

We have the pleasure of inviting you to the international knowledge co-creation conference organized by Finnish Development NGOs – Fingo in collaboration with Finland's National Commission on Sustainable Development.

### *Invitation*

#### International knowledge co-creation conference

## **Beyond Growth - Indicators and Politics for People and Planet**

**28-29 October 2019**

**Paasitorni, Helsinki, Finland**

Many of the planet-wide ecosystems are near to their tipping points, climate change threatens everything that is important to us, and inequality within countries is growing. So far, the societal objectives and indicators tied up with economic growth, gross domestic product (GDP) in particular, have framed our ways of responding to the deepening sustainability crisis. There is a widely shared need for redefining progress through measures that go beyond GDP. We require a stronger and more realistic knowledge base for policy-making to create wellbeing that is sustainable now and in the future.

#### **The aims of this conference are to:**

- Bring together a wide range of actors from decision-making, administration, civil society, business, and academia who are interested in defining and measuring progress beyond growth.
- Advance discussion on how to place wellbeing and sustainability at the top of the EU policy agenda using indicators as leverage points.
- Develop recommendations for the EU to ensure the use of measures of wellbeing and sustainability as guides for policy-making.

During the conference, thematic working groups will discuss and develop recommendations for the EU to advance the use of measures of wellbeing and sustainability as guides for policy-making.

#### **The five thematic working groups are:**

1. *Equality of Income, Wealth and Opportunities*
2. *Resilience and Respecting the Ecosystem Boundaries*
3. *Transition to Carbon Neutral Circular Economy*
4. *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development – How European Policies Affect the Global South*
5. *Respecting Human Rights in Business*

The thematic working groups are being coordinated by Fingo and organized in partnership with SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (theme 1), EEB European Environmental Bureau (theme 2), Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund (theme 3), CONCORD, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs (theme 4), Fairtrade Finland and Felm, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (theme 5).

## PROGRAMME DRAFT

The preliminary programme is as follows and will be updated at [www.fingo.fi/beyondgrowth](http://www.fingo.fi/beyondgrowth)

The event will be hosted by **Tuuli Kaskinen**, Executive Advisor, Demos Helsinki think tank.

### Day 1, Monday 28 October

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.30 Special session: Transformation to carbon-neutral society – the role of beyond GDP indicators, in partnership with the Dialogue on European Decarbonisation Strategies (DEEDS) project  
*Morning coffee and break before the invitation-only event starts*
- 12.00 Official opening of the conference  
Keynote speaker: **Jason Hickel**, writer and anthropologist, London School of Economics  
Q&A and reflection with the participants  
*Lunch*  
Plenary discussion on themes and objectives of the thematic working groups  
Discussions in groups to form the recommendations (2,5 hours)  
Each thematic working group will be kicked off by motivational speech on the specific topic
1. Inequality of Income, Wealth and Opportunities, organized by SOSTE
  2. Resilience and Respecting the Ecosystem Boundaries, organized by EEB
  3. Transformation to Circular Economy, organized by Sitra
  4. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, organized by CONCORD
  5. Respecting Human Right in Business, organized by Fairtrade Finland and Felm
- Afternoon coffee*
- 17.00 Conference day one ends  
Task force continues distilling the recommendations for the next plenary
- 18.00 Reception hosted by the City of Helsinki at Empire Hall in the Old Town Hall of Helsinki

### Day 2, Tuesday 29 October

- 8.30 *Morning coffee*
- 9.00 Conference day two starts  
Keynote speaker: **Tim Ellis** Deputy Director, Performance and Outcomes Scottish Government. “The use of wellbeing and sustainability indicators in the National Performance Framework”  
Q&A and reflection with the participants  
Plenary on the recommendations based on the discussions and presented by the task force  
Discussions and conclusion in thematic groups (3,5 hours)  
*Lunch, coffee and posters*  
Presentation of the recommendations to **Raimo Luoma**, State Secretary to the Prime Minister of Finland.  
Panel discussion:  
**Mladen Domazet**, Research Director, Institute for Political Ecology, Croatia  
**Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler**, Head of the EU Coordination for Climate and Environment, Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, Austria  
**Raimo Luoma**, State Secretary to the Prime Minister of Finland  
**Paul Okumu**, Head of Secretariat of the Africa Platform (TBC)  
Representative for the European Commission (TBC)
- 17.00 Closure of the conference: **Juha-Erkki Mäntyniemi**, Executive Director at Fingo.

## REGISTRATION

Registration is already open. The places are limited, and therefore we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Please fill in and submit the online form at the latest by 15 September 2019 here:

<http://bit.ly/33Tg5xv>

Please note that the event is invitation-only. Should you not be able to attend yourself but wish to suggest another guest instead, you may send us the proposal for us to contact directly: [beyondgrowth@fingo.fi](mailto:beyondgrowth@fingo.fi)

Registration is binding but in case of cancellation please inform us as soon as possible:

[beyondgrowth@fingo.fi](mailto:beyondgrowth@fingo.fi)

## EVENT FEES AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The event is free of charge and includes complementary lunches and coffees during both days as well as evening reception on Monday hosted by the City of Helsinki.

The invitation to the conference does not cover travel arrangements or hotel accommodations. For accommodation we recommend Scandic Hotel Paasi as this is the closest hotel to the venue. The room rate from 27 October till 29 October is 129 euros per night per person in a standard single room or 149 euros per night per person in a standard double room including VAT, wlan and breakfast. Only a limited number of rooms have been allocated. Please use this web link when reserving the rooms:

<http://www.scandichotels.fi/?bookingcode=BFIN271019>

For more information about the venue and hotel reservations as well as other hotel options, please visit the event's web page at [www.fingo.fi/beyondgrowth](http://www.fingo.fi/beyondgrowth)

## CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS

We invite you to submit abstracts for a poster presentation. The conference will showcase abstracts presenting the most innovative research and work in relation to the themes of the conference. Please send your poster proposal to [beyondgrowth@fingo.fi](mailto:beyondgrowth@fingo.fi) no later than 10th September. You will receive more details by email after submission. Questions may be directed to advocacy advisor Elina Mikola at [elina.mikola@fingo.fi](mailto:elina.mikola@fingo.fi)

## FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME: ESDN CONFERENCE ON 30-31 OCTOBER

The conference *Towards a Sustainable Europe 2030 - From Reflection to Action* will be held at Finlandia Hall in Helsinki right after the Beyond Growth -conference on 30-31 October 2019. The conference is being organized by the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) in cooperation with the Finnish Prime Minister's Office and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. The policy recommendations from the Beyond Growth - event will be presented at this conference. Should you be interested in participating in the conference, please see the conference web page or contact the ESDN Office Team for more details: [www.sd-network.eu](http://www.sd-network.eu) or [eric.thomas.mulholland@wu.ac.at](mailto:eric.thomas.mulholland@wu.ac.at)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

In September, we will send you an email with the finalized programme, discussion papers for the thematic working groups, and other practical information.

For more information please visit or contact:

[www.fingo.fi/beyondgrowth](http://www.fingo.fi/beyondgrowth)

[beyondgrowth@fingo.fi](mailto:beyondgrowth@fingo.fi)

We look forward to seeing you in Helsinki in October!

Our best regards,  
Fingo's EU Presidency Team

## MAIN PARTNER



SUOMEN KESTÄVÄN KEHITYKSEN TOIMIKUNTA  
FINLANDS KOMMISSION FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING  
FINNISH NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## THEME PARTNERS



**SITRA**

**SOSTE**

**FOND**



**CONCORD**  
European NGO confederation for relief and development



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