

A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: REVEALING LINKS AND DYNAMICS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to create an image of the relationship between environmental protection and economic development through specialized papers published between 2000 and 2019. In this way, this paper is based on the study and analysis of the literature published on this topic in the last 2 decades. The paper also discusses how policies and measures towards environmental protection can be integrated into the European body, with a considerable impact on human development. After the presentation of the methodology, the paper develops an analysis in time and space of the selected scientific papers, then an analysis of the keywords with their grouping on clusters, creating a map of them and highlighting the existing relationships. Among the most interesting results are: (1) a massive concentration of works in the last five years of the period considered in the analysis; (2) China is one of the countries with the largest contribution in terms of authors; (3) The keyword map is particularly useful in revealing the link between keywords in the analysed context: the relationship between environmental protection and economic development. Finally, the paper presents possible limits of the research, but also future directions of its development.

KEYWORDS: *environmental protection, pollution, economic development, economic growth.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Globally, there are a multitude of studies that bring out the fact that economists can play an important role in highlighting the optimal transition to a low-carbon economy and resource efficiency. Moreover, in the context of the annual growth of factors that generically describe the term "pollution", economists are a source of inspiration in highlighting the optimal use of limited resources in the environment, correlating production methods with factors that help to increase environmental protection.

At this point, it is becoming increasingly clear that the global community, over the past few decades, has followed a path of development that has dealt with superficial sustainability, often ignoring this aspect. In the context of climate change, we obtain increasingly conclusive evidence based on existing data that population-driven development leads to consequences with an impact on the environment, which also generate negative side effects. According to Pachauri (2008), if the existing concentration of carbon dioxide were to double, it is possible to see a decrease in Global GDP of between 1.5 and 20%. Moreover, it has also been shown that the cost of carbon dioxide could increase in monetary terms on a scale between \$ 10 and \$ 350 / ton, while the real social cost of carbon dioxide will increase from 2 % per year to 4% per year (Pachauri, 2008).

The rapid economic growth of recent decades has been accompanied by high energy consumption and environmental degradation. The growing demand for energy has led to the incessant use of fossil fuels, with a direct negative impact on the environment. In this way, high energy consumption

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