

the whole, one can name some other advantages for universities such as reducing the amount of solid waste and economizing on their disposal, receiving an extra profit by delivering secondary raw materials to companies-purveyors, improving university image as an ecologically responsible establishment.

Realization of existing and new opportunities of the university for sustainable development in all fields implies harmonious combination of theory and practice. It is true both for training professionals who will then develop sectors of green economy and for research findings which will be put into practice in the near future.

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**CHALLENGES FOR WATER SUPPLY
AND SANITATION SERVICES**

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Relevance of the study is the growth of problems for water supply and sanitation services of the world sustainable development. The purpose of the study is to study the features of the functioning of this direction in the world. Object of research is water supply and sanitation services in the context of the sustainable development in the world and the Republic of Belarus in particular.

Water's quantity and quality are threatened by problems derived from population growth, industrialization, agriculture and forestry, and climate change. In both urban and rural settlements and economic life, sustainable use of water resources and water services (including sanitation) are vital to overall well-being. In the past, inadequate access to water and sanitation services has also led to conflicts in many societies [1, P. 49].

In the everyday life of communities, water services play a fundamental role. Yet the invaluable role of water services is surprisingly poorly recognized. It is often argued that the services are invisible. However, they can't be invisible as all of us use water and the toilet several times a day. It is instead or primarily when water services fail that they become visible to citizens, policy-makers, and decision-makers [2, P. 27].

Although water is a development sector covering mainly water resources and water services, it is also fundamentally a connector of several water-dependent sectors such as food, health, and environment, as noted that, although water is a highly political issue, hardly any political scientists are involved in water management.

A major part of the future global population growth is foreseen to take place in the cities of developing and emerging countries, currently undergoing rapid growth. Much of the urban growth concentrates on unplanned peri-urban areas, which present major threats for well-being and sustainable development. Financial, environmental, and social costs are projected to dramatically increase unless wastewater management receives urgent attention. Without better infrastructure and management, several million people will continue to die each year and there will be further losses in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, under mining prosperity and efforts to ward more sustainable future. Failure to improve water resource management could diminish national growth rates by as much as 6 % of GDP by 2050 [3, P. 1].

The most recent reminder of the importance of safe drinking water is the current COVID-19 pandemic. To stop the spread of the disease, the first advice is to wash your hands with warm water and soap. Unfortunately, globally we still have 2 billion people without safe drinking water and as many as 3.6 billion people lacking safe sanitation [4, P. 25].

There are still 2.1 billion people without safely managed water services and 4.5 billion people without safely managed sanitation in spite of the increased attention on water and sanitation issues on the global political agenda over the last six decades [4, P. 27].

Currently, the challenge of water security is global and growing. Achieving and sustaining water security, in both the OECD and the non-OECD countries, is likely to increase in complexity and priority—as the demands of economic growth increase. The demand for sustainable and resilient water services for the well-being of citizens, and for safeguarding of the environment and ecosystem services, are growing exponentially. Yet, deeply rooted under valuing and underpricing of precious water services and the ignorance of the need for rehabilitation of related infrastructure seem to be worldwide phenomena. As for human awareness, a major challenge is to make the now largely invisible water services and infrastructure more visible to decision-makers and citizens. In a historical context, water services are not only necessary but also invaluable, and they are a key component of sustainability of the communities. While professional networking and associations have a long history, stronger public education is needed for achieving public support. Professional education will not suffice, especially in non-OECD countries. Besides, the context of programs should be expanded to also cover wider policy, institutional and management issues. Even in developed societies, citizen orientation still remains largely inadequate.

Belarus is currently well-positioned to provide its citizens with basic water supply and sanitation (WSS) services – but that wasn't always the case, as historical deficiencies in the country's WSS sector resulted in negative

impacts on the quality of life for residents across the country. For example, old treatment facilities produced foul odors in the city of Berezino, poor water quality in Krichev caused washing machines to break, and the color of water in Smolevichi was frequently changing due to the high iron content.

Following independence, Belarus made impressive strides in increasing water supply and sewerage coverage, but still faced issues regarding the quality, efficiency and sustainability of its water and sanitation services at the turn of the century.

In 2006, the Government of Belarus adopted its National Water Development Program, Chistaya Voda, which sought to address the remaining challenges in the sector. Its focus was on increasing the supply of high-quality drinking water, modernizing the sector, enhancing water supply and sanitation institutions to improve their quality of services and financial status, and reducing costs. With outside financing, this Program had the potential to help and succeed [5].

For example, residents in Berezino are now breathing cleaner air and have noticed an improved cleanliness of their main river. A new artesian well and deferrization station means fewer broken washing machines in Krichev. And that discolored water in Smolevichi is almost non-existent.

Significantly strengthening WSS sectors is no small feat, and such an endeavor certainly cannot be completed with the snap of a finger. Now more than ever, it is necessary to develop and apply sound policies, institutions, and regulation – while integrating financing, intergovernmental relations, and resilience – to achieve water and sanitation services at scale.

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