

PROGRAM

# TRANSNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

information and registration: [www.gbw.at](http://www.gbw.at)

**12 to 14 June 2015, St. GEORGEN AM LÄNGSEE / CARINTHIA / AUSTRIA**

The world is constantly changing and the rate of change is speeding up. The continuing over-exploitation of resources is contributing to the outbreak and exacerbation of new conflicts, especially in resource-rich regions. A strategy for sustainability needs to include a more careful use of resources. Strengthening regional, circular, and repair economies as well as moving towards an energy transition are crucial steps in the direction of a sustainably society.

Sufficiency plays another crucial role in the strategy for a sustainable society and for an increase in quality of life. The concept of sufficiency centers on the idea that well-being requires a minimal amount of resources. Driving forces of such a development are social innovation, and a new culture of togetherness. The concept of sufficiency rejects the idea of constant technological development in order to maintain or even increase the level of consumption and production. Not 'higher, faster, and better' are the guiding principles, but sustainability, temperance, pausing, and enjoyment. The biking culture in Copenhagen, New York's Times Square, or the Maßreißlerei in Vienna are just a few examples of a culture in which quality of life goes beyond consumerism.

Such a vision of society, however, poses many questions: Which general framework is needed in order to make sustainable and sufficient behavior a basic attitude among policy makers, citizens and business people? Which approaches in policy making have to be developed in order to make social and cultural sustainability attractive? How do we organize sufficiency, participation, and how do we shape public administration? How do we effectively integrate expertise into the political process?

The transnational sustainability conference in St. Georgen am Längsee in Carinthian is a internationally oriented conference, aiming to tackle these questions. It provides a forum for exchange about sustainability strategies, real world examples, and discusses how new visions can be implemented. It furthermore facilitates the formation of new and strengthening of existing networks of green politicians from across Europe with citizens who are working towards a social-ecological transition. During the conference interactive methods will allow for mutual learning, fundamental reflection, and for the exchange of planned and implemented projects as well as of future visions.

Moderation: **Barbara Lesjak** and **Ruth Lerchster**

**FRIDAY, 12 JUNE, 18:00—20:30**

Translation into English

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| 16:00 | Arrival and registration   |
| 18:00 | Welcome adress: <b>Andreas Novy</b> and <b>Rolf Holub</b>  |
| 18:30 | Lecture <b>Uwe Schneidewind</b> : Perspectives for Sufficiency Policy- Implications for Local and Regional Sustainability Strategies   |
|       | comments and discussion  |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Werner Kogler</b> (Austrian Green Party),</li><li>• <b>Toni Hofreiter</b> (Geran Green Party, tbc) and</li><li>• <b>N.N.</b> (Switzerland Green Party, tba)</li></ul> |

9:00 Welcome address: **Ulrike Lunacek** (Vice President of the European Parliament)

### Input lectures and discussion

9:15 Input lecture **Peter Heintel**: “Cultural Sustainability – a Forgotten Aspect“

9:45 Input lecture **Daniel Hausknost**: „From Fossil to Post-Fossil-Democracy?“

Comments and discussion: **Claudia Stamm** (Green Party Würzburg)

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Input lecture **Štefan Merkač**: „From the Vision towards a Plan, from a Plan towards Implementation“

11:45 Input lecture **Aurélie Maréchal**: „From the Vision towards a Plan, from a Plan towards Implementation“

Comments and discussion **Vedran Horvat** (Heinrich Böll Stiftung Croatia)

13:00 Lunch break

15:00 Workshop A:  
„Role Models of Modern Reductivism – Perspectives beyond the Great Acceleration“ with **Peter Heintel** (in German)

Workshop B:  
„From Fossil to Post-Fossil-Democracy?“ with **Daniel Hausknost** (in German)

Workshop C:  
„From the Vision towards a Plan, from a Plan towards Implementation“ with **Štefan Merkač** (in German)

Workshop D:  
„Social-Ecological Production in a Post-growth Society“ with **Aurélie Maréchal**

Since growth rates are stagnating and unlikely to increase in the future, we need a new vision of society where prosperity is based on human flourishing and sufficiency rather than on never-ending material wealth. To bring about a sustainable Post-growth Society, we need to invent new ways of living, producing and consuming that are compatible with strong social and environmental criteria. On the one hand, the future of production involves the transformation of big industrial plants, on the other hand, it requires the development of systemic solutions, decentralized networks such as micro-factories, and non-monetary forms of economic activities – from urban gardening and commons to a care economy.

The lecture in the morning will look at the role of policy-making in creating enabling infrastructure for social-ecological production, and the potential tensions and challenges arising when trying to shape new modes of lifestyle. Building on the insights from the morning session, the workshop in the afternoon wants to examine how pioneer initiatives can contribute to a systemic socio-ecological transformation. The guiding question will be how to link and bundle the potential of pioneer ecological production initiatives, and what are the opportunities and obstacles for them to feed change at a systemic level.

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Presentation of workshop outcomes

21:00 Campfire

## SONNTAG, 14. JUNI, 9:30—12:30 UHR

9:30 Working group sessions: **Perspectives for Sustainable Policy** (parallel)

- Working group A: Municipal Policy (with **Sabina Schautzer**, tbc)
- Working group B: Regional Politics (with **Sepp Dürr**/Bayern)
- Working group C: State Politics (with Matthias Köchl)
- Working group D: Civil Society (tba)

12:00 Final remarks and outlook:

**Juliane Alton** and **Andreas Novy** From the Transnational Conference on Sustainable Development to the Alps Conference

