

Abstracts (English)

Udo E. Simonis

Structural change of the economy and taking the strain off the environment

On theoretical reflection, growth and decline are inherent elements of structural change of the economy; and empirical analysis shows that they should be made elementary parts of an ecological structural policy. On basis of international comparisons, this article shows that autonomous structural change of the economy is a necessary though not sufficient condition of sustainable development. In practice, policies are still much needed to promote ecological modernization of industrial society.

key words: ecological policy, structural change, sustainable development

Hermann Bartmann, Jan A. Schwaab

Subsustainable development and globalization

Literature still often treats sustainability and employment issues as conflicts. From our point of view this is due to a superficial analysis of the underlying economic and ecological interdependencies. We argue that the debate is foremost driven by paradigmatic discrepancies. From an ecological-economic point of view we scrutinize the (neoclassical) growth paradigm and elaborate the guiding principles of an ecological and social sustainable employment policy. These encompass innovative technical, social and institutional strategies contributing to both efficient and sufficient sustainable solutions. Thereby, input (resource) and output constraints (carrying capacities) are met. We also discuss the role of globalization and international interdependence for national employment and sustainability approaches.

key words: ecological economy, employment, new welfare models, sustainability

Karl Georg Zinn

Work, sustainability and employment

The interdependence of sustainability, growth, employment and structural change in the long run are discussed and a quantification of growth- and employment-effect is given by recently published analyses of „economic-social“ and „ecological-economic“ strategies as well as by a mesoeconomic study concerning ecologically structured investment in the residence construction industry. The

integration of environmental protection and long run structural change could revive economic growth and counteract the stagnative trend respectively.

key words: employment, structural change, sustainability, work

Eyko Ewers, Ernst-H. Hoff, Jens Walter

Awareness of ecological responsibility and starting - points for organizational implementation

The conception of the awareness of ecological responsibility presented in this paper comprises three subareas: (a) knowledge of structural aspects of ecological problems, (b) ecological control attributions, and (c) ecological moral judgments. First, theoretical and empirical connections between the subareas are discussed, as are their effects on actual ecological behavior. Second, consequences for the advancement of ecological responsibility and behavior in organizations will be shown. These primarily concern the areas of environmental education, the integration of individual ecological behavior into collective strategies, and the development of a corporate environmental „conflict culture“.

key words: control attributions ecological awareness, ecological behavior, moral judgements, responsibility

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Environmental management systems: hindvance or trigger for socio-ecological learning processes within small firms

Small Companies rarely introduce environmental management systems. By the example of a pilot project involving three construction firms it will be analyzed under which circumstances environmental management may foster socio-ecological learning processes within small firms. A communicative and organizational embedding of management systems is a prerequisite for their successful adaption to small firms. Processes of ecological and organizational change within small firms will be restricted, if paternalistic patterns of communication prevail.

key words: communication, construction sector, environmental management, participation of employees, small firms, socio-ecological learning process