From growth-oriented to sustainable regional development

Dr. Markus Grillitsch
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For many years, growth was the main goal of regional development. Policy instruments, especially the European approach of "Smart Specialization", aim at strengthening competitiveness through innovation. Due to the global climate catastrophe and strong interregional imbalances, priorities have shifted. This presentation discusses the shift in objectives and the accompanying theoretical and practical implications. This includes the need for instruments aimed at changing entire production and consumption systems, rather than those that promote growth in existing systems. It requires a broader understanding of economics that includes not only knowledge-intensive industries but also functions necessary for societal well-being. Furthermore, it requires an understanding of social engagement in qualitative change processes.

(Source photo: Pernilla Daws)

Co-Presentation

Sustainability and Well-Being: What to Measure? How to Measure?

Dr. Jonathan Morris
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Despite a growing interest in sustainability, economic growth and financial performance dominates policy and business decision-making. A number of questions remain regarding which aspects of sustainability to measure, the connection to well-being, and how to implement these into policy-making and at which scale. This talk outlines the need for a structured, yet flexible approach towards sustainability measurement that accounts for socio-economic variations between different localities.
Our speakers

**Dr. Markus Grillitsch** is director of CIRCLE, the Center for Innovation Research, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Human Geography at Lund University in Sweden, and Associate Professor at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, in Norway. Markus Grillitsch received his PhD from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration and his habilitation in economic geography from Lund University. His research interests include regional development, innovation, regional development and innovation policy, and economic geography. He has worked on these topics in numerous international research projects and published in the best scientific journals. Markus Grillitsch regularly works with public actors and international organizations to develop decision-making frameworks or to promote knowledge exchange.

**Dr. Jon Morris** is a Research Associate at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Ecological and Urban Development in Research Area Transformative Capacities. His work concerns the development of sustainability criteria and decision-support for local policy makers and business managers.

**IOER-Forum**

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