

Dariusz Mańka Shaping the socio-legal notion of sustainable development in French personalism

The article aims to present a human and economic development through the prism of those French personalists' thought. Personalism is a philosophical school of thought based on the general affirmation of the centrality of the person for philosophical thought. It posits ultimate reality and value in personhood – human as well as (at least for French personalists) divine. It emphasizes the significance, uniqueness and inviolability of the person, as well as the person's essentially relational or communitarian dimension. According to Jacques Maritain, a person should always be a goal of action, and never should be a means to achieve particular goals. Thus, each kind of development, economic, technical or social, ought to focus on human dignity. Human development was also particularly emphasized by Emmanuel Mounier. He drew attention to the need for constant commitment, dynamism and creative approach to the world. Thanks to the spiritual sphere, intelligence and freedom that belongs to every man, he can both develop himself and shape the world around him. Man should strive for perfection, transgress himself. Referring to the effects of the scientific and technical revolution and the twentieth-century economic transformation, he stated that not achievements in these areas, but only men are able to determine their positive or negative role. Technology should therefore have only a servile role for the human person. Finally, Teilhard settled the human being in the context of nature and theory of evolution. According to the views of French Jesuit, man is the highest phase of cosmic evolution and an integral part of the universe. He claimed that the whole reality is dynamic and evolutionary, going from the Alpha point to the Omega point with its beginning and the end. The supreme goal of humanity and the world is spiritual unity. According to De Chardin, the whole creation is sighing towards a mystical union with God.

Key words: sustainable development, human development, French personalism, economy, environment Maritain, Mounier, Teilhard de Chardin