



WWWforEurope Newsletter 2/2016

WWWforEurope concludes its research work

The WWWforEurope project has concluded its research work.

You will find a synthesis of the project's research in these publications:

Executive Summary of New Dynamics for Europe: Reaping the Benefits of Socio-ecological Transition. Synthesis Report Part I by Karl Aiginger

Karl Aiginger, *New Dynamics for Europe: Reaping the Benefits of Socio-ecological Transition. **Synthesis Report Part I***

Harald Badinger, David Bailey, Lisa De Propriis, Peter Huber, Jürgen Janger, Kurt Kratena, Hans Piflik, Thomas Sauer, Renaud Thillaye and Jeroen van den Bergh, *New Dynamics for Europe: Reaping the Benefits of Socio-ecological Transition. **Synthesis Report Part II***

Quick Impact of WWWforEurope Results on Policy Decisions

Before Easter, the European Commission's recommendation on the establishment of **National Competitiveness Boards for the Euro Area** was discussed in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Explicitly citing WWWforEurope research, Austrian delegate Thomas Delapina proposed a "competitiveness 2.0" with the definition of competitiveness changed to "the ability of a country (or region or location) to deliver Beyond GDP goals to its citizens".

Furthermore, it was proposed to change the focus of the Competitiveness Boards from the national to the international perspective and for the boards to be renamed "Boards for Competitiveness, Social Cohesion and Sustainability". This proposal was accepted by the delegates of the EESC by a vote of 200 to 3 on March 17th, showing a strong, important impact of the WWWforEurope research.

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Presentation of the Synthesis Report in Brussels

Marking the end of the project after four years of research by 34 research institutions from 12 EU member states, the WWWforEurope project's key results and synthesis were



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presented to the European Commission and a large variety of stakeholders in Brussels from February 24th to 26th, 2016.

Reception at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU

Project coordinator Karl Aiginger, director of WIFO, and WWWforEurope researcher Marina Fischer-Kowalski (Alpen Adria University Klagenfurt and Institute of Social Ecology in Vienna) presented selected project results on February 24th at an evening reception at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU, organised by Oesterreichische Nationalbank. The evening was hosted by the Chief Representative of OeNB in Brussels, Isabella Lindner, and moderated by Helene Schuberth, Head of the Foreign Research Division at OeNB.

Parliamentary Breakfast

On February 25th, a [Parliamentary Breakfast under the patronage of the European Parliament](#), hosted by Members of the European Parliament Othmar Karas and Reinhard Bütikofer, preceded the WWWforEurope Final Conference.



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Karl Aiginger opened the event with a presentation of the WWWforEurope project recommendations, followed by a panel discussion which brought together Eliana Garces-Tolon, Deputy Chief Economist in the European Commission's DG GROW; Christina Jordan, Economic Advisor with European Council President Donald Tusk; Stefan Raes, Head of the Economic Department at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU; and WWWforEurope researcher Reinhilde Veugelers, KU Leuven.

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We would like to thank the European Parliament for its patronage.



Marina Fischer-Kowalski © WIFO

WWWforEurope Final Conference

The [WWWforEurope Final Conference](#) opened with welcoming remarks from Karl Aiginger, Peter Dröll (DG Research and Innovation), WWWforEurope project officer Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, and [Nobel laureate Kenneth Joseph Arrow via video message](#), followed by a summary of the main results of the project by Karl Aiginger.

Reinhilde Veugelers (KU Leuven), Thomas Leoni (WIFO), Friedrich Heinemann (ZEW Mannheim), Thomas Sauer (University of Applied Sciences Jena), and Marina Fischer-Kowalski presented results of their respective project research areas.

A wrap-up of the conference by former EU Commissioner Franz Fischler (President of European Forum Alpbach) and Monica Frassoni (Co-Chair of the European Green Party) was followed by a policy panel discussion featuring Karl Aiginger, Anton Hemerijck (VU University Amsterdam), and Adam Posen (Peterson Institute

(VU University Amsterdam), and Adam Posen (Austrian Institute for International Economics).

Before the closing remarks given by European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu Vella, Hans Pitlik (WIFO) presented the results of an opinion survey about the WWWforEurope project outcomes and policy proposals.

[Click here for full coverage of the conference, including slides and media reports.](#)

We would like to thank the Austrian Chamber of Labour for kindly contributing to the financing of this conference.



Further Research Agenda Workshop

To get stakeholder views on project research gaps and to define interesting topics and areas for further research, the WWWforEurope Research Agenda Workshop took place on the day after the project's Final Conference. The participants of the workshop were organised into four groups discussing the future of work; options to finance the welfare state and how to deal with migration; policy implications for a future-oriented industrial policy; and the role of the financial sector.

A special emphasis was put on the cross-cutting topics of gender, the measurement of wellbeing, environmental sustainability and the implementation of the Paris climate agreements. The exchange of stakeholders resulted in many interesting and important questions where further research is needed. They are summarised in the [WWWforEurope synthesis report](#) and elaborated in more depth in the forthcoming WWWforEurope Working Paper “[Defining Research Gaps Concerning the Implementation of Socio-ecological Transition](#)” by Teresa Weiss.



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Presentation of the Synthesis Report in Vienna

The final results of the WWWforEurope projects were presented by Karl Aiginger at the [House of the European Union in Vienna on March 8th, 2016](#). The introduction was held by Marc Fährdrich, expert for economic policy, European Commission. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion of the project results and implementation of the policy recommendations.

The discussion was moderated by Eric Frey (Der Standard) and joined by Brigitte Ederer (Chairwoman of ÖBB Supervisory Board), Franz Fischler (President European Forum Alpbach, former EU Commissioner), Sonja Steßl (State Secretary), and Jörg Wojahn (Head of Representation of the European Commission in Austria).

Most recently, on March 30th, Karl Aiginger presented the WWWforEurope Synthesis report to the [executive committee of the Austrian Trade Union Federation](#).

[Watch the whole discussion online!](#)

WWWforEurope at the Growth in Transition Conference 2016

Participants in the [2016 Growth in Transition Conference](#) also got a preview of WWWforEurope's Synthesis Report during a



keynote by Karl Aiginger and of the project's main outcomes during a WWWforEurope Workshop with Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Thomas Leoni, Claudia Kettner (WIFO), Johanna Vogel (Environment Agency Austria), and Christin ter Braak-Forstinger (founder of PVA Advisory). WWWforEurope researchers Sigrid Stagl and Tim Jackson also held keynotes and Daniel Hausknost took part in a parallel session. Growth in Transition is an initiative started in 2008 by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.



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19th Annual Conference on Enterprise and the Competitive Environment

The Faculty of Business and Economics of Mendel University in Brno held its [19th Annual Conference on Enterprise and the Competitive Environment](#) on March 10th and 11th, 2016. The conference crossed traditional discipline boundaries and involved a wide variety of interactions ranging from traditional academic disciplines or schools of thought to the reality of business. WWWforEurope researchers Ladislava Issever Grochová, Petr Rozmahel, and Ludek Kouba presented their research on firm-level business cycle similarity in the EU, and welfare state attitudes.

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WWWforEurope Research in Scientific Publications

WWWforEurope research on the role of regions in the envisaged socio-ecological transition has been [published in a book edited by Thomas Sauer, Christina Garzillo and Susanne Elsen](#): *Cities in Transition. Social Innovation for Europe's Urban Sustainability*.

Further WWWforEurope research results have been published in the following scientific and policy-oriented publications:

Karl Aiginger (2016), [Deficits and Strengths in Austrian Competitiveness](#). FIW Policy Brief Nr. 29

Karl Aiginger (2015), [Industrial Policy for a Sustainable Growth Path](#). In: David Bailey, Keith Cowling, and Philip Tomlinson, Eds. (2015), *New Perspectives on Industrial Policy for a Modern Britain*: 365-394

Stefan Ederer (2016), [Macroeconomic imbalances and institutional reforms in EMU](#). In: *Proceedings of OeNB Workshops. Workshop 21: Toward a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union*: 60-73

Armon Rezai, Sigrid Stagl (2016), [Ecological Macroeconomics: Introduction and Review](#). In: *Ecological Economics* 121: 181-185

Stefan Schleicher, Angela Köppl, Margit Schratzenstaller (2016), [Deciphering the Paris Agreement on Climate Policy. What Might be the Implications for the EU?](#) ÖGfE Policy Brief 9/2016

Margit Schratzenstaller (2016), [Sustainable tax policy beyond the tax ratio for the EU as core element of a "Fiscal Union"](#). In: *Proceedings of OeNB Workshops. Workshop 21: Toward a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union*: 141-157



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Laura Taylor, Armon Rezai, Duncan K. Foley (2016), [An Integrated](#)

Lance Taylor, Armon Rezai, Duncan K. Foley (2016), [An Integrated Approach to Climate Change, Income Distribution, Employment, and Economic Growth](#). In: *Ecological Economics* 121: 196-205

Klara Zwickl, Franziska Disslbacher, Sigrid Stagl (2016), [Work-sharing for a Sustainable Economy](#). In: *Ecological Economics* 121: 246-253

Further publications can be found on our website!

WWWforEurope in the Media

There have been a number of op-eds on results and themes of WWWforEurope by its researchers in newspapers like [L'Echo](#), [Libération](#), [La Tribune](#) as well as [Austrian newspapers](#) and online at [EurActiv.com](#) and on the economist blog [Ökonomenstimme](#).

Read them all and find the media coverage generated by the WWWforEurope Final Conference and other events on our website!

Thank you for your continued interest in the WWWforEurope project!

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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