





De-growth and CSOs

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CSOs and Sustainable Development

- Goal of degrowth movement is to achieve sustainable development, social and environmental justice and equity worldwide
- How do CSOs integrate SD in their activities ?
- Unfortunately more or less the same at governments and business did.




Dominant pillar approach of SD

- The three pillars of SD..
- This idea gives the false illusion that if we keep those pillars in balance we obtain SD.
- This approach does not include the existence of limits. On the contrary: the more economic growth, the more money we have for environmental management and social welfare.



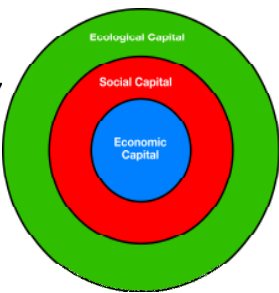
mainstream strategies

- Environmental movement: main focus on eco-efficiency
- International cooperation movement: economic growth in favour of sharing wealth
- Trade unions: (green) jobs, good working conditions and healthier workplaces.



The capital approach of SD

- Need for capital approach instead of the "pillar approach"
- **Recognition of limits** '70 : Club of Rome, Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen, Herman Daly, ..)





Logical strategies

- Fair share of use of natural resources
- Fair share of "right" to pollute (emissions of CO2)
- Overconsumption versus underconsumption
- Redistribution of material and financial wealth
- Social capital has limits too
- Need for public participation

Fair and sustainable economy !

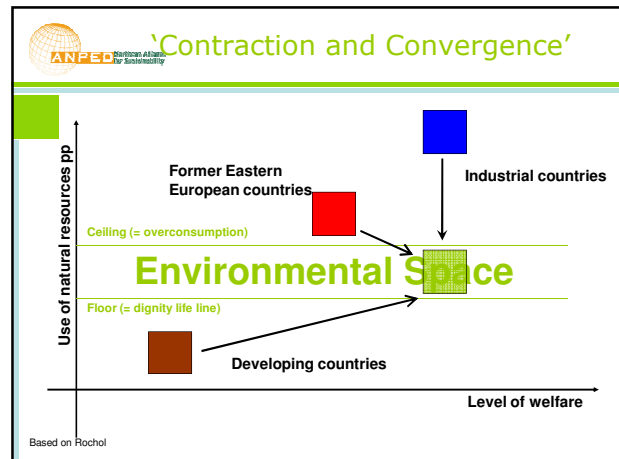
Quality of life

Carrying capacity

Participation and democracy

justice

Gebaseerd op Carley en Spapens



Threats

- If we deny reality the problems will increase, as well the measures to take
- Leads to more drastic decisions ('war economy')

- Threat for democracy
- Social dramas – for most the vulnerable groups

Collective denial

- Also within the mainstream CSOs
- Researchers and think tanks were the first to initiate the degrowth debate
- Degrowth debate is very new for most CSOs
- Resistance of word and strategy, because of "negative message"
- Most CSOs are getting part of (official) stakeholders dialogues, and that position often makes them less critical (cooptation)

New paths to take (1)

- A lot of small initiatives are taken, inspired by scientists, and the books they wrote. But still isolated from mainstream NGOs.
- The first degrowth conference in Paris was huge success. Second will be in Barcelona (March)
- ANPED-network (on SD) is involved in those dynamics, and will continue working in this framework. It fits in the capital approach and the so called "strong sustainability"

New paths to take (2)

- In Holland (retired) scientists and small CSOs started a platform on a fair and green economy, which after three years is gaining space. Slow but positive process.
- In many other countries we see same things happening.
- In a meeting, a UNEP-director proposed to start to talk about the "D"-word.

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New paths to take (3)

- International Conference 28 and 29 January 2010, Vienna
- Scientific Workshop 27 January 2010, Vienna
- An Initiative of the Austrian Environment Ministry in cooperation with 15 partners



WACHSTUM & WANDEL

- <http://www.growthintransition.eu>

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New paths to take (4)

The second international conference on degrowth will develop **clear policy proposals** and strategies for action on degrowth and define the key open questions and **research agenda**.

www.degrowth.eu

Second International Conference on Economic Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity
March 26 29th 2010, Barcelona



<http://www.degrowth.net/-Barcelona2010>

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The future (1)

- At the moment we are trying to get all the various (smaller) initiatives together. Combined with scientists.
- Focus on more research work within this framework – paradigm shift
- Concretise the different issues : money, work, infrastructure, advertising, natural resources, housing, basic income and income ceiling etc

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The future (2)

- Future scenarios: based on what is possible (availability of natural resources, absorption capacity of the Earth) and not on what we want: unlimited economic growth, more jobs, status quo on many things
- We need to think more in terms of transition, well being, long term strategies, coherence, ..

