



European Economic and Social Committee



INITIATIVE  
GROWTH<sub>E</sub>  
TRANSITION

## INVITATION

# *International Stakeholder Dialogue Growth in Transition – Sustainable Economic and Social Concepts*

January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

Place of Venue:

Trèves Building, 74, Rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels, Room TRE 7701, 7<sup>th</sup> floor

**International Stakeholder Dialogue Growth in Transition – Sustainable Economic and Social Concepts  
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**ESDN – European Sustainable Development Network and Growth in Transition Austria  
Hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee / Sustainable Development Observatory  
With the financial support of the Austrian Ministry of Life**

Growth in Transition is an Initiative of



lebensministerium.at

The Austrian Ministry of Life in co-operation with SERI – Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Vienna

In 2008 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Ministry of Life) – in co-operation with SERI – Sustainable Europe Research Institute – started a process dealing with the question, which kind of growth is compatible with sustainable development. The Initiative “Growth in Transition” (“Wachstum im Wandel”) constantly tries to involve as many institutions and persons as possible in a dialogue, how we can frame a process of transition towards sustainability.

More information about the Austrian process can be found in <http://www.wachstumimwandel.at> and <http://www.growthintransition.eu> respectively.

Also two books were published by the initiative:



The process is very much alive in Austria and wants to increase international networking with institutions or initiatives dealing with the same issues. „Growth in Transition” wants to inject itself more intensely into the European discourse. In some member states there are already different initiatives, with which Austrian institutions like SERI are already linked up (e.g. denkwerk zukunft, the Deutsche Enquete-Kommission). On the level of the EU there are initiatives like “Beyond GDP” with strong content-related overlap concerning the topics at hand. EU-projects like RESPONDER or POLFREE could offer a platform to tie some of the topics worked on internationally and at the same time bring them into the European discourse.

It might also be an objective to encourage institutions in other member states to start similar processes. Maybe it is possible to establish the brand “Growth in Transition” in such cases too. Finally a network using this brand could come into being.

An input paper shall be worked out which shall elaborate the focus areas of this programme in around 30 pages and which shall be distributed in December 2013.

## Programme

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

14:00 – 14:20	Lutz Ribbe	Sustainable Development Observatory of the European Economic and Social Committee	Welcome and key note speech: “Why Do We Need a New Kind of Growth?”
14:20 – 14:40	Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler	ESDN – European Sustainable Development Network and Austrian Ministry of Life	Welcome and key note speech: “Growth in Transition – the Process in Austria”
14:40 – 15:00	Fritz Hinterberger	SERI – Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Vienna	“Growth in Transition: Results of the Science-Policy Dialogue in Austria and Further Questions”
15:00 – 15:20	Sauli Rouhinen	Ministry for the Environment, Finland	“Transition! But, where to? The Finland We Want by 2050 – Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development”
15:20 – 15:40			Plenary Discussion
15:40 – 16:00			Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:20	Josephine Green	Beyond20, UK	“A New Narrative for a New Age - From Scarcity to Abundance”
16:20 – 16:40	Louis Meuleman	European Commission, DG Environment	“Greening EU Economic and Social Governance: What Can We Do During the European Semester 2014?”
16:40 – 17:00	Filka Sekulova	ICTA - University of Barcelona, Spain	“On the Interface Between Happiness, Income and Growth in Transition”
17:00 – 17:30			Plenary Discussion

**Networking-Dinner** starting at 19:00 (to be paid individually)

**Location:** Quartier Leopold, Place Luxembourg 9, 1050 Bruxelles, [www.quartier-leopold.be](http://www.quartier-leopold.be)

## Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:30 – 9:50	Barbara Muraca	Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany	“Sustainability Beyond Growth: Paths Towards a Social Ecological Transformation”
9:50 – 10:10	Damien Demailly and Lucas Chancel	Iddri - Institute for Sustainable Develop- ment and International Relations, France	“Does prosperity have to wait for the return of economic growth?”
10:10 – 10:30			Plenary Discussion
10:30 – 11:00			Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:15			World Café (questions see below)
12:15 – 13:05			Reports of Rapporteurs
12:45 – 13:15			Plenary Discussion about results of the World Café
13:15 – 13:30	Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler and Fritz Hinterberger	ESDN and SERI	Conclusions

### Questions for the World Café tables:

1. What can processes like Growth in Transition achieve?
2. How can such processes be improved?
3. How can high-ranking decision-makers in politics, economy etc. be really involved.
4. How can networking be improved?
5. How can civil society be reached and involved more effectively?
6. Which processes, initiatives, organizations on national or international level are relevant?
7. How can all kinds of media be involved in a discussion about long-term questions in a more effective way?
8. What shall grow?
9. What shall decrease?

**Language:** English (no translations)

**Moderation:** Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler and Fritz Hinterberger

**Registration:** <http://de.amiando.com/Transition.html>.

**(SPEAKERS: please do NOT REGISTRATE!)**