

## INNOVATION, WORK, SOCIETY

## FIELDS AND LIMITS OF ECONOMIC HUMANISM

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**Summary**

The article is devoted to the search for formal criteria of economic humanization in the new millennium. The fields and limits of a human-oriented economy are defined as such criteria. Fields of economic humanization are considered as a system of economic relations in which socio-economic human rights are realized. As the results of comparative analysis, it is established that the list of socio-economic human rights is characterized by constant development. The set of these rights is most clearly outlined today in the Sustainable Development Goals. It is emphasized that due to a set of preconditions of objective nature (political, economic, biological, natural-ecological) humanization processes in the economy must be reasonable and rational, i.e. in some way limited. The limits of economic humanization are interpreted as restrictions on human-centered evolution of the modern economy caused by the need for sustainable economic development. It is argued that the principle of parity and proportionality between the factors of economic development and the factors of economic humanization should be the basis of economic humanism. It is proposed to take into account international and national factors in the formation of fields and limits of economic humanization. Attention is drawn to the need for a conduct of a separate study of state and legal regulation of fields and limits of economic humanization, in particular in entrepreneurship.

**Keywords:** Anthropocene epoch, human rights, humanization of the economy, socio-economic rights, sustainable development, economic relations.

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**1. Introduction**

The process of humanization of the economy of the new millennium is of an inevitable character today. At its center is a person with his/her needs and interests. Human rights are in a state of constant development permanently with the evolutionary processes taking place in

society. The issue of humanization is now the subject of comprehensive attention. An illustration of this, in particular, is that at the level of the UN, the modern period is recognized as the Anthropocene epoch. That is why one of the important issues of anthropology – the fields and limits of human rights due to the need for their formalization<sup>1</sup>. Examining the issue of economic humanization, it is obviously impossible to bypass the question of specifying its parameters.

For this **aim**, economic humanization in the context of its fields and limits is considered, in particular: through the definition of the concept of the field of humanization of the economy; separation of economic and social human rights in accordance with international standards as an object of humanization evolution and identification of the main directions of their implementation; finding out the reasons for the need to establish the boundaries of economic humanization, disclosing their content and basic principles. The **methodological** basis of scientific research is a set of general scientific and special scientific methods, namely: analysis and synthesis to clarify the fields and limits of economic humanization; comparisons to determine the list of economic and social human rights enshrined in international instruments; axiology to clarify the criteria for limiting economic humanization.

To begin with, a few key aspects should be outlined. First. Since the process of humanization is based on human-centeredness, the fields and limits of economic humanization will be considered through the prism of fundamental human rights. Second. Particularly economic human rights in the broadest sense should be the subject of consideration. Third. Economics is a multifaceted phenomenon. In the prism of humanization, it is advisable to pay attention to those components that are directly related to socio-economic human rights and the possible mechanism for ensuring them.

## 2. Fields of humanization of the economy

The field of humanization is the social space in which human rights are realized. The field of economic humanization is a system of economic relations in which socio-economic human rights are realized. Defining a list of such rights is the first step towards defining the fields and limits of humanization of the modern economy.

At the level of law, political science, philosophy a number of approaches have been developed regarding the classification of human rights and the assignment of certain rights to the category of economic and social. Without entering into a broad scientific discussion, to determine the list of basic economic and social human rights, the basic international legal acts, which deal with such rights, will be taken as a basis. At the level of the world community, economic and social rights as a separate type of fundamental human rights were first enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1966. These are rights such as the right to work, social security, adequate living standards and others. They have also been given some specification at the level of regional interstate associations. Thus, on May 3, 1996, the European Community adopted the European Social Charter in Strasbourg, which deals with virtually the same rights. In our opinion, the package of these rights should correspond to the complex of economic relations capable of securing them. These are, for example, social and labor relations, the humanization of which is manifested through: enrichment of labor content,

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<sup>1</sup> Such formalization is necessary for the legal definition and consolidation of fundamental human rights. It was developed for the first time in its entirety in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

development of collective forms of labor organization, democratization of management, broad employee involvement in production management, labor improvement and rationalization of work and leisure modes (*Statyvka, 2012: 182*). Evidence of the efforts of the world community to outline certain fields of economic humanization is the adoption at the UN level in September 2015 of the UN Summit document “Transforming our world: an agenda in the field of sustainable development until 2030” (*Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 2015*).

### 3. Economic and social human rights in international instruments

The Sustainable Development Goals define both the inalienable human rights of a socio-economic nature, which need to be paramount ensured particularly through the economic activities of the state, and directions of such activities, such as poverty reduction and global partnership development, formation of effective justice system and civil society control over state institutions. The logical connection between international documents on human rights and SDG in terms of outlining basic economic and social human rights can be seen through their comparison (see Table 1).

The comparison illustrates a certain evolution of the list of socio-economic human rights, especially when it comes to the Sustainable Development Goals. We see that this document already pays considerable attention to a number of important human ecological opportunities, issues of gender equality and effective justice. The emergence of new fields of necessary humanization is natural and caused by objective reasons. Thus, if in the second half of the twentieth century (at the time of the adoption of the International Covenant and the Social Charter) people were just starting to think about caring attitude to environment, the beginning of the XXI has been marked by the threat of a global ecological catastrophe and devastating climate cataclysms. Taking into account the tendency of constant growth of challenges regarding the possibilities of realization of social and economic rights of people, it is possible to assume further expansion of the necessary fields of economic humanization. Yes, today there are more and more conversations about quality drinking water. Here it is worth mentioning statistical studies according to which even in a number of European countries tap water is not suitable for human consumption (such countries include Ukraine).

Identifying of the main fields of humanization of the economy in the form of Sustainable Development Goals specifies the tasks of the state and civil society to determine the forms and directions of economic humanization.

When considering the fields of humanization of the economy, it is worth paying attention to the subjective composition of economic relations. The subject of economic relations can be not only an individual – a person (whose rights are the basis of the ideology of anthropocentrism), but also legal entities or even communities. Thus, today local communities have received significant independent economic rights. If we take into account that the basis of economic humanization is the development of the rights of subjects of economic relations, we can talk about three main groups of such subjects, namely: an individual (for example, a particular employee or entrepreneur); groups of people (collective), for example the same local community; enterprises, institutions, organizations with the status of a legal entity. For each of them, in our opinion, there should be a package of specific opportunities for humanistic development. For a person as an individual – it is the right to work, social protection, a healthy environment. For a collective subject – it is the right to property and proper conditions for its realization, the right to freedom of participation in economic activity. For enterprises and other entities in this category – the right to fair competition, incentive taxation, free access to credit, etc.

Table 1  
**Legal consolidation of economic and social rights human: a comparative aspect**

<b>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights                      (International Covenant, 1966)</b>	<b>European Social Charter                      (European Social Charter, 1996)</b>	<b>Sustainable development goals                      (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 2015)</b>
Art. 6 “right to work”	Art. 1 “right to work” Art. 9 “right to vocational guidance” Art. 10 “right to vocational training” Art. 18 “right to engage in gainful activity in the territory of the States of other Parties”	8. "promoting progressive, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"
Art. 7 “everyone’s right to just and favorable conditions of work”	Art. 2 “right to fair working conditions” Art. 3 “right to safe and healthy working conditions” Art. 4 “right to fair remuneration” Art. 20 “right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation without discrimination on grounds of sex” Art. 21 “right to information and consultation” Art. 22 “right to participate in the definition and improvement of working conditions and the working environment” Art. 26 “right to decent attitude at work” Art. 27 “right of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunity and equal treatment” Art. 28 “right of employees’ representatives to protection at the enterprise and the conditions to be created for them” Art. 29 “right to information and consultation during collective release”	
Art. 8 “right to form trade unions for the exercise and protection of their economic and social interests”	Art. 5 “right to establish organizations” Art. 6 “right to conclude collective agreements”	

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Art. 9 “right to social security, including social insurance”	Art. 12. “right to social security” Art. 14 “right to use social services” Art. 19 “right of migrant workers and members of their families to protection and assistance” Art. 23 “right of the elderly to social protection” Art. 24 “right to protection in cases of dismissal” Art. 25 “right of employees to protection of their rights in the event of bankruptcy of their employer”	
Art. 10 “right to protection of family and maternity”	Art. 7 “right of children and adolescents to protection” Art. 8 “right of working women to maternity protection” Art. 16 “right of the family to social, legal and economic protection”	
Art. 11 “everyone's right to an adequate standard of living for him/herself and his/her family”, “everyone's right to freedom from hunger”	Art. 30 “right to protection from poverty and social exclusion” Art. 31 “right to housing”	1. “overcoming poverty” 2. “overcoming hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agricultural development” 10. “reduction of inequality”
Art. 12 “right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”	Art. 11 “right to health protection” Art. 13 “right to social and medical assistance” Art. 15 “right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation in society life”	3. “ensuring a healthy lifestyle and promoting well-being for all at any age”
Art. 13 “right of everyone to education”		4. “ensuring comprehensive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all”
Art. 15 “right to participate in cultural life; to use the results of scientific progress, to authorship”		5. “ensuring gender equality, expansion of rights and opportunities of all women and girls”

Продовження таблиці 1

<p>6. "ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation"</p> <p>11. "ensuring the openness, security, viability and environmental sustainability of cities and other settlements"</p> <p>13. "taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its consequences"</p> <p>14. "conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development interests"</p> <p>15. "protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems and promotion of their rational use, rational forest use, combating desertification, stopping and reversing the process of land degradation and stopping the process of biodiversity loss"</p>		
<p>7. "ensuring access to low-cost, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources for all"</p>		
<p>9. "creating sustainable infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation"</p>		
<p>12. "ensuring the transition to rational models of consumption and production"</p>		
<p>16. "promoting creation of a peaceful and open society for sustainable development interests, ensuring access to justice for all and creating effective, accountable and grounded on broad participation institutions at all levels"</p>		
<p>17. "strengthening the means of implementation and intensifying work in the framework of the global partnership for sustainable development interests"</p>		

The peculiarity of humanization processes in relation to the collective subjects of economic relations is that in this case there should be a combination of individual (personal) and group (general) interest. When it comes to a legal entity, there should be a unity of interests of the employee, the subject of the economic process (enterprise, institution, organization), the owner (private or state), society as a whole. This is one of the important factors of social harmony (compromise of social interests). A clear example of a violation of this approach is the fact that many enterprises privatized in Ukraine are idle or even destroyed, such as the Lviv Bus Plant. The question is: where are the investment obligations of “privatizers”?

When it comes to humanization, the unifying principle for all subjects of economic relations should be public values, natural rights, human needs and interests. Thus, ecological human rights should be taken into account even when it will entail additional costs for the enterprise, economic priorities should be formed by the state taking into account the possibilities of maximum employment of the able-bodied population (in this regard in Ukraine the development of entrepreneurship is crucial). The red line in the light of the humanization of the economy should be a person, his/her economic and social rights. Each component of humanization is designed to ensure a particular right of a person, group of people, society.

An analysis of international legal acts devoted to human rights illustrates that these documents, in addition to enshrining one or another inalienable right, also address the possibility of restricting it. Article 4 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that “the State may impose restrictions on these rights, which are defined by law, and only in so far as this is compatible with the nature of those rights, and solely with the aim to contribute the common welfare in the democratic society”. Article G “Restrictions” of the European Social Charter provides that “the effective implementation of the rights and principles set out in Part I and their effective exercise in accordance with Part II shall not be subject to any restrictions other than those provided for in those parts and those established by law and necessary in a democratic society to protect the rights and freedoms of others or to protect public interests, national security, human health or morals” (*European Social Charter; 1996*). This is not accidentally. It is necessary to mention the rule according to which “human rights end where the rights of another person and the interests of society begin”. So, when talking about economic humanization, it is worth mentioning its limits. These limits can be of objective or subjective character. An example of limits that have an objective basis may be that the increase in employee salary may be carried out in accordance with the capabilities of the enterprise, taking into account the need to accumulate funds for its development.

#### **4. The limits of humanization of the economy**

Utopian examples of formation a reward for work in accordance with the cellar approach, rather than depending on the quality and quantity of work performed, show that humanization must be reasonable and rational. Finally, an entrepreneur who does not receive the desired income from his business activity will not engage in it. The situation is more complicated with restrictions of a subjective nature. As we can see in the above-mentioned legal acts, the interests of the state and a democratic society, national security and morality are at stake. In this context, the practice of bringing people to justice in totalitarian states for not working seems justified and humane. Therefore, when it comes to limiting economic and social human rights, the preconditions for setting certain limits should have, above all, an objective nature. In our opinion, the main preconditions of an objective nature should include: political (for example, the need for citizenship to take the position of a civil servant), economic (for example, the economic

potential of the state to establish a living wage), biological (for example, age from which a person can work), natural and ecological (for example, restrictions on the use of the world's ocean resources).

The limits of economic humanization can be defined as caused by the need for sustainable economic development restrictions on human-oriented evolution of the modern economy. This definition, as we see, is evaluative in nature and needs to be specified. We will try to propose formal criteria, in particular of a material nature, first of all, those related to entrepreneurship, the effective development of which in Ukraine is a determining direction of humanization of the domestic economy. The need for sustainable development, in our opinion, is primarily related to the profitability of economic activity and the conditions for successful operation of the business entity. Of course, the income received can never be too large. However, its scope can be determined taking into account international and national factors - the average value by industry and type of activity. We call it a factor of economic development.

Human orientation should be based on international human rights standards, as Ukraine has declared its desire to implement these standards in national practice. Unfortunately, this does not mean that in Ukraine, for example, an employee can claim the same salary as his/her colleague in Western Europe for similar work<sup>2</sup>. Again, it is probably necessary to proceed from the average in the industry and type of business in each particular country. We call these human-oriented characteristics factors of humanization.

This gives grounds to argue that the limits of economic humanism should be based on the principle of parity and proportionality between the factors of economic development and the factors of economic humanization. This balance will ensure both the development of the national economy and its human-oriented evolution, the compromise of the interests of employer and employee. Deviation in one direction or another would have only mutual negative consequences. This should become a formula for successful sustainable development and part of the economic culture of all parties of economic activity.

As we have noted in previous studies, humanization has different forms of manifestation (*Kosovych, 2014; Kosovych and others, 2021*) and directions of implementation (*Statyuka, 2012: 182*). The question arises: does the above proposed formula of humanization have a universal character? In our opinion, the principle of proportionality and parity should be universal, the factors should have specific nature. Example. In order to reduce harmful emissions into the atmosphere, it is proposed to limit animal husbandry and switch to artificial "cultivation" of meat. This idea has begun to be actively implemented in some countries. In this case, it seems that the balance between the harm done by animals to the natural environment and the questionable usefulness of artificial meat products for the human body should be taken as a basis.

The issue of fields and limits of economic humanization should be one of the elements of economic education. It will prevent the formation of populist sentiments (populism is known to be a successful weapon in the hands of politicians) and will become an objective basis for reasonable expectations and demands of society.

## 5. Conclusions

Summarizing the above, we state that the process of humanization of the domestic economy, i.e. its human-oriented development, in today's conditions can be a reality, but not a kind of populism of individual political forces or social groups, provided its formalization through

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<sup>2</sup> This is a common practice that leads to a constant movement of capital and labor resources in the Europe.



the allocation of fields and limits. The field of economic humanization is a system of economic relations in which socio-economic human rights are realized. Currently, such fields are most clearly defined in international legal acts enshrining economic and social human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. The limits of economic humanization can be defined as caused by the need for sustainable economic development restrictions on human-oriented evolution of the modern economy. Since today the grounds for establishing the limits of humanization are not formalized, it is advisable to base the limits of economic humanism on the principle of parity and proportionality between the factors of economic development and the factors of economic humanization. A separate study is required to clarify the issue of state and legal regulation of the fields and limits of economic humanization, in particular in entrepreneurship.

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