

Description for the general public

Sustainable development has become a contemporary social paradigm. One of its assumptions is the need for the environmental risk management, with particular attention paid to prevention, limitation and remedying of environmental damage. It is recommended to establish a macro-system of the environmental risk management which will meet the incoherent needs of entities on the level of the meso- and micro-system. It will also lead to integration and optimisation of the economic tools of environmental management. This will not be feasible unless the relation (substitutive or complementary) between the potential instruments is assessed and the factors which strengthen the complementary relation are identified. The research proposed in the project will possibly contribute to the above.

The purpose of the research is to analyse the connections between environmental insurance and ISO 14001-compliant environmental management systems as environmental management tools. The researcher intends to answer the question how the implementation of the ISO 14001-compliant environmental management system in an organisation will (or may) affect production and provision of environmental risks' cover for the given company (the insurer's point of view), and usage insurance cover (the perspective of the organisation which has implemented the ISO 14001-compliant environmental management system). The research will comprise two stages. In the first place the relevant – from the insurers' point of view – elements of environmental management systems will be identified. The degree of their implementation in the systematically managed organizations according to ISO 14001 will be valued afterwards.

The literature-based study, on the one hand, points the lack of interest on the side of insurance industry in the exploration of the ISO 14001-compliant environmental management systems in their present form. On the other hand, it identifies their large potential in the areas relevant to insurance companies. For this reason, the author formulates a thesis concerning the urge to modify the present relation between the aforementioned environmental management tools. Consequently, the research will also investigate a willingness among the systemically managed entities to alter the rules of management, so that they are in line with the needs arising from initiation and provision of insurance cover.

The results of projected research will provide input to scientific analysis of risk management in organizations. They integrate two different tools of the environmental risk management. Hence, they will contribute to solution one of the main problem of current performances in the analysed area: the lack of integrity of undertaken activities. The deep analysis of the tools' relation will be a pioneering one and its findings will provide unprecedented data and scope of knowledge which has not been described in any related, international literature yet.