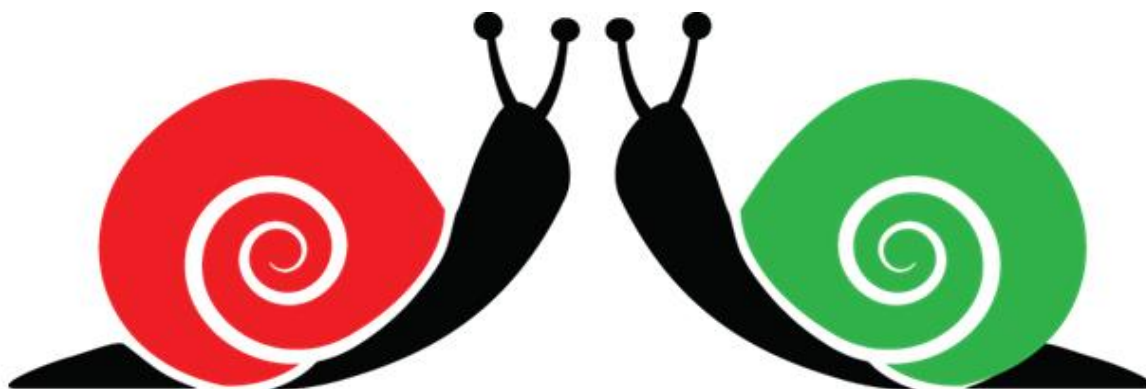


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**PRESS INVITATION TO THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL DEGROWTH CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST**

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*30 August – 3 September 2016*



**DEGROWTH  
CONFERENCE  
BUDAPEST 2016**

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Spokespersons of the Budapest Degrowth Conference

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*For a Media pass for the Conference please contact [media@budapest.degrowth.org](mailto:media@budapest.degrowth.org)  
with a scan of your active Press ID.*

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# WHAT IS DEGROWTH?



Degrowth has emerged over the last 10 years. This “bomb word” has been used to inspire in-depth debates on whether infinite growth in a finite world is desirable or even possible.

Degrowth first deconstructs the myth that growth is the central solution for the impasse our capitalist, productivist and consumerist societies have led us to. The movement tries to understand the convergence of the crises we are experiencing and argues that energetic, political and existential, economic and social and various environmental crises like climate change are interconnected.

Degrowth is a downscaling of production and consumption that increases human well-being and enhances ecological conditions and equity on the planet. It calls for a future where societies live within their ecological means, with open, localized economies and resources more equally distributed through new forms of democratic institutions. Material accumulation will no longer hold a prime position in the population’s cultural imaginary. The primacy of efficiency will be substituted by a focus on sufficiency, and innovation but will concentrate on new social and technical arrangements that will enable us to live convivially and frugally. Degrowth does not only challenge the centrality of GDP as an overarching policy objective but proposes a framework for transformation to a lower and sustainable level of production and consumption, a shrinking of the economic system to leave more space for human cooperation and ecosystems.

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*“Generally degrowth challenges the hegemony of growth and calls for a democratically led redistributive downscaling of production and consumption in industrialized countries as a mean to achieve environmental sustainability, social justice and well-being. [...] It is also a call for deeper democracy, applied to issues which lie outside the mainstream democratic domain, like technology.”*

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From Demaria, F., Schneider, F., Sekulova, F., Martinez-Alier, J. 2013. *What is Degrowth? From an Activist Slogan to a Social Movement*. Environmental Values 22 (2013): 191–215.

## FURTHER INFORMATIONS:

### Websites

- [Research and Degrowth website](#)
- [Degrowth media Library](#)

### Books

- [Degrowth: A vocabulary for a new era](#)
- [A Degrowth Project](#)

### Videos

- [Giorqos Kallis ESEE 2015 Plenary](#)
- [Interview with Federico Demaria](#)
- [Interview with Vincent Liegey](#)
- [Barbara Muraca – Between Doom and Utopia](#)

### Degrowth-in-action initiatives

- [Carqonomia](#)
- [Cande Creix](#)
- [Can Masdeu](#)

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# HISTORY OF THE DEGROWTH CONFERENCE

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Apart from demonstrating the latest research in the field, the degrowth conferences aim at promoting cooperation in the development of scientific and political proposals and facilitation of networking and the flow of ideas between various actors working on degrowth, especially in academia.

Five international degrowth conferences have been organized so far:

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1<sup>st</sup> international conference in **Paris (2008)** hosted by Telecom sud-Paris University on "*Economic Degrowth for Social Equity and Ecological Sustainability* " with 140 researchers from 30 countries



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2<sup>nd</sup> international conference in **Barcelona (2010)** hosted by the Autonomous University of Barcelona. It has been focusing on *developing clear policy proposals and strategies for action on degrowth and define the key open questions and research agenda*, with more than 400 researchers from 40 countries.



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Conference of the Americas in **Montreal (2012)** hosted by the Université de Montréal, McGill University, Université du Québec à Montréal, HEC Montreal and Concordia University) with 340 academics, activists and environmentalists, focusing on the *particular situations and dynamics of the Americas*.



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3<sup>rd</sup> international conference in **Venice (2012)** hosted by Associazione per la Decrescita, Spiazzi, IUAV, Università di Udine, Città di Venezia, Arci, Kuminda and Sesterzo on "*The big transition: Degrowth as a passage of civilization*", with 1000 participants from 40 countries.



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4<sup>th</sup> international conference in **Leipzig (2014)** hosted by Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie, Förderverein Wachstumswende e.V., DFG-Research Group "Postwachstumsgesellschaften" at the University of Jena, University of Leipzig, with almost 3000 people.

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# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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## The Budapest Degrowth Conference

After Leipzig in 2014, more than 400 researchers and scientists from all over the world will gather in Budapest to discuss degrowth, as a response to ecological, social and political unsustainability of contemporary society. The Conference takes place from 30th of August to 3rd of September in lecture halls and classrooms of Corvinus University of Budapest. The presentations for the conference were selected from over 500 applications for papers and special sessions by an international team of degrowth researchers, including the peer-to-peer evaluation of submissions. The conference proceedings take place from 9:30 to 16:00 through 40 topical panels and 200 brief research presentations, organized around thematic days of CHALLENGES, STRATEGIES, ALLIANCES, through twelve cross-cutting themes from visionary conceptual innovations to solidarity with other global movements.

- [The Budapest Degrowth Conference Program](#) (coming soon)

## The Budapest Degrowth Week

For the first time, in parallel to the conference, an open festival “Budapest Degrowth Week” will feature practical workshops, panel and participatory discussions, and also concerts, artistic performances and interactive tours through the city. Local residents and the international Degrowth community members are invited to participate in more than 100 free events hosted in 10 venues.

- [The Budapest Degrowth Week Program](#) (coming soon) and the [Facebook page](#)

## Re-localization of the Conference

While the conference and Degrowth week are running in Budapest, people will organize their own degrowth-related event which will benefit of the global movement around degrowth, generated by Budapest events. Streaming of all the plenaries will be made available online and all the documentation of the conference will be shared in order to enable people to organize events all around the world.

- An interactive online map is showing all the delocalized events [here](#) (hypertext link when ready)

*Learning from the past conferences, and following the Degrowth principles, we took the decisions to keep the 5<sup>th</sup> International Degrowth Conference of a manageable and convivial size. The number of participants is therefore limited. Nevertheless, a festival will take place to enable everyone to join a convivial Degrowth Week. Furthermore, people have also the possibility to relocalize the event.*

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# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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*The main goals of the Budapest Degrowth Conference and Week is on the one hand to question the limits to growth in understanding the challenges faced by society and on the other hand to implement dialogue about solutions on different levels.*

*The conference aims therefore at building new knowledge and sharpening the degrowth concepts, at continuing discussions that started in the previous conferences and at establishing a long term action (e.g. degrowth network, future projects...). Simultaneously, across Budapest, the Degrowth Week will bring discussions, public panels, artistic performances and exhibitions, practical workshops and conviviality events into public space and introduce degrowth to newcomers.*

*This open platform for degrowth dialogue, practice, networking and expression will foster discussion between scholars, researchers, civil society and practitioners about their degrowth-related research and activities.*

*The Budapest Degrowth Conference is more than an exchange of world-models, it is an alliance incubator and political generator of modified common sense that can elaborate an emergent political and economic order. The gathering represents a realignment of separate but linked entities that is emancipatory and utopian, whilst not materially impoverished nor culturally grey.*

- [The scientific committee of the conference](#)
- [Themes of the conference](#)
- [The organization team of the conference](#)

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# PRINCIPLES OF THE CONFERENCE

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*The organization team has worked diligently to shape the conference program guided by Degrowth principles, while striving to ensure that proceedings represent a meaningful example of “Degrowth in Practice”. The planning and implementation of conference programs and activities will collectively represent an environmentally and socially conscious, convivial exchange of intellect, human capacity and respectful cooperation.*

## Sustainability

The conference is based on a sustainable organization, using local resources, covering costs through reciprocity economy and in-kind donations and working in cooperation with environmental-friendly subcontractors and service providers. The conference is seen as a stepping stone, building a block towards further work and cooperation.

## Justice, equity and equal access

The composition of the speakers and keynotes is mindful of geographical and gender balance. The conference is furthermore striving to involve a wide range of actors as well as a diversity of program options.

## Democratic and responsible self-management

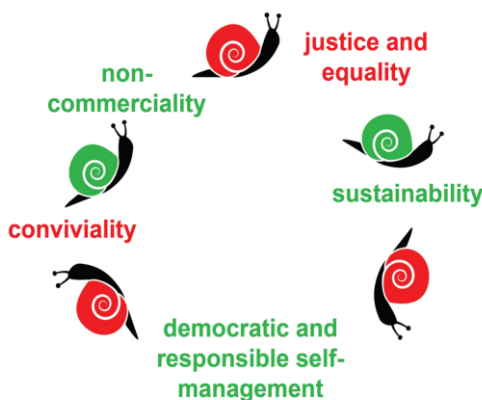
The organization team is working in respect to participative decision-making strategies and non-violent communication principle. During the conference, self-organized panel debates will take place to democratically involve participants and all the plenaries will be broadcasted online to enable a free access to knowledge.

## Conviviality

The program of the conference reflects the principle of conviviality through aiming to find balance between academic, practical and free time activities, with much space for innovation and creativity.

## Non-commerciality

The conference is organized on a nonprofit basis and the funding for the conference was accepted with respect to the compliance of the institution with all the principles outlined.





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## **Claudia Salerno Caldera**

Presidential High Commissioner for Climate Change and Chief Negotiator to the UN Convention for Climate Change

## **Gareth Dale**

Senior Lecturer at Brunel University, London



## **Danijela Dolenec**

Assistant Professor at University of Zagreb

## **Iván Gyulai**

Doctor of ecology



## **Giorgios Kallis**

Visiting professor at SOAS and ICREA professor at Autonomous University of Barcelona

## **Ashish Kothari**

Founder-member of the Indian environmental group Kalpavriksh



## **Jagoda Munic**

Chairperson of the Friends of the Earth International

## **Barbara Muraca**

Assistant Professor at Oregon State University and co-director of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy



## **Amaia Pérez Orozco**

Feminist and economist in Europe and Latin America

## **Susan Paulson**

Professor at University of Florida



## **Zoltán Pogátsa**

Economist at University of West Hungary

## **Matthias Schmelzer**

Economic historian at the University of Zürich



## **Clive Spash**

Chair of Public Policy and Governance at Vienna University of Economics and Business

More information about the Keynote speakers [here](#)



## Organizers



## Partners



ESSRG

