

Civil Society and Sustainable Development around the World: Issues and Academic Notes

Melia Wijaya

Researcher at the Studi Pembangunan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Indonesia (PSP2MI)

*Corresponding author: melia8362@gmail.com

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Abstract

Abstract: The aim of this study is to provide a deeper understanding of how circular economy practices can be applied in different sectors and industries to the SDGs. The study uses 144 scientific papers from the Scopus Database to conduct systematic reviews as research methodologies. Research results to present relevant information on the role of the circular economy in supporting progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The main contribution of this research is to provide an in-depth understanding of the role, strategies and impact of civil society in sustainable development, as well as provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners and academics in designing and implementing more effective and inclusive development programmes. The limitation of this research is that the articles used are derived only from the Scopus database.

Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memberikan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang bagaimana praktik ekonomi sirkular dapat diterapkan di berbagai sektor dan industri untuk SDGs. Penelitian ini menggunakan 144 makalah ilmiah dari Scopus Database untuk melakukan tinjauan sistematis sebagai metodologi penelitian. Hasil penelitian untuk menyajikan informasi yang relevan tentang peran ekonomi sirkular dalam mendukung kemajuan menuju Tujuan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan. Kontribusi utama dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memberikan pemahaman yang mendalam tentang peran, strategi dan dampak masyarakat sipil dalam pembangunan berkelanjutan, serta memberikan wawasan berharga bagi para pembuat kebijakan, praktisi dan akademisi dalam merancang dan mengimplementasikan program pembangunan yang lebih efektif dan inklusif. Keterbatasan penelitian ini adalah bahwa artikel yang digunakan hanya berasal dari database Scopus.

Introduction

Society in the context of sustainable development plays an important role in ensuring active and sustainable participation from all levels of society in the development process (Hummels & Argyrou 2021). The concept of sustainable development emphasizes the importance of paying attention to economic, social and environmental aspects in order to achieve long-term prosperity for current and future generations. Civil society, consisting of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), advocacy groups, environmental activists, academics and ordinary citizens, has great potential in fighting for the sustainable development agenda through participation, monitoring and advocacy. Civil society has a crucial role in maintaining and encouraging sustainable development throughout the world (Zottele Allende & Nájera Jiménez, 2022). Through active involvement, monitoring and advocacy, civil society contributes to fighting for environmental, economic, social and political issues that support the creation of a just, inclusive and sustainable society. With their various initiatives, civil society not only encourages concrete action from the government and the private sector, but also builds community awareness and capacity in facing global challenges such as climate change, poverty and social injustice (Boimah et al., 2022).

Previous research has consistently shown that civil society has a very important role in the context of sustainable development. These studies highlight that civil society is not only a beneficiary of development, but also a key driver that can mobilize society, raise public awareness, and influence policies that support sustainable development goals (Mihelcic et al., 2021). Through various initiatives such as social campaigns, educational programs, policy advocacy, and monitoring policy implementation, civil society plays an active role in emphasizing the importance of environmental, social and economic aspects in every step of development. Apart from that, research also shows that active participation by civil society can accelerate the achievement of development targets, especially in terms of climate change mitigation, environmental preservation, increasing social welfare and economic empowerment. Thus, the results of this research provide a strong foundation for continued efforts to strengthen the role of civil society as a partner that is not only relevant but also crucial in achieving sustainable development in the future (Hummels & Argyrou, 2021).

Although previous research has explained that civil society plays an important role in sustainable development, recent research on civil society and sustainable development highlights several interesting new findings. One of the main findings is that civil society has great potential to be a catalyst for change in the direction of sustainable development. These studies show that through new innovations in public participation strategies, the use of information and communication technology, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, civil society can be more effective in influencing development policies and practices that take into account environmental, social and economic aspects in a balanced manner (Gómez Zermeño & Alemán de la Garza, 2021). In addition, this new research also highlights the importance of inclusion and better representation of various societal groups in the development process, thereby ensuring that the interests and aspirations of all parties, including those who are vulnerable and marginalized, can be properly accommodated in the existing sustainable development agenda. Thus, the results of this latest research provide new and relevant

insights for relevant stakeholders in designing more effective and inclusive development policies and programs for a sustainable future ([Carayannis et al., 2021](#)).

The focus of this research study is on efforts to answer crucial questions about the role of civil society in sustainable development, including how civil society participates in the development process, what strategies are used to influence policy, and the impact of its contribution to achieving sustainable development goals. The research methods used include qualitative and quantitative analysis of secondary data, interviews with stakeholders, and case studies to gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of interaction between civil society and sustainable development. The main contribution of this research is to provide an in-depth understanding of the role, strategies and impact of civil society in sustainable development, as well as providing valuable insights for policy makers, practitioners and academics in designing and implementing more effective and inclusive development programs.

Many have studied issues related to civil society and sustainable development highlighting several important aspects, including public participation, active involvement of citizens in decision making, policy advocacy, local capacity building, and partnerships between communities, government and the private sector. Public participation includes various forms of participation, from public consultation to the formation of community groups. Active citizen involvement involves collaborative efforts in planning, implementing, and monitoring development programs. Policy advocacy emphasizes the importance of fighting for policy changes that support the principles of sustainable development. Local capacity building emphasizes the importance of strengthening community skills, knowledge and resources to address development challenges. Meanwhile partnerships between various stakeholders highlight the importance of cross-sector and cross-regional cooperation to achieve sustainable development goals. All these concepts together emphasize the importance of the active role of civil society in promoting inclusive, just and sustainable development ([Hugaerts et al., 2021](#)).

Concepts related to civil society and sustainable development illustrate several important aspects. First, public participation and community involvement are the main focus in understanding the role of civil society in sustainable development ([Hugaerts et al., 2021](#)). Community participation includes not only decision making and program implementation, but also access to information, fairness in decision making, and participatory mechanisms that allow citizens to voice their opinions and interests. Furthermore, the concept of sustainability is very relevant in the context of sustainable development, which includes environmental, social and economic aspects that ensure prosperity and justice for all parties, including future generations. Understanding sustainability emphasizes the need for a holistic approach that considers the complex interactions between these aspects in every step of development ([Mihelcic et al., 2021](#)). Another important concept is partnership and cross-sector cooperation in sustainable development. Civil society often plays a facilitator role in building partnerships between government, the private sector and other community groups to achieve broader development goals. Such partnerships enable the exchange of knowledge, resources and expertise between various stakeholders, thereby expanding the scope and impact of development efforts. In addition, it is also important to consider the

concepts of inclusion and justice in the context of sustainable development. Inclusion and justice emphasize the need to ensure that all people, including the vulnerable and marginalized, have equal access to the benefits of development and a fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of development. Thus, understanding these concepts is very important in designing and implementing more effective and inclusive development policies and programs (Owen et al., 2021).

Recent studies highlight that civil society has become an important force in driving transformation towards more sustainable development. Civil society does not only act as a passive observer, but also as an active agent of change in fighting for more sustainable development policies and practices (Garton et al., 2022). They are involved in a variety of initiatives, from environmental campaigns to human rights advocacy, aimed at correcting imbalances in development that tend to prioritize economic growth alone. These findings illustrate that civil society involvement is very important in driving change towards sustainability at various levels, from local to global. These studies also show that civil society not only has a role to play in fighting for policy change, but also in building awareness and mobilizing action in society to create sustainable change (Jönsson & Bexell, 2021). In addition, recent research also underlines the important role of civil society in strengthening good governance in the context of sustainable development (Valverde & Avilés-Palacios, 2021). Civil society is often an effective guard to ensure the accountability of the government and related institutions in implementing development policies and programs. They play a role in monitoring and evaluating policy implementation, identifying discrepancies and deficiencies in the development process, and encouraging changes necessary to achieve sustainable development goals. These findings emphasize that the role of civil society is not only limited to advocacy, but also includes a critical monitoring function in ensuring that the development that occurs is development that is in accordance with the principles of sustainability and justice (Onagoruwa & Wodon, 2021).

It is important for civil society in sustainable development to refer to existing concepts and previous research findings. Previous studies have highlighted that civil society has great potential in strengthening good governance, increasing public participation, and fighting for social justice in the context of sustainable development. Thus, a research framework can be designed to explore various dimensions of the role of civil society, from policy advocacy to participation in the implementation of development programs. Previous findings also show that collaboration between civil society, government and the private sector can be the key to success in achieving sustainable development goals. By referring to previous research concepts and findings, a research framework can be designed to explore how factors such as organizational capacity, financial sustainability, and community participation can influence civil society's contribution to sustainable development. In addition, previous studies also highlight the importance of understanding the local context and political power dynamics in determining the effectiveness of civil society's role in sustainable development. By taking into account conceptual frameworks that have been proven relevant, this research can make a valuable contribution in deepening understanding of the role of civil society in achieving sustainable development, as well as formulating more appropriate and effective policy recommendations to facilitate collaboration between various stakeholders.

Research Method

This research examines articles that are closely related to civil society and sustainability. These international and leading-edge articles are the main source of reference in this research. The focus of the study discussed in this study is based on several fundamental factors, in terms of understanding the concepts, impacts, and patterns related to civil society and Sustainable Development. The researchers tried to summarize studies that had been reviewed by previous researchers to find a red thread to understand how civil society and Sustainable Development relate today. The method used is Systematic Literature Review (SLR) because it allows systematic collection of data from a variety of relevant sources, including scientific journals. With this research can ensure that no power resources are missed, so the results are more comprehensive. The research began with a search for articles using the keyword “Civil society and sustainable development” in the Objectives database for the period 2021-2023. This search identifies 144 articles that are then reviewed by stage: searching for articles, importing articles into application software, and mapping.

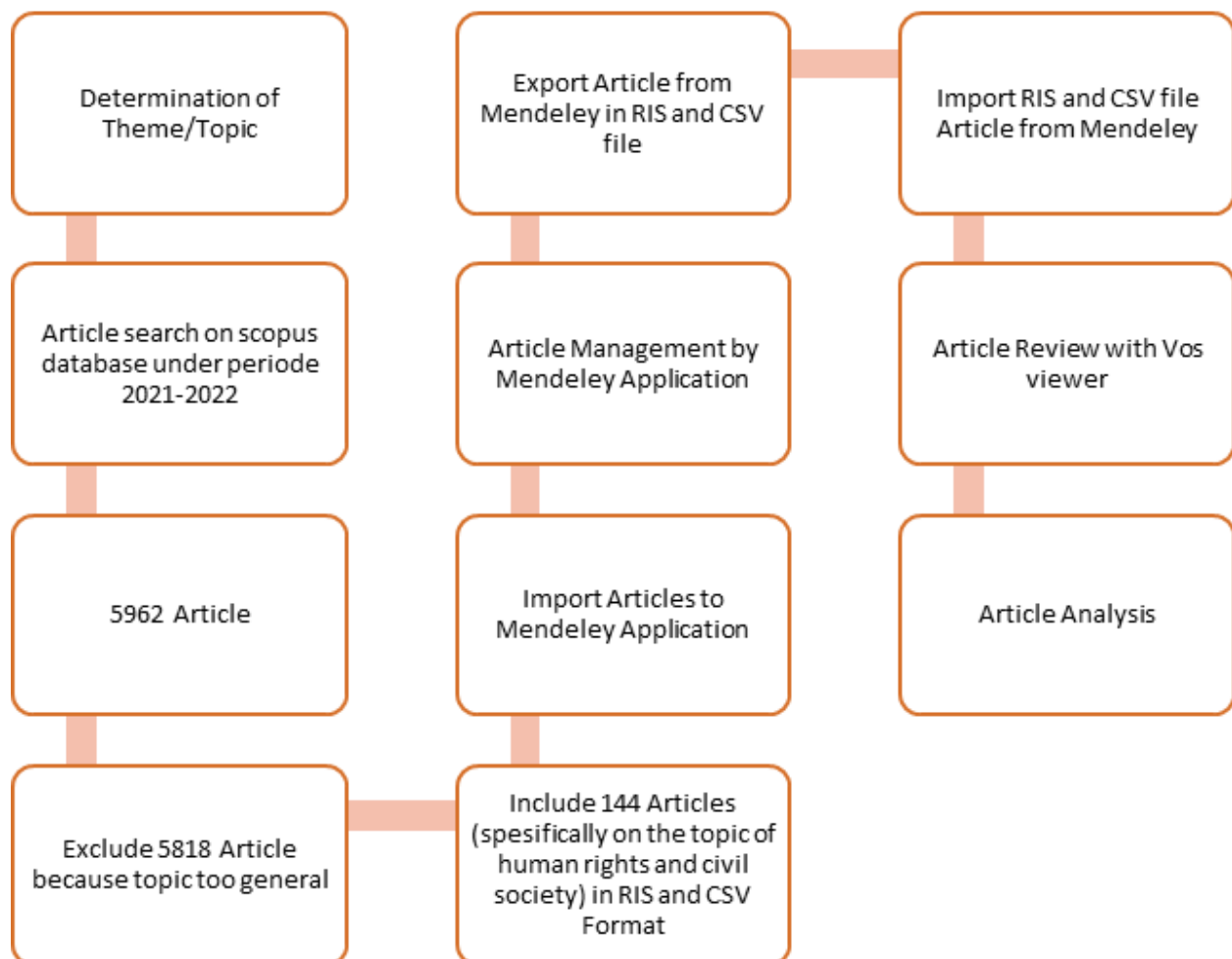


Figure 1. Research stages

Shows that this research begin with a search for articles using the keyword “civil society and sustainable development” in the Scopus database for the 2021-2023 period. This search identified 144 articles that were then reviewed based on stages: a search for articles, import articles in the application software, and mapping of discussion topics. In this SLR research method, the first step is to enter the title or topic on the Scopus website and then search for articles from the last 5 years. When the number of articles appears, filter them first so that the articles that appear have a more detailed discussion. Third, when articles appear that are more suitable. with a topic then enter the article into the Mendeley application then export the article from Mendeley into RIS and CSV then export and review in the VosViewer application then analyze it.

Results and Discussion

Based on data recorded in the Scopus source in figure 2, This shows an increase in studies on the subject of civil society and sustainable development from 54 in 2021 to 67 in 2023. This increase is due to the high interest and focus of research on the subject of civil society in sustainable development, such as changes in government policy or political situation also affect the interests and priorities of researchers in the field. Supportive factors in the implementation of sustainable development policies due to legal certainty or regulatory regulations governing sustainable policy. Changes in cross-sectoral collaboration are also increasingly emphasized as a means of achieving sustainable development goals effectively. It reflects a strong urge to face the environmental and social challenges facing the world today.

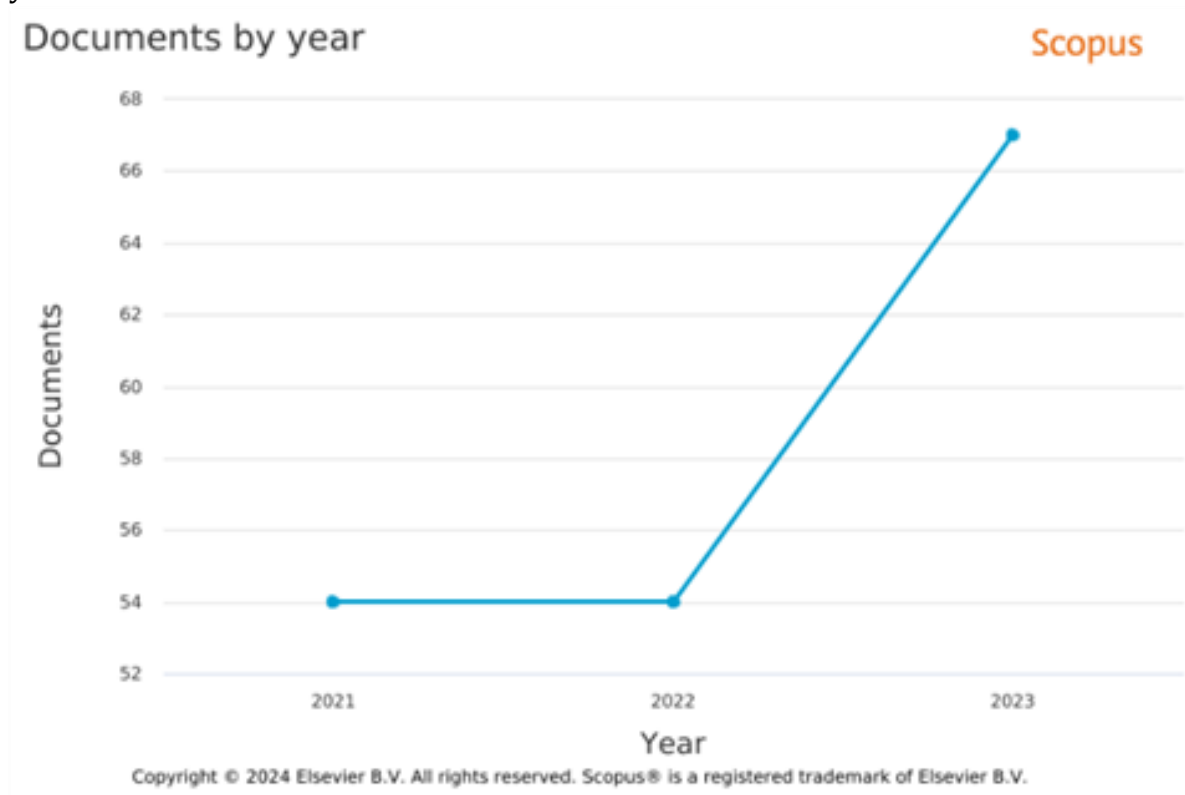


Figure 2. Documents by year

The increase in the number of studies on the subject of civil society and sustainable development from 2021 to 2023 is due to an interest in such influential research such as changes in government policies or political situations. The external changes that have affected this research interest indicate a complex dynamic between political, policy, and even technological factors. Researchers interested in this domain will most likely be faced with the task of updating and adapting their research framework to remain relevant to the latest developments. It shows the importance of continuously monitoring and analyzing trends in research, as well as understanding external contexts that can affect the dynamics of a particular field of research.

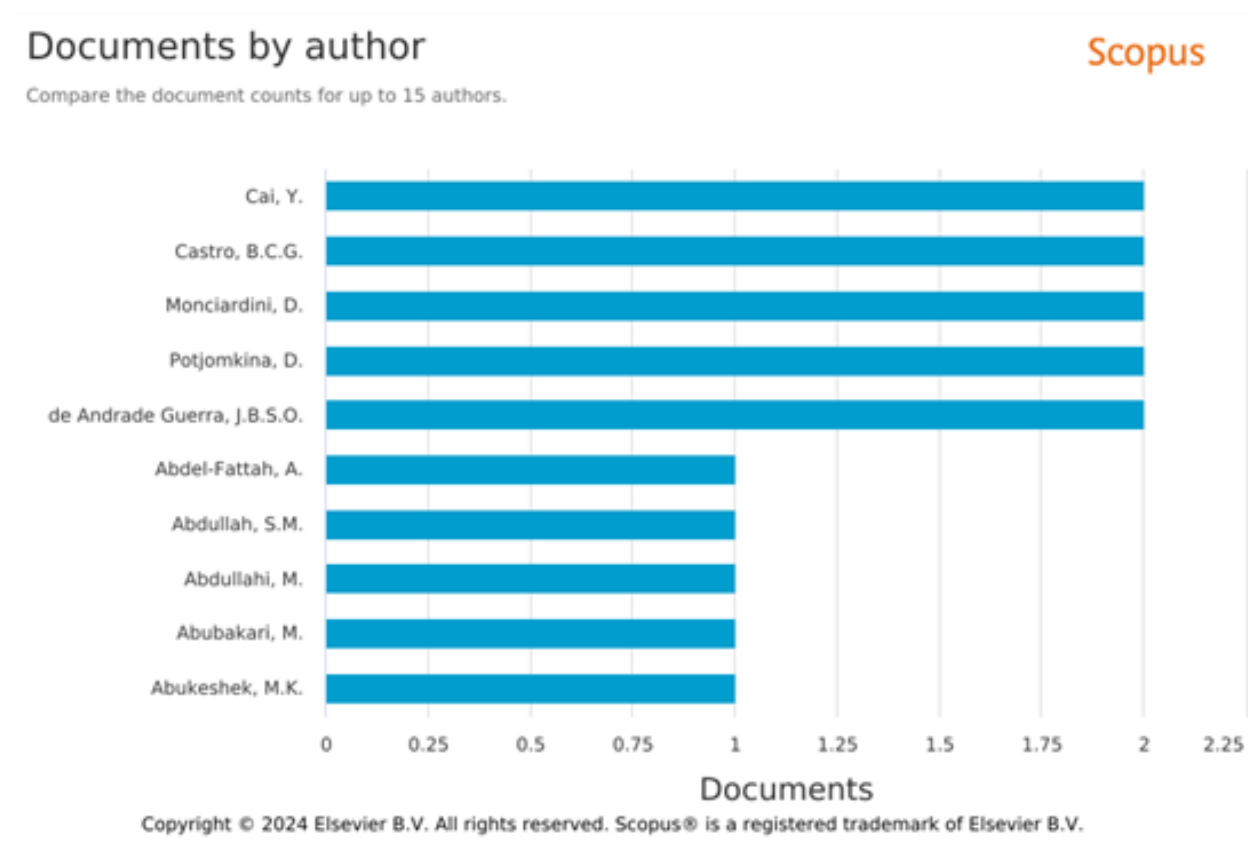


Figure 3. Scopus Data by auhtor

Based on the data presented in figure 3 from Scopus. The results of the analysis highlight that several authors have actively published articles reviewing developments in research on civil society and sustainable development. In this context, there are researchers like Cai, Y, Castro, B.C.G, Monciardini, D, Podjomkina, D and a number of others involved in the preparation of these articles. Most of these researchers have written two or more articles on the theme of civil society and sustainable development. This observation shows a significant level of involvement of a number of researchers in further studying topics related to

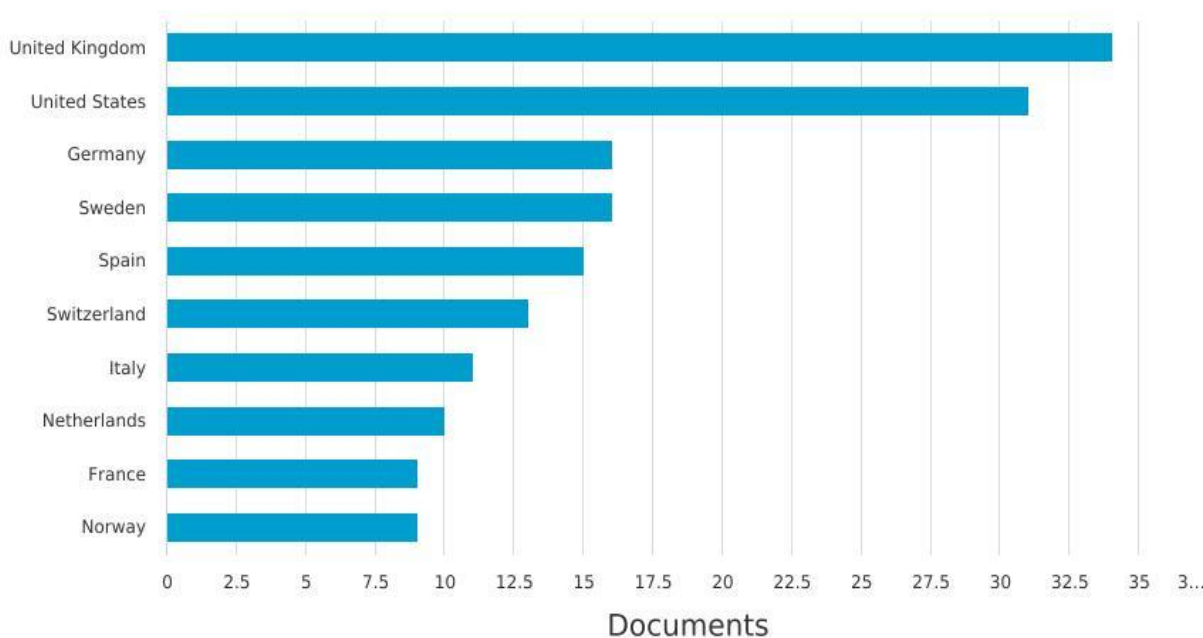
sustainable development, in the current era. With their publications, these authors make meaningful contributions to our understanding of the dynamics of Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, the picture shown in figure 3 confirms that academic interest in research on civil society and sustainable development has a significant weight in the scientific community. The results show that some authors have written more than one article showing how focused and dedicated they are to the topic. This suggests that many leading researchers in their field have been interested in the development of sustainable development. In addition, there are many authors who are actively involved in writing these articles, which suggests that Sustainable Development is becoming an increasingly important and in-depth scientific research topic. Therefore, the results of the analysis, as shown in Figure 2, provide a broad overview of the importance of this topic in academic discussions as well as joint efforts to understand the implications and dynamics of emerging civil society and sustainable development.

Documents by country or territory

Scopus

Compare the document counts for up to 15 countries/territories.



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Figure 4. Scopus Data by country or territory

Based on the analysis of the data documented in figure 4, it can be concluded that the United Kingdom is the dominant country in the publication of articles on research developments related to digital public services. With the number reaching a hamper of 35 articles, the United Kingdom demonstrates a strong commitment to developing and disclosing knowledge about this concept. Meanwhile, other countries such as the United

States, Germany, Sweden also showed significant participation in this, with 30 and 15 articles published each and many others. These results reflect the widespread interest of countries in understanding and expanding the concept of civil society and sustainable development. In addition, the data collected provides a more comprehensive picture of the geographical distribution of this research, which will be an important foundation for cross-country cooperation in promoting innovation and best practices in the development of modern and efficient public services.

However, it is important to remember that the table in the picture only shows some global contributions to this research. There are still other countries that are not listed in the table also contributing to the achievement and publication of sustainable development environmental information. It shows that this topic is not only popular in the countries listed above, but also widespread throughout the world. Therefore, this research provides a deeper perspective on how the use of information technology can improve the efficiency and openness of public services and shape civil society in the context of Sustainable Development.

The data recorded in figure 5 from Scopus, shows the results of research on civil society and Sustainable Development articles with a focus on several relevant topics. Interestingly, the results describe a number of subjects involved in the context of Sustainable Development. From the data revealed, the social science subjects dominated with 45.8%, indicating a high interest in understanding the interaction between civil society and sustainable development. Followed by environmental with 17,0%, which shows the role of information technology in shaping and influencing the dynamics of sustainable development. Furthermore, the arts and energy with 8.9%, providing cultural and social perspectives in the context of an ever-expanding Sustainable Development. Not only that, there are many other subjects involved, affirming the complexity and interdisciplinarity of digital political studies reflected in figure 5.

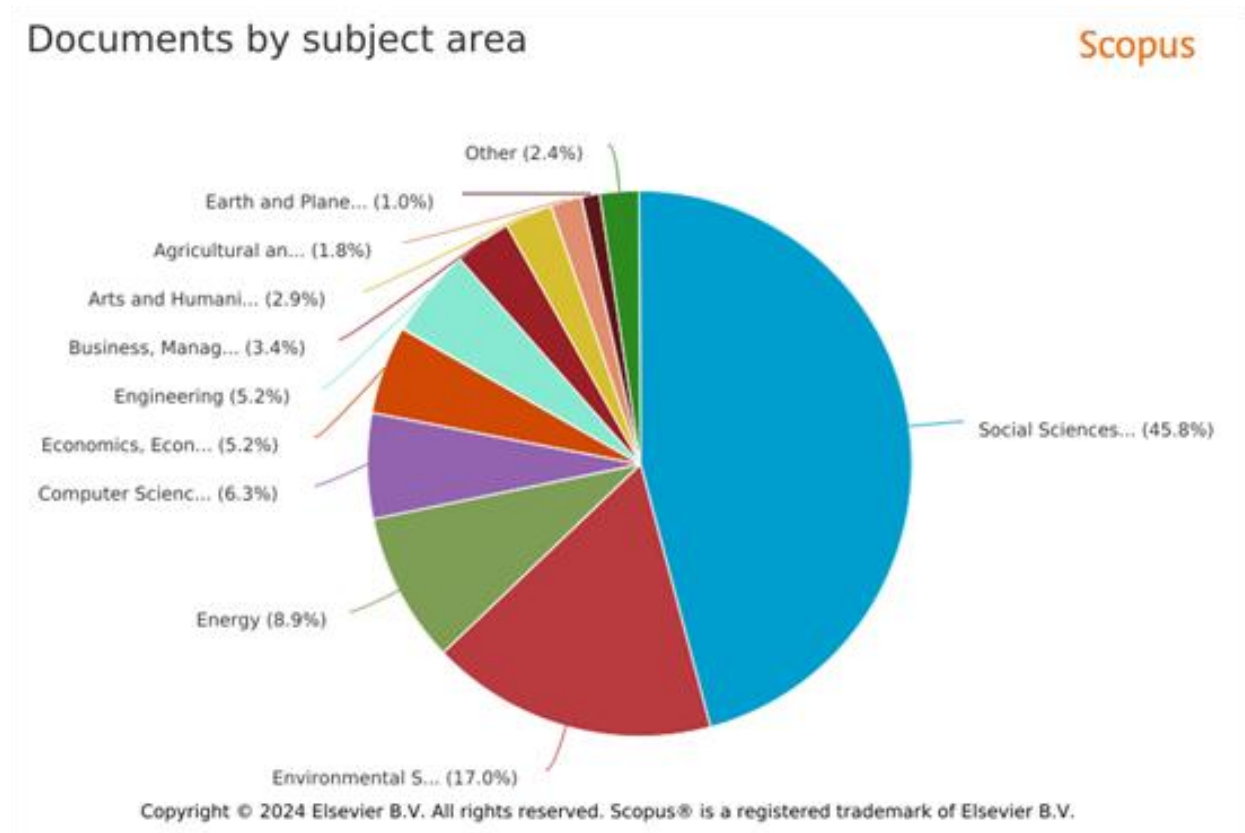


Figure 5. Documents by subject area

The importance of this data lies in a deep understanding of how civil society contributes to sustainable development. With social science as a major milestone, this research highlights the complex dynamics between civil society and sustainable development. Meanwhile, energy contributions show that civil society is essential to the process of sustainable development. In addition to the contribution of computer science also demonstrates efforts to understand and leverage technological advances to optimize the performance of civil society for Sustainable Development. Figure 4 is a visual representation that reinforces the argument that civil society cooperation is essential to identify and understand the phenomena of Sustainable Development taking place in various countries today.

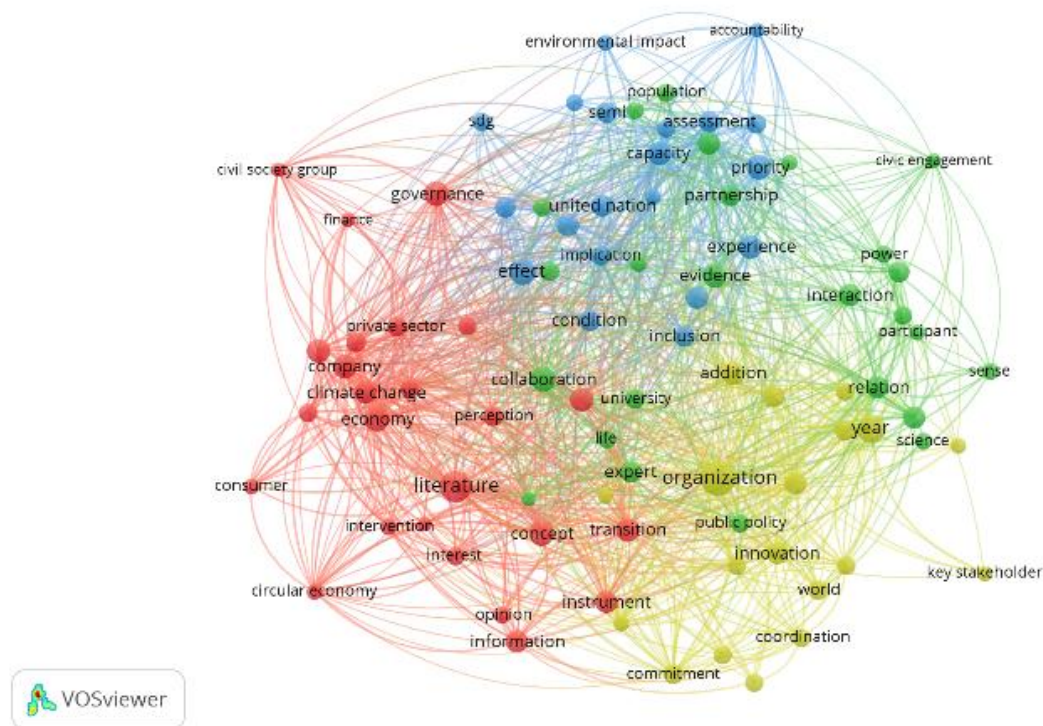


Figure 6. Visualization of development map of civil society research and sustainable

Figure 6 shows that the link between terms in the development of research towards civil society and sustainable development. Relationships between terms are described in a network that is interrelated. Figure 6 shows clusters of each term that are interrelated with research. From the clusters present on the network visualization it can be seen that the research on civil society and sustainable development can be separated into 4 cluster, i.e. the first cluster is red consisting of 25 topics, the second green cluster consists of 25 themes, the third blue cluster comprises 20 topics and the last yellow cluster contains 18 topics. From this visualization, it can be seen that research into civil society and sustainable development can be divided into four main clusters, namely, the red, green, yellow and blue cluster. Each of these clusters represents a different focus and aspect of the topic, with a different number of topics in each cluster. It demonstrates the complexity and diversity of methods used to understand the phenomena of Sustainable Development, as well as the importance of considering different perspectives in such research. By understanding these clusters, researchers can develop more detailed and comprehensive research to comprehensively understand the development of sustainable development.

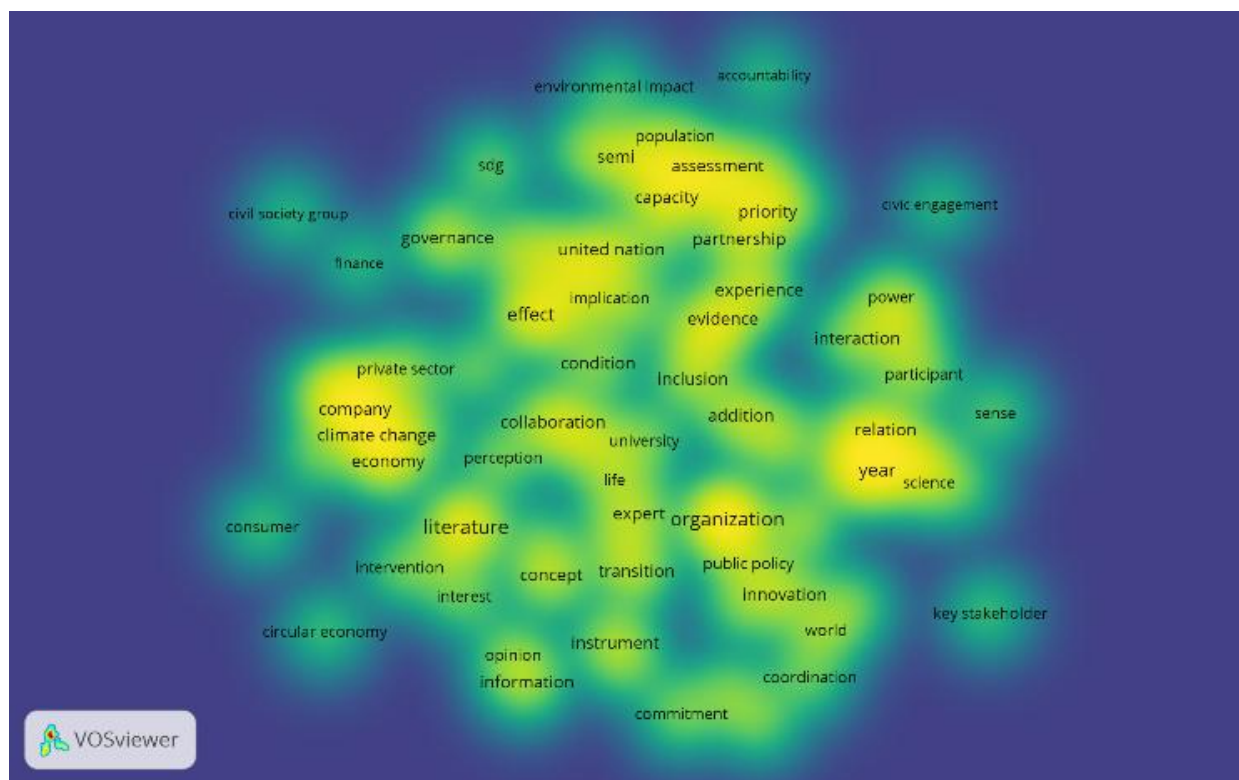


Figure 7. Visualisasi densitas digital public service

Figure 7 shows the visualization of density in civil society and sustainable development research from all over the world. Density visualization describes the density of a term based on the brightness of visible colors. Density can be used as a basis for looking at research terms that are still rarely done and often done. If a term indicates a fade or blurred color, then research on the term is still rarely done. As shown in Figure 6 shows the terms practice, issue and experience have the brightest yellow colors, this indicates that research using such topics has been done frequently. Unlike the phrases of ethic, effectiveness, action that are fading and almost invisible, this indicates that research on such topics is still rare.

Further analysis of this visualization can provide in-depth insight into research trends in sustainable development. For example, by understanding that bright-coloured terms have been extensively studied, researchers can extend their research coverage to areas that are still minimal. Thus, the density visualization as depicted in figure 7 not only provides a general overview of the distribution of research, but also provides a more detailed view to help researchers in determining their next direction of research. It reflects how important visual data analysis is in guiding evidence-based decision-making in the context of scientific research. The data shows that there are many topics that deal with civil society and sustainable development. The discussions on the terms of interviews, frameworks, and public have been extensive in research into civil society and sustainable development across the globe. For the future, the discussions about civil societies and sustainability can be focused on less studied topics such as the terms ethic, effectiveness, and action.

The results of the research presented in the exhibition highlight developments and trends related to civil society and sustainable development. The analysis presented shows an interesting phenomenon in the trends in research on civil society [and sustainable] development from 2021 to 2023, where there is an increase in this increase due to the high interest and focus of research on the subject of civil society in sustainability. These findings are consistent with previous findings that affirm that sustainable development is a phenomenon influenced by a variety of external factors, especially political and policy factors that change over time. Changes in cross-sectoral collaboration are also increasingly emphasized as a means of achieving sustainable development goals effectively. For example, advances in information and communication technology have enabled better access to data and information on sustainable development, as well as enabling collaboration among researchers from different parts of the world. Similarly, in the hope of making a significant contribution to innovative and sustainable solutions to today's global challenges. Thus, the increase in the number of studies on civil society and sustainable development from 2021 to 2023 is not only the result of internal dynamics in the field of research, but also influenced by external factors that reflect changes in the broader political and policy context.

In-depth analysis of the authors and states' contributions to research on civil society and sustainable development reveals a wide range of significant aspects. Among these findings is the fact that a number of authors have actively published a comparable number of articles, which show common interests and balanced contributions to the expansion of knowledge on the subject. Furthermore, this research shows that countries such as the United States, Germany, and Sweden have played an important role in scientific publications on sustainable development. In this context, it affirms that Sustainable Development is not only a focus at the national level, but also shows significant global impact and relevance in contemporary political dynamics. Thus, the analysis not only depicts the diversity of the authors involved, but also reflects the importance of cross-country cooperation in developing our understanding of this increasingly digitized political phenomenon.

The results of the analysis of the research subjects highlight the dominance of the social science subject as the primary focus of civil society that affects sustainable development. The findings are in line with previous research that emphasized the crucial role of social science, marking a high interest in understanding the interaction between civil society and sustainable development. The subject becomes a visual representation that reinforces the argument that civil society cooperation is essential to identify and understand the phenomena of Sustainable Development taking place in various countries today. Further analysis suggests that social science disciplines, such as sociology, economics, and political science, dominate research related to sustainable development. It affirms that an understanding of social, economic, and political issues in the context of sustainable development is key to developing effective policies and sustainable solutions. Thus, integration between social sciences and an understanding of the dynamics of civil society has become essential in efforts to sustainable development globally.

Visualization using the Vosviewer application provides a better overview of patterns, trends, and relationships between terms in civil society and sustainable development research. The term cluster identification suggests that research towards Sustainable Development can be separated into several interrelated clusters, highlighting the diversity of approaches and research topics within the domain. Density analysis also revealed that some topics, such as economics, politics, civil society, and others, have become the main focus of research, while other topics may require more attention in the future. Using the Vosviewer application, researchers can gain a deeper insight into the structure and dynamics of research in the field of civil society and sustainable development. It can help in identifying research gaps, highlighting new trends, and planning future research directions to address the challenges of sustainable development more effectively.

The concept of civil society as an arena of interaction between various institutions, markets, and societies has the potential to play a strategic role for sustainable development that is still on going (Hale., Wadu, & Gultom, 2021). For the success of sustainable development, there is also a need for social capital that is capable of fine-tuning good cooperation between the various institutions of government both vertically and horizontally. Moreover, there is a need for synergies between governments, private entities, and society with a multi-stakeholder approach of the three groups in the formulation of environmentally-conscious development plans and policies. So the point is not to allow natural resources to be exhausted and the environment to be destroyed without improving both the quantity and quality of human resources and man-made capital (Suparmoko, 2020).

However, the backdrop of sustainable development encompasses the complexity of integrating economic, environmental, and social aspects to create holistic and sustainable solutions. One of the main challenges is to strike a balance between the need for rapid economic development and adequate environmental protection, given that conventional development often has a negative impact on natural resources and ecosystems. Besides, other challenges include political uncertainty, a lack of awareness of the importance of sustainable development, and inequalities in access to resources and opportunities. To address these challenges, cross-sectoral and cross-border collaborative efforts, as well as changes in policies, business practices, and public awareness are required to create a sustainable transformation towards inclusive and environmentally friendly development (Ramadhani & Prihantoro, 2020).

The sustainable development approach refers to strategies and practices that take into account the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It includes integrating economic, social, and environmental aspects into decision-making processes to create a sustainable balance between economic development, environmental protection, and social well-being (Sabrina, 2022). This approach requires cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration, as well as the active involvement of civil society, governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations to inclusive and sustainable development goals. Taking into account the long-

term impact of current actions, this approach aims to bring about positive change for humans and our planet, while ensuring sustainability and justice for all ([Alana & Perwita Sari 2023](#))

Conclusion

Based on the research presented, it can be concluded that research trends on civil society and sustainable development show an increase from 2021 to 2023. The increase is due to the high interest and focus of research on the subject of civil society in sustainable development. Supporting factors in the implementation of sustainable development policies are due to legal certainty or regulations governing sustainable policy. Changes in cross-sectoral collaboration are also increasingly emphasized as a means of achieving sustainable development goals effectively. For example, advances in information and communication technology have enabled better access to data and information on sustainable development, as well as enabling collaboration among researchers from different parts of the world. Geographical distribution shows widespread interest in understanding digital-based public services from different countries. The dominance of social sciences in this research, followed by environmental and energy affirms the complexity and interdisciplinarity in the study of digital politics. Map and density visualization provides a comprehensive overview of research in various areas, guiding researchers to direct their research to areas that are still minimal.

The main contribution of this research is to provide a deep understanding of the role, strategy, and impact of civil society in sustainable development, as well as provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and academics in designing and implementing more effective and inclusive development programmes. With a focus on the role of the circular economy in achieving the SDGs, this journal can serve as a basis for further discussion and collaboration among various stakeholders in the achievement of the development goals set by the United Nations. He hoped that the findings and recommendations of this study would make a positive contribution in formulating effective strategic policies and actions to address the challenges of sustainable development in the future. This research not only provides a deeper understanding of the vital role of civil society in the process of sustainable development, but also illustrates the importance of cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration in achieving those goals, emphasizing that sustainability is a joint effort that requires the active participation of all stakeholders.

Although the results of this research provide a deep understanding of trends, authors' contributions, and the subject of Civil Society and Sustainable Development, there are limitations and research recommendations that need to be considered. This research has its limitations because the articles used only come from the Scopus database so the research findings cannot comprehensively describe civil society and sustainable development issues. Consequently, recommendations for further research may include expanding the geographical coverage, deepening historical analysis, and integrating broader methodological approaches to enrich the comprehensive understanding of civil society and sustainable development. Thus, further research in this field is expected to provide more in-depth and relevant insights for informing civil Society and Sustainable Development. It shows that although existing research has made valuable contributions, there is still room for more inclusive and comprehensive advanced research to fill the knowledge gap and

provide a more holistic view of the complexity of the relationship between civil society and sustainable development.

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