

## WWWforEurope Newsletter 1/2013

*“The mission of the project WWWforEurope, to develop a new growth path for Europe, more inclusive and more sustainable than the current one, is more pressing than ever today. The Euro crisis has not subsided yet – Europe is the only region of the world not surpassing its pre-crisis production level with unemployment soaring to 12%. Energy transition to clean technology is questioned again as peak oil and gas are shifted into unknown future by newly discovered resources or new extraction techniques.”*

([Karl Aiginger, project coordinator](#), director of [WIFO, the Austrian Institute of Economic Research](#))

### WWWforEurope Policy Briefs

It was an extremely good choice to start the project with a [policy brief on European governance](#). Making Europe more stable in the short run proved extremely important last summer. The need to establish a Banking Union and to intensify the growth component, underlined by the authors Karl Aiginger and Stefan Ederer of WIFO, Olaf Cramme, Roger Liddle, and Renaud Thillaye, all of [policy network](#), was heard by politicians, but they are still not on track one year later. Agreements on Eurobonds or a debt resolution scheme are still not possible, but will be necessary soon.

WWWforEurope’s **second policy brief** by Karl Aiginger, Matthias Firgo and Peter Huber, all of WIFO, calls for a [strategy change for Southern Europe](#). The fiscal consolidations which are necessary in Southern European countries should be combined with a strategy for growth and employment, giving active elements of the strategy a quicker start. New firms and reindustrialisation should get higher priority.

Karl Aiginger and Peter Huber presented the second policy brief in Brussels in meetings with experts from the cabinets of Presidents Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso, as well as Commissioners Johannes Hahn and Olli Rehn. Karl Aiginger was also invited by the European Parliament to hold a [presentation](#) on industrial policy in Europe.

No better point in time could have been chosen for the dissemination of the ideas in this policy brief, since unemployment figures continue to rise and public debt is on the increase in Southern European countries after five years of trying to reduce public deficits. President Barroso’s remark that continued austerity may not be accepted by the population highlights the need for a new policy even more.

For a more detailed report of the meetings and themes discussed, see the [WWWforEurope website](#).

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In the face of the financial and economic crisis and long-term challenges from globalisation, demographic shifts, climate change, and new technologies, Europe needs to redefine its development strategy. The objective of [WWWforEurope – Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe](#) is to strengthen the analytical foundation of this strategy. WWWforEurope is a four year research project within the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme funded by the European Commission, coordinated by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) and brings together researchers from 33 scientific institutions in 12 European countries. For more information see [www.foreurope.eu](http://www.foreurope.eu).

## Highlights of WWWforEurope Events & Activities

### WWWforEurope Lecture Series

The WWWforEurope Lecture Series, held at WIFO, has been successfully established. International experts have spoken on diverse topics such as:

- [“Is Green Growth Possible?”](#) – Roland Kupers, University of Nijenrode & Clive L. Spash, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013
- [“Modelling Growth and Socio-ecological Transition: Chances and Challenges”](#) – Graciela Chichilnisky, Columbia University & Jan Rotmans, Erasmus University Rotterdam, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- [“Alternative Welfare Indicators”](#) – Christoph Schmidt, Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung & Konrad Pesendorfer, Statistics Austria, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### WWWforEurope Conference on Modelling Growth and Socio-ecological Transition



Daphne Laster, Margit Schratzenstaller, Karl Aiginger, Graciela Chichilnisky, Jan Rotmans, and Kurt Bayer © Birgit Novotny

The WWWforEurope [Conference on Modelling Growth and Socio-ecological Transition](#) at WIFO on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 was extremely productive. Researchers from the EU and USA, among them **Graciela Chichilnisky**, author of the carbon market of the UN Kyoto Protocol, Professor of Economics and Statistics at Columbia University, **Jan Rotmans**, Professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam, founder of DRIFT (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions), and **Jeroen van den Bergh**, Research Professor and Deputy Director of Research at the Institute of Environmental Science & Technology of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, presented their views on modelling the relationship between economic dynamics, social inclusiveness and sustainability. [Watch videos of the keynotes on our website.](#)

## WWWforEurope at We for Democracy

On invitation by the City of Kiel, the researchers **Sebastian Braun** and **Robert Gold** of the [Kiel Institute for the World Economy](#), both participating in the WWWforEurope project, contributed to the event „**We for Democracy – Day and Night for Tolerance**” on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, which was part of a [local action plan against right-wing extremism](#).

Robert Gold gave a talk on "**Cultural Diversity, Innovation and Regional Development**". He presented some first results of his WWWforEurope research on cultural diversity and regional performance. Gold showed that migration has been a driving force in the demographical dynamics within the EU27 countries over the past decade and has increased cultural diversity in European regions. Find his presentation [here](#).

Sebastian Braun, in his talk on "**The Integration of German Expellees in West Germany**", dealt with the flight and expulsion of Germans from Eastern Europe after World War II which constituted one of the largest forced population movements in history. He analysed the somewhat difficult economic integration of these migrants and their offspring into the West German society up to date.

[More information can be found on our website.](#)

## Upcoming WWWforEurope Events & Activities

### WWWforEurope Lecture Series

The next **WWWforEurope Lecture** will be held at **WIFO** on **May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**, on the topic of "[Remaking Manufacturing in the USA & Europe](#)" – Suzanne Berger, Professor of Political Science at MIT & Karl Aiginger, Director of WIFO and coordinator of the WWWforEurope project.

In **autumn 2013**, the **series will continue** at WIFO ([see our website for more information](#)):

- "Challenges for the Design of a Sustainable Tax System" – Stephen Matthews, OECD, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- "Sustainability and Wealth Accounting" – Sjak A. Smulders, Tilburg School of Economics and Management, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- "Chances and Challenges of Energy Transition – The Example of Germany" – Claudia Kemfert, German Institute of Economic Research (DIW Berlin) & Andreas Loeschel, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) Mannheim, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013



Christoph Schmidt at the Lecture in April © Birgit Novotny

## WWWforEurope Special Sessions

Researchers involved in the WWWforEurope project will be presenting the project and selected research results in [special sessions](#) at scientific conferences all over Europe. The first WWWforEurope special session was held at the [Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association \(NOeG\)](#) in Innsbruck, Austria, May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Further special sessions will be held

- at the [10<sup>th</sup> Euroframe Conference](#) on Economic Policy Issues in the European Union in Warsaw, Poland, **May 24<sup>th</sup>**, 2013
- at [Forum Alpbach](#), in Alpbach, Austria, **August 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2013
- at the [53<sup>rd</sup> European Regional Science Association \(ERSA\) Congress](#) in Palermo, Italy, **August 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>**, 2013
- at the [40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics \(EARIE\)](#), in Évora, Portugal, **August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>**, 2013
- at the [14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Finance and Banking](#), in Ostrava, Czech Republic, **October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**, 2013

[For more information and updates please see our website.](#)

## WWWforEurope Publications

All publications resulting from the WWWforEurope website are available in a [database on the project website](#). These are WWWforEurope's most recent publications:

Karl Aiginger, Matthias Firgo and Peter Huber: ["Policy Options for the Development of Peripheral Regions and Countries of Europe"](#), December 2012

Karl Aiginger, Olaf Cramme, Stefan Ederer, Roger Liddle and Renaud Thillaye: ["Reconciling the Short and the Long Run: Governance Reforms to Solve the Crisis and Beyond"](#), September 2012

Renaud Thillaye: ["The Challenges of EU Governance and the Quest for Longterm Growth"](#), February 2013

Miklós Antal, Ardjan Gazheli and Jeroen van den Bergh: ["Behavioral Foundations of Sustainability Transitions"](#), December 2012

Claudia Kettner, Angela Köppl and Sigrid Stagl, ["List of Well-being Indicators"](#), December 2012

Karl Aiginger, ["A New Strategy for the European Periphery"](#), February 2013

## Call for Papers

### WWWforEurope Best Paper Award

The [WWWforEurope Best Paper Award](#) is a competition for papers relating to sustainable development and socio-ecological transition in Europe. Doctoral and Master theses will be accepted as submissions. An additional **Young Paper Award** for scholars age 34 and younger will also be granted.

The winners will be invited to the First WWWforEurope Feedback Conference (travel and accommodations included) to receive their awards and will also be presented with the opportunity to get their papers published in the WWWforEurope working paper series. The submission deadline is **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**, for more information [please see our website](#).



