

Environmental Protection in Poland amidst Transformation and Globalization.

Poland has also been affected by powerful globalization and market and social transformation processes, which has put fundamental challenges, opportunities and threats for environmental protection.

In the world today, one of the most significant replies to the globalization challenge has come from the great inspiring idea of sustainable development, which presupposes an active role for the state at domestic and global scale alike. Some countries, and in particular the EU and international organizations, had undertaken various efforts, yet even so little evident progress has been made globally. Far from being quashed, negative external effects are being relocated, sometimes even more easily than before. In Poland, the inefficiency of the state shows, among other things, in the recoverability of penalty fees for contamination, which has been at a meagre 10–15% over the last ten years. So, amidst the necessary transformation and the unavoidable globalization processes, how do we go about environmental protection in order to improve the condition of environment? Poland's EU membership does provide opportunities, but that is not enough.