ABSTRACT

of Saparbek Nurgul's PhD thesis on the specialty "8D04102 – Economics" on the topic "Sustainable development of regions of Kazakhstan: factors, assessment, scenarios and implementation mechanisms"

Relevance of the research topic. Achieving the goals of sustainable development of the regions requires increased attention to regulating the processes of socio-economic and environmental development throughout the country.

Kazakhstan is doing a lot to fulfill its international commitments to create a green economy and achieve the SDGs. The Concept for Kazakhstan's transition to a green economy was approved and ratified in 2015. The Paris Climate Agreement, the Environmental Code was developed in 2023. The Strategy for achieving Carbon Neutrality of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2060 has been approved. These policy documents of the country imply the adoption of measures aimed at the optimal use of limited resources and the use of environmentally friendly - natural, energy, and material-saving technologies, to preserve the stability of social and cultural systems, to ensure the integrity of biological and physical natural systems.

In other words, Kazakhstan needs such scenarios and mechanisms of government regulation that will promote steady, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in all regions and sectors of the country's economy, ensure an improvement in the quality of life of the population and the transition to low-carbon development. However, at present it can be said that economic, social, environmental levers and management tools are poorly interconnected, do not take into account the specifics of territorial development, and have no systemic basis.

Therefore, today there is a need to make sustainable development the subject of regional research, since it is at the local level, in regions and in individual territories, that contradictions and risks in the interaction of nature, economy and society are most clearly manifested. To conduct such research, first of all, we need a methodological approach with a system of indicators adapted to the regional peculiarities of Kazakhstan, on the basis of which we can assess the level of sustainability of socio-economic and environmental development of the regions. An adequate assessment of the level of sustainable development of the regions will make it possible to develop priority areas and promising scenarios for sustainable development in relation to each region and justify a set of mechanisms for their implementation, which has theoretical

and practical value for achieving the Goals of sustainable Development in the whole country.

The above determined the choice of the dissertation research topic and its relevance.

The purpose of the work: based on the study of theoretical and methodological foundations, to develop a system of indicators and assess the level of economic, social and environmental sustainability of the regions of Kazakhstan, to develop promising scenarios for sustainable regional development and mechanisms for their implementation.

Research objectives: the realization of the set goal necessitated the solution of the following tasks:

- to explore theoretical views on the essence and factors of sustainable development;
- to substantiate the choice of promising foreign practices for regulating the processes of sustainable development of regions in order to adapt to the conditions of Kazakhstan;
- based on the generalization of existing methodologies for determining the level of sustainability of the economy, social environment and ecology, to develop a system of indicators acceptable to the regions of Kazakhstan;
- to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the level of economic, social and environmental sustainability of the regions of Kazakhstan;
- to substantiate the priorities and long-term scenarios of sustainable development of the regions of Kazakhstan;
- to develop a set of mechanisms for ensuring sustainable regional development.

The object of the research: regions of Kazakhstan.

The subject of the research: trends and features of ensuring socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the country's development in the regional aspect.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research was the works of foreign and Kazakhstani scientists on the theory and practice of ensuring sustainable development in the regional aspect.

The main concept of the thesis was to substantiate the theoretical and methodological foundations of sustainable regional development, priorities and possible promising scenarios for achieving social, economic and environmental sustainability of the regions of Kazakhstan, as well as to develop a set of mechanisms for their implementation.

The methodological basis of the research was the following methods: a systematic approach, comparisons and generalizations, systematization, concretization, comparative analysis, methods of collecting primary information and processing it, economic and statistical methods, index analysis, grouping, rating assessment.

The information base of the dissertation research was compiled by the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning (ASPR) Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, regional statistical services, national platform for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals, medical statistics, Kazhydromet, IQAir platform.

The most significant research results and their novelty are as follows:

- based on the research and generalization of the evolution of existing theories, concepts and strategic documents on sustainable development, the essence, factors and features of ensuring the sustainability of regional development have been identified;

- the choice of promising foreign practices for regulating the processes of sustainable development of regions to adapt to the conditions of Kazakhstan is justified;

- based on the generalization of existing methodologies for determining the level of sustainability of the economy, social environment and ecology, a system of indicators has been developed adapted to the specifics of the regions of Kazakhstan;

- a comprehensive assessment was carried out and the typology of the regions of Kazakhstan was determined by the level of their economic, social and environmental sustainability;

- the priorities and long-term scenarios of sustainable development of the regions of Kazakhstan are substantiated;

- a set of economic and institutional mechanisms has been developed to ensure sustainable social, economic and environmental development of the regions of Kazakhstan.

Protected positions:

1) the well-founded nature, factors and features of ensuring the sustainability of regional development;

2) the developed system of indicators for assessing the level of sustainability of the economy, social environment and ecology, adapted to the peculiarities of the regions of Kazakhstan;

3) comprehensive assessment and typology of the regions of Kazakhstan in terms of their economic, social and environmental sustainability;

4) reasonable priorities and long-term scenarios for the sustainable development of the regions of Kazakhstan;

5) developed economic and institutional mechanisms for the implementation of possible scenarios for ensuring sustainable social, economic and environmental development of the regions of Kazakhstan.

The theoretical significance of the research: the results of this dissertation can form the basis of methodological tools for monitoring the state of the environment and the level of sustainability of socio-economic development for the republican and local authorities of Kazakhstan.

Practical significance of the research: the results of this dissertation can be used to select the most rational ways and mechanisms of transition to sustainable development of the country's regions. They can be used in the ministries of the Republic of Kazakhstan: national economy, science and higher education, industry and construction, energy, ecology and natural resources, republican and local government bodies, research institutes and universities.

The reliability and validity of the results of this study are based on theoretical and practical approaches to identifying and assessing disparities between regions, deterministic application of objective research methods and general methodological principles, performing calculations using modern software products, reliability and completeness of the database of analyzed materials.

Approbation of the thesis outcomes. The dissertation materials were used at the Institute of Economics of the National Research University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan as part of fundamental research on the IRN project AP09259004 "Priorities and mechanisms for inclusive regional development of Kazakhstan in overcoming the economic downturn", on task 7.3 "Analysis of compliance of SDG indicators with the system of regional economic and statistical indicators of the Republic of Kazakhstan" within the framework of the megaproject of al-Farabi Kazakh National University BR21882122 "Sustainable development of the natural, economic and socio-economic systems of the West Kazakhstan region in the context of green growth: a comprehensive analysis, concept, forward-looking estimates and scenarios."

Publications. The main provisions of this study were published:

– in 2 articles in a scientific journal with an impact factor included in the Scopus database;

– in 5 articles in scientific publications recommended by the KOKSNVO;

- in 12 articles in collections of international scientific and practical conferences.

Volume and structure of the thesis: The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of sources used, and Appendices. The main text contains 146 pages, 17 tables and 5 figures. The bibliographic list consists of 174 sources.