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Growth in Transition Results of the Science-Policy Dialogue in Austria and further Questions

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Goals and vision of the policy paper series

- Long-term vision is an economy that is orientated on public welfare instead of economic growth
- More detailed work with the 10 topics of the 1st conference
- Discussion about a stabilization of the economic system
- Booklet for partners and interested people





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Creation-process of the policy paper series

- 1st stakeholder workshop
discussion of the input-paper and finding of core questions and initiatives
- draft policy paper for the 2nd workshop
- 2nd stakeholder workshop
discussion of the initiatives, last comments about the core questions
- Finalization of the paper
- Public presentation of the paper and integration of the society into the process “growth in transition”




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Diversity of the policy

 <p>Die Wechselwirkungen zwischen Wachstum im Wandel und den gesellschaftlich relevanten Themen Lebensqualität, Staatsangelegen, Beschäftigung, mikro- und makroökonomische Resilienz, Landwirtschaft und Sustainable Leadership</p>	 <p>Durch Wachstum und Konsum im Wandel zu mehr Lebensqualität</p>	 <p>Resilienz in einer weniger, nicht oder anders wachsenden globalen und österreichischen Wirtschaft</p>	 <p>Wachstum und Resilienz auf Unternehmensebene</p>
 <p>Welche Systemen hat staatliche Ausgabenpolitik unter den Bedingungen unsicherer Wachstumsprognosen und wie kann sie zu mehr Nachhaltigkeit in Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft beitragen?</p>	 <p>Welche Systemen hat Beschäftigungspolitik unter den Bedingungen unsicherer Wachstumsprognosen und wie kann sie zu mehr Nachhaltigkeit in Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft beitragen?</p>	 <p>Sustainable Leadership: Welche Beiträge kann die Wirtschaft für ein nachhaltiges Wachstum einbringen?</p>	<p>Die Policy Papers zu den Themen Geld, Landwirtschaft & Ökosystem-Leistungen und Energie befinden sich noch i Prozess.</p>



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We want to thank our clients/sponsors!

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BertelsmannStiftung
Menschen bewegen. Zukunft gestalten.


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Topics of the policy papers

- Quality of life (REWE & Bertelsmann Stiftung)
- Spending policy (Lebensministerium)
- Labor (Lebensministerium)
- Agriculture and ecosystem-services (Bio Austria, Landwirtschaftskammer, Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Hofer)
- Macroeconomic resilience (Oesterreichische Nationalbank)
- Microeconomic resilience (Wissenschaftsministerium & Wirtschaftskammer Österreich)
- Sustainable leadership (B.A.U.M)
- Energy (Verbund & Raiffeisen Klimaschutzinitiative)
- Money & finance (Bank Austria)

The policy papers do not necessarily represent the views of the clients!






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Core questions

- How does economic growth affect ... ?
- How is economic growth affected by ... ?
- What could contribute to a new model of prosperity?
- What do we learn from it?




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How does economic growth affect...

Quality of life:

- **Above a certain level of income economic growth does not contribute to more quality of life**
- Less economic growth does not lead to a lower quality of life

Public expenditure:

- Direct impact
- Indirect impact





How does economic growth affect...

Labor:

- **Little empiric evidence that economic growth leads to higher employment rates**

Agriculture & ecosystem-services

- Lower economic growth rates lead to a reduction of agricultural subsidies
- Two possible developments:
higher demand for cheap food
or
higher demand for an intensified food quality




How does economic growth affect...

Macroeconomic resilience:

- **Due to absolute planetary boundaries is economic growth limiting macroeconomic resilience**

Resilience of companies

- Crises influences the resilience of companies in a negative way
- Need for long-term strategies in order to extend the resilience of companies






How does economic growth affect...

Sustainable leadership:

- The limits of growth are already here and exceeded
- **Economic growth without boundaries leads to more damage than benefits**


How is economic growth affected by...


Quality of life:

- Immaterialism could lead to a higher quality of life
- **Less consumption could reduce economic growth**

Public expenditure:

- **No scientifically proven correlation between high public spending and long-term economic growth**
- Stimulating expenditures
- non-stimulating expenditures






How is economic growth affected by...

Labor:

- **Contributes to economic growth but its influence is not always clear**

Agriculture & ecosystem-services:

- High economic dependence on soils as a source of e.g. food, water, etc.
- **Ecosystem-services contribute positively to prosperity and quality of life**




How is economic growth affected by...

Macroeconomic resilience:

- **Trade-off between resilience and efficiency**


Resilience of companies:

- Wide range of capitals is associated to high resilience

Sustainable leadership:

- Focus on increasing prosperity and quality of life






What could contribute to a new model of prosperity?

Quality of life:

- Shared responsibility
- New political conditions
- Companies
- Research
- Consumers
- **Communication**

Public expenditure (I):

- Influential factors towards a sustainable spending practice




What could contribute to a new model of prosperity?


Public expenditure (II):

- **Suggestions: structural reforms, a small and dynamic public management, transparency, etc.**

Labor:

- Debate about the core question economic growth vs. higher quality of life and prosperity
- **Tax reform towards less labor taxes**
- Suggestions: eco-social tax-reform, information about sustainable life-styles , investment in education, research, etc., minimum wages, etc.





What could contribute to a new model of prosperity?

Agriculture & ecosystem-services:


- Suggestions: efficient use of CAP-subsidies (common agricultural policy), analyses about a changing subsidy-policy, reduced surface-consumption, eco-social tax-reform, subsidies for sustainable regions, etc.

Macroeconomic resilience:

- **Crisis precaution**

Resilience of companies:

- Knowledge – acquisition and utilization





What could contribute to a new model of prosperity?

Sustainable leadership:

- **Necessary change in politics and economy**
- Approaches: sustainable activities, increasing efficiency and quality, awareness raising towards responsibilities, innovations for green products and green jobs






What do we learn from it?

Quality of life:

- Less income is not equal to less quality of life
- Mutual support for each other
- **Enhanced focus towards distribution of welfare**

Public expenditures:

- **Need for action is a chance for more sustainability**




What do we learn from it?

Labor:

- Actions towards increasing prosperity and quality of life
- Dialogue with decision-makers

Agriculture and ecosystem-services:

- **Actions in sectors such as regional development**
- Awareness raising in the society





What do we learn from it?

Macroeconomic resilience:

- Economies facing a huge challenge in terms of macroeconomic resilience
- **Economies of the future are going to grow less, different or not at all**

Resilience of companies:

- Consideration of different types of capital is a chance towards a higher resilience




What do we learn from it?

Sustainable leadership:

- **Priority for political decision makers to reach sustainable development goals**





What do we learn in general from it?

- **New model of prosperity without economic growth**
- **General recommendations for action need to be concretized**
- **Need for dialogue**
- **Need for further research**
- **Reflection of the process**



Thank you very much!

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