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Economy for the Common Good as a Mechanism for a Post-Growth Transition? A Textual Analysis of ECG Municipalities and Regions

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Student's signature

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the discourse of Degrowth and the Economy for the Common Good (ECG) movement to discover potential alignments of values, principles, and objectives. The objectives of the research are: 1) identify perceptions and experiences of the 'Common Good Economy' among municipalities and regional organizations that have completed a common good balance sheet; 2) identify any potential variations in perceptions of the Common Good Economy among the countries analyzed; and 3) determine what key values, principles, and objectives of the municipalities and regional organizations studied align the most and least with those of Degrowth. I conduct a case study analysis of 8 municipalities and 2 regional organizations within Austria, Italy, Germany, and Spain that have completed the ECG Common Good Balance Sheet for their institutions. The methods used for this qualitative study include a textual analysis using Iramuteq software of 9 online interview/survey responses from municipal officials and organizational representatives and 2 documents from a municipality that are substituted for an interview/survey response. The results of the analysis indicate that 1) the majority of the respondents perceive the Common Good Economy through a problem-solving lens, focusing on actions and methods to promote the 'common good' rather than emphasizing the principles behind them; 2) there are some variations among the respondents based on their affiliated country, with Austria, Germany, and Italy aligning more with specific categories of ideas and Spain having the most even distribution of alignment to all categories; and 3) the Common Good Economy values, principles, and objectives of the respondents demonstrate a slight alignment with those of Degrowth, but there are few explicitly aligned ideas and keywords exhibited in the discourses. The implications of the analysis suggest that Degrowth advocates could use the ECG matrix and balance sheet to campaign local governments and organizations to implement post-growth social and environmental objectives.

EXTENDED SUMMARY (IN ITALIAN)

Lo scopo di questa tesi è analizzare il discorso della Decrescita e del movimento dell'Economia per il Bene Comune (EBC), per scoprire potenziali allineamenti di valori, principi e obiettivi. Sia la Decrescita che l'EBC rappresentano delle alternative al capitalismo neoliberale, e invocano la necessità di una transizione verso una società e un'economia in grado di bilanciare le esigenze del benessere umano con i limiti ecologici del pianeta attraverso un processo decisionale collettivo, democratico e partecipativo. Esse sostengono che è possibile per tutti gli esseri umani vivere bene e prosperare entro i confini del pianeta, ma che sono necessari cambiamenti significativi nei nostri valori sociali e ambientali per realizzare un cambiamento olistico nel nostro sistema economico e politico verso una società post-crescita, che abbandoni l'idea che una crescita economica infinita sia possibile e buona. Una revisione della letteratura sulla Decrescita e sull'EBC rivela due principali lacune nella ricerca: 1) la mancanza di studi volti a dimostrare la compatibilità di meccanismi esistenti che si allineino con i principi e gli obiettivi della Decrescita, e che potrebbero essere utilizzati per promuovere una transizione Decrescita/Post-crescita; e 2) la mancanza di studi sul movimento EBC in generale, e la particolare necessità di sviluppare ricerche sull'applicazione della Matrice del Bene Comune da parte di entità politiche locali e regionali. La presente ricerca contribuisce a colmare queste lacune analizzando il movimento EBC, e la misura in cui i comuni e le organizzazioni regionali che hanno condotto un Bilancio del Bene Comune hanno allineato i loro valori e obiettivi a quelli della Decrescita. È stata condotta un'analisi su 8 comuni e 2 organizzazioni regionali in Austria, Italia, Germania e Spagna che hanno completato il Bilancio del Bene Comune EBC per le loro istituzioni tra il 2014 e il 2021. Gli obiettivi della ricerca sono quindi 1) identificare le percezioni e le esperienze di "Economia del bene comune" tra i comuni e le organizzazioni regionali che hanno completato un bilancio del bene comune; 2) identificare ogni potenziale variazione nella percezione dell'Economia del bene comune tra i Paesi analizzati; 3) determinare quali valori, principi e obiettivi chiave dei comuni e delle organizzazioni regionali analizzati si allineino maggiormente con quelli della Decrescita. I metodi utilizzati per questo studio qualitativo comprendono l'analisi testuale, tramite l'utilizzo del software Iramuteq, di 9 tra interviste e questionari online compilati da funzionari comunali e rappresentanti di organizzazioni, e di 2 documenti provenienti da un comune che sostituiscono le risposte a tali interviste/sondaggi. I risultati dell'analisi indicano che: 1) la maggior parte degli intervistati percepisce l'Economia del Bene Comune attraverso una prospettiva di risoluzione dei problemi, concentrandosi sulle azioni e sui metodi per promuovere il "bene comune" piuttosto che enfatizzare i principi che ne sono alla base; 2) ci sono alcune variazioni tra gli intervistati in base al Paese di appartenenza, con Austria, Germania e Italia che si allineano maggiormente a specifiche categorie di idee, mentre la Spagna ha una distribuzione più uniforme di allineamento a tutte le categorie; e 3) i valori, i principi e

gli obiettivi dell'Economia del Bene Comune presentati dagli intervistati dimostrano un leggero allineamento con quelli della Decrescita, ma poche idee e parole chiave risultano esplicitamente correlate nelle risposte. Le implicazioni dell'analisi suggeriscono che i sostenitori della Decrescita potrebbero utilizzare la matrice e il bilancio dell'EBC per promuovere i governi e le organizzazioni locali a implementare gli obiettivi sociali e ambientali della post-crescita.

INSPIRATION

"The last thought we wish to offer is that man must explore himself - his goals and values - as much as the world he seeks to change. The dedication to both tasks must be unending. The crux of the matter is not only whether the human species will survive, but even more whether it can survive without falling into a state of worthless existence." - Executive Committee of The Club of Rome

"[W]e must abandon the goal of exponential growth…human beings themselves are becoming the waste products of a system that would like to make them useless and do without them." - Serge Latouche

"In choosing between tackling a political impossibility and a biophysical impossibility, I would judge the latter to be the more impossible and take my chances with the former." - Herman Daly

"If you remove the English Army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the organization of the Socialist Republic your efforts will be in vain. England will still rule you. She would rule you through her capitalists, through her landlords, through her financiers, through the whole array of commercial and individualist institutions she has planted in this country and watered with the tears of our mothers and the blood of our martyrs." - James Connolly

"Rebellions are built on hope!" - Jyn Erso, Star Wars: Rogue One

PREFACE

This thesis investigates the theoretical compatibility of the Economy for the Common Good (ECG) movement and Degrowth using a discourse analysis of municipal officials and representatives of regional organizations that have completed a Common Good Balance Sheet. This research could be used to explore the potential for enabling a Degrowth transition in local and regional communities that incorporate ECG objectives in their policies and projects. Both Degrowth and ECG seek to enable alternatives to the neoliberal model of capitalism, especially its obsession with economic growth, and a revaluation of economic values and goals based on well-being and conviviality between nature and humanity, finding a balance between human sufficiency needs and reducing the ecological impact of economic activities conducted to meet these needs.

The motivation to explore this topic stems from the urgent necessity for the Global North to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the unsustainable lifestyle that it supports and encourages through neoliberal economic policies, which seeks the maximization of short-term gains and never-ending growth. This lifestyle encourages competition that rewards those who are the strongest, most cunning, and able to navigate the ambiguities within the rules of the game with little regard for the negative impact on the other players, nor the environment that hosts the game and without which the game would not exist. The foundations of this paradigm can be traced to colonialism, where population growth led to the quest for new resources and land to maintain the population - as well as the *power* over it. This created an extractivist system that ensures the survival of the powerful by plundering territories and their people to feed the machines and institutions that maintain their power.

However, this system was not created without resistance and compromise. Thanks to the work of many philosophers, activists, and educators who have fought and died for change, we are beginning to see a paradigm shift. The social and ecological damage to the planet has been discussed vehemently for more than a century and there is much debate on how to mitigate and repair this damage. Many agree that there is need for an economic, political, and cultural revolution, but there has not yet been a global consensus on what this transition would entail. Some have proposed that a ‘pluriverse’ of solutions is possible, which would enable multiple societies to co-exist as long as they maintain strong relationships with each other and nature. Degrowth is one of the many solutions within this pluriverse, though imperfect, and this thesis explores a potential pathway to realize such a transition.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this research is to analyze the potential alignments between the Economy for the Common Good (ECG) movement and Degrowth principles using a textual analysis of interviews and questionnaire responses from municipal officials and representatives of regional organizations that have completed a Common Good Balance Sheet (CGBS), a non-financial instrument created by the ECG used to analyze an organization/institution's alignment with the values of the Common Good Economy. The analysis is conducted using Iramuteq open-source software on transcriptions of online interviews, questionnaire responses, and official documents from municipalities and regional companies/associations in Austria, Italy, Germany, and Spain that have conducted a CGBS. This analysis can be used by Degrowth activists to identify opportunities for collaboration and engagement with the ECG movement in order to promote Degrowth policy objectives within municipalities and regions that have committed to the ECG.

This research investigates one of many possible alternatives to the neoliberal capitalist system. Many individuals, organizations, and governments have expressed the dire need to address the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change in a socially just transition that promotes well-being for both people and the planet. Advocates for both Degrowth and the Economy for the Common Good argue that such a transition must include a reorganization of the economy and society around principles of ecology, social justice, democracy, cooperation, and reevaluating our relationships with each other and nature. Both argue for the abandonment of 'growthism' and its obsession with GDP as the go-to standard for social welfare.

The call to replace economic growth with ecological and social well-being goals has increasingly gained traction in recent years, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic. Global North countries like New Zealand, Wales, Scotland, Iceland, Canada, and Finland have already committed to prioritizing the objectives of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance above economic growth (Meredith 2022), while Global South countries like Bolivia and Ecuador have long codified the government's responsibility to promote and protect 'buen vivir' ('living well') for their people and environment (Acosta and Abarca 2018). The EU has even recognized the need to move beyond the growth paradigm through its "Beyond GDP" conferences, which began in 2007 (European Commission, n.d.) and a recent UN report from the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights advocated for the need to reject the entrenched idea that economic growth is the only solution for eradicating poverty (De Schutter 2024, p. 1):

> "The ideology of "growthism" should not become a distraction from the urgent need both to provide more of the goods and services that enhance well-being and to reduce

> the production of what is unnecessary or even toxic. As long as the economy is driven mainly by profit maximization, it will respond to the demand expressed by the richest groups of society, leading to extractive forms of production that worsen social exclusion in the name of creating more wealth, and it will fail to fulfill the rights of those in poverty. Moving from an economy driven by the search for maximizing profits to a human rights economy is possible and, to remain within planetary boundaries, necessary."

The report argued for its recommendations to be adopted in the UN Pact for the Future, which was recently concluded in September 2024 and included an action item that requests the UN Secretary General to create an intergovernmental commission whose purpose is requested to develop indicators that measure sustainable development progress that "complement and go beyond gross domestic product" based on the recommendations of an independent high-level expert group (United Nations 2024, p. 37-38). This thesis provides a small glimpse of alternatives to the growth paradigm proposed by Degrowth, as well as an instrument developed by the ECG movement used to measure organizational/institutional progress towards the Common Good Economy, which could be used to achieve many human and ecological well-being objectives.

Thus, the objectives of this research are: 1) identify perceptions and experiences of the Common Good Economy among municipalities and regional entities that have conducted a CGBS; 2) determine what variations of ECG perceptions exist among countries, if any; and 3) determine the extent to which key ideas, principles, and objectives of ECG municipalities and regions align the with those of Degrowth. A mixed methods analysis is employed in this study, composed of 9 semi-structured interviews and survey responses with public officials from the studied municipal and regional organizations/institutions, which are transcribed, as well as two official documents that were substituted for an additional interview/survey response. A textual analysis of the transcriptions and official documents from each case study is conducted using Iramuteq software to identify statistical occurrences and associations among words and phrases used in the interviews, surveys, and documents, which are used to determine similar ideas, principles, and objectives exhibited by ECG municipalities and regional entities that potentially align with Degrowth theory.

The following research questions will guide the analysis:

RQ1: How do public officials within Common Good municipalities and regional organizations perceive and implement the principles and objectives of the Common Good Economy? (*analysis of perceptions*)

RQ2: Are there differences in discourse about the principles and objectives of the Common Good Economy among countries? (*analysis of regional/cultural variations*)

RQ3: To what extent do these perceptions and actions align with the key ideas, principles, and objectives of Degrowth? (*analysis of methodological coherence*)

The thesis progresses as follows. Chapter 1 is composed of a literature review of Degrowth and the Economy for the Common Good movement, including theories, ideas, and principles that have influenced each of them, which establishes the conceptual framework for the analysis. Chapter 2 presents a detailed overview of the methodology for the analysis, including limitations, while chapter 3 describes the municipalities and regions studied. Chapter 4 presents the results of the analysis, followed by the discussion and limitations of the findings. The final section concludes with a summary of the research findings and recommendations for future research.

CHAPTER 1

Degrowth and the Common Good Economy: A New Economic Compass

This chapter summarizes the theory and origins of Degrowth and the Economy for the Common Good movement. I begin with a literature review of Degrowth, including its basis in bio and ecological economics, as well as the social justice principles that have influenced the theory, followed by characteristics of and proposals for a Degrowth society. The second section explores in detail the ECG movement and 'common good' theory, which shares common ground with Degrowth, followed by an overview of related literature. I then identify some challenges and critiques to both Degrowth and ECG before concluding with a brief summary of the chapter, including a taxonomy of the two concepts which details their similarities, differences, actors, objectives, and methods.

1.1 Degrowth: Origins and theory

1.1.1 What is Degrowth?

Authors Kallis et al. (2015) trace the concept of Degrowth to André Gorz's 'Décroissance' in 1972 when he posed the question: "Is the earth's balance, for which no-growth - or even degrowth - of material production is a necessary condition, compatible with the survival of the capitalist system?" (Gorz 1972, p. iv; Kallis et al. 2015, p. 1). His critical question was the result of theories by Kenneth Boulding, Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, and other philosophers, scientists, and economists that have questioned the Earth's ability to support an economy with limitless growth. 'Décroissance' became a rallying cry in 2001 by French activists in Lyon who advocated for car-free cities, a ban on advertising, more food cooperatives, and communal meal gatherings in the streets (Kallis et al. 2015). This was followed by other antiglobalization movements in Italy ('Decrescita') in 2004 and Catalunya ('Decreixement'; 'Decrecimiento' in Spanish) in 2006. The English term was mainstreamed in 2008 at the first Degrowth Conference in Paris, organized by the Research and Degrowth academic association that was established a year prior in Barcelona, as well as a Master's degree program in Political Ecology, Degrowth, and Environmental Justice at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2017 (UAB 2024).

At the first Degrowth conference, participants issued a declaration criticizing the neoliberal belief that infinite growth was both possible and good, and advocated for economic degrowth as a necessary step to prevent ecological catastrophe. Their case for Degrowth acknowledges the following (Research & Degrowth 2010):

1. Economic growth requires more production, consumption, investment, and ultimately use of land, energy, and resources.

2. Economic growth has not reduced poverty and instead has increased inequality, especially between countries.
3. An economic and ecological boundary for the planet exists and the global economy has exceeded this boundary, especially in Global North economies.
4. The continued pursuit of economic growth is socially and environmentally unsustainable and uneconomic; the costs far outweigh the benefits.
5. Wealthier states use more resources than sufficiency requires, taking away resources from other developing states who also suffer the harshest environmental consequences.
6. If we do not make an economic transition based on ecological principles soon, there will be an involuntary and uncontrolled decline or collapse of the global economy.

Therefore, the participants argued for 'right-sizing' the global ecological footprint by reducing consumption, production, and pollution to sustainable levels that can be safely absorbed by the ecosystem, as well as wealth redistribution that allows the poorest countries to achieve a sustainable standard of living based on sufficiency and requires wealthy countries to degrow their economies and society to this standard. The participants argued that Degrowth should lead to a 'steady-state economy,' proposed by Herman Daly, and create a society based on principles of ecology, participatory democracy, respect for human rights and cultural differences, fulfilling basic needs, enhancing well-being, and conviviality. This would allow for reduced working hours and more leisure time, which could enhance creativity, self-reflection, and allow for more time with family, community, and engaging in caring activities that are often unpaid in the neoliberal economy (Research & Degrowth 2010).

Latouche (2009) proposed a similar vision for Degrowth, arguing for the necessity of western society to degrow both the economy and population in order to reduce the pressure on the planet and its natural resources. In support of this argument, he gives two analogies. The first depicts the bloom of green algae in a pond caused by fertilizer runoff from nearby farms, which doubles in size every year. Even after 24 years, the algae only covers 3% of the pond and thus poses no serious threat. Eventually it covers half of the pond, sparking concern for the species that live under the water and leaving only a year to resolve the situation before it covers the entire pond. This symbolizes the threat to the biosphere from the exponential rate of resource consumption, driven by economic and population growth, as well as the dangers of not addressing the problem before the tipping point. In the next analogy he depicts the growth of a snail's shell, to which the snail adds new rings overtime until the shell is a sufficient size to meet its needs. If the snail continued to add rings, the shell would become too heavy for the gastropod and begin to harm it. This symbolizes the necessity for balance and limits to growth - and that by exceeding these limits we are harming not only ourselves but also the planet and its ecosystem.

Latouche (2009) proposed eight 'R's' that are essential to a Degrowth transition:

1. **Reevaluate** our relationship with each other and nature, rejecting the notion of humanity's superiority over the biosphere and embracing cooperation towards common goals.
2. **Reconceptualize** our concepts of wealth and poverty, particularly with the commodification of nature that creates artificial scarcity and inequality.
3. **Restructure** the existing "productive apparatus" (p. 36) and social relations to the values of a Degrowth society.
4. **Redistribute** wealth and power "between North and South and, within each society, between classes, generations and individuals" (p. 36), which will also repair the 'ecological debt' created by the Global North through its extraction of resources, pollution, and destruction of territories and livelihoods in the Global South.
5. **Relocalize** production and consumption of goods and services (and energy, where possible) within a relatively small community (i.e. a city or region), ensuring that local sufficiency and well-being needs are met and allowing for only essential needs to be exported beyond the local borders. This also applies to governance, giving more political autonomy to local communities that should then be governed by the principles of participatory democracy.
6. **Reduce** production, consumption, working hours, health risks, and mass tourism in-line with sufficiency needs, which would allow for more leisure time and attendance to citizen duties, thus enhancing personal freedom and dignity. He argues that travel, while a significant part of human nature and a "source of enrichment" (p. 38), should be limited to one's own territory as much as possible to limit the negative impacts of visited populations and their environment.
7. **Reuse** and 8. **Recycle**, to the greatest extent possible, both natural and man-made materials in the production and consumption cycle. This includes making products that are designed to endure for many years and ensuring they are repairable.

Latouche admits that a Degrowth society cannot exist within the current nation-state organizational model, which will not easily fade, and that the mission of Degrowth activists must be to influence debates, encourage others to take their arguments into consideration, and ultimately change attitudes.

The overarching critique from Degrowth is of capitalism and its endless pursuit of profit and growth. As Kallis et al. (2015) claim:

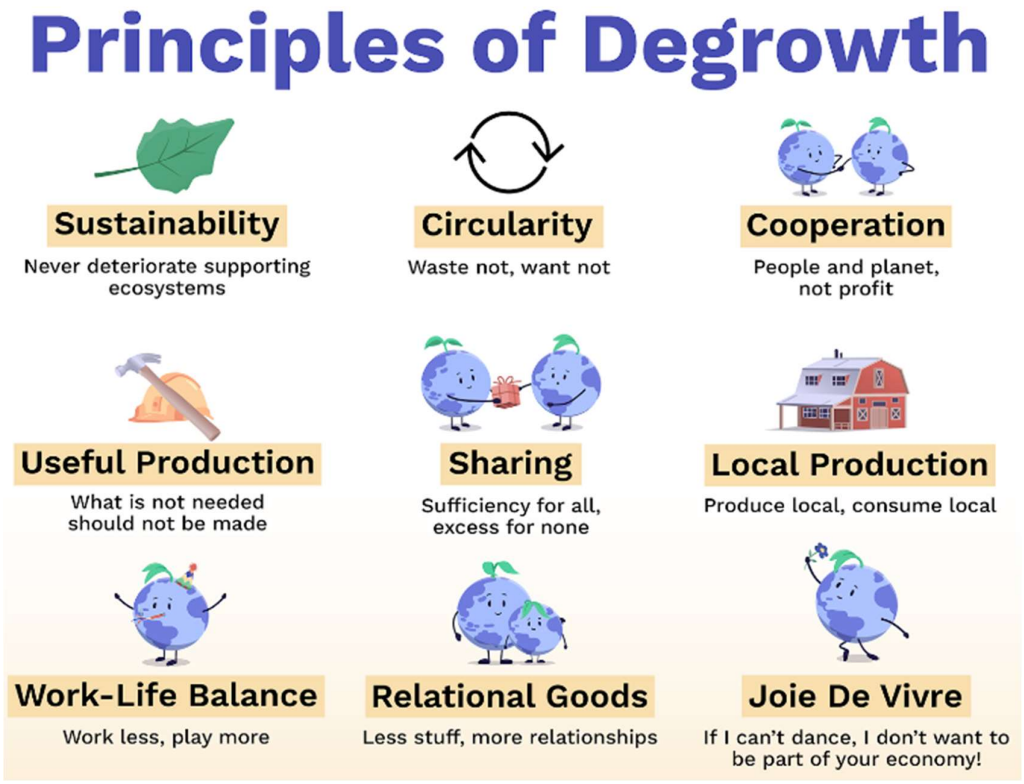
> "Capitalism is an ensemble of institutions – private property, the corporation, wage labour and private credit and money at an interest rate – whose end result is a dynamic of profit in search of more profit ('accumulation'). The alternatives, projects and policies that signify a degrowth imaginary are essentially non-capitalist: they diminish

> the importance of core capitalist institutions of property, money etc, replacing them with institutions imbued with different values and logics. Degrowth therefore signifies a transition beyond capitalism."

For the authors, a key point of Degrowth is "*different*, not only *less*" (Ibid, p. 4; emphasis by authors). Degrowth is not only a reduction of economic growth, but also envisions a reproductive economy centered around care and reclaiming/creating new 'commons' - both in the digital and physical sphere. It also calls for new models of knowledge production, such as 'post-normal science,' which emphasizes the value of including local and indigenous knowledge in research and decision making (Villamayor-Tomas et al. 2023).

Demaria et al. (2013) argue for a similar view of Degrowth, noting that it "challenges the hegemony of growth and calls for a democratically led redistributive downscaling of production and consumption in industrialised countries as a means to achieve environmental sustainability, social justice and well-being" (p. 209). They label Degrowth as an "interpretative frame" (p. 194) that began as an activist slogan and has become a social movement comprised of six key features: ecology, critiques of development and praise for anti-utilitarianism (i.e. from the post-development field, including Wolfgang Sachs, Auturo Escobar, and Gilbert Rist, among many others), the meaning of life and well-being, bioeconomics, democracy, and justice; and that none of these can be excluded in order to prevent its hijacking by authoritarianism and extremism. The authors also find that feminism and environmental justice movements have much influence within the movement and should be considered allies, as Degrowth is also an "activist-led science" (Ibid, p. 210). Degrowth should embody and welcome a range of actors in various sectors and fields, ranging from housing, urban planning, and alternative monetary systems to agroecology, education, alternative energies, climate justice, and cooperative enterprises.

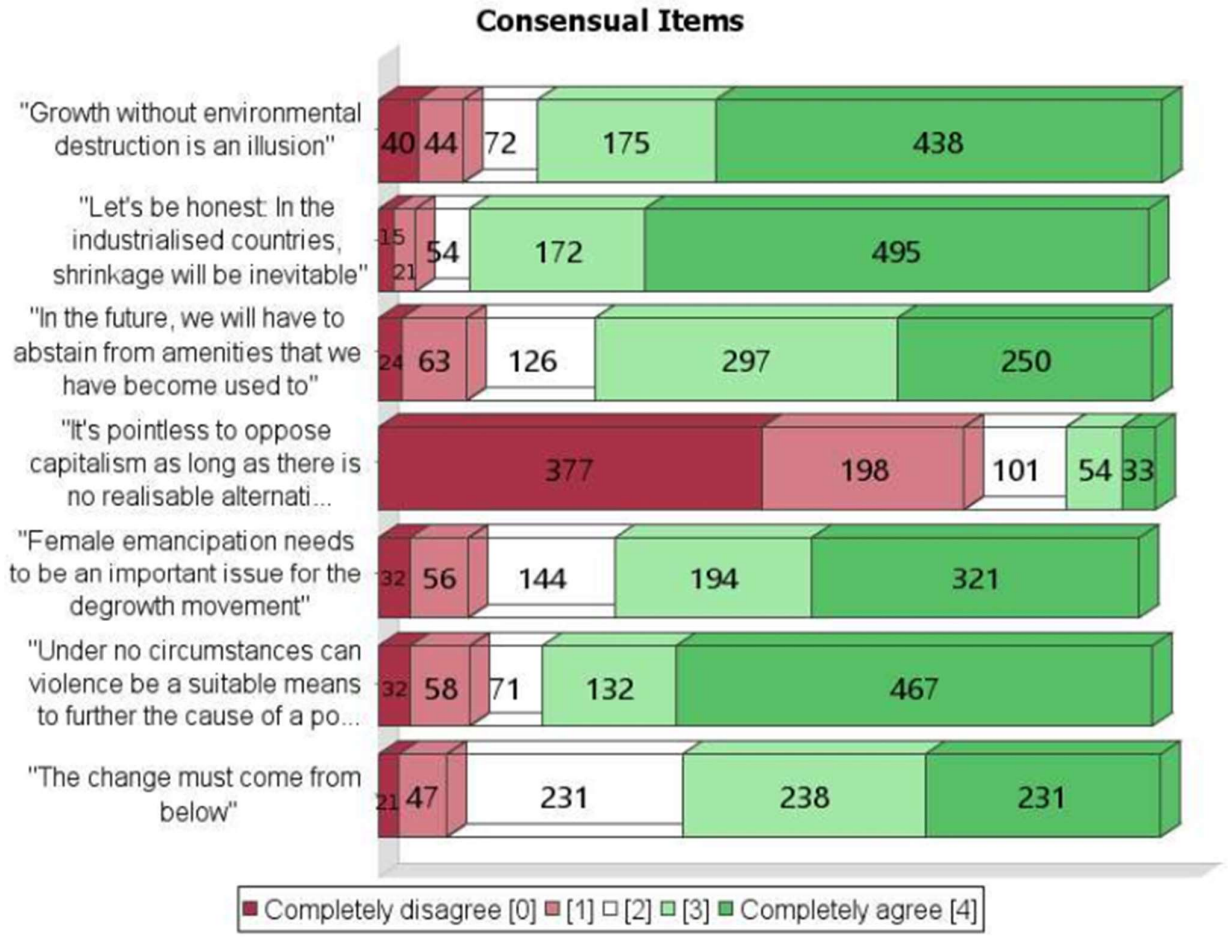
Figure 1.1.1.1: A simplified summary of Degrowth principles



Source: Arellano (2023)

Schmelzer and Eversberg (2017) argue that Degrowth is best understood as a "spectrum" or "field" (p. 330), as it is not centrally organized into a singular movement but incorporates many actors and activists from different academic fields and social, political, and environmental movements. The authors conducted a survey of 814 participants at the 2014 Leipzig Degrowth conference to identify perceptions and existing clusters of Degrowth actors, with 84.2% of the respondents coming from Germany and 15.8% originating outside of Germany - mostly other European countries like Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Spain (see Eversberg 2015). They find that the areas of consensus fall into 2 composite categories: 1) that 'green/sustainable' growth is an illusion and rich nations cannot continue economic growth, thus reducing material affluence is inevitable; and 2) a transition to a post-growth society must be "pro-feminist, pacifist, grassroots-democratic, and rooted in a critique of capitalism" (Ibid, p. 335).

Figure 1.1.1.2: Summary of consensual points found in the questionnaire



Source: Eversberg and Schmelzer (2017)

Using a cluster analysis of the responses, the authors find that the participants can be placed into 5 groups based on their worldviews:

1) **Sufficiency-oriented critics of civilization** that favor societies centered around self-sufficiency. The authors note that many of these respondents tend to be older activists of other social and environmental movements.

2) **Immanent reformers** that believe technology and system reform (not necessarily a revolution or abandonment of capitalism) could play a large role in achieving post-growth goals. The authors note that, while being the most divergent group from mainstream Degrowth ideas, this camp could be the most useful as negotiators between hardline Degrowthers and those more in favor of the status quo.

3) **Voluntarist-pacifist idealists**, which believe that encouraging others to voluntarily change their lifestyles and avoiding violence and conflict are the keys to a post-growth societal transition. The authors note that the average respondent of this group is a young female and assume that many young people pass through this camp before forming stronger opinions and joining a different cluster.

4) **Modernist-rationalist Leftists** that support traditional left-wing social policies and critiques of capitalism, also advocating that the social need for Degrowth is higher than the environmental need. This group is noted to be mostly composed of males living in cities.
5) **Alternative practical Leftists**, which believe in "revolution by way of practical self-transformation" (p. 350) by creating experimental spaces such as repair cafes, urban gardens, and alternative housing. The authors note that this is the camp most representative of core academic Degrowth ideas, strongly opposing capitalism and supporting radical alternatives.

Despite the diversity of views and actors within the "spectrum," Schmelzer and Eversberg (2017) conclude that Degrowth is embracing this diversity and offering these groups a banner which they are free to adopt and interpret as they please - within some core principles. "Degrowth, then, is not about getting a greater piece of the pie, nor even about appropriating the bakery and baking it yourself, but also, on top of that, about collectively finding something entirely different to bake that is both smaller and tastier" (Ibid, p. 335).

An important clarification by Hickel (2021a) is that Degrowth is not simply the opposite of GDP growth, but a "planned reduction of energy and resource throughput designed to bring the economy back into balance with the living world in a way that reduces inequality and improves human well-being" (p. 1106). Hickel argues that this helps to distinguish Degrowth from 'green growth,' which claims that a reduction in resource and energy throughput can be accomplished while also pursuing a growth agenda, simply by increasing technological efficiency - which Hickel and others have rejected as lacking empirical evidence for keeping global warming under the 1.5-2 degrees Celsius range, despite its logical feasibility (Ward et al. 2016; Kallis et al. 2018; Hickel and Kallis 2019; Parrique et al. 2019). He also defends the 'negative' connotation of Degrowth, which he argues can help people reanalyze their perceptions on economic growth being undeniably good and desirable - something that would likely not happen if the term was more agnostic to growth. Furthermore, he concurs that Degrowth can allow the Global South to be liberated from the economic and environmental exploitation by the Global North and rediscover their development strategies that they began in the years following decolonization before the introduction of neoliberal institutions.

1.1.2 Degrowth: Environmental origins

Degrowth, while a relatively recent term, was born out of theories in political ecology, bioeconomics, and limits to growth from the likes of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, Kenneth Boulding, the Club of Rome, and Herman Daly, among others. Boulding (1966) is among the pioneers that criticized the paradigm that humanity and the economy can continue to grow and expand without limits, which he termed the "cowboy economy" (p. 7). The cowboy economy signifies an open economic system where

inputs, throughputs, and outputs are limitless, as in the U.S. western expansion fantasy of conquering lands, exhausting their resources, and moving on to new lands to continue the cycle. In contrast, the closed economy can be depicted as "spaceship earth" (Ibid, p. 10), where resources are limited, as well as the waste allowed to exist before becoming too hazardous. This type of economy is primarily concerned with maintaining current capital stock and enhancing technological tools that allow more efficient use (throughput) of capital, both to allow time for replenishable resources to bear fruit and to reuse/recycle as much material and waste as possible.

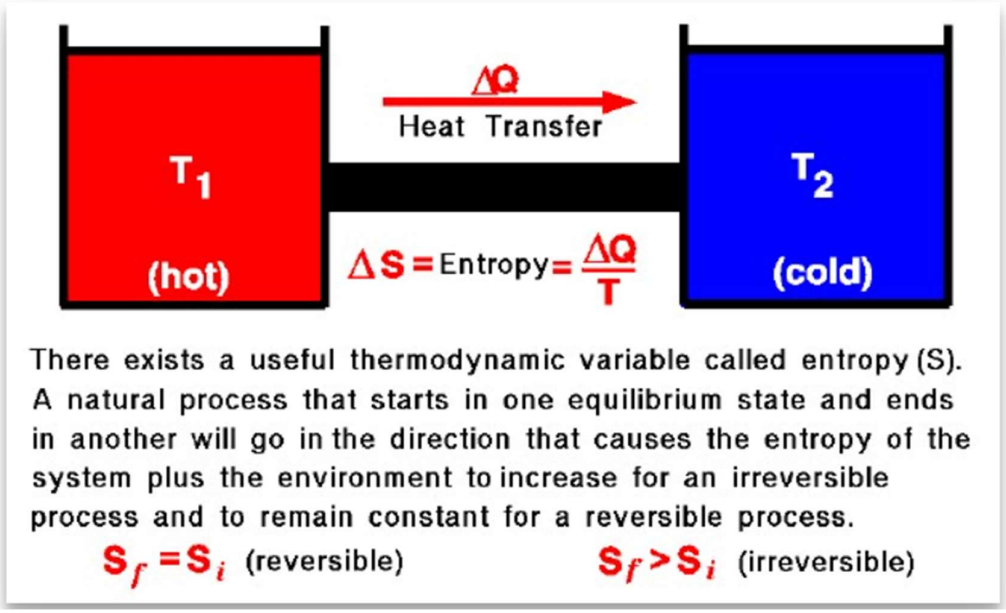
Boulding claims that there are 3 types of inputs and outputs in open and closed systems: matter, energy, and information. Matter and energy are experimented with to create products that humanity can use to live well, perhaps even improving the quality of life, which thus becomes information and knowledge. This knowledge can then be used to continually experiment with and optimize matter and energy to further improve the individual and collective quality of life, creating new tools and machinery that can decrease the input of manual labor while increasing the output of 'valuable' products - both necessities like food and shelter, as well as luxury items like cars and planes. The consumption of matter and energy to produce useful objects and information creates entropy, in which by-products and waste are diffused into the natural ecosystem (i.e. the atmosphere and ocean). Boulding notes that some of these diffused materials can be reused in the production process, i.e. the desalination of seawater to create drinkable water or extracting nitrogen from the atmosphere to create chemicals, but that this requires a higher input of energy to convert these into usable products. This allows for a lower entropy of materials, which can theoretically be continuously reused, but higher entropy for energy to enable the recycling process, which cannot be reused. While energy can be supplied nearly indefinitely from both the sun and the Earth (so long as they exist) in the form of solar, tidal, and geothermal energy, the knowledge needed to create technologies that can harvest these energies has not kept up with humanity's economic 'progress,' particularly after the start of the industrial age. Thus, other sources of energy were needed to continue the production of necessary and desired goods and services for an ever-increasing population, and the discovery of fossil fuels appeared to be the solution - though only temporary, as they do not regenerate in an adequate time period to meet current demand. Boulding at first claimed (later changing his position) that nuclear fission could provide a more long-term solution that could buy time for renewable energy technology to evolve and meet future demand, but disregards its viability due to the limited number of fissionable materials (Boulding 1966).

Overall, Boulding's contribution to Degrowth, while never explicitly advocating for it, is the idea that the Earth has finite resources and that we are consuming them too fast - perhaps even more than necessary (Boulding 1966). He claims that excessive consumerism and population increase has created a resource and energy crisis that presents a risk to the ability of future generations to meet their needs

- similar to the definition of sustainability proclaimed in the Brundtland Report (United Nations 1987). He acknowledges that, while unlimited solar and wind energy may be possible, the ability to combine the energy with raw materials is limited, but there may be hope that improved technological efficiency and increased economic circularity that minimizes waste and maximizes energy use and recyclability of materials can improve the longevity of these resources, and thus the base of the economy. His concern does not seem to be for the health of the environment, but ensuring that it is able to reproduce the resources required to meet humanity's needs.

Georgescu-Roegen (G-R) used Boulding's work to develop his bioeconomics theory, which studies economics in terms of its dependence and effects on the natural environment. G-R used the 2nd law of thermodynamics - entropy - to explain the bioeconomy (Bobulescu 2015). Entropy can be broadly defined as "the degree of disorder or uncertainty in a system" (Merriam-Webster) and the change in entropy is equal to the heat transfer from one or multiple objects to another (Glenn Research Center). The 2nd law states that if a physical process is reversible, the entropy within the system and environment will remain constant. However, if the process is irreversible, the entropy will always increase in both - thus, the final entropy will always be greater than the initial (Glenn Research Center). Figure 1.1.2.1 below provides a summary of entropy.

Figure 1.1.2.1: Summary of the second law of thermodynamics

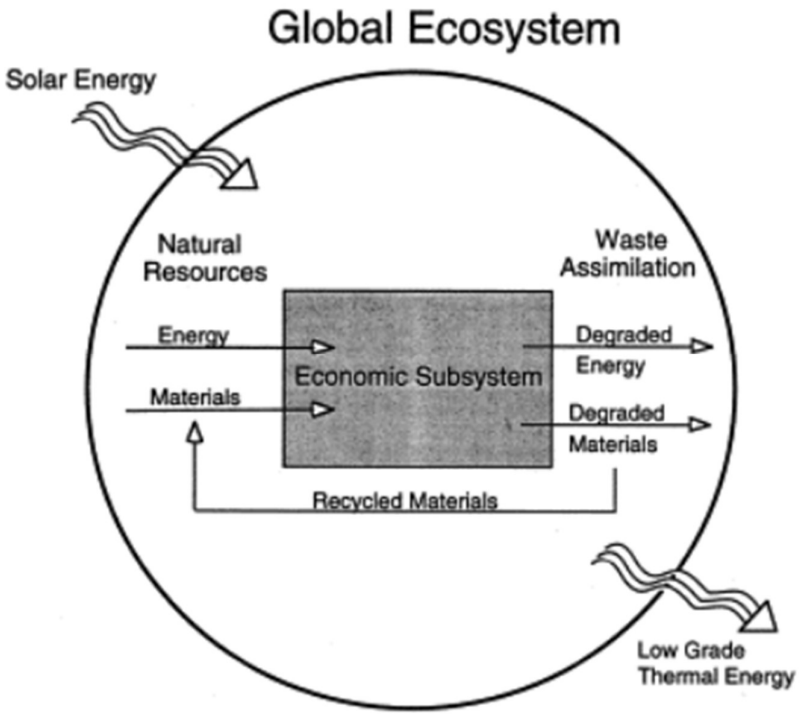


Source: Glenn Research Center (NASA)

G-R explains that the economic process continuously absorbs and transforms matter and energy in a closed economic system before discharging them into the biosphere (Bobulescu 2015). He argues that matter and energy entering the economic process have a low entropy state, which is the available/'free'

matter and energy, while the waste matter and energy is high entropy, like the heat and scraps discharged from manufacturing products. Some of these materials are able to be recycled into the economic system, which allows for the substitution of some natural raw materials; however, G-R notes in his so-called 'fourth law' of thermodynamics that 100% recycling efficiency is not possible, as there are always some waste materials that cannot be reused. Material eventually wears down and dissipates, and even if there was a system that could run on unlimited energy sources, some elements in the machines would break down due to friction, limits to elasticity, and imperfect conductors and insulation (Cleveland and Ruth 1997). Because of this, he argues that Herman Daly's steady-state economy (explained later) cannot exist indefinitely due to the inevitable reduction of raw and recyclable materials (Cleveland and Ruth 1997; Bobulescu 2015) - assuming the global population is not reduced to a level that allows replenishable raw materials sufficient time to reproduce and enter the economic process.

Figure 1.1.2.2: G-R's depiction of the biosphere and the economic system



Source: Cleveland and Ruth (1997)

Bobulescu (2015) summarizes the main solar and terrestrial energy asymmetries in G-R's bioeconomics theory: 1) solar energy is a 'flow,' which means it is received constantly and in unlimited quantities by the Earth, whereas terrestrial energy (i.e. fossil fuels) is a stock with limited availability that can only be harvested by humanity on Earth (assuming interplanetary travel is not possible, as is currently the case); 2) humans cannot (at least so far) convert energy into matter, which highlights the

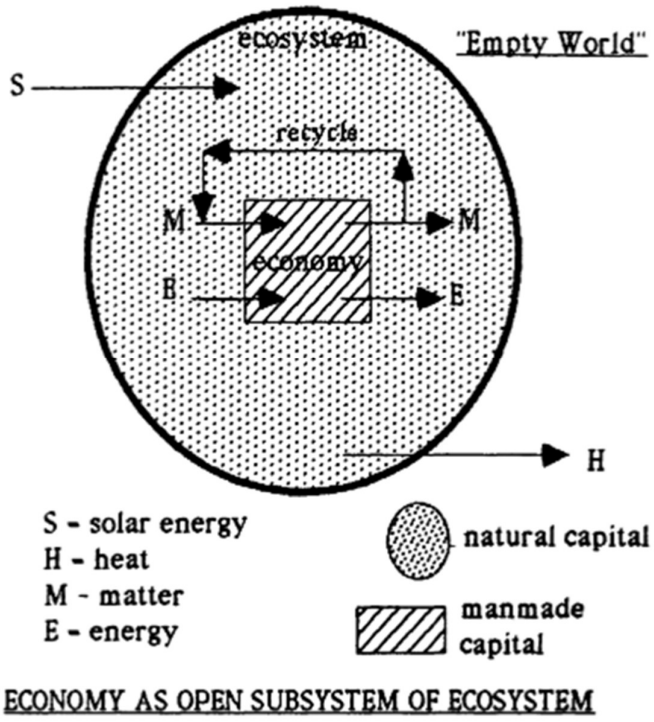
critical necessity for low entropy raw matter in order for humanity to meet its needs; 3) in order for humanity to harvest the full potential of solar energy, powerful and efficient captors are needed to process the energy into a useable form; and 4) solar energy produces less environmental pollution than fossil or nuclear energy. This leads to his principles of bioeconomics - many of which are incorporated into ecological economics and Degrowth - with the objective of preserving the current stock of materials and terrestrial energy to enable future generations to meet their needs. This includes the necessity to avoid a luxurious lifestyle, instead focusing on a 'good life'; avoiding to the greatest extent possible the waste of energy; creating and maintaining simple technology that does not require rare and expensive materials; and shifting the economy to creating reparable and durable goods that enable products to last longer before replacement parts, or entire units, are needed (Ibid). Thus, G-R begins to pose the question of what balance can be achieved between population and economic growth, technological innovation, and energy and material consumption to live a 'good' life with minimal impact on the environment and ability of future generations to maintain the same standard of living.

G-R's work inspired the "Limits to Growth" report published by the Club of Rome in 1972. Authors Meadows et al. used a Systems Dynamics model developed by MIT to analyze the complex relationship between 5 elements of exponential growth in the world system: population, food production, industrialization, pollution, and the consumption of nonrenewable natural resources, focusing particularly on the positive feedback loops between population and industrialization growth. The 3 main conclusions of the analysis are: 1) if current growth trends in each of the 5 elements persist, the planet will reach its limits in the next 100 years; 2) the model shows that it is possible to find an ecological balance between human economic needs and planetary boundaries, allowing each person to fulfill their individual potential; and 3) that the sooner we begin the transition to an economy based on ecological principles, the better it will be for the planet and society (Meadows et al. 1972). These findings have inspired others to accelerate the theory of ecological economics and Degrowth.

Herman Daly was another key reference in the "Limits to Growth" report and the founder of the steady-state economic theory. Building on the ideas of G-R, with a similar interpretation of the economy as a subsystem within the natural ecosystem (see figure 1.1.2.3), he describes the steady-state economy as one that maintains itself at a constant scale and neither depletes natural resources beyond their regenerative capacity nor pollutes waste beyond the ecosystem's capacity to absorb it (Daly 1993). He argues that non-marketed natural capital (like the water cycle, ozone layer, atmosphere, etc.) is commonly available to all and cannot be privately or publicly owned, nor can any one individual or group be trusted to prevent its overexploitation (Daly 1991). One of his conclusions is that once a definite population capacity limit and a sufficient standard of living have been determined and achieved, population and resource consumption must be limited to allow for the continuation of such

a state. This means that resources should be redistributed in a way that allows poorer countries to achieve a common standard of living, while also staying within population limits, and rich countries must de-grow their economies and population to the defined sufficiency levels and allow the transfer of resources required by underdeveloped nations. Once a balance between natural capital stock and population has been achieved, allowing for capital to replenish in a sufficient time to meet the needs of the population, the objective of the steady-state economy should be to increase economic efficiency with improved technology and prioritize social welfare (Daly 1991). Thus, Daly argues that the economy must be designed to expand qualitatively without increasing in quantity, as the Earth does naturally (Daly 1993; Daly 2005).

Figure 1.1.2.3: Daly's 'Flow-Fund' depiction of the economy and biosphere

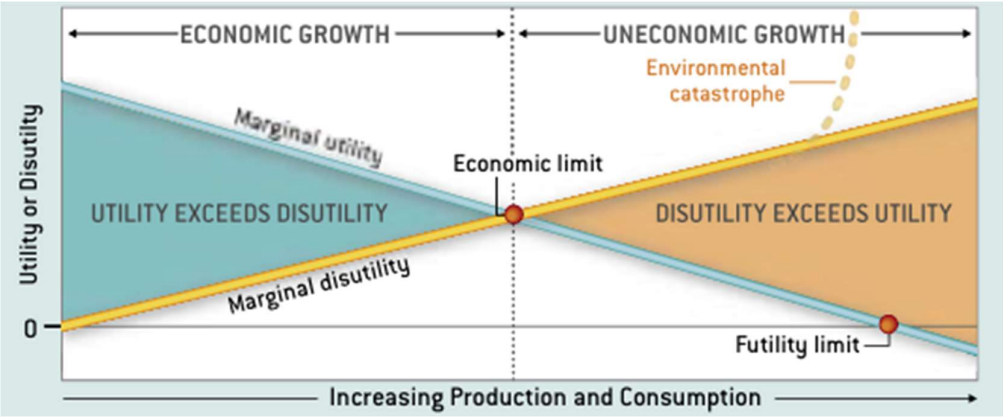


Source: Daly (1993)

Daly (2005) also argues against the assumption that technology will make it possible to completely substitute natural capital with man-made capital - meaning that, even if the Earth were to run out of natural resources, we could simply substitute them with artificial ones with the help of technological advancements. He gives an example of overfishing: once the population of a certain fish species (or all fish) declines to a critically low number, more fishing boats cannot substitute the 'capital' provided by fish. One could argue that, at least for humans, one could simply grow lab meat that tastes like fish (and perhaps even provide the same nutrients) to satisfy the human desire for fish meat. However, this discounts the many other ecosystem benefits and broader food chain effects in which fish play a

significant role. Daly labels this “uneconomic growth,” in which “growth becomes stupid in the short run and impossible to maintain in the long run” (Ibid, p. 100), as the pursuit of growth causes more ecological harm and disutility than the marginal utility gained by natural resource consumption. He defines utility as a population’s level of well-being or “satisfaction of wants” (Ibid, p. 103) and disutility as sacrifices made to increase production and consumption, including pollution, loss of leisure time due to increased working hours, and resource depletion. Marginal utility is the additional (well-being) utility of consuming one more unit of a product or service after having already met the need/desire of the unit - i.e. the increase in satisfaction of eating another ice cream right after having already satisfied the original craving (Daly 2005; King and McLure 2015). Marginal disutility, on the other hand, is the sacrifice made for each additional unit consumed. Thus, if one were to keep consuming ice cream after having satisfied the original craving, the marginal disutility would increase while the utility/satisfaction from each additional ice cream would decrease. Eventually this added utility would reach zero before becoming harmful to the consumer, which is what Daly labels as the “futility limit” (Ibid, p. 103). He proposes that there is a sweet spot between marginal utility and disutility that should represent the limit of the economy and exceeding this limit triggers uneconomic growth, with higher negative social and environmental consequences. He also argues that it is possible for these consequences to become detrimental to society (i.e. via ecological catastrophe) before the futility limit is achieved, which could explain why, despite many efforts showing the damage to the planet caused by the growth-based economy, the marginal utility of economic growth still prevails over the social and ecological disutility.

Figure 1.1.2.4: Daly's theoretical economic and futility limits



Source: Daly (2005)

Daly's steady-state economy theory contributed significantly to ecological economics (EE), which Robert Costanza defines as a "new transdisciplinary approach that looks at the full range of inter-relationships between ecological and economic systems" (Costanza 1991, p. 335). Costanza, Daly, and other colleagues define 3 key principles of a new economic model based on EE and human well-being, which include the acknowledgement that our economy exists within the natural environment; that sustainable well-being - defined as living within planetary boundaries, ensuring inter- and intragenerational distribution of resources among humans and other species, and using both natural and man-made resources as efficiently as possible - should replace growth and development as societal goals, and that a healthy balance must be found between humans, their cultural and social assets, the built environment, and nature (Costanza et al. 2012). They argue that this model should utilize the Doughnut Economics model, proposed by Raworth (2012), which combines social justice and human rights necessities with the ecological planetary boundaries argued by Rockström et al. (2009) (see figure 1.1.2.5). To transition to this new economy, the authors propose a series of socio-economic changes, including (among many others) more cooperative enterprises, wealth redistribution, replacing industrial agriculture with agro-ecology (increasing ecosystem services, farmer income, and food production through ecological restoration), promoting common-property institutions (like land trusts), underscoring civic education and responsibilities, increasing the use of public transport and renewable energies, and implementing a cap-and-trade system that limit the pollution and amount of resources a company can produce and consume.

Figure 1.1.2.5: Raworth's Doughnut Economy

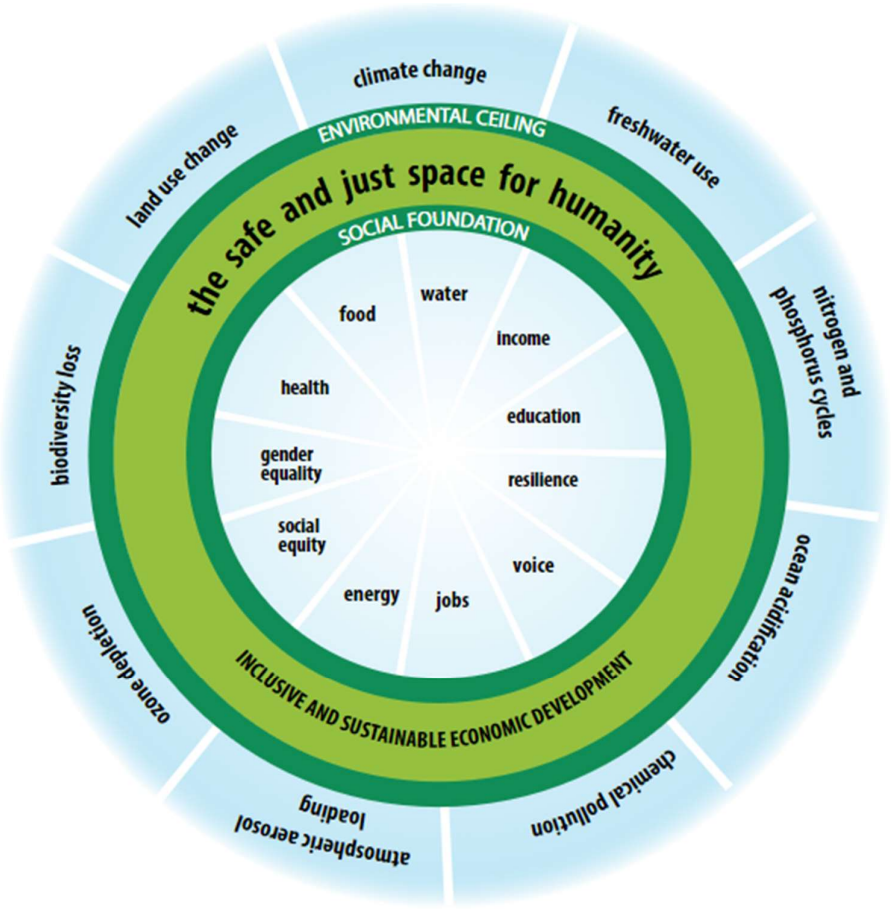


Figure 5. A safe and just space for humanity - the sustainable and desirable doughnut [36].

Source: Costanza et al. (2012)

1.1.3 Degrowth: Social origins

Degrowth exhibits many influences from environmental justice (EJ) movements and post-development theories. Joan Martínez-Alier is a prominent scholar of EJ and EE and helped form the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice (EJAtlas) in 2011 (EJAtlas(a)). EJ is defined as the "link between pollution, race and poverty and tackles socio-spatial distribution of "bads" (emissions, toxins) and "goods" (like green spaces and better services)" (EJAtlas(b)). The EJ movement highlights the inequalities, conflicts, and threats to the environment and local livelihoods posed by big corporations searching for new resources for production, as well as dumping waste (Anguelovski and Martínez-Alier 2014; Scheidel et al. 2020). These 'ecological distribution conflicts' are fought by indigenous, peasant, and other minorities defending their rights to the territory and a clean environment; some examples include:

- Conflicts between rural communities in Latin America that depend largely on agriculture cultivation to support their livelihoods, which has become more scarce with the increase of mining companies occupying these lands, as well as the environmental consequences of mining operations that affect these communities (Haslam and Tanimoune 2016; Doussoulin and Mougenot 2022);
- Conflicts between rural fishing communities in the Alang–Sosiya area in India as the result of shipbreaking activities (dismantling ships for recycling), which have released a number of pollutants into the local environment and caused the loss of abundance and diversity of fish, as well as the transfer of pollutants absorbed by fish into the diet of villagers that consume them (Demaria 2010);
- Resistance among indigenous groups in Canada and the U.S. to the expansion of oil pipelines, which they argue violates land treaties and increases the likelihood of a natural disaster occuring within their territories (Hurlbert and Datta 2022).

Indigenous perspectives of ecology, which they view as "living systems that connect human societies to the global biosphere and a spiritual sense of being" (Smithers 2019, p. 269), is the philosophy behind their resistance, as the encroachments on and pollution of their territory harms the connection to past, present, and future generations, and Mother Earth (Sangha et al. 2018; Hulbert and Datta 2022).

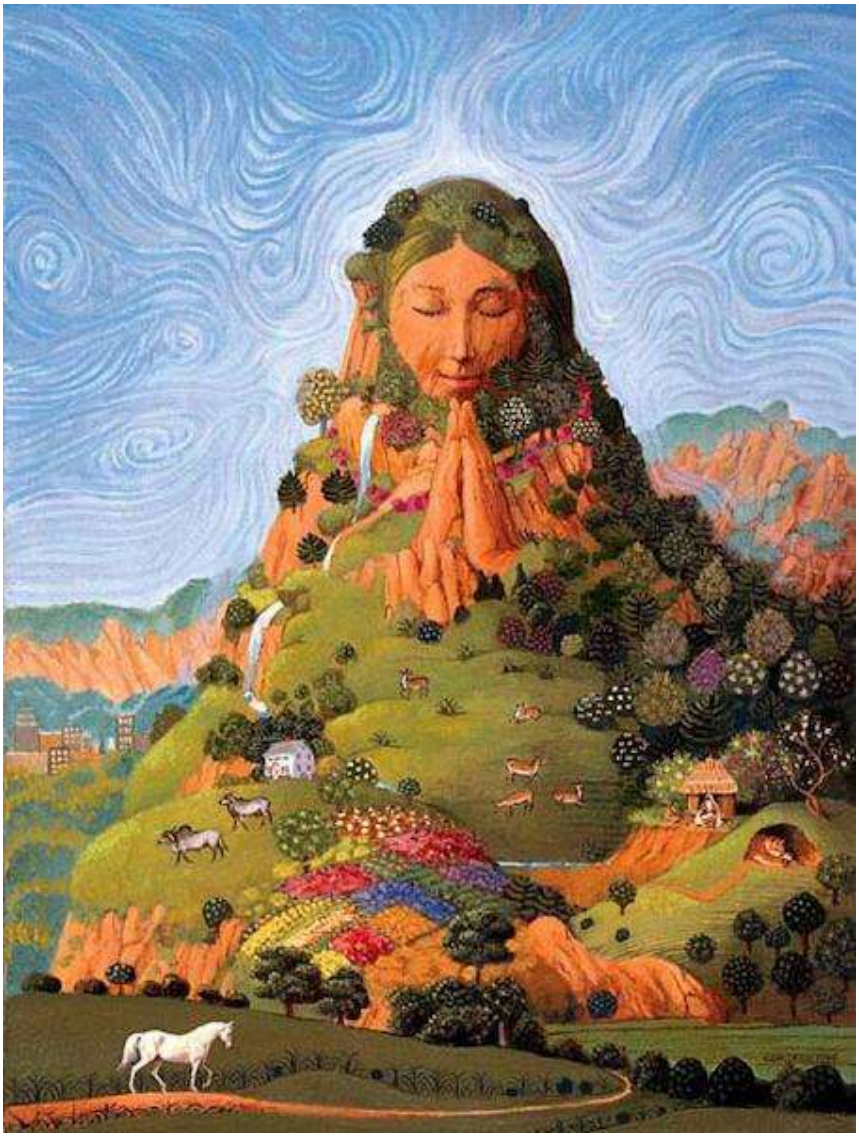
Figure 1.1.3.1: Mining conflicts in Latin America registered on the EJAtlas as of July 2024

Source: EJAtlas(c)

Indigenous EJ movements have strongly influenced post-development theories, which argue for a decolonization of development strategies and promote a 'pluriverse' of local interpretations of sustainability, justice, and 'living well' (Kothari et al. 2019). Some of these concepts include buen vivir, which originates in Latin America and critiques the current neoliberal capitalist paradigm while recognizing the need to reconceptualize what it means to live well, humanity's relationship with nature, and the value of indigenous cultures and knowledge (Vanhulst and Beling 2014; Villalba-Eguiluz and Etxano 2017); ecofeminism, which argues that masculine ideals have objectified nature as a resource for humans and reduced social relationships to market exchanges, and that we must recognize our interconnectedness to each other and nature to create grassroots resistance to this paradigm (McMahon 1997); eco-socialism, a critique of capitalism's destruction of nature and societal relations and recognizing the need to transition to a society based on democratic social and ecological principles and meeting humanity's "authentic needs" like food, water, and housing, as well as free access to

public services like education, transportation, and healthcare (Löwy 2019, p. 174); Eco-Swaraj, a movement based in India on principles that emphasize ecological wisdom, social justice and well-being, democratized economic and political organization, and the value of individual and collective knowledge (Kothari 2018); and Ubuntu, an African philosophy based on the belief that all humans are interdependent on one another and nature, and thus we must harmonize our behavior with other people and the environment (Chipango and To 2024). Degrowth, though originating in the Global North, exhibits many of the principles from these post-development concepts.

Figure 1.1.3.2: Depiction of buen vivir



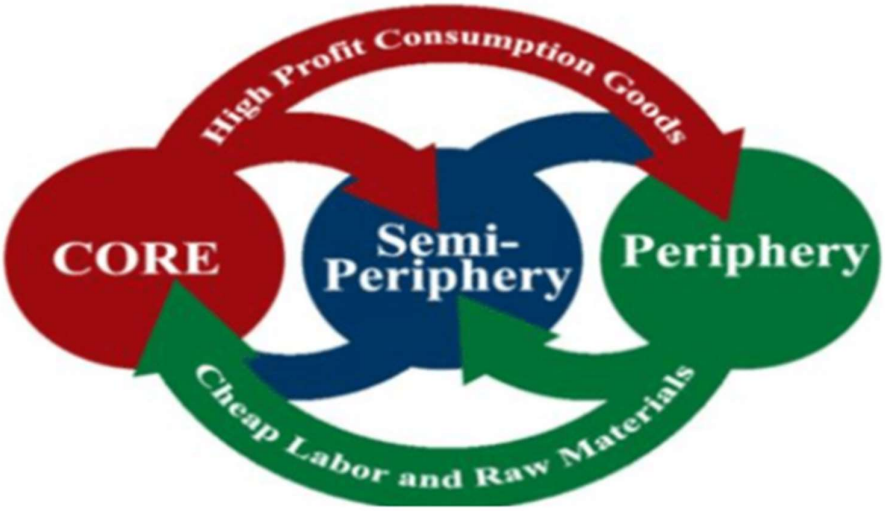
Source: Rauber (2015)

Credit: Unknown

A key concept to the social justification for Degrowth is dependency theory, influenced by Marxist theories which claim that the Global South was exploited, often violently, to enable the economic success of the North through extraction of resources from the South that were then manufactured in

the North and sold back to the South as value-added products (Schmidt 2018) - similar to Wallerstein's 'World Systems Theory' depicted in figure 1.1.3.3 (Chirot 2015). The colonial roots of capitalism enabled the Global North to shift the environmental and social costs of production to the Global South (and former colonial) communities, as seen by the mass outsourcing of factory jobs to countries with looser labor laws and lower wages (Pleasant and Spalding 2021; Gerdes et al. 2022). This outsourcing has subsequently helped lower the national emissions, waste, and pollution contributions of these companies, which have discounted the imported goods and services used throughout their industrial process in their environmental reporting (Akizu-Gardoki et al. 2021; Yang et al. 2024). Many scholars and activists have referred to these areas as 'sacrifice zones,' where companies can freely extract, pollute, and exploit these territories to meet production demands, which is also increasingly becoming exacerbated by the global quest for decarbonization and green technologies (Zografos and Robbins 2020; Gayo et al. 2022). For these reasons, some argue that Degrowth can be the liberation and decolonization of the Global South (Hickel 2021b), as it envisions a society based on local production, social justice principles, reduced consumption of natural resources and polluting energy, and democratic organization.

Figure 1.1.3.3: Wallstein's world systems theory



Source: Hosen (2020)

Figure 1.1.3.4: Atacama Desert's (Chile) fast fashion 'sacrifice zone' for unsold clothing

Source: Al Jazeera (2021)
Credit: Martin Bernetti/AFP

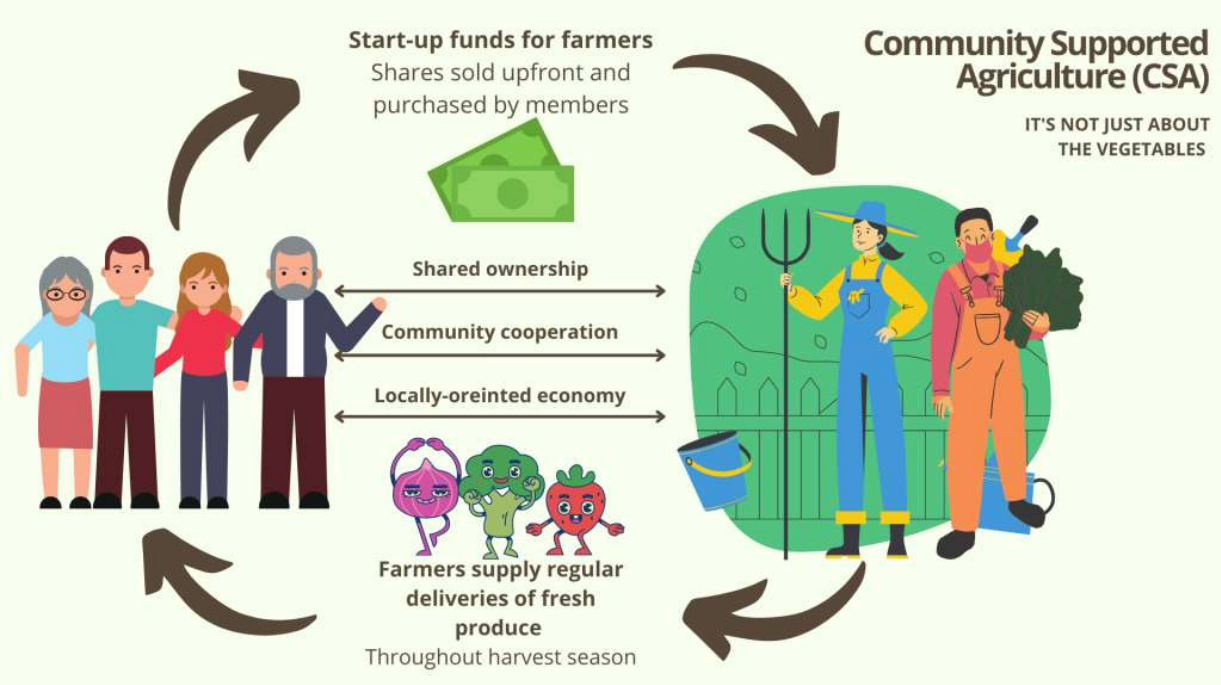
1.1.4 What would a Degrowth society look like?

D'Alisa and Kallis (2020) attempt to clarify the concept/purpose of the state in a Degrowth society, which until then had received little attention in Degrowth discourse. They advocate for a Gramscian model of the 'integral state,' which was developed by the Italian communist politician Antonio Gramsci during Italy's fascist period. Gramsci claimed that the integral state is composed of civil society (i.e. church, NGOs, voluntary associations, trade unions, families, etc.) and political society (i.e. traditional public institutions: military, healthcare, education, political administrations, etc.), which are not separate but mutually reinforcing. Powerful interests in both societies use consensus and, if needed, coercion to enforce laws and practices that are based on a hierarchical ordering of various 'common senses' that exist among the people in these societies; of course, the ruling classes get to establish these hegemonic beliefs. Thus, in order to successfully overcome this hegemony, a counter-hegemony within the integral state must be established by grassroots social movements that seek to "generalize, normalize and universalize needs and desires" based on common ideas among the non-ruling masses (Ibid, p. 6). The authors conclude that Degrowthers must first use "alternative grassroots economies" (Ibid, p. 6), such as co-/cooperative housing facilities, community currencies, open software communities, and food sovereignty networks - based on solidarity and democratic principles - to demonstrate to a critical mass of people that these alternative ways of thinking and doing align with their values and beliefs, while institutions and practices that promote privatization, growth, and individual competition stand in the way of these goals. Thus, these new 'common senses' would

be embraced by the majority and enable a new counter-hegemonic ruling class to make a Degrowth transition within the integral state.

Many examples of such grassroots economic alternatives already abound. For food production, community supported agriculture (CSA) is one of many alternative food networks that could exist in a Degrowth society. Bloemmen et al. (2015) analyzed a CSA initiative in Belgium, which shared the risks and harvest workload between farmers and consumers via an association of consumers within a certain radius of the farm. Local consumers pay shares of the expected harvest then help in reaping the produce based on their shares. Every year the farmer meets with the consumer association to discuss the accounting reports, next year's expected produce yield, required investments, and negotiate his/her remuneration - also paying a membership fee to the association for its support and access to clients. The farmer makes no profit and commits to low-tech organic farming, thereby ensuring the best price for the produce. If more consumers become interested in joining the CSA program, the farmer trains others to build their own farming initiative; thus, rather than expanding their own enterprise, which would be practically impossible without a profit to invest, they share their knowledge with others to meet the increasing demand.

Figure 1.1.4.1: Overview of community supported agriculture



Source: Anderson (2021)

Cooperatives are also a favorable enterprise in a Degrowth society, as they often prioritize social and environmental goals over profit while also sharing profits more equally among workers and the community. Wright (2023) notes that worker-owned cooperatives, which feature a democratic

business model that gives each worker an equal say in decision making, tend to provide more benefits to the local community and their workers than traditional private enterprises. Renewable energy cooperatives are one example, which provide decent wages, benefits, and job security to workers while also increasing the self-sufficiency of energy needs in the local community. REScoop is a network of energy cooperatives and communities in Europe that exhibits many of these principles, where members invest in their local energy cooperative and share in the profits, which are often used to make infrastructure more energy efficient or fund community projects (REScoop, n.d.). Members also participate in price-setting negotiations and gain access to more affordable renewable energy infrastructure, like solar panel installation, as they own shares in the cooperative that conducts the installation.

Degrowth also advocates for reimagining property ownership, encouraging the 'commoning' of traditionally private commodities like housing (Kallis et al. 2015). These ideas challenge the (in)famous "tragedy of the commons" theory coined by Garrett Hardin, based on the works of William Forster Lloyd, which says that common property, i.e. natural resources such as water and land, cannot remain common because of the egoistic mindset of individuals in the community who will always seek to maximize their interests at the expense of others (Hardin 1968). He gives the example of a herdsman allowing his herd to graze in a common pasture. The herdsman is a rational being and thus knows that the utility (extra income) of adding one more animal to the herd is more than the disutility (i.e. overgrazing) because the benefit is fully his personal gain, while the negative effects are shared by others and thus reduces the direct personal harm. "Therein is the tragedy. Each man is locked into a system that compels him to increase his herd without limit - in a world that is limited" (Ibid, p. 1244). Hardin concludes that privatization is the best way to limit resource consumption, while heavy taxes should be used to prevent over-pollution caused by economic production activities.

Elinor Ostrom and other commons scholars argue for a more complex understanding of common resource management. Ostrom identifies 4 types of economic goods: club, public, private, and common-pool, as well as their ease and difficulty in excluding access (see figure 1.1.4.2). Club goods are available to anyone willing to pay a membership fee to access them, but each club good 'consumed' does not reduce the usability by other members; an example can be a swimming pool or television streaming sites like Netflix. Therefore, these goods are excludable but not diminishable. A private good is excludable, meaning that it is consumed by one individual or small group, which diminishes the availability of that good to others. Examples include a burger or a house - each time a burger is eaten or a house is bought, it leaves one less burger or house in the world that is available for others to eat/buy. A public good, such as a fire protection service or a sunset, are freely available to all without any fee barriers and do not diminish with each use, while common goods are freely available but each

use diminishes its availability for others to use it, such as cutting down a tree or fishing in a lake. In a finite world, as Hardin argues, the responsible management and consumption of these goods is crucial to ensuring equitable access to all individuals, as well as future generations. However, Agrawal et al. (2023) note that Ostrom and others have disputed Hardin's herdsman argument, as it lacks the social behaviors of individuals who interact with each other and form bonds. These interactions often build trust and reputation, encourage reciprocity, and enable individuals to identify common interests and goals - albeit in variable quantities - which can lead to a variety of alternative institutional arrangements (neither public nor private) that are used to govern resource management.

Figure 1.1.4.2: Ostrom's classification and excludability of goods

Table 1 A typology of goods by the author, inspired by Ostrom's work

		Subtractability/jointness of use	
		Low	High
Exclusion/cost of excludability	Easy	Club goods e.g. journal subscriptions, Netflix, gym membership, etc.	Private goods e.g. salad, personal computer, apartment, etc.
	Difficult	Public goods e.g. sunset, weather forecast, fire protection, national security system, etc.	Common-pool resources e.g. forests, fisheries, water irrigation systems, knowledge,[a] etc.

Source: Verrax (2019)

Building on Ostrom's theories, Degrowthers have advocated for convivial living arrangements that challenge the traditional assumption that housing is a private good. Often housing cooperatives and cohousing facilities are proposed as the ideal housing institutions, as they encourage the commoning of spaces and are democratically owned by residents. Residents work together to take care of the infrastructure and common spaces (i.e. kitchen, laundry facilities, pools, gardens, game rooms, etc.) and decide the conditions for accessing the housing and facilities for non-residents (Savini and Bossuyt 2022). Khmara and Kronenberg (2023) note that a complementary solution to communal housing are community land trusts that hold the rights to the land and infrastructure. A community land trust (CLT) is a nonprofit association made of community members, which owns one or more plots of land and manages the ownership of infrastructures built on the land, with the purpose of balancing the interests and needs of residents and the wider community (Grounded Solutions Network, n.d.). In the case of housing, the CLT determines the price of the building, keeping it affordable for other community members, but retains ownership. The association then signs an agreement with a resident that allows them to lease the property for a long period, usually 99 years, and in the event that the resident would like to quit the lease, they renegotiate the price to ensure it remains affordable, taking into account

improvements made by the resident. Examples of such arrangements include the United Tenants of Albany in New York (Lowe et al. 2022), the Detroit Community Land Trust Coalition (Fujii 2016), and the Tanzania-Bondeni CLT in Kenya (Midheme and Moulaert 2013).

Figure 1.1.4.3: Example of a cohousing arrangement

Source: Sussex Cohousing

Another key aspect of the Degrowth society, particularly in the urban context, is sustainable design. Kronenberg et al. (2024) note that buildings and cities must use green and blue infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and restorative practices to not only reduce society's pressure on the environment, but also contribute to enhancing the natural ecosystem. Implementing circular economic activities (recycling, reusing, and repairing materials/goods, also making them more durable from the start, and repurposing rather than destroying old infrastructure), reducing waste, increasing renewable energy use, converting land lost to urban sprawl into natural areas, creating shorter supply chains, increasing alternative mobility options (i.e. bike infrastructure, clean public transport, pedestrian-only streets, etc.) and enabling local and regional production of goods and services - especially food systems - are some of the many changes needed to enable urban lifestyles that live within planetary boundaries while also increasing social well-being. Avar and Cive (2024) warn that many of these sustainable strategies are already promoted and used by neoliberal green growth advocates, and that post-growth urban planning methods require a critical analysis of how to create, repurpose, and renovate land and urban infrastructure in an ecologically just way that also reduces social inequalities. Technology will play a key role in this transition, but it must be balanced with the ecological impact of both its production and use, enhance human autonomy, and be available to all via open-access software and portals - i.e. the digital commons (Zoellick and Bisht 2018). Vetter (2018) created a matrix for convivial

technologies dimensions that should be considered, including relatedness, accessibility, adaptability, bio-interaction, and appropriateness.

A number of policies have been proposed that could enable a Degrowth transition. Kallis et al. (2015) note that employment must be decoupled from growth, or else well-being from paid employment. One of their proposals is a job guarantee scheme, in which the state would be a last resort employer in areas like care and education services, urban food gardens, cooperatives, and free software production. Complementing the scheme would be a universal basic income (UBI) financed by progressive taxations on income, consumption, and profits; a de facto maximum income due to progressive taxes on high incomes (eventually reaching a 99% or 100% tax); and worksharing, which would redistribute work between the employed and unemployed and result in an overall reduction of working hours, ideally without loss of income (also thanks to UBI). The objective of work would be focused on need satisfaction; goods and services would be reevaluated to consider their well-being benefits and ecological impacts, likely resulting in reduced working hours (thus enabling worksharing) and more time focused on traditionally unpaid caring activities, as well as increased leisure time, community engagement, and active citizenship. Some sectors would thus see an increase in employment share, such as nutrition, education, maintenance, repair, care, recreation, craft, creativity, and culture (Vincent and Brandellero 2023). Community currencies and time banks (exchanged time, usually for care/voluntary work, for goods and services) would also help to decommodify the economic system, strengthening the local economy and fostering social interactions and sense of community (Kallis et al. 2012). In addition to these proposals, Fitzpatrick et al. (2022), building on the work of Cosme et al. (2017), found during a systematic literature review that other Degrowth policies encompass implementing declining caps on resource use and emissions; supporting the creation of not-for-profit cooperatives and shared housing facilities; creating citizen forums using participatory democratic methods; promoting the commoning of traditionally private and public institutions and infrastructure (i.e. banking, housing, education, waste, energy, healthcare, transport, among others); and establishing ecovillages/localized sustainable communities. See table A1 in the appendix for a synthesis of Degrowth policies.

In summary, a Degrowth society would enable alternative forms of living and working based on democratic and convivial principles that prioritize social and ecological well-being. While this may sound utopian, Degrowthers do not pretend that all problems would be solved within this society. There is still no certainty that a Degrowth society, even if achieved globally, would be able to live within the planetary boundaries that it strives for, nor would it eliminate all social issues and inequalities. However, academics and activists do argue that learning from the successes and

challenges of Degrowth proposals will improve the chances for achieving a socially just and ecologically sustainable society. Geneviève Decrop (2008) writes:

> "Utopia is nothing else, deep down, than the pushing to the limit of the principle of hope which is at the heart of every political enterprise. Without hope, without the hypothesis that another world is possible, there is no politics, there is only the administrative management of men and things." (Google/Wordreference translation from French)

Figure 1.1.4.4: Imagining a Degrowth city and community with Solarpunk

Source: Johnson (2020)

Credit: Jessica Perlstein (https://www.jessicaperlsteinart.com/works)

Figure 1.1.4.4 (continued)

Source: Pinterest (Ghibliosophy)

Credit: Instagram (@zenjester)

1.2 Economy for the Common Good Movement

1.2.1 Origins and theory of the Common Good

The Economy for the Common Good (ECG) is a social movement organization founded in 2010 by Austrian economist Christian Felber, which promotes an economic model based on the 'common good,' defined as "a good life for everyone on a healthy planet" (ECG(a)). Felber frequently emphasizes that the principles of the ECG are rooted in Aristotle's concept of *oikonomia*, from which the modern term 'economy' is derived (Felber and Hagelberg 2017; Ruggiero 2018; Grüll 2020). Aristotle defined *oikonomia* as the "art of household management" (Finley 1970, p. 15), in contrast to *chrematistike*, the art of acquiring wealth. Felber contends that capitalism has distorted the purpose of the economy from serving the common good to prioritizing wealth accumulation. To counter this shift, he proposes the ECG model as a means of realigning the economy with its ethical foundations in *oikonomia* (Felber 2023). The notion of the common good has been extensively studied, with many scholars offering interpretations. Celano (2024) argues that while Aristotle does not explicitly define

the common good, it can be inferred from his works, *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics*, where he suggests that the ultimate goal of society is happiness, or *eudaimonia*. According to Aristotle, achieving this happiness requires the state to uphold the values of justice and friendship. Building on this, Celano cites four possible interpretations of the common good proposed by Morrison (2013): 1) "the happiness of all citizens"; 2) "the good condition of shared activities"; 3) "the happiness of all citizens as an interrelated, inseparable whole"; or 4) "the happiness of the city" (Celano 2024, p. 34). Thomas Aquinas is often cited for his theory of the common good as the reason for a state's existence, which is to "guarantee the conditions for people's well-being, such as peace, order and justice" (Sala et al. 2024, p. 2). On a societal level, Schuster et al. (2023) suggest that orientation towards the common good includes "how people feel responsible for others and are willing to help them," "how people abide by basic rules of society," and "how people participate in social and political life and engage in public discussions" (Ibid, p. 2); in other words, actions that enable community organization.

Dolderer et al. (2021) lay out a framework for comparing and contrasting the ECG model and other principles of 'common good economics' with neoclassical economics. They use 4 broad categories for comparison, including philosophy of science, definition and goals of the economy and economics, basic elements of the economy, and welfare and the market economy. The following are some key points of contrast (Ibid, p. 13-15):

- **Philosophy of science**: The notable difference between neoclassical economics and the ECG model is that the former considers economics as a natural science that can use mathematics to create laws, truths, and linear causalities while the latter understands economics as a cultural construction whose analysis requires a holistic, transdisciplinary approach including both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- **Definition and goal of the economy/economics**: Neoclassical economics defines the economy as "production and trade activities related to markets" with the goal of "efficient management of scarce resources," while the ECG argues for a definition of "efficient need satisfaction and the promotion of the common good" (Ibid, p. 14).
- **Basic elements of the economy**: Neoclassical economics famously portrays humans as *homo economicus*, one who is constantly rationalizing the best way to maximize his/her needs and wants (which are infinite) with as little inconvenience and displeasure as possible. It argues that markets and private goods are the best way to satisfy both needs and wants - and, as for resource scarcity, believes that natural resources can be largely substituted with increased efficiency and technological advancements. The ECG model rejects this view, arguing that humans have basic needs - which include care, empathy, and responsibility - and often balance their wants with the 'common good,' and that both needs and wants are available from sources

within and outside of markets. The rationality of humans allows them to understand the ultimate benefit that needs and wants can provide to themselves and their community, as well as the potential negative impacts to society and environment.

- **Welfare and market economy**: A major criticism from the ECG movement (shared by Degrowthers) is the obsession and simplification of GDP by neoclassical economists and their argument that economic growth is inherently good for human welfare. Additionally, traditional economists tend to argue that competitive markets are the best way to manage human welfare, as states are "inefficient," and that market failures and external effects are exceptions rather than norms. Also, ecological limits like "planetary boundaries" are partly regarded as issues outside of economics and not included in traditional theory. ECG, on the other hand, believes human welfare is multidimensional and best measured by the 'common good product' rather than GDP, which also allows ecological issues to be taken into account. It also acknowledges that, like it or not, markets exist within states that impose laws, conditions, and limits on society, and therefore markets must also be regulated by them. As for externalities, these should be studied and internalized with incentives offered by the state.

Dolderer et al. (2021) conclude their analysis by noting that neoclassical economic theory cannot hope to resolve the social and environmental issues caused by their beloved market economy, and that comparing and contrasting these theories with alternative models like the Economy for the Common Good can encourage debate and a more critical understanding of economics among wider audiences.

The ECG movement clearly advocates for a social enterprise model for businesses and organizations in the Common Good Economy (Felber and Hagelberg 2017; Campos et al. 2020). A social enterprise is one that creates both social and economic value (also known as the 'double bottom-line'), though its primary goal is to enhances the well-being of society - also by resolving social problems like access to credit and amenities - and thus its profits are theoretically used only for this purpose (Wilson and Post 2013). Muhammad Yunus, founder of the renowned Grameen Bank institution, was an early advocate for the social business model and envisioned the creation of a social business stock market, where investors would willingly fund social enterprises and expect only to receive a return of the exact quantity of the investment, with all other profits going to improving the business and increasing employee wages (Yunus 2009). However, it is important to acknowledge the tensions that exist between the quest for creating or contributing to a social good and the need to financially sustain a business in order to ensure it can continue its social purpose, as noted by Smith et al. (2013) - a list of these conflicts is found in figure 1.2.1.1 below.

Figure 1.2.1.1: Tensions between social and business objectives in social enterprises

Type of Tensions	Dimensions of Social Missions	Dimensions of Business Ventures	Emergent Tensions between Social Missions and Business Ventures
Performing Tensions *Tensions that emerge from divergent outcomes—such as goals, metrics, and stakeholders*	• Goals address concerns across a broad ecosystem of stakeholders • Metrics are more subjective, qualitative, and difficult to standardize and compare across organizations	• Goals address concerns of a narrow group of shareholders • Metrics are more objective, quantitative and easier to standardize and compare across organizations	• How do organizations and leaders define success across divergent goals, particularly as the same event can simultaneously be a success in one domain and failure in the other? • How can organizations sustain support for both social and financial metrics?
Organizing Tensions *Tensions that emerge from divergent internal dynamics—such as structures, cultures, practices, and processes*	• Organizations hire for skills that enable the social mission, or hire disadvantaged employees as a means of achieving the social mission • Organizations usually adopt non-profit legal form	• Organizations hire for skills that enable efficiency and profitability • Organizations usually adopt for-profit legal form	• Who should organizations hire, and how can they socialize employees? • How much should organizations differentiate vs. integrate the social mission and the business venture? • What legal designation should organizations adopt?
Belonging Tensions *Tensions that emerge from divergent identities among subgroups, and between subgroups and the organization*	• Employees and stakeholders predominantly identify with the social mission	• Employees and stakeholders predominantly identify with the business venture	• How can organizations manage divergent identity expectations among subgroups of employees? • How can organizations manage divergent identity expectations among stakeholder groups? • How can organizations present their hybrid social-business identity to external audiences?
Learning Tensions *Tensions of growth, scale, and change that emerge from divergent time horizons*	• Social mission success requires a long time horizon • Growth can increase but also threaten social mission impact	• Business venture success can come from short-term gains • Social mission can constrain growth	• How can organizations attend to both the short term and long term? • How can organizations manage increased short-term costs to achieve long-term social expansion?

Source: Smith et al. (2013)

1.2.2 What is the Economy for the Common Good?

The ECG movement promotes the Common Good Economy using 4 key principles for enterprises and organizations and 5 principles for municipalities and regions, which include human dignity, solidarity and social justice (divided into 2 separate principles for municipalities and regions), environmental/ecological sustainability, and transparency and co-determination/democracy. The

movement's focus on principles rather than specific policies or actions indicates its value-driven approach to influence decision making, meaning a change in individual and organizational values to prioritize ECG principles would lead to ECG-oriented policies and projects. Hall and Davis (2007) propose a value-based decision making model based on 6 general values identified in human behavioral research that influence the decision making of individuals and organizations: theoretical/scientific ("seeking truth" and "best fit to data"), social/philanthropic (altruism and "societal gain"), political/personal (seeking power and individual gain), religious/ethical (morals, seeking "equitability"), aesthetic/artistic (seeks "form and harmony," appreciation of beauty), and economic (utilitarianism, seeks highest cost/benefit ratio) (Ibid p. 159). Using this model, it seems that the ECG movement targets all but the aesthetic/artistic value; Felber and Hagelberg (2017) use philosophy and history to argue that the concept of the economy has changed much from its original (Greek) definition with the conquest of neoclassical economic theory, which they believe has relegated the social and communal values of individuals to an inferior position behind personal wealth gain. They also incorporate scientific evidence of the unsustainable pressure that neoliberal economics has placed on the biosphere, which is deteriorating at a much faster rate compared to pre-industrial times and is no longer able to absorb waste and pollution, nor regenerate ecosystem services, at a healthy rate that can sustain humans and other species.

Although most of the ECG's principles focus on social values, the ecological principle is no less important, as it provides the basis for meeting human needs and contributes significantly to well-being. Spash and Aslaksen (2015) find that the neoliberal economic system has led to the commodification of nature, which only values it based on the monetary worth that is assigned to it by the free market: "ecosystems and biodiversity are then necessary only in so far as they create financial wealth and support the economic system" (p. 251). In an earlier study, Spash (1997) finds that the generalization by economists that such utilitarian thinking is shared by everyone is a mistake, as there are some (and perhaps many) who hold deontological (rights/principles-based) beliefs on the environment - "a belief in the inherent, inviolable value of the environment" (p. 405). However, because such beliefs are not coherent with the worldview of mainstream (neoliberal) economists, they are often either ignored or transformed into values that can be understood in a 'cost/benefit' mindset (Spash 2008). This has led many ecologists and conservationists to adopt a similar discourse in their arguments for protecting the environment, as it seems to be the only way to get economists and policymakers to listen and understand, which Spash calls a "rather naiv[e] attemp[t] to employ the economic value approach without showing much awareness of the political system within which it is embedded" (Ibid, p. 30). Despite this uphill battle, the ECG movement certainly seems to adopt deontological beliefs for both the environment and humans through its 'common good' principles, which it uses to encourage a

paradigm shift away from the utilitarian philosophy that society - and especially companies and political decision makers - use to understand the economy, its purpose, and the relationships between other humans and nature. The movement clearly acknowledges that a holistic approach to this societal transition is needed, as it cannot be sustained if the roots of the problem are not addressed, which requires changing the social, political, and economic system and their values to a 'common good' worldview. This is why the movement is not only active in converting companies and governments, but also individuals that can demand their business and political leaders to promote common good values and ensure accountability based on these principles (ECG 2024, ECG (b)).

The Common Good Balance Sheet (CGBS) is the ECG's flagship reporting/certification mechanism for enterprises and organizations - their primary targets - as well as municipalities and regions, which measures the degree that their actions contribute to a 'common good economy' on a points scale of 0-1000. Based on their score, these entities are placed into ECG progress categories, including 'baseline' (0-99), 'getting started/first steps' (100-199), 'advanced' (200-399), 'experienced/expert' (400-699), and 'exemplary' (700-1000) (Blachfellner et al. 2017; Rother et al. 2023). The Common Good Matrix (CGM) provides the basis for the CGBS and lists key indicators for each principle within 5 stakeholder categories: suppliers of materials and services (including those outsourced); owners of the company and financial partners and donors; employees (for companies), elected/appointed administrative officials and volunteers (for municipalities and regions); customers and other companies (for enterprises) and the general population of the territory (for municipalities and regions); and the social environment (for enterprises)/state, society, and nature (for municipalities and regions), which includes other communities, as well as the environment, that are impacted by the economic activities of the company/municipality/region (Blachfellner et al. 2017; Rother et al. 2023) - see figures 1.2.2.1 and 1.2.2.2 below for a summary of each matrix. It also calculates the weight of each common good value differently for each company depending on its size, nature, and other characteristics. The ECG movement gives clients two options for auditing their CGBS: a peer-review with similarly sized companies, municipalities, and/or regions, or an external audit. After completing the CGBS, a roadmap for improvement is designed and clients are encouraged to incorporate ECG suggestions and values into their company/organizational policies, objectives, and evaluation mechanisms.

Figure 1.2.2.1: Common Good Matrix Version 5.0 for companies and organizations

VALUE / STAKEHOLDER	HUMAN DIGNITY	SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	TRANSPARENCY AND CO-DETERMINATION
A: SUPPLIERS	**A1** Human dignity in the supply chain	**A2** Solidarity and social justice in the supply chain	**A3** Environmental sustainability in the supply chain	**A4** Transparency and co-determination in the supply chain
B: OWNERS, EQUITY- AND FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS	**B1** Ethical position in relation to financial resources	**B2** Social position in relation to financial resources	**B3** Use of funds in relation to social and environmental impacts	**B4** Ownership and co-determination
C: EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING CO-WORKING EMPLOYERS	**C1** Human dignity in the workplace and working environment	**C2** Self-determined working arrangements	**C3** Environmentally-friendly behaviour of staff	**C4** Co-determination and transparency within the organisation
D: CUSTOMERS AND OTHER COMPANIES	**D1** Ethical customer relations	**D2** Cooperation and solidarity with other companies	**D3** Impact on the environment of the use and disposal of products and services	**D4** Customer participation and product transparency
E: SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT	**E1** Purpose of products and services and their effects on society	**E2** Contribution to the community	**E3** Reduction of environmental impact	**E4** Social co-determination and transparency

Source: Blachfellner et al. (2017)

Figure 1.2.2.2: Common Good Matrix for municipalities and regions

Matrix V2.0 for municipalities

Values / Contact group	Human dignity	Solidarity	Ecological sustainability	Social justice	Transparency and democracy
A - Suppliers / Service providers, outsourced independent establishments	A1 - Fundamental rights protection and human dignity in the supply chain	A2 - Benefits for the municipality	A3 - Environmental responsibility for the supply chain	A4 - Social responsibility for the supply chain	A5 - Public accountability and participation
B - Financial partners, donors,	B1 - Ethical Financial Conduct / Money and Human Being	B2 - Common good in financial management	B3 - Ecological responsibility of fiscal policy	B4 - Social responsibility of fiscal policy	B5 - Accountability and Participation in Fiscal Policy
C - Political leadership, administration, coordinated volunteers	C1 - Individual legal status and equal rights	C2 - Common agreement on objectives for the common good	C3 - Promotion of ecological behaviour	C4 - Fair distribution of work	C5 - Transparent communication and democratic processes
D - Population and economy	D1 - Protection of the individual, equal rights	D2 - Overall well-being in the municipality	D3 - Ecological design of the public service	D4 - Social design of public performance	D5 - Transparent communication and democratic involvement
E - State, Society, Nature	E1 - Shaping the conditions for a decent life - future generations	E2 - Contribution to the overall good	E3 - Responsibility for ecological impact	E4 - Contribution to social balance	E5 - Transparent and democratic co-determination
State principles of the common good	**Rule of Law-Principle**	**Common good**	**Environmental responsibility**	**Welfare State-principle**	**Democracy**

Source: Rother et al. (2023)

Felber and Hagelberg (2017) describe the ECG movement as “an alternative to both capitalism and communism” (p. 1) built on principles of “dignity, social justice, sustainability, and democracy,” not “profit maximization and market domination” (Ibid, p. 2). The free-market system can still be compatible under the ECG model, but businesses should only exist to serve the principles listed in the Common Good Matrix - those that succeed should be rewarded with tax breaks, favorable loans and

grants, and receive priority in public procurement. Because of these principles, the authors believe that the companies are able to focus on finding their "optimal size" instead of growth and expansion, which would likely depend on the size of the community and the nature of the enterprise and decided with input from residents and local government regulations. Profits would be used to raise incomes for owners and workers and to increase the quality of company infrastructure and goods and services provided, which would allow further preservation of the natural ecosystem and enhance the well-being of people. They also emphasize that reducing income inequality and promoting the values of "[m]utual appreciation, fairness, creativity, and cooperation" are essential to the Common Good Economy (Ibid, p. 4).

Similar to Degrowth discourse, Felber and Hagelberg (2017) argue for the need to place the 'Common Good Product' (CGP) as a national indicator for economic success and downplay the role of GDP - though they admit it will still be necessary as a financial indicator. Additionally, this 'CGP' should be decided in local citizens assemblies and convert the 20 most relevant aspects of well-being and quality of life into a measurable index. The following questions are examples of what should be considered by businesses, organizations, and society when creating a CGBS and measuring the CGP (Ibid, p. 7):

- Do products and services satisfy human needs?
- How humane are working conditions?
- How environmentally friendly are production processes?
- How ethical is the sales and purchasing policy?
- How are profits distributed?
- Do women receive equal pay for equal work?
- To what extent are employees involved in core, strategic decision making?

Education is also needed to create a change in social and ecological values that align with the ECG model, which the authors argue should focus on sensitizing people to their relationships with each other and the natural world by encouraging intercultural communication, creativity, and a deeper understanding of democracy.

The authors also envision that a Common Good Economy would allow public, private, and commons property to coexist, though with certain conditions and limitations that respect the CGM. For example, infrastructure like local government institutions/entities, central banks, and schools should remain publicly-owned, whereas consumer goods, homes, and companies can remain private. Natural areas such as meadows and fisheries would be common property, but water, land, and energy should remain available to all and not be considered property - even public or common. As for decision making, they propose a model of "sovereign democracy" (Ibid, p. 20), which would consist of sovereign citizens that co-create a national constitution that gives citizens authority to directly propose laws, elect and

dissolve governments, control and regulate utilities, issue currency, and organize a framework for international treaty negotiations - also putting these decisions to a vote among citizen assemblies. To adopt decisions in a sovereign democracy, Felber and Hagelberg suggest implementing a 'systemic consensus' model, in which the level of opposition to a proposal is measured by how many arms a person raised during the voting call. No arms raised is considered as non-objection, one arm raised signifies some opposition, and both arms raised demonstrates full opposition to the proposal. In theory, there would be multiple proposals considered for an issue and the proposal with the least resistance would be the adopted solution.

The authors also propose a radical global mechanism for ensuring consumers do not exceed the ecological limits of the planet in the form of an "ecological credit card" (Ibid, p. 25). Somewhat similar to carbon trading schemes, they suggest that the natural resources and ecosystem services provided by the planet could be divided equally among the entire global population, each person receiving an 'ecological credit.' Once the consumer has spent all their ecological credit, they must wait until the beginning of the following year before they are allowed to utilize more ecological resources and services. They admit that certain conditions would need to be implemented to prevent someone from starving or freezing, but this would allegedly enforce a reduction in consumption of goods and services that go beyond essential needs and cause unnecessary ecological harm. Felber and Hagelberg suggest Raworth's Doughnut Economy would be an ideal starting point for this mechanism and that a circular economy could increase the potential for essential needs to be met while not consuming further natural resources.

Lastly, Felber and Hagelberg (2017) note that the ECG model is merely one of many proposed alternatives to the current capitalist paradigm and that it embodies many of the principles, ideas, and objectives of other proposals while also offering a tangible framework/mechanism to achieve these goals. Some of these compatible alternatives include the Degrowth Network, Post-growth Alliance, Solidarity Economy, and the Commons Movement.

Figure 1.2.2.3: Example values to include in a ‘Common Good Product’ measurement

Source: Global Society for Good Leadership (2024)

Figure 1.2.2.4: Examples of penalized and rewarded actions in the Common Good Balance Sheet

Counterpetition → competition

Active damaging of co-companies	**Omission of help and cooperation**	**Cooperation on the individual level**	**Cooperation on the systemic level**
Price dumping	Non-disclosure of relevant information	liquidity compensation, interest free loans	Open source, Creative Commons licences
Blocking patents	Incomplete information to consumers	Forward of orders	Participation in branch table for crisis resolution
Hostile takeover	Retention of remanent resources	Forward of labour force	Definition and aspiration of „appropriate size“
Advertising through mass media	Retention of unused means of production	Support with Know-how	Participation in egalitarian product information system
Strategic lawsuits	Non-sharing of free labour force	Joint R & D	Participation in rescue fund
Bad result of CGBS	Poor result of CCBS	Good result of CCBS	Excellent result of CCBS

Source: Global Society for Good Leadership (2024)

1.2.3 Studies on ECG and gaps in research

Most of the previous research on the ECG movement has centered on its application in the business sector, which has been the primary focus and success of the movement. To date, more than 1000 businesses and organizations have completed a CGBS, some more than once, whereas less than 50 municipalities and regions have done so (ECG(c); ECG(d)). Sanchis-Palacio et al. (2020) studied 400 European companies that completed a CGBS and found that the vast majority of them achieved 'experienced' levels and expressed greater concern for social and environmental impacts than economic or strategic consequences. Ollé-Espluga et al. (2021) conducted a statistical analysis on well-being and job quality for employees in Austria and Germany from companies that have completed a CGBS and a sample of respondents to the 2015 European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS). 319 employees of Common Good companies were surveyed directly by the authors in 2018, using questionnaires adapted from some of the EWCS questions, and 1899 responses from employees in Austria and Germany to the 2015 EWCS were utilized in the analysis. The results displayed no significant difference in the well-being and job quality of ECG company employees and those of the average working population - though the authors note that this could change if a historical analysis was conducted, measuring the changes and possible improvements of worker well-being and job quality in ECG companies over time and comparing this to other non-ECG companies. They acknowledge that a limiting factor could be the slow realization of changes to a company's operations based on the results of the CGBS, as nearly half of the companies analyzed had completed their CGBS just 1 or 2 years before; thus, perhaps a study on ECG companies conducted 5 years after their CGBS certification would show different results.

Comparing the ECG model to other approaches, Calvo and Diaz (2016) analyzed the alignments between the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and the ECG. They found that both share the same vision for an economy that principally serves human well-being and that grassroots organizing and participatory democracy are the best methods to achieve both. Both SSE and ECG agree that the first step is to change societal values and the understanding of the economy, including economic activities and goals. One major difference noted is that the SSE has a strict set of conditions that must be met in order for a business to be considered an SSE enterprise, whereas the ECG allows all businesses to participate and provides a roadmap for improving their practices to promote the common good. In this sense, they argue that the ECG model can be used as a tool to complement the SSE, as businesses that score high on the CGBS would likely fit in an SSE society. Similarly, Sanchis-Palacio et al. (2021) compared the ECG model to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the shared value creation (SVC) approaches and found that ECG provides a stronger and more holistic approach to corporate sustainability than the former two. They find that CSR is often interpreted as an economic and financial

sacrifice in order to improve the company's image and reputation in social and environmental sustainability, while both SVC and ECG emphasize the benefits of the social/environmental value 'created' while engaging in corporate sustainability practices - including financial benefits. They also find that the SVC promotes competition over cooperation, while ECG advocates for the opposite - though still acknowledging that competition can exist. Additionally, the authors note that there are some aspects from both CSR and SVC that can be similar to intermediate goals of the ECG model, such as installing renewable energy hardware to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs, and reduce negative environmental impacts, but the ultimate difference - and the point where ECG succeeds the most - is the company's purpose. A company abiding by CSR and SVC principles can still maintain a triple bottom line that maintains a relative balance between social, environmental, and economic goals. On the other hand, a company that commits to the ECG model must ensure that social and environmental goals remain above economic ones, which ensures profits are means to achieve these ends.

As previously stated, one of the ECG movement's goals is to encourage a societal transition based on common good values and objectives, which also includes local governance. Gomez-Álvarez et al. (2017) make proposals for applying the ECG in the municipal context, including participatory measures that can be used in creating a local common good index, business networks to encourage cooperation over competition, and creating citizen awareness on issues relevant to the common good of the community. Vincent and Scholl (2019) analyzed the ECG movement within the framework of discursive regime destabilization, portraying ECG as a niche regime that attempts to destabilize the dominant regime by making many counter-arguments to its economic ideas and principles. They argue that ECG should utilize a mix of motivational, prognostic, and diagnostic arguments that encourage others - especially NGOs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and local governments - to recognize the negative consequences of the neoliberal regime, the bleak future ahead if it is allowed to continue, and concrete alternatives that are possible.

Rodriguez et al. (2018) make suggestions that could improve the efficacy of the CGBS regarding the relative weights assigned to each category of stakeholders. Currently, the CGBS assigns weights based on the size of the company; financial flow to and from suppliers, investors and employees; the social impact of the main primary products in their country of origin; and the industry sector of the company and its associated environmental and social impact (Blachfellner et al. 2017). The authors propose adding the following 3 methodologies: the market price of contributions made by each stakeholder, the working hours contributed to the relationship, and the working hours adjusted for their estimated contribution to the organization's environmental impact. They argue that these additions would

provide a more holistic approach to the CGBS weighting mechanism in-line with recent proposals to improve the ethical standards of CSR.

Overall, I find that there are very few studies, especially in English, on the ECG model and no studies on municipalities and regions that have completed a Common Good Balance Sheet. It remains to be seen whether enterprises and institutions that have conducted one or more CGBS actively attempt to guide their decision making and programming around improving each CGM category and, if so, what results they have yielded. While the objective of this study is not to evaluate the long-term impacts of the Common Good model on social, environmental, and economic policies, it aims to shed light on whether local governments and regional organizations have adopted ECG principles and objectives in their decision making, as well as any challenges to achieving policy/project objectives.

1.3 Challenges to Degrowth and the ECG model

Both Degrowth and ECG advocate for a fundamental transformation of the economic system, emphasizing the need to critically reassess societal values, economic goals, and the social and environmental impacts of our consumption choices. ECG stands out as one of several alternative frameworks for measuring sustainability at organizational and institutional levels, while also promoting a distinct vision of an ideal 'sustainable' society. However, its relative novelty may explain the limited scholarly attention it has received, particularly regarding potential critiques. This review, therefore, seeks to provide a concise overview of the key debates surrounding the overarching ideas and approaches of both Degrowth and ECG.

Regarding strategies to bring about a sustainable societal transition, Geels et al. (2015) argue that the dichotomous perspectives of reform or revolution are "intellectually stifling" (p. 8) and that a 'reconfiguration' perspective is needed. This would entail incremental system changes, i.e. reconfiguring transport, agri-food, and energy systems to be more sustainable, rather than changing behavior and technology or the roots of societal structures, as claimed by the reformist and revolutionary perspectives. Both Degrowth and ECG would likely fit more in the revolutionist category, but their holistic approaches encompass all 3 categories by the authors' definitions - though both would also argue that true social and ecological sustainability cannot be achieved without changing the neoliberal values and behaviors of society. Additionally, the authors claim that a reconfiguration perspective enables a more systematic analysis of sustainable production and consumption relationships, which I find to not be disputed by Degrowth or ECG.

Research on other sustainable business models have illuminated some challenges in converting business and global market operations to sustainable models. These include convincing consumers to

buy products that last longer and have a lower impact on the environment (Schaltegger et al. 2016), institutional barriers and personal risks for social business start-ups (Hoogendoorn et al. 2019), limited efficacy of 'sustainability scorecards' (Hansen and Schaltegger 2018), systemic incentivization on short-term growth (Bocken and Geradts 2020) and the organizational culture that encourages it (Evans et al. 2017), and especially the organizational and personal lack of knowledge and skills, time, and financial resources needed to implement and monitor sustainable practices (Caldera et al. 2019). Each of these are also concerns expressed by both Degrowth and the ECG movement, which seek to address these challenges with similar methods and objectives. Changing the values, mindset, and behavior of all societal actors to enable a Common Good Economy or post-growth transition will certainly require long-term planning and commitment and even small victories are worth celebrating.

A common fear among both Degrowthers and sympathizers is that the term itself can be considered too negative. Drews and Antal (2016) back this claim, arguing that people are more likely to associate the term with recession, negative growth, and misery. They suggest that using alternative words and phrases like 'post-growth,' 'good life,' and 'stable prosperity' have a stronger likelihood of winning over skeptics to the cause. This relates to the extreme perception that Degrowth seeks to establish "exclusionary communities living in a state of deprivation" (Mocca 2019, p. 10). Additionally, the emphasis on local voluntary actions as being key to a Degrowth/Post-growth bottom-up revolution is questioned by many sympathizers, who argue that targeting policy changes at the top and mid-levels are the most effective way to enable systemic change - though grassroots organizing can certainly complement these efforts (van den Bergh 2011; Dittmer 2013; Mocca 2019). However, Cosme et al. (2017) find that many Degrowth proposals already rely on national and top-down approaches for achieving a Degrowth society, despite the grassroots/bottom-up emphasis of Degrowth discourse.

There is also a general critique from 'eco-modernists' and 'green growth' supporters that insist decoupling the economy from its reliance on natural resources is possible due to technological innovations, which increase the efficiency of resources and energy and the ability to recycle them, and that this decoupling is achievable within the globally-consented timeframe (i.e. 2050) to avoid the worst effects of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. While this literature review cannot fully analyze this argument, I include one example from Warlenius (2023), which highlights the ever-present issue of debating facts and interpreting data, including the variety of research that seemingly prove/disprove certain arguments. He analyzes the validity of the Degrowth critique against green growth that the best-case scenario, based on the most stringent policies possible, would allow for a 4% decoupling rate to reduce carbon emissions - which would not be compatible with the current goals to limit global warming between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius. He labels this as "another case of mystification" (Ibid, p. 6) and argues that other empirical data show that higher decoupling rates have

already occurred, for example in France, Sweden, and Denmark. He also claims that, if fossil fuel resource caps were implemented, the decoupling rate of carbon emissions from fossil fuels and industry could be adjusted to any rate desired, depending on the stringency of the limits. However, he finds no argument against the unlikelihood, or impossibility, for decoupling natural resource use from economic growth in a feasible time period. Warlenius nonetheless maintains that, in order to fulfill the costly requirements for the transition strategy recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, economic growth is more likely to enable a faster and robust transition.

Other scholars note that Degrowth is strong in justifying its ideals and objectives, but still lacks critical and empirical analysis on its proposals for achieving its many social and ecological goals (Kallis 2011; Sandberg et al. 2019), particularly regarding monetary and distributional policies (Engler et al. 2024), income and wealth caps (Buch-Hansen and Koch 2019), gender equity (Bauhardt 2014), implications for the Global South and the issue of population growth (Cosme et al. 2017; Dengler and Seebacher 2019), and the role of technological innovation in supporting a sustainable lifestyle despite its environmental impacts (Pesch 2018; Kerschner 2018). A key determining factor for evaluating the success of these proposals is their effect on well-being. This concept has several interpretations and seemingly no empirical threshold due to its variability among individuals, unlike planetary and ecological boundaries (even if these are still being studied to determine the exact limits). However, the most attributed definition in the Degrowth context is eudaemonic well-being, which goes beyond basic necessities like food, water, care, and shelter to include "meaningful relationships and work, identity, opportunities to shape community life and politics" (Büchs and Koch 2019, p. 162). Perhaps the best way to create a consensual definition could be to conduct deliberative forums, as argued by Büchs and Koch (2019), which would include dialogue between citizens, experts, and decision makers, as well as rich and poor countries and representatives of current and future generations. Alternative measurements to GDP that attempt to capture a holistic perspective on the quality of life and well-being like the Happy Planet Index, Genuine Progress Indicator, and the Thriving Places Index can be starting points for these debates; some countries, notably Finland, Scotland, Wales, Iceland, New Zealand, Ecuador, and Bolivia, already prioritize well-being in decision making (Acosta and Abarca 2018; Meredith 2022). These examples can be used to discuss what it means to live well in a Degrowth society that also respects the limits of planetary resources and boundaries.

Bärnthaler (2024) makes note of two final challenges for a Degrowth society, which I argue is also relevant to the ECG due to similar democratic principles. One pertains to the emphasis within the Degrowth discourse of consensus building. In a Degrowth society, as acknowledged by D'Alisa and Kallis (2020), there will more than likely be factions that oppose at least some of the core values, principles, and laws/policies that form its foundation. To ensure a Degrowth hegemony is peaceful and

lasting, Bärnthaler argues that compromise, rather than consensus, will need to be included for decision making. Based on his analysis of historical examples, he argues that there will be core beliefs that neither party - a Degrowther nor an opposing member - will be willing to compromise in order to reach a consensus. This, of course, leaves the dominant Degrowth regime with the choice to exclude the opposition from the consensus - acknowledging their opposition and/or allowing them to abstain, but in any case moving forward with the consensual proposal - or else make a compromise and settle for the next best solution, which likely goes against a core Degrowth principle. The second challenge, which is closely related to the first, is the will to rule, particularly by coercion/domination. Although Degrowth discourse is against patriarchal, colonial, and capitalist forms of power and domination, Bärnthaler argues that some form of coercion must be used in order to enforce the core principles of the Degrowth paradigm, in particular those regarding ecological sustainability. This may be necessary to prevent the alternative economies proposed by Degrowth and ECG from deforming into exploitative forms like the black market or mafia factions, or else a resurgence of capitalist pursuits of profits and growth (Johanisova et al. 2013).

1.4 Summary of the literature review

In summary, both Degrowth and ECG represent alternatives to neoliberal capitalism that call for the need to transition to a society that balances human well-being needs with the ecological limits of the planet through collective and participatory decision making. Although definitions of well-being could vary among individuals, Degrowthers and ECG advocates believe that a change in values based on cooperation, care, empathy, and social and environmental justice would enable a mindset that prioritizes the common good for the community and the planet. Table 1.4.1 represents the conceptual framework that will guide the analysis, displaying a summary table of the actors, principles, objectives, and methods for Degrowth and ECG - many of which are aligned and provide the basis for the hypothesis that ECG could be used as a mechanism for a Degrowth/post-growth-oriented governance on a local and regional level. A review of literature on both Degrowth and ECG reveals two primary research gaps: 1) a lack of studies that attempt to demonstrate the compatibility of existing mechanisms which align with Degrowth principles and objectives in order to promote a Degrowth/Post-growth transition; and 2) a lack of studies on the ECG movement generally and a particular need to develop research on the application of the CGM by local and regional political entities. This research contributes to filling these gaps by analyzing the ECG movement and how municipalities and regional organizations that have conducted a CGBS might, knowingly or not, align their policy objectives to those of Degrowth.

Table 1.4.1: Taxonomy of actors, principles, objectives, and methods for Degrowth and ECG

Category	Mostly Degrowth	Shared by both	Mostly ECG
Actors		- Individuals (activists, academics, ECG consultants) - Networked groups/local associations - Organizations - Government institutions	- Businesses
Principles/ideas	- Decolonization - Feminism - Environmental justice	- Cooperation - Transparency - Workers rights - Social justice and human rights - Well-being - Ecology/ecological sustainability - Participatory democracy - Circular/doughnut economy	- Free market - Sovereign democracy
Objectives	- Reduced production and consumption, especially for Global North	- Abandon infinite profit and growth goals of neoliberal capitalism - Find an economic balance between human well-being needs and planetary boundaries - Ensure that increased productivity correlates with a decrease in working hours, allowing workers more leisure time to engage in citizen duties and their communities - Only produce goods and services that contribute to human well-being and respects environmental sustainability	- Ensure all companies, organizations, and government institutions align with principles of Common Good Matrix - Disincentivize companies from paying dividends to shareholders

		- Sensitize humans to their relationships with each other and nature - Reduce income and resource inequalities: for Degrowth, emphasis on inequalities within and between Global North and South; for ECG, emphasis on income inequalities between workers and owners - Use profits to reinvest in infrastructure and increase wages, also to increase quality of goods and services produced	
Methods	- Protest	- Advocacy - Research and advise policy - Educate	

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

A textual analysis was conducted using the free software Iramuteq on the transcripts of online interview and survey responses (as well as 2 documents, substituted for one municipality's response) conducted in English from 8 municipalities and 2 regional organizations who completed a CGBS from the countries of Austria, Italy, Germany, and Spain. The interviews and surveys were collected during August 2024 and the first week of September. These 4 countries are the most active in the ECG movement, attested by individuals from ECG associations within these countries and seen by the number of municipalities, organizations, and companies that have completed the CGBS - the majority of which are in the selected countries. The municipalities and organizations included in the analysis are the following: Tourism Board (TB) Wilder Kaiser and Nenzing (Austria); Castello-Molina di Fiemme and Calceranica al Lago (Italy); Breklum, Postbauer-Heng, ForstBW (a state-owned forest company in Baden-Württemberg), and Klixbüll (Germany); Betxí and Miranda de Azán (Spain).

The selection process for determining which entities to include in the analysis was conducted via references from members of ECG associations in the cases of Germany, Italy, and Spain. Since Austria only has 3 political entities that have completed a CGBS, I contacted all 3 entities and received 2 affirmative responses for the online survey. Italy has 4 villages that were the first to complete the CGBS for municipalities, but I was told by representatives of the Italian ECG association that they are no longer actively involved in the movement due to administration changes. There are 2 municipalities (both used in the analysis) that are the most recent to complete the CGBS in Italy, thus it was recommended to request interviews/survey responses from them, to which only one responded in the affirmative (the other did not respond). For the other municipality, I substituted their response with public municipal documents to ensure at least 2 Italian cases were included in the analysis (further explanation below). Spain also has many municipalities active in the ECG movement, though it was recommended by a member of the Spanish ECG association to contact 3: El Bruc, Betxí, and Miranda de Azán, to which the latter 2 responded in the affirmative. For Germany, I was given contact information for 6 municipalities and one regional organization, to which I received 5 affirmative responses - the aforementioned cases plus the municipality of Bordelum; however, the survey response received from Bordelum was invalid, as it was completed in German and largely incomplete.

The methodology for this research included a mix of online video interviews via Zoom, an online Google Forms questionnaire, and a documentary analysis, with a total of 9 respondents (5 interviews, 4 survey responses) plus a municipal program document and a blog post. The online video interviews

and questionnaire were conducted using a script of questions that were grouped into themes (see table 2.1.1). The goal for the analysis was to have at least 2 entities from each country participate in the analysis and, because I did not receive 2 respondents for Italy, I decided to substitute a response to an interview/questionnaire for Calceranica al Lago by finding answers for some of the questions based on their municipal program strategy for 2024-2026 (Comune di Calceranica al Lago 2024) and a blog post regarding their CGBS process (ViviCalceranica 2018); both of these documents were translated using Google Translate. The blog post was used for the theme 'ECG background,' while the program strategy was used for the themes 'priorities,' 'economic values,' 'project description,' 'stakeholders,' 'project success,' and 'future priorities.' For the online interviews and questionnaire, 2 respondents participated from Austria (one official from Nenzing and one official from TB Wilder Kaiser - both survey respondents), one respondent from Italy (a municipal official, via online interview), 4 respondents from Germany (3 municipal officials and one official from ForstBW; one municipality, Breklum, conducted the survey and the rest participated in interviews), and 2 respondents from Spain (one municipal official and one official from a NGO - the former completing the survey and the latter participating in an interview). All online interview respondents received a list of the questions before the interview to allow them to prepare for the interview, if needed. For the case of Castello-Molina di Fiemme, a follow-up email was received regarding an additional project not discussed during the interview, which I chose to include in the 'project description' theme. Similarly, for ForstBW a follow-up email was received that included responses and notes to the interview questions that were prepared before the interview, which were used to fill in the question themes that were not asked during the interview due to time constraints.

The interviews were transcribed near verbatim manually, though some additional words were needed to fill in gaps or to complete phrases in some cases. After transcription, the interview and survey responses were then placed into the relevant themes on a Word document, with some parts of the interview transcripts being excluded due to irrelevance. For both the interviews and survey responses, the grammar was also corrected as needed and some phrases were condensed to avoid too much repetition, particularly for 'empty words' such as 'the,' 'of,' 'as,' etc. The variables, respondents, and themes were then coded and added to another Word document, followed by the cleaned response for each theme. This version was then copied and pasted into a Notepad file, in order to save the file in '.txt' format with UTF-8 encoding that is needed for the Iramuteq software - this is known as the "text corpus." A total of 11 themes and 2 variables (not counting the respondents) were labeled in the analysis. A complete list of the questions, variables, themes, and codes used for the analysis are listed in tables 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 below.

Table 2.1.1: Questions and theme coding for the interview/survey responses

Questions	Theme	Code
- What motivated your municipality/region/organization to undertake the Common Good Balance Sheet, or otherwise formulate/implement policy objectives based on the Economy for the Common Good model? - What were the key factors (i.e. events, movements, crises, actors, etc.) that influenced the municipality's/region's/organization's decision to conduct a Common Good Balance Sheet and/or incorporate Economy for the Common Good policy objectives? Please briefly describe which factors and how they influenced this decision.	ECG background	*theme_ecgbg
- Did you receive financial and/or political support for conducting the Common Good Balance Sheet or other Economy for the Common Good-related policies and activities? If so, which kind and from who (i.e. European, national, and/or regional funding; support from local businesses, organizations, or private individuals; etc.)? - To what extent would you say that businesses, civil society organizations, and citizens/residents support the municipality's/region's/organization's Common Good Economy objectives? Do you notice more active or passive support/opposition, or do some/most groups seem indifferent to these efforts?	ECG support	*theme_ecgsp
- When considering the long-term goals of your municipality/region/organization, what values or principles guide your decision making the most? - What are 3 to 5 issues that your citizens/residents care about the most in your municipality/region? What methods does your institution/organization utilize to understand the concerns of your citizens/residents?	Policy priorities	*theme_prio
- Imagine you have been invited to give a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum. What would you say is the ultimate goal of the economy? What are some key determining factors of economic success for your municipality/region/organization that would you include in your speech? - In your opinion, what key factors would enable a business to be successful in the economy you described? What kind of relationships should it have with other businesses, civil society organizations, citizens/residents, and the local government?	Economic values	*theme_econv
- Please briefly describe one policy or project related to sustainable development (i.e. its social, economic, and/or environmental objectives, methods for implementation,	Project description	*theme_projd

beneficiaries, etc.) that your municipality/region/organization has implemented recently. What outcomes or impacts are you hoping to achieve with this policy or project? What inspired the choice to implement this initiative or project?		
- Which stakeholders were included that helped guide the decision making process for this policy/project and what methods were used to engage with them? Please provide the general categories of stakeholders (i.e. which groups of citizens/residents, businesses, and civil society organizations were involved) and 1 or 2 best practices that your municipality/region/organization utilized to include them in the decision making process for this policy/project. - For this policy/project, is your municipality/region/organization also involving stakeholders in the implementation process? If so, which stakeholder groups are involved and for what parts of the implementation process are they responsible? If not, why are they not involved? Please describe 1 or 2 examples of stakeholder inclusion in implementation, or 1 or 2 reasons why they are not involved.	Stakeholders	*theme_stkh
- During the approval process of this policy/project, how did your municipality/region/organization find a balance between economic goals, social benefits to the community, and achieving environmental sustainability? Was there a broad consensus, a narrow majority, or much division among stakeholders on solutions to achieve this balance? - Have there been any ethical issues debated when procuring and using resources for this policy/project? If so, what were some of the issues debated? - In what ways did your municipality/region/organization manage or resolve conflicts among stakeholders with competing/conflicting interests on this policy/project? Please describe 1 or 2 examples. If there were no conflicts among stakeholders on this particular policy/project, please describe 1 or 2 examples of stakeholder conflict management from previous policies/projects.	Consensus	*theme_cons
- Please briefly describe one successful previous policy or project (objectives, beneficiaries, methods to achieve objectives, stakeholder groups involved, etc.) that aimed to benefit the community. What are some key factors and/or results that you believe made the policy or project successful? - For this policy, did you receive any positive or negative feedback from one or more stakeholder groups? If you received positive feedback, what were the main points of	Project success	*theme_projs

praise/appreciation from stakeholders? If you received negative feedback, what were their main concerns/issues about the policy? If you received both types of feedback, please provide 1 or 2 examples of each.		
- In your opinion, what are some enabling factors and challenges for the long-term sustainability of this policy/project? Please list 1 or 2 enabling factors and 1 or 2 challenges. - Imagine this policy or project did not go as planned and your municipality/region/organization is debating whether to revise or terminate it. What would be some key factors that prevented its success and how would your municipality/region/organization respond to them in order to make the policy successful? Please describe 2 or 3 limiting factors and the strategy for addressing them.	Challenges	*theme_chal
- When planning for the future, what do you consider to be the most important factors for maintaining a decent quality of life in your community? - What are 3 to 5 administrative/organizational priorities for improving the social and environmental elements of sustainability in your municipality/region in the next 5 or 10 years? - What are some key stakeholder groups and sources of financial/political support that you believe your municipality/region/organization must involve in order to achieve these goals?	Future priorities	*theme_fprio
- Imagine the year is 2050 and humanity has achieved carbon neutrality and reduced its natural resource consumption to levels that the planet can sustain. The average global warming is less than 2° Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures. We are still experiencing the negative effects of climate change, but it is expected that after some decades these effects will diminish and stabilize as long as humanity continues its current path. What are some of the values, principles, and policy objectives in your municipality/region/organization that helped to achieve this society? What are some challenges and risks that affect your local population in this scenario?	Future society	*theme_fsoc

Table 2.1.2: Variables and coding for interview/survey responses

Legend Response type: D= documents only; I= interview; S= survey Country: couny_1 = Austria; couny_2 = Italy; couny_3 = Germany; couny_4 = Spain Org/institution: inst_1 = municipality; inst_2 = company/organization/association		
Response type	Respondent	Code

S	TB Wilder Kaiser	*ind_01 *couny_1 *inst_2
S	Miranda de Azán	*ind_02 *couny_4 *inst_1
S	Breklum	*ind_03 *couny_3 *inst_1
S	Nenzing	* ind_04 *couny_1 *inst_1
I	Klixbüll	* ind_05 *couny_3 *inst_1
I	ForstBW	*ind_06 *couny_3 *inst_2
I	Postbauer-Heng	*ind_07 *couny_3 *inst_1
I	Castello-Molina di Fiemme	*ind_08 *couny_2 *inst_1
I	Betxí	*ind_09 *couny_4 *inst_2
D	Calceranica al Lago	*ind_10 *couny_2 *inst_1

Iramuteq is a free General Public License software used to conduct statistical analyses on text corpuses and tables made of words/texts. It utilizes R statistical software and Python programming language to run the analyses (Camargo and Justo 2016). A text corpus is a group of texts that are then broken down into text segments of 2-3 lines. For this analysis, each individual's response for the interview/survey, as well as the selection of texts from the substituted documents in Calceranica al Lago's case, is considered a text, which were divided into themes. Thus, one text equals the total of all responses to the questions asked during the interviews and surveys for each respondent. Since these texts were divided into themes, Iramuteq further divided each theme into text segments when the text corpus was uploaded for statistical analysis - with a total of 221 text segments.

2 types of statistical analyses were conducted on the text corpus: similarities and cluster analysis. The similarities analysis was conducted to provide an overview of the most frequently used words that appear in the text and how often they co-occur with other words; the closer one word is to another, the more often they are used next to each other in the text corpus. To ensure legibility of the graphic in figure 4.1.1, only words with a frequency of 10 or more occurrences were included, while the cluster analysis for research questions (RQs) 1 and 2 included words that occurred 5 or more times in order to keep the clusters legible and understandable. The cluster analysis was used to identify the most frequently used words to describe perceptions of the Common Good Economy and their associations to other words, which were clustered into 4 categories based on the Reinert Method. This method was developed by Max Reinert (see Reinert 1993) and is an algorithm that groups word clusters into 'lexical worlds' based on classes of meaning (Rizzoli et al. 2019). These words are clustered based on their co-occurrence within their unit of context (the text segments). For RQ2 the analysis was also used to identify which countries were associated most with each cluster, which helps to identify variations

among each country's perceptions of the Common Good Economy compared to others. For RQ3, an analysis of some 'active' (words with significance) and 'hapax' (words occurring only once) keywords and their contexts, including in which themes of the texts they were used, was conducted to determine the overall alignment of each entity to Degrowth ideas, principles, and objectives discussed in chapter 1.

2.2 Assumptions and limitations

One major limitation to the methodology is the variable completion of the responses to the list of questions asked during both the interviews and surveys. While the same questions were used for both methods, some of the interviews included longer responses that sometimes drifted into less relevant content. Each online interview was expected to last for around one hour to respect the time and commitments of the respondents, and all were kept within this time frame, with the longest lasting around one hour and 13 minutes. Thus, when a respondent continued on one topic for a significant duration, there was less time to discuss other questions, and in the end some questions were not asked. For the surveys, the respondents were not limited to time constraints, as they could fill in with as much or little detail as they preferred - though the estimated completion time was still around an hour. However, the surveys also allowed the respondents to include both less-specific answers and non-responses, even for required questions; for example, some included "no answer" or "unfortunately, I don't have any information on that." The non-responses were not included in the analysis, but they occurred fairly often, particularly for the themes regarding stakeholder consensus and challenges in policy making/project implementation. One survey respondent also declined responding to the questions for the 'economic values' theme, which is significant to understanding their perceptions on the purpose of the economy and how these align with ECG and Degrowth values.

As for the less-detailed survey responses, these could be the result of having requested only a maximum number of words (1000), rather than encouraging a minimum number to ensure sufficient details. However, requesting a minimum word count could have also dissuaded some respondents from answering the survey, as none were native English speakers. Additionally, it is likely that the wording of the questions could have been improved to ensure more detailed responses, particularly to extract specific words, phrases, ideas, and values. For this, two comments can be said. Firstly, the questions were originally meant to be for online interviews, as my original intention for the analysis was to collect all the responses in online interviews, but, as the language barrier issue became more apparent, I decided to convert the interview questions into survey questions. The questions did not change significantly, but how they were worded during the interviews differed slightly to the standardized versions on the survey, as the interviews were meant to be more conversational. The interviews also

allowed for any clarifications/follow-up questions to be made, in case the original response was not clear or the question was misunderstood. For the surveys, no attempt was made for clarifying the responses, though for the purpose of the research they were deemed clear enough. Secondly, I chose to leave the questions sufficiently vague and open in order to encourage an organic response based on personal opinions/perspectives as much as possible without trying to influence the respondents to reply in a certain way or using certain words/phrases. Nonetheless, the surveys provided respondents more time to give complete and relevant responses, including to refer to other sources of information as needed. This is assumed to be contrary to the interview responses, depending on the time committed to preparation, as the respondents provided answers in real-time and did not consult various official documents/position papers while responding.

A final limitation for the analysis regards the use of the documents for Calceranica al Lago in lieu of interview/survey responses, for which there are two aspects. The first is that the documents were translated using Google Translate, which could have resulted in imprecise translations, as is often a risk with any translation software. The words and phrases were likely translated using a standardized algorithm that may not accurately take into account the context in which they are written, as there are sometimes many different word choices that can mean more or less the same thing. However, this can also be the case for a non-native English speaker providing responses in English, as their vocabulary is likely more limited in English than their native language. This is explained in more detail in section 4.2 regarding the limitations of the research, but it is assumed that this could somewhat balance with the imprecision of the translated documents. The second aspect is that the documents are of a different nature than the interview and survey responses, as they were likely created by a group of individuals within the municipality and thus may not accurately portray the individual perceptions of a single municipal official, unlike the other responses. However, in absence of an interview or survey response from a municipal official, it was deemed as the second-best option for inclusion in the analysis and necessary to ensure at least 2 texts for the Italian case.

CHAPTER 3: PRESENTATION OF THE CASE STUDIES

This chapter presents the contextual and geographical background of the 10 municipalities and regional organizations used for the analysis, as well as their Common Good Balance Sheet results. It is divided into four sections based on the country where each case study is located: Austria, Italy, Germany, and Spain. A summary of the Common Good Matrix scorecard for each case can be found in the appendix, figures A1-A9. For references to each section of the scorecard in English, refer to figures 1.2.2.1 for the company/organization CGM and figure 1.2.2.2 for the municipal CGM.

Most of the CGM scorecards and CGBS's for the municipalities utilize an earlier version of the CGM, Version 1.2, whereas the current Version 2.0 (displayed in figure 1.2.2.2 above) is used in both Italian cases, one German case, and one Spanish case (a recertification). Based on my research, there is very little difference between the two versions, though it seems that in the Italian and German cases each section and subsection is given a score out of 10 total points, whereas in the previous version various maximum total points for each section were given, as well as different weights, with a total of 1000 possible points for the whole CGBS. It is not clear whether variable weights are given to certain sections in Version 2.0, though this is presumably the case; however, in these cases an accurate total score is not displayed in the municipal CGBS reports. Thus, for these cases I attempt to provide an estimate, if possible, though with disclaimers.

3.1 Austria

The mountain region of Wilder Kaiser, located in the state of Tirol along the German border, consists of 4 municipalities: Ellmau, Going, Scheffau, and Söll, with a combined population of 10,242 as of January 2024 (Statistics Austria 2024). Most of the region's economy depends on summer and winter tourism within its natural areas, which include leisure activities like skiing, mountain climbing, canyoning, cycling, hiking, and paragliding (Tourismusverband Wilder Kaiser); however, climate change and decreasing snowfall will likely put a strain on the winter portion (Steiger and Stötter 2013).

The Tourist Board of Wilder Kaiser (TBWK) conducted their CGBS for the year 2017 using Version 5.0 for companies and organizations, finalizing the results in 2019. According to the CGBS, about half of the organization's activities involve marketing, sales, and providing transport and information to visitors. The rest are spread fairly evenly between office administration, organizing events and visitor activities, and maintaining leisure facilities. The TBWK scored 508 out of 1000 points, placing it in the 'expert' category, showing notable strength in sections B (owners, equity, and financial service providers), D (customers and other companies), and E (social environment), with the highest scores in

sections B2, D1-D5, and E2, while scoring about average in section C (employees) and quite low in section A (suppliers) (Tourismusverband Wilder Kaiser 2020).

The municipality of Nenzing conducted its CGBS in 2017, using Version 1.2, and was the first in Austria to do so, along with Mäder. With an estimated population of 6,441 (Statistics Austria 2024), Nenzing is located in the western edge of Vorarlberg state near the borders of Liechtenstein and Switzerland on the banks of the Ill tributary of the Rhine River. Manufacturing and trade are the two largest employment sectors in the municipality, with construction coming in third (Vorarlberg Statistics Office 2014); however, it should be noted that this data is from the Vorarlberg 2011 workplace census and a search for a more recent census yielded no results.

Nenzing's 2016-2017 CGBS results gave the municipality a score of 425, ranking it in the 'expert' categories and scoring more favorably in sections C (political leadership, administration, and coordinated volunteers), D (population and economy), and E (state, society, and nature), with the highest marks in C4, D2, D4, E1, and E2 (Marktgemeinde Nenzing 2017). It achieved an average score for section A (suppliers/service providers, outsourced independent establishments) and scored lower in section B (financial partners and donors). However, it must be noted that for sections A and B, the municipality was only scored on ethical procurement and ethical financial management, which seems to have combined the categories A1-A5 and B1-B5 of the CGM for municipalities.

3.2 Italy

Calceranica al Lago is a small municipality located in the northern region of Trentino-Alto Aldige/Südtirol on the shores of Lake Caldonazzo with around 1,395 inhabitants (Istat 2024). It is part of the Alta Valsugana and Bersntol community, which includes 14 other municipalities, whose economy mostly consists of trade and hotels (including wholesale and retail trade, transport, food services, and tourist accommodation), industry (including manufacturing, energy, water, and waste management), and construction (Ispat 2021).

Calceranica al Lago completed their CGBS for the fiscal year 2020 using Version 2.0 of the CGM for municipalities. Their scorecard differs slightly from the Austrian, German, and Spanish municipalities and regional organizations, which could be due to a change in the evaluation mechanism in the updated CGM, as they displayed the average points given for each section out of 10 possible points. Thus, their total score is not certain based on their report; however, the highest point averages were given to sections B (2.5 points) and D (2 points), with section A receiving the lowest average of 0.4 (Calceranica al Lago 2021). A very crude estimate based on the average of each average score - 1.6 - suggests that the municipality would fall into the 'first steps' category. However, this is likely not

accurate, as this would apply equal weight to all categories, which has not been the case in the previous CGM versions. There is also evidence that the same weighting system applies to the current CGM Version 2.0, as shown in Miranda de Azán's 2019 CGBS (see section 3.4); thus, an accurate estimate of Calceranica al Lago's progress category is not possible from their report. No attempt was made to clarify this matter, as the scorecard is not used in the analysis and serves only for background information.

Castello-Molina di Fiemme lies to the north of Calceranica al Lago and south of Bolzano, staying in the province of Trento, with a population of around 2,319 (Istat 2024). It is part of the Val di Fiemme community, which includes 8 other municipalities, and offers ski tourism in the winter and outdoor leisure activities in the summer, as it is near to the famous Dolomites and other natural parks. Val di Fiemme's largest economic sectors are the same as Alta Valsugana and Bersntol, with trade and hotels being the dominant area (Ispat 2021).

Castello-Molina di Fiemme completed their CGBS using Version 2.0 for the fiscal years of 2019 and 2020, though included neither a summary scorecard nor individual points for each section and subsection; only a descriptive response to each evaluation question was given. At the end of the report they include short (6 month), medium (2 years), and long-term goals for improving each section, with sections C and D containing the majority of the commitments to future improvements (Castello-Molina di Fiemme 2021).

3.3 Germany

Klixbüll is a small municipality of around 1,049 inhabitants in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein near the border with Denmark (Statistik Nord 2024). It lies not too far from the Wadden Sea National Park, which contains the North Frisian Islands and gained UNESCO World Heritage status in 2009 (UNESCO n.d.). The dominant employment sectors in Klixbüll are manufacturing and agriculture, with much of the land use in the municipality dedicated to agricultural production (Klix-Bos-Tin 2023). The municipality takes much pride in its community-owned wind farms, which has already enabled it to achieve carbon neutrality, as well as its electric car-sharing program, which encourages residents to rent municipal-owned electric vehicles through a yearly subscription rather than buying personal vehicles (Gemeinde Klixbüll(a)).

Klixbüll completed its CGBS for the years 2016-2017 using CGM Version 1.2, achieving a total score of 474 - placing it in the 'expert' category - and scoring best in sections C, D, and E, similar to the Austrian cases. The highest scores were in sections C2-C4, D3, E1, and E5, while the lowest were in sections A, B, E3, and E4 (Gemeinde Klixbüll 2018; Gemeinde Klixbüll(b)).

Breklum is another small municipality in the Schleswig-Holstein state to the south of Klixbüll and closer to the Wadden Sea, with around 2,264 inhabitants and most of the working population employed in the public and private services sector (Gemeinde Breklum 2022; Statistik Nord 2024). Like Klixbüll, the municipality is home to two community-owned wind farms, the first of which was constructed in 2004 (Gemeinde Breklum 2022).

Breklum completed its CGBS for the years 2016-2017 using CGM Version 1.2, scoring a total of 320 points and placing it in the 'advanced' category. Its highest scoring section was C, with 50% or more points in all subsections but C3 (Gemeinde Breklum 2018). Sections B, D, and E received similarly low scores between 20% and 30%, while section A was the lowest with only 10% of total points received.

Postbauer-Heng is also a small municipality, located in the Bavarian state to the southeast of Nuremberg, with an estimated population of 7,885 (BSOS 2022a). The largest economic sectors are manufacturing/industry and trade, transport, and hospitality, employing around 75% of the working population (BSOS 2022b). The municipality hosts a 5km walking trail along the Dillberg plateau that features 10 literary stations with poems that intend to deepen awareness of nature to passersby (Markt Postbauer-Heng, n.d.).

Postbauer-Heng, as with the Italian cases, completed their CGBS for the years 2019-2020 using CGM Version 2.0; thus, it also includes individual points for each section and subsection while lacking a total score and scorecard summary. Sections B, C, and D contain the highest average scores (2.67, 2.92, and 2.86 respectively), with B4, C2, D1, and D2 featuring the highest individual points (Marktgemeinde Postbauer-Heng 2022). Overall, assuming equal weights to each section, the municipality would be placed in the 'advanced' category.

Baden-Württemberg (BW) is the third-largest German federal state with a population of over 11 million people, administering 1,101 municipalities, including its state capital Stuttgart, and bordering Luxembourg, France, and Switzerland (Baden-Württemberg 2023). The southwestern state features the Black Forest, part of the Rhine River, and is the second-largest wine producing state (DEStatis 2023). The largest economic sectors for employment are public administration, manufacturing, and trade, transport, accommodation, and communication/information services (Baden-Württemberg 2023).

ForstBW - Baden-Württemberg's state forest company - is responsible for sustainably managing and protecting 322,825 hectares of forest within the 21 state forest districts, promoting and regulating recreational and hunting activities, and coordinating the state's forestry education and training

programs (ForstBW 2024). It conducted its first CGBS for the years 2017 and 2018 using the company/organization CGM Version 5.0, receiving a total score of 577 (ForstBW 2020). The company scored high in nearly all subsections within A, B, D, and E - and even section C was not very low. For its second CGBS in 2021 it showed some improvements, particularly for section C, with a final score of 609 and maintaining its place in the 'expert' category (ForstBW 2022).

3.4 Spain

Miranda de Azán is a small municipality located just south of Salamanca in the northwestern region of Castile and León, with a population of around 453 (INE 2023). It provides access to the Camino de Fonseca, a trail that also connects to the famous Camino de Santiago, and was traditionally an agricultural community, though now most of the population works in Salamanca aside from some small industries within the municipality (Miranda de Azan, n.d.).

Miranda de Azán completed three balance sheets to date, celebrating ten years of being a certified Common Good Municipality in September 2024. In its first and second CGBS for 2014 and 2015 using CGM Version 1.0, the municipality scored high in nearly all subsections of C and D, as well as A5, E1, and E4 - scoring a total of 612 and 651 points respectively and placing it in the 'expert' category (Miranda de Azán 2015, 2016). For 2015, notable improvements were seen in sections A3, A4, and B4, while some points were lost in A2 and C3. In its third CGBS for the year 2019, its score dropped significantly - the total being 354 and falling into the 'advanced' category (Miranda de Azán 2020). The municipality notes that two significant factors contributed to this: 1) the change in the evaluation mechanism from CGM Version 1.0 to 2.0; and 2) the Covid-19 crisis made it difficult to gather much of the data, some of which were left out of the evaluation and thus prevented the municipality from gaining points in these areas. In any case, subsections A5, D2, and E4 remained the strongest, with section E taking over section C for the highest scores, along with D.

Betxí is a small municipality in the province of Castellón and the region of Valencia, situated on the outskirts of the Serra d'Espadà Natural Park and about 15 kilometers from the Balearic Sea. With a population of around 5,630, most of its economic income comes from its citrus exports, while the manufacturing of cardboard, packaging, and ceramics are its main industries (Betxí, n.d.; INE 2023). It also hosts the international Sant Antoni Pop Festival, an annual rock music festival held in January.

Betxí conducted its CGBS for the year 2017 using CGM Version 1.2, receiving a total of 407 points and placing it in the 'expert' category (Betxí 2018). Its highest scoring sections were C and E, with subsections A5, C4, D3, and E4 receiving 50% or more of the possible points. The lowest scoring section was C, with neither subsection achieving more than 30% of the possible points.

CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS RESULTS, DISCUSSION, AND LIMITATIONS

This chapter presents the results of the analysis and describes how they correlate with each research question. I begin with an overview of the statistical results for the text corpus, including the total number of words analyzed, the number of text segments created, the number of 'active form' and 'supplementary' words, and the 'hapax' (number of words that occur only once). This is followed by a similarities analysis of the active words, which describes the occurrences of words appearing 10 or more times in the corpus and to what extent they are associated with other words. I then proceed with a presentation and discussion of the cluster analysis used for the first and second research questions, which groups the words identified in the automatically-generated text segments into clusters based on their association with a particular class/category of meaning regarding the general perceptions of ECG and potential variations among countries, followed by an analysis of some keywords in the text segments that relate to Degrowth principles and objectives for RQ3. I finish the chapter with a discussion of the limitations to the research.

For this section it is also important to note that, when reference is made to a specific municipality's or organization's response, this is not meant to be portrayed as representative of the entire entity. I have chosen to refer to the respondents by their institution/organization in order to ensure anonymity of the individual; thus, any reference to their response must be understood as the opinion and perception of the individual respondent, not the entity as a whole.

4.1: Discussion of the results and answers to the research questions

The text corpus analysis included a total of 13,534 words, 1,044 of which were 'hapax' (words occurring only once, equal to 7.71% of the total number of words), which were automatically divided into 221 text segments for the analyses described below. The 'active' words (meaning words that have significance) that occur 10 or more times are included in the similarities analysis (figure 4.1.1) below, which places words into clusters based on their association and co-occurrence with other words. The words with larger font size represent the ones most frequently used, while the thickness of the gray branches demonstrate how strongly associated each cluster is to the other. There are other 'supplementary' words that are left out of the analysis, which are only filler/connecting words with little significance (i.e. prepositions and numbers), as well as the hapax; however, the hapax contains a few key words that reveal some interesting findings regarding RQ3 (explained below).

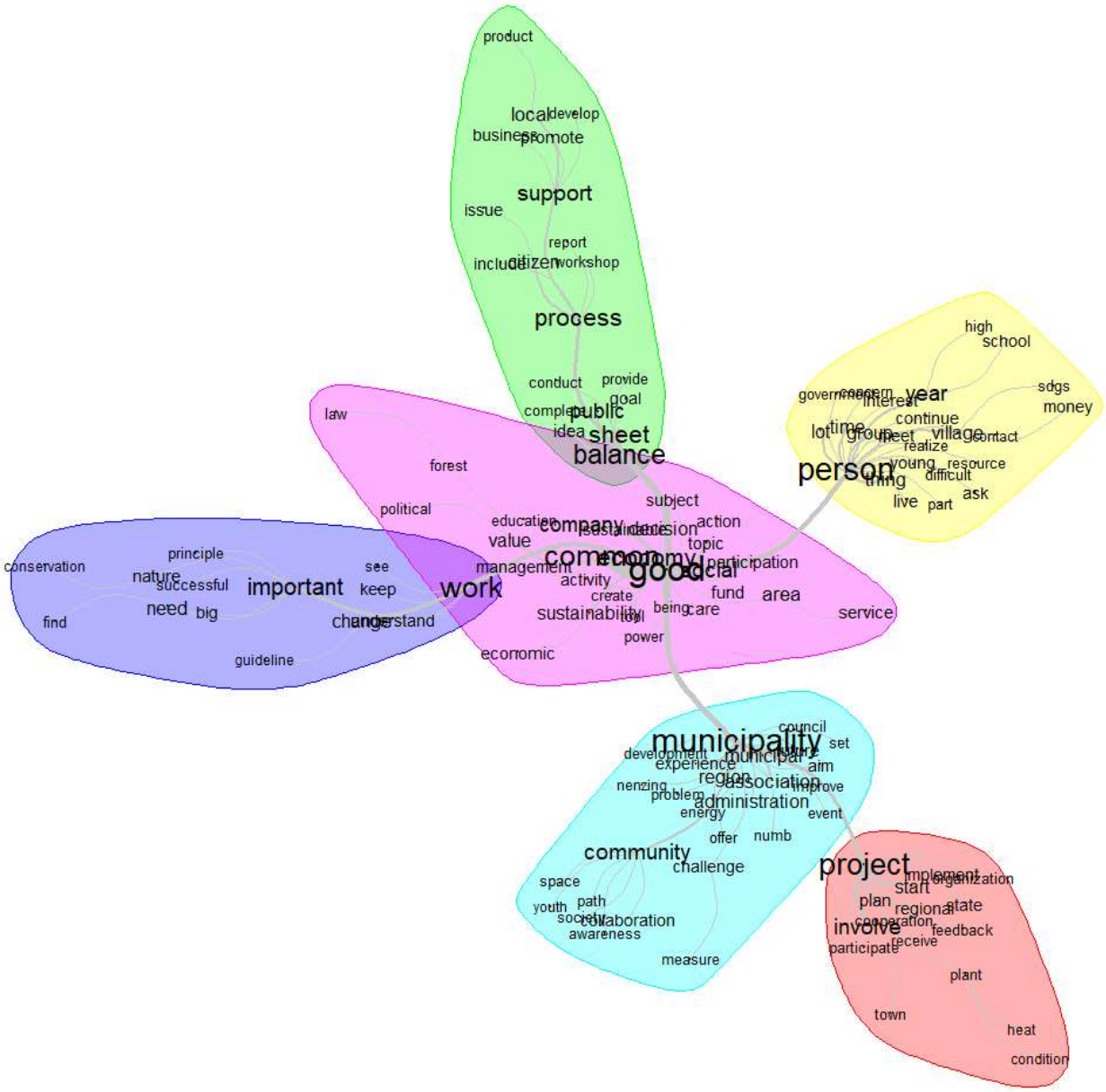
Unsurprisingly, the central cluster that connects to all others is the Common Good Economy. The clusters that are most connected to the ECG are 'balancing process' (the green cluster beginning with 'balance' and 'sheet' - referring to the CGBS), 'individual needs' (the yellow cluster beginning with

‘person’), ‘important work’ (the indigo cluster beginning with ‘work’ - indicating the important work needed within the Common Good Economy), and ‘community collaborations’ (the blue cluster beginning with ‘municipality’), which is closely associated with ‘project planning and implementation’ (the red cluster beginning with ‘project’).

Some key observations can be made from this analysis. First, we see that the words ‘person,’ ‘local,’ and ‘village’ are separate from ‘community,’ which seems contrary to a common perception that people and villages would be considered part of a local community. Additionally, due to the imbalance of municipal respondents versus regional respondents (for the latter there were only 2), ‘region’ appears in the ‘community collaborations’ cluster with less emphasis. This can also be a result of the formulation of the survey/interview questions, as participants were asked to focus their responses on their level of operation - most of which were municipalities. During the interviews, references by municipal officials to the region/state were made mostly when discussing funding for conducting the CGBS or implementing projects, or as stakeholders involved in projects.

Another unexpected finding is that ‘nature’ is not closely linked to the economy/Common Good Economy nor sustainability. This would seemingly contradict both narratives of Degrowth and the ECG shown in chapter 1, which note the centrality of nature to the economy and the need to make economic decisions based significantly on natural resource abundance and regeneration rates, in addition to societal/human needs. Additionally, ‘SDGs’ stems from ‘village’ and ‘person,’ rather than being more closely associated with the word ‘sustainability’ as one might expect.

Figure 4.1.1: Results of the similarities analysis



RQ1: *How do public officials within Common Good municipalities and regional organizations perceive and implement the principles and objectives of the Common Good Economy?*

To answer RQ1, a cluster analysis was conducted on the text corpus, of which the main results are shown in figures 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 below. The cluster analysis identified 4 clusters for 142 of the 221 (equal to 64.25% retention) total text segments within the corpus. It should be noted that this is generally considered among academics to be an unacceptably low retention rate for textual analysis according to Camargo and Justo (2016), who recommend at least 70-75% retention. The low retention rate is likely explained by the very small sample size of texts, as well as the various textual differences

between the 9 interview/survey responses and the substituted documents for the Calceranica al Lago case; only 3 of the 22 text segments from this text were included in the cluster analysis. Despite this limitation, the cluster analysis was deemed the most useful in answering RQ1.

Figure 4.1.2 features a dendrogram of the most frequently used words for each cluster. The hierarchy of words demonstrates the strength of the association to the cluster based on a chi-squared test, meaning the higher words are more strongly associated than the lower ones. This graph also shows the extent to which each cluster's content is related to the other: clusters 3 "Common Good Economy instruments" (containing 31.7% of the 142 text segments) and 4 "collaborative problem solving" (containing 28.9% of the analyzed text segments) and clusters 1 "administrative actions for community development" (containing 23.2% of the analyzed text segments) and 2 "promoting environmental awareness in economic activities" (containing 16.2% of the analyzed text segments) are the most related to their other pair's content, while clusters 2 and 4 are the least related to each other's content. An alternative depiction is shown in figure 4.1.3, where the clusters are displayed on a Cartesian plane. Using this graph, cluster 4 seems to be more related to the first cluster's content than cluster 3.

Figure 4.1.2: Clustering analysis results (dendrogram)

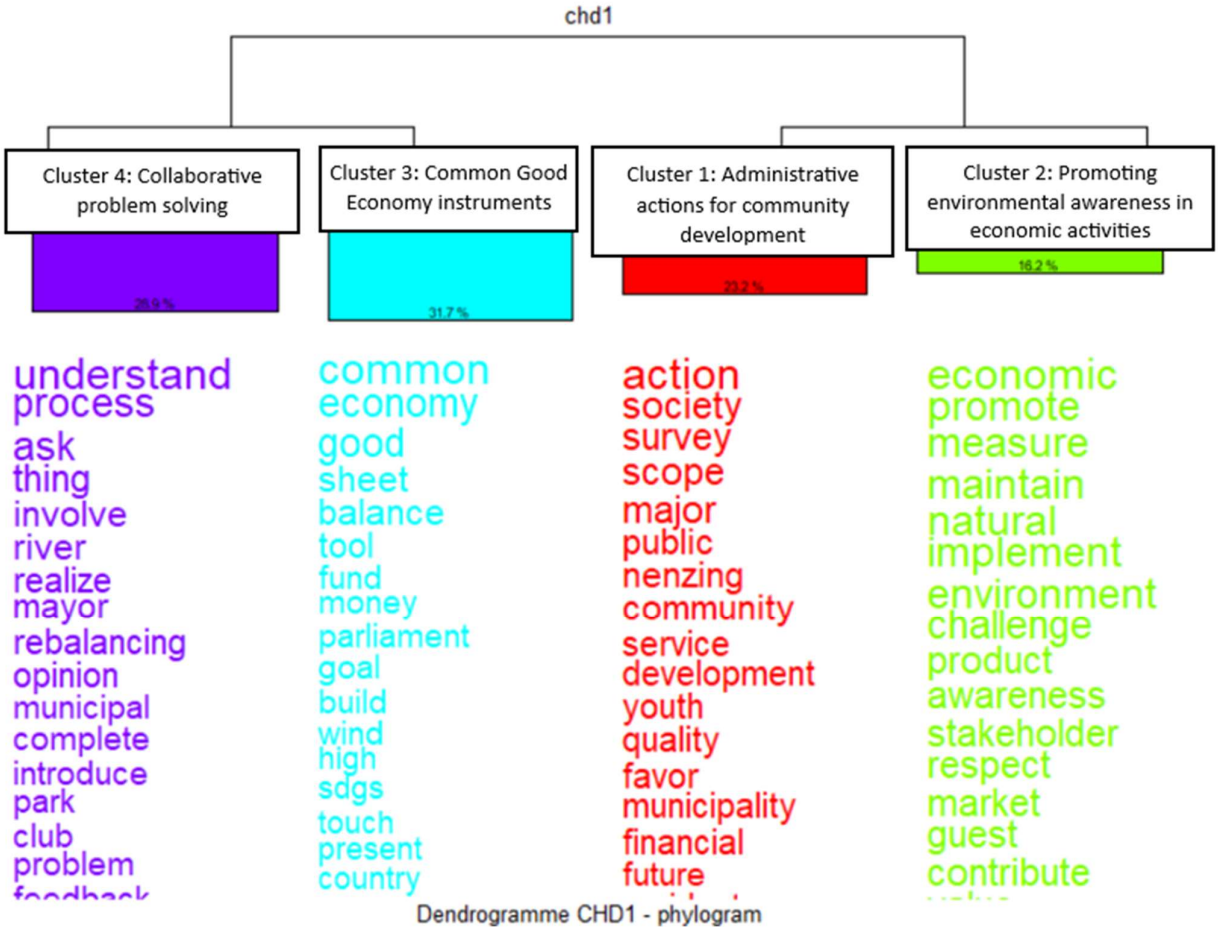
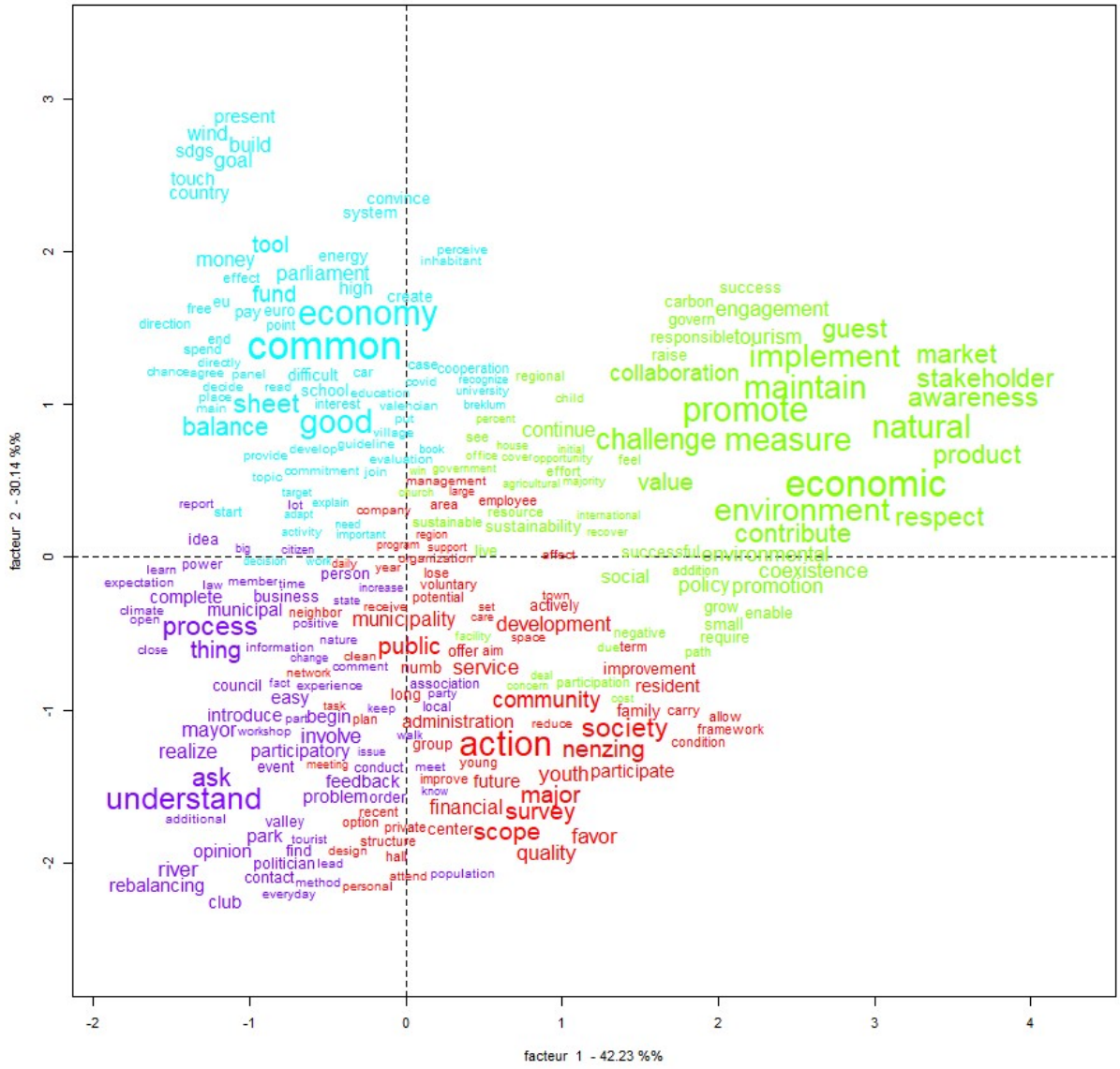


Figure 4.1.3: Clustering analysis results (Cartesian graph)

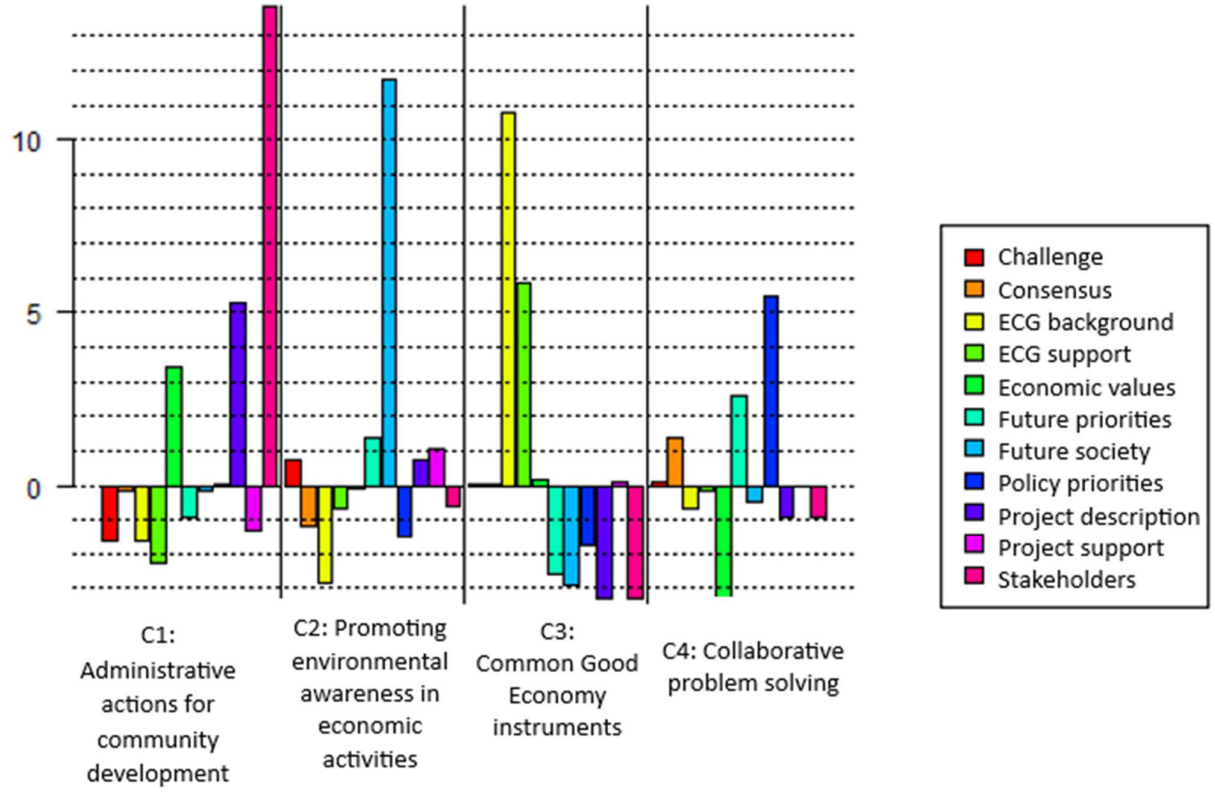


These clusters are largely similar to some of the 5 key principles of the municipal CGM, showing the closest relation to the principles solidarity, ecological sustainability, and transparency and democracy. Words like ‘community,’ ‘society,’ ‘participate,’ ‘involve,’ ‘development,’ ‘stakeholder,’ ‘municipality,’ ‘business,’ ‘neighbor,’ ‘youth,’ ‘understand,’ ‘feedback,’ ‘action,’ and ‘service’ fit well under the solidarity and transparency and democracy principles, while ‘natural,’ ‘environment,’ ‘sustainability,’ ‘respect,’ ‘awareness,’ ‘collaboration,’ ‘continue,’ ‘responsible,’ and ‘coexistence’ align with many of the ecological principles of the ECG. ‘Market’ could be considered a controversial word in the context of the “economic and sustainability governance” cluster, as it could imply the marketization of goods and services, especially of natural resources, as the best way to govern their distribution and meet the population’s needs, which is contrary to the ideals of Degrowth and ECG, both of which argue for the commoning of many natural resources and mixed methods (not only the

market) to meet human needs. However, a closer look at the contexts of its use in the text segments shows that it is mostly referred to in terms of the market's purpose to meet the needs of the municipality and its people, not necessarily as the most optimal instrument. A notable absence is the word 'growth,' which was only used once in Klixbüll's text, who noted that without addressing climate change, "all of the other 16 SDGs are in danger" and "there is no economic growth anymore."

A final observation for this analysis is the alignment of each text theme to the identified clusters, shown in figure 4.1.4 below. The themes 'economic values,' 'priorities,' and 'stakeholders' align most with the "administrative actions for community development" cluster, which suggests that the respondents recognize the significance of involving stakeholders and the necessity to evaluate the economic needs of the community when setting administrative priorities. For the "promoting environmental awareness in economic activities" cluster, the most aligned theme is 'future society,' followed by 'future priorities,' 'project description,' 'project success,' and 'challenges.' This suggests that the respondents place significant importance on creating robust economic policies and strategies centered around environmental sustainability in order to achieve the desired outcomes of the future society. In the case of the "Common Good Economy instruments" cluster, the themes 'ECG background' and 'ECG support' standout as the most aligned, suggesting that the Common Good Economy model is, in the respondents' opinions, the best framework for achieving a socially and environmentally sustainable economy. Lastly, the themes 'priorities,' 'future priorities,' and 'consensus' are the most aligned to the "collaborative problem solving" cluster, suggesting the importance of consensus from all relevant stakeholders when setting priorities and making decisions in municipalities and organizations.

Figure 4.1.4: Alignment of text themes to clusters

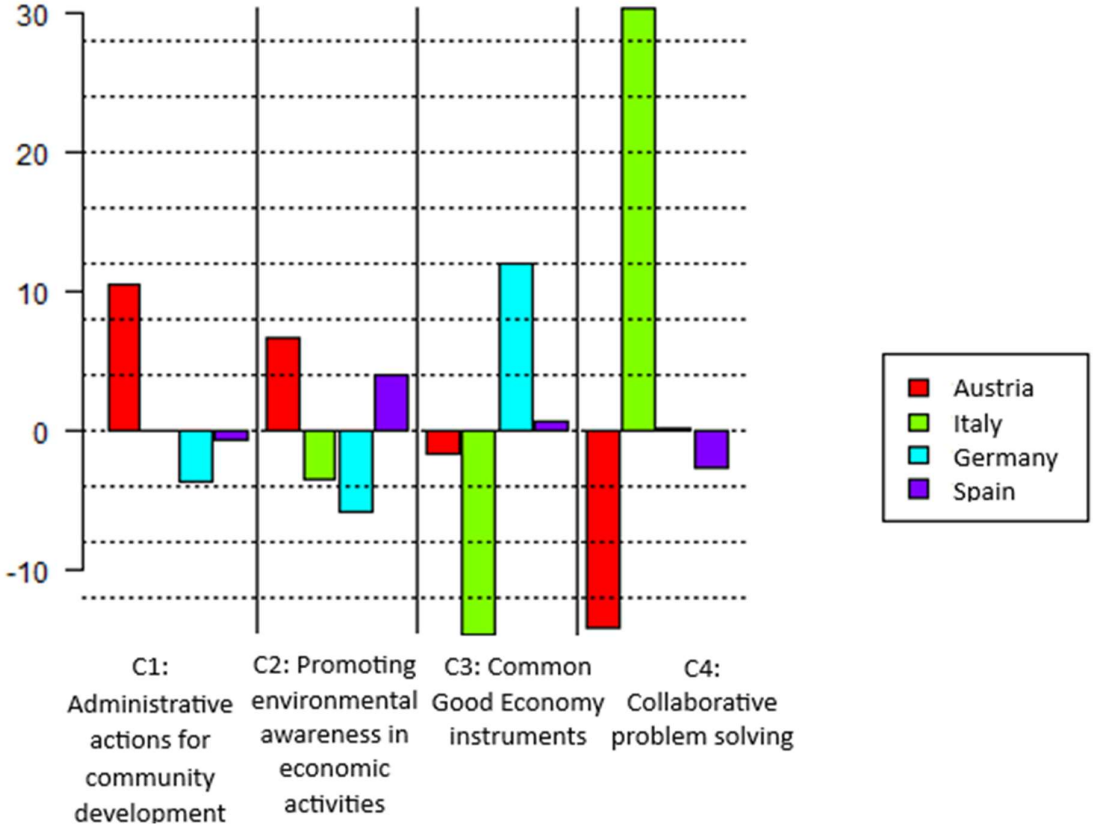


Thus, to answer RQ1, the analysis suggests that the respondents generally perceive the Common Good Economy in their local context as one that involves many stakeholders - including businesses, the local administration, and the average citizen - and implement their ECG objectives through participatory decision making, taking into account the social and environmental responsibilities and consequences, and keeping an eye towards the organizational and administrative goals of preserving the environment and ensuring the economy meets the human needs of present and future societies. Most of the respondents' approaches to policies and projects seem to be more oriented toward identifying problems and solutions, rather than focusing on the values and principles that guide decision making. This could be due to the CGBS being a tool to assess current actions, identify areas in need of improvement, and provide recommendations for improving them - much like a policy/project evaluation report. This could also have been influenced by the nature and focus of the interview/survey questions, which focused mostly on the objectives, methods, results, and challenges for projects and policies. While the questions were left intentionally open in order to see which ECG principles would be highlighted most, it is possible that both this and the time constraints limited the respondents' capacity to address other ECG values.

RQ2: *Are there differences in discourse about the principles and objectives of the Common Good Economy among countries?*

Continuing the analysis of the different clusters, an interesting observation can be made about the alignment of each country's respondents to each cluster, as shown in figure 4.1.5 below. The Austrian respondents are most aligned to the "administrative actions for community development" and "promoting environmental awareness in economic activities" clusters, which suggests that they value the actions and impacts on the local community and environment the most in their institutional priorities, particularly regarding the economy, and emphasizing the key roles stakeholders play in planning and implementation. The Italian respondents have the strongest cluster alignment among the other countries, with "collaborative problem solving" being its most aligned cluster. This suggests that the respondents showed particular interest in the administrative processes using participatory methods that seek to understand the problems and needs that impact the common good of the community. For the Austrian and Italian respondents, there are also clusters that clearly diverge from their responses. In the Austrian case, "collaborative problem solving" is the least associated cluster to its text segments, which suggests the respondents' focus on the specific actions and objectives of social and environmental policies and projects, rather than how collaborative the decision making process was. The Italian respondents were instead more interested in highlighting the participatory processes utilized in their administrative decision making and policy/project implementation, though did not refer directly to the Common Good Economy or its tools (like the CGBS) when discussing these processes as much as other respondents. The German respondents aligned most to the "Common Good Economy instruments" cluster, suggesting that they view the CGBS and SDG balance sheets as the best ways to measure sustainability and identify key areas in need of funding. They also referred to the Common Good Economy more often than other respondents and were thus least aligned to the clusters "administrative actions for community development" and "promoting environmental awareness in economic activities," as these are largely incorporated under the ECG principles and objectives for decision making. On the other hand, the Spanish respondents are the least aligned to any of the clusters; even their most aligned cluster - "promoting environmental awareness in economic activities" - does not demonstrate strong alignment. However, its least aligned cluster - "collaborative problem solving" - is also not strongly unaligned; thus, the Spanish respondents seem to be the most evenly-aligned to all clusters, having no strong alignments or contradictions to either. This would suggest that the Spanish responses contain the most representative texts of perceptions regarding the principles and objectives of the Common Good Economy for all respondents.

Figure 4.1.5: Country alignment with each cluster

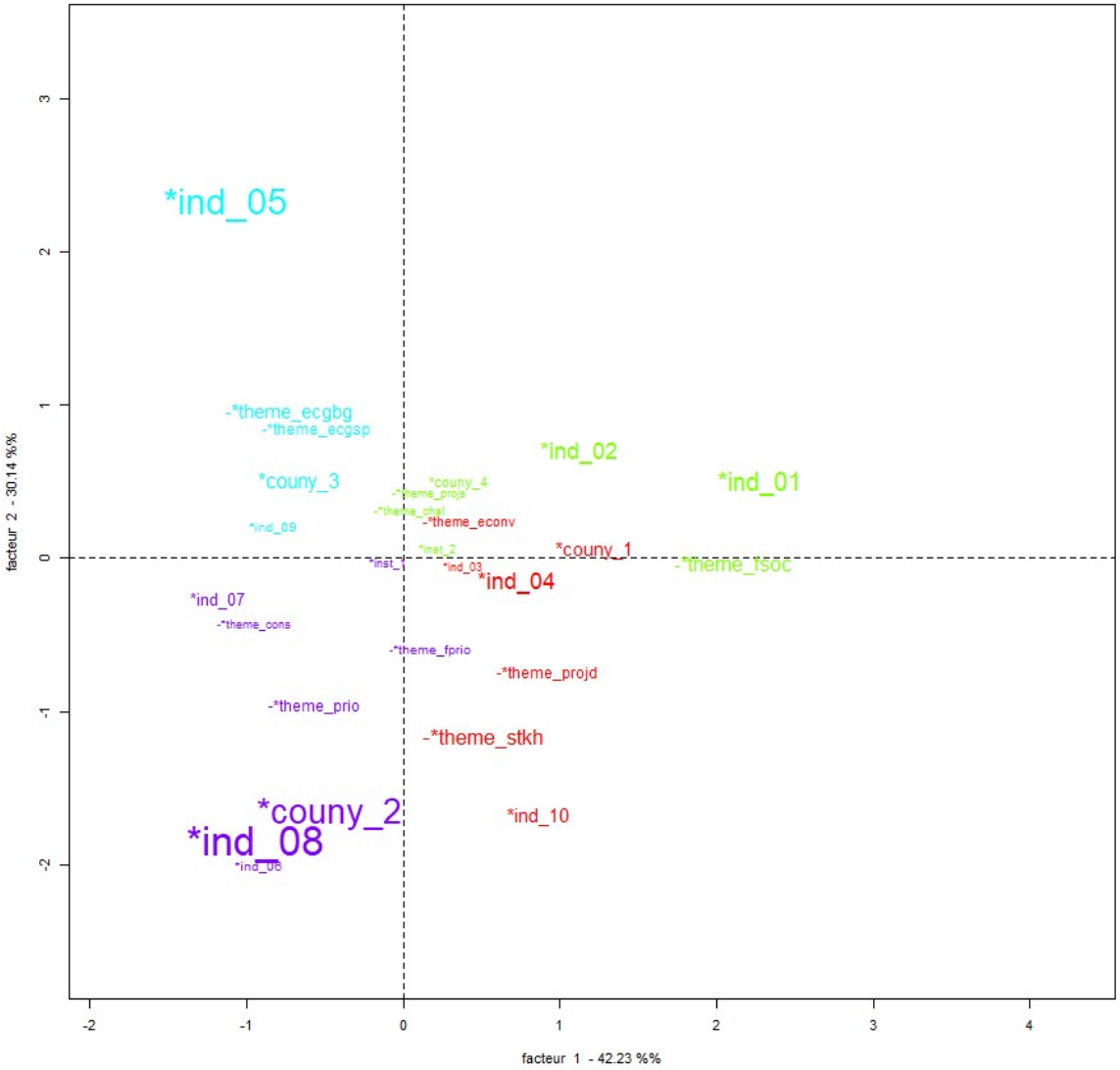


Another perspective regarding the similarities and differences in countries can be seen in figure 4.1.6, which portrays the alignment of each variable and theme to the identified clusters; larger font sizes indicate more frequent use of the associated words, as in figure 4.1.3. For Germany, this can seem contradictory to the previous observation, as only one German respondent (Klixbüll) is seen in cluster 3, whereas the others are split between clusters 1 and 4. However, it is likely that Klixbüll's larger text size and more frequent use of words associated with cluster 3 created a larger weight compared to the other German respondents and thus placed the entire country in this cluster. The country 3 variable (Germany) is also placed more towards the center of the graph, closer to individuals 3 and 7 (Breklum and Postbauer-Heng), which shows the influence of the other German respondents in pulling the weight of Klixbüll towards their clusters. A similar observation can be made for Italy, where Castello-Molina di Fiemme's response outweighs the text from Calceranica al Lago, as the former provided more responses to the interview questions while the documents used for the latter's response did not include sufficient details to provide responses to all the questions, nor were much of its responses included in the text segments.

In the Austrian case, the respondents are shown to be separate but fairly equal in weight, with TB Wilder Kaiser associated with cluster 2, though not far from Nenzing in cluster 1. This further demonstrates the similarity between the two clusters and explains why Austria is shown in figure 4.1.5

as aligning with both 1 and 2. The Spanish respondents fell into clusters 2 and 3, which are the second-least similar to each other, and further explains why Spain was the least aligned country to any cluster. Since the weight of Miranda de Azán's text was larger than that of Betxí, it helped to solidify its alignment in cluster 2.

Figure 4.1.6: Cartesian graph of variables and themes and their alignment with clusters
(Note: couny_1 = Austria, couny_2 = Italy, couny_3 = Germany, couny_4 = Spain)



Based on these analyses, there are certainly variances between the respondents of each country among their perceptions of the Common Good Economy, its principles, and their objectives in implementing common good policies and projects. There are also internal variances within each country, as each had respondents in multiple clusters. The countries with the most similar ideas are Austria and Spain, as well as Spain and Germany, while Italy is the least similar to the other three, in particular Spain. This is an interesting observation, as one might expect that countries with similar languages and cultures

(like Germany and Austria, Spain and Italy) would share similar ideas and values. However, this expectation can also be considered an overgeneralization, as there are many other factors that can influence these variables, which explains the heterogeneity observed in these analyses. Other significant factors include the small sample size of respondents and the low text retention rate for the cluster analysis, as explained previously, which likely affect the validity of the results.

RQ3: *To what extent do these perceptions and actions align with the key ideas, principles, and objectives of Degrowth?*

To answer RQ3, a qualitative analysis was conducted from a Degrowth perspective on a few active and hapax keywords (as well as one supplementary word, explained below) that were identified in the automatically-generated 221 text segments for the whole corpus. This helps provide a holistic view of each respondent's degree of alignment with Degrowth values and objectives. Beginning with the hapax, there are a few key words from Degrowth theory that are notably absent from the discourse. These include 'sufficiency' and 'planet,' both of which are mentioned only once by Castello-Molina di Fiemme in the same text segment, as well as 'happiness' (mentioned once by Miranda de Azán), and 'democratic/democracy' (both mentioned once by Postbauer-Heng). From a Degrowth perspective, it would be expected that these words appear more often, in particular when describing the purpose of the economy and the priorities of the administration/organization. Castello-Molina di Fiemme uses both 'sufficiency' and 'planet' when describing the purpose of the economy, suggesting that the respondent is aligned to a core Degrowth principle of meeting human needs without exceeding planetary boundaries - though specific reference to the limits of the planet is not made. Miranda de Azán described their experience with a successful project that created a local ecological craft market, when touting benefits like 'happiness' and the 'common good' seemed "very childish and unrealistic" at the beginning - also aligning with Degrowth objectives. Postbauer-Heng also recognized the importance of democracy and democratic structures when describing the success of its future society in mitigating climate change, achieving carbon neutrality, and reducing natural resource consumption to sustainable levels. While not explicitly referencing participatory democracy, Degrowthers would certainly agree that such a future society must be based firmly on democratic principles and decision making. Similarly, participatory processes for projects and decision making are employed and encouraged by TB Wilder Kaiser, Miranda de Azán, Breklum, Postbauer-Heng, Betxí, and Calceranica al Lago, aligning these to Degrowth values in participatory governance.

In addition to the above key terms from the hapax, it is also useful to analyze the occurrence of other active words regarding the environment, ecology, and nature. These words and their associated forms (i.e. 'environmental/environmentally,' 'ecological/ecologically,' etc.) appear fairly frequently (47

occurrences in total for all three terms) in the themes 'challenges,' 'policy priorities,' 'future society,' 'project description/success,' and 'future priorities.' Notably absent is the 'economic values' theme, where nature is only mentioned by TB Wilder Kaiser, ForstBW, Castello-Molina di Fiemme, and Betxí. ForstBW is the only one to acknowledge the necessity to not overexploit nature, as it is dependent on the regenerative capacity of the forests to sustain its wood business and leisure activities, while Betxí claims that "the economy should benefit the persons and nature" and TB Wilder Kaiser notes that the purpose of the economy is a "high quality of life for all groups," for which an important factor is "responsibility for nature." Castello-Molina di Fiemme asserts that people should "understand and learn from nature" about how to have a lower environmental footprint when conducting economic activities. The absence of nature/the environment by the other respondents is concerning from a Degrowth perspective, as it argues that the core of the economy, apart from serving human needs and promoting wellbeing, is the environment. Even in a solidarity economy, focused more on providing caring services and meeting basic needs, the environment is still the host for much of the economic activity, in addition to providing resources needed to produce necessary goods and services. Thus, by not mentioning the environment/ecology/nature when discussing the purpose of the economy, the other respondents display a weaker alignment to the environmental principles of Degrowth; however, since no respondent claimed economic growth and unlimited profit (or similar neoliberal ideas) as economic values or administrative/organizational priorities, these responses do not contradict Degrowth values.

Looking at the occurrence of other keywords, 'social' appears 39 times in the text segments, most often in texts from TB Wilder Kaiser, Miranda de Azán, Nenzing, Postbauer-Heng, and Calceranica al Lago. It is most often used in the context of sustainability, with many citing it as one of the 3 pillars, as well as the importance of addressing social issues and creating social benefits when considering new policies and projects. Similarly, 'well-being' is mentioned 5 times (once by TB Wilder Kaiser and Betxí, 3 times by Calceranica al Lago) in the context of promoting societal well-being through policies and projects, while 'needs' appears to have been left out of the active words by the software and instead included in the supplementary terms. Since Degrowth is clear about the economy's purpose of serving human needs, it is necessary to analyze the occurrence of this word, which are found in texts from Postbauer-Heng and Calceranica al Lago when referring to administrative priorities and economic values that emphasize meeting the needs of the population. However, this also highlights the low alignment from the other respondents on this principle of Degrowth.

'Cooperate/cooperation' and 'collaboration' are mentioned a total of 27 times by TB Wilder Kaiser, Breklum, Nenzing, and Calceranica al Lago in the themes 'policy priorities,' 'project challenges,' 'future priorities,' and 'future society.' This is a significant point of Degrowth, as it emphasizes cooperation over competition - working together to achieve common goals, rather than going at it

alone or else competing for scarce resources (like funding). Also important in a Degrowth society are caring activities, as these help to build more intimate relationships among community members and are less resource intensive, thus requiring minimal environmental input and waste. The word 'care' is mentioned 15 times, largely in the context of project objectives and administrative priorities regarding childcare, healthcare, and care for the common good by Miranda de Azán, Nenzing, and Calceranica al Lago. While this is aligned with a caring economy favored by Degrowthers, it is also not surprising because care services tend to be a significant priority for public administrations, as it is generally one of the basic services provided by them. Nonetheless, it is noted that these municipalities chose to highlight their care services for projects and priorities rather than promoting business and economic growth, which would contradict Degrowth principles.

A final objective for Degrowth analyzed in the text corpus regards the localization of the economy for both social and ecological justice - avoiding the extraction and lengthy transportation of natural resources and exploitation of people (via labor) and territories in the Global South. While none of the respondents directly acknowledged the necessity to localize their economies to prevent such exploitation, a few did acknowledge the importance of localizing markets to support local suppliers and businesses (Miranda de Azán and Postbauer-Heng), as well as localizing energy production to reduce carbon emissions and ensure energy security (Nenzing). Even without acknowledging the social and ecological justice issues in the Global South that result from the neoliberal globalized economy, the desire to promote local production of goods and services is certainly aligned with Degrowth objectives.

Table 4.1.1: Mentions of key Degrowth ideas, principles, and objectives for each respondent

(**Note**: a '+' signifies alignment with the statement and a blank space signifies no alignment or contradiction identified; to mathematically calculate the overall average alignment of the respondents, a '+' is considered 1 point, while a blank space is 0 - no respondents received negative points)

Respondent	Key Degrowth ideas, principles, and objectives				
	The biosphere is the basis for the economy; we must respect its limits	The economy should prioritize meeting basic needs and social well-being	Democratic institutions and participatory processes are the most optimal governance structures	Care, empathy, and cooperation are essential to building strong societal relationships	Decolonize and localize the economy as much as possible, ceasing the extraction and exploitation of labor and resources in

					the Global South
TB Wilder Kaiser	+	+	+	+	
Miranda de Azán		+	+	+	+
Breklum			+	+	
Nenzing		+	+	+	+
Klixbüll					
ForstBW	+		+		
Postbauer-Heng		+	+		+
Castello-Molina di Fiemme	+	+	+		
Betxí	+	+	+		
Calceranica al Lago		+	+	+	

Thus, from this table we can see the respondents that are most aligned to Degrowth are TB Wilder Kaiser, Miranda de Azán, and Nenzing. Taking the average of these 'scores,' the overall alignment to Degrowth for the municipalities and regional organizations is 2.8/5 - between neutral and slightly aligned (0 points being 'not aligned,' 5 points being 'fully aligned'). Klixbüll is the only one without any alignment to Degrowth, though this is mostly due to its heavy emphasis on the SDGs throughout nearly the entire interview. This is not to say that the SDGs are not wholly unaligned to Degrowth; in fact, many of them could be considered Degrowth objectives depending on how they are presented and the means used to achieve them. Unfortunately, the wording for the SDGs tends to be vague (as is often the case for international agreements ratified by all UN member states, since this involves many compromises), which contributes to Klixbüll's lack of explicit alignment to Degrowth principles. The municipality demonstrated the greatest regard for SDGs 7 (affordable and clean energy) and 13 (climate action), particularly with its projects that created community-owned wind turbines and an electric car-sharing program powered by the wind turbines. These would certainly qualify as Degrowth-oriented projects, as renewable energy and reduced consumption of private goods (like personal vehicles) are key to a post-growth transition. However, using the 5 key principles and objectives of Degrowth listed in table 4.1.1, it is difficult to find a clear association between these and

Klixbüll's responses - thus, the municipality remains more closely aligned with the SDGs than Degrowth.

4.2: Limitations of the research

There are two significant limitations to this research: one regarding the language barrier and the other regarding the sample size. Since none of the respondents were native English speakers, it is possible that their English vocabulary limited their responses to only the words that would come to them in the moment (in the case of the interviews), or else the results of translations by the likes of Google Translate, WordReference, or DeepL, which may be imprecise. I suspect that, if the respondents were allowed to respond in their own languages, there would have been a richer and more diverse text corpus to use in the analyses. However, the Iramuteq software is not able to conduct textual analyses on a corpus that contains multiple languages, thus it was necessary to utilize English - the most likely common second language among the respondents. The sample size is also quite small for a qualitative statistical analysis, which is generally recommended to include 9-17 individual interviews in order to have empirical validity among homogenous groups (Hennink and Kaiser 2022). While the homogenous aspect of this research could be that each respondent is part of a municipality/organization that completed a Common Good Balance Sheet, it is also a multi-country study, which requires larger sample sizes from each country case study (possibly 9-17 interviews for each) in order to have statistical certainty of the results. This research studied specifically municipalities and regional organizations that completed a CGBS, which are already few cases, and not every country - even of the most active ones studied - is currently able to reach this threshold.

Another limitation to the sample size is the validity one individual has to represent a municipality/organization, which are not static entities nor staffed with homogenous people. Thus, these responses cannot be considered representative of the entire entities, as they merely represent the opinions and perspectives of the individual interviewed/surveyed or documents analyzed. A more robust (and far longer) study could also involve interviews with multiple people from different departments/levels within a Common Good institution, in addition to analyzing documents and reports relating to political/organizational programming, projects, impacts, and perceptions among stakeholders and local citizens/beneficiaries, which could help to portray a fuller picture of a Common Good municipality/organization and whether it would align to Degrowth ideas. Even on an individual level, only a partial view of the respondents' perceptions and ideas can be seen from a textual analysis that identifies statistical patterns between words and automatically-generated text segments, which, for this study, were generated based on one-hour interview/survey responses to a limited number of questions with specific thematics.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, Degrowth - whether as a theory, ideology, or movement - can be described as reducing economic growth, primarily in the Global North, to achieve a social and ecological well-being balance that allows human society to flourish while not exceeding the regenerative limits of natural resources, nor the capacity of the environment and ecosystem to absorb the material and energy waste produced. It emphasizes reduced working hours to allow more free time that can enable personal development, build relationships with others, tend to citizen duties within the community, and reduce the consumption of environmental resources. It rejects the colonial ideology of growth and the necessity for expanding markets and frontiers that exploit people and resources, especially in the Global South, to increase profits and excessive consumption in the Global North. It calls for a transition from a capitalist and neoliberal economic system to one based on the well-being of both people and planet, as well as ensuring the protection of other species within the ecosystem. Such a transition should be based on participatory democracy principles that favor the redistribution of wealth, reduction of inequalities, and increasing cooperative relationships, which can enable society to reevaluate its well-being priorities and deliberate a pathway to a socially and ecologically just future. A reduction of the economy from a global to a local scale is also needed in order to reduce the ecological footprint of the economy, cease the human rights injustices of labor exploitation in periphery countries, and redistribute wealth from large corporations to small businesses within the community.

Similarly, the Economy for the Common Good movement seeks to create a societal value shift regarding the purpose of the economy and humanity's relationship with nature. It shares many of Degrowth's goals of creating an economy that promotes social justice, reduces inequalities, and meets human needs within the limits of the planetary boundaries. Its Common Good Matrix and Balance Sheet are tools that it offers to companies and local governments to measure their contributions to the 'common good,' focusing on the social and environmental effects of the organization's/administration's activities like respect for human rights and the environment throughout the supply chain, ensuring employees earn a fair wage and are included in the decision making process, evaluating the true necessity of a product/service and weighing its social benefit with its environmental impact, and promoting cooperation with other entities instead of competition. By promoting the principles of the Common Good Economy, the ECG hopes to contribute to an economic transition that creates social and ecological value instead of market value.

The goal of this research was to analyze the perceptions of the Common Good Economy among representatives of municipalities and regional organizations that have completed a Common Good Balance Sheet, as well as the extent to which these perceptions are aligned to Degrowth principles and

objectives, using a textual analysis of online interviews and questionnaire responses. The results show that the majority of the respondents perceive the Common Good Economy through a problem-solving lens, focusing on actions and methods to promote the 'common good' rather than emphasizing the principles behind them. The responses were clustered into 4 categories based on keywords associated with each category, which revealed some variations among the countries of the respondents. The Austrian respondents identified most with the first 2 clusters, Germans with the third cluster, and Italians with the 4th cluster, while the Spanish respondents were fairly evenly aligned with all the clusters. The results of the final analysis suggest that the respondents were moderately to mostly aligned with Degrowth principles, with the average of the responses showing an overall slight alignment. This suggests that political entities that conduct a Common Good Balance Sheet are likely to exhibit Degrowth principles and objectives in their program strategies and activities, as many of these are shared with the values and goals of the ECG. Thus, Degrowth advocates could promote the CGBS to their local governments and organizations as a way to contribute to a post-growth societal transition, so long as these entities act on the results and recommendations of the evaluation. However, there are many limitations to this analysis, the largest of which being the small number of entities studied and the analysis of answers from only one respondent for each entity.

Recommendations for further research include expanding this study to survey multiple municipal officials from each Common Good Municipality/Organization, as well as studying other non-ECG municipalities and regions to compare their perceptions, values, and objectives. Since the principles and objectives of the ECG are fairly universal (most of them also included in the SDGs), I suspect there would be many other political entities that would at least claim to be aligned with the ECG movement, even if they have never heard of it or conducted a CGBS. This would give an opportunity to shed light on the potential (and suspected) global shift on the discourse of sustainability, the purpose of the economy, and the true priorities of these administrations and organizations. While this discourse may still heavily emphasize economic growth, it would be interesting to see how much it is emphasized in comparison to historical accounts from the 1990s, when the concepts of climate change and sustainability were seemingly mainstreamed after the Brundtland Commission's report.

Additionally, it would be interesting to study the concrete actions and impacts of these actions taken up by ECG municipalities, companies, organizations, and regions in the name of the Common Good Economy - the 'bite' after the 'bark' - because, as is often emphasized, in the end actions are what contribute the most to objectives. While both Degrowth and ECG recognize the importance of changing values, they must be followed by actions in order to turn the tides on the planetary and societal crises caused by neoliberalism's pursuit of endless growth. Thus, externally-audited impact evaluations would be recommended for the programs and projects related to ECG objectives from the

municipalities and organizations committed to the Common Good Economy or similar ideas, which could be used to compare the efficacy of such tools like the CGM to achieve societal well-being within planetary boundaries as opposed to instruments already employed by neoliberal institutions. These are usually expensive for small municipalities and organizations like the ones analyzed in this research, but their implications could help make the case for upscaling the initiatives and bringing other larger entities onboard, enabling lasting change.

Lastly, even if the results of the analysis could be representative and externally valid, it would be difficult to attempt to apply the findings to larger municipalities, which would likely be more worthwhile for a Degrowth transition. Assuming a Degrowth advocate would want to learn from this study what the chances are that they could find a like-minded politician in their own much larger municipality (perhaps with a population of 50,000 or more), they would likely find this study wanting. This research is limited to small municipalities who remain 'under the radar' of large media organizations and the broader population, as they are also the only ones to have completed the CGBS. That is not to say that larger organs have refrained from embracing the ECG principles - Baden-Württemberg and Valencia have actively promoted the ECG within their regions and support organizations that want to transition to the Common Good Economy - but it is likely that, due to organizational cultures (as previously noted by Evans et al. (2017)) and fear of having common good intentions derailed by political opponents who seek to maintain the neoliberal hegemony, many officials and political administrations play the 'long game' and choose less controversial language and topics for social and ecological objectives. In my opinion, it is likely that many more policy makers and public officials support the ideas of the Common Good Economy and Degrowth, though feel they cannot express these principles outright. This is, then, the ultimate challenge for both ECG advocates and Degrowthers: to mainstream the common good and post-growth discourse within public policy discussions, calling out the failures of neoliberalism and its idolization of growth.

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APPENDIX

Table A1: Synthesis of Degrowth policies within academic literature

Policy objective	Policy proposal/instrument
Consumption	● Tax consumption, especially luxury items ● Limit/regulate advertising ● Decrease the number of appliances and volume of goods used or consumed per household
Ecological conservation	● Promote the restoration of ecosystems ● Finance funds and projects for the conservation of biodiversity ● Promote the use of local sources of water (rainwater, greywater) to reduce dependence on large infrastructure and improve the quality of freshwater ecosystems
Infrastructure and transport	● Redirect investments away from infrastructure in fast and car-based models of transport to slow-mode ones (i.e. pedestrian walkways and cycling paths) ● Create a moratorium on new infrastructure (e.g. nuclear plants, highways, dams) ● Retrofit buildings with energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green/blue infrastructure ● Repurpose infrastructure to encourage alternative uses (i.e. urban gardens, farmers markets, or parks in abandoned parking lots or unused urban land) ● Promote clean energy-powered public transport and alternative mobility options ● Give free access to public transport ● Promote housing cooperatives and cohousing infrastructure ● Ensure access to affordable housing ● Put caps on rents and implement progressive property taxes ● Prohibit developments on agricultural land ● Limit urban sprawl and prevent gentrification
Pollution	● Put caps on CO2 emissions, tradable or

	non-tradable ● Tax environmental externalities ● Certify organic farming including CO2 emission reduction goals ● Reduce waste generation
Production	● Reduce large-scale, resource intensive production and promote localized production with smaller supply and distribution chains ● Promote organic farming/sustainable agriculture ● Reduce meat consumption and promote seasonal/local produce consumption ● Introduce simpler technologies ● Create regulatory bans for very harmful activities/technologies (e.g. nuclear energy) ● Make more green investments ● Promote eco-efficiency ● Promote cooperative enterprises ● Criminalize planned obsolescence and ensure products are durable and repairable
Resource and energy use	● Put caps on resource use and extraction (tradable or non-tradable) ● Tax the extraction of resources at origin ● Reduce energy consumption ● Reduce material consumption ● Create a moratorium on resource use and extraction ● Make commitments to leave resources in the ground ● Tax resource and energy use, particularly on industry ● Promote the use of local sources of rainwater and greywater ● Remove harmful subsidies for resource/fossil fuel extraction ● Invest in more renewable energy ● Promote the compact city form of urban planning ● Promote democratic energy communities
Trade and tourism	● Promote strong social and environmental provisions in trade agreements ● Promote voluntary reductions in commerce and trade ● Limit trade distances and volume ● Create incentives for local production

	and consumption ● Reduce the number of scientific conferences ● Regulate and limit the tourism industry ● Prioritize residents' rights and concerns in dense tourist areas ● Restrict short-term stays and promote slow/local tourism
Access to goods and services	● Create a basic/citizen's income ● Promote community currencies, non-monetary exchange systems, and alternative credit institutions ● Improve social security and investment in public goods to guarantee equal access to goods and services, and thereby protect people from poverty and exclusion ● Decrease unemployment ● Turn banking into a public service ● Create a job guarantee ● Promote the recognition and management of common goods ● Eliminate debt-based money
Equity	● Promote a fair redistribution of wealth and resources through redistributive policies of income and capital assets, also between Global North and South ● Implement redistributive taxation schemes ● Promote the shift of costs from labor to capital ● Encourage the breaking up of large corporations to avoid monopolies ● Encourage the reform of corporate charters and promote new ownership patterns ● Encourage the breaking up and decentralization of banks and financial institutions ● Promote horizontal governance of banking and monetary system ● Create salary caps ● Tax international capital movement ● Tighten the control on tax havens
Global governance	● Put a price on environmental and social externalities ● Prepare for long-term non-growth after the period of growth for developing countries

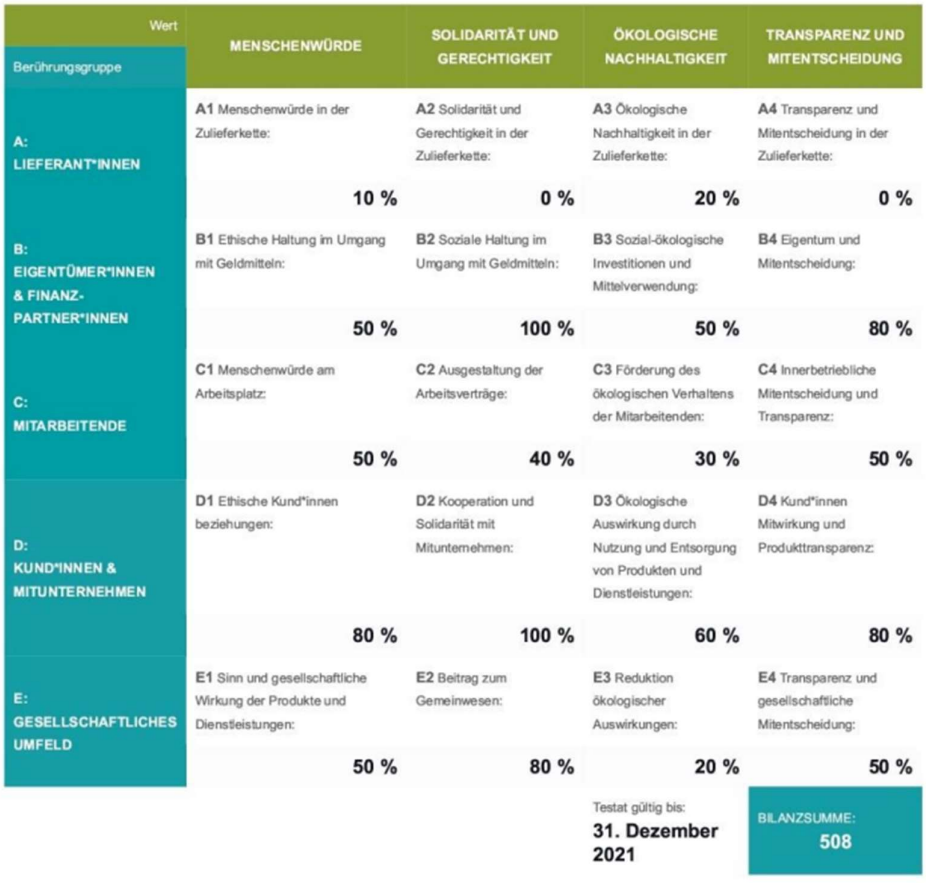
	• Establish common but differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries • End the military industrial complex and reduce military investments • Regulate lobbying
Socioeconomic opportunities	• Promote work-sharing and job-sharing, particularly in voluntary and care sectors • Create more employment in key sectors (i.e. jobs promoting social and ecological well-being) • Reduce working hours • Provide sufficient work opportunities • Encourage small, local enterprises
Community building, education, and value change	• Create funds to finance low economic cost, high welfare public investments • Promote a value change, prioritizing relational goods (i.e. friendship, local culture, love, and trust) and ecocentric views (man with nature, not man over nature) • Invest in the restoration and strengthening of local communities • Strengthen common possession regimes and customary institutions through their formal recognition by external actors • Introduce and incentivise education on ecological/social limits and sustainability in various educational and training establishments • Promote the preservation of ancient and indigenous knowledge, language, and techniques
Democracy, participation, and human/social rights	• Decentralize and deepen democratic institutions • Promote commoning and democratization of traditionally public and private sectors (i.e. banking, healthcare, education, energy, transport, water, etc.) • Promote alternative political systems and capabilities to provide them • Regulate lobbying • Create caps on political and electoral spending to allow equal participation chances • Promote regeneration of fundamental democratic institutions to incorporate degrowth-related spatial, temporal, and

	value dimensions ● Promote women's reproductive rights ● Promote alternatives to incarceration (i.e. rehabilitation) ● Ensure free access to legal services
Free time	● Promote shared living spaces (with shared chores) ● Reduce working hours
Voluntary simplicity and downshifting	● Promote frugal, downshifted lifestyles, i.e. via repair cafes and cohousing facilities ● Explore the value of unpaid and informal activity ● Devise new measures to track improvements in social welfare

Source: adapted from Cosme et al. (2017) and Fitzpatrick et al. (2022)

CGM Scorecard Summaries

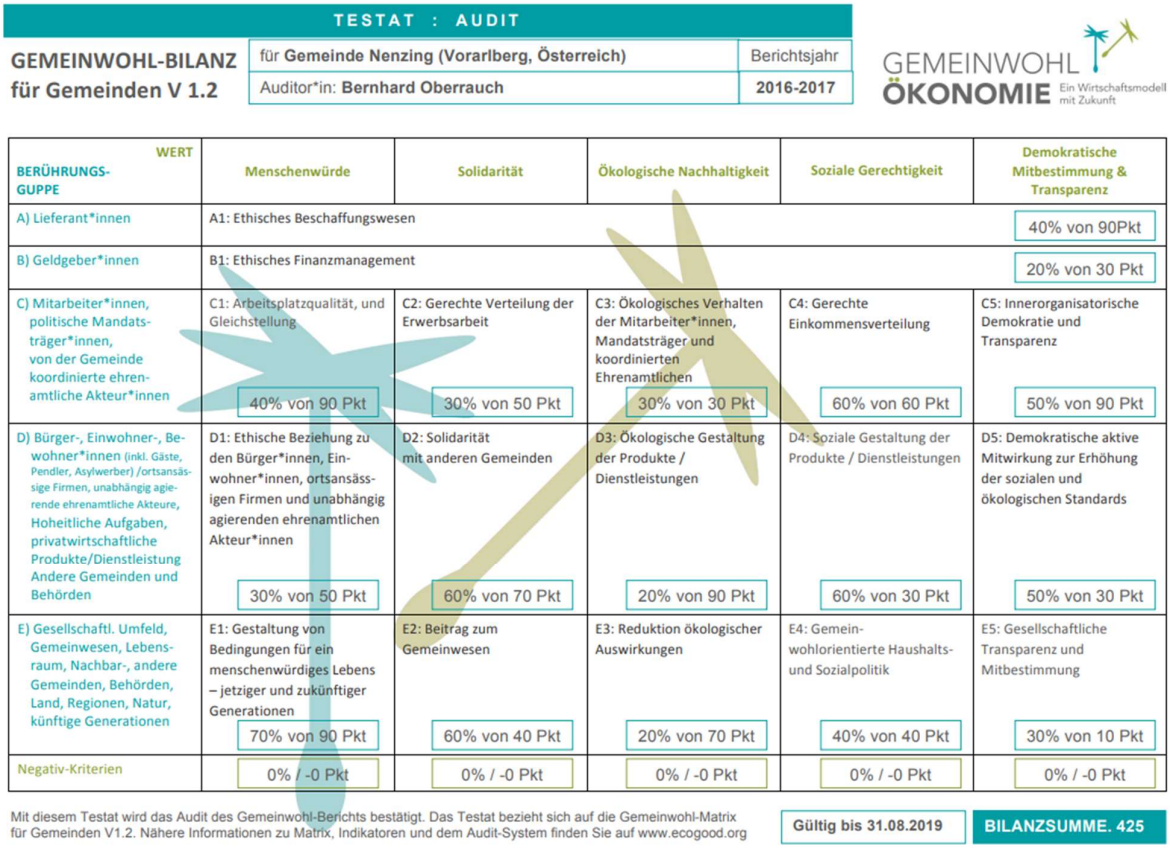
Figure A1: Wilder Kaiser Tourist Board 2017 CGBS



Wert / Berührungsgruppe	MENSCHENWÜRDE	SOLIDARITÄT UND GERECHTIGKEIT	ÖKOLOGISCHE NACHHALTIGKEIT	TRANSPARENZ UND MITENTSCHEIDUNG
A: LIEFERANT*INNEN	A1 Menschenwürde in der Zulieferkette: **10 %**	A2 Solidarität und Gerechtigkeit in der Zulieferkette: **0 %**	A3 Ökologische Nachhaltigkeit in der Zulieferkette: **20 %**	A4 Transparenz und Mitentscheidung in der Zulieferkette: **0 %**
B: EIGENTÜMER*INNEN & FINANZ-PARTNER*INNEN	B1 Ethische Haltung im Umgang mit Geldmitteln: **50 %**	B2 Soziale Haltung im Umgang mit Geldmitteln: **100 %**	B3 Sozial-ökologische Investitionen und Mittelverwendung: **50 %**	B4 Eigentum und Mitentscheidung: **80 %**
C: MITARBEITENDE	C1 Menschenwürde am Arbeitsplatz: **50 %**	C2 Ausgestaltung der Arbeitsverträge: **40 %**	C3 Förderung des ökologischen Verhaltens der Mitarbeitenden: **30 %**	C4 Innerbetriebliche Mitentscheidung und Transparenz: **50 %**
D: KUND*INNEN & MITUNTERNEHMEN	D1 Ethische Kund*innen beziehungen: **80 %**	D2 Kooperation und Solidarität mit Mitunternehmen: **100 %**	D3 Ökologische Auswirkung durch Nutzung und Entsorgung von Produkten und Dienstleistungen: **60 %**	D4 Kund*innen Mitwirkung und Produkttransparenz: **80 %**
E: GESELLSCHAFTLICHES UMFELD	E1 Sinn und gesellschaftliche Wirkung der Produkte und Dienstleistungen: **50 %**	E2 Beitrag zum Gemeinwesen: **80 %**	E3 Reduktion ökologischer Auswirkungen: **20 %**	E4 Transparenz und gesellschaftliche Mitentscheidung: **50 %**
			Testat gültig bis: **31. Dezember 2021**	BILANZSUMME: **508**

Source: Tourismusverband Wilder Kaiser (2020)

Figure A2: Nenzing 2016-2017 CGBS



TESTAT : AUDIT

GEMEINWOHL-BILANZ für Gemeinden V 1.2

für Gemeinde Nenzing (Vorarlberg, Österreich) | Berichtsjahr

Auditor*in: Bernhard Oberrauch | 2016-2017

GEMEINWOHL ÖKONOMIE Ein Wirtschaftsmodell mit Zukunft

WERT / BERÜHRUNGS-GUPPE	Menschenwürde	Solidarität	Ökologische Nachhaltigkeit	Soziale Gerechtigkeit	Demokratische Mitbestimmung & Transparenz
A) Lieferant*innen	A1: Ethisches Beschaffungswesen				40% von 90Pkt
B) Geldgeber*innen	B1: Ethisches Finanzmanagement				20% von 30 Pkt
C) Mitarbeiter*innen, politische Mandatsträger*innen, von der Gemeinde koordinierte ehrenamtliche Akteur*innen	C1: Arbeitsplatzqualität, und Gleichstellung 40% von 90 Pkt	C2: Gerechte Verteilung der Erwerbsarbeit 30% von 50 Pkt	C3: Ökologisches Verhalten der Mitarbeiter*innen, Mandatsträger und koordinierten Ehrenamtlichen 30% von 30 Pkt	C4: Gerechte Einkommensverteilung 60% von 60 Pkt	C5: Innerorganisatorische Demokratie und Transparenz 50% von 90 Pkt
D) Bürger-, Einwohner-, Bewohner*innen (inkl. Gäste, Pendler, Asylwerber) /ortsansässige Firmen, unabhängig agierende ehrenamtliche Akteure, Hoheitliche Aufgaben, privatwirtschaftliche Produkte/Dienstleistung Andere Gemeinden und Behörden	D1: Ethische Beziehung zu den Bürger*innen, Einwohner*innen, ortsansässigen Firmen und unabhängig agierenden ehrenamtlichen Akteur*innen 30% von 50 Pkt	D2: Solidarität mit anderen Gemeinden 60% von 70 Pkt	D3: Ökologische Gestaltung der Produkte / Dienstleistungen 20% von 90 Pkt	D4: Soziale Gestaltung der Produkte / Dienstleistungen 60% von 30 Pkt	D5: Demokratische aktive Mitwirkung zur Erhöhung der sozialen und ökologischen Standards 50% von 30 Pkt
E) Gesellschaftl. Umfeld, Gemeinwesen, Lebensraum, Nachbar-, andere Gemeinden, Behörden, Land, Regionen, Natur, künftige Generationen	E1: Gestaltung von Bedingungen für ein menschenwürdiges Lebens – jetziger und zukünftiger Generationen 70% von 90 Pkt	E2: Beitrag zum Gemeinwesen 60% von 40 Pkt	E3: Reduktion ökologischer Auswirkungen 20% von 70 Pkt	E4: Gemeinwohlorientierte Haushalts- und Sozialpolitik 40% von 40 Pkt	E5: Gesellschaftliche Transparenz und Mitbestimmung 30% von 10 Pkt
Negativ-Kriterien	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt

Mit diesem Testat wird das Audit des Gemeinwohl-Berichts bestätigt. Das Testat bezieht sich auf die Gemeinwohl-Matrix für Gemeinden V1.2. Nähere Informationen zu Matrix, Indikatoren und dem Audit-System finden Sie auf www.ecogood.org

Gültig bis 31.08.2019 | BILANZSUMME. 425

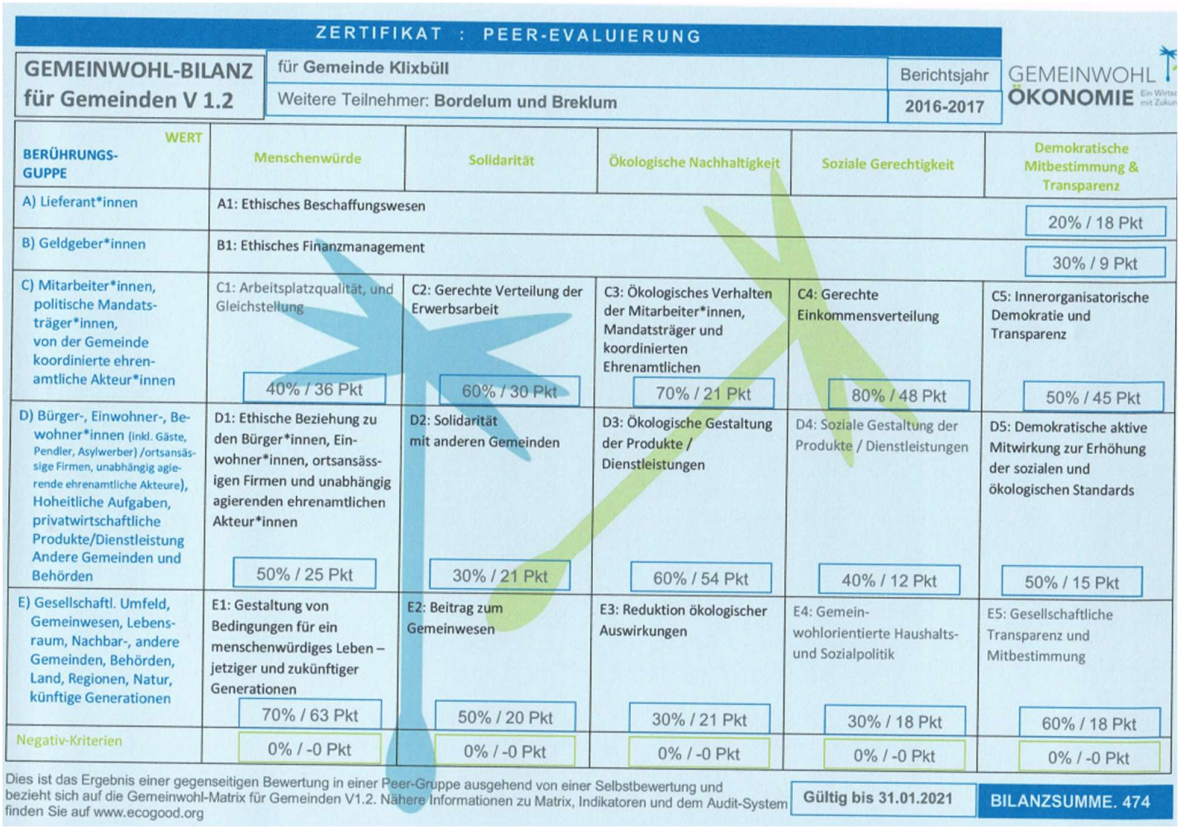
Source: Marktgemeinde Nenzing (2017)

Figure A3: Calceranica al Lago 2020 CGBS

Valore EBC	Dignità dell'essere umano	Solidarietà	Ecosostenibilità	Equità sociale	Cogestione democratica & trasparenza	Valore medio
Portatore d'interesse						
A) Fornitori, fornitori di servizi, società proprie esternalizzate	A1- Gestione etica delle forniture	A2- Vantaggi per il Comune	A3- Responsabilità ambientale per la filiera	A4- Responsabilità sociale per la filiera	A5- Responsabilità pubblica e partecipazione	
	0,0 P	1,0 P	1,0 P	0,0 P	0,0 P	0,4 P
B) Finanziatori, partner finanziari, contribuenti, amministrazione di bilancio	B1- Gestione finanziaria etica / denaro e persone	B2- Beneficio comune nella gestione finanziaria	B3- Responsabilità ambientale della politica fiscale	B4- Responsabilità sociale della politica fiscale/finanziaria	B5- Responsabilità e partecipazione alla politica finanziaria/ fiscale	
	2,0 P	7,0 P	0,7 P	2,0 P	1,0 P	2,5 P
C) Apparato politico, amministrazione, volontari coordinati	C1- Diritti individuali e uguaglianza	C2- Accordo di obiettivo comune	C3- Promozione del comportamento ecologico	C4- Equa distribuzione del lavoro	C5- Comunicazione trasparente e processi democratici	
	1,0 P	1,5 P	1,3 P	2,0 P	1,0 P	1,4 P
D) Popolazione locale e loro organizzazioni, economia e natura del territorio comunale	D1- Protezione dell'individuo, uguaglianza giuridica	D2- Benessere generale nel Comune	D3- Organizzazione ambientale di servizi pubblici e infrastrutture	D4- Organizzazione sociale di servizi pubblici	D5- Comunicazione trasparente e coinvolgimento democratico	
	2,0 P	2,0 P	1,8 P	2,0 P	2,0 P	2,0 P
E) Stato, società, natura	E1- Condizioni per una vita dignitosa, anche per le generazioni future	E2- Contributo al benessere generale	E3- Responsabilità per gli impatti ambientali	E4- Contributo all'equilibrio sociale	E5- Partecipazione trasparente e democratica	
	1,3 P	2,0 P	2,0 P	1,7 P	1,3 P	1,7 P
Principi di Stato del bene comune	principio dello stato di diritto	vantaggio comune	sostenibilità ambientale	principio dello stato sociale	democrazia	
Valore medio	1,3 P	2,7 P	1,4 P	1,5 P	1,1 P	

Source: Calceranica al Lago (2021)

Figure A4: Klixbüll 2016-2017 CGBS



ZERTIFIKAT : PEER-EVALUIERUNG

GEMEINWOHL-BILANZ für Gemeinden V 1.2

für **Gemeinde Klixbüll**

Weitere Teilnehmer: **Bordelum und Breklum**

Berichtsjahr **2016-2017**

GEMEINWOHL ÖKONOMIE

WERT / BERÜHRUNGS-GUPPE	Menschenwürde	Solidarität	Ökologische Nachhaltigkeit	Soziale Gerechtigkeit	Demokratische Mitbestimmung & Transparenz
A) Lieferant*innen	A1: Ethisches Beschaffungswesen				20% / 18 Pkt
B) Geldgeber*innen	B1: Ethisches Finanzmanagement				30% / 9 Pkt
C) Mitarbeiter*innen, politische Mandats-träger*innen, von der Gemeinde koordinierte ehren-amtliche Akteur*innen	C1: Arbeitsplatzqualität, und Gleichstellung 40% / 36 Pkt	C2: Gerechte Verteilung der Erwerbsarbeit 60% / 30 Pkt	C3: Ökologisches Verhalten der Mitarbeiter*innen, Mandatsträger und koordinierten Ehrenamtlichen 70% / 21 Pkt	C4: Gerechte Einkommensverteilung 80% / 48 Pkt	C5: Innerorganisatorische Demokratie und Transparenz 50% / 45 Pkt
D) Bürger-, Einwohner-, Be-wohner*innen (inkl. Gäste, Pendler, Asylwerber) /ortsansäs-sige Firmen, unabhängig agie-rende ehrenamtliche Akteure), Hoheitliche Aufgaben, privatwirtschaftliche Produkte/Dienstleistung Andere Gemeinden und Behörden	D1: Ethische Beziehung zu den Bürger*innen, Ein-wohner*innen, ortsansäss-igen Firmen und unabhängig agierenden ehrenamtlichen Akteur*innen 50% / 25 Pkt	D2: Solidarität mit anderen Gemeinden 30% / 21 Pkt	D3: Ökologische Gestaltung der Produkte / Dienstleistungen 60% / 54 Pkt	D4: Soziale Gestaltung der Produkte / Dienstleistungen 40% / 12 Pkt	D5: Demokratische aktive Mitwirkung zur Erhöhung der sozialen und ökologischen Standards 50% / 15 Pkt
E) Gesellschaftl. Umfeld, Gemeinwesen, Lebens-raum, Nachbar-, andere Gemeinden, Behörden, Land, Regionen, Natur, künftige Generationen	E1: Gestaltung von Bedingungen für ein menschenwürdiges Leben – jetziger und zukünftiger Generationen 70% / 63 Pkt	E2: Beitrag zum Gemeinwesen 50% / 20 Pkt	E3: Reduktion ökologischer Auswirkungen 30% / 21 Pkt	E4: Gemein-wohlorientierte Haushalts- und Sozialpolitik 30% / 18 Pkt	E5: Gesellschaftliche Transparenz und Mitbestimmung 60% / 18 Pkt
Negativ-Kriterien	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt

Dies ist das Ergebnis einer gegenseitigen Bewertung in einer Peer-Gruppe ausgehend von einer Selbstbewertung und bezieht sich auf die Gemeinwohl-Matrix für Gemeinden V1.2. Nähere Informationen zu Matrix, Indikatoren und dem Audit-System finden Sie auf www.ecogood.org

Gültig bis 31.01.2021

BILANZSUMME. 474

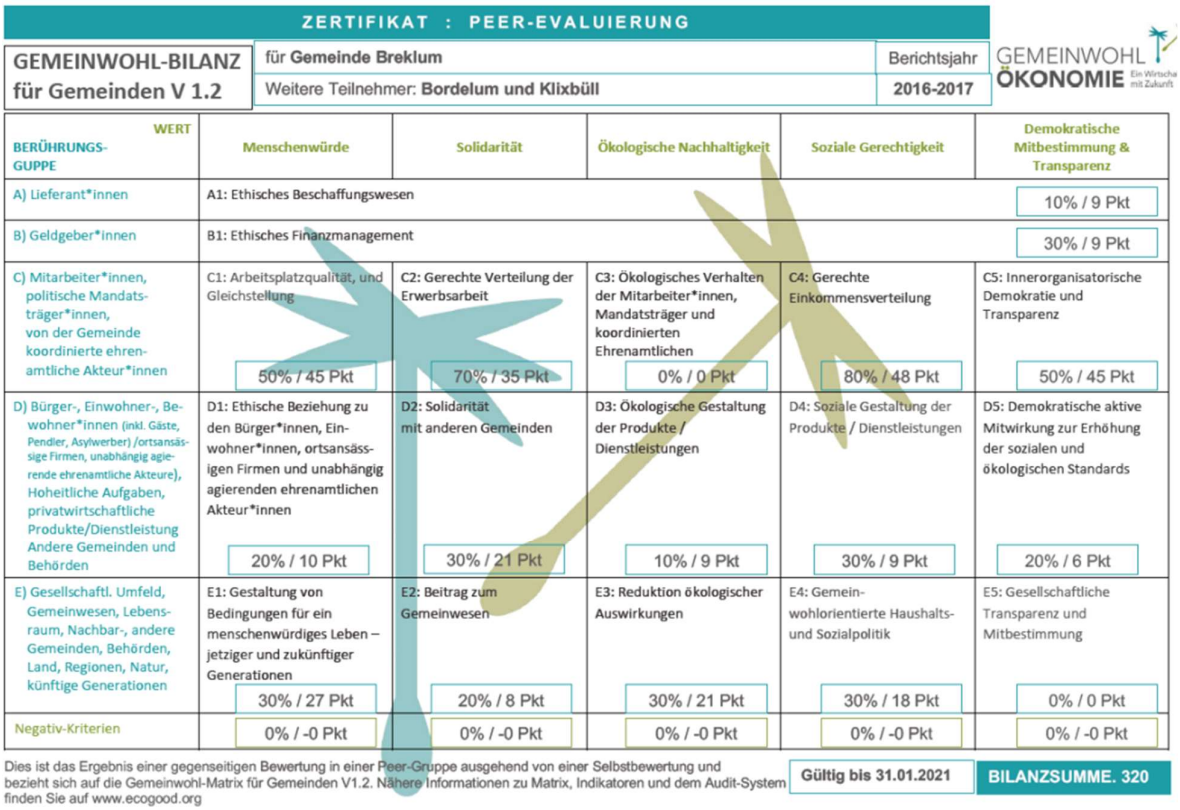
Source: Gemeinde Klixbüll (2018)

Figure A5: Postbauer-Heng Subsection Scores and Means

Section	1	2	3	4	5	Mean
A	1.1: 1 1.2: 2	2.1: 2 2.2: 2	3.1: 3	4.1: 2	5.1: 1 5.2: 2	1.88
B	1.1: 1 1.2: 4	2.1: 3	3.1: 4 3.2: 1 3.3: 0	4.1: 8 4.2: 1	5.1: 2	2.67
C	1.1: 3 1.2: 3 1.3: 2 1.4: 3	2.1: 3 2.2: 6	3.1: 2 3.2: 2 3.3: 3	4.1: 3 4.2: 4	5.1: 2 5.2: 2	2.92
D	1.1: 6 1.2: 2	2.1: 6 2.2: 2	3.1.1: 4 3.1.2: 4 3.1.3: 2 3.2: 1	4.1.1: 4 4.1.2: 3 4.2: 1	5.1.1: 3 5.1.2: 1 5.2: 1	2.86
E	1.1: 2 1.2: 2 1.3: 1	2.1: 6 2.2: 0 2.3: 1	3.1: 4 3.2: 2 3.3: 1	4.1: 5 4.2: 0 4.3: 1	5.1: 1 5.2: 1 5.3: 0	1.8

Source: Marktgemeinde Postbauer-Heng (2022)

Figure A6: Breklum 2016-2017 CGBS



ZERTIFIKAT : PEER-EVALUIERUNG

GEMEINWOHL-BILANZ für Gemeinden V 1.2	für Gemeinde Breklum Weitere Teilnehmer: Bordelum und Klixbüll	Berichtsjahr 2016-2017

GEMEINWOHL ÖKONOMIE

WERT BERÜHRUNGS-GUPPE	Menschenwürde	Solidarität	Ökologische Nachhaltigkeit	Soziale Gerechtigkeit	Demokratische Mitbestimmung & Transparenz
A) Lieferant*innen	A1: Ethisches Beschaffungswesen				10% / 9 Pkt
B) Geldgeber*innen	B1: Ethisches Finanzmanagement				30% / 9 Pkt
C) Mitarbeiter*innen, politische Mandatsträger*innen, von der Gemeinde koordinierte ehrenamtliche Akteur*innen	C1: Arbeitsplatzqualität, und Gleichstellung 50% / 45 Pkt	C2: Gerechte Verteilung der Erwerbsarbeit 70% / 35 Pkt	C3: Ökologisches Verhalten der Mitarbeiter*innen, Mandatsträger und koordinierten Ehrenamtlichen 0% / 0 Pkt	C4: Gerechte Einkommensverteilung 80% / 48 Pkt	C5: Innerorganisatorische Demokratie und Transparenz 50% / 45 Pkt
D) Bürger-, Einwohner-, Bewohner*innen (inkl. Gäste, Pendler, Asylwerber) /ortsansässige Firmen, unabhängig agierende ehrenamtliche Akteure), Hoheitliche Aufgaben, privatwirtschaftliche Produkte/Dienstleistung Andere Gemeinden und Behörden	D1: Ethische Beziehung zu den Bürger*innen, Einwohner*innen, ortsansässigen Firmen und unabhängig agierenden ehrenamtlichen Akteur*innen 20% / 10 Pkt	D2: Solidarität mit anderen Gemeinden 30% / 21 Pkt	D3: Ökologische Gestaltung der Produkte / Dienstleistungen 10% / 9 Pkt	D4: Soziale Gestaltung der Produkte / Dienstleistungen 30% / 9 Pkt	D5: Demokratische aktive Mitwirkung zur Erhöhung der sozialen und ökologischen Standards 20% / 6 Pkt
E) Gesellschaftl. Umfeld, Gemeinwesen, Lebensraum, Nachbar-, andere Gemeinden, Behörden, Land, Regionen, Natur, künftige Generationen	E1: Gestaltung von Bedingungen für ein menschenwürdiges Leben – jetziger und zukünftiger Generationen 30% / 27 Pkt	E2: Beitrag zum Gemeinwesen 20% / 8 Pkt	E3: Reduktion ökologischer Auswirkungen 30% / 21 Pkt	E4: Gemeinwohlorientierte Haushalts- und Sozialpolitik 30% / 18 Pkt	E5: Gesellschaftliche Transparenz und Mitbestimmung 0% / 0 Pkt
Negativ-Kriterien	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt	0% / -0 Pkt

Dies ist das Ergebnis einer gegenseitigen Bewertung in einer Peer-Gruppe ausgehend von einer Selbstbewertung und bezieht sich auf die Gemeinwohl-Matrix für Gemeinden V1.2. Nähere Informationen zu Matrix, Indikatoren und dem Audit-System finden Sie auf www.ecogood.org

Gültig bis 31.01.2021

BILANZSUMME. 320

Source: Gemeinde Breklum (2018)

Figure A7.1: ForstBW (Baden-Württemberg) 2017-2018 CGBS

Testat:	Externes Audit	Gemeinwohl-Bilanz	für: Forst Baden-Württemberg (ForstBW)
	M5.0 Vollbilanz	2017/2018	Auditor*In: Bernhard Oberrauch, Roland Wiedemeyer

Wert / Berührungsgruppe	MENSCHENWÜRDE	SOLIDARITÄT UND GERECHTIGKEIT	ÖKOLOGISCHE NACHHALTIGKEIT	TRANSPARENZ UND MITENTSCHEIDUNG
A: LIEFERANT*INNEN	A1 Menschenwürde in der Zulieferkette:	A2 Solidarität und Gerechtigkeit in der Zulieferkette:	A3 Ökologische Nachhaltigkeit in der Zulieferkette:	A4 Transparenz und Mitentscheidung in der Zulieferkette:
	60 %	50 %	60 %	20 %
B: EIGENTÜMER*INNEN & FINANZ-PARTNER*INNEN	B1 Ethische Haltung im Umgang mit Geldmitteln:	B2 Soziale Haltung im Umgang mit Geldmitteln:	B3 Sozial-ökologische Investitionen und Mittelverwendung:	B4 Eigentum und Mitentscheidung:
	80 %	90 %	60 %	80 %
C: MITARBEITENDE	C1 Menschenwürde am Arbeitsplatz:	C2 Ausgestaltung der Arbeitsverträge:	C3 Förderung des ökologischen Verhaltens der Mitarbeitenden:	C4 Innerbetriebliche Mitentscheidung und Transparenz:
	40 %	40 %	30 %	40 %
D: KUND*INNEN & MITUNTERNEHMEN	D1 Ethische Kund*innen beziehungen:	D2 Kooperation und Solidarität mit Mitunternehmen:	D3 Ökologische Auswirkung durch Nutzung und Entsorgung von Produkten und Dienstleistungen:	D4 Kund*innen Mitwirkung und Produkttransparenz:
	80 %	70 %	90 %	70 %
E: GESELLSCHAFTLICHES UMFELD	E1 Sinn und gesellschaftliche Wirkung der Produkte und Dienstleistungen:	E2 Beitrag zum Gemeinwesen:	E3 Reduktion ökologischer Auswirkungen:	E4 Transparenz und gesellschaftliche Mitentscheidung:
	80 %	50 %	70 %	60 %

Testat gültig bis:	BILANZSUMME:
31. August 2022	577

Source: ForstBW (2020)

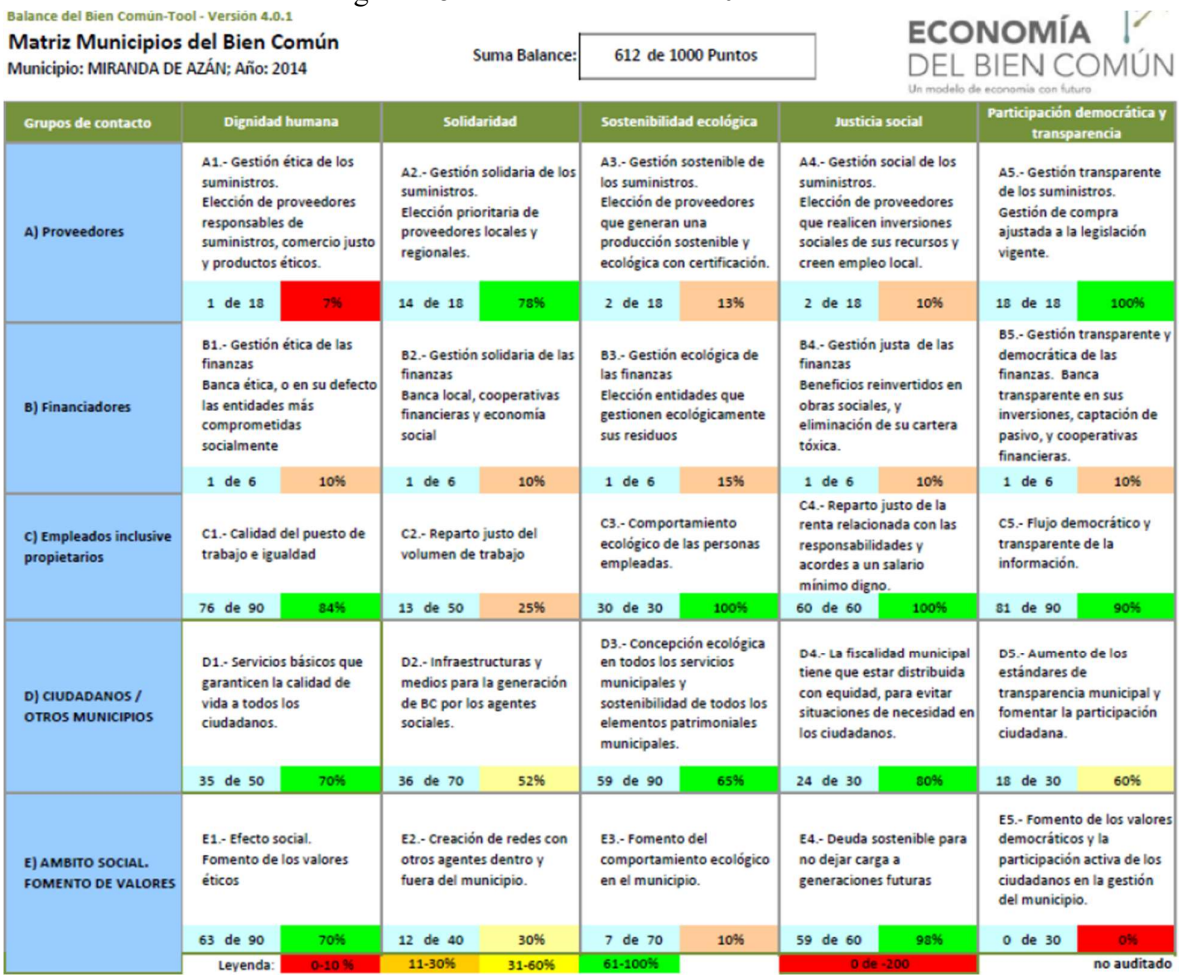
Figure A7.2: ForstBW (Baden-Württemberg) 2020-2021 CGBS

Testat:	Externes Audit	Gemeinwohl-Bilanz	Forst Baden-Württemberg (ForstBW)
	M5.0 Vollbilanz	2021	Auditor*In: Roland Wiedemeyer, Regina Soergel

Wert / Berührungsgruppe	MENSCHENWÜRDE	SOLIDARITÄT UND GERECHTIGKEIT	ÖKOLOGISCHE NACHHALTIGKEIT	TRANSPARENZ UND MITENTSCHEIDUNG
A: LIEFERANT*INNEN	A1 Menschenwürde in der Zulieferkette: 60 %	A2 Solidarität und Gerechtigkeit in der Zulieferkette: 50 %	A3 Ökologische Nachhaltigkeit in der Zulieferkette: 80 %	A4 Transparenz und Mitentscheidung in der Zulieferkette: 50 %
B: EIGENTÜMER*INNEN & FINANZ-PARTNER*INNEN	B1 Ethische Haltung im Umgang mit Geldmitteln: 60 %	B2 Soziale Haltung im Umgang mit Geldmitteln: 90 %	B3 Sozial-ökologische Investitionen und Mittelverwendung: 60 %	B4 Eigentum und Mitentscheidung: 60 %
C: MITARBEITENDE	C1 Menschenwürde am Arbeitsplatz: 50 %	C2 Ausgestaltung der Arbeitsverträge: 50 %	C3 Förderung des ökologischen Verhaltens der Mitarbeitenden: 40 %	C4 Innerbetriebliche Mitentscheidung und Transparenz: 50 %
D: KUND*INNEN & MITUNTERNEHMEN	D1 Ethische Kund*innen beziehungen: 80 %	D2 Kooperation und Solidarität mit Mitunternehmen: 80 %	D3 Ökologische Auswirkung durch Nutzung und Entsorgung von Produkten und Dienstleistungen: 90 %	D4 Kund*innen Mitwirkung und Produkttransparenz: 80 %
E: GESELLSCHAFTLICHES UMFELD	E1 Sinn und gesellschaftliche Wirkung der Produkte und Dienstleistungen: 80 %	E2 Beitrag zum Gemeinwesen: 40 %	E3 Reduktion ökologischer Auswirkungen: 50 %	E4 Transparenz und gesellschaftliche Mitentscheidung: 70 %
			Testat gültig bis: 31.12.2024	BILANZSUMME: 609

Source: ForstBW (2022)

Figure A8.1: Miranda de Azán 2014 CGBS



Balance del Bien Común-Tool - Versión 4.0.1

Matriz Municipios del Bien Común

Municipio: MIRANDA DE AZÁN; Año: 2014

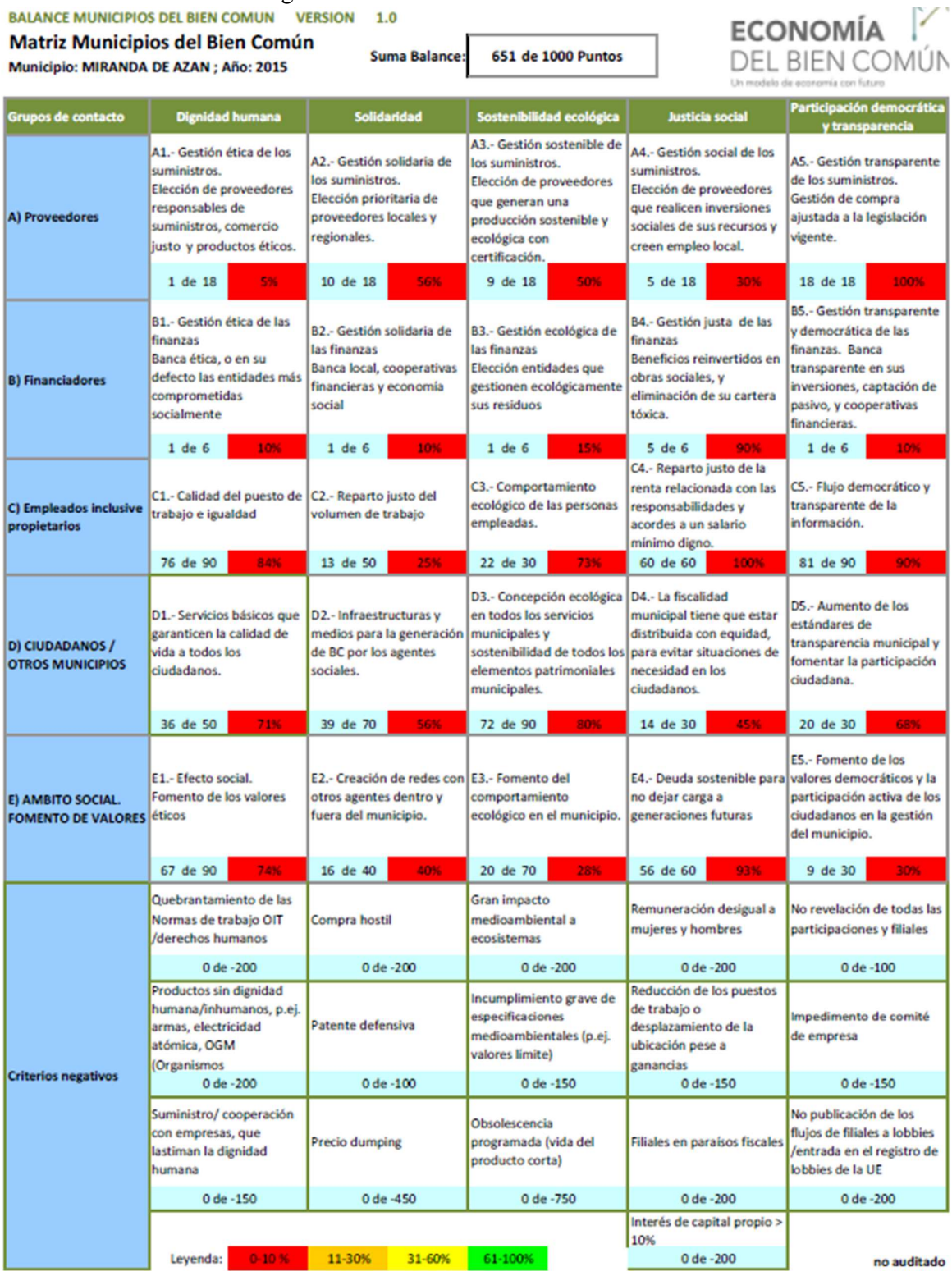
Suma Balance: 612 de 1000 Puntos

ECONOMÍA DEL BIEN COMÚN
Un modelo de economía con futuro

Grupos de contacto	Dignidad humana	Solidaridad	Sostenibilidad ecológica	Justicia social	Participación democrática y transparencia
A) Proveedores	A1.- Gestión ética de los suministros. Elección de proveedores responsables de suministros, comercio justo y productos éticos.	A2.- Gestión solidaria de los suministros. Elección prioritaria de proveedores locales y regionales.	A3.- Gestión sostenible de los suministros. Elección de proveedores que generan una producción sostenible y ecológica con certificación.	A4.- Gestión social de los suministros. Elección de proveedores que realicen inversiones sociales de sus recursos y creen empleo local.	A5.- Gestión transparente de los suministros. Gestión de compra ajustada a la legislación vigente.
	1 de 18 — 7%	14 de 18 — 78%	2 de 18 — 13%	2 de 18 — 10%	18 de 18 — 100%
B) Financiadores	B1.- Gestión ética de las finanzas Banca ética, o en su defecto las entidades más comprometidas socialmente	B2.- Gestión solidaria de las finanzas Banca local, cooperativas financieras y economía social	B3.- Gestión ecológica de las finanzas Elección entidades que gestionen ecológicamente sus residuos	B4.- Gestión justa de las finanzas Beneficios reinvertidos en obras sociales, y eliminación de su cartera tóxica.	B5.- Gestión transparente y democrática de las finanzas. Banca transparente en sus inversiones, captación de pasivo, y cooperativas financieras.
	1 de 6 — 10%	1 de 6 — 10%	1 de 6 — 15%	1 de 6 — 10%	1 de 6 — 10%
C) Empleados inclusive propietarios	C1.- Calidad del puesto de trabajo e igualdad	C2.- Reparto justo del volumen de trabajo	C3.- Comportamiento ecológico de las personas empleadas.	C4.- Reparto justo de la renta relacionada con las responsabilidades y acordes a un salario mínimo digno.	C5.- Flujo democrático y transparente de la información.
	76 de 90 — 84%	13 de 50 — 25%	30 de 30 — 100%	60 de 60 — 100%	81 de 90 — 90%
D) CIUDADANOS / OTROS MUNICIPIOS	D1.- Servicios básicos que garanticen la calidad de vida a todos los ciudadanos.	D2.- Infraestructuras y medios para la generación de BC por los agentes sociales.	D3.- Concepción ecológica en todos los servicios municipales y sostenibilidad de todos los elementos patrimoniales municipales.	D4.- La fiscalidad municipal tiene que estar distribuida con equidad, para evitar situaciones de necesidad en los ciudadanos.	D5.- Aumento de los estándares de transparencia municipal y fomentar la participación ciudadana.
	35 de 50 — 70%	36 de 70 — 52%	59 de 90 — 65%	24 de 30 — 80%	18 de 30 — 60%
E) AMBITO SOCIAL. FOMENTO DE VALORES	E1.- Efecto social. Fomento de los valores éticos	E2.- Creación de redes con otros agentes dentro y fuera del municipio.	E3.- Fomento del comportamiento ecológico en el municipio.	E4.- Deuda sostenible para no dejar carga a generaciones futuras	E5.- Fomento de los valores democráticos y la participación activa de los ciudadanos en la gestión del municipio.
	63 de 90 — 70%	12 de 40 — 30%	7 de 70 — 10%	59 de 60 — 98%	0 de 30 — 0%
	Leyenda: 0-10 %	11-30%	31-60%	61-100%	0 de -200	no auditado

Source: Miranda de Azán (2015)

Figure A8.2: Miranda de Azán 2015 CGBS



BALANCE MUNICIPIOS DEL BIEN COMUN VERSION 1.0

Matriz Municipios del Bien Común

Municipio: MIRANDA DE AZAN ; Año: 2015

Suma Balance: 651 de 1000 Puntos

ECONOMÍA DEL BIEN COMÚN
Un modelo de economía con futuro

Grupos de contacto	Dignidad humana	Solidaridad	Sostenibilidad ecológica	Justicia social	Participación democrática y transparencia
A) Proveedores	A1.- Gestión ética de los suministros. Elección de proveedores responsables de suministros, comercio justo y productos éticos.	A2.- Gestión solidaria de los suministros. Elección prioritaria de proveedores locales y regionales.	A3.- Gestión sostenible de los suministros. Elección de proveedores que generan una producción sostenible y ecológica con certificación.	A4.- Gestión social de los suministros. Elección de proveedores que realicen inversiones sociales de sus recursos y creen empleo local.	A5.- Gestión transparente de los suministros. Gestión de compra ajustada a la legislación vigente.
	1 de 18 — 5%	10 de 18 — 56%	9 de 18 — 50%	5 de 18 — 30%	18 de 18 — 100%
B) Financiadores	B1.- Gestión ética de las finanzas Banca ética, o en su defecto las entidades más comprometidas socialmente	B2.- Gestión solidaria de las finanzas Banca local, cooperativas financieras y economía social	B3.- Gestión ecológica de las finanzas Elección entidades que gestionen ecológicamente sus residuos	B4.- Gestión justa de las finanzas Beneficios reinvertidos en obras sociales, y eliminación de su cartera tóxica.	B5.- Gestión transparente y democrática de las finanzas. Banca transparente en sus inversiones, captación de pasivo, y cooperativas financieras.
	1 de 6 — 10%	1 de 6 — 10%	1 de 6 — 15%	5 de 6 — 90%	1 de 6 — 10%
C) Empleados inclusive propietarios	C1.- Calidad del puesto de trabajo e igualdad	C2.- Reparto justo del volumen de trabajo	C3.- Comportamiento ecológico de las personas empleadas.	C4.- Reparto justo de la renta relacionada con las responsabilidades y acordes a un salario mínimo digno.	C5.- Flujo democrático y transparente de la información.
	76 de 90 — 84%	13 de 50 — 25%	22 de 30 — 73%	60 de 60 — 100%	81 de 90 — 90%
D) CIUDADANOS / OTROS MUNICIPIOS	D1.- Servicios básicos que garanticen la calidad de vida a todos los ciudadanos.	D2.- Infraestructuras y medios para la generación de BC por los agentes sociales.	D3.- Concepción ecológica en todos los servicios municipales y sostenibilidad de todos los elementos patrimoniales municipales.	D4.- La fiscalidad municipal tiene que estar distribuida con equidad, para evitar situaciones de necesidad en los ciudadanos.	D5.- Aumento de los estándares de transparencia municipal y fomentar la participación ciudadana.
	36 de 50 — 71%	39 de 70 — 56%	72 de 90 — 80%	14 de 30 — 45%	20 de 30 — 68%
E) AMBITO SOCIAL. FOMENTO DE VALORES	E1.- Efecto social. Fomento de los valores éticos	E2.- Creación de redes con otros agentes dentro y fuera del municipio.	E3.- Fomento del comportamiento ecológico en el municipio.	E4.- Deuda sostenible para no dejar carga a generaciones futuras	E5.- Fomento de los valores democráticos y la participación activa de los ciudadanos en la gestión del municipio.
	67 de 90 — 74%	16 de 40 — 40%	20 de 70 — 28%	56 de 60 — 93%	9 de 30 — 30%
Criterios negativos	Quebrantamiento de las Normas de trabajo OIT /derechos humanos	Compra hostil	Gran impacto medioambiental a ecosistemas	Remuneración desigual a mujeres y hombres	No revelación de todas las participaciones y filiales
	0 de -200	0 de -200	0 de -200	0 de -200	0 de -100
	Productos sin dignidad humana/inhumanos, p.ej. armas, electricidad atómica, OGM (Organismos	Patente defensiva	Incumplimiento grave de especificaciones medioambientales (p.ej. valores límite)	Reducción de los puestos de trabajo o desplazamiento de la ubicación pese a ganancias	Impedimento de comité de empresa
	0 de -200	0 de -100	0 de -150	0 de -150	0 de -150
	Suministro/ cooperación con empresas, que lastiman la dignidad humana	Precio dumping	Obsolescencia programada (vida del producto corta)	Filiales en paraísos fiscales	No publicación de los flujos de filiales a lobbies /entrada en el registro de lobbies de la UE
	0 de -150	0 de -450	0 de -750	0 de -200	0 de -200
	Leyenda: 0-10 %	11-30%	31-60%	61-100%	Interés de capital propio > 10% 0 de -200

no auditado

Source: Miranda de Azán (2016)

Figure A8.3: Miranda de Azán 2019 CGBS

Hoja de Cálculo Balance del Bien Común de munic

MATRIZ DEL BIEN COMÚN

Organización: MIRANDA DE AZÁN, Año: 2019

Nota: Este balance no está auditado

Balance Total: 354 de 1000 Puntos

ECONOMÍA DEL BIEN COMÚN
Un modelo de economía con futuro

Valores u / Grupo contacto q	Dignidad Humana	Cooperación y Solidaridad	Sostenibilidad ecológica	Justicia Social	Participación democrática y Transparencia
A: Proveedoras/es	A1.- Gestión ética de los suministros. Elección de proveedoras/es responsables de suministros, comercio justo y productos éticos.	A2.- Gestión solidaria de los suministros. Elección prioritaria de proveedoras/es locales y regionales.	A3.- Gestión sostenible de los suministros. Elección de proveedoras/es que generen una producción sostenible y ecológica con certificación.	A4.- Gestión social de los suministros. Elección de proveedoras/es que realicen inversiones sociales con sus recursos y creen empleo local.	A5.- Gestión transparente de los suministros. Gestión de compra ajustada a la legislación vigente.
B: Financiadoras/es	2 de 18 **10 %**	7 de 18 **40 %**	2 de 18 **10 %**	4 de 18 **20 %**	14 de 18 **80 %**
	B1.- Gestión ética de las finanzas Banca ética o, en su defecto, las entidades más comprometidas socialmente	B2.- Gestión solidaria de las finanzas Banca local, cooperativas financieras y economía social	B3.- Gestión ecológica de las finanzas Elección de entidades que gestionen ecológicamente sus residuos	B4.- Gestión justa de las finanzas Beneficios reinvertidos en obras sociales, y eliminación de su cartera tóxica.	B5.- Gestión transparente y democrática de las finanzas. Banca transparente en sus inversiones, captación de pasivo, y cooperativas financieras.
	1 de 6 **18 %**	1 de 6 **10 %**	1 de 6 **20 %**	1 de 6 **20 %**	1 de 6 **20 %**
C: Funcionarias/os y trabajadoras/es municipales	C1.- Calidad del puesto de trabajo e igualdad	C2.- Reparto justo del volumen de trabajo	C3.- Comportamiento ecológico de las personas empleadas.	C4.- Reparto justo de la renta relacionada con las responsabilidades y acordes a un salario mínimo digno.	C5.- Flujo democrático y transparente de la información.
	27 de 90 **30 %**	20 de 50 **40 %**	9 de 30 **30 %**	18 de 60 **30 %**	18 de 90 **20 %**
D: Ciudadanía	D1.- Servicios básicos que garanticen la calidad de vida a toda la ciudadanía	D2.- Infraestructuras y medios para la generación de Bien Común por agentes sociales.	D3.- Concepción ecológica en todos los servicios municipales y sostenibilidad de todos los elementos patrimoniales municipales.	D4.- Distribución equitativa de la fiscalidad municipal, para evitar situaciones de necesidad en la ciudadanía	D5.- Aumento de los estándares de transparencia municipal y fomento de la participación ciudadana.
	25 de 50 **50 %**	42 de 70 **60 %**	36 de 90 **40 %**	9 de 30 **30 %**	15 de 30 **50 %**
E: Ámbito Social	E1.- Efecto social. Fomento de los valores éticos	E2.- Creación de redes con otros agentes dentro y fuera del municipio.	E3.- Fomento del comportamiento ecológico en el municipio.	E4.- Deuda sostenible para no dejar carga a generaciones futuras	E5.- Fomento de los valores democráticos y la participación activa de la ciudadanía en la gestión del municipio.
	27 de 90 **30 %**	16 de 40 **40 %**	7 de 70 **10 %**	48 de 60 **80 %**	3 de 30 **10 %**

Source: Miranda de Azán (2020)

Figure A9: Betxí 2017 CGBS

Hoja de Cálculo Balance del Bien Común de n

MATRIZ DEL BIEN COMÚN

Organización: AYUNTAMIENTO BETXI, Año: 2017

Nota: Este balance no está auditado

Balance Total: 407 de 1000 Puntos

ECONOMÍA DEL BIEN COMÚN
Un modelo de economía con futuro

Valores ▶ Grupo contacto ▼	Dignidad Humana	Cooperación y Solidaridad	Sostenibilidad ecológica	Justicia Social	Participación democrática y Transparencia
A: Proveedoras/es	A1.- Gestión ética de los suministros. Elección de proveedoras/es responsables de suministros, comercio justo y productos éticos.	A2.- Gestión solidaria de los suministros. Elección prioritaria de proveedoras/es locales y regionales.	A3.- Gestión sostenible de los suministros. Elección de proveedoras/es que generen una producción sostenible y ecológica con certificación.	A4.- Gestión social de los suministros. Elección de proveedoras/es que realicen inversiones sociales con sus recursos y creen empleo local.	A5.- Gestión transparente de los suministros. Gestión de compra ajustada a la legislación vigente.
B: Financiadoras/es	5 de 18 30 %	7 de 18 40 %	4 de 18 20 %	2 de 18 10 %	9 de 18 50 %
	B1.- Gestión ética de las finanzas Banca ética o, en su defecto, las entidades más comprometidas socialmente	B2.- Gestión solidaria de las finanzas Banca local, cooperativas financieras y economía social	B3.- Gestión ecológica de las finanzas Elección de entidades que gestionen ecológicamente sus residuos	B4.- Gestión justa de las finanzas Beneficios reinvertidos en obras sociales, y eliminación de su cartera tóxica.	B5.- Gestión transparente y democrática de las finanzas. Banca transparente en sus inversiones, captación de pasivo, y cooperativas financieras.
	1 de 6 16 %	1 de 6 10 %	1 de 6 20 %	2 de 6 30 %	1 de 6 10 %
C: Funcionarias/os y trabajadoras/es municipales	C1.- Calidad del puesto de trabajo e igualdad	C2.- Reparto justo del volumen de trabajo	C3.- Comportamiento ecológico de las personas empleadas.	C4.- Reparto justo de la renta relacionada con las responsabilidades y acordes a un salario mínimo digno.	C5.- Flujo democrático y transparente de la información.
	36 de 90 40 %	20 de 50 40 %	9 de 30 30 %	42 de 60 70 %	36 de 90 40 %
D: Ciudadanía	D1.- Servicios básicos que garanticen la calidad de vida a toda la ciudadanía	D2.- Infraestructuras y medios para la generación de Bien Común por agentes sociales.	D3.- Concepción ecológica en todos los servicios municipales y sostenibilidad de todos los elementos patrimoniales municipales.	D4.- Distribución equitativa de la fiscalidad municipal, para evitar situaciones de necesidad en la ciudadanía	D5.- Aumento de los estándares de transparencia municipal y fomento de la participación ciudadana.
	20 de 50 40 %	21 de 70 30 %	45 de 90 50 %	6 de 30 20 %	12 de 30 40 %
E: Ámbito Social	E1.- Efecto social. Fomento de los valores éticos	E2.- Creación de redes con otros agentes dentro y fuera del municipio.	E3.- Fomento del comportamiento ecológico en el municipio.	E4.- Deuda sostenible para no dejar carga a generaciones futuras	E5.- Fomento de los valores democráticos y la participación activa de la ciudadanía en la gestión del municipio.
	36 de 90 40 %	16 de 40 40 %	28 de 70 40 %	48 de 60 80 %	0 de 30 0 %

Source: Betxí (2018)