

WWWFOREurope Newsletter 2/2015

WWWforEurope's Second Feedback Conference

The **Second Feedback Conference** of the WWWforEurope project, taking place on May 6th 2015 in Vienna, with a keynote by OECD chief economist Catherine L. Mann and the presenting of the Best Paper Award 2015, will mark the end of the project's policy formulation phase.

Based on the analytical work presented and discussed in the First WWWforEurope Feedback Conference in September 2013, this phase aimed at intensifying the linkages between the project research areas and at paving the way for the project's last phase, the synthesis phase. [Read more.](#)

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Which welfare model is the best?

A number of WWWforEurope papers deal with the comparison of welfare regimes and with the question of whether there is one best practice model and whether models tend to converge. The answer, as so often, is: It depends. There is no ideal size and range of government activity and institutional design depends very much on policy preferences and cooperation mechanisms in an economy. But there is clear evidence that the goal of activation and labour market integration has permeated all welfare models. On the other hand, there are persistencies which lead to very different outcomes: For example, the question whether children have a real chance to achieve a higher education than their parents is very much dependent on the welfare system they are living in. [Click to find out more!](#)

WWWforEurope Lectures by Eloi Laurent and Margit Noll

Eloi Laurent, senior economist at OFCE (Sciences Po, Paris), will hold the next WWWforEurope Lecture titled "[Exploring the missing link in sustainable development: The socio-ecological nexus](#)" on May 20th, 2015. He will present a two-sided "social-ecological" approach to offer both analytical and empirical insights into the dynamics of this relationship. On June 15th, Margit Noll of the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology will hold a WWWforEurope Lecture on the "[Transition to sustainable and livable cities](#)".



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Building on WWWforEurope tax policy research

Continuing the exchange with the OECD's "New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC)" project, Margit Schratzenstaller, deputy coordinator of WWWforEurope, discussed the [features of a more sustainability-oriented tax policy](#) at the national level with project coordinator Mathilde Mesnard at an event organised by the OECD, the Austrian Federal Chancellery and Oesterreichische Nationalbank.

Building on WWWforEurope research, Margit Schratzenstaller will also be involved as partner in the [EU FP8 project "FairTax"](#) coordinated by Åsa Gunnarsson at the University of Umeå. In this capacity she attended a workshop in Florence organised by the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute, which was also attended by Mario Monti, chair of the High-Level Working Group on Own Resources.

Finally, [tax evasion, tax oases and the chances of European solutions](#) were the topic of a panel discussion organised by the Europa Club Vienna of the Austrian Society of European Politics – find videos of Margit Schratzenstaller, Heinz Zourek, Director General, DG Taxation and

Liberté, Égalité, Fragilité - The 2015 INET Conference

"Liberté, Égalité, Fragilité" was the motto of this year's annual conference of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), which took place in Paris within a cooperation with the OECD this year. WWWforEurope coordinator and director of WIFO Karl Aiginger took part in both a panel discussion on "Budget Deficits, Austerity, and Deflation" and in a [discussion organised by the OECD](#),

focusing on how to mainstream long-term environmental challenges in policy making. Karl Aiginger summed up the issues he addressed at the INET conference in an [article for Le Monde](#).



Economics of Inequality - A special issue of Empirica

As a result of the 2014 annual conference of the Austrian Economic Association (NOeG) on the topic of "Economics of Inequality" organised by WWWforEurope researcher Wilfried Altzinger, a selection of the presented papers was published in a [special issue of Empirica](#), Journal of European Economics, featuring WWWforEurope Board Members Tony Atkinson and Giacomo Corneo as well as WWWforEurope researchers and their research. [Find them here!](#)

Implementing the Golden Rule for Public Investment in Europe

In a [new paper in the WWWforEurope Policy Paper series](#), Achim Truger of the Berlin School of Economics and Law proposes the implementation of the golden rule of public investment to alleviate the austerity many European member states have been driven into by seven years of deep economic crisis. To provide the urgently needed boost for the European economy in the short term, the golden rule's implementation would have to be complemented by a European Investment Programme similar to the 2008 European Economic Recovery Programme. [Read the policy paper here](#).

Pluralism in Economics - First Vienna Conference

WWWforEurope researchers Sigrid Stagl and Alyssa Schneebaum, both of the Vienna University of Economics and Business, participated in the [First Vienna Conference on Pluralism in Economics](#) in April. Alyssa Schneebaum lectured on the fundamentals of feminist economics and drew on her work on gender differences in social mobility from the WWWforEurope project to discuss some applications of modern feminist economics. [Find the research papers and more on our website](#).

Discussing perspectives and trends at the SOER 2015 presentation

On March 9th, 2015, the [SOER 2015 – State and Outlook of European Environment Report](#) – was presented at the Permanent Representation of the EU in Vienna. Two panel discussions, featuring WWWforEurope researchers Angela Köppl and Armon Rezai, discussed the national and the global environmental perspectives and trends. [Read about the panels here](#).

Contributing to the post-2015 development agenda - WWWforEurope at UNIDO

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) held an expert meeting on "Economic growth, inclusive and sustainable industrial development and sustainable consumption and production in the post-2015 development agenda". Karl Aiginger and Michael Böheim of WIFO were invited to participate at the meeting and contribute to the report by providing a policy brief on "Fostering sustainable economic growth by redefining competitiveness and industrial policy", based on WWWforEurope research. [To read more and download the policy brief, click here](#).

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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