

# LAW AND SUSTAINABILITY

PERSPECTIVES FOR  
LITHUANIA AND BEYOND

**Editors:**  
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Mykolas Romeris  
University

LAW  
AND SUSTAINABILITY



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– PERSPECTIVES FOR LITHUANIA AND BEYOND –

EDITORS:  
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## FOREWORD

As can be easily observed by simply browsing a newspaper, a legal journal, or a news website, there are two “magic” words in today’s media: digitalization and sustainability. As legal scholars, one of our duties is to conjugate the principles and tools of classical legal tradition with the challenges of modern times. Both digitalization and – most importantly for us – sustainability are not only among such challenges, but are perhaps the most fascinating and hotly debated examples thereof.

As is better explained in the Introduction to this edited volume, in 2021 the Law School of Mykolas Romeris University (MRU) elaborated its 2022–2026 research program, which is devoted specifically to investigating the intersection between the Rule of Law, the concept of sustainability, and new technologies. This volume, among the early outcomes of the research program, marks an extremely promising start.

Together with dr. Dovilė Sagatienė we conceived the notion of structuring this book in the manner that I believe sustainability should be dealt with when more broadly applied to the legal field: by looking both at its intersections with different areas of law and at specific examples. Highly valuable work has gathered together thirty scholars – coming mainly, but not only, from Lithuania – to compose the 24 contributions that form the four parts of this edited volume.

As an area-by-area (national and international public law, private law, and criminal law) approach is already inherent in the structure of this volume, I am here proposing a few somewhat different ideas to consider when cross-reading it.

The first basic issue is the idea of sustainability itself. This book provides several points of view regarding what we should understand the word *sustainability* to mean, and this plurality enriches both the public and academic debate and the book itself. This is made very clear in the part on the concept of sustainability in national Constitutions, but many other contributions also focus on specific facets of either environmental (the parts on electric vehicles; on waste management; and on environmental crimes) or social sustainability (the contribution on the sustainable reduction of drug consumption, and that on sustainable work).

Another among the most significant topics of the present day is digitalization. Many contributions deal specifically with this issue, again from different perspectives, and they highlight the fact that we should see and pursue some kind of an alliance between digitalization and sustainability. This is certainly the message of the contribution on AI4SDG, but the paper on data processing is also closely related to digitalization – as are those on online voting in private companies, on the

protection of vulnerability reporters in the field of cybersecurity, and on the need for a combination between law, finance, and technology, with a view to a more consistent approach to sustainability.

A third trend might be in line with the idiom of “new wine in old wineskins” – i.e., how sustainability affects old issues that traditional legal studies have already considered, bringing in new possible solutions. This is certainly true of the contributions on subsidiarity in criminal law, on apparent authority in civil law, on quality product guarantees, and on sustainable spatial planning.

A further tendency naturally concerns the sustainable mobilization of wealth, with specific reference to the business environment. This is the case for many contributions in this volume: on international investment law; on sustainability clauses in commercial contractual relations; on shareholder activism in public companies; on the legal regulation of reorganization in Ukraine; and on green procurements, and thus the sustainable intersection between public and private entities.

A final possible trend is the widening of access to justice as a specific element of sustainability – not necessarily within its social dimension. The following contributions consider different profiles of this topic: on civil cases; on incapacitated persons and criminal justice; and on the role of legal professions in promoting sustainability.

Naturally, the grouping above is just one among the many possible ways of reading this volume. Nevertheless, it provides the opportunity to offer a few general remarks.

First: sustainability is a concept that is not to be relegated solely to its environmental dimension. The environment is hugely important, but it does not completely absorb the scope of sustainability, which must be seen as a holistic notion. In fact, the reader will derive a clear perception of this from the above trends in the contributions to this volume, besides the natural structure of the book itself.

Second: sustainability has to do, in different ways, with a lot – if not all – of the issues we usually face in dealing with traditional legal studies. Moreover, sustainability is not a precise object of law, but a concept that contributes to defining the soul of law. If we consider that dealing with sustainability is inevitable, then the most recent regulations should be sustainable by design, and older regulations should undergo sustainability-friendly reinterpretation. Sustainability is first of all, then, a criterion.

Third: even if this book is mainly focused on Lithuania, it contains the seeds for far broader expansion. This is made evident by the presence, among the authors, of several scholars from Ukraine that MRU has hosted. Scholars from Poland, Austria, Turkey and France are also present, and this is very promising for the possible fallout from this book, which is likely to germinate into further initiatives – both those hosted by MRU and by other institutions abroad.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly: as some authors point out in their contributions, the key challenge for sustainability in the long term is also a matter of education. The fact that a university puts its efforts into collecting such a meaningful set of contributions in the field of sustainability signals that these papers are very likely to serve as the basis for research-led teaching in the field of sustainability, from the point of view of legal sciences. In order to have true sustainability in place, the players of the economy first need willingness; second, a policy; third, a framework; and, fourth, people who are able to serve to such a purpose. Aside from the first point – which, in the long run, still concerns education – universities are called to play a meaningful role in the remaining

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three via research, public engagement, and teaching. MRU thus deserves praise for this volume, as do all of the colleagues involved in its creation, because it represents a profound step forward in the field of sustainability, both in Lithuania and globally.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the result of the development of the new legal field at Mykolas Romeris University Law School, which links law and the increasing role of sustainability in everyday life, especially, after COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022–2026 Research Program titled *Rule of Law, Sustainability, Technologies* and approved by MRU in 2021, identified five target interdisciplinary domains, including, “The Transformation of Human Rights,” “Democracy and the Rule of Law,” “The Relations Between Law, Sustainability and Technologies,” “Effective Justice” and “Security Research.” The aim of the domain “Relations Between Law, Sustainability and Technologies” is to explore how law and sustainability reflect global trends based on the Sustainable Development Goals agenda until 2030 and the European Green Course policy. For this task, 30 national and international legal scholars contributed to this edited volume.



# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABILITY IN LEGAL REGULATION?

Sustainable development provides a framework for humans to live and prosper in harmony. A paradigm for sustainable development enables people to coexist with the environment and thrive, rather than destroying it as we have done for millennia. Sustainability has many different definitions, but its essence was articulated by the Brundtland Commission, tasked by the UN in 1987 with formulating 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.” A more recent definition suggests that sustainability means “securing the social foundations with planetary boundaries” (Sjafjell and Bruner, *The Cambridge Handbook of Corporate Law, Corporate Governance and Sustainability*).

Creating and ensuring sustainability (and the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) remains an essential task on a global scale (2015 – United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, Report on the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 in Lithuania, 2018, National Sustainable Development Strategy, 2011). Lawyers and policymakers are now meeting the growing demand from clients in commercial, governmental, and nongovernmental groups for legal work that tackles the challenges of sustainable development.

Legal developments in the field of sustainability are also closely linked with the impact of new technologies, including legal technology, on legal systems, the legal profession and legal studies, as well as the effectiveness of research on the justice system in developing and expanding e-justice. Synergy between law and technology can ensure greater access to justice, the optimization and efficiency of legal processes, the digitization of legal services and the development of innovations in the field of law. It is predicted that a fundamental transformation of the legal profession will take place by 2025 due to the rapid development of technological changes, new work methods and the need to offer clients more value at lower costs (Deloitte, Developing legal talent. Stepping into the future law firm, 2016).

The impact of technology on public safety, the digitization of public sector processes, and the use of AI for personal and public safety are receiving an increasing amount of scientific research. The digital transformation of institutions and systems that ensure public safety is also accelerating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many technological systems introduced during the pandemic will



play a key role in ensuring public safety in the future, so legal research in this area is necessary, timely and reflects the needs of society and the State. The digitization of the activities of law enforcement institutions and the use of AI to ensure public safety are also extremely relevant areas. Law enforcement institutions around the world are either already using or seeking out opportunities to use artificial intelligence, analyzing the possibility of making decisions more easily, assessing risks, increasing preparedness for crises, and optimizing processes.

Still, despite the numerous environmental and natural resource regulations that are currently in place, sustainability does not yet have a sufficient or supportive legal base. Therefore, law that fosters sustainability is one of the fastest-developing and most challenging global legal disciplines. Since the 2010s, European legal scholars have been actively engaged in developing a new field of law: sustainability law. The pioneer in this research field is the University of Oslo, which has addressed various topics since 2010, including sustainable companies (2010–2014, *Futuring Sustainable Nordic Business Models*, *Futuring Nordics*, 2019–2023) as an integral part of sustainability law. The overarching theme of the Sustainability Law Research Group at the University of Oslo, led by professor Beate Sjøfjell, is to conduct interdisciplinary analyses of law with the aim of identifying normative solutions that contribute to global sustainability. The problem of sustainability in law on a global scale was recently addressed by Volker Mauerhofer, Daniela Rupo, and Lara Tarquinio in their volume *Sustainability and Law. General and Specific Aspects* (2020). Lithuanian legal scholars are also discovering this topic by exploring the link between law and management in the context of sustainability (*Sustainable development of law and management in the current world*. Scientific Monograph, KSU, 2021). However, the various topics of sustainability in law are still underrepresented in Lithuanian scholarship and beyond.

**Research object.** The main question addressed by this edited volume is closely related to the increased role of sustainability in every society after the COVID-19 pandemic, and how this alteration has affected legal regulation in Lithuania and beyond. The authors ask: What is the place of sustainability in national and international legal regulation? They also present the discourse of sustainability in law in Lithuania and beyond, including the legal regulation of sustainability, the sustainability of the legal profession and the transformation of law in the context of sustainability. This edited volume describes legal aspects of sustainable development in various legal fields, including consumer law, the rule of law, human rights, energy, etc. Moreover, the authors discuss the transformation of law in the context of sustainability in the areas of governance, climate change, technology, criminal jurisdiction, etc. Lawyers must create and put into practice laws and legal structures that either do not yet exist or exist in a very different manner if we are to significantly advance toward, much less attain, sustainability. Therefore, this edited volume addresses the subject of how law may and should be used to promote sustainability further.

**Research aim and objectives.** In general, “Law and Sustainability: Perspectives for Lithuania and Beyond” aims to analyze the ways in which law and the legal profession should change and contribute to sustainability. For this aim, the following research objectives were set:

1. To address the subjects of national and international public law and the establishment of conditions for sustainable development, including the issues of sustainable development and artificial intelligence, the concept of sustainability in national Constitutions, the efficiency of green public procurement regulation in Lithuania, new generation of international investment agreements, personal data processing and sustainable work.

2. To present the discourse of sustainability in private law in Lithuania and beyond, including the problem of sustainable agency, commercial contracts influenced by sustainability, product quality guarantees in promoting sustainable consumption, the problem of shareholder activism, remote participation of shareholders in the general meetings of private companies, the main directions in the sustainable development of legal regulation in the reorganization in Ukraine, and access to justice through mediation.
3. To disclose the transformation of criminal law in the context of sustainability, including environmental crimes, sustainable criminalization, the sustainable reduction of drug consumption, accessible and sustainable criminal justice and the protection of vulnerability reporters.
4. To describe examples and experiences of sustainability from the legal point of view, including the implementation of the sustainable development principle in zoning and planning regulations, the problem of the sustainable legal regulation of electric vehicle infrastructure, and the links between sustainability and electrification in the EU regulatory framework and Lithuania. Furthermore, to contribute to the sustainable development agenda by calculating and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the waste management sector, as well as bridging gaps between law, finance, and technology and the sustainability of the legal profession.

**Methodology of the research.** The preparation of this edited volume was inspired by the 2022–2026 Research Program titled *Rule of Law, Sustainability, Technologies*, adopted by the Mykolas Romeris University in 2021, which identified new legal research field: exploring how law and sustainability reflect global trends based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the European Green Deal, the implementation of which is inseparable from law as it ensures regulation and its implementation, thereby creating conditions for the development of sustainability principles. Outlining this research direction as a priority will allow the consolidation of ongoing research in the field of sustainability (especially research into the cyclical economy, environmental protection, social business and other issues) and bring together researchers on an interdisciplinary basis. In this context, the focus of legal scholars at MRU since 2022 has shifted towards research on the legal regulation of the implementation of climate change management and climate neutralization, the implementation of the rights of individuals in the context of climate change (climate litigation), the improvement of the legal regulation of waste management systems, the direction of the green (circular) economy, and the practical operation of new business models.

This collective volume is the result of major efforts to bring together national and international scholars to contribute to the research of sustainability and law. Scholars from various legal fields were called to address the following questions in their contributions: Why is the question of sustainability and law relevant in your proposed research area? How could your area of proposed research be developed through the lens of sustainability, and/or how could the legal area in your proposed research contribute to sustainability? What changes related to sustainability have already impacted the development of the area/issue of law in your proposed research? What are the main barriers to sustainability in your field, and what are the ways to overcome them, if any?

**Limitations.** This edited volume is limited in geographical terms, as it mainly covers Lithuanian and European legal perspectives: some parts of the edited volume address Lithuanian issues within a European context (including Ukraine), some parts focus exclusively on the Lithuanian dimension, and some are outside the Lithuanian scope. The wide variety of topics covered by the authors

is essential in order to deliver broad perspectives for the development of sustainability in the Lithuanian legal field, as well as to indicate limitations and challenges both within the region and beyond.

**The structure of the book.** This book is divided into four parts, each of which address various aspects of the topic under study: sustainability in national and international public law, the links between sustainability and private law, the transformation of criminal law in the context of sustainability, also specific examples of sustainability in action from a legal perspective. Edited volume also includes conclusions and summary.

The first part of this edited volume – “National and international public law: The establishment of conditions for sustainable development” – covers the issues of: sustainable development and artificial intelligence; the concept of sustainability in national constitutions; the efficiency of green public procurement regulation in Lithuania; new generation of international investment agreements, personal data processing and sustainable work.

The second part – “Sustainability and private law” – focuses on the problem of sustainable agency, commercial contracts influenced by sustainability, product quality guarantees in promoting sustainable consumption, the problem of shareholder activism, remote participation of shareholders in the general meetings of private companies, the main directions in the sustainable development of legal regulation in the reorganization in Ukraine, and access to justice through mediation.

The third part of this edited volume focuses on the transformation of criminal law in the context of sustainability, including: environmental crimes; sustainable criminalization; sustainable reduction of drug consumption; accessible and sustainable criminal justice and the protection of vulnerability reporters. The last part of this edited volume presents examples and experiences of sustainability from the legal point of view, including: the implementation of the sustainable development principle in zoning and planning regulations; the problem of the sustainable legal regulation of electric vehicle infrastructure; the links between sustainability and electrification in the regulatory framework of the EU and Lithuania; contributing to the sustainable development agenda by calculating and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the waste management sector; and bridging the gaps between law, finance, and technology and the sustainability of the legal profession.

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## SUMMARY

The first part of this book focuses on national and international public law as the legal areas that allow the conditions for sustainable development to be established.

The first chapter (“Sustainable development and artificial intelligence: Is AI4ESG a key driver to reach the objectives of UN Agenda 2030?”) deals with the regulation of AI with specific reference to sustainability, advocating for a more reliable legal framework for AI with a view to achieving the UN Agenda 2030 SDGs. The author specifically argues that the EU plays a major role in setting proper rules, and large companies might also help in mitigating risks linked to new technologies by involving themselves and their stakeholders in sustainability initiatives.

The second chapter (“The concept of sustainability in national Constitutions: Insights from constitutional jurisprudence”) comparatively analyses many European national constitutions to consider the strong relationship between many of them and sustainability. This is intended to consider both environmental sustainability and people’s rights, assessing the long-term stability of constitutions but generally perceiving the absence of a comprehensive pattern within the topic. The author then moves to the constitutional doctrine of the Lithuanian Constitutional Court regarding sustainability, which helps to understand the constitution as a social (and therefore intergenerational) contract.

In the third chapter (“The efficiency of green public procurement regulation in Lithuania as an element of achieving objectives of sustainable development”), the author describes the requirements present in Lithuanian law regarding the qualification of a public procurement as a green public procurement in detail. They also point out that the current rules allow a more accessible possibility for correcting mistakes present in tenders if the conditions laid down in the procurement are met.

The fourth chapter (“Sustainable development and international investment law: A look at the new generation of international investment agreements”) addresses the issue of sustainability from the perspective of international investment law. After describing the chronological development of the trend in international investment agreements, the author highlights the fact that States currently include references to sustainable development in IIAs, introducing social and environmental elements in an essentially neo-liberalist framework. Nevertheless, the author also notes that only very few of the most recent IIAs include features of sustainability, and that in many cases these features exist solely within models. On this basis, the author advocates for a shift of paradigm by strengthening the idea of investor accountability beyond soft law.

The fifth chapter (“Privacy-friendly personal data processing and sustainability: Is there mutual support?”) points out how the massive processing of big data related to SDG-linked issues might be in contrast with people’s right to privacy. The author discusses the different principles involved in this trade-off – with a specific focus on the principle of purpose limitation and the possibility that its application damages the environment in the long run – and advocates for further investigation in the field in the coming years.

The sixth chapter (“Sustainable work over the course of life. A new paradigm for decent work”) considers the topic of social sustainability, with specific reference to the issue of decent work. The authors highlight the fact that the notion of decent work is extremely vague, and advocate for a more comprehensive principle of sustainable work that should serve as the foundation for the promotion, protection, and enforcement of work and working conditions – with protection offered to workers, notwithstanding their specific employment status. They propose the use of hard-law measures for the enforcement of sustainable work and to enhance employees’ participation in the workplace management, thus making the voices of workers more audible.

The second part is devoted to sustainability and private law.

The first chapter (“The legal consequences of apparent authority for sustainable agency relationships”) deals with a classic issue of private law with a view to its interaction with sustainability: apparent authority. The author argues that the application of sustainability to a transaction marked by apparent authority should lead to the right of the affected third party to freely choose the remedy between the compensation of damages and the performance of the obligation in kind. The same should also be the case for the principal and the fourth parties involved in the agency relationship.

The second chapter (“The change of commercial contractual relations influenced by sustainability clauses”) describes the impact of sustainability on commercial contractual relations, in particular with the inclusion of sustainability clauses. The author analyses the interaction between sustainability clauses and the doctrine of classic contract law, finding difficulties in applying to the former the legal instruments proper to the latter. However, sustainability-related contractual obligations are usually ancillary, and, in general, sustainability objectives are not yet considered trade custom or established business practice – even if the current trend leaves open the idea that they will become increasingly relevant in the near future.

The third chapter (“The role of the product quality guarantee in promoting sustainable consumption: Lithuanian experience”) considers how the product quality guarantee might serve as a driver for the promotion of more sustainable consumption. The author emphasizes the role of the legal framework in this field, as it indirectly promotes the more sustainable consumption choices of the consumer. In particular, the author focuses on recent amendments to the Lithuanian Civil Code (2022) that promote both the circulation of longer-lasting products and a longer period of use.

The fourth chapter (“Corporate sustainability and the shareholder activism problem”) analyses the issue of shareholder activism, in particular with reference to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. The obligation for directors to consider the longer-term impacts of a company’s activities is considered as a means of overcoming the short-term (often unsustainable) approach that many shareholders, being interested mainly in profit maximization, possess.

The fifth chapter (“The remote participation of shareholders in the general meetings of private companies as a tool for more inclusive shareholder engagement”) refers to a topic that was extremely relevant during the recent COVID-19 pandemic: remote shareholder participation and voting in the general meeting. The author in particular analyses the most recent (November 2022) Lithuanian legislation on this topic by highlighting its advantages, both from a substantive and a procedural point of view, in terms of the enhancement of real shareholder engagement.

The sixth chapter (“The main directions in the sustainable development of legal regulation of reorganization in Ukraine”) focuses on the concept of reorganization in Ukrainian legal experience, defining it as a multidimensional phenomenon. The key sustainability issue in the contribution lies in the observation that reorganization is likely to affect creditors’ interests. The author advocates for the reconceptualization of reorganization so as to have it considered from a socio-economic perspective, with a view toward Ukraine’s relationship with countries in Europe and around the world.

In the seventh chapter (“Access to justice in civil cases: Filling the gap in the sustainable development agenda”), which concludes Chapter II, the authors focus on access to justice as a specific topic included in Goal 16 of the UN Agenda 2030 SDGs. Such an observation puts access to justice, in particular by means of ADRs and specifically with reference to civil cases, in the field of social sustainability. Furthermore, the authors – pursuant to the UNDP – point out that access to justice is to be defined not just as a procedural, but also as a substantive right, guaranteeing just and equitable legal and judicial outcomes.

The transformation of criminal law in the context of sustainability is the topic of the third part.

In the first chapter (“Environmental crime: Lithuanian criminal policy in the context of European regulation”), trends in the interpretation of the concept of environmental damage are considered from both the European and the Lithuanian perspective by highlighting the limited acknowledgment of criminal liability. At present, despite the implementation of the European rules by Lithuania, administrative and civil remedies are preferred over criminal liability when it comes to environmental offences.

The second chapter (“The principle of subsidiarity of criminal law as a condition prerequisite for sustainable criminalization”) considers a classic criminal law topic in terms of its interaction with sustainability: the principle of subsidiarity. In particular, the author uses the concept of sustainability in order to define the room left to criminal law – and in general to criminalization – when a certain offense is considered with a view toward other legal areas. In this sense, sustainability in the law-making process would guarantee the persistence of criminal law as an *extrema ratio*.

The third chapter (“Decriminalization of the illicit possession of small quantities of drugs and the sustainable reduction of drug consumption”) is also related to the criminalization threshold, with specific reference to the possession of small quantities of narcotic drugs for non-distribution purposes. The author questions the most appropriate policy between the criminalization and non-criminalization of such a form of possession, as research carried out on the topic does not offer clear evidence that decriminalization is a sustainable solution for reducing drug consumption. At the same time, the author acknowledges that the final decision is a political and value-driven assessment that is made by the legislator.

The fourth chapter (“Accessible and sustainable criminal justice: The right of an incapacitated accused person to be present at a court hearing”) focuses on the social sustainability naturally embedded within the possibility of actual participation in criminal trials for people with disabilities. The authors present the models that are most widespread classically and more recently in dealing with this topic, advocating for the use of a modified functional approach and for a system in which actual participation in the trial – not just understanding – is guaranteed to the incapacitated defendant. They also focus on the specific duty of care that the State must have towards incapacitated people with reference to their right to have proper legal assistance, and the necessity of particular care in assessing the meaning and awareness of their testimonies.

In the chapter’s final subchapter (“Encouraging coordinated vulnerability disclosure: The protection of vulnerability reporters”), the authors comparatively discuss the situation of vulnerability reporters in the EU in the general framework of cybersecurity and the recent European NIS 2 Directive (2022). The contribution discusses the ways in which legal protection takes place and the specific obligations that enable vulnerability reporters to avoid criminal liability, observing that only four Member States have adequate guarantees to protect these researchers. The authors therefore advocate for the revision of the Cybercrime Directive to guarantee the more harmonized and effective protection of vulnerability reporters.

Part Four is devoted to providing several examples and experiences of sustainable activity and conduct, with the subsequent legal fallout discussed.

The first chapter (“The implementation of the sustainable development principle in zoning and planning regulations: The Lithuanian case”) considers the impact of sustainability in spatial planning in terms of the so-called sustainable development principle. The author points out that the Lithuanian Spatial Planning Law has not encompassed mandatory rules for a long time, while more concrete actions are taken by local planners. The author specifically refers to the master plan of the city of Vilnius, where specific environmentally friendly measures are outlined. They also argue that Vilnius’ example and its establishment of specific soft laws might eventually be followed by other cities, and might even become a regulatory framework in the future.

The second chapter (“The problem of sustainable legal regulation of electric vehicle infrastructure”) considers one of the most-discussed topics regarding mobility: the use of electric vehicles. The author points out that while electric mobility is far less polluting per se than traditional vehicles, many problems arise when it comes to the cost of electric vehicles, and in particular when we consider the manufacture and disposal of exhausted batteries. They support the efforts of the EU in its policy regarding the circular economy in the field of batteries, not least in order to reduce dependence on China, and advocate for the increased attention of legal scholars in assisting in the development of a more effective legal environment for promoting sustainable technological solutions.

The third chapter (“The links between sustainability and electrification in the regulatory framework of EU and Lithuania”) again considers electric vehicles, showcasing research that demonstrates that the environmental benefits derived from the increased number of electric vehicles in Lithuania are substantially offset by the increased emissions required for the recycling, disposal, and reuse of their batteries. The author argues that the correct way to pursue sustainability should perhaps involve



a model that does not presuppose the maintenance of the current level of production, and that might also include a shift of paradigm in education.

The fourth chapter (“Contribution to the sustainable development agenda by calculating and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the waste management sector”) focuses on climate change mitigation in waste management sector, the intersection between the waste management and energy sectors, with specific reference to greenhouse gas emissions reporting to IPCC. The author argues that GHG emissions from the waste management sector, as it is understood under the Waste Framework Directive, at large are attributed to other sectors (mainly energy sector). This creates the appearance that the waste management sector is low-polluting and is among the lowest contributors to climate change, affecting the public debate and potentially leading to a lack of policy changes within the legal framework of the sector. The author advocates for measures that should be in the waste management sector towards climate neutrality.

In the fifth chapter (“Sustainability: Bridging the gaps between law, finance, and technology”), the author considers the legal, financial, and technological frameworks of sustainability together in order to create a consistent approach by providing several examples of bottlenecks. In addition, they point out that academia has a key role to play – both in terms of sustainability education and by means of retraining services.

The final chapter (“The sustainability of the legal profession: Lawyers’ role in the future regulation of pandemic and war responses”) highlights the role of legal professions in the promotion of sustainability, with a particular focus on human dignity. The author considers the fight against impunity for war crimes in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine (with reference to SDG 16); the no-poverty goal stated in SDG 1 and how it is dealt with in current legal practice; and the promotion of decolonial and anti-discriminatory thinking by legal professionals in their activity (SDG 10). They also refer to environmental sustainability, and in particular climate actions (SDG 13), as a way to promote equality among human beings.

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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.