

ECOLOGICAL RATING AS THE INSTRUMENT OF QUALITY EVALUATION OF THE LIFE IN REGION

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Almost everyone is aware of impending ecological catastrophe, but it might happen that, one may not have information on possible ways of solving the ecological problem, and more importantly, very few people makes efforts (with exception of making the Greenpeace and "green") to solve the questions of preserving the social-natural balance. The proposed theory of zero growth restriction requirements and production with the purposes of ecological balance preservation is almost impossible. As alternative, the theory of quality of life which becomes more and more popular in scientific and political circles acts.

The term "quality of life" appeared in the mid 1950's when it became apparent that, the category of "standard of living" does not reflect comprehensively well-being of the population. The fact that the growth of material well-being of the population caused by stable economic development, has caused simultaneous number of the new undesirable phenomena, such as aggravation of ecological conditions and strengthening of social intensity. There was quiet a persistent view that economic growth cannot serve as a unique criterion of progress and well-being of the population, it is necessary also to ensure the establishment of good social and ecological medium. Quality of life represents complex structure of interrelations of its components: the quality of environment, the quality of health of population, the spiritual quality, the quality of education, etc.

According to the independent commission of UNESCO on the population and quality of life, this concept also includes such elements as an adequate nutrition, ecological dwelling, safety, self-realization, etc.

In our country, majority of the population lives with a lot of problems. According to the fund «Democratic initiatives» among the greatest threats to Ukraine for the next 10 years, 67 % of the population recognized ecocatastrophes of local and global scales, 51 % - as the consequences of global warming. Among the environmental factors, the greatest concern in the population and experts is caused by the quality of potable drinking water, possibility of poisoning with harmful substances in a foodstuff.

To solve these problems is possible by ensuring the quality of life, considering its three constituents (qualities) in a complex (fig. 1).

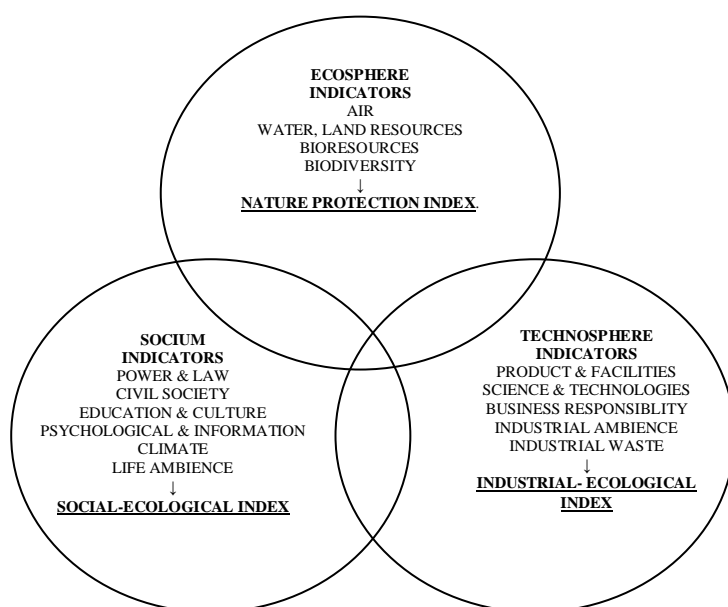


Fig. 1. Graphic model of factors of an ecological rating

The technique of drawing up an ecological rating is based on the use of quantitatively measured indicators united in three blocks. Accordingly, the ecological ratings can be quite used not only for an estimation of a state of environment, but also quality of life in region. So, indexes which characterize a rating of states behind different criteria, including ecological which are used further for account of investment indexes are regularly published in the USA; and the general ecological rating of regions, a rating on level of effect of the person on environment, a rating of regions on an environmental control rate of activity have been made in Russia.

The drawing up of ratings consider traditional indicators: a state of environment, water pollution, air, loss of ecosystems; and specific which reflect level of attention of business, the authorities and citizens to ecological problems.

Thanks to ecological ratings there is a possibility of updating the standard indicators of an estimation of region since ecological trouble of territory has an essential effect on the health of the population, promoting prevalence of diseases, worsening quality of life of the person and its adaptable possibilities.

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