

## Abstract of Bożena Ryszawska's book

### *Zielona gospodarka — teoretyczne podstawy koncepcji i pomiar jej wdrażania w Unii Europejskiej\**

Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu, Wrocław 2013, 251 pages

### *Green Economy — Theoretical Grounds of the Concept and the Measure of Its Implementation in the European Union\*\**

The concept of the green economy is formulated as an alternative approach to the existing model of economy. The author of this book examines the new thinking started after a global financial crisis (2008) and continued on the conference Rio+20. The crisis made us aware that “business as usual” is not possible anymore. The concept of the green economy is a new, more radical direction in creating the harmonious, balanced social and environmental development of countries. Recovery strategies of regions and countries after the crisis focus on the sustainable development as a motor which will help to decouple the economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernize our transport sector and promote energy efficiency. There is a “growing recognition that achieving sustainability rests almost entirely on getting the economy right”. It also emphasizes the crucial point that economic growth and environmental stewardship can be complementary strategies. As has already been noted, what is essential to the concepts of the green economy and green growth is the understanding that the benefits of environmental sustainability outweigh the costs of investing in and protecting the ecosystems, so that it is possible to have a win-win or “double dividend” strategy of growth with environmental sustainability, and even win-win-win or “triple dividend” strategy that also includes poverty eradication and broader improvements in social equity.

The book introduces the green economy on the two levels as:

- a political concept which became a central issue of recovery strategies after the crisis
- a real sector of economy, which is growing rapidly, attracting investors, creating added value and new jobs

The author has created a Green Economy Index which is composed of 21 indicators covering seven areas:

- I – ecosystems/biodiversity/natural capital
- II – emission/pollution/waste
- III – resources consumption
- IV – poverty, social inequalities
- V – economy
- VI – environmental strategies and policies
- VII – green economy sectors

The subject of the research were 27 countries of the European Union in which the implementation of the green economy was measured by 21 indicators and which finally were ranked using the Green Economy Index. The countries were combined in three groups according to their position in the ranking. The position in the ranking shows what level of the green economy aims is achieved by a country.

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\* Book in Polish

\*\* This abstract was originally printed in the book, page 242.