



## **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference | Growth in Transition 2016**

**22 - 24 February 2016, Vienna University of Economics and Business**

- **500 decision makers from the realms of politics, science and economy expected**
- **Panel discussions, seminars, workshops, evening events and an exhibition**
- **Initiative Fair: Living library and stories of change – people, projects and enterprises that have brought about change**

**Vienna, February 2016:** From 22 to 24 February 2016, 500 decision makers from the spheres of politics, science, economy and civil society will meet at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Europe's largest university of economics, to discuss the many different aspects of economic and social change and its constraints at the international conference Growth in Transition. This third edition of the conference has the motto "How constraints make us grow. Society in transition". The conference programme is a diverse mix of panel discussions, seminars, workshops and evening events that seeks to enable open, controversial and constructive discussions. The initiative 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.

### **Conference programme Growth in Transition 2016: How constraints make us grow. Society in transition.**

The workshops, panels and breakout sessions will address the following main questions: What prevents us from making changes to our lifestyles and economic activities and especially from placing them on a sustainable footing? Why is no change of direction taking place?

The discussions focus on the constraints that keep us from acting in a responsible and sustainable manner. These can be ethical, cultural, political, mental or social constraints, but the conference also addresses the internal constraints to our way of thinking that may prevent us from adopting new patterns of behaviour.



## **Numerous internationally renowned experts from over 10 countries**

Experts such as **Tim Jackson**, Professor for Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey and author of the controversial bestseller “Prosperity without Growth – economics for a finite planet”, **Gerald Hüther**, one of Germany’s best-known neuroscientists and Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Göttingen, **Sigrid Stagl**, Professor for Ecological Economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, **Hans Bruyninckx**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, **Karl Aiginger** from the Austrian Institute of Economic Research and many more will share their views on the three key subject areas of the conference: constraints, transformation and development.

## **Sustainable economy and migration**

Two evening events on 22 and 23 February will also address current hot topics. The Swiss agricultural and development specialist and recipient of the “alternative Nobel Prize” Right Livelihood Award and the World Food Prize **Hans Herren** will participate in a discussion on “Paris 2015 – The decision for transformation”. At the panel discussion on 23 February, **Klaus Schwertner**, CEO of Caritas Vienna, **Johannes Kopf**, Chair of the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS), **Norbert Zimmermann**, Chair of the Supervisory Board of Berndorf AG, **María do Mar Castro Varela** from the Alice Solomon Hochschule Berlin and **Gudrun Biffi**, Head of the Department Migration and Globalisation at the Danube University Krems, will talk about migration.

## **Initiative fair: Trailblazers of change**

The initiative fair on the second day of the conference offers the “Living Library” and “Stories of Change” events, which allow participants to meet founders of transformative initiatives and businesses, to support them and to hear their stories of how they brought about change.

## **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.



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## Detailed information about the programme

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

## Press registration

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

## Contact information and questions

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