

Knowledge-Based Economy and Sustainable Development.

Recognition of rational awareness as an important source of purposeful action in challenging directions

Abstract

Unlimited economic growth fueled by technological innovation can secure sustainable development. A policy of sustainable development can be designed and implemented using both science and deliberate human choices motivated by objective intellectual and moral values.

Key words: knowledge-based economy, awareness, sustainable development

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The paper „Know, live and let live: Towards a redefinition of the knowledge-based economy sustainable development nexus” (Ecological Economics, 69, 2010, 1193–1201) challenges the assumption that unlimited economic growth fueled by technological innovation can secure sustainable development, as sustaining life and societies now and across generations requires adequate knowledge of both facts and purpose.

It proposes recognition of rational awareness, a kind of non-empirical knowledge known since Plato's time but currently disregarded by science, as an important source of purposeful action in a complex and dynamic economic reality which functions not only according to human laws but also according to objective laws. It also proposes a specific focus on sustainable development as a principle of social continuity on earth and a view of the knowledge-based economy as an open, complex, dynamic sub-system potentially able to secure sustainable development.

The article concludes that a policy of sustainable development can be designed and implemented using both science (the most authoritative source of facts about reality) and deliberate human choices motivated by objective intellectual and moral values.