

## ECONOMY OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

### **RURAL TERRITORIES NATURAL RESOURCES USE: THE SYSTEM APPROACH TO SEARCHING THE BALANCE**

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The study aims to represent the methodological approach to analysis of natural resources use on rural territories based on system theory principles. The study includes definition of a rural territory as a system, identification of a system's elements, fixing interrelations between the elements, differentiation of internal and external factors influencing on natural resources use on rural territories, modeling various scenarios of their development, and elaboration of mechanisms to implement the defined strategy of natural resources use.

Any system is a holistic complex of inter-related elements, has a structure, interacts with outer environment and can be changed under certain circumstances. Accordingly rural territory is a self-organizing system incorporating elements, which can be grouped in sub-system blocks like ecological, economic, and social. The analysis of interrelations between elements and their

features allows defining external and internal factors, which will influence on sustainable development of rural territories. The external factors include related regulations, legislative and informal assignments of property rights concerning natural resources allocated in boundaries of a rural territory, and economic and financial tools influencing economy and social life on rural territories. The internal factors are relations between members of territorial communities and other stakeholders, and ecological culture, education and awareness of people.

The meaningful economic activities of people depending on their environmental needs are the most pro-active factor of transformations taking place inside of territories. It is needed to focus the further studies on defining opportunities how to apply market instruments to formation of ecological needs of people related to economic functioning of rural territories.