

WWWFOR Europe Newsletter 1/2014

Effective Policy Has to Start at Regional Level

Europe does not only have 28 member states but well over 1,000 regions. While countries are converging slowly, regions are converging at a much slower pace. At the same time regions create the highest sense of identity for the citizens of the European Union. Policy measures can be tried and evaluated for their impact best at the regional level. Best practice lessons then have to take into account the differences and heterogeneities of regions. [Read about WWWforEurope research on these topics.](#)

Upcoming WWWforEurope Lecture on Social Investment and the European Monetary Union

Anton Hemerijck, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor of Institutional Policy Analysis at VU University, Amsterdam, renowned expert on welfare state analysis and social policy will hold a lecture on "Social Investment and the European Monetary Union" on May 21st, 2014. [For further information, see our website.](#)

Discussing and Disseminating WWWforEurope

Karl Aiginger: Financial Institutions and Innovative Financial Instruments Should Support the Real Economy



Karl Aiginger, co-ordinator of WWWforEurope, presented EU Commissioner Michel Barnier with the [WWWforEurope Policy Brief on Reforms of European Governance](#). Three reform issues for the financial sector are particularly pressing at this stage of only moderate recovery: improving the stability of the banking system, reducing the instability caused by short-term financial transactions, and providing better financing for small and medium sized enterprises. Barnier informed about new measures to overcome the credit crunch for such enterprises, e.g. crowd capital. [Read more here.](#)

At left: EU Commissioner Michel Barnier and Karl Aiginger.
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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 7th 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.

WWWforEurope at the Impact Hub Vienna: Climate Policy Still an Uphill Struggle

At an event organised by the “Growth in Transition” initiative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Ministry of Life), Sigrid Stagl of the Vienna University of Economics and Kurt Bayer, former Member of the EBRD Board, both WWWforEurope experts, discussed Ugo Bardi’s newest book “Plundering the Planet” with the author at Impact Hub Vienna. [Find in-depth information on our website.](#)

Multi-Disciplinary and Cross-Cutting Themes at the Horizon 2020 Kick-off



Margit Schratzenstaller © Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

WWWforEurope was represented at the Austrian kick-off event for [Horizon 2020](#) on January 21st, 2014, in Vienna. In a workshop on “Societal Challenges – Societal Impact” WWWforEurope deputy coordinator Margit Schratzenstaller of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) had the chance to discuss crucial experiences gathered during the WWWforEurope project.

Schatzenstaller stressed the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, of integrating cross-cutting issues like sustainable development or gender, and of establishing a dialogue with key national and European stakeholders. These are indispensable ingredients for research projects aiming at creating and disseminating research results that can really make a societal impact. [Visit our website for more pictures and information.](#)

University of Vienna Students Plan to Discuss the Socio-Ecological Transition

In the upcoming summer term, students at the University of Vienna will organise a course for the university’s bachelor program of economics. Inspired by WWWforEurope, the course will bear the title “[Socio-Ecological Transition: Sustainability, Justice and Growth](#)”. WWWforEurope gladly cooperates with this students’ initiative; key research results will be presented by Karl Aiginger, Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Kurt Kratena and Angela Köppl. [Read all about it on our website.](#)

WWWforEurope at the 3rd OECD-CEPII Conference on Immigration

At the [3rd Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries](#) organised, among others, by OECD and CEPII on December 6th, 2013, in Paris, France, Doris Oberdabernig (WIFO) presented a paper co-authored with Peter Huber (WIFO): “Decomposing Welfare Wedges: An Analysis of Welfare Dependence of Immigrants and Natives in Europe”. The paper is based on research conducted within the WWWforEurope project, on whether migrants contribute to or profit more from the welfare state in 16 EU countries. [Read more and download the papers here.](#)

WWWforEurope at the 6th Public Choice Conference in Singapore

On December 6th, 2013, Hans Pitlik (WIFO) presented a paper resulting from his WWWforEurope research together with Ludek Kouba at the [6th Australasian Public Choice Conference 2013 in Singapore](#), which asks “Does Social Distrust Always Lead to a Stronger Support for Government Intervention?” [For more information and downloads of the paper, visit our website.](#)

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