

WWFOREUROPE e-newsletter 11/2012

The first WWforEurope policy brief presented in Brussels



“Reconciling the short and the long run: governance reforms to solve the crisis and beyond”: Under this heading the first of nine policy briefs of the research project **WWforEurope** within the 7th Framework Programme was published in November 2012. The policy brief was presented by the authors – Karl Aiginger, director of WIFO, and Roger Liddle, chair of Policy Network – in Brussels on November 8th, 2012 in several meetings with representatives of the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament and journalists of European media. The brief analyses the shortcomings of current EU economic governance in the face of the on-going economic crisis and the long-term challenges European economies have to cope with. Crisis management is lacking an anchor in a long term vision for a new growth model for Europe, such as the one pursued by the Europe 2020 strategy. To reconcile the short and long run in European policy making a set of policy recommendations is developed ranging from measures addressing fiscal problems and financial market uncertainties to elaborating measures to stimulate growth and employment as well as institutional reforms aimed at strengthening the Monetary Union. Download the policy brief from the project website [here](#).

Find the press release concerning the policy brief under [here](#).

An impressive start of the WWforEurope project



With a start-up workshop in April 2012, a cutting edge scientific workshop focusing on European governance and the problems in peripheral countries in July 2012, and the first policy brief published in November (see above) the **WWforEurope** project started with an impressive momentum that reflects the need for a new approach to EU economic governance. This four-year research project brings together researchers from 33 scientific institutions in 12 European countries. The project will provide an analytical basis for a new European development strategy, enabling social-ecological transition and leading to higher rates of employment, social inclusion, gender equity and environmental sustainability.

WWforEurope is coordinated by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). All activities of **WWforEurope** can be followed on the project's website www.foreurope.eu.

WWforEurope addresses development options of rural and peripheral EU regions

Within the scope of its activities, fifteen researchers from the Area 5 of the **WWforEurope** project met on October 25-26 at the Jena University of Applied Sciences, Germany, to discuss research issues concerning the role of regions in the socio-ecological transition of Europe. Peter Huber, WIFO, during a public lecture, presented options for the development of peripheral EU regions in the context of the economic crisis. He drew on recent developments in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain to identify cases where competitiveness and sustainability are addressed jointly, in national and regional policies. The research results will be available in the second **WWforEurope** policy brief, to be published at the end of this year.

WWWforEuropa participating at “La lunga notte della ricerca”

The **WWWforEuropa** project was discussed and reflected on during “the long night of research” event in Bolzano. With over 13.000 visitors, it was the biggest research event in South Tyrol and was successful in enhancing public recognition of researchers and their work. The research centre of political science and law, of the Free University, involved 35 persons in interviews and dialogues focussing on institutional and normative preconditions necessary to address the ecological, economic and social challenges of societal transformation in the EU.
www.lunganottedellaricerca.it

WWWforEurope lecture series started in October



On October 8th, 2012, WIFO hosted the first **WWWforEurope** lecture. Julie A. Nelson’s lecture titled “Welfare Beyond GDP: Some Insights From Feminist Economics” introduced new perspectives on the parallels between feminism and ecological economics, discussing that both incorporate dimensions of human well-being, something typically neglected in current economics. As Nelson, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Boston, explained, feminist insights can improve the definition, models, and methodological approaches used in economics.

Visit www.foreurope.eu for further information.

Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe

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WWWFOR Europe Newsletter 1/2013

“The mission of the project WWWforEurope, to develop a new growth path for Europe, more inclusive and more sustainable than the current one, is more pressing than ever today. The Euro crisis has not subsided yet – Europe is the only region of the world not surpassing its pre-crisis production level with unemployment soaring to 12%. Energy transition to clean technology is questioned again as peak oil and gas are shifted into unknown future by newly discovered resources or new extraction techniques.”

([Karl Aiginger, project coordinator](#), director of [WIFO, the Austrian Institute of Economic Research](#))

WWWforEurope Policy Briefs

It was an extremely good choice to start the project with a [policy brief on European governance](#). Making Europe more stable in the short run proved extremely important last summer. The need to establish a Banking Union and to intensify the growth component, underlined by the authors Karl Aiginger and Stefan Ederer of WIFO, Olaf Cramme, Roger Liddle, and Renaud Thillaye, all of [policy network](#), was heard by politicians, but they are still not on track one year later. Agreements on Eurobonds or a debt resolution scheme are still not possible, but will be necessary soon.

WWWforEurope’s **second policy brief** by Karl Aiginger, Matthias Firgo and Peter Huber, all of WIFO, calls for a [strategy change for Southern Europe](#). The fiscal consolidations which are necessary in Southern European countries should be combined with a strategy for growth and employment, giving active elements of the strategy a quicker start. New firms and reindustrialisation should get higher priority.

Karl Aiginger and Peter Huber presented the second policy brief in Brussels in meetings with experts from the cabinets of Presidents Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso, as well as Commissioners Johannes Hahn and Olli Rehn. Karl Aiginger was also invited by the European Parliament to hold a [presentation](#) on industrial policy in Europe.

No better point in time could have been chosen for the dissemination of the ideas in this policy brief, since unemployment figures continue to rise and public debt is on the increase in Southern European countries after five years of trying to reduce public deficits. President Barroso’s remark that continued austerity may not be accepted by the population highlights the need for a new policy even more.

For a more detailed report of the meetings and themes discussed, see the [WWWforEurope website](#).

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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 33 scientific institutions in 12 European countries. For more information see [www.foreurope.eu](#).

Highlights of WWWforEurope Events & Activities

WWWforEurope Lecture Series

The WWWforEurope Lecture Series, held at WIFO, has been successfully established. International experts have spoken on diverse topics such as:

- [“Is Green Growth Possible?”](#) – Roland Kupers, University of Nijenrode & Clive L. Spash, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, January 23rd, 2013
- [“Modelling Growth and Socio-ecological Transition: Chances and Challenges”](#) – Graciela Chichilnisky, Columbia University & Jan Rotmans, Erasmus University Rotterdam, March 12th, 2013
- [“Alternative Welfare Indicators”](#) – Christoph Schmidt, Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung & Konrad Pesendorfer, Statistics Austria, on April 11th, 2013

WWWforEurope Conference on Modelling Growth and Socio-ecological Transition



Daphne Laster, Margit Schratzenstaller, Karl Aiginger, Graciela Chichilnisky, Jan Rotmans, and Kurt Bayer © Birgit Novotny

The WWWforEurope [Conference on Modelling Growth and Socio-ecological Transition](#) at WIFO on March 12th and 13th, 2013 was extremely productive. Researchers from the EU and USA, among them **Graciela Chichilnisky**, author of the carbon market of the UN Kyoto Protocol, Professor of Economics and Statistics at Columbia University, **Jan Rotmans**, Professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam, founder of DRIFT (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions), and **Jeroen van den Bergh**, Research Professor and Deputy Director of Research at the Institute of Environmental Science & Technology of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, presented their views on modelling the relationship between economic dynamics, social inclusiveness and sustainability. [Watch videos of the keynotes on our website.](#)

WWWforEurope at We for Democracy

On invitation by the City of Kiel, the researchers **Sebastian Braun** and **Robert Gold** of the [Kiel Institute for the World Economy](#), both participating in the WWWforEurope project, contributed to the event „**We for Democracy – Day and Night for Tolerance**” on April 16th, 2013, which was part of a [local action plan against right-wing extremism](#).

Robert Gold gave a talk on "**Cultural Diversity, Innovation and Regional Development**". He presented some first results of his WWWforEurope research on cultural diversity and regional performance. Gold showed that migration has been a driving force in the demographical dynamics within the EU27 countries over the past decade and has increased cultural diversity in European regions. Find his presentation [here](#).

Sebastian Braun, in his talk on "**The Integration of German Expellees in West Germany**", dealt with the flight and expulsion of Germans from Eastern Europe after World War II which constituted one of the largest forced population movements in history. He analysed the somewhat difficult economic integration of these migrants and their offspring into the West German society up to date.

[More information can be found on our website.](#)

Upcoming WWWforEurope Events & Activities

WWWforEurope Lecture Series

The next **WWWforEurope Lecture** will be held at **WIFO** on **May 21st, 2013**, on the topic of "[Remaking Manufacturing in the USA & Europe](#)" – Suzanne Berger, Professor of Political Science at MIT & Karl Aiginger, Director of WIFO and coordinator of the WWWforEurope project.

In **autumn 2013**, the **series will continue** at WIFO ([see our website for more information](#)):

- "Challenges for the Design of a Sustainable Tax System" – Stephen Matthews, OECD, October 10th, 2013
- "Sustainability and Wealth Accounting" – Sjak A. Smulders, Tilburg School of Economics and Management, November 12th, 2013
- "Chances and Challenges of Energy Transition – The Example of Germany" – Claudia Kemfert, German Institute of Economic Research (DIW Berlin) & Andreas Loeschel, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) Mannheim, December 5th, 2013



Christoph Schmidt at the Lecture in April © Birgit Novotny

WWWforEurope Special Sessions

Researchers involved in the WWWforEurope project will be presenting the project and selected research results in [special sessions](#) at scientific conferences all over Europe. The first WWWforEurope special session was held at the [Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association \(NOeG\)](#) in Innsbruck, Austria, May 10th and 11th, 2013.

Further special sessions will be held

- at the [10th Euroframe Conference](#) on Economic Policy Issues in the European Union in Warsaw, Poland, **May 24th**, 2013
- at [Forum Alpbach](#), in Alpbach, Austria, **August 20th**, 2013
- at the [53rd European Regional Science Association \(ERSA\) Congress](#) in Palermo, Italy, **August 27th to 31st**, 2013
- at the [40th Annual Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics \(EARIE\)](#), in Évora, Portugal, **August 30th to September 1st**, 2013
- at the [14th International Conference on Finance and Banking](#), in Ostrava, Czech Republic, **October 16th and 17th**, 2013

[For more information and updates please see our website.](#)

WWWforEurope Publications

All publications resulting from the WWWforEurope website are available in a [database on the project website](#). These are WWWforEurope's most recent publications:

Karl Aiginger, Matthias Firgo and Peter Huber: ["Policy Options for the Development of Peripheral Regions and Countries of Europe"](#), December 2012

Karl Aiginger, Olaf Cramme, Stefan Ederer, Roger Liddle and Renaud Thillaye: ["Reconciling the Short and the Long Run: Governance Reforms to Solve the Crisis and Beyond"](#), September 2012

Renaud Thillaye: ["The Challenges of EU Governance and the Quest for Longterm Growth"](#), February 2013

Miklós Antal, Ardjan Gazheli and Jeroen van den Bergh: ["Behavioral Foundations of Sustainability Transitions"](#), December 2012

Claudia Kettner, Angela Köppl and Sigrid Stagl, ["List of Well-being Indicators"](#), December 2012

Karl Aiginger, ["A New Strategy for the European Periphery"](#), February 2013

Call for Papers

WWWforEurope Best Paper Award

The [WWWforEurope Best Paper Award](#) is a competition for papers relating to sustainable development and socio-ecological transition in Europe. Doctoral and Master theses will be accepted as submissions. An additional **Young Paper Award** for scholars age 34 and younger will also be granted.

The winners will be invited to the First WWWforEurope Feedback Conference (travel and accommodations included) to receive their awards and will also be presented with the opportunity to get their papers published in the WWWforEurope working paper series. The submission deadline is **May 31st, 2013**, for more information [please see our website](#).

WWWFOREurope Newsletter 2/2013

New Research Results from WWWforEurope

The researchers of WWWforEurope have published a great number of research papers in the last three months – here are some of the most exciting results. These and all other WWWforEurope publications are freely available [on our project website](#).

Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Dominik Wiedenhofer, Willi Haas, Irene Pallua & Daniel Hausknost, [Developing Resource Use Scenarios for Europe](#), Working Paper No. 25, July 2013

Christian Ketels & Sergiy Protsiv, [Clusters and the New Growth Path for Europe](#), Working Paper No. 14, July 2013

Jürgen Janger & Klaus Nowotny, [Career Choices in Academia](#), Working Paper No. 36, August 2013

Andreas Sachs & Frauke Schleer, [Labour Market Performance in OECD Countries: A Comprehensive Empirical Modelling Approach of Institutional Interdependencies](#), Working Paper No. 7, June 2013

Petr Rozmahel, Ludek Kouba, Ladislava Grochová & Nikola Najman, [Integration of Central and Eastern European Countries: Increasing EU Heterogeneity?](#), Working Paper No. 9, June 2013

Thomas Horvath & Peter Huber, [The Impact of Networks, Segregation and Diversity on Migrants' Labour Market Integration](#), Working Paper No. 22, July 2013

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Karl Aiginger Presents Policy Brief to Greek Government, OECD

In May, Karl Aiginger was invited to present the [second WWWforEurope policy brief](#), which he co-authored together with Matthias Firgo and Peter Huber, both of WIFO, to the Greek government. He

met for personal talks with Yannis Stournaras, Greek Minister of Finance, and Kostis Hatzidakis, Greek Minister of Development, as well as with leading policy makers from Greek organisations to assess the current situation. [Read about it here](#).

In June, Karl Aiginger travelled to Berlin discuss a solution to the economic situation in Greece with experts at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. To learn more about this event and download his presentation, [visit the WWWforEurope website](#).

Shortly afterwards Karl Aiginger presented the WWWforEurope project and its ideas at OECD in Paris to connect it to the OECD [“New Approaches to Economic Challenges”](#) initiative and participated in this year's [NERO Meeting](#). For further information about these events, [click here](#).



Greek Minister of Finance Yannis Stournaras with Karl Aiginger

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

WWWforEurope Research on Challenges for the European Welfare State

Social welfare issues are currently the largest public expenditure category in the European Union countries. Government spending on education, health, and social protection amounts on average to almost 30% of GDP in EU-27 (2010). One research area of the WWWforEurope project explores the influence of globalisation, ageing, migration, new technologies, and post-industrialisation on Welfare State structures.

Find more information about the research on the European Welfare State on the [WWWforEurope website](#).



Hans Pitlik, WIFO,
Lead of "European Welfare State"

A Selection of WWWforEurope Publications on the European Welfare State

Jesus Crespo Cuaresma, Mathias Moser & Anna Raggl, [On the Determinants of Global Bilateral Migration Flows](#), Working Paper No. 5, June 2013

Daniel Kopasker, Holger Görg, Hassan Molana & Catia Montagna, [Negative Shocks, Job Creation, and Selection](#), Working Paper No. 11, July 2013

Bernhard Hammer, Alexia Prskawetz & Inga Freund, [Reallocation of Resources Across Age in a Comparative European Setting](#), Working Paper No. 13, July 2013

Friedrich Heinemann & Theocharis Grigoriadis, [Origins of Reform Resistance and the Southern European Regime](#), Working Paper No. 20, July 2013

Thomas Leoni & Rainer Eppel, [Women's Work and Family Profiles over the Lifecourse and their Subsequent Health Outcomes. Evidence for Europe](#), Working Paper No. 28, July 2013

WWWforEurope Researchers at the ESEE Conference in Lille

Researchers participating in the WWWforEurope project played active roles at the [10th Biennial Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics](#) (ESEE) which took place June 18 – 21, 2013, in Lille, France and participated in the [Policy – Science Event](#) hosted on June 18th by Philippe Lamberts, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA group, in Brussels. [Read more](#).

Upcoming WWWforEurope Events & Activities

WWWforEurope Lecture Series

The WWWforEurope Lecture Series has continued into the summer, [connecting the project to MIT](#) and the George Soros Foundation's [Institute for New Economic Thinking \(INET\)](#). The next round of WWWforEurope lectures at WIFO starts on October 10th. [Find more information on our website](#).

WWWforEurope Special Sessions

Summer is a busy time for WWWforEurope project researchers holding presentations at many conferences. For a list of all WWWforEurope Special Sessions at Forum Alpbach, the ERSA Congress and EARIE conference, [see our website](#).

6th WIFO Regional Economics Workshop

On September 16th and 17th, WIFO will hold its 6th Regional Economics Workshop, organised by **Geoffrey J.D. Hewings**, Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and member of the [Scientific Board of WWWforEurope](#). No fees or registration required. To find out more, [click here](#).

WWWforEurope

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme FP7/2007-2013 under grant agreement no. 290647.

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WWWFOREurope Newsletter 3/2013

Taking Stock – Our First Feedback Conference

18 months have elapsed since WWWforEurope has started – time to take stock. For this purpose, we hosted the [first WWWforEurope Feedback Conference](#) on Sept 18th and 19th, 2013, in Vienna. The result: We do have very many and first-class results already and are on a very good way to find common denominators. In the months to come we will use the empirical evidence and theoretical insights of [our existing and future papers](#) to formulate comprehensive policy measures needed for a new growth path and the envisaged socio-ecological transition.

Europe's "High-Road Strategy"

In a [well-received press conference](#) on Sept 18th, 2013, Karl Aiginger of WIFO and project partner Christian Ketels of Harvard University advocated a "High-Road Strategy" for Europe built on investment in education, R&D, an inclusive social system, ecological ambitions and effective political and economic institutions. [Read more here](#).

Karl Aiginger and Christian Ketels showed that measured by a set of performance indicators comprising income, employment, but also social inclusion and ecological excellence, Europe is in a better position relative to the United States in creating and delivering welfare than if measured in income per capita alone. [Clusters](#) provide dissemination of external effects, innovations and higher wages.

Karl Aiginger also had the opportunity to meet Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship during a conference in Vienna on re-industrialisation in Europe.

Coming Up

Nobel Prize winner **Kenneth Joseph Arrow**, member of the WWWforEurope Scientific Board, will visit WIFO, discuss current research and economic strategies, and hold a WWWforEurope Lecture on "[Knowledge, Belief and the Economic System](#)" on **October 22nd, 2013**, at Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna.

Sjak A. Smulders, Professor at Tilburg School of Economics and Management, will hold a WWWforEurope Lecture on "[Sustainability and Wealth Accounting](#)" on **November 12th, 2013**, at WIFO.

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Antonio Tajani with Karl Aiginger © WIFO

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

What We Are Working On

The WWWforEurope approach defines competitiveness as the “ability of a country or region to deliver beyond GDP goals for its citizens both today and in the future”. The definition is far away from old definitions stressing low costs as driver of competitiveness. Competitive advantages of industrialised countries are built on structure (e.g. share of technology driven products) and capabilities. Among the capabilities creating a competitive advantage are [innovation, education, institutions](#), and – specifically related to the mission of a socio-ecological transition – also ecological ambition and a productivity-enhancing social system. Scientific work has to focus on the question how and which innovation systems and production structures can contribute best to this. WWWforEurope provides a host of interesting and valuable papers on this theme: [Read more](#).

Redistribution between Generations and Gender

Bernhard Hammer, Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz and Inga Freund of Vienna University of Technology presented their paper "[Reallocation of Resources across Age in a Comparative European Setting](#)" to the press and got broad coverage. The paper gives a very detailed account of how much men and women in different countries in different age groups produce and consume over their life-cycle and who depends on whom at which stage of life. [Read more](#).

WWWforEurope Best Paper Award goes to Frank W. Geels

Frank W. Geels of Manchester University won the [WWWforEurope Best Paper Award](#). In his [paper](#) Geels shows that immediately after the start of the crisis, the economic stimulus plans initiated in many countries caused a significant rise of green investment. But with the implementation of austerity programmes since 2010, environmental and climate policy goals have been neglected. [Read more](#).

Spreading the Word

Nobel laureate James J. Heckman of the University of Chicago visited the Vienna University of Economics and Business and held a lecture on „The Economics and Econometrics of Human Development“.

Wilfried Altzinger, Jesus Crespo Cuaresma and Alyssa Schneebaum had the chance to speak with him on issues directly related to the WWWforEurope project, such as the intergenerational persistence of income and the [returns of early childhood education](#).



James J. Heckman and Jesus Crespo Cuaresma © David Traska

Recent WWWforEurope Lectures

On October 10th, 2013, **Stephen Matthews**, until recently Chief Tax Economist at OECD, talked about "[Challenges for the Design of a Sustainable Tax System](#)" and discussed trends and future directions of tax policy. In his view, climate change, unemployment, sustainable growth and population ageing are the most important challenges, to which, however, tax policy in most OECD countries is adapting only slowly. [Download his presentation](#).

Lectures at the WWWforEurope Feedback Conference

Frank W. Geels of Manchester University gave a talk on “Socio-technical Transitions and Implications for a New Growth Path for Europe”. His main message was that we are still in the early phases of sustainability transition,

facing quite some resistance from different groups. Acceleration of this process can be possible when based mainly on local initiatives, when market mechanisms of the transition are improved and political will becomes stronger. [Watch the video](#) and [download Frank W. Geels' presentation](#).

Gunther Tichy (WIFO) lectured about „Determinants of Individual Life Satisfaction and Societal Well-being and Policy Implications”. Tichy stressed that even if we have a carefully designed and consistent combination of instruments for the transition to a more sustainable regime, one of the trickiest problems remaining will be how to change citizens'goals and attitudes towards this change. [Download Gunther Tichy's presentation](#).

Janneke Plantenga of Utrecht University presented “Gender Regimes in Europe”. Her input concentrated on how different policy logics form gender regimes and what this means for gender equality. The lecture showed both the inconsistencies in these regimes as well as the difficulties in building a meaningful model describing the impact of policies on gender equality. [Watch the video](#) and [download Janneke Plantenga's presentation](#).

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WWWFOREurope Newsletter 4/2013

Kenneth J. Arrow Revisits WWWforEurope: We Form Expectations about Expectations about Expectations...



Kenneth J. Arrow © WIFO

Nobel Prize laureate Kenneth J. Arrow can be seen as a kind of spiritus rector of WWWforEurope, due to a research agenda he proposed ten years ago at a conference at Stanford University organised by Karl Aiginger, coordinator of the WWWforEurope project. On October 22, 2013, Kenneth J. Arrow visited the project and gave an insightful lecture on "[Knowledge, Belief and the Economic System](#)", saying that as we do not have certainty about the future, we have to rely on beliefs. It is therefore most important for policy makers and regulators to be credible and to formulate feasible visions. [Read more and watch the lecture here.](#)

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The Need for Good Governance

The convergence success story of Europe seems to have come to a halt if not even to a reversal. The strong bias on market-based adjustment has imposed downward social pressures. Technocracy prevails and European governments at national and supra-national level are losing the trust of their people.

To reverse this trend, WWWforEurope papers by Karl Aiginger, Olaf Cramme, Stefan Ederer, Renaud Thillaye, Petr Rozmahel, Ludek Kouba, Claudia Busl, Marcus Kappler, Atilim Seymen, Andreas Sachs, Frauke Schleer, and many others show that it is not only macroeconomic reforms that are needed but governance reforms as well. Without good governance it will not be possible to achieve the transition to a smarter and more sustainable and inclusive European model.

[For an in-depth discussion and all relating research papers, visit our website.](#)

Recent WWWforEurope Lectures

Little Red Riding Hood Should Have Taken the Safe High Road

In his [WWWforEurope Lecture "Sustainability and Wealth Accounting"](#) on November 12, 2013, Sjak A. Smulders, Professor at Tilburg University, told his audience what we, who are searching for a sustainable growth path, have in common with Little Red Riding Hood and what information we need to make the right decisions. It may be easier and more attractive to choose a high consumption path, regardless of future consequences. But it would be more sensible to define a more restrictive and therefore more sustainable path. Essential for this: choosing the right indicators to identify the right path. [For a summary of the lecture, go to our website.](#)

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

Chances and Challenges of Energy Transition: The Example of Germany

Claudia Kemfert of the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW), and Andreas Löschel of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), two renowned energy experts, discussed the German experience with energy transition in a WWWforEurope Lecture titled "[Chances and Challenges of Energy Transition – The Example of Germany](#)" on December 5, 2013.

Both experts emphasised the long term character of the energy transition, which should culminate in reducing CO2 emissions by at least 80% until 2050. The difficulties the project currently encounters could be avoided if there were more measures targeting energy demand and if the true costs of carbon were internalised by the European emissions trading scheme. [For a full summary, visit our website.](#)

Disseminating WWWforEurope's New View on Competitiveness

The new research paper "[Competitiveness under New Perspectives](#)", which Karl Aiginger wrote together with Susanne Bärenthaler-Sieber and Johanna Vogel, has elicited interest both on a national and international scale. The research paper stresses that European economies turn out to be substantially more competitive when using a broad and more comprehensive set of indicators than when per capita income only is used as criterion for judging performance. In the paper, competitiveness is defined as the capability of an economy to generate income, employment, social cohesion and environmental excellence.

"Competitiveness under New Perspectives" has been presented by Karl Aiginger at [a conference at the Chamber of Labour in Vienna](#) and at [a conference at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies of Harvard University](#), USA. Johanna Vogel presented the paper as one of the many WWWforEurope researchers at the WWWforEurope Special Session of the [14th International Conference on Finance and Banking](#) in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

At these events, Karl Aiginger and Johanna Vogel advocated [a "high-road strategy" for Europe](#), saying that in the short run the economy will have to be kick-started by investments in education and research and by giving the peripheral countries a chance to start growing again. In the long run we need a transition to the broad concept of competitiveness put forth in the research paper, meaning creating and delivering welfare beyond GDP goals for all its citizens, thereby ensuring sustainable growth and more quality of life. [Download the paper.](#)

Eurozone Future: From Crisis to Stabilisation, Reform and Growth

WWWforEurope project partner Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic, organised the [Research Centre Conference of the Faculty of Business and Economics on "Eurozone Future: From Crisis to Stabilisation, Reform and Growth"](#) on November 28-29, 2013, in Brno.

The main concern of the conference was analysis, evaluation and discussion of the impact of the financial crisis on the European economy and the future of the Eurozone.

A number of WWWforEurope researchers presented papers on such topics as welfare state attitudes, labour market reforms, labour market performance, and industrial policy. Karl Aiginger held the keynote on competitiveness. [For further information, visit our website.](#)



Antonin Rusek (Susquehanna University) and Karl Aiginger (WIFO) in Brno © Mendel University, Brno

WWWforEurope at ECOCITY 2013 in Nantes

Contributing answers to the question “Can citizens self-organise the sustainable city”, Adrien Labaeye of the University of Applied Sciences Jena presented ideas developed in [one of WWWforEurope's research areas](#), which looks at the role of cities in the socio-ecological transition, at the [World Summit of Sustainable Cities – ECOCITY 2013](#) – in Nantes, France.

Referring to the example of the municipality of Leipzig, Germany, Labaeye talked about the concepts of self-organisation and collective action and the way they relate to the emergence of urban commons. [Read more on our website.](#)

Presenting WWWforEurope in Vilnius

Peter Huber of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research was [invited to present the WWWforEurope project at the International Forum for Future Europe](#), which was held at the Lithuanian parliament in Vilnius in order to contribute to the success of the Lithuanian EU presidency.

Huber stressed two points in the discussion following his presentation: The necessity for a vision of a socially and environmentally sustainable Europe and the “decoupling” of energy and materials use from economic growth and new resource use scenarios for Europe explored in the WWWforEurope research paper “[Developing Resource Use Scenarios for Europe](#)” by Marina Fischer-Kowalski et al. [Find out more on our website!](#)

WWWforEurope

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme FP7/2007-2013 under grant agreement no. 290647.

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WWWFOR Europe Newsletter 1/2014

Effective Policy Has to Start at Regional Level

Europe does not only have 28 member states but well over 1,000 regions. While countries are converging slowly, regions are converging at a much slower pace. At the same time regions create the highest sense of identity for the citizens of the European Union. Policy measures can be tried and evaluated for their impact best at the regional level. Best practice lessons then have to take into account the differences and heterogeneities of regions. [Read about WWWforEurope research on these topics.](#)

Upcoming WWWforEurope Lecture on Social Investment and the European Monetary Union

Anton Hemerijck, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor of Institutional Policy Analysis at VU University, Amsterdam, renowned expert on welfare state analysis and social policy will hold a lecture on "Social Investment and the European Monetary Union" on May 21st, 2014. [For further information, see our website.](#)

Discussing and Disseminating WWWforEurope

Karl Aiginger: Financial Institutions and Innovative Financial Instruments Should Support the Real Economy



Karl Aiginger, co-ordinator of WWWforEurope, presented EU Commissioner Michel Barnier with the [WWWforEurope Policy Brief on Reforms of European Governance](#). Three reform issues for the financial sector are particularly pressing at this stage of only moderate recovery: improving the stability of the banking system, reducing the instability caused by short-term financial transactions, and providing better financing for small and medium sized enterprises. Barnier informed about new measures to overcome the credit crunch for such enterprises, e.g. crowd capital. [Read more here.](#)

At left: EU Commissioner Michel Barnier and Karl Aiginger.
© Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth

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Karl Aiginger: Financial Institutions Should Support the Real Economy

Climate Policy Still an Uphill Struggle

Austrian Kick-off Horizon 2020

Viennese Students Organise Class on Socio-Ecological Transition

OECD-CPII Conference on Immigration

Public Choice Conference Singapore

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WWWforEurope at the Impact Hub Vienna: Climate Policy Still an Uphill Struggle

At an event organised by the “Growth in Transition” initiative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Ministry of Life), Sigrid Stagl of the Vienna University of Economics and Kurt Bayer, former Member of the EBRD Board, both WWWforEurope experts, discussed Ugo Bardi’s newest book “Plundering the Planet” with the author at Impact Hub Vienna. [Find in-depth information on our website.](#)

Multi-Disciplinary and Cross-Cutting Themes at the Horizon 2020 Kick-off



Margit Schratzenstaller © Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

WWWforEurope was represented at the Austrian kick-off event for [Horizon 2020](#) on January 21st, 2014, in Vienna. In a workshop on “Societal Challenges – Societal Impact” WWWforEurope deputy coordinator Margit Schratzenstaller of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) had the chance to discuss crucial experiences gathered during the WWWforEurope project.

Schratzenstaller stressed the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, of integrating cross-cutting issues like sustainable development or gender, and of establishing a dialogue with key national and European stakeholders. These are indispensable ingredients for research projects aiming at creating and disseminating research results that can really make a societal impact. [Visit our website for more pictures and information.](#)

University of Vienna Students Plan to Discuss the Socio-Ecological Transition

In the upcoming summer term, students at the University of Vienna will organise a course for the university’s bachelor program of economics. Inspired by WWWforEurope, the course will bear the title “[Socio-Ecological Transition: Sustainability, Justice and Growth](#)”. WWWforEurope gladly cooperates with this students’ initiative; key research results will be presented by Karl Aiginger, Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Kurt Kratena and Angela Köppl. [Read all about it on our website.](#)

WWWforEurope at the 3rd OECD-CEPII Conference on Immigration

At the [3rd Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries](#) organised, among others, by OECD and CEPII on December 6th, 2013, in Paris, France, Doris Oberdabernig (WIFO) presented a paper co-authored with Peter Huber (WIFO): “Decomposing Welfare Wedges: An Analysis of Welfare Dependence of Immigrants and Natives in Europe”. The paper is based on research conducted within the WWWforEurope project, on whether migrants contribute to or profit more from the welfare state in 16 EU countries. [Read more and download the papers here.](#)

WWWforEurope at the 6th Public Choice Conference in Singapore

On December 6th, 2013, Hans Pitlik (WIFO) presented a paper resulting from his WWWforEurope research together with Ludek Kouba at the [6th Australasian Public Choice Conference 2013 in Singapore](#), which asks “Does Social Distrust Always Lead to a Stronger Support for Government Intervention?” [For more information and downloads of the paper, visit our website.](#)

WWWforEurope

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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.](#)

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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

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WWWFOREUROPE Newsletter 3/2014

Europe at the Crossroads – The Feasibility of a European Vision

At this year's European Forum Alpbach, in line with the conference's general theme, WWWforEurope seeks to exhibit a series of strategies and best practices for a Europe "At the Crossroads": Some first results of the project WWWforEurope will be presented and summarised at a press conference.

Karl Aiginger, director of WIFO and co-ordinator of WWWforEurope, Franz Fischler, President of European Forum Alpbach, WWWforEurope Policy Board member, and Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute, Columbia University, WWWforEurope Scientific Board Member, will present ideas for the social, economical and ecological renewal after the crisis in Europe from the European and US-American perspective.

[Click here for details and our new midterm project information.](#)

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WWWforEurope Lectures on Video – Upcoming Fall Lectures

The most recent WWWforEurope Lecture by Anton Hemerijck, "[Social Investment and the European Monetary Union](#)" and the [WWWforEurope Youth Forum with a reading by Giacomo Corneo](#) from his book "A Better World – Is Capitalism Over?" can now be watched in their entirety [on our website](#).

The WWWforEurope Lecture Series will continue with these lectures

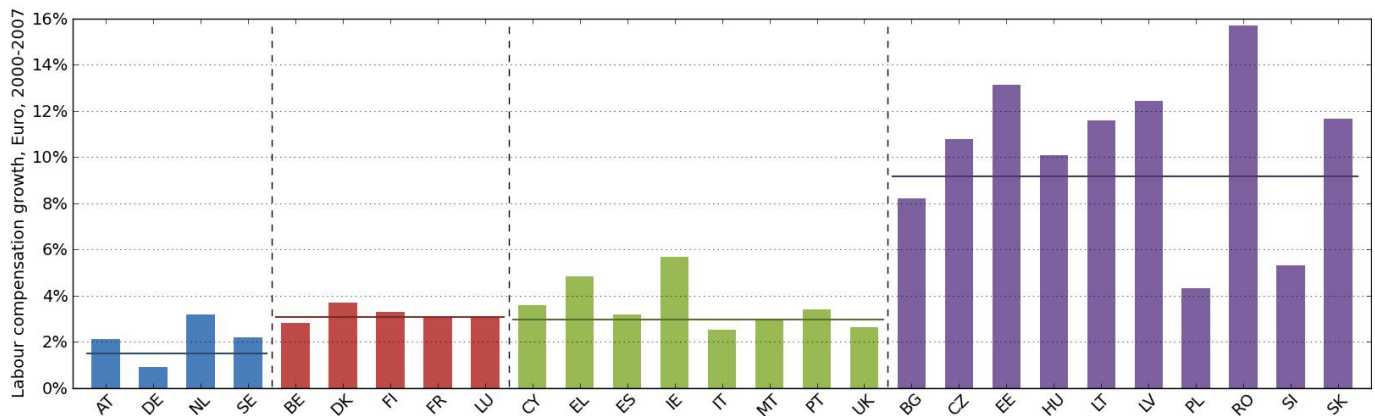
- Options to Finance the Welfare State in the Future – Dennis Meadows, September 9th, 2014
- Coherent Innovation and Industrial Policy Favouring Socio-Ecological Transition – Reinhilde Veugelers, September 24th, 2014
- Winning Strategies for a Sustainable Future – Armando Garcia Schmidt, October 15th, 2014
- Modelling Ecological Macroeconomics – Tim Jackson, October 17th, 2014

The 2014 OECD NERO Meeting in Paris

Under the overall theme of "International Macroeconomic Linkages", participants of the 2014 OECD NERO Meeting, an annual conference of the world's leading economic institutes members, tried to find answers to the question whether different strategies should be used for different countries or whether a (single) coordinated strategy is feasible on a world-wide scale. Karl Aiginger held a presentation on "Low Road and High Road to Reindustrialisation: Can Countries Go for Different Strategies?", discussing that low road strategies are based on low costs and energy prices, while high road strategies are based on skills, innovation, and energy efficiency. [Read more and download the presentation.](#)

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How to Mend the Shortcomings in European Governance



Imbalances will persist as long as there is no or too little wage growth in countries with growing current account surpluses: European countries are clustered according to their wealth and their current account development in the years 2000 to 2007. In Groups 1 to 3 (blue, red, green) countries' GDP per capita was larger than 80 percent of the European average, in Group 4 (purple) it was lower. Group 1 countries had growing current account surpluses, Group 2 still had surpluses, but declining ones, and Group 3 and 4 had current account deficits. It is evident from the figure that wage growth in Group 1 was below productivity growth while in all other groups, with increasing differences, labour compensation growth was well above productivity growth. Graph from Stefan Ederer and Peter Reschenhofer, *Macroeconomic Imbalances in the EU*, WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 42, September 2013, Source: AMECO and own calculations. The grey lines indicate group averages.

New WWWforEurope Working Papers on European governance have been published and their findings should provide much food for thought for the newly elected European Parliament and the new Commission. Europe is far away from being an optimal currency area and reforms in the last years have only exacerbated the situation. Member countries are not converging, business cycles are hugely dissimilar. Lessons could be learned from complex manufacturing systems and more mechanisms to enhance resilience in the system should be implemented. It is most important, however, to refrain from a TINA scenario: There is always an alternative, even if it can only be reached by small steps. [Read more and download the WWWforEurope Working Papers on European governance.](#)

Special Sessions and Conferences

In 2014 WWWforEurope has again had the opportunity to disseminate its research results in special sessions at a number of conferences, such as the ISEE Conference 2014 in Iceland or the Annual Meeting of the Austrian Economic Association in Vienna, where five papers dealing with well-being and intergenerational mobility were presented at the special session titled "Intergenerational Mobility and Economics of Well-Being". [Find a summary of the session on our website.](#)

At the European Forum Alpbach WWWforEurope will be represented by Karl Aiginger in the Breakout Session "A New Economic and Competition Model for Europe". Further special sessions are to be held at the 54th ERSA Congress in St. Petersburg, where the session will bear the title "The Role of Regions in Shaping Socio-Ecological Transition in the EU"; and at the Fourth International Conference on Degrowth for Ecologic Sustainability and Social Equity in Leipzig, where the session topic will be "European Policies beyond Growth?" [See our website for more information and detailed programmes.](#)

7th WIFO – Regional Economics Workshop

On the 1st and 2nd of September 2014, the 7th WIFO – Regional Economics Workshop with Geoffrey J.D. Hewings will be held at WIFO. This year's topic is "Sustainable Regional Growth and Cohesion". Over the past years an intensive discussion emerged focusing on the nexus between growth, regional disparities and sustainability. Do strategies promoting sustainable growth at the national level necessarily decrease regional inequalities or is it feasible to accomplish both sustainable growth and regional equity goals at the same time? This question has also been central to the research carried out within WWWforEurope. [For more information and the programme visit our website.](#)

Disseminating into Academia

Almost 70 papers have been published so far by WWWforEurope experts and their results find their way into economic journals and the scientific discussion. Miklos Antal and Jeroen van den Bergh have published their thoughts on meso- and macroeconomic strategies for a transition towards a more sustainable economic model in [Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions](#).

A paper on longterm decoupling of economic development and energy was published by Dominik Wiedenhofer et al. in [Energy Procedia](#), while Jeroen van den Bergh discusses the role of investors in this process in another paper in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in the USA](#).

Phoenix industries are small business clusters born out of the ashes of old industrial structures. Philip Amison and David Bailey, relying on WWWforEurope research, analyse their potential and impact in the [Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society](#), using a case study from the British Midlands.

WWWforEurope's extensive work on a Europe of regions was also published in international journals: Matthias Firgo and Peter Huber write about divergent and convergent processes in [Empirica](#), while Beatrice Camaioni et al. analyse adequate rural policies in [AgriRegioniEuropa](#). [See the full list here](#).

Call for Papers from Mendel University, Brno: What is the Eurozone's Future: Policy Commitment vs. Freeriding

A call for papers has been issued by the Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic, for its 8th annual international economics conference on November 27th and 28th, 2014. The topics forming the focus of discussion will be the revival of growth, structural reforms and rising divergences between the Eurozone's "core" countries and its Mediterranean members, and indeed, the relationship between the logic of economics and the reality of politics in Europe. The conference aims to provide a vehicle for the exchange of ideas and the expansion of knowledge. Innovative albeit perhaps controversial ideas are welcome. The deadline for submitting abstracts is September 15th, 2014. [Click here for more information about this call](#).

Call for Papers: The 2nd WWWforEurope Best Paper Award

WWWforEurope is granting a second WWWforEurope Best Paper Award 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 Best Paper Award – including a special prize for the best work of a young researcher – will be presented during the second WWWforEurope Feedback Conference in Vienna on the 5th and 6th of May 2015. Authors of excellent papers will be presented with the opportunity to publish their research work in the WWWforEurope working paper series. The deadline for the submission of papers is November 16th. [For the full call for papers please visit our website](#).

WWWforEurope

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WWWFOREUROPE Newsletter 4/2014

European Forum Alpbach – Finding strategies for Europe at the crossroads



Jeffrey D. Sachs, Franz Fischler, Karl Aiginger © Philipp Naderer

At the 2014 European Forum Alpbach WWWforEurope project coordinator Karl Aiginger took part in a policy discussion on “[A New Economic and Competition Model for Europe](#)”, characterising Europe

as a success model in a midlife crisis and proposing a high-road strategy based on education, research and efficient institutions. Karl Aiginger also held [a press conference with Jeffrey D. Sachs](#), director of The Earth Institute and Franz Fischler, President of the European Forum Alpbach. Several WWWforEurope board members also participated in discussions, breakout sessions and other events. [Have a look at our website for more informations.](#)

Fall Lectures raise important issues

Four lectures in the WWWforEurope Lecture Series have taken place this fall: EU Commissioner László Andor presented his idea of [a basic European unemployment insurance](#), which would boost market confidence in the European Monetary Union, uphold domestic demand and economic growth. Dennis Meadows spoke about designing radically different ways of ensuring welfare for the aged in his lecture “[Financing the future welfare state](#)”.

A “green innovation machine” that needs to be turned on was proposed by Reinhilde Veugelers, who talked about “[Coherent innovation and industrial policy favouring socio-ecological transition](#).” The last WWWforEurope lecture of this fall was held by Armando Garcia Schmidt, who talked about “[Winning strategies for a sustainable future](#)” implemented in Bhutan, Costa Rica, Finland, Ghana, and Tasmania – and the lessons that can be learned from them.

Some of these lectures can be watched online on our website.



Dennis Meadows © WIFO

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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.

New WWWforEurope Policy Brief: Compensating the losers of globalisation

Trade liberalisation is important and should be promoted. But it also creates losers who – both for economic and social stability reasons – should and could be compensated, as the [new WWWforEurope Policy Brief](#) by Zareh Asatryan, Sebastian Braun, Holger Görg, Friedrich Heinemann, Hassan Molana, and Catia Montagna shows. To avoid wrong incentives, these policies have to be targeted and should subsidise employment, not unemployment. [Read more and download the Policy Brief here.](#)

Coming up: The future of economic governance in the Eurozone

One of WWWforEurope UK partner institutions, Policy Network, is holding [a seminar on the future of economic governance in the Eurozone](#) on October 28th, 2014, in London, focusing on questions such as these: Which reforms are desirable and feasible? How can the EU's legitimacy be improved? How does the Banking Union and Eurozone integration impact the wider EU? [Read more here.](#)

Joint workshop on new approaches with the OECD

On December 10th, 2014, the OECD will cooperate with WWWforEurope on a joint workshop exploring "[How to further enhance Welfare, Wealth and Work in Europe?](#)" within the OECD's initiative "New Approaches to Economic Challenges". WWWforEurope researchers Karl Aiginger, WIFO, David Bailey, Aston University, Thomas Leoni, WIFO, and Jeroen van den Bergh, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, will discuss their findings with the OECD's NAEC team guided by Mathilde Mesnard. Domenico Rossetti, Georg Fischer and Elena Flores will bring in the European Commission's view. . [For the full programme, click here.](#)

WWWforEurope at Conferences

WWWforEurope researchers have been spreading the word about the project both close to home and as far as Russia and Iceland this summer and fall.



Thomas Nowotny, Margit Schratzenstaller © AFA afa.at



Karl Aiginger at European Forum Alpbach © Luiza Puiu

- WWWforEurope at the [III. Open Global System Science Conference](#) in Brussels, Belgium, 8-10 October 2014
- WWWforEurope policy roundtable at [Open Days 2014 – 12th European Week of Regions and Cities](#), Brussels, Belgium, 6-9 October 2014
- [Presentation of the WWWforEurope project to the Foreign Policy and United Nations Association of Austria \(UNA-AUSTRIA\)](#) in Vienna, Austria, September 18th, 2014
- Special Session at the [Fourth International Conference on Degrowth for Ecologic Sustainability and Social Equity](#) in Leipzig, Germany, 2-6 September 2014
- [7th WIFO Regional Economics Workshop](#) with Geoffrey J.D. Hewings in Vienna, Austria, 1-2 September 2014
- Special Session at the [54th European Regional Science Association \(ERSA\) Congress](#) in St Petersburg, Russia, 26-29 August 2014
- Special Session at the [International Society for Ecological Economics \(ISEE\) Conference](#) 2014 in Reykjavik, Iceland, 13-15 August 2014



WWWforEurope researcher Asjad Naqvi receives the Eduard März Prize

WWWforEurope researcher Asjad Naqvi has been awarded the Eduard März Prize by the Chamber of Labour Vienna for his paper “Climate Change and Growth – An Integrated Approach to Emissions, Production, Distributions, and Employment” at the [Young Economists Conference](#). In his paper, Naqvi presented a stock-flow consistent demand-driven model that links economic activity with the environmental physical stocks. [Find more information as well as the paper on our website.](#)

Asjad Naqvi © WIFO

Media coverage

Some of WWWforEurope’s activities, most notably the lectures of EU Commissioner László Andor, Dennis Meadows and Reinhilde Veugelers, but also the project’s scientific results have been reported on in the popular press. [Take a look at our collection of media coverage.](#)

Call for Papers: The 2nd WWWforEurope Best Paper Award

The November 16th deadline for the submission of papers for the 2nd WWWforEurope Best Paper Award is drawing close. This award will be granted for research dealing with important, yet so far underresearched topics relating to various economic and social consequences of a low-growth development path for Europe. [Read more here.](#)

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.

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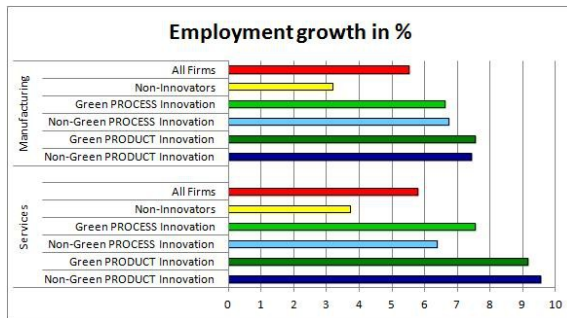
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WWWforEurope Newsletter 5/2014

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.](#)



© WIFO

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 Rumpelmaier (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.

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WWWFOR Europe 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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[CfP 6th Conference on the Economics of Innovation and Patenting](#)



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 WWinds 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.](#)



© Luca Meneghel

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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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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[Golden Rule Policy Paper](#)

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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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WWWFOREUROPE Newsletter 3/2015

Reaping the benefits of immigration

Immigration is a given fact and has every chance of being a positive aspect of future EU development, provided it is accompanied by intelligent measures. Attracting skilled and productive immigrants is one policy, integrating all immigrants effectively into education and labour market systems is another one. Many policies have to be designed and implemented on a regional level whilst also being accompanied by an EU-wide positive commitment to an inclusive and diverse Europe. The [new WWWforEurope Policy Brief](#) by Jesus Crespo Cuaresma, Peter Huber, and Anna Raggl explains the reasons for this and what exactly should be done.



Looking at the institutional preconditions of the socio-ecological transition - European cities in the focus

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Cities and Regions en route towards a more bottom-up transition to sustainability

A High-Road strategy towards a more sustainable economic and social model cannot only be designed top-down. Many issues of everyday life and many policies are much better organised on a local or regional level. [In-depth WWWforEurope research](#) shows quite clear evidence of this: The results cover the possible role of cities, how regional policies can be financed on a systemic level, and the effects a more regional organisation of labour market and integration policies could have on a thematic level. Find more information and download the relevant papers.

Greece and the EU: How to break the stalemate

Continuing the WWWforEurope focus on the situation in Greece and other peripheral EU countries, Karl Aiginger has published [an article on euractiv.com](#), suggesting several ways in which the stalemate between the EU and Greece could be broken. Read the [WWWforEurope Policy Brief No. 2](#) by Karl Aiginger, Matthias Firgo, and Peter Huber, the [WWWforEurope Policy Paper No. 7](#) by the same authors as well as [WWWforEurope Policy Paper No. 1](#) by Karl Aiginger for further in-depth information.

WWWforEurope Lectures by Éloi Laurent and Margit Noll online now

WWWforEurope hosted two very interesting lectures in May and June. On May 20th, Éloi Laurent (OFCE) called attention to how inequality matters in the currently ecologically unsustainable economy and how ecological crises aggravate inequality, proposing a social-ecological approach. [Watch the lecture and download his paper on our website.](#)

Margit Noll (AIT) presented the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe and its goal of a transition towards sustainable and livable urban areas, which was the title of her lecture, which is [available online as well.](#)



Éloi Laurent © WIFO

Working Paper: Implementation of the WWWforEurope Transition Strategy

The WWWforEurope project proposes a new medium to long-term EU Strategy, aiming to transform the present socio-economic model. In his essay "[Institutional Set-up and Conflict Resolution](#)", Kurt Bayer outlines the procedural and institutional part of this Transition Strategy, where to start and which instruments to apply, but also more importantly which principles and method to apply in order to resolve remaining conflicts. [Download the paper](#).

Upcoming WWWforEurope special sessions at conferences

Special sessions presenting the WWWforEurope project and selected research results will take place at EAERE21 in Helsinki, Finland, June 24th-27th, at the 11th ESEE conference in Leeds, UK, June 30th to July 3rd as well as at the 2015 EURA conference in Sibiu, Romania, September 17th-20th, 2015. [Check out our website for further information!](#)

Chinese green growth researchers meet WWWforEurope colleagues

Guiron Xiao, Chunyou Wu and Xiaoling Wang of Dalian University joined WWWforEurope researchers at the Institute for Social Ecology, Alpen Adria University, and at WIFO on June 8th to present their project "The International Comparison Study of Theory and Application of Green Growth" and exchange knowledge on green growth, energy systems and emissions trading. [Read more on our website](#).

Karl Aiginger: Investment in Change

The future of Europe and strategies to restart growth were the topics of the discussions and conferences in which Karl Aiginger participated in May and June. From a [high level meeting at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#), where Karl Aiginger discussed growth strategies with André Sapir of Bruegel to a [discussion with Jyrki Katainen](#), Vice President of the EU Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, on the future of the European project, organised by the Austrian Society for European Politics, to the [annual NERO meeting of the leading economic research institutions](#) organised by the OECD, where Karl Aiginger proposed a two-stage strategy for industrialised countries, he made clear that business as usual is not an option: what is needed is an investment in change, e.g. renewable energy, energy efficiency and social investments.



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Reform resistance in the context of crisis countries

Friedrich Heinemann presented his study, a joint work with Theodor Grigoriadis, on reform resistance in the context of crisis countries at the [Conference on Economic Challenges in Enlarged Europe](#) in Tallinn, Estonia, 14 - 16 June 2015. This study classifies obstacles to welfare increasing reforms of very different nature, ranging from rational reform resistance to limited rationality and behavioural explanations. [Find more information on our website](#).

WWWforEurope at the Whitsun Dialogue 2015

Margit Schratzenstaller, deputy co-ordinator of WWWforEurope, attended the 2015 Whitsun Dialogue in Seggau, Austria, to discuss the challenges of a sustainable eco-social economic system. [Read more on our website](#).

The Euroframe Conference 2015

At the 12th EUROFRAME conference the central theses of WWWforEurope's synthesis report were discussed in a policy panel with stakeholders to gain valuable feedback. Karl Aiginger, Margit Schratzenstaller and Kurt Bayer offered perspectives on reconciling environmental sustainability and socio-economic targets, with comments by John FitzGerald (ESRI) and Albert van der Horst (CPB). [Download papers and presentations on our website](#).

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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WWWFOREUROPE Newsletter 4/2015

Europe's midlife crisis:

A questionnaire on problems and solutions

We are approaching the final phase of the WWWforEurope project to design a new growth path for Europe. It could not come at a more interesting point in time, with many unsolved problems, high uncertainty, and new challenges for Europe. Please take a look at our [most recent project summary](#) for some tentative results and send us your thoughts.

To make your feedback easier, we have developed a short questionnaire about the main topics addressed in the project and the challenges Europe is facing, as well as our tentative answers, e.g. the likelihood of much lower growth, the importance of inequality, and the instruments to prevent climate change.

You can [answer it online](#) or [download it here](#), fill it out and send it to [wwwforeurope-office\(at\)wifo.ac.at](mailto:wwwforeurope-office(at)wifo.ac.at). We will also send you an email with the questionnaire attached for your convenience.

It only takes 5 minutes – and your feedback would be much appreciated.

Save the date for the presentation of our results: WWWforEurope Final Conference

On February 25th, 2016, we will present our Synthesis Report in Brussels. Please save the date – you will receive your invitation in the upcoming weeks. We are looking forward to your attendance!

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[Making immigration worthwhile
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Making immigration worthwhile for everybody - WWWforEurope research

People escaping war and seeking asylum all over Europe has most certainly been the most-debated topic in the last few weeks. See "[Reaping the benefits of migration in an ageing Europe](#)" by Jesus Crespo Cuaresma (WU Vienna University of Business and Economics), Peter Huber (WIFO), and Anna Raggl (WU) as well as our further research papers on migration which include:

Crespo Cuaresma et al. (2015), Migration in an ageing Europe: What are the challenges? WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 79

Huber (2015), What institutions help immigrants integrate? WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 77

Horvath, Huber (2013), The impact of networks, segregation and diversity on migrants' labour market integration. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 22

Huber, Oberdabernig (2013), Does migration threaten the sustainability of European welfare states? WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 21

Dohse, Gold (2014), Cultural diversity and economic policy. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 64

Dohse, Gold (2014), Determining the impact of cultural diversity on regional economies in Europe. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 58

Schneebaum et al. (2014), Gender and migration background in intergenerational educational mobility. WWWforEurope Policy Paper No. 11

Altzinger et al. (2015), Education and social mobility in Europe: Levelling the playing field for Europe's children and fuelling its economy. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 80

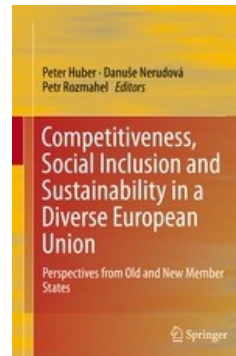
Crespo Cuaresma et al. (2013), *On the determinants of global bilateral migration flows*. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 5

Nowotny (2015), *Institutions and the location decisions of highly skilled migrants to Europe*. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 78

Huber, Oberdabernig (2015), *The impact of welfare benefits on natives' and immigrants' attitudes towards immigration*. WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 82

Competitiveness, social inclusion and sustainability in a diverse European Union

Bringing together researchers in Eastern and Western Europe, Peter Huber (WIFO), Danuše Nerudová, and Petr Rozmahel (both Mendel University Brno) have edited a volume titled "[Competitiveness, Social Inclusion and Sustainability in a diverse European Union](#)". Based to a large extent on research conducted for the WWWforEurope project, the book examines the key challenges faced by the EU – such as immigration – in its effort to establish a socially inclusive and greener path to growth, and develops policy recommendations to simultaneously achieve the EU 2020 agenda's long-term goals. [You can find a list of all WWWforEurope research in scientific journals and other publications on our website!](#)



The economics of gender equality

So far, the economic case for gender equality and female empowerment has gained stronger attention in the case of developing countries where women have far less rights and opportunities compared to developed ones. Hence, the grounds supporting gender equality have been much stronger and much more researched in the former. WWWforEurope Equality Manager Janneke Plantenga (Utrecht University) has written a review of the literature in three propositions and two questions – [download it on our website!](#)



Final Report of the OECD's New Approaches to Economic Challenges initiative

The final report of the [OECD's New Approaches to Economic Challenges \(NAEC\) initiative](#), a comprehensive organisation-wide reflection process, has been published. WWWforEurope has [cooperated with the NAEC initiative in the past](#) and it and some of its research results have been featured in the report. [Learn more and download the report on our website.](#)

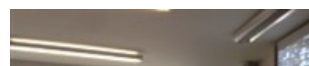
Urban sustainability transitions: Actors, resources, indicators at the 2015 ESEE Conference

At the 2015 Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) in Leeds, UK, WWWforEurope researchers Thomas Sauer, Stephanie Barnebeck (both University of Applied Sciences Jena), and Judith Schicklinski (Free University of Bolzano) held a special session focusing on cities' significant contribution to sustainability transition as "laboratories of transformation". [Read an in-depth report of the session here.](#)

WWWforEurope goes to Japan: The XVIIth World Economic History Congress 2015

Marina Fischer-Kowalski (Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt) presented "Societies' energy metabolism, revolutions, and transition to 'modernity'" based on the research she conducted with, among others, Fridolin Krausmann, Irene Pallua and Elena Rovenskaya (all Institute of Social Ecology), at the XVIIth World Economic History Congress in Kyoto, Japan, in a session titled: "Long run economic growth and the environment: international comparison from a socio-metabolic perspective", attracting a large audience and discussions that lasted beyond the timeframe of the session. [Find out more and download the WWWforEurope research papers on our website!](#)

The 2015 European Forum Alpbach on "InEquality"



WWWforEurope researchers and board members took part in a variety of panels, break-out sessions, and seminars, all on this year's theme "InEquality" at the 2015 European Forum Alpbach. Some of the topics: "Intergenerational Justice and Economic Outcomes", "The End of Energy Revolution", "How to Grow or Not to Grow – that is the Question!"



Breakout Session at EFA 2015 © WIFO

WWWforEurope board members Gunilla Almgren, President of UEAPME, and former EU Commissioner, now President of the European Forum Alpbach, Franz Fischler as well as Mathilde Mesnard of the OECD joined WWWforEurope coordinator Karl Aiginger for a press conference. [Find more details and our press release on our website!](#)

At the OeNB workshop "Towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union"

At the international workshop "Toward a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union" organised by the Austrian National Bank in Vienna in September 2015, WWWforEurope researchers Stefan Ederer and Margit Schratzenstaller (both WIFO) presented selected WWWforEurope research results and policy recommendations, focusing on "Macroeconomic Imbalances and Institutional Reforms in the EMU" and "Sustainable Tax Policy Beyond the Tax Ratio for the EU as Core Element of a 'Fiscal Union'" respectively. [Read more here!](#)

Call for papers for conference "Imperative of Economic Growth in the Eurozone"

WWWforEurope partner Mendel University Brno will organise a conference on "Imperative of Economic Growth in the Eurozone: Competitiveness, Capital Flows and Structural Reforms" scheduled for November 26th and 27th, 2015. The conference will feature a WWWforEurope special session where selected WWWforEurope research results will be presented. [Please find the call for papers here!](#)

Don't forget, we want your opinion - have you answered our questionnaire?

We are approaching the end of a very interesting project at an extremely interesting point in time. Please send us your feedback by [answering the questionnaire online](#) or by [downloading it here](#) and sending it back to [wwwforeurope-office\(at\)wifo.ac.at](mailto:wwwforeurope-office(at)wifo.ac.at). Tell others about the project and pass on the questionnaire to friends and colleagues. Thank you very much in advance!

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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WWWforEurope Newsletter 5/2015

WWWforEurope Final Conference

The European Union has demonstrated a tremendous success story of unification and implementation of a joint currency for 330 million people. Nevertheless, in the last years, the European project has shown the need for a consistent, longer-term strategy, a vision that again sparks enthusiasm and support for this project.

For the last four years WWWforEurope has worked on such a strategic approach in close communication with policy makers, the research community and stakeholders – the results of this research work and the policy conclusions are to be presented and discussed at the [WWWforEurope Final Conference](#).

The WWWforEurope Final Conference will be held in Brussels, Belgium, on February 25th, 2016. **Registration is mandatory** and open **until January 31st, 2016**. [Learn more about the conference on our website!](#)

Don't forget, we want your opinion! – Have you answered our questionnaire?

We are approaching the final phase of the WWWforEurope project to design a new growth path for Europe.

Please send us your feedback by answering our short questionnaire [online](#) or by [downloading it here](#) and sending it back to [wwwforeurope-office\(at\)wifo.ac.at](mailto:wwwforeurope-office(at)wifo.ac.at).

Tell others about the project and pass on the questionnaire to friends and colleagues. Thank you very much in advance!

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The Knowledge Society – Frontrunner Europe?

Sustainable knowledge is the most important resource of developed economies nowadays. How does Europe fare in creating and disseminating knowledge and innovation compared to others? [WWWforEurope research and new policy briefs](#) show that while still maintaining a front position with green innovation and research more can be done and is to be done in this field. [Read more ...](#)

Moving Towards a New Growth Model – Policy options

The [report on the Second WWWforEurope Feedback Conference](#) by Michael Böheim, Anna Strauss, and Teresa Weiss (WIFO) has been published. The conference, which took place in Vienna, Austria, on May 6th, 2015, marked the end of the policy formulation phase of project as well as the beginning of the synthesis phase. Its aim was to present the project's research as well as to collect feedback for the final synthesis report.

For this purpose, external experts and stakeholder representatives from European and international institutions, social partners, NGOs, and academia joined the conference and provided written statements included in the report, which reflect how they approach the core issues of the project. [Download the report.](#)

Protecting Social Inclusion and Mobility in a Low-Growth Scenario

Focusing on social inclusion, Gunther Tichy (WIFO) has outlined which problems have been under-researched so far in the WWWforEurope concept, for which problems solutions have been proposed, and for which problems solutions still need to be worked out. [Read WWWforEurope Working Paper No. 100.](#)

Deepening the Scope of the "Economic Model"

By responding to the warning voices about the failure of mainstream economics to provide policy advice

to seemingly well-known problems as manifest in the ongoing economic crises, Stefan Schleicher (WIFO) puts forward the proposition that the majority of deficiencies in this discipline results from two self-imposed restrictions. Find out about the restrictions and the proposed conceptual extensions in his [WWWforEurope Policy Paper No. 24](#).

WWWforeurope Research in Scientific Journals and the Media

To show how the term "competitiveness" has been applied and adapted since Michael Porter made it respectable in economics, strategic management and consulting is the aim of "[Competitiveness: From a Misleading Concept to a Strategy Supporting Beyond GDP Goals](#)", a recent paper in the *Competitiveness Review* by WWWforEurope project co-ordinator and director of WIFO Karl Aiginger and Johanna Vogel (Environment Agency Austria).

Karl Aiginger also talked to Joanna Roberts of *Horizon – The EU Research & Innovation Magazine* on the question of "[How Can Europe Achieve Green Growth?](#)", stating that "it is possible to successfully move Europe to a low-carbon economy, but it will require a fundamental shift in thinking."

WWWforEurope researcher Jeroen van den Bergh (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) suggested "[a global agreement on variable carbon pricing](#)" to counteract carbon rebound in *Nature*.

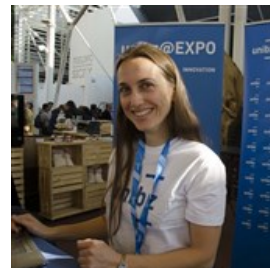
WWWforEurope Policy Brief No. 7, "[Reaping the Benefits of Migration in an Ageing Europe](#)", by Jesus Crespo Cuaresma (WU – Vienna University of Economics and Business), Peter Huber (WIFO), and Anna Raggl (WU) has been translated into Spanish and published in the [monthly dossier of the Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia](#).

Find more WWWforEurope research [in scientific journals](#) and [the media](#).

At the Expo 2015 in Milan – WWWforEurope Research on Urban Green Spaces

"Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" – the Expo Milano 2015 event theme – points to the importance of food and nutrition in reaching a sustainable future. Judith Schicklinski (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano) presented results from WWWforEurope research on "[The Role of Cities in the Socio-Ecological Transition of Europe](#)" to visitors at the unibz-South Tyrol stand. Urban gardening and agriculture, as one form of re-appropriating urban green spaces and turning them into commons, becomes ever more important for sustainably governing urban green spaces in European cities.

[Read more ...](#)



Judith Schicklinski, unibz © unibz



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Economic Modelling of a European Environmental Tax

Danuše Nerudova (Mendel University Brno) presented selected WWWforEurope results at the international scientific conference "[Capabilities and Limitations of the Economic Modelling of a European Environmental Tax as an EU own Resource](#)" organised by the Institute of Economic Research, Slovakian Academy of Science, on November 12th, 2015.

[Read more ...](#)

Imperative of Economic Growth in the Eurozone

Titled "[Imperative of Economic Growth in the Eurozone: Competitiveness, Capital Flows and Structural Reforms](#)", the 2015 Research Centre Conference of the Faculty of Business and Economics at Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic, offered WWWforEurope researchers an opportunity to present their results on issues of demographic changes, migration, and further integration of Central and Eastern European Countries on November 26 and 27, 2015.

[Read more ...](#)



Anna Raggl, WU © Mendel University Brno



Policy panel at the conference © WIFO

8th FIW Research Conference: International Economics

At the [8th FIW Research Conference](#) Margit Schratzenstaller, Deputy Coordinator of WWWforEurope, had the chance to discuss the Juncker Plan with Pedro de Lima of the European Investment Bank, Mario Holzner (WIIW), Alexander Kritikos (DIW) and Michael Losch (Austrian Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economy). She stressed the importance of using the newly-

established European Fund for Strategic Investment as a tool to further sustainable development in Europe. [Read more ...](#)

The 2016 "Growth in Transition" Conference

The Austrian Federal Ministry of the Environment together with 20 partner organisations is holding a conference under the topic of "[How Constraints Make Us Grow – A Society in Transition](#)" from February 22nd-24th, 2016, in Vienna, Austria. It is part of the "Growth in Transition" initiative. Karl Aiginger will hold a keynote speech and there will be a WWWforEurope workshop at the conference. [Read more ...](#)

Call for Papers: FairTax Workshop

WWWforEurope researchers Danuše Nerudova (Mendel University Brno) and Margit Schratzenstaller (WIFO) are organising a workshop on "[Options for an EU Tax as an EU Own Resource](#)" within their recently started H2020 EU project "FairTax", which builds on some of their WWWforEurope research. The workshop is scheduled for September 19th, 2016, at WIFO. The deadline for the submission of the abstracts is February 29th, 2016. [Please find the call for papers 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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WWWforEurope Newsletter 1/2016

WWWforEurope Final Conference

The **deadline** for registering for the **WWWforEurope Final Conference** has been **extended until February 14th, 2016**. To register, send an email to [wwwforeurope-events\(at\)wifo.ac.at](mailto:wwwforeurope-events(at)wifo.ac.at).

Registration is mandatory for the conference, which takes place in Brussels on **February 25th, 2016**.

At the WWWforEurope Final Conference, the results of four years of research work and the resulting policy recommendations will be presented and discussed with researchers and stakeholders.

The WWWforEurope project will also be presented at a **Parliamentary Breakfast** under the patronage of Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, and hosted by Othmar Karas, Member of the European Parliament, on February 25th, 2016.

[Read more about the conference and have a look at the programme and conference speakers.](#)

Launching the WWWforEurope Synthesis Report in Vienna

The WWWforEurope final results and policy recommendations will also be presented on **March 8th, 2016, at the House of the European Union Vienna** by Karl Aiginger, project co-ordinator and director of WIFO.

The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion 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, tbc), and Jörg Wojahn (Head of Representation of the European Commission in Austria).

[Read more ...](#)

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Coming up: Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge - The Role of Research

Under this title, the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission is [organising a conference on February 4th and 5th, 2016](#), in Brussels, to explore and demonstrate how European research can support policy makers in designing effective and sustainable migration policies. WWWforEurope researcher Peter Huber (WIFO) will hold a presentation on "Labour market impacts of

WWWforEurope researcher Peter Huber (WIFO) will hold a presentation on "Labour Market Impacts of Migration and Fiscal Outcomes", based on his WWWforEurope research, and the [Science4Refugees](#) initiative will be presented.

[Read more ...](#)

The 2016 Growth in Transition Conference

Don't miss the [2016 Growth in Transition Conference](#) taking place in Vienna, February 22-24, 2016! Karl Aiginger and WWWforEurope researchers Sigrid Stagl (Vienna University of Economics and Business, WU) and Tim Jackson (University of Surrey) will hold keynote speeches.

The [WWWforEurope session](#) providing insights into the main outcomes of the project will be moderated by WWWforEurope Deputy Coordinator Margit Schratzenstaller and feature Marina Fischer-Kowalski (Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt), Thomas Leoni, Claudia Kettner (both WIFO), Johanna Vogel (Environment Agency Austria), and Christin ter Braak-Forstinger (founder of PVA Advisory).

[Read more ...](#)

Trade, Migration and Labour Market Outcomes - FIW Workshop

Organised by WIFO in cooperation within the Research Center International Economics (FIW), the FIW Workshop will take place at WIFO on February 25th, 2016, and will focus on "[Trade, Migration and Labour Market Outcomes](#)". It will feature WWWforEurope researcher Peter Huber (WIFO) presenting on "Ethnic Diversity and the Employment Prospects of Immigrants".

[Read more ...](#)

Past Events: WU Competence Day 2015

Karl Aiginger held a keynote speech based on WWWforEurope research findings at the [2015 Competence Day of the Vienna University of Business and Economics \(WU\)](#) on December 16th, 2015. In his speech, titled "Austria & Europe in the Global Economy 2050", he stressed the need for a new vision of Europe in 2050.

[Watch the keynote and download the presentation on our website.](#)

Analysing the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research

At the presentation of the [Ex-Post Evaluation Report on the EU's FP7 programme](#) at WU on January 22nd, 2016, Margit Schratzenstaller (WIFO) argued for shifting RTD expenditures towards research on grand societal challenges and stressed the requirements of interdisciplinary approaches and the representation of member states' heterogeneity. She also pointed at the WWWforEurope result - disappointing from a sustainability perspective - that only 9% of H2020 funds are designated for research on climate change.

[Read more and download the report on our website](#)

WWWforeurope Research in Scientific Journals and the Media

WWWforEurope research results have recently been published as FIW Research Centre International Economics Policy Brief No. 29: Karl Aiginger wrote on "[Deficits and Strengths in Austrian Competitiveness](#)", applying a new concept and a European perspective to the topic.

Beatrice Camaioni (INEA), Roberto Esposti, Francesco Pagliacci, and Franco Sotte (Università Politecnica delle Marche) published a paper on "[How Does Space Affect the Allocation of the EU Rural Development Policy Expenditure?](#)" in the European Review of Agricultural Economics.

WWWforEurope has also been present in the popular media lately, with articles featuring Susanne Elsen and Judith Schicklinski on Urban Gardening in a [South Tyrolian weekly magazine](#) on Urban Gardening and Karl Aiginger and David Bailey's Op-eds being published in [L'Echo](#), [La Tribune](#), and on [EurActiv.com](#).

[Click here for the most recent WWWforEurope media coverage](#)

Call for Papers: FairTax Conference

Submit your abstracts for the [FairTax Conference](#) until **February 29th!** The objective of the FairTax Conference on "Options for an EU Own Tax" is to promote the exchange of ideas among researchers working on reform options for the EU system of own resources in general and for own EU taxes to substitute national contributions by EU member states in particular. The workshop is organised by Mendel University, King's College London, and WIFO and will be held in Vienna on September 19th, 2016.

[Read more ...](#)

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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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. To unsubscribe click the "Unsubscribe" button or send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to wwwforeurope-newsletter@wifo.ac.at.



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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 Pitlik, 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.

[Read more ...](#)

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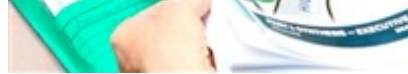
[Media coverage](#)

[Thank you for your continued interest in the WWWforEurope project!](#)



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.

[Read more ...](#)

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 (Peterson 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 Fähndrich, 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.

[Read more ...](#)

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!

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