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FOREWORD

It is our honor to present the 25th edition of the *SGEM GeoConference Proceedings 2025*. These peer-reviewed proceedings reflect the scientific work presented at the SGEM GeoConference - an international platform where **Geosciences and STEM** unite to create knowledge that supports a more sustainable and responsible future. SGEM stands on a foundational belief: science is valuable not because it is new, but because it is **true, useful, and serving society**.

This volume 25 / issue 5.1: *Ecology, Environmental Economics, Education, and Legislation* — brings together interdisciplinary research addressing ecosystem restoration, sustainable land and water management, biodiversity conservation, green urbanism, circular economy applications, sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation strategies, environmental legislation, education for sustainability, and socio-economic drivers of green transformation. These thematic areas directly support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Ecology and sustainability define the direction of modern science. The studies in this issue analyze sensitive natural habitats, evaluate the ecological health of river and marine systems, examine soil and vegetation dynamics, assess environmental risks from pollution, and explore ecosystem services in forests and urban environments. Complementary research demonstrates how sustainability is shaped by **economic decisions, agricultural practices, energy policy, consumer behavior, and education**. Environmental governance, funding mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and legal frameworks highlight the importance of cooperation between science, institutions, and society. Through this integrated approach, sustainability becomes measurable, actionable, and scalable—from local communities to national policy.

All manuscripts included in these proceedings underwent a rigorous **double-blind peer-review** conducted by independent experts. Only papers demonstrating scientific integrity, originality, and meaningful contribution were accepted for publication. Every

accepted manuscript receives an individual **Crossref DOI** and is permanently archived in the SGEM Digital Library, ensuring academic traceability, citability, and long-term preservation.

Demonstrating geographical and disciplinary diversity, the SGEM GeoConference unites researchers, professionals, and emerging scholars from **over 25 countries across multiple continents, including developed and developing nations and diverse research traditions**. What makes SGEM unique is its profound commitment to its core mission - **promoting Sustainability, fostering progress in Geosciences and Education, and supporting continuous scientific development**. Here, **the Earth** is not only studied - **it is respected**.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the SGEM Scientific Committee, we express our sincere gratitude to all authors for their trust, to the reviewers for safeguarding scientific quality, and to all institutions supporting this global scientific initiative. Together, we transform knowledge into impact and ideas into progress.

We wish you inspiring reading and meaningful scientific achievements.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. hab. oec. Baiba Rivza

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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS CONTENTS

ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 1. A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF STOCKING DENSITY ON LIVESTOCK FARMS IN LATVIA**, Leading Researcher, Head of Department Dr. oec. Valda Bratka
Researcher Dr. oec. Artūrs Prauliņš.....3
- 2. A SURVEY OF MONILINIA LAXA ON THE PLUM [TREES FROM THE WESTERN PART OF ROMANIA BETWEEN 2022-2024]**, Prof. Dr. Adrian Borcean, Levente Molnar 11
- 3. ASPECTS REGARDING THE ADVANTAGES OF USING PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN DUMBRAVITA COMMUNE, TIMIS COUNTY, ROMANIA**, Lecturer Dr. Oana Maria Sicoe-Murg, Prof. Dr. Nicoleta Mateoc-Sirb, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodor Mateoc 19
- 4. ASSESSING THE STATUS OF FISH FAUNA IN THE VELEKA RIVER THROUGH AN ADAPTED LIVING PLANET INDEX (LPI): TRENDS AND ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**, Dr. Radoslava Bekov, Dr. Bogdan Prodanov.....27
- 5. ASSESSMENT OF EGG WEIGHT, COMPONENTS, AND METAL CONTENT IN DIFFERENT HEN HOUSING SYSTEMS**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. ing. Eliza Simiz, Drd. ing. Patricia Cristina Tarkanyi, Drd. ing. Adrian Dan Rășinar, Lecturer Dr. Florin Dan Simiz, Assoc. Prof. Dr. ing. Monica Dragomirescu.....41
- 6. CURENT STATUS OF SOME STANDING WATER NATURA 2000 HABITATS FROM BANAT (SOUTHWESTERN ROMANIA)**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alina Neacsu, Prof. Dr. Ilinca Imbrea, Prof. Dr. Adrian Borcean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iaroslav Lato, Prof. Dr. G.-Gabriel Arsene53
- 7. DETECTION OF ACCELERANTS IN FIRE DEBRIS USING A PORTABLE GAS CHROMATOGRAPH-MASS SPECTROMETER**, PhD. Phys. Niculina-Sonia Suvar, PhD. Chem. Maria Prodan, PhD. Eng. Andrei Szollosi-Mota, Tehn. Alimina Iuliana Toplician.....61
- 8. DETERMINATION OF DIFFERENT HEAVY METALS CONTENT IN CHILDREN TOYS USING ICP-OES ANALYSIS METHOD**, Ph.D. Andrei Szollosi-Mota, Ph.D. Niculina Sonia Suvar, Ph.D. Maria Prodan, Ph.D. Vasilica Irina Nalboc, T.S. Asimina Iuliana Toplician69
- 9. ECO-FRIENDLY URBANISM: INTEGRATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INTO URBAN LANDSCAPES**, Dimitar Atanasov PhD, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov, Assist. Prof. PhD. Antonina Atanasova77

10. ECOTOXICOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PESTICIDES IN THE JIUL DE EST BASIN – UNVEILING SEASONAL DYNAMICS AND BIODIVERSITY THREATS , PhD. Eng. Alexandru Florin Simion, PhD. Eng. Vlad Alexandru Lăutaru, PhD. Eng. Angelica Nicoleta Găman, PhD. Eng. Sorin Victor Simion, PhD. Eng. Marius Emilian Kovacs	83
11. ENERGY AND ARCHITECTURE IN AGRARIAN SOCIETIES: A CASE STUDY OF THE IER VALLEY (1900-1915) , Ph.D Ress. Vlad Rada, Ph.D student Mihai-Ionut Danciu, Prof. Dr. Adina Horablaga.....	91
12. EVALUATION OF EXPLOSION IN QUARRY SITE: A CASE STUDY , Guido Alfaro Degan, Andrea Antonucci, Gianluca Coltrinari, Sara Innocenzi, Dario Lippiello	99
13. EXPLORING CALCIUM, POTASSIUM, IRON AND BARIUM ACCUMULATION IN <i>URTICA DIOICA</i> AND <i>LAMIUM PURPUREUM</i> USING XRF SPECTROMETRY , PhD Ress. Patricia Cristina Tarkanyi, Prof. dr. Ersilia Alexa, Lecturer dr. Laura Rădulescu, Lecturer dr. Narcis Gheorghe Băghină, Prof. dr. Despina-Maria Bordean.....	107
14. EXPLORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EXPENDITURES AND INVESTMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPACT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT , PhD Assoc. Prof. Elena Claudia Sîrbulescu, PhD Lecturer Cosmina-Simona Toader, PhD Assoc. Prof. Simona Cristina Constantinescu, PhD Prof. Luminița Pîrvulescu, PhD Assoc. Prof. Iuliana Ioana Merce	115
15. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE UTILISING BRYOPHYTES FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVISION IN URBAN AREAS , Juta Karklina, Edgars Karklins, Ph.D. Lilita Abele, Dr.biol. Liga Strazdina, Dr.sc.ing. Martins Vilnitis	123
16. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: PAVING THE PATH TO RESILIENT AND VIBRANT CITIES , Assist. Prof. PhD. Antonina Atanasova, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov.....	133
17. HERMAPHRODITISM IN GREY MULLET (<i>MUGIL CEPHALUS</i>) ALONG THE BULGARIAN BLACK SEA COAST: POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS TO ECOLOGICAL FACTORS , Dr. Radoslava Bekova, Viktoriya Vachkova, Dr. Borislava Margaritova, Dr. Bogdan Prodanov	139
18. HIERARCHIZATION AND TYPOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE GEOSITE NETWORK AS A FOUNDATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POTENTIAL DOLNY SPIS GEOPARK, SLOVAKIA , Dr. Miriama Javorska, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Cech	155
19. IMPACT OF COOKING ON THE NUTRITIONAL PROFILE OF PARSNIP (<i>PASTINACA SATIVA</i>) , Lecturer Dr. Eng. Laura Rădulescu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ariana Bianca Velciov, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Corina Iuliana Megyesi, Prof. Dr. Eng. Simion Alda, Prof. Dr. Eng. Despina-Maria Bordean	171

20. IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF PIG FARMS, Phd Ress. Florin Daniel Bogosel, Lecturer Dr. Loredana Văduva, Phd Ress. Ionuț Mircea Petroman, Prof. Dr. Nicoleta Hădărugă, Prof. Dr. Cornelia Petroman	179
21. MODEL FOR ASSESSING THE ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE VALUE OF A PARK IN THE URBAN ECOSYSTEM, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cristian Berar, Lecturer. Dr. Cristina Tota, Professor Dr. Florin Sala	187
22. NUTRITIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL OF CHENOPODIUM ALBUM L.: IT'S POTENTIAL ROLE AS A MINERAL-RICH FOOD SUPPLEMENT, PhD Ress. Eng. Mihaela Lăcătuș, Prof. dr. Atena-Mariana Poiană, Assoc. Prof. dr. Aurica-Breica Borozan, Lecturer dr. Liana Maria Alda, Prof. dr. Despina-Maria Bordean.....	195
23. PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION PROJECT OF UKRAINE, PhD Volodymyr Mykhailov, PhD Sergiy Pachev, PhD Natalia Shkoda, PhD Liudmyla Shleina, PhD Alla Krylova	203
24. REHABILITATION OF A LAND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM IN THE SOUTHWESTERN ROMANIA CONDITIONS, Prof. Dr. habil. Adina Horablaga, Lecturer Dr. Daniel Dorin Dicu, Prof. Dr. habil. Cosmin Alin Popescu, Dr. Alina Lavinia Caluseru, Prof. Dr. Florin Sala	211
25. RESEARCH REGARDING ON THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE WESTERN REGION, ROMANIA, Prof. Dr. Brad Ioan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Feher Andrea, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gherman Remus	219
26. REVITALIZING URBAN SPACES: THE IMPACT OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ON CITY ECOLOGY, Dimitar Atanasov PhD, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov, Assist. Prof. PhD Antonina Atanasova	229
27. STUDY OF TECHNIQUES FOR SELECTIVE EXTRACTION OF URANIUM AND RARE EARTH, PhD Maxat Bulenbayev, PhD Bagdat Altaibayev, David Magomedov, Zhasulan Bekpeissof, Turkmenbai Daulet.....	235
28. SUSTAINABLE AND RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF UNUSED RAILWAY LINES, Dr. Aimilia Lempesi, Christodoulos Daoutis	243
29. TERRITORIAL STRUCTURE AND PLANT SPECIES IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL BALANCE – CASE STUDY IN THE 'BOTANICAL PARK' TIMISOARA, ROMANIA, Lecturer. Dr. Cristina Tota, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cristian Berar, Professor Dr. Florin Sala	253
30. TRANSFORMING CITYSCAPES: THE ROLE OF URBAN ECOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING, Assist. Prof. PhD. Antonina Atanasova, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov.....	261

ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABILITY, POLICIES & ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

31. WORKING CAPITAL AS AN INDICATOR OF FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: EMPIRICAL STUDY OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN BULGARIA , PhD Tsvetomir Manolov.....	269
32. A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS AND QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND IMPACTS OF THE SEAWEED SECTOR IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION , Inese Skapste, Gunta Grinberga-Zalite, Andra Zvirbule, Ilze Vircava, Kristiana Skutele	277
33. A STUDY ON THE TRANSITION TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodor Mateoc-Sirb, Prof. Dr. Nicoleta Mateoc-Sirb, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Codruța Chiș, Lecturer Dr. Oana Sicoe-Murg, Lecturer Dr. Anișoara Duma-Copcea	287
34. AN ANALYSIS OF BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN ROMANIAN AQUACULTURE SECTOR , Lecturer Dr. Toader Cosmina-Simona, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Feher Andrea Ana, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sălășan Cosmin, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sîrbulescu Elena Claudia, Lecturer Dr. Dumitrescu Carmen Simona	295
35. ASSESSING THE INSTABILITY RISKS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND THE MITIGATING ROLE OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING , Myrzabike Zhumabayeva, PhD, Sezim Yertayeva, Kundyz Madykhanova	305
36. CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE IN IMPLEMENTING ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO ECONOMIC IMPACTS , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metodi Ivanov	313
37. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ECONOMY: NAVIGATING RISKS AND MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES , Alexander Peychev PhD, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov.....	321
38. COMMERCIALISATION POTENTIAL OF ALGAL BIOSTIMULANTS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION: REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS , Inese Skapste, Gunta Grinberga-Zalite, Andra Zvirbule, Ilze Vircava, Kristiana Skutele.....	327
39. INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGY PROSPECTS: A CASE STUDY OF FLAT GLASS MANUFACTURING , Prof. Dr. Sci. Tatiana Tolstykh, Prof. Dr. Sci. Tatiana Guseva, Dr. Dmitry Mikhailidi, Mr. Alexey Pisarev, Mr. Viktor Rudomazin	335
40. CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR IN GREEN PURCHASING DECISIONS , Mg. Inta Ozola	345
41. CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY, DIGITAL AND GREEN INNOVATIONS IN RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP , PhD. Res. Mg.oec. Ksenija Furmanova, Prof. Dr.oec. Gunta Grinberga-Zalite, Assoc. Prof. Dr.oec. Sandija Zeverte-Rivza, Prof. Dr.habil.oec. Baiba Rivza, Prof. Dr.sc.oec. Liga Paula.....	353

42. DIGITAL WORKFORCE EXPANSION AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH ENERGY INTENSITY REDUCTION ACCROSS EUROPE , Marian Pompiliu Cristescu, Culda Lia-Cornelia, Ana Maria Constantinescu, Dumitru Alexandru Mara, Moldovan Radu Anton	361
43. DO COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUPPORT PAYMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF FARMS? , Prof. Irina Pilvere, Dr. Ilze Upite, Dr. Aleksejs Nipers, Dr. Aija Pilvere, Mg. Jana Gurska.....	369
44. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SYNTHETIC DUCTILE IRON PRODUCTION , Assoc. Prof. Ing. Peter Futas, PhD., Prof. Ing. Alena Pribulova, PhD., Prof. Ing. Marcela Pokusova, PhD., Ing. Peter Blasko, PhD., Prof. Ing. Marcela Malindzakova, PhD.	379
45. ESTIMATE THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC LOSSES IN THE VALUE CHAIN OF HARD COAL MINING IN POLAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNED LIQUIDATION OF THIS SECTOR , Assoc. Prof. Paweł Bogacz	387
46. EU PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR FACING CLIMATE CHANGE , Lecturer Dr. Carmen Simona Dumitrescu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cosmin Sălășan, Prof. Dr. Sorin Mihai Stanciu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simona Cristina Constantinescu, Lecturer Dr. Cosmina Simona Toader.....	395
47. EU UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SDGS , Prof. Dr. Sorin Mihai Stanciu, Lecturer Dr. Raul Pașcalău, Lecturer Dr. Carmen Simona Dumitrescu	403
48. FUTURE-PROOFING ECONOMIES: INNOVATIVE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE , Alexander Peychev PhD, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov.....	411
49. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN OPTIMIZING RURAL TOURISM MANAGEMENT , Drd. Theodor Muntean, Drd. Larisa-Elena Briscan, Prof. Dr. Tiberiu Iancu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramona Ciolac, Prof. Dr. Tabita Adamov	417
50. INDUSTRIAL PARK AND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN LATVIA , Assist. prof. Dr.oec. Liga Jankova, PhD Ress., Mg.proj.mgmt. Peteris Abolins, Assist. prof. Dr.oec. Inguna Jurgelane – Kaldava	425
51. LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AND PHYSICAL SAFETY OF POPULATION , Ing. Tomáš Činčala, Mgr. Bc. Petra Vrtalová, Ph.D, Doc. Ing. Martin Hrinko, Ph.D.....	435
52. MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVES ON GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN LATVIA: SURVEY-BASED INSIGHTS ON ATTITUDES AND IMPLEMENTATION BARRIERS , Inese Pelsa, Prof. Signe Balina.....	445
53. NATURAL RESOURCES AND EXPERT ANALYSIS OF APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES IN YAKUTIA , Prof. Natalia Batugina, Evgenii Khoiutanov, Vladislav Fedorov.....	453

54. OPERATIONAL COST ANALYSIS OF AN ELEMENTARY EXTRACTION CYCLE IN A MARBLE QUARRY OF THE APUAN ALPS , Innocenzi Sara, Prof. Lippiello Dario, Prof. Alfaro Degan Guido, Coltrinari Gianluca, Antonucci Andrea	461
55. ROLE OF SMALL-SCALE MINING BUSINESS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAKHA REPUBLIC (YAKUTIA) , Prof. Natalia Batugina, Yurii Andreev	469
56. RURAL TOURISM – A SUPPORT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN RURAL AREAS , PhD Res. Dragos-Ciprian Chende, Lecturer Dr. Sebastian Moisa, Lecturer Dr. Anka Pascariu, Lecturer Dr. Marius Gordan, Prof. Dr. Ioana Anda Milin.....	477
57. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUPPORT PAYMENTS , Prof. Irina Pilvere, Dr. Ilze Upite, Dr. Aleksejs Nipers, Dr. Aija Pilvere, Mg. Jana Gurska	487
58. STATISTICS ON AGRICULTURAL INPUT PRICES IN LATVIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODERNIZATION , Economist Mag. soc. sci. Dainis Strumpe, Researcher Dr. oec. Artūrs Prauliņš	499
59. STRATEGIES FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF AGRICULTURAL FARMING TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE , Lecturer Dr. Mănescu Camelia, Prof. dr. Raba Diana, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tonea Elena, Lecturer Dr. Marin Diana, Prof. Dr. Popescu Gabriela	507
60. STUDY ON THE LINK BETWEEN BIOECONOMY AND, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Tonea, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Corina Sirbu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iuliana Merce, Lecturer Dr. Camelia Manescu, Lecturer Dr. Lia Rotariu.....	515
61. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT USING THE SOCIAL PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDEXES , Prof. Dr. Modrite Pelse, Dr. Arnis Lenerts, Mg.oec. Ilgmars Lejnicks, AnnaVelickina.....	523
62. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: AN ASSESSMENT OF CO2 EMISSIONS AND FARMING INDICATORS , Dr. Aija Pilvere, Dr. Irina Pilvere, Dr. Aleksejs Nipers	531
63. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN LATVIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND FARMING STRUCTURE Dr. Aija Pilvere, Dr. Irina Pilvere, Dr. Aleksejs Nipers	539
64. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN ROMANIA - GOAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2030 , Prof. Dr. Ioana-Anda Milin, Assoc.Prof. Dr. Iuliana Ioana Merce, Lecturer Dr. Gordan Marius-Ionuț, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ciprian-Ioan Rujescu, PhD Res. Dragoș-Ciprian Chende	549
65. PROMOTION OF TOURIST SERVICES THROUGH LOCAL TRADITIONS AND CULTURE , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simona Cristina Constantinescu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Claudia Sirbulescu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manuela Dora Orboi, Lecturer Dr. Carmen Simona Dumitrescu, Dr. Ingrid Gabriela Nicolaescu.....	559

66. SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN PROJECTS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN REGION OF ROMANIA , Drd. Larisa-Elena Briscan, Drd. Theodor Munteanu, Prof. Dr. Elena Peț, Prof. Dr. Tabita-Cornelia Adamov.....	567
67. SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT: RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE , Assist. Prof. Dr. Zane Vitolina.....	573
68. SYSTEM FOR DECISION SUPPORT TO REACH CLIMATE NEUTRALITY OBJECTIVES: CASE OF LATVIA , Prof., Dr. Dzintra Atstāja.....	581
69. THE CHALLENGES AND ADVANTAGES OF THE DIGITALIZATION-SUPPORTED ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INVESTMENTS IN HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR , Gergo Wenner, Arpad Ferencz, Dr. Anita Csiba.....	593
70. THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S OMNIBUS PROJECT FROM THE COMPANIES' PERSPECTIVE – A REVIEW AND SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE SIMPLIFICATION OF THE EU SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FRAMEWORK , Prof. Dr. Eleonora Stancheva-Todorova	603
71. THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES ON BEEKEEPING IN ROMANIA , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Merce Iuliana Ioana, Prof. Dr. Milin Ioana Anda, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tonea Elena, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sîrbu Corina, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sîrbulescu Claudia.....	611
72. THE IMPACT OF SUSTAINABILITY ON PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING BODIES AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS , Prof. Dr. Eleonora Stancheva-Todorova.....	621
73. THE IMPACT OF SUSTAINABLE HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT ON ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY , Prof. Dr. sc. admin. Una Libkowska, Mg. Zane Zonberga, Asoc. prof. Dr. sc. admin. Liene Resele-Dusele, Mg. Sanita Lasmane.....	629
74. THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITALIZATION IN THE PROCESS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT , PhD Gheorghe Firu, Prof. Dr. Ioan Brad, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ioana Bălan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Monica Ocnean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Remus Gherman.....	639
75. THE READINESS OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE "TWIN TRANSITION" , PhD, Lilita Abele, Dr. hab. oec., Baiba Rivza, MSc (Comp.Sc.) Dzintars Tomsons.....	645
76. THE ROLE OF TOURISM IN SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA: CHANGES, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVE , Tatjana Lejava, Zane Vitolina	655
77. TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: INTERNATIONAL AND RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE , Prof. DSc. Olga Kudryavtseva, Sergei Vasiliev.....	665

78. ECONOMIC-LEGAL REGULATION OF BANK LIQUIDITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor Halyna Matviienko, Doctor of Juridical Sciences, Professor Serhii Shatrava, PhD in law, doctoral Ress. Oleksandr Mozghovyi, PhD in Juridical Sciences Isa Musa Ohly Tanryverdiiev, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor Oksana Butkevych, Doctor of Juridical Sciences, Senior researcher Sergii Shkliar.....675

79. FROM REGULATION TO ACTION: UNDERSTANDING THE GREEN TRANSITION CHALLENGES FOR LATVIAN BUSINESSES, PhD Ress.. Ilona beizitere, Assoc. Prof. Dr. sc. administr. Ieva Brence, Tenure Prof. Dr. habil. oec. Baiba Rivza.....685

80. MODERNIZATION OF RAILWAY LINES IN BULGARIA - STRATEGY AND GOALS FOR A CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE. IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON PEOPLE, Prof. Dr. Eng. Stoyo Todorov, Asist. Prof. Dr. Eng. Kina Kutsarova-Dimitorova, Eng. Yonko Paskalev697

81. OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING FINANCING MECHANISMS USING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN BULGARIA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metodi Ivanov.....705

82. VIOLATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF FULL-SCALE MILITARY ACTIONS ON THE TERRITORY OF UKRAINE: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS, Doctor of Juridical Sciences, Professor Olena Hulak, PhD in Juridical Sciences, Associate Professor Liudmyla Golovko, PhD in Law, Doctoral Ress., Oleksandr Bazov, PhD in Juridical Sciences, Associate Professor Iuliia Iarmolenko, Post-graduate Ress. Artem Klymenko713

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN GEOSCIENCES

83. ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS OF INTERVENTION PERSONNEL IN DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTS: A METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK BASED ON STANDARDIZED QUESTIONAIRES, Dr. Eng. Izabella Kovacs, Dr. Eng. Alin Irimia, Dr. Eng. Artur George Găman, Dr. Eng. Daniel Pupăzan, Dr. Eng. Cristian Nicolescu723

84. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR GREEN ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, Ing. Václav Zyder, PhD, Jakub Chlopečký, PhD, Jaroslav Hubáček, PhD, Ladislav Moravec, PhD.....731

85. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY: EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS FOR A GREEN ECONOMY, Assist. prof. PhD Nadezdha Zhechkova, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov.....737

86. CONCEPT FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION IN THE TEACHING OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY IN BULGARIAN SCHOOLS, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maya Vasileva.....743

87. DIGITAL GAMIFICATION IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY STUDY PROCESS: BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS , Dr. Māris Purviņš, Prof. Dr. Dzintra Atstāja, Prof. Dr. Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa	751
88. EARTH SCIENCES IN THE CLASSROOM: A BLUEPRINT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION , Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov, Assoc. prof. PhD Maya Vasileva, Assist. prof. PhD Antonina Atanasova.....	759
89. EMPOWERING STUDENTS: THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MODERN CURRICULA , Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov, Assoc. prof. PhD Maya Vasileva, Assist. prof. PhD Antonina Atanasova.....	765
90. FORMATION OF RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE POPULATION TOWARDS HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE REPUBLIC OF TATARSTAN , Ekaterina Zhuravleva, Ildar Urazmetov, Ruslan Ulengov, Elena Kubyshkina, Svetlana Gubeeva.....	771
91. GREEN MARKETING IMPACT ON BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION IN GREEN ECONOMY , Mg. Inta Ozola.....	779
92. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEOMAGNETISM WEB PLATFORM IN THE GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF ROMANIA WEB DOMAIN , Dr. Natalia-Silvia Asimopolos, Assist. Prof. Adrian-Aristide Asimopolos, Dr. Laurentiu Asimopolos.....	787
93. INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES TO FOSTER A GREEN ECONOMY , Assist. prof. PhD Nadezdha Zhechkova, Prof. DSc Kliment Naydenov.....	797
94. INSIGHT AND INTRODUCTORY ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN AND FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM , Mg oec. Raimonds Kupčs.....	803
95. INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTO EDUCATION CURRICULA , Prof. Dr. Dzintra Atstaja.....	813
96. RESEARCH ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESCUERS' TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE , dr.ing Alin Irimia, psih. Izabella Kovacs, dr.ing George Artur Gaman, dr.ing Cosmin Ilie, dr.ing Andrei Gireadă	823
97. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA: A LATVIAN CASE STUDY , Prof Signe Balina1, Inese Pelsa	831
98. TEACHING FOR TOMORROW: THE IMPORTANCE OF EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES IN 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS , Lect. dr. Raul Paşcalau, Prof. dr. Cosmin Alin Popescu, Prof. dr. Laura Iosefina Şmuleac, Prof. dr. Adina Horablaga, Prof. dr. Florinel Imbrea	841
99. THE ROLE OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IN STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR THE GREEN ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN KOSOVO , Assoc. Prof. Naim Ismajli, PhD Cd. Blertha Berisha	849

100. THE ROLE OF MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND EARTH SCIENCES CURRICULA, Lect. dr.Raul Paşcalau, Prof. dr. Laura Iosefina Şmuleac, Prof. dr. Cosmin Alin Popescu, Prof. dr. Florinel Imbrea, Assoc. prof. dr. Adrian Şmuleac855