

Finally, I can welcome you to our workshop. And I'm very happy about it! At this starting moment I should like to thank Frieder for his huge help in making the workshop possible.

Yesterday, we have already had an interesting meeting with Patrick on South Africa and the BRICS. Gosia has also participated in this event.

We shall talk about it after the official part, today.

Our workshop this weekend is the already seventh workshop in a series under the title "Is it Possible to Have Another Economics for Another Economic Policy?"

The formulation of the question has been derived from the slogan of the World Social Forum: "Another world is possible!".

The central ideas are the same, too:

1. We need pluralism on the basis of the principles of equality, freedom, solidarity, and ecological sustainability.
2. We do work on a new kind of economics, by searching for new discoveries and for new partners in theoretical debate, as well as in societal practice.

We do need and we do develop a new, productive kind of pluralism within economics – simply because we need to develop and to strengthen new political alliances capable to influence and to change the development of our societies.

Searching for theoretical answers is, in itself, a social process.

I should like to remind you (or to inform you), very briefly, about the history and also about further main ideas (or the underlying "philosophy") of our series, which has started in 2006.

To do so, I can just give you the topics of our previous workshops:

- Critical dealing with the heritage of Keynes
- Socio-ecological reconstruction
- Green New Deal models
- New state interventionism
- Peter Söderbaums "Understanding Sustainability Economics"
- The Debt Issue

So you see clearly, what our central idea has been so far: To address the Challenges for Dealing with Mainstream Economics, for Elaborating and Teaching

Economics with an orientation towards Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Development, and towards Social and Ecological Justice.

Next March we shall have an international workshop on Rosa Luxemburg's "Accumulation of Capital".

With this highlight we shall attempt to integrate our two on-going series: the one on Economics for Sustainability and our EU experts' discussions. The reasons for this can be easily understood: We have to deal with reduced finance and with the increased need of the EU experts in methodology and theory, as well as in improving their teaching, not at least in teaching social and political activists.

In the beginning of October, we have had our third EU experts' discussion and I should like to tell you in a few sentences what we have discussed there, so that you may better understand, why we are thinking on our integration idea.

That workshop has highlighted the triangle of "Financialisation/ Capitalist Oligarchies/Hegemony – Production and Consumption Patterns – Work on Analyses and Alternatives". The preparation and the discussions have shown that we shall have to analyse the problematics of polarization and peripherization much more deeply. So we decided to make it the central topic of the fourth EU-experts' discussion, which shall take place next year.

The workshop on Luxemburg's "Accumulation of Capital" in March 2014 will help to prepare this, and it will focus on two questions connected with our workshop series:

- The imperial modes of living in the globally highly industrialised regions, in connection with the modes of production and reproduction
- The method of research and theoretical work on the kind of scientific base and the models of teaching needed for an economic policy aiming a society of freedom and equality, of solidarity and ecological sustainability.

But back to our workshop as we have last November agreed to hold it.

One of our central conclusions has been, then, that the debt problem is being used as a pretext for a new wave of privatization of public goods and services, as well as for a further onrush of financialization.

Sustainable economics has, therefore, urgently to highlight the protection, the public appropriation and the democratization of the public sphere, which is not "good" in itself, but which constitutes a better basis for using existing possibilities to act against social and ecological destruction, and in favour of socially and ecologically sustainable development.

This has been the starting point of the idea to look for help in the heritage of the Ostroms.

"Looking for help" here refers to the following directions:

- the Methodology and method of research and teaching,
- the focus on self-organisation, cooperation of actors and sustainability and, accordingly, on sustainable forms of self-organisation and cooperation,
- the focus on the commons as a condition for social and ecological sustainability,
- the approach to and from the individual person, being much more than merely a consumer or a voter, the rich heritage of knowledge which is available in dealing with mainstream economics and in developing strategies changing the society.

Without overlooking or minimizing the limits and deficits of the Ostroms' heritage, I should like to repeat our invitation to make even their ambivalences and contradictions productive.

In this connection I remind you of our blog contributions from 1.9., 11.9., 10.10. and 30.10.2013.

In the end, I should like to explain briefly how we have had to change our workshop program, because Danijela and Gianpietro could not come. We regret for their misfortunes and we shall try to close the resulting deficits in our planning.

Today, we want to warm up and to exchange information about our thinking.

It is fine that Barbara helps our understanding by her documentary film.

And we shall have another highlight with Patrick's contribution on how to prevent an elitist perspective from the US or from the European Union with a German hegemony.

Tomorrow, we should like to highlight some of the theoretical issues and some of the advantages, ambivalences, contradictions, and deficits of the Ostroms occurring, when working in scientific research for political strategies for structurally changing society.

Michel and Barbara will give us the main assistance for dealing with this challenge.

On Sunday, we shall have our "conclusion day" starting with Peter's certainly highly helpful input. Therefore, hopefully, on Sunday at noon, we shall all know much more than at this very moment and we can hope to have been enlightened on central and strategic issues.