

WWWFOREUROPE Newsletter 2/2014

New Policy Brief: Reforms Must Consider Psychological Barriers to Change

WWWforEurope is about the socio-ecological transition towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – hence, large-scale policy changes are needed. But why is it so hard to bring reforms on the way when it seems obvious that they are beneficial to society and economy? [WWWforEurope's newest policy brief](#) by Hans Pitlik, Friedrich Heinemann and Rainer Schweickert names the most important sources of seemingly irrational opposition to reforms: status quo bias, loss aversion and ideological beliefs. The authors point out that it does not suffice to just “inform” people and to think about implementation of better policies, but that policy makers have to make credible political commitments and long-term investments in trust formation and learning. [Read and download the whole policy brief on our website.](#)

Research Results: The Welfare State as an Important Asset

A main goal of WWWforEurope is to offer research-based policy recommendations. The most recent papers on social policy form a basis for this goal: They show that the welfare state in its European definition can enhance competitiveness and attract foreign investment if it is able to adapt to a rapidly changing external environment.

There is a close connection between education and social policy – not only can training help to overcome losses caused by globalisation, it can also strengthen the belief in oneself which is important to find a new, sustainable balance between state and self-reliance. For all of this, governmental credibility and policy making capacity are crucial. Research results have been presented by Hans Pitlik and Ludek Kouba at the American as well as the European Public Choice Society Conference 2014. [See the relevant WWWforEurope research results here.](#)

WWWforEurope Conference Report: Moving Towards a New Growth Model

In September 2013 the analytical phase of WWWforEurope was concluded. The results were discussed on a stakeholder conference in Vienna and [have now been published in an extensive report](#) by Karl Aiginger, Kurt Kratena, Margit Schratzenstaller, and Teresa Weiss. To put it in a nutshell: Sustainable, inclusive growth is possible but its boundaries and tradeoffs have to be defined very clearly and communicated well to all stakeholders. [For a synopsis, click here.](#)

In This Issue

New WWWforEurope Policy Brief

The Welfare State as an Important Asset

WWWforEurope Conference Report

New Scientific Board Members

**Austrian Economic Association
Conference 2014**

WWWforEurope Youth Forum

Lecture by Anton Hemerijck

INET Conference 2014

Meeting Mario Draghi

Progressive Economy Annual Forum

Niko Paech: “Liberation from Excess”

Eco-Social Day in Vienna

Call for Papers – WIFO Workshop

Contact

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



Jeffrey Sachs and Ummu Salma Bava Join WWWforEurope Scientific Board

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute, Columbia University, and Karl Aiginger, co-ordinator of WWWforEurope, met on March 12th, 2014, [to discuss current research and possibilities for collaboration](#). On this occasion, Jeffrey Sachs accepted Karl Aiginger's invitation to become a member of [WWWforEurope's Scientific Board](#). Another new member of WWWforEurope's Scientific Board is Ummu Salma Bava, director of the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies and Professor of European Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

At left: Jeffrey Sachs and Karl Aiginger © WIFO

Upcoming Events

A Special Session at the Austrian Economic Association Conference 2014

WWWforEurope is well represented at this year's Austrian Economic Association (NOeG) Conference on the topic of "Economics of Inequality" taking place on May 30th and 31st, 2014, at Vienna University of Economics and Business. WWWWforEurope Scientific Board members Tony Atkinson and Giacomo Corneo will hold keynotes and join WWWWforEurope equality manager Janneke Plantenga in a panel discussion on "Inequality – A European Comparative Perspective". In addition several WWWWforEurope researchers will present their research on WWWWforEurope topics and there will be a WWWWforEurope Special Session. [For more information, visit our website.](#)

Giacomo Corneo to Present His New Book at WWWWforEurope Youth Forum

Within a special WWWWforEurope Youth Forum, Giacomo Corneo, Professor of Public Finances at the Free University Berlin and WWWWforEurope Scientific Board member, will read from his new book "Bessere Welt" (A Better World) on June 3rd, 2014. Afterwards he will discuss the alternative economic systems presented in his book with representatives of youth and student organisations. [Read the full announcement here.](#)

Discussing and Disseminating WWWWforEurope

Anton Hemerijck Held First 2014 WWWWforEurope Lecture

The WWWWforEurope Lecture Series continued in 2014 with a lecture by Anton Hemerijck, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor of Institutional Policy Analysis at VU University, Amsterdam, on "Social Investment and the European Monetary Union" on May 21st, 2014, at WIFO, Vienna. [For details and presentations, click here.](#)

WWWforEurope at the INET Conference 2014

WWWforEurope's cooperation with the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) – the think tank founded by George Soros – continues: Karl Aiginger was invited to the [2014 INET Conference in Toronto](#), where he gave a [lecture on how Europe could restart economic growth](#) (PDF link), by following the vision of a new growth path with higher social inclusion and sustainability and had the opportunity to talk to leading economists and policy experts, among them Joseph Stiglitz, James Heckman and Larry Summers. WWWWforEurope researcher Lisa De Propriis presented results from the [WWWforEurope Working Paper](#) (PDF link) she co-authored with Carlo Corradini. [Read more about the conference here.](#)

Meeting Mario Draghi

On March 14th, 2014, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi received the Schumpeter Award of the Austrian Schumpeter Society in Vienna. At the event, Draghi discussed the current fragile recovery in Europe with Karl Aiginger, and how it could be supported by an economic policy providing more stability for Europe. [Read more here.](#)



At right, from right to left: Ewald Nowotny (Governor of Oesterreichische Nationalbank), Mario Draghi, Karl Aiginger © Christian Minutilli foto@minutilli.com

WWWforEurope at the Progressive Economy Annual Forum 2014

Renaud Thillaye presented his latest [WWWforEurope Working Paper](#) (PDF link), co-authored with Ludek Kouba and Andreas Sachs, on reforming EU governance at the [Progressive Economy Annual Forum 2014](#) on March 6th, 2014, at the European Parliament in Brussels. The paper titled “Reforming EU Economic Governance: Is ‘More’ Any Better?” focuses not only on the economic and political desirability of reforms but also on their institutional feasibility. [Visit our website to read more.](#)

Discussing Growth and Niko Paech’s Book “Liberation from Excess”

On February 20th, 2014, Niko Paech (University of Oldenburg) presented his new book “Liberation from Excess – The Road to a Post-growth Society” at the Vienna University of Technology at the invitation of “Die Grüne Wirtschaft” and ATTAC. Karl Aiginger and Julianna Fehlinger (board member of ATTAC) were invited to discuss Paech’s presentation. The discussion quickly turned controversial. [For a summary, visit our website.](#)

Participating in the Eco-Social Day in Vienna

The WWWforEurope project was presented at the first Viennese “Academic Days - Eco-Social Market Economy and Sustainability”, organised by the Eco-Social Student Forum (ÖSSFO), on April 3rd, 2014. In an interactive WWWforEurope workshop 25 students learned about the project and its goals and added goals from a youth’s point of view. Karl Aiginger and WWWforEurope researcher Sigrid Stagl joined a panel discussion on “Who Is Setting the Course for a Sustainable Future?” Aiginger emphasised that we are all facing a huge challenge in the upcoming years when striving for an increase of welfare according to beyond GDP goals under difficult conditions like rising nationalism or globalisation. [Read more on our website.](#)

7th WIFO – Regional Economics Workshop – Call for Papers

Over the past years an intense discussion on the nexus between growth, regional disparities and sustainability has emerged. This year’s WIFO – Regional Economics Workshop will focus on this issue, sustainable regional growth and cohesion. The workshop, organised in honour of Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, aims to bring together researchers from various fields of economics to discuss ideas and exchange knowledge. All papers presented may be published in the WIFO Working Paper series. **Deadline for the submission of abstracts is June 10th, 2014.** [Read the full call for papers.](#)

WWWforEurope

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 290647.

Contact Information & Imprint

Project Coordinator:

WIFO – Austrian Institute of Economic Research
Arsenal, Objekt 20
1030 Vienna, Austria

Telephone: +43 1 798 26 01-332

Fax: +43 1 798 93 86

Contact Person: [Margit Schratzenstaller](#)

Email WWWforEurope Office: wwwforeurope-office@wifo.ac.at

Web: <http://www.wifo.ac.at>

<http://www.foreurope.eu>



This e-newsletter reports on research results and dissemination activities of the WWWforEurope research project. You are receiving it because you have either signed up for it or your address was included in the database by recommendation of WWWforEurope consortium partners or by data investigation of the WWWforEurope dissemination team.

If you want to unsubscribe from this e-newsletter you can do this by returning an e-mail to wwwforeurope-newsletter@wifo.ac.at with the remark: "unsubscribe".

