

Global PicNic for Degrowth peaks this Sunday in 65 cities all over the world

Brussels, 03-06. On Sunday the 6th of June, thousands of citizens from more than 65 cities from 19 countries are participating to the 1st Global PicNic for Degrowth. Event, headed under the slogan that “*change always starts with a nice chat around a good dinner*”, will take place in Brussels, London, Barcelona, Berlin, Paris, Wageningen, Lyon, Vancouver, Buenos Aires, Lisbon and many other places.

The current economic crisis should be the time to seriously consider new perspectives, advocated by hundreds of scholars and leading professors during the International Degrowth Conference in Paris 2008 and Barcelona 2010.

Degrowth implies multiplicity of actions that stress the importance of socially equitable downscaling of production and consumption, ecological sustainability and collective horizontal action. One example degrowth in practice is sharing houses, durable goods and work, while devoting more time to art, music, family, culture and community. At the individual level, degrowth implies voluntary simplicity.

“The PicNic comes to show that degrowth is not a far-fetched utopian concept, but something which we can experience daily with simple, communal and convivial action”, says Filka Sekulova from Research and Degrowth”.

“Degrowth implies that we are moving beyond the illusion of reconciling economic growth with ecological and social sustainability. The social, financial and ecological crises come to show that it is a time to turn the course to lighter living, time to do a mass move from profit-based to gift-based economic relations, from rational self-interest to altruism and sharing. This is what we will try to practice and experience at the Pic Nic for Degrowth”, adds Federico Demaria one of the organizers in Barcelona.

Information for editors:

1. Event website <http://picnic4degrowth.net/>

2. Conference on economic degrowth in Barcelona, 2010, background and proceedings available at: <http://www.degrowth.eu/v1/>