

Summary

The paper starts from the idea that economic policies cannot be evaluated solely from the perspective of budgetary stability; rather, they should be viewed as strategic instruments of the sustainable development process. It aims to determine the extent to which economic policies and the strategic capacity of Member States are able to influence their sustainable development. To this end, a series of indicators capturing these two dimensions are identified. Using elements drawn from grey systems theory—particularly the grey clustering method—grey whitening functions are constructed based on the normalized values of the selected indicators. These functions are used to group Member States into clusters according to their performance in relation to the considered dimensions. In order to better analyze how economic policies and the strategic capacity of these states contribute to their sustainable development, several scenarios are considered, assigning different weights of importance to the dimensions under review. Moreover, the evolution of the states within the identified clusters is analyzed dynamically over a four-year period. The results obtained through grey clustering reveal the existence of several typologies of states within the European Union, which makes policy recommendations more nuanced depending on the typology under consideration. The thesis brings both theoretical and practical contributions to the development of the chosen research field and may serve as a starting point for future research in this area.