“Growth in transition”
An Austrian initiative towards a qualitative paradigm of growth
ESDN Workshop Madrid, March 2010

Elisabeth Freytag
Lebensministerium
Start of the initiative “Growth in Transition” in 2008

Designed as “Stakeholder-Dialogue” with core question: What kind of growth?

Since then: 5 Workshops in Vienna and Brussels and international Conference in Vienna (January 2010)

Now: 15 partner institutions
Partners

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (initiative)
Austrian Federal Chancellery
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
Federal Ministry of Finance
Federal Ministry of Science and Research
Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth
City of Vienna
The province of Lower Austria
UnicreditGroup - Bank Austria
B.A.U.M Group
Federation of Austrian Industries
Oesterreichische Nationalbank
The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber
Ecosocial Forum
Club of Rome – European Support Center

SERI, Karuna Consult, Tatwort
- Book and “Future dossier”

- Contribution to ongoing discussions at EU level: “EUROPE2020” and EU Sustainable Development Strategy etc.
International Conference: about 550 participants from 15 countries

Good mélange of scientific community, administration, civil society and business community

High recognition and positive feed-back that initiative is carried out by several ministries
Topics of the Conference

1. Money and the Financial System
2. Growth and Resource Use
3. Social Justice and Poverty
4. Sustainable Production and Consumption
5. Regional Aspects

Geld und Finanzsystem
Wachstum und Ressourcen-Verbrauch
Soziale Gerechtigkeit und Armut
Nachhaltige Produktion und Konsum
Regionale Aspekte
## Topics of the Conference

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The questions “What kind of growth?” and “Beyond GDP” are presentable issues in the debate now.

We have to follow the “Beyond GDP”-debate and outcomes very closely.

We have to keep it on the political agenda and operationalise the issue: What do we mean by “qualitative growth”? → e.g. A high quality of life for all, today and tomorrow.
And: What to do, when the time of growth, as the “great narrative” is over? We need a positive post-growth vision!

The initiative “growth in transition” will be continued (follow-up activities like events, book, studies…)

Link to Europe-2020-strategy: new target on resource use; concretion of “flagship initiative” on resource efficiency; EU SDS!!
Be part of the growth-in-transition dialogue!

Conference documentation:
www.growthintransition.eu
www.wachstumimwandel.at