



SustEcon Conference

The contribution of a sustainable economy to achieving the SDGs

International Scientific Conference, Berlin, 25-26 September 2017

Organised by: NaWiKo (www.nachhaltigeswirtschaften-soef.de)

Call for papers

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) have adopted the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which is composed of a set of seventeen aspirational "Global Goals", the so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These SDGs are universally relevant. However, the focal points and the means for implementation need to be adapted to the framework conditions of the respective country, which is addressing the SDGs. Different strategies for implementation are necessary for developing, emerging, and developed countries. Besides, competing discourses determine the approach towards implementing the SDGs.

For nearly all seventeen SDGs a sustainable economy is key for successfully reaching the set targets. Making the economy more sustainable has been a stated objective in policy-making since several years, and national and international research is working on developing innovations and pathways towards a sustainable economy.

Under the umbrella of German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's (BMBF) Programme "Research for Sustainable Development" (FONA3) BMBF's funding initiative "Sustainable Economy", in the context of its funding priority "Social-Ecological Research (SÖF)", aims at demonstrating how positively an economic system can develop if it considers the various dimensions of sustainability. At present 30 research projects are funded by the BMBF with the purpose of gaining insights and findings regarding innovation, sustainability assessment, consumer behaviour and communication, and the appropriate institutional and political frameworks to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

At the SustEcon Conference, these approaches and findings will be put in an international context to explore the potential contributions of this research to achieving the SDGs and to compare and discuss findings with research undertaken in other contexts across Europe and beyond. There are already a number of good examples at national and international level for innovations for a sustainable economy on smaller scales, for example on farm levels, in communities or municipalities. The growing number and high density of innovations for a sustainable economy is starting to challenge the existing economic regime. However, the change is not taking place at the required pace.



Scaling up and broad diffusion of innovation often appears difficult. Therefore, the SustEcon Conference will focus on the barriers for a more rapid change and discuss options and requirements for the sustainability transformation. These Barriers may be caused by a mismatch between the existing political and societal framework conditions as well as path dependencies and the innovation for a sustainable economy in question. This is especially true for social, organisational and institutional innovations, which are often not easily transferrable to other contexts. Moreover, if there are not enough support mechanisms in place supporting pioneers, the success of sustainable innovations may also be limited. At the same time, potential distributional or external effects have to be taken into consideration when implementing innovations towards a more sustainable economy.

It is the aim of this conference to address these issues and bring together scholars in the fields of sustainable innovation and their management, transformation research as well as the analysis of societal and political contexts of a sustainable economy and sustainable societies as a whole.

We invite scholars to submit abstracts for papers on the following issues:

- *Innovations for a sustainable economy: Following a broad notion of innovation, we invite papers on case studies on social, organisational, institutional, and technological innovations for the sustainable economy. Analyses of potentials and requirements for scaling and diffusion of these innovations are particularly welcome.*
- *Transformation to a sustainable economy: We also welcome contributions from transformation research that analyse driving forces and options for the shaping of transformations towards a sustainable economy.*
- *Discourses on a sustainable economy and society: Papers are invited that analyse the requirements and potential contributions of different discourses (Green Economy, Degrowth, etc.) to achieving the SDGs and their roles for the sustainable economy.*
- *Key barriers for scaling and diffusion of innovations: We also welcome papers, which analyse the requirements for implementing a sustainable economy in different SDG contexts. This may cover political framework conditions for implementing a sustainable economy, the integration of the SDGs in the multilevel system, and their implementation across policy domains. Papers may also focus on the special role of developed countries in implementing the SDGs not only in their own context but also in development cooperation for achieving the SDGs.*
- *The role of research in the SDG context: We invite papers, which address the contribution of research to implementing SDGs and/ or achieving a sustainable economy by analysing research agendas and assessing the impacts of research in the SDG context.*
- *Methodological questions: Furthermore, papers are welcome that develop further methodological approaches such as the development of indicators for evaluating contributions to the sustainable economy and methods for measuring the contribution of an innovation to achieving SDGs, etc.*



We thus invite paper proposals that address one or several of the above mentioned themes. Paper proposals should consist of an abstract of 1000 words that outlines the research question and approach as well as its relevance for the conference topic including preliminary findings. Proposals should be submitted through the conference website: <http://nachhaltigeswirtschaften-soef.de/en/sustecon-conference>

Submission of abstracts is open from **15 March 2017 to 25 April 2017**. The contributions will be anonymously reviewed by an international review panel. Notification of acceptance will be given by 5 June 2017. Full papers are due by 5 September 2017. The participation in the conference is free of charge.

For further questions regarding conference, please contact the conference managers at sustecon@ecologic.eu.