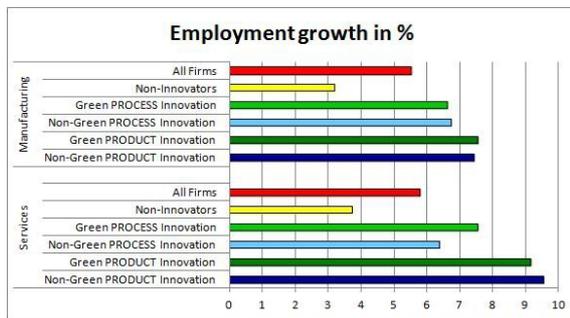


WWWforEurope Newsletter 5/2014

Green innovation as the silver bullet for the socio-ecological transition

Promoting green innovation is the best and most effective way within the high road strategy to socio-ecological transition. Innovation spurs growth and employment, intelligent innovative cluster policies make regions more resilient, and last but not least, green innovation helps to reduce emissions and/or create low-carbon technologies, leading to a more environmentally sustainable future. Visit our website for a selection of research papers on this topic.



Innovations spur employment, no matter whether they are green or not, whether they are in manufacturing or in services and whether they are product or process innovations.

The figure shows results from the Mannheim Innovation Panel for Germany for the years 2006-2008. Read more in: Georg Licht and Bettina Peters, "Do green innovations stimulate employment? - Firm-level evidence from Germany", WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 53, February 2014

Living well with less resources

How shall we cope with the big new challenges of the 21st century, namely climate change and resource scarcity? How is environmental sustainability compatible with the need for growth and promoting welfare around the globe? "An optimal policy mix for resource use", a new WWWforEurope Policy Brief by Marina Fischer-Kowalski and Dominik Wiedenhofer, deals in depth with these questions and demonstrates: There is a fair economic chance for reducing material use, stimulating innovations in design and recycling as well as developing and employing a well-educated, creative labour force, provided that Europe finds the political courage to embrace a true socio-ecological transition. [Have a look at the policy brief.](#)

Some of their latest research on "Scenarios of global resource use and a resource road map for Europe" was presented by Marina Fischer-Kowalski and Kurt Kratena in a WWWforEurope Lecture on December 17th, 2014. [Watch the lecture online.](#)

Conference: Social and environmental progress: Europe in a long-run perspective

Europe finds itself in a critical phase: on the one side, high unemployment, and lacking dynamics, on the other side, a new Commission committed to restarting European dynamics and to making Europe Nr. 1 in renewable energy. The midterm evaluation of the Europe 2020 strategy was disappointing, showing that the employment and poverty targets as well as the goal to boost research and development to 3 % of GDP is beyond reach, and characterised by Europe's reluctant leadership in sustainability and energy efficiency. And a year with important talks about climate agreements is about to start.

It is within this context that WWWforEurope is holding a conference on "Social and environmental progress: Europe in a long-run perspective" in Brussels on February 24th, 2015, with support of the European Commission. It provides an opportunity to present key results of our project on the topics of European competitiveness, the social dimension, economic growth

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and resource use and the role of innovation for employment and environment.

Registration is mandatory and open until January 31st, 2015. [For more information, see our website.](#)



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How to further enhance welfare, wealth and work in Europe? A joint workshop with the OECD

On December 10th, 2014, a joint workshop by OECD and WWWforEurope, organised by the Permanent Delegation of Austria to the OECD and WIFO, took place in the OECD headquarters in Paris. Members from the WWWforEurope consortium presented findings of the work carried out so far, including the need for a "high-road" strategy; questions of long-term productivity and drivers for economic change; an agnostic or neutral approach to GDP growth; and how welfare states can adapt to meet the "inequality challenge". [Read more and download the presentations.](#)

WWWforEurope Lecture by Thomas Wieser: Europe in global competition

The debt crisis of the past years had different causes and consequences in the individual EU member states. One fundamental factor was the economic and competitive position of the respective countries in Europe and the world and their different adaptation strategies. Each national strategy has very different short- and long-term distribution effects. Thomas Wieser, President of the Economic and Financial Committee of the European Union and the Euro Working Group, discussed these alternatives on the basis of practical experience with economic policy programmes of EU member states. [Watch the lecture.](#)



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WWWforEurope at conferences

The Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions held its [8th Welfare State Enquiry on the topic of "Social mobility and income disparity"](#) on October 27th, 2014. Karl Aiginger, director of WIFO and co-ordinator of the WWWforEurope project, held the keynote on the immense importance of the interface between the economy and society. WWWforEurope researcher Wilfried Altzinger, Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), spoke about WWWforEurope Policy Paper No. 11, "[Gender and migration background in intergenerational education mobility](#)", which he co-authored with Alyssa Schneebaum and Bernhard Rumpmaier (both of WU). They found that the educational attainment of girls and migrants relative to their parents is less mobile than for boys and non-migrants.

Wilfried Altzinger also presented the paper at the [18th annual conference on Inequality and the Future of Capitalism](#), organised by the Research Network Macroeconomics and Macroeconomic Policies. At the same conference, Asjad Naqvi of WU gave a presentation on WWWforEurope Policy Paper No. 18, "[Growth, Distributions, and the Environment. A Stock-Flow Consistent Framework for Policy Analysis](#)", about a benchmark macro model which addresses issues of production, energy, and emissions in a demand-driven framework.

What is Eurozone's future: Policy commitments vs. freeriding

Peter Huber of WIFO presented some of the results of the WWWforEurope project in a keynote lecture at the conference on "[What is Eurozone's future: Policy commitments vs. freeriding](#)" at Mendel University, Brno, on November 27th, 2014. In this lecture he argued that addressing the issues raised by increasing migration to the EU requires coordinated and comprehensive policy responses on the side of European policy makers. [Read more about the conference and download the presentation.](#)

Discussing the future of economic governance in the Eurozone

On October 28th, 2014 WWWforEurope partner Policy Network, based in London, organised a workshop on the future of the Eurozone. Despite significant reforms in the last few years, there is a widespread feeling that EU economic governance remains sub-optimal. The workshop discussed whether policy-makers should consider new institutional changes, both from an economic and a democratic point of view. [Recordings of the sessions are available.](#)

Call for papers

Second WWWforEurope Best Paper Award deadline extended

The deadline for the 2nd WWWforEurope Best Paper Award has been extended. The award will be granted for research dealing with important, yet so far under-researched topics relating to various economic and social consequences of a low-growth development path for Europe.

The new deadline for the submission of papers is February 15th, 2015. [For more information visit our website.](#)

Summer university course in Budapest: Policy design and evaluation

The Central European University, Budapest, the Budapest Institute and WWWforEurope are hosting a summer university course on policy design and evaluation in Budapest from July 20th to July 31st, 2015. The course covers several facets and methods of public policy, with an introduction to quantitative evaluation of policy interventions. Particularly students finishing their social science studies at an MA or MSc level and planning to enter civil service, civil servants in their early careers, and those working for NGO's are invited to apply. The application deadline is February 14th, 2015. [Find out more about the course here.](#)

Call for papers: EUROFRAME conference 2015

The twelfth annual EUROFRAME Conference on Economic Policy Issues in the European Union will be held in Vienna on June 12th, 2015. The conference will focus on the challenges for Europe in a low growth environment and contribution should address related issues. Deadline for the submission of abstracts is March 2nd, 2015. [For more information read the full call of 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.

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

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