



Law and Sustainability: Perspectives for Lithuania and Beyond by Alessio Bartolacelli and Dovilė Sagatienė.

Sustainable development offers a framework for humanity to thrive in harmony with our environment. By embracing this paradigm, we can cultivate a symbiotic relationship with nature, nurturing and preserving it instead of perpetuating a cycle of exploitation and degradation. Law fostering sustainability and sustainable development is one of the fastest-developing, most challenging legal disciplines globally. Sustainability has many different definitions, but its essence was articulated by the Brundtland Commission, tasked by the UN in 1987 to formulate a global agenda for change: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The edited volume *Law and Sustainability* analyses the ways on how law and legal profession should change and contribute to sustainability.

In 2021, the Law School of Mykolas Romeris University (MRU) developed its 2022–2026 research program, focusing on exploring the intersection of the Rule of Law, sustainability, and emerging technologies. This volume represents one of the initial outcomes of this research endeavor. The collaboration of thirty scholars, predominantly from Lithuania but also beyond, has resulted in the compilation of 24 valuable contributions within this edited volume.

This book is structured into four distinct sections, each delving into various facets of the subject under examination: sustainability within national and international public law, the intersection of sustainability and private law, the adaptation of criminal law through a sustainability lens, and illustrative case studies demonstrating sustainability in practice from a legal perspective.

The first part of this edited volume, titled "National and International Public Law: Establishing Conditions for Sustainable Development," investigates into various themes, including the intersection of sustainable development and artificial intelligence, the incorporation of sustainability within national constitutions, the efficacy of green public procurement regulation in Lithuania, the evolution of international investment agreements, and the interplay between personal data processing and sustainable labor practices.

The second part, titled "Sustainability and Private Law," centers on various issues such as sustainable agency, the impact of sustainability on commercial contracts, strategies for promoting sustainable consumption through product quality guarantees, challenges and opportunities for shareholder activism, facilitating remote shareholder participation in private company general meetings, sustainable development trends in legal regulation concerning reorganization in Ukraine, and enhancing access to justice through mediation.

The third part, entitled "Transformation of Criminal Law in the Context of Sustainability," emphasizes the evolution of criminal law within the sustainability framework. It investigates into pertinent topics such as environmental crimes, sustainable approaches to criminalization, strategies for reducing drug consumption sustainably, ensuring accessibility and sustainability in criminal justice systems, and safeguarding individuals who report vulnerabilities.

The final part of this volume, named "Sustainability in Action: Examples and Experiences from a Legal Perspective," showcases various instances and experiences of sustainability through a legal lens. It encompasses topics such as integrating the principle of sustainable development into zoning and planning regulations, addressing the challenges of sustainable legal regulation concerning electric vehicle infrastructure, exploring the intersections of sustainability and electrification within the regulatory frameworks of the EU and Lithuania, advancing the sustainable development agenda through the calculation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the waste management sector, and fostering synergy between law, finance, technology, and the sustainability of the legal profession.

This collective volume is the result of significant efforts to convene both national and international scholars, pooling their expertise to advance research at the intersection of sustainability and law.

**Book Review by
Filipos RUXHO, Assistant Professor - RSI J**