



A congress hosted by  **attac**

in cooperation with the **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Heinrich-Böll Stiftung, Otto-Brenner-Stiftung and Rosa-Luxembourg-Stiftung**

supported by AbL - Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft, Aktionsbündnis Gerechter Welthandel, Gemeingut in BürgerInnenhand, DGB-Jugend, DNR - Deutsche Naturschutzring e.V., Eine-Welt-Landesnetzwerk Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Fairbindung e.V., Focus on the Global South, gegenstrom Berlin, Grüne Jugend, ila - Informationsstelle Lateinamerika, Initiative Ökosozialismus, INKOTA-netzwerk e.V., isw – Institut für sozial-ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung e.V., KAB (Katholische ArbeitnehmerBewegung), KASA - Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle südliches Afrika, Labournet Linksjugend [solid], Naturfreunde, Netzwerk Grundeinkommen, Netzwerk Vorsorgendes Wirtschaften, Paecon - Arbeitskreis Postautistische Ökonomie e.V., Pax Christi, Pestel-Institut, Powershift (Verein für eine ökologisch-solidarische Energie- & Weltwirtschaft), Reformierter Bund, Robin Wood, SERI Nachhaltigkeitsforschungs und –kommunikations GmbH, SOAG e.V. - Förderverein Solidarität in Arbeit und Gesellschaft, SINet - Social Innovation Network, SODI - Solidaritätsdienst International e.V., Transition Town Initiative Friedrichshain/Kreuzberg, Vereinigung deutsch-ausländische Solidarität e.V., VÖÖ - Vereinigung für Ökologische Ökonomie e.V., WEED - Welwirtschaft, Ökologie & Entwicklung

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1. Structure of the congress

The congress is divided into two sequential parts. *Part I: Analysis and Critique* discusses and analyses the functioning and the problems of the current economic model and economic growth in general. Building on this basis, in *Part II: Alternatives and Strategies* will be concerned with discussing and developing alternatives to the current growth model and concepts for a post-growth society. Both parts will be structured into three parallel thematic threads (T1 to T6). In each of these two parts of the congress there will be three blocks of time in which events will be held: two 1.5 hour blocks for workshops, forums and introductory courses (approx. 15 to 20 per block), as well as a time block that spans the thematic threads for larger podiums that bridge the themes (approx. 5-6 per time block). In each time block there will also be artistic interventions, which treat the themes in a different manner. For each of the respective events there will be a structured guide detailing the type of event, the form of the input, etc.

2. Type of events

- Podiums:** Size: 150-200 participants
Form: Podium discussion
Number: There are a total of 10 podiums
- Forums:** Size: 50-200 participants,
Form: Podium discussion, world café, fish-bowl
Number: 2 forums per thematic thread
- Workshops:** Size: 30-50 participants,
Form: Individual themes in depth, short inputs possible (max. 15 min.),
discussion and interaction emphasized
Number: approx. 6-8 per thematic thread
- Introductory courses:** Size: 30-200 participants
Form: as a rule lecture with questions, introductory event which provides a neutral overview of the existing discussion (for example "What is the GNP?")
Number: 6-12 (1-2 per thematic thread)
- Artistic intervention:**
Size: 30-200 participants, possibly more with the public joining in
Form: Performance, theatre, installation, exhibition, happening, guided tours, theatre-pedagogic project...
Number: 1-2 per thematic thread (selection through the workgroup "artistic intervention")

3. Sequence of events - overview

4 overview courses			Friday 4:00 - 6:00 pm	
Keynote speeches and opening podium			6:00 - 9:30 pm	
Part I: Analysis and Critique	T 1 Driving forces behind growth Workshops, forums and introductory courses	T 2 Limits of Growth Workshops, forums and introductory courses	T 3 Crisis of the labour- society Workshops, forums and introductory courses	Saturday 9.30 – 11.00 am
	T 1 Driving forces behind growth Workshops, forums and introductory courses	T 2 Limits of Growth Workshops, forums and introductory courses	T 3 Crisis of the labour- society Workshops, forums and introductory courses	11:30 am - 1:00 pm
	Midday break			1:00 - 2:30 pm
	5 Podiums of analysis and critique			2:30 - 4:00 pm
Part II Alternativ es Visions Strategies	T 4 Economics beyond Growth Workshops, forums and introductory courses	T 5 Justice in the globalized world Workshops, forums and introductory courses	T 6 Work, participation and the good life Workshops, forums and introductory courses	4:30 - 6:00 pm
	5 Podiums on the alternatives			6:30 - 8:00 pm
	Reception for participating speakers, network meeting Concert, dancing, open-air party			8.00 pm – open end
	T 4 Economics beyond Growth Workshops, forums, network meeting	T 5 Justice in the globalized world Workshops, forums, network meeting	T 6 Work, participation and the good life Workshops, forums, network meeting	Sunday 9.30 – 11.00 am
Concluding podium + action			11:30 am - 2:00 pm	

4. Opening and concluding events

Course of the opening event on Friday, May 20th.

Opening the field, introduction to the theme

6:00-6:30 pm Greeting by Attac

6:30 - 7:00 pm Opening speech Vandana Shiva, India

7:00 - 7:30 pm Opening speech 2 Alberto Acosta, Ecuador

7.30-8.00 pm Break

8.00-9.30 pm Podium discussion Beyond Growth?!

Podium: Inge Kaul (Political scientist, Hertie School of Governance), Sabine Reiner (Trade union secretary for economic policy, Verdi), Andreas Exner (Ecologist, Social Innovation Network), Niko Paech (Economist, Uni Oldenburg, Advisory Board, Attac Germany)

Course of the concluding event on Sunday, May 22.

Podium discussion about strategies with the various currents and perspectives which have prepared and participated in the congress. Present perspectives!

11:30 - 12:00 space for reflection together

12:15 - 1:30 pm Concluding podium discussion

1:30 - 2:00 joint concluding action

5. Programme Part I: Analysis and Critique

Podiums of analysis and critique

Current status: Participating speakers who have not yet been confirmed are in brackets.

P1: Growth, exploitation and global justice

The current growth-based model is unbalanced. For example, it is a matter of dispute whether global growth has reduced poverty or increased it. It is also a matter of debate, whether the exploitation of raw materials and increasing wars, destruction of biodiversity, displacement of indigenous people, land grabbing and intensified migration - as well as extreme poverty in industrial countries - are *necessary* side effects of the requirement for growth, or the expression of a misguided political direction? Where are the boundaries of the political shaping of growth - and: is growth really the best way to combat poverty? Does growth within capitalism always lead to more investing and accumulation of wealth? Basically, the aim here is to discuss whether growth is a hindrance for a just world in principle, or if it is a problem simply in this current form.

1. Leida Rijnhout, UNPAD, Executive Director
2. Nicola Bullard, Focus on the Global South
3. (Stefan Schmalz, Uni Jena)

P2: Green New Deal or Décroissance - Left-Keynesianism or degrowth economy? A debate concerning fundamental principles

Left-Keynesian transformation projects such as the Green New Deal which are based on investment and selective growth are confronted by concepts related to a shrinking or stationary degrowth economy. These approaches are based on diverging assumptions, traditions and analyses with respect to the current crises. These should be subjected to controversial discussion: Can the world continue to grow at all, or are the rates of growth - primarily in the developed countries - going to continue to decline? What are the sources and driving forces behind growth: technical advances, innovation, population growth, consumerism or capital accumulation? Where do the limits to the politics of growth lie: in economic factors (satiated demand, lack of areas for accumulation), political (blockades by power and property relationships) or the ecological conditions (exhausted raw materials, climate changes)? Can sustainable, or social growth, perhaps close the gap between rich and poor and between man and nature? This podium is designed to clarify the basic question, whether or not growth can be part of a (global) solution, given that in its present form it is apparently part of the problem.

1. (Gustav Horn, IMK)
2. (Sven Giegold, Member Europ. Parl. die Grünen)
3. Birgit Mahnkopf, HWR Berlin
4. Saral Sarkar, Cologne

P3: Ecological Limits: Is De-coupling possible?

The question of whether or not it's possible to de-couple economic growth from the consumption of resources underlies every discussion about growth, its limits and the question of a de-growth economy. Can de-coupling be a strategy in answer to global challenges such as climate change, population growth, global poverty and unequal distribution of resources? Are there models of qualitative, social and/or green growth that answer this question, and at the same time satisfy social needs? What is the role of technical, economic, behavioural and political relationships and possibilities with respect to the problems of de-coupling and increased efficiency? What is the range of the potential for de-coupling, how long can they (over)compensate for the growth of the economy, for example, in achieving the necessary reduction in hot house emissions and absorbing additional side effects of growth?

1. Michael Müller, Naturfreunde
2. Tim Jackson, University of Surrey
3. Ernst Schriefl, TU Vienna, author, founder ecoPolicy-lab
4. Barbara Unmüßig, HBS

P4: Growth strategies and the crisis of labour

Can problems such as mass unemployment, increasing precarization, distribution from the bottom to the top and devaluation of care-work be solved in a society that depends on growth? And if so, then how? What effects have finance capitalism and the shifts in power set off by the recent finance and economic crisis had on the extent and structure of growth? What is the relationship of "good work", house and family work, and the informal economy to growth? What effect does the intensification of

work and precarization have on industrial work, and on the provision of services? Doesn't the extension of person-related services or the area of care-work have to break with the principle of growing productivity and profitability? What role could strategies for growth play in overcoming mass unemployment, precarization and distribution from the bottom to the top?

1. (Thomas Sablowski, WZB Berlin)
2. Position: Precarization of work / above all in the South: Marcel van der Linden, Belgium
3. Gabriele Winker, Fem. Institute Hamburg
4. Dierk Hirschel, DGB

P5: Growth, Quality of Life and Social Security, Sufficiency

Economic growth is widely held to be a necessary precondition for quality of life, social development and social security. However, quality of life includes much more than material prosperity and financial security: being cared for, socially connected, self determined, in physical safety, etc. Is growth necessary for the quality of life in all its aspects, or does a consumer society - one based on the drive toward "more" - limit the possibilities for leading a good life according to one's own ideas? Is there an (in)direct connection - without growth there is no social security, without social security there is no quality of life? Or does growth hinder a life directed toward goals beyond wage labour, does it de-value and block other socially necessary activities and thus damage the quality of life? How can the institutions of the welfare state, such as care for the elderly, infirm or handicapped, be secured if the economy has ceased to grow (further)? How could systems for social security be organised if the room for distribution has stagnated or shrunk? So there are three reciprocal effects: Growth - Quality of Life; Social Security - Quality of Life; and Growth - Social Security.

1. Marcel Hänggi, Autor
2. Angelika Zahrnt, BUND
3. (NN – Ersatz für Marianne Gronemeyer)
4. (NN, IG Metall/OBS)

Workshops, forums and introductory courses for Analysis and Critique

Current status: Participating speakers who have not yet been confirmed are in brackets. The workshops, introductory courses and artistic events will be chosen and put together in the beginning of March 2011 for the proposals of the partners, supporters and Attac groups.

Thematic thread 1: Driving forces behind growth

Forum 1 : Must Capitalism grow?

(Elmar Altvater, FU Berlin, Attac Advisory Council)

(Geneviève Azam, Attac Frankreich)

Eckhard Stratmann-Mertens, Attac

Ralf Fücks, HBS

Forum 2 : Why does the economy grow?

Niko Paech, Uni Oldenburg

Francois Schneider, Degrowth-Movement, Barcelona or M-A
Marianne Gronemeyer, educationist
Athanasios Karathanassis, Hannover

6-8 workshops
1-2 overview courses
1-2 artistic interventions

Thematic thread 2: Limits of Growth

Forum 3: Relationship of society and nature in an age of Peak Everything, climate change and poverty
(Sabine Hofmeister, Uni Lüneburg)
Ulrich Brand, Uni Vienna
(Rolf Steppacher, Geneva)
(Eduardo Gudynas, CLAES Uruguay)

Forum 4: The inhuman effects of growth: Climate refugees and resource wars
Claudia Haydt, IMI
(NN, Initiative Karawane)
(Simone Knapp/KASA, topic Land grabbing)
(Tadzio Müller, Climate Justice Action)

6-8 workshops
1-2 overview courses
1-2 artistic interventions

Thematic thread 3: Crisis of the work-society

Forum 5: End of the industrial society - escape into the service sector society?
(Uwe Schneidewind, WPI)
(Mascha Madörin, Switzerland)
Michael Dauderstädt, FES
(Marko Ferst, industry critic)

6-8 workshops
1-2 overview courses
1-2 artistic interventions

5. Programme Part II: Alternatives, Visions and Strategies

Building on the analysis and critique of the growth society, part two is intended to develop *Visions* and *Alternatives* for another world beyond the growth society and to discuss *Strategies* and *Projects* for getting there. The focus is intended to be on a serious discussion of alternatives that answer the problems of the growth society discussed in the first part of the congress, what these alternatives mean concretely, and how they can be implemented. In all three thematic threads - primarily on Sunday morning - there will be discussions about how and with which political alliances and projects the goals can be reached.

Podiums on Alternatives, Visions and Strategies

Current status: Participating speakers who have not yet been confirmed are in brackets.

P6: Beyond Growth: also in the global South?

The deliberations regarding an economic system beyond growth are also motivated by the idea of achieving social justice for the people in the global South. What kind of global climate and resource policy-making is necessary in order to achieve ecological justice - also taking into account the centuries-old accumulated climate debt of the North? If the global South is to "develop", does this have to be along the same growth path which the North has taken, or are there other possibilities? Does the South have the right to growth, and does this mean that - in view of the ecological limits - the economies of the North have to shrink? Or does the global South have a right to an economy and society which point beyond the focus on economic growth? Are concrete projects featuring a needs-oriented economy and commons a possibility in this regard?

1. (Chee Yoke Ling, Third World Network, Malaysia)
2. (Yash Tandon, Uganda, Director South Centre or Tendai Makanza, ANSA, Simbabwe)
3. (Majid Rahnema, Iran/France)

P7: The democratic forming of a post-growth economy: Market, planning, solidarity-based economy?

The transition to a society that no longer depends on the compulsion to growth necessitates the transformation of social and economic structures as well as other organisational principles. What instruments, structures and processes are necessary for this? How can diverse approaches such as solidarity-based economy, commons, care-economy, economic democracy and global social rights be brought together conceptually in a "post-growth society"? What are the roles of directed investment and economic democracy? What can a new relationship between market, state, solidarity-based forms of economics and new form of participatory planning and democracy look like? Where are the points of overlap and commonalities in the debates on internalising ecological costs vs. de-commodification, private consumption vs. commons, supply regulation vs. price regulation, planning vs. market, etc.?

1. Silke Helfrich, freelancer, Commons-Expert
2. Adelheid Biesecker, economist
3. (Hans-Jürgen Urban, IG Metall)

4. Werner Rätz, Attac

P8: Working less and differently: on the way to a society beyond growth?

Work will have to be organised and distributed differently on the way to a society that is not dependent on growth. What activities can be reckoned as socially useful under the conditions of a society beyond the compulsion to grow? How can these be organised and distributed in a degrowth society? How can the critique of growth be connected to criticism of the focus on wage labour? What role can non-wage labour play, how can it be socially secured, what forms of social recognition are conceivable? What effects will these revaluations have on wage labour? Is successive shortening of the working hours and redistribution of labour a practical path for arriving at a post-growth society? How much shortening of working hours and time-autonomy are possible in capitalism? Which steps would have to follow? What is the role of employee co-management and participation on the job in the future shaping of wage labour? What are the possibilities for social alliances between growth critics and trade union oriented movements?

1. Frigga Haug, Advisory Board, Attac
2. Mohssen Massarrat, attac AG AFT/Uni Osnabrück
3. Norbert Reuter, Ver.di

P9: Good living for all: a question of justice

In view of the ecological crises, the question is how global justice and a good life for all - with a view to the new situation - can be achieved. Must societies in the global North consume less for reasons of justice - above all global environmental justice? What does this mean for the individual and his or her conception of a good life and what does it mean for social justice in the North? How can it be made certain that each and every person - regardless of just what their conception of a good life is - can have the chance to live according to that idea? What can the global North learn, for example, from the debates over "Buen Vivir" (good living) in Latin America? Who suffers from over-consumption, who from undersupply, of what? The intention is to develop visions of a good life in a society freed from the insanity of growth and the critical discussion of concepts such as happiness, renunciation, capability, justice and social participation.

1. Barbara Muraca, Uni Greifswald, Attac
2. (Micha Ramminger, church context)
3. (Julia Ramos Sanchez, indigenous farmers' movement „Bartolina Sisa“, former Minister for Regional Development in Bolivia)
4. Uta v. Winterfeld, Wuppertal Institute

P10: Socio-ecological transformation in the post-growth society

There are already many projects which could be steps on the way to a society that is less dependent on growth. How can concrete projects such as the Jasuni Initiative in Ecuador and the resistance against oil production in Nigeria be understood as parts of a socio-ecological transformation? Can these projects serve as examples for further projects of this kind, what would be the long-range transformation perspective, who could support them? In principle how can the transition to a socio-ecological society without the compulsion to growth be conceived and shaped? Is a new definition sufficient, or must "post-growth" be thought of as a contemporary form of progress? How do we combine social and ecological, economic and liberation goals? What social values and goals can a

transformation of this kind draw on? In view of the energy question in the global South, this podium is intended to discuss how the concrete approaches to growth appear and which social interests and forces can be relied on for support.

1. Nnimmo Bassey, Friends of the Earth International, Nigeria
2. Alberto Acosta, former Energy Minister, Ecuador
3. (Annabella Rosenberg or Laura Martin, Unionists for Global Justice)

P11: Is the GDP the problem? The work of the Committee of Enquiry and concrete political strategies for a society beyond the compulsion to growth

Currently the Committee of Enquiry: "Growth, Prosperity, Quality of Life" is debating whether the GNP as an indicator for a good economy should be extended by other measuring instruments or scrapped. So the orientation on economic growth as the main measure of the success of a national economy is being put under scrutiny. In this podium members of the Committee of Enquiry will discuss with representatives of the civil society on the basis of the debated held in the congress, whether the Committee goes far enough with its questions, and where there is need for further action from the perspective of the civil society. There will also be an investigation of where there might be common points with respect to the growth question within the Left spectrum.

1. Hermann Ott, Greens
2. (Daniela Kolbe, SPD)
3. (Sabine Leidig, die Linke)

Workshops and forums on Alternatives, Visions and Strategies

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Thematic thread 4: Economics beyond Growth

Forum 6 : Financial Markets

- (Harry Klimenta - Helge Peukert)
- (Hans-Christoph Binswanger)
- (Filka Sekulova, Degrowth-Movement Barcelona)
- (Nicola Liebert, Attac)

Forum 7: Challenges for democracy during the transition to a post-growth society

- (Claudia von Braunmühl, political scientist, Berlin)
- (Bernhard Pötter, Journalist, Berlin)
- Friederike Habermann, Berlin
- Pat Divine

Forum 8 (Forum of the RLS): Strategic Problems of a Just Transition

(Ulla Lötzer, Die Linke)
Mario Candeias , RLS
(NN, Gewerkschaften)
(NN)

6-8 workshops

1-2 overview courses

1-2 artistic interventions

Thematic thread 5: Justice in the globalized world

Forum 9 (Forum of the HBS): Raw materials boom, Green New Deal and the effects of transformation on the Global South (Translation)

Nnimmo Bassey, Friends of the Earth International / Environmental Rights Action Nigeria
Silas Siakor, Sustainable Development Institute, Liberia
Lili Fuhr, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Raimund Bleischwitz, Wuppertal Institute

Forum 10 : Global Agriculture, Subsistence and Food Sovereignty

Alexandra Strickner, Attac Austria
(Berit Thomsen, ABL)
Vandana Shiva, India
(Rolf Künnemann, FIAN)

6-8 workshops

1-2 overview courses

1-2 artistic interventions

Thematic thread 6: Work, participation and the good life

Forum 11 : Which feminist perspectives are there for the economy and the good life in a post-growth economy?

World Café with feminist speakers and participants in the congress with Frigga Haug,
Gabriele Winker, Uta v. Winterfeld, Adelheid Biesecker et.al.

F 12: The future of social systems in a post-growth society

Ronald Blaschke, Basic Income Network
(Joachim Spangenberg, BUND)
(Stephan Lessenich, Uni Jena)
(Iara Pietricovsksy de Oliveira, Institute for Socioeconomic Studies, Brazil)

6-8 workshops

1-2 overview courses

1-2 artistic interventions