

WWWforEurope Newsletter 1/2015

The high road to a better Europe

“There is a genuine European model for economy and society and we have to develop it further“, European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen emphasised in her keynote at the WWWforEurope conference „**Social and Environmental Progress: Europe in a Long-Run Perspective**“ in Brussels on February 24th, 2015.

At this conference WWWforEurope researchers presented the results of their work, which Karl Aiginger, director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) and project co-ordinator, put in a nutshell: “The only chance for Europe in the globalised world is to go for a high-road strategy, based on quality, innovation and skills. The final proof of competitiveness is the ability to achieve welfare goals, while low wages and social and environmental standards - elements of a low road strategy - lead away from beyond GDP goals, and can easily be adopted by emerging countries. The main contribution of WWWforEurope is to define instruments which make ecological ambitions and social inclusiveness compatible with economic dynamics. This includes innovative strategies to decouple resource use from growth, to improve education and to establish activating labour market policies, as well as good governance.”

Jeffrey Sachs, member of the [WWWforEurope Scientific Board](#), strongly approved of this strategy: "In the Age of Sustainable Development we need a holistic approach, including economic progress, strong social bonds and environmental sustainability." [Watch his keynote online!](#)

[Read more about the conference!](#)

Upcoming WWWforEurope Lecture

Éloi Laurent, Observatoire Francais des Conjonctures Economiques (OFCE) and Stanford University, will give a WWWforEurope Lecture on “**Exploring the missing link in sustainable development: The social-ecological nexus**” on May 20th, 2015 in Vienna, which will be discussed by Sigrig Stagl (University of Business and Economics Vienna) and Thomas Leoni (WIFO).

Why it is better not to set our sole hope on green growth

If policy makers consider “green growth” as their single strategy for climate change they are taking a huge risk: The obstacles for implementing effective global climate policies are too large and there is no evidence that in a growth-oriented capitalistic business-as-usual model just hoping for “green growth” would lead to a decoupling of emissions and growth. The dilemmas are unavoidable, but we have to tackle them because environmental costs of growth are rising.

[Read more on our website!](#)

Options for decoupling resource use from growth

How can we achieve a still growing economy while at the same time reduce energy and resource use? The latest WWWforEurope Policy Brief, “**Policy implications of resource constraints on the European economy**” by Kurt Kratena and Mark Sommer, shows this kind of (absolute) decoupling is possible in terms of economic modelling. The brief discusses two different options with their macroeconomic and distributional effects – one for environmentally ambitious countries in a good competitive position, one for countries which still have to struggle with the aftermath of crisis and recession and cannot compromise their international competitiveness. [Download the Policy Brief here!](#)

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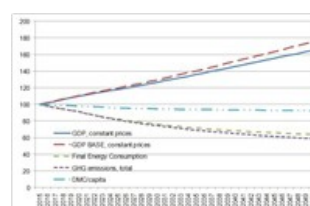
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Green Tax Reform, Policy Brief 6



Elena Flores, Karl Aiginger © Friends of Europe

Unequal Europe - Recommendations for a more caring EU

The final report of a working group of high level experts, supported by the think tank Friends of Europe, has been presented in Brussels on February 23rd. At the presentation Karl Aiginger proposed to address the European problems in a joint strategy, providing at the same time more dynamics, ecological excellence and less unemployment. [Read more.](#)

The WWWinds of Change

What does the WWWforEurope project mean to its researchers? Susanne Elsen and Judith Schicklinski of the Free University Bozen/Bolzena have been interviewed by the University's popular science magazine ACADEMIA, talking about the project and their research on the socio-ecological transition, particularly the current global citizens' movement to create green spaces out of urban commons. [Read the full interview on our website.](#)



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WWWforEurope: Contributing to EU research for a better understanding of the economy

The recent economic crisis has not only brought about the most severe global recession since the 1930s, it has also demonstrated that our knowledge how the economy really works has not caught up with the rapid changes of the last decades. The European Commission therefore has put together a survey of recent research on the different economic problems and issues made apparent during the crisis. In this survey, WWWforEurope research work is cited as one of the relevant on-going EU-funded research projects. [Download the survey!](#)

Call for papers

CfP EUROFRAME Conference - Deadline extended!

The deadline for the 12th Annual EUROFRAME Conference on economic policy issues in the European Union is approaching – submit your abstracts until March 16th! Contributions should address issues related to the causes of the slowdown of the European economy and to the potential negative consequences of a lower growth path in Europe for the social system, employment, welfare and the European socio-economic model. The conference will be held in Vienna, Austria, on June 12th, 2015. [Find the call for papers here.](#)

CfP 6th Conference on the Economics of Innovation and Patenting

The Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) and the Mannheim Centre for Competition and Innovation (MaCCI) are holding their 6th Conference on the Economics of Innovation and Patenting. Theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions from all areas of the economics of innovation and patenting are welcome. Furthermore, the conference will organise two special sessions on the ongoing FP7 projects CRE8TV and WWWforEurope. Deadline for the submission of papers or extended abstracts (min. 3 pages) is March 15nd, 2015. [Download the call for papers.](#)

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 socio-ecological 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 34 scientific institutions in 12 European countries. For more information see www.foreurope.eu.

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