

## The 3rd International Conference on Eco-Efficiency

Modelling and Evaluation for Sustainability:  
Guiding Eco-Innovation and Consumption  
in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

Short Courses on 8 June

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*The course consists of a general presentation of the idea of Economic Degrowth for Ecology and Social justice, followed by a participatory and interactive process of innovation within this paradigm. It will involve sessions in small groups, reports to assembly, interaction between groups and evaluation of different « hot proposals ». Depending on the number of participants, these could include new monetary systems favoring exchanges on local level, regulation of financial systems; Work sharing and redefinition of work; degrowth of infrastructure capacity (case on road capacity, airports, shipping); Adverts-free medias, support to citizen-led information; Commitments to reduce extraction, biological and mineral sanctuaries, reduction of extractive tools and sites, north/south deals to leave resources in the ground; Reusing empty houses and co-housing, reuse and mutualization of goods in general; Citizen's unconditional income, social security for all and ceiling to income.*

*I- background 45 minutes*

*Presentation of degrowth principles, philosophical origins and strategies*

### **Economic degrowth for ecology and social justice**

Degrowth carries the idea of a voluntary reduction of the size of the economic system for a transition to social justice, well being and ecological sustainability. Degrowth is not a goal an itself but involves a range of actions at the individual and collective level based on a change of values and shift away from profit-seeking as a single objective of production. It also involves a important democratisation of our societies, challenging the impossibility of democratic choices as the path of technological development has a predetermined trajectory that is hard to influence. Degrowth is then also about people rather than technology deciding on the direction of societal evolution. It is also about giving meaning to human life which is not per se associated with conspicuous consumption and materialism. The degrowth movement in Europe and its different philosophical origins and strategies will be presented.

Is there something that needs to degrow? We develop that the capacity to produce and consume from natural resources needs to degrowth globally (but not evenly) in order to prevent failure of solutions like efficiency, sufficiency or other political measures. This degrowth of capacity involves an adjustment of numerous limiting factors like finances, time, infrastructure, unawareness, property rights, inequity, deregulations and collective resource access. We will present different tracks for degrowth for the different workgroups.

Resources:

<http://www.degrowth.eu>

<http://www.degrowth.net/>

[http://www.clubofrome.at/2009/degrowth/files/booklet\\_degrowth.pdf](http://www.clubofrome.at/2009/degrowth/files/booklet_degrowth.pdf)

<http://events.it-sudparis.eu/degrowthconference/en/>

15 min pause

15-18h

*Simulation exercise*

**Creativity and environment sustainability: the de-growth challenge**

**Developing innovative actions and policies outside economic growth paradigm.**

Degrowth is about stepping out of the economic growth paradigm. “Let us suppose that this is possible”. The idea is not to talk about the feasibility of economic degrowth but about imagining completely different directions.

The simulation exercise consists of workgroups and assembly.

1- Preparation in workgroups 1st phase 30'

2- Assembly 30'

Pause 20'

3- Further work in groups 2nd phase 20'

4- Exchange between groups 30'

Pause 20'

5- Assembly 30'

Each workgroup will work on a specific “hot proposals”. These may include:

1- Money and currencies

Proposals for new monetary systems favoring exchanges on local level, regulation of financial systems.

2- Work sharing

Work sharing. Redefining work.

3- Degrowth of infrastructures.

Degrowth of infrastructure capacity (case on road capacity, airports, shipping). Degrowth of Production and consumption infrastructures in general.

4- Advertising

Adverts-free medias, support to citizen-led information. What is the limit between info and adverts? How to make people choose their own lifestyle disregarding the advertising and other pressure to consume?

5- Reduction of Natural Resource exploitation

Exploration of different options like material certificates (commitments to reduce extraction), biological and mineral sanctuaries, reduction of extractive tools and sites, north/south deals to leave resources in the ground.

6- Reusing empty houses and co-housing & sharing in general

New housing opportunities in a degrowth framework. In general: reuse and mutualization of goods.

7- Basic income

Citizen's unconditional income, social security for all.

8- Maximum income

Tax policy, capital & revenue upper limits.

Considering roughly 5 participants per working group, the number of workgroups will be determined by the number of participants.