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Report on the 28th International Scientific Conference in the Series “Philosophy of Sustainable Development” (Warsaw, 11 March 2026)

Sprawozdanie z XXVIII Międzynarodowej Konferencji Naukowej z cyklu „Filozofia Zrównoważonego Rozwoju” (Warszawa, 11 marca 2026)

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Abstract

The report presents the course and principal thematic outcomes of the 28th International Scientific Conference in the series *Philosophy of Sustainable Development*, held on 11 March 2026 at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (UKSW). The conference brought together representatives of 25 academic and research institutions across Europe, Africa, and Asia, creating an interdisciplinary platform for discussing contemporary challenges related to sustainable development. The plenary lectures addressed fundamental issues of environmental education, futures studies tools for sustainability foresight, and the ethical significance of ecological intelligence. Three parallel thematic sessions examined philosophical, ethical, ecological, legal, educational, and socio-political dimensions of sustainable development, including biodiversity protection, ecological economics, overtourism, youth environmental concerns, institutional resilience, public governance, and crisis response. The event emphasised the increasing need to integrate ecological responsibility with institutional preparedness, highlighting the value of interdisciplinarity, public engagement, and the development of long-term strategies in the face of global crises. Shared reflections pointed to the continuing need for ethical transformation, strengthened educational frameworks, and improved operationalisation of sustainability concepts. In total, the conference featured 30 presentations delivered by 51 authors representing 25 academic and research institutions, including 9 international centres.

Keywords

environmental ethics, sustainability, environmental education, human-environment relationship, policy implications, institutional resilience, public governance, SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Streszczenie

Sprawozdanie przedstawia przebieg oraz główne wątki tematyczne XXVIII Międzynarodowej Konferencji Naukowej z cyklu *Filozofia Zrównoważonego Rozwoju*, która odbyła się 11 marca 2026 r. na Uniwersytecie Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego w Warszawie (UKSW). W wydarzeniu wzięli udział przedstawiciele 25 ośrodków akademickich i badawczych z Europy, Afryki i Azji, tworząc interdyscyplinarną platformę do dyskusji nad współczesnymi wyzwaniami związanymi ze zrównoważonym rozwojem. Wykłady plenarne dotyczyły zagadnień edukacji środowiskowej, narzędzi studiów nad przyszłością wspierających prognozowanie na rzecz zrównoważonego rozwoju oraz etycznego znaczenia inteligencji ekologicznej. Trzy równoległe sesje tematyczne analizowały filozoficzne, etyczne, ekologiczne, prawne, edukacyjne i społeczno-polityczne aspekty zrównoważonego rozwoju. Omawiano m.in. ochronę bioróżnorodności, ekonomię ekologiczną, problem nadmiernej turystyki, kwestie środowiskowe ważne dla młodzieży, odporność instytucjonalną, zarządzanie publiczne oraz reagowanie na kryzysy. Konferencja podkreśliła rosnącą potrzebę łączenia odpowiedzialności ekologicznej z przygotowaniem instytucjonalnym, a także znaczenie interdyscyplinarności, zaangażowania społecznego oraz tworzenia długofalowych strategii w obliczu globalnych kryzysów. Wspólne refleksje wskazały na konieczność dalszych przemian etycznych, wzmocnienia ram edukacyjnych oraz poprawy praktycznego wdrażania koncepcji zrównoważonego rozwoju. Łącznie podczas konferencji zaprezentowano 30 referatów przygotowanych przez 51 prelegentów, reprezentujących 25 ośrodków naukowych, w tym 9 instytucji zagranicznych.

Słowa kluczowe

etyka środowiskowa, zrównoważony rozwój, edukacja ekologiczna, relacje człowiek-środowisko, implikacje dla polityki publicznej, odporność instytucjonalna, zarządzanie publiczne, SDG 4 – Dobra jakość edukacji, SDG 11 – Zrównoważone miasta i społeczności, SDG 16 – Pokój, sprawiedliwość i silne instytucje

Introduction

The 28th International Scientific Conference in the series *Philosophy of Sustainable Development* was held on 11 March 2026 at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (UKSW), Poland. Bringing together researchers and practitioners from a wide range of academic institutions in Poland, and abroad, the event provided a platform for interdisciplinary debate on contemporary philosophical, ethical, legal, ecological and socio-political challenges of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on educational strategies, institutional resilience and environmental pressures intensified by global crises.

The conference sought to foster interdisciplinary exchange, enhance dialogue between theoretical inquiry and applied environmental research and support the development of new directions in sustainability studies.

For many years, the conference has been organised by the Department of Ecophilosophy at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. Since the mid-1990s, the academic community of the University has consistently advanced research on the environmental crisis, with particular focus on its humanistic, ethical, and philosophical dimensions. This long-standing tradition has cultivated a distinctive intellectual environment in which ecological reflection is closely interwoven with the study of culture, values and social responsibility. The annual conferences in the *Philosophy of Sustainable Development* series form an integral part of this research programme, reinforcing interdisciplinary dialogue and highlighting the humanistic contribution to contemporary sustainability debates.



Figure 1. Logo of the conference series “Philosophy of Sustainable Development,” organised by the Chair in Ecophilosophy at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland.

1. Conference Aims

The primary objective of the conference was to explore the philosophical and practical dimensions of sustainable development through the lenses of education, environmental ethics, institutional resilience, and public governance. The complexity and dynamics of contemporary threats and crises require effective and responsible state management, efficient public administration, and adequate legal preparedness. These crises vary in nature, with the most frequently discussed including national and energy security, cyber threats, climate change, and migration pressures.

By bringing together scholars from diverse countries and disciplinary backgrounds, the conference sought to deepen the understanding of sustainability paradigms and emphasise the importance of integrated approaches to ecological and social challenges. Particular attention was given to examining both local and global perspectives, identifying good practices, and outlining promising directions for future research.

Representatives from 25 research centres, universities, institutions, and organisations attended the conference and delivered presentations. These included the Nowicki Foundation (Poland), the University of Warsaw (Poland), the University of the National Education Commission in Krakow (Poland), the Jakub z Paradyż Academy in Gorzów Wielkopolski (Poland), the Białystok University of Technology (Poland), the Forest Research Institute in Sękocin Stary (Poland), the Józef Piłsudski Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw (Poland), the Tatra National Park (Poland), the University of Prešov (Slovakia), the University of Madeira (Portugal), the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland), the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw (Poland), the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (Poland), the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Slovakia), the University of Zielona Góra (Poland), Egis Poland Sp. z o.o. / the Histogis Association (Poland), the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz (Poland), the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Poland), the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), the Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chişinău (Republic of Moldova), the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (Romania), the Ludovika University of Public Service in Budapest (Hungary), the Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (Georgia), Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia) and Lagos State University (Nigeria).

2. Plenary Session

The plenary session, chaired by Rev. Assoc. Professor R. Sadowski, opened with welcoming remarks and an overview of the conference's thematic structure. Three keynote presentations followed. M. Nowicki (Nowicki Foundation, Poland) delivered a lecture titled *Education for Sustainable Development*, in which he discussed the foundational role of education in shaping long-term sustainability strategies. M. Mętrak (University of Warsaw, Poland) presented *Nature Conservation 2050: Introduction to Future-Studies Tools*, offering an analysis of methodological approaches to anticipating environmental transformations. D. Probuska (University of the National Education Commission in Krakow, Poland) concluded the session with a remote lecture entitled *On Education for the Development of Ecological Intelligence as the Basis for a New Relationship Between Humans and the Natural World*, emphasising the ethical and epistemic significance of ecological awareness.

3. Parallel Sessions

In addition to the plenary sessions that opened and closed the conference, three parallel thematic sessions were held. Owing to the close proximity of the auditoriums, participants were able to move freely between sessions and attend presentations of particular interest to them. This arrangement enabled a dynamic exchange of perspectives and facilitated broader engagement with the diverse topics discussed during the conference.

3.1. Session 1 (Polish-Language Session)

Session 1, moderated by A. Klimska, focused on the educational, ethical, and conceptual dimensions of sustainable development. The session opened with a remote presentation by T. Zaborowski (University of Warsaw, Poland) titled *Conceptual Model of Sustainability and Balanced Development*, which outlined key theoretical frameworks for understanding sustainability. J. Ziemkowska (Jakub z Paradyż Academy in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland) followed with a lecture entitled *Inspiration from Simona Kossak's Work in Education for Sustainable Development*, highlighting the pedagogical legacy of the renowned naturalist. A multidisciplinary research team – T. Pawłowicz, A. Kieczka, M. Olszewska, E. Bachura, and I. Żebrowski (Białystok University of Technology, Poland) together with T. Oszako (Forest Research Institute, Poland) – presented *Functional Ecological Role and Bioindicating Potential of Slime Moulds in Forest Ecosystems*, discussing the ecological significance of slime moulds and their potential applications in ecosystem monitoring.

Next, P. Majdak, J. Mosz, P. Furman, T. Zwijacz-Kozica, M. Molska, D. Matušiková, and A. M. Martins de Almeida delivered a joint presentation titled *Overtourism as a Social and Ethical Problem: The Perspective of Pilot Studies*. The speakers examined the socio-ethical implications of intensive tourism and discussed the preliminary findings of their interdisciplinary research. This was followed by a second contribution from M. Molska and P. Majdak, titled *City Break Travel: Between Freedom of Travel and Environmental Responsibility*, which explored tensions between individual mobility choices and the principles of ecological responsibility.

Following the discussion, M. Leźnicki (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland) delivered a presentation titled *Ecological Economics as a Normative Critique of the Growth Paradigm*, in which he examined the foundations of ecological economics as a critical alternative to conventional growth-oriented models. I. Stachowska (Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland) then presented *Imagination in the Service of the Future: The Role of Imagination in Shaping a Degrowth Moral Attitude*, emphasising the

importance of imagination in cultivating ethical attitudes compatible with degrowth principles. The session segment concluded with a joint presentation by A. Klimska (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland) and A. Klimkova (Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia) titled *From Moral Neglect of the Climate Crisis to Moral Shame: Towards Responsibility for the Future*, which explored the ethical dimensions of climate responsibility and the transition from passive neglect to an active sense of moral accountability.

3.2. Session 2 (Polish-Language Session)

Session 2, chaired by M. Klimski, focused on the legal, ecological, and socio-political challenges associated with sustainable development. The session addressed a broad spectrum of issues ranging from the environmental and ethical implications of armed conflict to the restoration of biodiversity, urban sustainability, and public attitudes toward environmental responsibility.

I. Pankevych (University of Zielona Góra, Poland) opened the session with a presentation titled *Sustainable Development and the War in Ukraine: Legal and Moral Aspects*, addressing the environmental and ethical consequences of armed conflict. G. Przeniosło (Egis Poland / Histogis Association, Poland) followed with *Assessment of Ecosystem Imbalance Caused by Warfare and Minimisation Strategies*, presenting methods for evaluating war-related ecological disruptions and strategies for mitigating their impact. Cz. Wodzikowski (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland) then delivered *Restoring Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the EU and Poland as the Basis for Ecological Security*, focusing on restoration measures and their significance for ecological security.

A. Snopek (Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland) presented *Contribution of the Polish Landed Gentry to the Development of Natural Sciences*, highlighting the historical role of the Polish landed gentry in shaping environmental knowledge. A research team consisting of D. Zieliński, J. M. Chodkowska-Miszczyk, and A. Lewandowska delivered *The Role of Urban Space in Shaping Residents' Attitudes: Supporting Decarbonisation?*, examining how spatial design influences public acceptance of decarbonisation initiatives. After the discussion, P. Płoskonka presented *Knowledge and Application of Leave No Trace Principles Among Climbers of Poland's Highest Peaks*, reporting on climbers' awareness and application of outdoor ethical principles. A. Ciężela (Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland) then presented *Concerns About the Environment and Students' Declared Willingness to Make Sacrifices for Its Protection*, analysing students' environmental anxieties and their readiness to engage in pro-ecological behaviours.

The session concluded with the jointly authored presentation by M. Klimski (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland) and V. Stratan (Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chişinău, Republic of Moldova), titled *Global Competencies in Education: A Polish-Moldovan Study*, followed by an open discussion.

3.3. Session 3 (English-Language Session)

Session 3, which took place both online and in person, was moderated by W. Federczyk and A. Kosieradzka-Federczyk. The session addressed the overarching theme *The Resilience of Public Institutions as a Response to Contemporary Threats and Crises*. Opening remarks were delivered by Rev. Assoc. Prof. R. Sadowski, Assoc. Prof. M. Wielec, and Assoc. Prof. A. Kosieradzka-Federczyk. The following topics were presented in two subsections: 3a and 3b.

3.3.1. Session 3a

K. Pollák and K. Podonyi presented *Digital Adaptation and Institutional Resilience of Hungarian Public Institutions*, examining how digital transformation supports the capacity of public institutions to respond to contemporary crises. K. Jakeli delivered *Inclusive Institutional Development: Bridging the Execution Gap through Human Capital and Minority Engagement – Lessons from Georgia's Crisis Response*, analysing strategies for strengthening institutional inclusiveness and effectiveness during emergencies.

N. A. Munteanu presented *Universities as Drivers of Sustainable Development in Romania: Opportunities and Risks for SDG Implementation*, discussing the role of higher education institutions in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. J. Vačok followed with *The Role and Position of Administrative Courts*, offering an overview of the functions and evolving significance of administrative judiciary systems.

The segment concluded with a jointly authored presentation by A. Kosieradzka-Federczyk, W. Federczyk, and M. Klimaszewski, titled *Accountability of Public Officials as a Determinant of Institutional Resilience in the Face of Contemporary Crises*, which explored how standards of public-office accountability contribute to institutional stability and crisis preparedness. A brief discussion followed.

3.3.2. Session 3b

S. Salim concluded the presentation sequence with *Civil Society Resilience After Disasters: The Case of the Turkish Red Crescent*, examining the capacity of civil society organisations to respond effectively to post-disaster challenges. C. Oneţ, A. Rusu, and Horaţiu Rusu followed with *Environmental Protection: From Intensified Criminal Liability to Ecocide Sanctions in Europe*, discussing recent developments in European criminal law aimed at strengthening sanctions for severe environmental harm. R. Ishola Mogaji delivered *Eco-Sensitive Urban Development: A Heideggerian Critique of Technology*, offering a philosophical analysis of urban development through the lens of Martin Heidegger's critique of modern technology. The session concluded with a summary by A. Kosieradzka-Federczyk.

Closing Reflections

The conference offered a comprehensive and multifaceted exploration of sustainable development, addressing its philosophical foundations, ethical implications, legal frameworks, ecological challenges, and institutional dimensions. Despite the broad thematic scope, several shared perspectives emerged. Participants underscored the urgent need to strengthen ethical responsibility in the face of climate change, highlighted the growing importance of interdisciplinary education, and emphasised the essential role of resilient public institutions in responding to contemporary threats and crises. The discussions also demonstrated the value of integrating ecological, legal, and social viewpoints, while drawing attention to challenges related to the operationalisation of sustainability concepts, the scalability of proposed solutions, and the development of long-term strategies for environmental and institutional security.

This 28th edition of the *Philosophy of Sustainable Development* conference featured 30 papers delivered by 51 authors representing 25 academic and research institutions, including 9 international centres. Among these presentations, 12 involved at least one speaker affiliated with a foreign institution, reflecting the international and interdisciplinary character of the event. In total, 33 authors represented Polish institutions, while 18 authors were affiliated with institutions abroad, demonstrating a well-balanced and dynamic collaboration between national and international research communities.

As the organisers, we warmly thank all participants for their insightful contributions, constructive and collegial discussions, and the inspiring atmosphere they helped create throughout the event. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Members of the Scientific Committee, whose expertise, commitment, and ongoing support were essential to maintaining the high academic quality of the conference.

We look forward to welcoming you again at the next edition of the *Philosophy of Sustainable Development* conference in the coming year.

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