

# Degrowth



ChatGPT Summary of a 4,400 word long article about The ninth International **Degrowth Conference**, held in Zagreb, Croatia.

The De-growth movement challenges the postwar economic paradigm that equates GDP growth with social and individual well-being, emphasizing the need for global, socio-economic reengineering. The current surge in interest is attributed to the heightened vulnerability of the youth to the future effects of climate change. The movement advocates for a shift away from the pursuit of constant GDP growth, particularly in the global north, where rich economies are already experiencing a slowdown.

The article notes a rise in inequality, polarization, poorly managed energy transitions, climate-induced disasters, and declining fertility rates as factors contributing to the need for a new economic paradigm. European degrowthers argue that their continent's long tradition of leftist organizing and cultural openness to challenging capitalism's excesses contribute to the movement's popularity.

The movement, rooted in direct democracy and anti-capitalism, seeks to address ecological decline and rising discontent by promoting anti-consumerism, anti-advertising, and decolonization. While there are diverse views within the degrowth movement, two dominant schools are identified: green-liberal economic reform and "socialism without growth."

Degrowthers emphasize the urgent need to reduce material and carbon throughput to avoid the worst climate futures. The movement has made strides in articulating its ideas, gaining support, and even influencing legislation. However, challenges such as language, popular appeal, and the movement's association with pessimism remain.

Critics, including techno-optimists, argue for continued economic growth but agree on the necessity of reducing material and carbon throughput. The article explores the complexities of decoupling economic growth from resource use and questions whether degrowth is a viable solution.

The article concludes by examining the tension within the degrowth movement between remaining activist and academic or adopting a more political approach. Despite the divisions, there is a growing realization that the movement needs to bridge the gap between scientific evidence and public understanding to effect meaningful change.

In summary, the article highlights the rise of the degrowth movement in Europe, its challenges, and the ongoing debate within the movement about its role and approach in addressing the urgent climate and socio-economic issues.

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