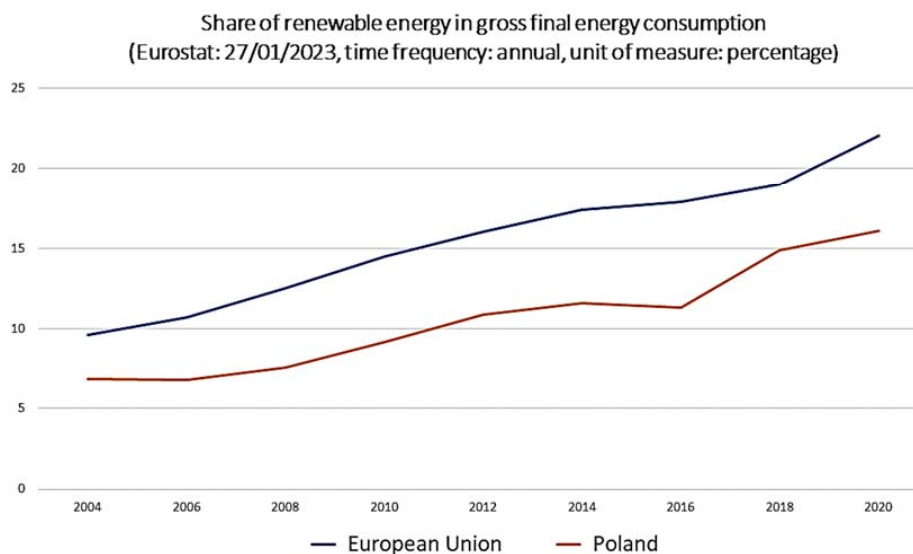


Figure 1 – Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption

particularly felt along with the progressing inflation. The outlined problems related to carbon dioxide emissions do not completely obscure the implementation of the European Commission's assumptions resulting from the European Green Deal. They show that many strategic and practical changes still need to be made in order to reduce the existing obstacles, which include, in particular, reducing the use of coal in the energy balance, as well as highlighting and using the potential of renewable energy sources [9, p. 14]. The European Green Deal is a huge challenge for Poland, the future should be seen in the process of balancing production and consumption [11, p. 275].

Another challenge to the introduction of the European Green Deal in Poland is caused by the Russian-Ukrainian war. Due to the sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia, oil and gas prices are rising. Even if the war is over soon, there will still be a lot of demand for oil and gas in Europe and prices will be high. The high price of oil will accelerate the electrification of transport, and the high price of gas as a transition fuel will hinder the energy transition. Among the priorities of Poland's energy security is the search for an alternative to gas. The war in Ukraine generally affects the entire European Union financially. Due to the military, economic and humanitarian support for Ukraine, the possibilities of financing the objectives of

the EGD program in Poland and the European Union are decreasing [12, 88–89].

Conclusions. The aim of the article was a synthetic elaboration of the place and importance of the European Green in the agrarian and ecological policy of the European Union and the challenges facing Poland – the European Green Deal. It can be seen in the policy of the European Union that in recent years, and especially during the tenure of Ursula von der Leyen in the European Commission, care for climate neutrality is one of the priorities of her government. The growing threat to the environment, the climate catastrophe and energy security are key elements of the current European sustainable development strategy. Not all countries can reach the level of climate neutrality by 2050 at the same time. Some countries can do it faster, while others (e.g. Poland) need more time and financial resources. In connection with the idea of introducing the EGD in Poland, the first conclusions, difficulties and fears that may make it difficult have begun to flow. These are: high costs of energy transformation; making a big effort in Poland in a short time; inflation; low share of renewable energy sources and the Russian-Ukrainian war. These problems are to be solved by The Just Transition Mechanism. Further research and analysis on the issue of implementing the EGD strategy in Poland is needed to solve current, potential and future problems.

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ВПРОВАДЖЕННЯ ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОГО ЗЕЛЕНОГО КУРСУ В ПОЛЬЩІ: ОКРЕМІ ПИТАННЯ

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Ця стаття стосується окремих проблем, пов'язаних із впровадженням стратегії Європейської зеленої угоди (EGD) у Республіці Польща. Європейська зелена угода – це концепція, представлена президентом Європейської комісії Урсулою фон дер Ляйєн у грудні 2019 року, її метою є досягнення кліматичної нейтральності Європейського Союзу (ЄС) до 2050 року. Статтю розроблено на основі аналізу документів Європейської Комісії та праць і думок європейських політологів й економістів у галузі європейських досліджень, енергетичної та аграрної політики. У першій частині статті представлено місце та значення EGD в екологічній та аграрній політиці ЄС. European Green Deal є невіддільною частиною інших дуже важливих стратегій Європейського Союзу: «Сталий розвиток», «Спільна сільськогосподарська політика», «Farm to Fork», «Biodiversity Strategy» та «Fit for 55». Друга частина статті – це розробка вибраних проблем, пов'язаних із впровадженням Європейської зеленої угоди в Польщі. Варто звернути увагу на різний рівень економічного розвитку окремих країн ЄС. Деякі країни, такі як Фінляндія, Австрія та Швеція, заявляють про досягнення кліматичної нейтральності до 2050 року. Деякі економісти вважають, що Польща може досягти кліматичної нейтральності до 2056 року, що може завадити спільному прагненню Європейського Союзу до цієї мети. Інші економісти стверджують, що Польща може досягти кліматичної нейтральності, якщо щорічно на ці цілі виділятиме приблизно 13 мільярдів євро. У Польщі почали помічати багато перешкод на шляху реалізації EGD: високу вартість трансформації енергії, інфляцію, низьку частку відновлюваних джерел енергії в економіці та російсько-українську війну. Питання, коротко проаналізовані в цій статті, окреслюють стан польської та європейської енергетичної безпеки та екологічної політики. Це лише перші висновки з моменту оголошення ідеї Європейської зеленої угоди в Європейському Союзі. Приклад Польщі може показати ефективність політики Європейського Союзу у сфері справедливого переходу та сталого розвитку. Майбутні дослідження можуть бути зосереджені на вирішенні поточних і майбутніх проблем, пов'язаних із впровадженням кліматичної нейтральності в Польщі.

Ключові слова: European Green Deal, Європейський Союз, Польща, енергетична політика, декарбонізація, енергетична безпека, економіка.

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