

Building Blocks for Ethical Market Economies in the 21st century

- Perspectives on qualitative growth
from Europe, the Black Sea Region and Beyond

Trilogue Salzburg

20. – 22. August 2010 in Salzburg, Austria



“At last year’s Trilogue we assessed the financial and economic crisis as the consequence of a lack of leadership and our failure to put economics at the service of the common good. This year we will proceed to the next step and draw conclusions from lessons learned and discuss the need for a more humane market economy that enhances the quality of life. We will put a particular focus on the Black Sea region, one of the most important and dynamic regions with an enormous potential for growth and a wealth of challenges alike.”

*Dr. Michael Spindelegger,
Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Vienna*



“With increasing global interdependence and the speed of change even greater crises may be possible than the one we are witnessing today. If so, can future disasters be prevented? Could this be the tipping point for a new, more inclusive and sustainable market economic system to be created? The Bertelsmann Stiftung is trying to promote some key elements of a more future oriented economic system.”

Liz Mohn, Vice Chairman of the Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Guetersloh

“We need to engage in a comprehensive discussion of what kind of societal progress and qualitative economic growth we really want to happen in our societies. The Trilogue will bring together some of the world’s most engaged leaders of our time for qualitative development.”

*Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel
Member of the Supervisory Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Guetersloh*



“Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist.”

Kenneth E. Boulding, economist

Introduction

This year's Trilogue engages in a serious reflection on the nature of progress and qualitative growth. It acknowledges at the outset that while developing nations stand in urgent need of economic development, a world in which nine billion people all aspire to the level of affluence achieved in the OECD nations is simply inconceivable. The key question, therefore, will be to discuss how developed and developing economies alike can be transformed from systems of unlimited quantitative growth to ones that are ecologically sustainable and socially just. A particular emphasis will be on views from the Black Sea region. A region that is a linchpin of the European neighbourhood, as a space of promising trade and important energy transit, a bridge and a hub to Asia and the Middle East, but also a focal point due to stability risks through frozen conflicts.

Participants at last year's Trilogue assessed the financial and economic crises as the consequence of a lack of leadership and failure to put economics at the service of a common good. There was a broad consensus that our underlying assumptions that stimulate immediate value creation far beyond the assets available, whether financial or natural, and far from raising the living standard for those who most needed it, have put human kind on a collision course with planetary boundaries and with imperatives of ethics and equity. So the question is what are building blocks for a future oriented and more humane economy?

Based on preparatory expert hearings in the Black Sea region, Singapur and findings from research by the Taellberg Foundation and the Millennium Project this Trilogue intends to reflect key elements of humane market economies. The following questions will be relevant:

- Questioning the growth paradigm: How to deal with the deep-seated dilemma that quantitative growth may be inherently unsustainable, but 'de-growth' appears to cause economic or social instability? Is there a middle way? On what moral grounds? Do we need (a different) "growth" in order to secure welfare? What kind of "growth" do we want/need?
- Questioning GDP: Which indicators are most appropriate to measure progress beyond GDP? How can these best be integrated into the decision-making process and taken up by the public debate? How to balance between subjective and objective parameters for wellbeing?
- Questioning governance: Which general conditions and regulatory frameworks must be in place in order to allow for sustainable development and production? Are particular pre-conditions for qualitative growth needed for regions such as the Black Sea - regions that are now, after centuries of unequal wealth distribution, catching up using similar production and consumption systems that led to the wealth creation in the OECD countries? Does Europe have particular interests to lead the transition?

The organizers hope that this cross-sectoral and intercultural dialogue will help us to map cutting – edge thinking on ethical market economies, how to steer our societies better through and out of crises and to expand our Trilogue network of global visionaries.

Draft program - Trilogue

Friday August 20	
Arrival and Check In at Hotel Sheraton Salzburg	
7.30 p.m.	Bus Transfer
8:00 p.m.	Opening Dinner hosted by Liz Mohn Vice Chairman of the Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Guetersloh Dr. Michael Spindelegger Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Vienna
Thereafter	Return Bus transfer to Hotel
Saturday August 21	
9:30 a.m. Lobby Hotel Sheraton	Bus Transfer or Walk to Mozarteum
10:00 a.m. Mozarteum – Solitär Hall	First session of the Colloquium Group photo at the end of the session
Thereafter	Lunch at Hotel Sacher, Wintergarten
2:00 p.m. Mozarteum – Solitär Hall	Second Session of the Colloquium
Thereafter	Return Bus Transfer or Walk to Hotel Sheraton
6.45 p.m.	Bus transfer from Hotel Sheraton to Haus für Mozart
7:00 p.m. Haus for Mozart	Pre-theater reception at the Salzburg Kulisse Introduction into the Opera by Artistic Director, Juergen Flimm
8:00 p.m. Grosses Festspielhaus	Christoph Willibald Gluck • Orfeo ed Euridice Azione teatrale per musica in drei Akten Conductor: Riccardo Muti
	Small reception during the intermission Hosted by the President of the Salzburg Festival Dr. Helga Rabl-Stadler
Thereafter	Return Bus transfer to the Hotel Sheraton

Sunday August 22	
9:30 a.m. Lobby Hotel Sheraton	Bus Transfer or Walk to Mozarteum
10:00 a.m. Mozarteum – Solitär Hall	Third session of the Colloquium
1.00 p.m. Hotel Sheraton	Farewell Buffet Luncheon
Departure of participants	

General Information

Venue:	Mozarteum Salzburg, Solitär
Hotel:	Sheraton Salzburg Hotel***** Auerspergstraße 4 A-5020 Salzburg http://www.sheratonsalzburg.at Tel.: (+43) (662) 889990 Accommodation Costs will be born by the hosts.
Conference Language:	English
Chair of all conference sessions:	Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel
Documentation:	The organizers reserve the right to photograph, film, and record the sessions for publicity and to publish an illustrated report or online documentation summarizing the deliberations.
Journalists and Observers:	The conference is open to accredited journalists and selected observers.
Chatham House Rule:	To enable a free flow of ideas and lively debate, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed without his prior consent.
Travel:	The organizers are asking all participants to arrange travel to and from Salzburg on their own. Limited funds are available to reimburse travel costs when necessary. Please contact Malte Boecker.
Transfers in Salzburg:	The organizers are taking care of all transfers in Salzburg, including airport transfers.
Sustainability:	In responding to climate change as one of the key global challenges the organizers are striving to offset the Trilogue Salzburg event footprint, including all international flights to and from Salzburg of the participants.
Dress Code:	Business Casual for the sessions and Cocktail Attire for dinner and concert.

Trilogue Salzburg:

Surrounded by the stimulating atmosphere of the Salzburg Festival, the Salzburg Trilogue convenes thought - leaders, decision-makers and renowned representatives from the arts, business and politics to engage in crosscutting, inter-cultural and future-oriented discourse at a two-day round table. Originally initiated by Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel, member of the Bertelsmann Stiftung Supervisory Board and former Austrian chancellor, the Salzburg Trilogue has been jointly organized since 2007 by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs.

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