



**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference**  
**INTEGRAL GREEN ECONOMY FOR A BETTER WORLD – IGE2017:**

**INTEGRAL GREEN**  
**SLOVENIA, EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD**  
**TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Ljubljana, Slovenia, 31 January 2017**

**Concept Paper and Preliminary Agenda**

(16 January 2017)

**CONFERENCE FOCUS**

Presenting the contribution that an Integral Green Economy and Society approach, with Slovenia as a Pilot Country, could make to a New European Renaissance in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda

**SETTING THE SCENE**

*»We are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern. Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiralling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. Natural resource depletion and adverse impacts of environmental degradation, including desertification, drought, land degradation, freshwater scarcity and loss of biodiversity, add to and exacerbate the list of challenges which humanity faces. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. Increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States. The survival of many societies, and of the biological support systems of the planet, is at risk.«*

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,  
UN, 2015, para. 14

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)



This picture of the world today, complemented by the recognition that we also live in a time of immense opportunity, led the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives at Seventieth session of United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 to adopt 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated targets. Agenda 2030 is probably the most ambitious agenda in the history of humankind and it will have to be strongly supported by equally ambitious and integrally framed, holistic, trans-sectoral policies for sustainable development.

Urgent need for a paradigm shift is evident: for more holistic, local-global as opposed to globalizing, thereby, integrative approaches, rooted in nature and culture that are serving to improve the quality of life and welfare in general and, more specifically, enabling the sustainable development of technology and economy.

A number of integral approaches, many originating from Europe, have helped shift our global perspective towards a more integral viewpoint over the past 200 years, including that of Central Europe's Rudolf Steiner. And more recently: significant impact of US based Ken Wilber's integral approach and Don Beck's Spiral Dynamics, as well as Trans4m's Integral Worlds approach. We are witnessing an emergent "Integral Age"!

Global challenges are here and now, and in the future we can expect even more of them, with an increase in intensity and complexity. Multiple crises in Europe and neighbouring regions set in the context of a world on fire; the European Union is even facing a threat of disintegration. Among various initiatives and attempts to resurrect the grandeur of Europe are also those from which we can find inspiration in the great era of European Renaissance. Proposals and appeals for a New European Renaissance are focused on the fields of science and technology (by [EURAB in in 2009](#)), and culture (e.g. [The Coming European Renaissance](#), [Europe needs a new Renaissance](#)), or more recently, on the process of democratisation; security, defence and migration issues; investments in infrastructure; monetary union and secondary education ([The Appeal of 9 May](#) in 2016). We couldn't find, however, initiatives that would incorporate an integral perspective or position themselves in the paradigm of sustainable development.

In a unique approach to fuse and upgrade these two paradigms of sustainability and integrality, a new, integral conceptual framework (the *Integral Words* paradigm) has been developed by Trans4m Center for Integral Development in Geneva, and elaborated, *inter alia*, in the realm of economy. In a unique process of co-construction, Trans4m and the Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia have applied this new framework within the innovation ecosystem of the European Union, on the level of individual sustainable enterprises and local communities, but also on national level, and depicted this multidimensional and multi-layered process in the new Gower and Routledge volume [Integral Green Slovenia](#) (Piciga, Schieffer and Lessem, 2016).

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Revealing the conceptual strength of the *Integral Words* paradigm for addressing global challenges
- Proposing the Integral Green Economy and Society as a possible theoretical framework for a pEuropean Renaissance on a Path of Sustainability



- Showing some potentials for Europe to reassume - now in partnership with, and drawing upon, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and America - the joint Role of Navigating together the Economic and Societal Renewal Globally
- Linking the IGS Initiative and individual cases within this initiative to EU policies and programs
- Present and Strengthen Slovenia as a Pilot Country for an Integral Green Economy and Society
- Creating a powerful co-learning, research and networking opportunity for Slovenian and international participants (from the global Trans4m network, as well as others) of the conference, with a view to future cooperation.

### AUDIENCE

- Cross-sectoral audience from Slovenia – from various areas of sustainable development
- Members and supporters of IGS Citizens’s Initiative
- Members of the global Trans4m Network
- Policy and decision makers

### KEY CONFERENCE STREAMS

- Prelude: a key task is to identify the key drivers to integral renewal of the European Union, in the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda, with special attention to the drivers and areas with large volumes of unutilized or underutilized, fragmented potentials. Such drivers will then be presented in the three main streams of the conference.
- Main Streams: in the process of co-creating an Integral Green Slovenia in the innovation ecosystem of the EU, and based on integral analysis of the present situation in Europe and beyond, the following three streams were identified as highly relevant – all containing a wealth of (unutilized) potentials:
  1. Cultural and Natural Heritage for Integral Renewal of Slovenia and Europe, In and For Community
  2. Social Knowledge-Based Economy: Strengths and Opportunities in Slovenia and Europe; a Promising Path towards SDGs
  3. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and for an Integral Age (EIA)

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Each stream will:

- Include short presentations of relevant EU policies (strategies) and their implementation (programmes, regulations), followed by Slovenian cases
- Be enriched by relevant comparative Expertise and Contexts of Trans4m’s research and enterprise community from Africa, Middle East and the UK (via the Trans4m’s PhDs who will be in Slovenia for a PhD Module during the time of the conference), to contribute answers to the following questions:
  - “Integral Age” and “Societal Renaissance” emerging in other cultures: Is Europe aware of these developments?
  - Is Europe ready to support such integral impulses for societal renewal in developing countries?<sup>1</sup>
  - Can these developments and practices help Europe to become aware of its own hidden potentials for an Integral Green Society and Economy?

<sup>1</sup> Possible connection to the idea of a »Marshall Plan for Africa«. On a global scale, the EU is the biggest donor to developing countries.



All three streams will highlight important contributions for the transition to a green, low-carbon and resource efficient economy, in a view of its full integration with the social and cultural dimensions of SD.

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

- **Opening** (all participants, 15 min, 9:00 – 9:15)
- **Overview Session** (all participants, 90 min, 9:15 – 10:45):
  - **Setting the Scene** (Dr. Darja Piciga, Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Slovenia; Prof. Alexander Schieffer & Prof. Ronnie Lessem, Trans4m Centre for Integral Development, Switzerland)
  - **Integral Words Approach** for addressing imbalances in a holistic manner (Prof. Ronnie Lessem & Prof. Alexander Schieffer)
  - **Nature- and Heritage-Based Tourism In and For Local Community: Integral Green Economy for EDEN Destinations** (Marko Slapnik, GREAT DAY, Institute for Pure Experiences, Slovenia)
  - **Integral Green Economy and Society: A Model that already Works in Practice; Integral Green Economy and Society (IGSE) in Slovenia; IGSE & Agenda 2030; IGSE and Europe** (Prof. Alexander Schieffer, Prof. Ronnie Lessem, Dr. Darja Piciga, Robert Dellner, Centre for Integral Finance and Economics, Sweden / United Kingdom)
  - **Introduction and Invitation to the Conference Streams**
- **Three Parallel Streams** (groups of participants, as per main interest, 150 min & Lunch break, 11:15 – 14:45): **Rising Potentials for Integral Renewal of Society and Transition to a Sustainable Economy**
  - **Cultural and Natural Heritage for Integral Renewal of Slovenia and Europe, In and For Communities** (Chair: Dr. Janez Nared, ZRC SAZU - Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts, Slovenia; Co-Chair: Dr. Nevenka Bogataj, Slovenian Institute for Adult Education, Slovenia)
    - European Tradition and Change in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources by Local Communities (Jernej Stritih, Stritih Sustainable Development Consulting, Slovenia)
    - European Natural and Cultural Heritage as Integration Tool towards a New European Renaissance (Dr. Peter Skoberne, Slovenia)
    - Revitalising Culture and Spirit through Integrated Regional Development: The Case of the Heart of Slovenia (Aleksandra Gradišek, Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia)
    - Marko Pogačnik, UNESCO Artist for Peace (Slovenia): How to Communicate with the Soul of Slovenia
    - Heritage and Challenges of Sustainable Integral Development: From Anthropocentric Attitude towards the Environment to Cooperative Relationships (Karin Lavin, ANIMA MUNDI, Institute for Integrated Development, Slovenia)
    - Emerging Sustainable Tourism in Europe and Globally, with Slovenia as the First Green Destination in the World (Slovenian Tourist Organisation) (invited)
    - Sustainable Design for a New European Renaissance: The Case of International Platform GoInGreenGlobal (Prof. Nada Matičič, Faculty of Design, Slovenia)
    - Cultural Renewal and Community Development in Liverpool (Tony Bradley, Liverpool Hope Business School, United Kingdom)



- **A Social Knowledge-Based Economy Leveraging a New European Renaissance and the SDGs** (Chairs: Chair from Slovenia and Prof. Ronnie Lessem):
  - Revival of Cooperative Spirit and Emerging Social Entrepreneurship in Slovenia (Goran Milošević, Prof. Frane Adam, Dane Podmenik, IRSA - Institute for Developmental and Strategic Analysis, Slovenia)
  - Knowledge- and Value-Based Cooperative Management: The Case of Domel (Dr. Jožica Rejec, Domel, Slovenia)
  - Social & Circular Economy in Slovenia & Europe: a Promising Path towards SDGs (Tadej Slapnik, Office of the Prime Minister, Slovenia; Mojca Štepic, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia)
  - Networking for Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship: The Role of the Slovenian Forum for Social Entrepreneurship (Mojca Metelko, Slovenian Forum for Social Entrepreneurship, Slovenia)
  - Reformulating the Inner Moral Core - the Biblical Quaternity Archetype as a Basis for Integral Cultural Economics (Tony Bradley, Liverpool Hope Business School, United Kingdom)
  - Centre for Integral Finance and Economics (Robert Dellner, Centre for Integral Finance and Economics, Sweden / United Kingdom)
  - Integral Banking for the Common Good: a Nigerian Context (Jubril Adejo, Center for Integral Social and Economic Research - CISER, Nigeria / Heritage Bank Plc, Nigeria) (tbc)
  
- **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and for an Integral Age (EIA)** (Chairs: Dr. Darja Piciga and Prof. Alexander Schieffer):
  - Overview of potentials for ESD and EIA in Slovenia (Dr. Darja Piciga, Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia; Prof. Emer. Barica Marentič Požarnik, Slovenia; Saša Kregar & Dr. Zora Rutar Ilc, National Education Institute Slovenia)
  - Do something! – Education for Social Pillar of Sustainable Development (Matej Cepin, Social Academy, Slovenia)
  - Learning for Sustainability in and for Community: The Cases of Slovenska Bistrica Kindergarten and Outdoor Learning in Educational Polygon for Self-Sufficiency Dole (Ivana Leskovar, Mojca Pešak, Kindergarten Oton Župančič, Slovenska Bistrica, Slovenia; Prof. Ana Vovk Korže, International Centre for Ecoremediation, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor, Slovenia)
  - Revival of European Heritage for a New European Renaissance, with Slovenia Excelling in European Heritage Days (Nataša Gorenc, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Slovenia)
  - Teaching Organic Agriculture as a Model for Circular Economy and Sustainability (Prof. Martina Bavec & Prof. Franci Bavec, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Maribor, Slovenia)
  - Greening the Desert – The Case of Sekem and Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, Egypt (Max Abouleish, Sekem, Egypt)
  - Creating a Better and More Peaceful World through Education – The Jordanian Case of The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes (Laila Abdul-Majeed, ASG/BSA, Jordan)
  - African Business Education for an African Renaissance: The Case of FoodLovers Academy (Frans Van der Colff, FoodLovers, South Africa)
  - The Trans4m Da Vinci PhD / PHD Program as a Driver of Societal Renewal (Alexander Schieffer, TRANS4M Center for Integral Development, Geneva, Switzerland)
  
- **Collective Harvest: Slovenia and Europe** (all participants, 60 min, 15:30 – 16:30)
  - Sharing of Key Outcomes of Each Stream



- Connecting the Dots / The Emergent New Perspective / Integral Green Europe with IGS: a Feasible Perspective to overcome the State of Multiple Crises / Possible Contributions of Slovenia to a New European Renaissance
- **From Slovenia to Europe to the World** (all participants, 60 min, 16:30 - 17:30): Contribution of an Integral Green Economy and Society as a Model for a New European Renaissance to the Agenda 2030. And Beyond: Europe could reassume the role of Navigating Societal and Economic **Renewal on a Global Scale!**
  - **Closing of Conference**
- **Networking Event to follow** (18:00 – 20:00)

### ORGANIZING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Dr Darja Piciga (Chair), Dr Nevenka Bogataj, Prof Ronnie Lessem, Andrej Kranjc, MSc, Prof Alexander Schieffer, Tadej Slapnik

### CONFERENCE LOCATION AND INFORMATION

**Venue of the Conference:** European Union House, Dunajska 20, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Registration:** Registration is obligatory for all participants of the conference.

For registration send your name, affiliation and contact details to [integralnaslovenija@gmail.com](mailto:integralnaslovenija@gmail.com).

No conference fee.

**Registration deadline:** January 27 or until all vacancies are filled.

The conference will be held in English.

We reserve the right to update and change the agenda.

**Further information:** [integralnaslovenija@gmail.com](mailto:integralnaslovenija@gmail.com)

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE ON** <http://integralna-zelena-slovenija.si/>.

### ORGANISED AND SUPPORTED BY:



**Citizens' Initiative for an  
Integral Green Slovenia**



**TRANS4M Centre for Integral Development,  
Geneva, Switzerland**



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GREAT DAY, Institute for Pure  
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Cultural Heritage of Slovenia





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