

Celebrating 15 Years of Growth in Transition!

Together, we will shape the future sustainably!

December 5th, 2023, 3:30 – 8:00pm | House of the EU, 1010 Vienna

Everyone talks about what isn't going well
We've been talking about the good life for 15 years now.

Since October 2023, the initiative Growth in Transition has become the association **Growth in Transition Austria**. We know that we have far fewer resources available per capita than what we are presently using - coming at the expense of nature and one another. This is why we, Growth in Transition, will continue our efforts to shape the transformation from our growth-based economy towards a system that can be sustained

The Austrian Government launched the Circular Economy Strategy in December 2022. Its goal is to **transform the Austrian economy as well as its society into a sustainable and climate-neutral Circular Economy by 2050**. This corresponds with the **EU action plan for Circular Economy, launched in 2015**. Reduce, Rethink, Repair, Recycle, Reuse are some of the key strategies on this path.

With our current consumption of resources, **we are overtaxing not only nature, but also ourselves**. Over time, this has made many people less than happy. Moreover, the global distribution of goods is highly unequal, which has led to tensions, crises, and forced migration worldwide

Combatting the situation as is requires new approaches and concrete steps forward In addition to the Circular Economy, other major topics must be addressed by our discourse and our action within society. According to the Club of Rome report "Earth4All," poverty and inequality are two of the needed "turnarounds" to solve our many global crises.

This means that **redistribution as well as alternative welfare concepts and economic transformation must also be acted upon**, in order to achieve a sustainable future.

But anyway, what about the economy? Don't we need the "throwaway economy" to create jobs? **No, we do not need it** - this has been shown repeatedly in relevant studies This concern, however, speaks to a broader epistemological problem- too little thought- and care- has been given to the way that each one of us can live, work, and manage well, while using fewer resources.

Hence, we need to rethink economic systems, as well as our attachment to growth and consumerism, in order to **find an alternative, collective path into a safe and biodiverse society**.

This is the mission of the association Growth in Transition. We bring together people, institutions, companies, and politics, **developing** our concepts from this multistakeholder, interdisciplinary knowledge and experience. **Together, we can paint the socioeconomic future in bright colors, whilst safekeeping a biodiverse planet.**

We are happy to invite you to our celebratory launch of the Growth in Transition Austria Association on December 5th at the "Haus der EU". Join us to hear about our program for 2024 as well as contributing your input for the shaping of a sustainable future for Austria.

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Program

German and English / Hybrid with an Online Stream

- 3:30 – 4:00 pm Welcome & coffee
- 4:00 – 4:10 pm Opening: *Tim Kaiser* (European Commission Representation in Austria) and *Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler* (BMK)
- 4:10 – 4:20 pm Outlook: *Sophia Kratz* (Umweltdachverband and Association for Growth in Transition Austria)
- 4:20 – 4:50 pm Janez Potočnik (virtually from Brussels):
Keynote: From “greening” the present system to real transformation
- 4:50 – 5:00 pm
5:00 – 6:00 pm Panel discussion:
Which players and concepts do we need for an earth-friendly economy for everyone? (mainly in German language)
- Moderation:
Friedrich Hinterberger
(Austrian Chapter of the Club of Rome and Association Growth in Growth in Austria)
- Speakers:
Anna Leitner (Global 2000)
Michaela Neumann (AK Wien)
Reinhard Hubmann (Siemens)
Branimir Jovanovic (WIW)
Katy Shields (Doughnut Austria)
- Wrap up:
Hannah Desaler
(respACT and Association Growth in Transition Austria)
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm Finish with refreshments

Address of House of the EU: Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna

Please register at: www.wiwoe.at | Contact: office@wiwoe.at