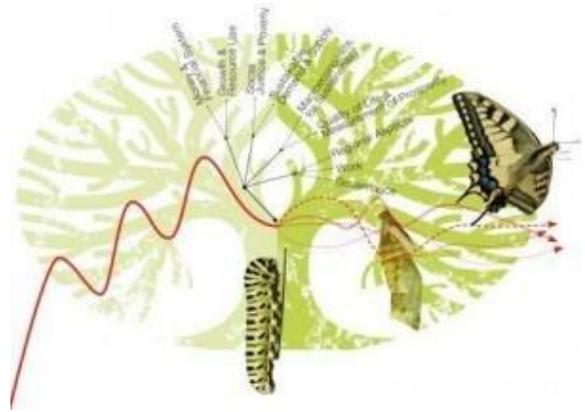


**SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP – SCIBARCAMP**  
**WISSENSCHAFTLICHER WORKSHOP**



## **SciBarCamp „Growth in Transition“**

**in the framework of the conference „Growth in Transition“**

**Date: 27th January 2010, 10.30-17.30**

**Location: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Stubenbastei 5, 1010 Wien**

**Organisation: Elke Pirgmaier (SERI)**

**Moderation: Hannes Offenbacher (Mehrblick)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Scientific Workshop aimed at debating the scientific underpinnings of both optimistic and more pessimistic views about the compatibility of economic growth and sustainable development (e.g. the feasibility of a massive reduction of resource use, together with ongoing economic growth).

### **WORKSHOP FORMAT**

The Scientific Workshop was organized as a „SciBarCamp“. BarCamps are open, participatory „un-conferences“, whose procedure and contents are set by the participants. That means, there is no agenda in advance, but no doubt some rules.



SciBarCamps are BarCamps with a scientific focus. The programme is coordinated by the participants themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Active participation is a precondition – not everyone holds a presentation or leads a discussion, but everyone is asked to discuss, choose the sessions he or she attends, ask

questions, etc.

The BarCamp format was developed in the USA, where it was tried out for the first time in 2005. It is similar to the “open space” format, used since 1985 but is organised more laxly.

The decision to organise a SciBarCamp was in some way an experiment, because there were not many experiences to rely on and it was not sure, if the participants would get into the very open format and create numerous sessions on their own. The BarCamp format was chosen anyhow in order to provide a lot of free space for the participants to discuss.

## PROCEDURE

160 persons registered for the SciBarCamp. The actual number of participants was around 50 to 60 persons.

The workshop began with a casual come-together at the “coffee house”. Bar tables, music and drinks provided a comfortable atmosphere, in which the participants could get to know each other and begin to discuss first topics.



In the following round of introductions, moderated by Hannes Offenbacher, the organisation of the workshop was explained and every participant introduced himself with his name, origin and three key words about his personal interests.

Afterwards, the participants created the agenda of the workshop together. Everyone was invited, to fill in one of the gaps on the pinboard, where the

rooms and time frames formed a grid. Many followed the invitation and the grid filled up fast with topics. Because of the brisk participation, even an additional room was used.

In addition to the discussion about the topics for the sessions, the participants had had the opportunity to propose topics in advance online.

After the programme had been created, the sessions began in the different rooms. There were no breaks (except the lunch break), because everyone was free to move around, leave any session at any time and come back to the coffee house.



The design of the sessions was completely free and varied a lot, from loose discussion rounds to elaborated power point presentations with a question period afterwards.

There were five time frames of 45 minutes, in which three to five sessions took place at the same time.

The following 19 topics were dealt with in the sessions:

- Sustainable Consumption and Degrowth (Sylvia Lorek, SERI Germany)
- Economic Policy Sustainability – Systemic Approach
- How to achieve a Steady State Economy? (Daniel O’Neill, Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy)
- Getting Europe to reduce its Resource Use (Stefan Giljum (SERI) and Michael Warhurst (Friends of the Earth Europe))
- Sustainable Process evaluation (Clemens Mader, RCE Graz)
- Oil Depletion – Saudi Arabia and the physical Depreciation of Oil Basins (Veronica Cinti, University of Vienna)
- Everyday Life 2025 – terrible or just fine? (Christer Sanne, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden)
- Personal Carbon Trading (Annika Varnäs, Stockholm Environment Institute)
- Future Justice – Using International Law for Systemic Change (Maja Goepel, World Future Council)
- Degrowth – Theory and Praxis (Christoph Gran, University of Heidelberg)
- Environmental Justice and Ecological Debt (Leida Rijnhout, ANPED – Northern Alliance for Sustainability)
- Values, Needs and Strategies (Ines Omann (SERI), Johannes Frühmann (SERI) and Harald Hutterer (Karuna Consult))
- Systems Thinking and Growth Change?
- Rethinking Economic Growth – Toward an International Degrowth Network (Hali Healy, University of Barcelona, ICTA)
- Social Capital as Common Denominator
- Monism and Holism in the Agriculture
- Family Chamber (Sabine Goldmann)
- Spiral Dynamics Integral
- Livelihood Studies, Quality of Life (Hermine Stelzhammer, Macquarie University, Australia )

With one exception, the sessions were held in English.

The coffee house was not only a recreation room during the session time, but also the networking area. Here, all the participants met at the beginning of the workshop for the round of introduction, came together again for lunch and finally finished the workshop together after the last sessions.

Some also followed the suggestion to participate at the poster session. The posters were first used in the sessions and later on displayed in the coffee house – and at the conference the next day, so that other participants could also get informed about for example peak oil, “Keynes’ grandchildren” or quality of life in South Africa.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Scientific Workshop successfully brought together scientists from all over the world and offered them a platform to discuss the conference topic „Growth in Transition“ for one day at a scientific level and to look at it from different angles.

### **NOTE OF THANKS**

**The organisers express their gratitude to the City of Vienna for the financial support and to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management for providing of the rooms.**