



Conference “Growth in Transition”: Re-thinking economy, prosperity and quality of life

Vienna, 22 February 2016: Different aspects of economic and social change and its constraints are the focus of the international conference Growth in Transition 2016. The conference, which is held at Europe’s largest university of economics, the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), has the motto “**How constraints make us grow. Society in transition**”. From 22 to 24 February 2016, over 500 participants will meet renowned experts from the spheres of politics, science and economy from over 10 countries in some 30 seminars, workshops and round-table discussions. The conference is considered the country’s most important discussion concerning the future of our economic system and one of the largest international events on the topic. The initiative “Growth in Transition” is organised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and supported by the Vienna University of Economics and Business and 25 other partner organisations.

Andrä Rupprechter, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: “Sustainable growth is the only growth that makes sense. I am particularly concerned with the balance between economic, ecological and social sustainability. It strengthens our country, making it an attractive place for living, business and leisure, and safeguards our prosperity. Constructive discussions between politics, science, economy and civil society like at the Growth in Transition conference are a driving force for necessary transformation, also with a view to the global and national climate protection goals.”

Renowned speakers, panels and breakout sessions

The programme of the third Growth in Transition conference is a diverse mix of panel discussions, seminars, workshops and evening events that seeks to enable open, controversial and constructive discussions. Renowned experts such as **Hans Bruyninckx**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, **Gerald Hüther**, one of Germany’s best-known neuroscientists and Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Göttingen, **Tim Jackson**, Professor for Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey, **Janez Potočnik**, Co-chair of the UNEP International Resource Panel and former EU Commissioner for the Environment, **Shalini Randeria**, Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences, **Sigrid**



Stagl, Professor for Ecological Economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, and many more will share their views on topics such as growth, prosperity, quality of living, distribution and transformation research.

Evening events on climate policy and migration

The first evening event on 22 February 2016 will focus on the new global climate protection agreement concluded at COP21 in Paris. The Paris Agreement was adopted with the long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and the aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C. Panellists such as the Swiss agricultural and development specialist and recipient of the “alternative Nobel Prize” Right Livelihood Award and the World Food Prize **Hans Herren**, **Helmut Hojesky**, Head of Department Climate and Air Quality at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, UN climate reporter **Mira Kapfinger** and **Helga Kromp-Kolb**, Head of the Center for Global Change and Sustainability, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna will discuss whether this agreement can accelerate the necessary transformation of the economic system and what consequences it will have for Austria and Europe.

The evening event on the second day of the conference, 23 February 2016, will focus on the challenges and opportunities of the current migration movements. The speakers are **Gudrun Biffli**, Head of the Department Migration and Globalisation at the Danube University Krems, **Johannes Kopf**, Chair of the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS), **María do Mar Castro Varela** from the Alice Solomon Hochschule Berlin, **Klaus Schwertner**, CEO of Caritas Vienna, and **Norbert Zimmermann**, Chair of the Supervisory Board of Berndorf AG.

Detailed information about the programme

<http://www.wachstumimwandel.at/konferenz2016/programm/>

About Growth in Transition

The Growth in Transition initiative brings together transformation activists and decision makers from politics, science, economy and civil society and promotes dialogue and exchange on growth, prosperity and quality of life. It provides an international platform for addressing questions of growth and an alternative, sustainable economy. The initiative is organised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water



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Contact information and questions Daniela Schildhammer

klar. Strategie- und Kommunikationsberatung

presse@wachstumimwandel.at

Ph.: +43 664 522 69 25

Partner der Initiative

