Growth in Transition is an initiative inviting people from institutions, organisations and the business world to engage with issues relating to growth, prosperity and quality of life. The initiative, which was created by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, now involves more than 20 partner organisations, including ministries, provincial governments, interest groups, universities and civil society organisations. A network bringing together diverse institutions has emerged that facilitates discourse on sustainable economic growth and establishes the concept of an alternative economic approach within Austria. In a wider context, the initiative is connected with similar networks at European level.

“I am feeling very encouraged and impressed by this initiative.”
Helena Norberg-Hodge, Alternative Nobel Prize winner

Growth in Transition is making waves

an inter-institutional network
shaping change from within
Our structures and our ways of thinking and acting, which are adapted to quantitative growth, are now being put to the test. Finite resources cannot allow for infinite economic growth. A sustainable economic system is one that conserves resources and is environmentally and socially viable. Growth is not the goal, but rather a possible consequence of sustainable strategies.

The time for exploring alternative economic pathways is now. What form of prosperity do we want? And how do we wish to conduct economic activity, to live and to work in the future? In this context, Growth in Transition is carrying out pioneering work, developing concrete visions and projects together that show how things could be done differently.

The initiative aims to encourage people to exploit existing opportunities to shape and make possible a way of life and economy that are sustainable. It opens the way for active involvement on many different levels.

“We have to challenge the pressures for growth.”
Frank Hensel, CEO, REWE AG

Growth in Transition is visionary

where cracks emerge, so too does innovation
We are shaping a process capable of illuminating a complex issue from many sides and opening spaces in which diverse opinions and positions may engage with one another through intelligent and informed debate.

The spectrum of activities undertaken ranges from large-scale international conferences and expert meetings, through fundamental preparatory work (argumentation, future dossiers, publications) and stakeholder dialogues (policy papers) to small-scale, informal discussions.

Working with innovative methods and formats facilitates new forms of cooperation and a lively culture of interaction. The insights from and results of our work are presented to an interested public in an accessible way.

“What is needed is not a new form of economy but a new way of life.”
Conference participant

Growth in Transition is experimental
All the latest news about the initiative is available in our newsletter (in German).
Subscribe here: www.growthintransition.eu
We thank you for your interest and welcome your contribution to the debate.

Initiative Partners:

Federal Chancellery
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
Federal Ministry of Finance
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria
Office of the Provincial Government of Styria
Office of the Provincial Government of Vorarlberg
City of Vienna – Municipal Department of Environmental Protection
B.A.U.M. – Austrian Network for Sustainable Leadership
Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics
Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

EU – European Environmental Bureau
Oesterreichische Nationalbank
Ecosocial Forum Austria
REWE International AG
schülerInnen.gestalten.wandel
SERI – Sustainable Europe Research Institute
SOL – People for Solidarity, Ecology and Lifestyle
Environment Agency Austria
UniCredit Bank Austria AG
Austrian Federal Economic Chamber
Vienna University of Economics and Business

Growth in Transition creates connections
In economy and society, what should grow and what should come to an end? What strengthens our resilience? Which structures and institutions do we need to make the transition? These are just some of the questions addressed by Growth in Transition. Our themes include: Crisis phenomena and the limits to natural resources, the monetary and financial system, growth and labour, equitable distribution, the energy system, and measuring the quality of life.

Together we explore the opportunities for another form of economic growth and examine alternative social and economic models, with the aim of shaping the transition to a sustainable economy.

“Growth in Transition is a unique initiative worldwide, which should be copied by others.”
Peter Senge, Management consultant, MIT Boston

Growth in Transition is inspirational