

Abstract:

One of the main threats in today's world is human-accelerated global climate change, which has serious consequences in several areas, including social cohesion. A potential solution is the implementation of sustainable development principles and ecological modernization at various levels. This process can be referred to as sustainable transformation. This thesis addresses sustainable transformation at the regional level by using the example of the Czech Ústí nad Labem Region, which can be classified as a structurally affected region, and connects this concept with selected theories of regional development. Its aim is to investigate, through qualitative research, the roles that regional assets and key actors play in the process of sustainable transformation, how they perceive the topic of sustainable development, and what barriers and potential for its realization they identify. The findings indicate that a successful sustainable transformation of the region requires a shared vision, which is currently lacking. Significant importance is attributed to the Operational Program Just Transition, which, through its category of strategic projects and the strengthening of connections among actors, has the potential to initiate sustainable transformation in the region. Major obstacles include insufficient human capital and the negative image of the region.

Key words: sustainable transformation of the Ústí nad Labem Region, sustainable development, Just Transition Fund, role of actors in regional development, Regional Innovation Systems, green industries