

Fourth International Conference on Degrowth for
Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity

Call for Participation

2nd-6th September 2014, Leipzig

*Bridging movements and research for the
great transformation*

Degrowth. Décroissance. Decrescita. Postwachstum. – All these words stand for a movement which is not new but of increasing importance: the search for a societal vision beyond a growth paradigm that leads from crisis to crisis. From September 2 to 6, 2014, the 4th International Conference on Degrowth will take place in Leipzig, creating a place to intensify this search and to try out existing alternatives. It aims to build bridges between scientific theory, political movement, practical implementation and artistic reflection by bringing together these different perspectives. We hope for fruitful synergies and an impulse for developing joint visions.

The conference is organized by a group of individuals working together in a grass-roots democracy. Official organizers are Research & Degrowth (founders of the degrowth conferences), University of Leipzig, DFG-Research Group Postwachstumsgesellschaften (a research group of the University of Jena), Netzwerk Wachstumswende (a German network on degrowth) and Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie (a Leipzig-based think-tank for a social and ecological economy).

Thematic Threads of Discussion

We invite all interested organizations, initiatives and individuals to contribute to the conference with their own event. Possible formats could be seminars, workshops (both practical and theoretical), Open Space, World Café, excursions, cultural actions and so on. They should all address the question of what a society and economy beyond the logic of growth and its enforcement could look like. Conference languages are German and English. Let us know if you would like your event to be in another language. The conference will address the following three thematic threads:

1. Organizing society

In order to create equal access for all to education, health and mobility and to protect our natural environment, we need new forms of societal organization and participation. Many different ideas already exist: regional energy autonomy, democratic schools, free public transport, unconditional basic income and liquid democracy. We want to discuss how public services can face up to the transformation towards an economy without growth and how they can create new ideas. What alternatives already exist? How can these institutions, social movements and autonomous initiatives be driving forces towards this transformation and how can they change politics?

Narrative of the conference

The conference unfolds in three steps which offer a framework for each day:

Wednesday 03.09.2014: Facing the current crisis: critique & resistance.

Thursday 04.09.2014: Building alliances

Friday 05.09.2014: Visions and strategies for transformation.



2. Building a social and ecological economy

A social and ecological economy consolidates cooperation instead of competition. Such an economy respects the physical limits of our planet and fosters social conditions in which nature is not simply an instrument for human production. In the case of energy, housing, mobility or food, there are already many (communal) projects and initiatives which promote alternative forms of production, distribution and consumption on a local level. How can we support the development and expansion of these pioneering projects? Which influence do national and international politics have on this process?

3. Living conviviality

Here we want to take a look at alternative models of society. Well-being, solidarity and living together peacefully play an important role in the concept of buen vivir (Ecuador, Bolivia) and the ubuntu-philosophy (South Africa), for example. In them, the bond with nature and a respectful use of natural resources are essential. In this context, we ask: Which new ways of living do we want and need? How can a cultural transformation be encouraged and which conflicts will we have to face?

*For further information concerning the topics go to:
leipzig.degrowth.org/en/threads*

Submission procedure and deadlines

We look forward to receiving your propositions and ideas. You are welcome to submit a brief description (max. 300 words) via an online form on our website by January 31, 2014, whereby it is important for us to know the content, purpose and format of your event. The review process will be concluded by April 15, 2014. We will then give you all the latest information.

Further ways of participation

During the three days of the conference there will also be a group assembly process (GAP). The GAP aims for an intense exchange between science, practice, arts and activism. If you want to participate in this process, please submit a stirring paper (max. 2000 words) by January 31, 2014 or sign up for one of the working groups in the online registration which will open in April 2014. You can get more information on the GAP at leipzig.degrowth.org/en/gap

There is also a Call for Papers which invites to participate in scientific discussions about degrowth:

leipzig.degrowth.org/en/call-for-papers

If you have any questions, requests or suggestions please contact us via callforparticipation@degrowth.de

Organizers:

konzeptwerk
neue ökonomie

 **Kolleg** | Postwachstums-
gesellschaften
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena


**Research
& Degrowth**

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