About the Conference

In 2008 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management – in cooperation 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” 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 about the Austrian process: http://www.growthintransition.eu

An initiative in Finland followed the example of Austria, also using the brand Growth in Transition (http://tinyurl.com/m5ylbr5).

In January 2014 there was an international conference in Brussels “International Stakeholder Dialogue Growth in Transition – Sustainable Economic and Social Concepts” with participants from eight countries. A main objective of this event was to encourage institutions in other member states to start similar processes and possibly to establish the brand “Growth in Transition” in such cases too. Finally a network using this brand could come into being.

The City of Dubrovnik, represented by Mrs. Andrea Novakovic, Head of Dubrovnik Development Agency, participated in the conference in Brussels after which it was decided that a similar event should also take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia. While the focus of the Brussels conference was broader one, the Dubrovnik event has the goal of presenting and discussing local development initiatives which would fit in into the “Growth in Transition formula”.

Topics would tackle issues such as present and future development, challenges for cities and examples of successful local projects and networks in that field.

The conference will also encompass contributions and presentations from local level of other EU and non – EU member states, such as Austria, Germany, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and from international organizations.
PROGRAMME

09:00 - 09:30  Registration of participants

09:30 - 10:00  Welcome and opening speeches by hosts

   Mr. Željko Raguž  
   DEPUTY MAYOR OF DUBROVNIK

   Mrs. Andrea Novaković  
   HEAD OF DUBROVNIK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

10:00 - 10:30  “Growth in Transition” Initiative – European model for development showing the way in practice

   Mrs. Martina Schuster  
   AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

10:30 - 11:00  Dubrovnik and its present and future development challenges – example of the local community’s growth in transition

   Mrs. Jelena Lončarić  
   HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT OF CITY OF DUBROVNIK

11:00 - 11:30  Coffee break

11:30 - 11:50  To be defined

   N.N. ICLEI  
   LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY (TO BE CONFIRMED)

11:50 - 12:10  Bottom-up: a way of European Parliament acting and reacting on local sustainability projects

   Mrs. Dubravka Šuica  
   CROATIAN MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ENVI MEMBER

12:10 - 12:30  To be defined

   Mr. Rob Hopkins or N.N.  
   TRANSITION NETWORK (TO BE CONFIRMED)

12:30 - 13:00  Plenary Discussion

13:00 - 14:00  Networking at the buffet lunch

14:00 - 14:20  To be defined

   Mr. Luigi de Magistris  
   MAYOR OF NAPOLI (TO BE CONFIRMED)

14:20 - 14:40  Being part of the European network for more than a year – examples of what can the Ministry bring to local level

   Mr. Mihael Zmajlović  
   MINISTER, CROATIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (TO BE CONFIRMED)

14:40 - 16:10  Panel Discussion: Choosing between sustainability and business as usual – is there a room for a balance?

   MODERATOR: MR. MARK THOMAS

16:10 - 16:30  Conclusions and Outlook

   Mrs. Andrea Novaković  
   HEAD OF DUBROVNIK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

16:30 - 17:30  Get Together and Drinks

CONFERENCE  Growth in Transition in Local Communities A Key to Success

October 3rd 2014 | Dubrovnik, Croatia