The idea of sustainable development is a response to the growing negative effects of the adopted development model of humanity and the process of globalization. First of all, it points to the progressive pollution of the environment, the reduction of biodiversity and the increase in risk factors for human health. The rapid consumption of non-renewable natural resources is also significant. Social and economic problems also appear in developed countries, considered to be beneficiaries of globalization. The concept of sustainable development has gained a concrete dimension in the framework of documents prepared under the auspices of the United Nations.

In the author's opinion, the reference to sustainable development in most cases constitutes the basis for the reconstruction of the legal principle of sustainable development, which also has the features of a general clause and a programmatic norm. In particular, we can speak of the constitutional principle of sustainable development. The author of this dissertation believes that this standard imposes an obligation on all state bodies to implement the postulates of sustainable development. This applies not only to environmental protection, but also to improving the quality of life of the population. This obligation should be fulfilled using the competences granted to the given bodies. This also means fulfilling the law-making function. The constitutional principle of sustainable development is subject to legal and extra - legal limitations. Legal limitations are related to the normative context in the form of other constitutional principles of law, such as the principle of legalism, the principle of the democratic rule of law or the principle of the protection of property rights. Extra-legal restrictions result from actual difficulties in implementing the demands of sustainable development.

The statutory reference to sustainable development, which was included in the Act of 27 March 2003 on spatial planning and development, also constitutes the basis for the reconstruction of the legal principle of sustainable development, which is both a general clause and a programmatic norm. The obligation of public authorities participating in the planning process is to strive to implement the postulates of sustainable development. This means not only protecting the environment, but also creating a space that is friendly for people to live in. Additionally, it was distinguished by the legislator as one of the main principles of spatial policy and spatial planning. Despite this, the norm-principle of sustainable development itself has no significance for the spatial planning process. This results from the legal structure of planning authority. The principle of sustainable development is a requirement to make rational planning decisions that should lead to the implementation of sustainable development postulates in the spatial aspect. Since the rationality of planning decisions cannot be examined due to the independence of the commune, the fulfilment or failure to fulfil the aforementioned norm-principle has no legal significance. In other words, failure to fulfil this principle does not entail any negative legal consequences for the commune.

The author of this work negatively assesses the lack of purposeful control of planning acts. Contrary to appearances, spatial planning is not only a matter of local communities. Proper spatial planning is important for the state and society as a whole, as it determines sustainable development. The scope of the municipality's planning authority is too broad and does not ensure the implementation of the principle of sustainable development. It is possible to consider transferring planning authority to another body that would not be a body of a local government unit (e.g. a planning commission). Another solution could be to establish a

special local government body, similar to the local government appeal boards, which would act as a "second instance" in terms of the substantive provisions of spatial planning acts.

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