

SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2022



ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS

THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

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With the kind support of our sponsors



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...



The AEMS program has been brilliant. I've met so many people and learnt so many different things. It's been such an experience that I think you have to be here to understand how good it's going to be.

Elliot Soar, Great Britain

I came to AEMS to learn about economic and monetary systems - and I gained a lot of knowledge about economic growth, degrowth and decoupling. I also enjoyed being in company of new people from across the world.

Preeti Sharma, Indian



I really enjoyed learning different perspectives of economics and how different schools of thought can be used for different theories and solutions for the climate. I've gained more experience with people from other cultures and it's been a really enjoyable experience in a different country.

Charlie Hancock, Great Britain

The Alternative Economic & Monetary Systems program makes you challenge yourself outside of your degree and enables you to have different perspectives, ideas and theories, as well as just being able to be in a different environment.

Njomza Bashkurti, Great Britain



I really enjoyed the intensity of the Alternative Economic & Monetary Systems programme. The course has enhanced my understanding of what it means to be in economics, as it's a completely different world compared to my scientific background.

Garrett Dublado, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

"It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning." Henry Ford

Back to business – but better! After two years, the Summer School Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems (AEMS) returned to take place in an in-person format in Vienna in 2022! International students and professionals came together to learn about the interconnections between economy, ecology and society. They are aware of why achieving the target of keeping global warming below 1.5°C until the end of the century is important. What's more, they learned about and discussed alternative approaches and new ideas for a more sustainable future!

Why AEMS? If there is no change in the way we live, everything around us will change – and not necessarily for the better: Every year, we find ourselves facing unprecedented weather extremes on the global scale: heat waves, droughts, floods, forest fires. It is a grim outlook. However, the good news is: We can still do something about it! Yet, time is getting short.

NOW is the time for change! In order to minimize the impacts of the climate crisis, there is no time left to lose. We need to get acting NOW. However, to act, we need to understand the problem: The paradox of striving for infinite growth on a finite planet:

Our economic system has far-reaching negative impacts on our natural environment and acts as a driving force for the climate crisis. It leads to resource depletion, pollution and ultimately the destruction of our civilization. While the call for a more sustainable economy is getting louder, one question inspires nervousity all around: who has to pay how much for what?

In a profit-oriented world, the fear of making a "bad deal" is a deal-breaker. Today's financial system with its unregulated speculative practices and the dynamics of compound interest, even adds to the problem. Yet, money was never intended to be used as a profit-making tool, never intended to be hoarded: Money was created as a tool to enable wealth by being spent – by serving society. Instead, it has become the embodiment of wealth itself.

The good news is that there are many alternative approaches already available, waiting to be implemented! So, why not allow for money to be used as the tool to enable this change for a more sustainable future?

Business as usual is the real deal-braker. After all, what's more costly than continuing the path of destruction? Therefore, AEMS strives to inspire change not only by raising awareness for the problem, but also for the innovative approaches already available!

We would like to thank all participants, speakers, partners and sponsors for making AEMS a continuing success. All your support in realizing the ideas for a more sustainable future is much appreciated!

Best wishes from the AEMS Steering Committee,

Guenther Jedliczka (OeAD student housing),
Helga Kromp-Kolb (BOKU University),
Carina Kamptner (OeAD student housing),
Petra Isepp (OeAD student housing),
Colleen Schneider (WU University),
Nathalie Spittler (BOKU University),
Mathias Kirchner (BOKU University),
Christina Buczko (Academy for the Common Good)

ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Albert Einstein

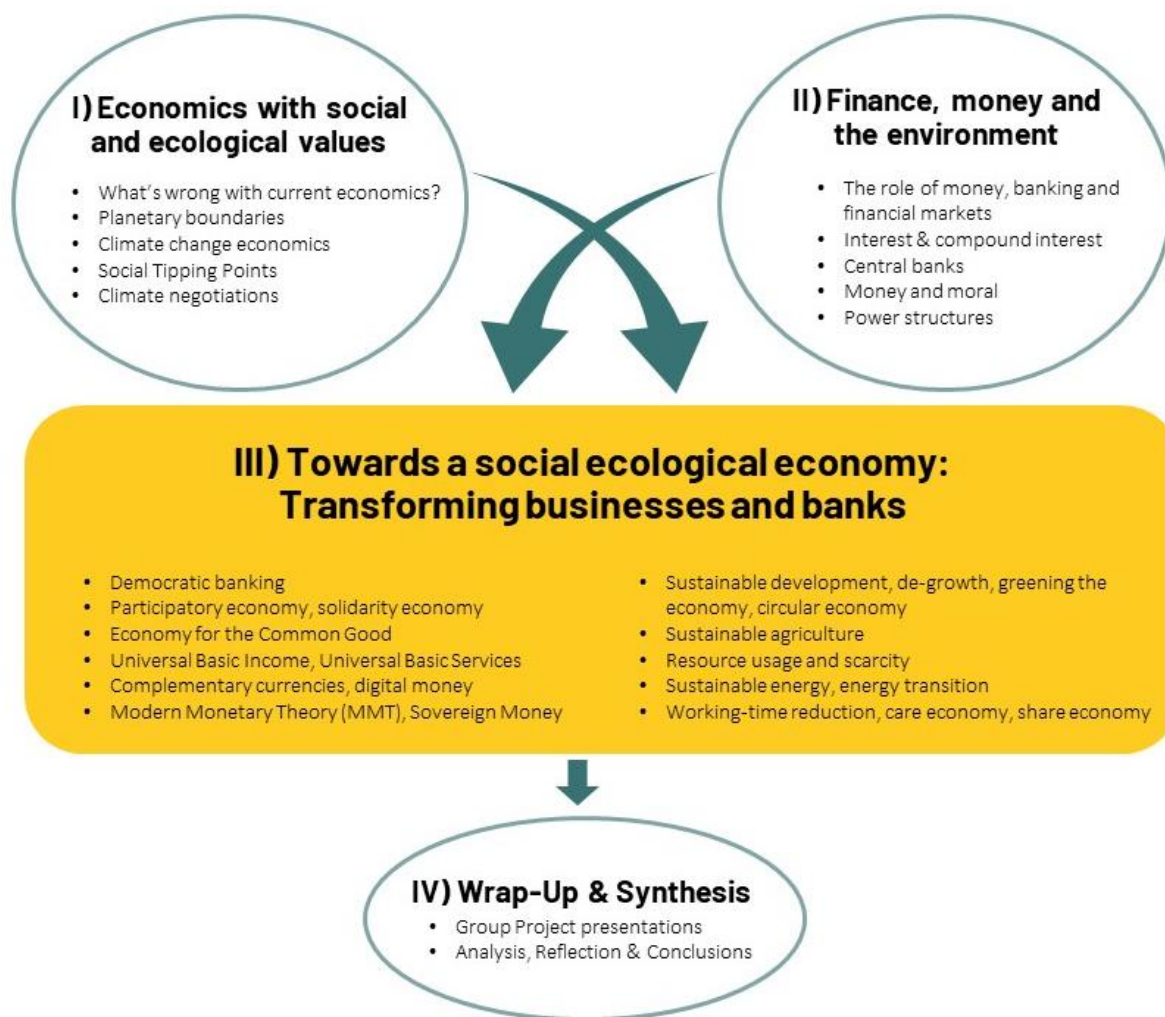
The AEMS summer school was born out of the ever more pressing need for a change in thought surrounding our economic and financial systems and the importance these systems hold in the global climate crisis. The program is organized as a collaboration project between OeAD student housing, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) and representatives of the Economy for the Common Good (ECG). Contrary to the dominating dogma of "There is no alternative!", we firmly believe that "There is no alternative to alternatives!".

The aim is to raise awareness for the necessary shift in our economic system. Our numerous academic and scientific partners from all over the world support this aim by providing their latest research papers and by sending participants to the summer program. AEMS is a combined effort to create an academically open event for students and professionals from all walks of life. They gain knowledge on the current socio-economic climate and explore real alternatives. Participants are guided through the summer program by our academic team consisting of Helga Kromp-Kolb, Colleen Schneider, Nathalie Spittler and Mathias Kirchner. Their deep understanding of the climate crisis and knowledge on alternative economic and monetary systems support the participants in getting a clear picture of the connections between the economy, society, and climate.

AEMS is a pioneering project in terms of sustainability, education, and international collaboration and wants to lead by example. That is why we take many measures to make the program itself as climate friendly as possible.

Certified as an EcoEvent. In accordance with the criteria of the City of Vienna, the summer school focuses particularly on environmentally friendly behavior. Measures taken therefore include exclusively vegan and vegetarian catering with regional and seasonal products at the grand opening event and public panel discussion; free Vienna public transport tickets for all participants for the duration of four weeks, exclusive use of environmentally certified paper for all print materials and print-on-demand only; information for all participants on proper waste separation, waste avoidance, or on the drinking water quality of tap water in Austria, etc.

AEMS fosters international exchange and encourages its students to share their ideas in a multi-cultural and open-minded setting. The program therefore includes interactive program points, as well as external social activities. As a result, our alumni often stay in touch even beyond the summer program. They share ideas on how to change to world to a better one, keep the others updated about initiatives they are part of, swap invitations for related events they are interested in and visit each other in their home countries all over the world.



CURRICULUM

"Dare to know! Have the courage to use your own intelligence!"

Immanuel Kant

The program of the AEMS summer school is adapted continuously to guarantee state-of-the-art knowledge in terms of content and to offer the best possible experience regarding the format of the summer school. This year, the summer school was structured into a preparatory phase and the lecture phase, with the latter taking place at BOKU University from 18th July to 5th August 2022:

During the preparatory phase, students read introductory literature and completed a preparatory exercise. This allowed for easier participation during the program.

The lecture phase is split into four modules spread over three weeks, building up from

the preparatory work. This main part of the summer school includes sessions of lectures with time for questions and discussions, workshops with simulations and games, as well as excursions. The four modules are:

Economics with social and ecological values. The first module gives an overview of the current global socio-economic situation and examines what makes a transformation necessary. Students understand the connections between the idea of endless economic growth, system boundaries and climate change.

Finance, money and the environment. Module 2 focuses on the role of money,

international banking systems, financial markets and power structures. The main question here is “how can financial markets serve the broader interests of society rather than dominating them?”. Alternatives such as complementary and regional currencies, MMT, sovereign money and digital money are discussed in this module.

Towards a social, ecological economy.

Module 3 is where the essence of the summer school lies. It enables students to view available alternatives for reforming the economic and financial systems from a holistic perspective. Areas discussed include democratic banking, degrowth, work reduction, sustainable agriculture and money & ethics. Students also visited organizations that already live the change.

Bringing about change is not an easy endeavor and collaboration is essential. As a

part of module 3, students therefore work on interdisciplinary projects for systemic change – projects to address and overcome a social-ecological and/ or economic challenge each: The project should build upon challenges discussed during the summer school.

Wrap-up and synthesis. Module 4 takes place throughout the course. It gives students the opportunity to reflect and consolidate the many issues and concepts they have heard of and experienced. Each day there is at least one reflection session with the academic team. Next to their group project the students also write blog posts in small groups of two people on a selected topic of the program. These are published on the AEMS website at

www.summer-university.net/aems.



Program: Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems 2022

WEEK 1

Day / Date	Start	End	Preliminary topic of the session	Lecturer	Format	Location
Introduction & Module I: Economics with Social and Ecological Values						
Monday 18.07.2022	13:00	15:00	AEMS participants Get-together	AEMS team	Interactive	TU AEU1-7
	15:00	16:30	AEMS participants - Value Brainstorming: A Good Life for All?	AEMS team	Interactive	TU AEU1-7
	17:00	20:00	Public Opening Event with panel discussion with keynotes from Ernst Ulrich v. Weizsäcker, Helga Kromp-Kolb, Anika Dafert and Harald Frey		Public Event	TU
Tuesday 19.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:00	Economics - History	AEMS team	Lecture	BOKU
	10:15	11:00	History of Money	Colleen Schneider	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	13:30	14:15	Introduction Plural Economics	Sigrid Stagl	Online lecture	BOKU
Wednesday 20.07.2022	14:30	15:15	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:00	Climate Change	Helga Kromp-Kolb	Lecture	BOKU
	10:15	11:00	Climate Change - Social Tipping Points	Tim Lenton	Online lecture	BOKU
	11:15	12:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	13:30	15:50	Intro to Group Work	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
Thursday 21.07.2022	20:00		Movie night - "Now" - A Film for Climate Justice by Jim Rakete	Carina, Petra & Tutors	Movie Screening	Cinema
	09:15	10:00	Flourishing within limits	Brian Fath	Lecture	IIASA
	10:15	11:00	Planetary boundaries, energy, models	Arnulf Gruebler	Lecture	IIASA
	11:15	12:00	Reflection	AEMS and IIASA team	Interactive	IIASA
	13:30	16:30	Climate negotiations	AEMS team	Interactive	IIASA
	16:30	17:30	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	IIASA
Friday 22.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:00	Degrowth	Halliki Kreinin	Online Lecture	BOKU
	10:15	11:00	Solidarity Economy	Harald Bender	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU

WEEK 2						
Monday 25.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:00	Work	Ernest Aigner	Lecture	BOKU
	10:15	11:30	Economy for the Common Good + Systemic consensous building	Christian Felber	Lecture	BOKU
	11:45	12:30	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	14:15	15:45	Harvest Game	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	16:00	16:45	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	18:00		Optional: Sports evening		Sport	48er Platz
Module II: Finance, Money and the Environment						
Tuesday 26.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:00	Energy transition	Adam Pawloff	Lecture	BOKU
	10:15	11:00	Food and agriculture	Friedrich Leitgeb	Lecture	BOKU
	11:15	12:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	13:30 starting at 14:15	14:15	Circular Economy Group Work	Dominik Wiedenhofer	Lecture	BOKU
Wednesday 27.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:00	Global Financial Institutions	Kurt Bayer	Lecture	BOKU
	10:15	11:00	Money, interest, compound interest	Thomas Kubo	Lecture	BOKU
	11:15	12:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	13:30 14:30	14:15 15:15	Power, politics, activism Reflection	Mira Kapfinger AEMS team	Lecture Lecture	BOKU BOKU
Module III: Towards a social ecological economy: transforming businesses and banks						
Thursday 28.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:15	10:45	Money & banking system	Christian Kreiss	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	11:45	Inflation - causes and implications for solving the climate issue	Richard Werner	Lecture	BOKU
	11:45	12:15	Reflection	AEMS Team	Interactive	BOKU
	13:30	16:30	Social Innovation Tour	Carina, Petra & Tutors	Excursion	Vienna
			Public panel discussion			
	18:30	20:00	Financial system of the future	Richard Werner, Christian Kreiss, Lea Steininger, Yeva Nersisyan	Discussion	TUtheSky
Friday 29.07.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	09:15	10:00	Modern Monetary Theory (MMT)	Yeva Nersisyan	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	10:15	11:00	Sovereign Money	Christian Felber	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	11:15	12:15	Discussion: MMT & Sovereign Money	Yeva Nersisyan and Christian Felber	Discussion	BOKU TÜWI
	13:30	14:15	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	14:15		Group Work	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI

WEEK 3						
Monday 01.08.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	09:15	10:15	Digital Money: Cryptocurrencies, CBDC, Diem, etc.	Edward Ongweso	Online lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	10:30	11:15	Complementary currencies	Teodoro Criscione	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	11:30	12:15	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	13:30	14:15	Power, politics, activism	Gwen Hallsmith	Online lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	14:30	15:15	Money & ethics	Bernd Villhauer	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	15:30	16:15	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	18:00		Optional: Sports evening		Sport	48er Platz
Tuesday 02.08.2022	08:45	09:15	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	09:15	10:00	Universal Basic Income	Roswitha Minardi	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	10:15	11:00	Economic democracy	Iris Frey	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	11:15	12:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	13:30	14:15	Financial Crisis - Case Study Island	Léo Malherbe	Lecture	BOKU TÜWI
	14:30	15:15	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
Wednesday 03.08.2022			Time for Group Work		Interactive	
Module IV: Wrap-up and Synthesis						
Thursday 04.08.2022	10:00	12:00	Group Project Presentation	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	13:30	15:00	Group Project Presentation	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	15:30	17:00	Analysis, Reflection and conclusions	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	18:00		Dinner with AEMS group	AEMS Team	Dinner	Restaurant
Friday 05.08.2022	10:00	12:00	Feedback Round and Diploma	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU TÜWI
	12:00	14:00	Picnic		Picnic	Park

Locations:

BOKU: Ilse-Wallentin-House, room: SR29/2, Peter-Jordan-Straße 82, 1190 Wien

BOKU TÜWI: Peter-Jordan-Straße 76, 1190 Wien, lower floor

Cinema: Votivkino, Währinger Str. 12, 1090 Wien

IIASA: Schloßplatz 1, 2361 Laxenburg

Restaurant: Heuriger Feuerwehr Wagner, Grinzing Str. 53, 1190 Wien

TU AEU1-7: Karlsplatz 13, 1040 Vienna, seminar room: AE U1 - 7

TU: Karlsplatz 13, 1040 Vienna, 4th floor, room Kuppelsaal

TUtheSky: Getreidemarkt 9, 1060 Vienna, 11th floor

48er Platz: Achtundvierziger Platz, 1140 Vienna



OPENING EVENT

"And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us."

Amanda Gorman

A good life for all within the planetary boundaries – the public opening event of the AEMS summer school welcomed a total of 290 people to discuss the challenging question of how to ensure a good life for all without over-burdening the ecological boundaries of our planet: 250 people joined the event on-site at Kuppelsaal of TU University Vienna and an additional 40 people joined in online via the live-stream.

After introductory and welcoming words by the Vice Rector of the BOKU University, **Christian Obinger**, the CEO of OeAD student housing, **Günther Jedliczka**, AEMS' academic head, **Helga Kromp-Kolb**, and **Karin Stieldorf**, the academic head of the Green.Building.Solutions.summer university the four guest speakers gave their keynotes.

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker (Club of Rome) compared the different dogmas for growth

over time and spoke about the challenge of reducing emissions on the global scale. Showing the ongoing trend of global warming, he spoke about the necessity for a decoupling of economic growth and the negative effects on the environment. He called for a new enlightenment and a radical change of our civilization.

Taking up on the call to action, **Helga Kromp-Kolb** (BOKU University) spoke about the underlying economic and financial systems as the root-causes to address. She urged to re-think the goal of the economy, which should serve the people and not be a goal in itself. However tough the outlook, she also talked about current windows of opportunity for positive change and concluded by stressing the importance of peace for sustainability.

Expanding on the possibility for change,

Anika Dafert (activist at Fridays for Future) spoke about her own personal motivations and experiences as a young climate activist. She spoke about the role of Greta Thunberg and education for awareness. Addressing political decision-making, she criticised the missing of a current climate protection law in Austria and called for stronger inclusion of science.



At the beginning of his presentation, mobility expert **Harald Frey** (TU Vienna) gave a brief overview on the history of transport infrastructure. He illustrated that increased speed increases the distance by changing structures. Speaking about the influence of transport infrastructure on city structures as well as on social interactions, he stressed

the responsibility of planners and engineers.

The following break offered a possibility for the audience to **network** at the buffet on-site, or in short 1:1 online-meetings respectively.

Afterwards, the speakers discussed the main question of the evening in the following **panel discussion**, moderated by Nora Laufer (Der Standard). The discussion also included questions from the audience – in-person or via the online-tool slido: Topics discussed included the role small but wealthy countries such as Austria play on the global scale. Other points raised were the issue that prices don't tell the ecological truth, as well as the redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich people in the financial system.

Despite the many challenges brought up during the evening, the event closed on the positive note that **change is possible** – now, and from within the system.

The event was recorded and is available on our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/oeadhousing







11



12



13



14



15

SOCIAL AND NETWORKING EVENTS

"An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come."

Victor Hugo

It takes many to change a system. That's why it is important for us to not only offer a space for exchange to our participants but also to a broader public. This year we organized three public events. In addition to the opening event we had a movie-night and a panel discussion.

The **movie-night** took place with a public screening of "NOW – A film for climate justice" by Jim Rakete (2020) at the cinema "Votivkino". The inspiring movie provided insights into the motivations of climate activists around the world. Everyone interested could join the screening and have some snacks and drinks together afterwards.

"The monetary systems of the future and their role in crisis and in achieving a sustainable transition" was the title of the second public panel discussion. The event was held at TUtheSky welcoming an audience of about 100 people. Panelists Christian Kreiss (Hochschule Aalen), Lea Steininger (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Richard Werner (Linacre College, Oxford) and Yeva Nersisyan (Bard College) discussed this topic under the moderation of Colleen Schneider and Mathias Kirchner.

A dinner at a typical Austrian restaurant offered a great opportunity for exchange for our students. They got to taste Wiener Schnitzel, Apfelstrudel and other traditional Austrian dishes.

Another part of the program was an **excursion to our partner institution IIASA** (International Institute for Applied System Analysis) in the beautiful town of Laxenburg. In light of the target of the Paris Agreement, students dived into the role of political leaders to negotiate climate protection

measures for the nation they were representing.

At the **Social Innovation Tour**, students visited pioneering companies and initiatives in Vienna that are already "living the change": One group visited the first SDG-hotel worldwide, **Boutiquehotel Stadthalle**, and continued to get insights at the repair and service center **R.U.S.Z.**. The second group visited a restaurant that focuses on social sustainability. **Deewan** uses a pay-as-you-wish concept. **VinziRast mittendrIn** is an innovative social housing project where formerly homeless people, refugees and students live together.

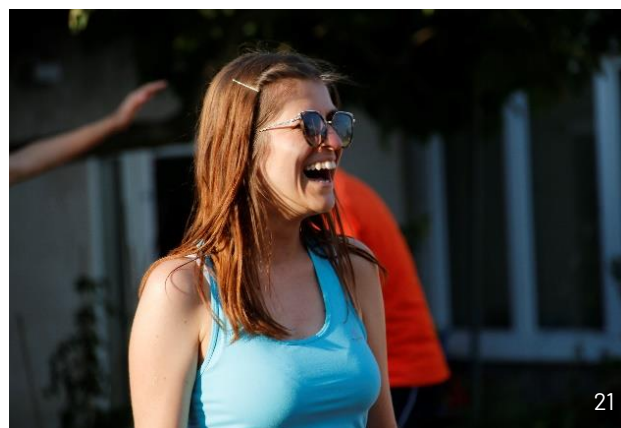


Further highlights were the **sport's evenings**, where the students could play football (soccer), volleyball, tennis or basketball together with students from the Green.Building.Solutions. summer

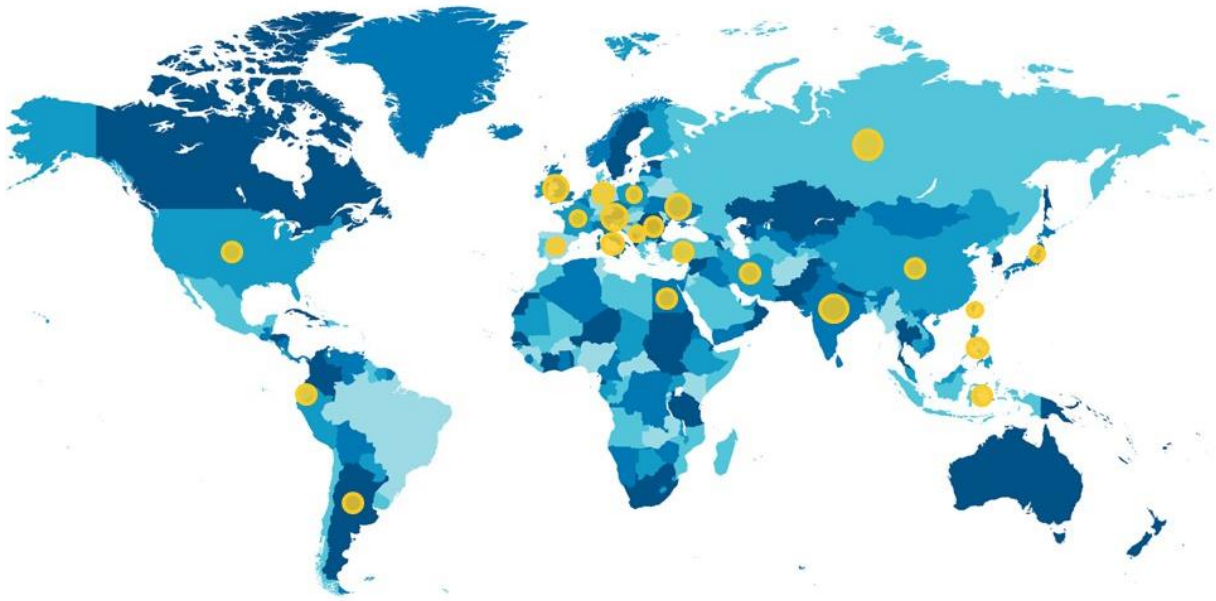
university. After the game the sports club provided us with a buffet with a large choice of meat, vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Ben, an AEMS tutor, coordinated the “**Heisl Bike Ride**”: a biking-event, organized as a political demonstration for a mobility

transformation in Vienna. The event was followed by a small **passathon** - a guided bike tour to energy efficient and ecological buildings in Vienna - and concluded with a **bike party** on the Danube Island.







THE PARTICIPANTS

"I am not an Athenian nor a Greek, but a citizen of the world."

Socrates

46 people from 24 nations participated in the AEMS summer school 2022. They came from countries such as Japan, USA, Argentina, Ukraine, Indonesia, UK, India, Peru, Russia, Iran, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and many other European countries. The image above shows the nationalities of this year's students, with the size of the bubbles indicating the number of students from the respective region.

The topics addressed during the AEMS concern everyone, everywhere. As a result, our group of students is not only rich in cultural diversity, but also in terms of their (life) experience. This year, AEMS welcomed students and professionals of 19 to 65 years of age from different disciplines, such as economics, natural sciences and sustainability research, social studies, medicine, or engineering sciences. Including

different experiences, the summer school not only bridges diversity - but thrives on it. The manifold interests, academic and professional backgrounds of its students enable a rich discussion from different perspectives and contribute to a holistic understanding, therefore making it even more eye-opening. Students not only learn from renowned experts, but also grow through the personal exchange amongst each other. This contributes to the unique character of the summer school.

It is not necessary to have an economic background in order to participate in the program. Anyone with an interest in learning more about the impact of our economic and monetary systems on our limited natural resources is welcome to join!

THE LECTURERS

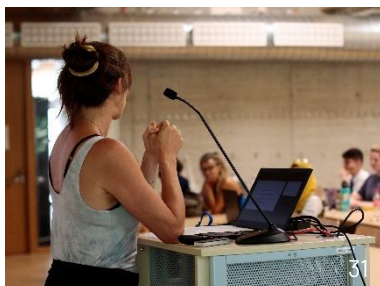
"Those who have seen through their existence cannot be stopped."

Confucius

The experts lecturing at the AEMS summer school are mainly part of the academic world and/or are activists. Making the best use of the possibilities offered by digital media, we are also happy about the contributions by international speakers via Zoom. The names of all lecturers in alphabetical order:

Ernest Aigner (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Kurt Bayer (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)
Harald Bender (Akademie Solidarische Ökonomie)
Teodoro Criscione (Central European University)
Anika Dafert (Fridays for Future Austria)
Brian Fath (IIASA)
Christian Felber (Economy for the Common Good)
Harald Frey (TU Vienna)
Iris Frey (Attac Austria)
Arnulf Gruebler (IIASA)
Gwendolyn Hallsmith (Global Community Initiatives)
Mira Kapfinger (Stay Grounded)
Mathias Kirchner (BOKU Wien)
Halliki Kreinin (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Christian Kreiss (Hochschule Aalen)
Helga Kromp-Kolb (BOKU Wien)

Thomas Kubo (writer and publisher)
Friedrich Leitgeb (BOKU Wien)
Tim Lenton (University of Exeter)
Léo Malherbe (Université de Picardie Jules Verne)
Roswitha Minardi (European Citizens' Initiative on Unconditional Basic Income)
Yeva Nersisyan (Bard College)
Edward Ongweso Jr. (Vice Media Group)
Adam Pawloff (Lockl & Keck)
Colleen Schneider (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Natalie Spittler (BOKU Wien)
Sigrid Stagl (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Lea Steininger (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Bernd Villhauer (Global Ethic Institute)
Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker (Club of Rome)
Richard Werner (Linacre College, Oxford)
Dominik Wiedenhofer (BOKU Wien)



GROUP PROJECTS

Think globally, act locally. During the AEMS summer school, students not only learned about alternative ideas for a more sustainable economy – they also developed their own project ideas to make a difference:

In international groups of four to six members with different academic backgrounds, they worked on **projects for a systemic change**, with the aim of overcoming a socio-ecological and/or economic challenge. The following eight projects were designed this year.

“Reclaim the streets” ([link to project-video](#)) targets the car-based infrastructure in cities: The project wants to raise awareness and educate, e. g. via actively blocking public parking spaces. In collaboration with the local community, transformation proposals are to be created. Check their Instagram: [@aems_reclaims](#).

“The Lab” aims at creating a community-based transformation in the energy sector. The goal is to implement a community council to complete energy audits, as well as to lend support in financing and installation of heat-pumps.

The **“Graduation tree”** project aims to support local schools and higher education institutes with resources and tools to implement a graduation tree planting initiative: Graduates plant a tree when receiving their diploma. The initiative should then be gradually expanded into other countries. Starting off their project, the group planted their first graduation tree in Vienna!

“Reimagining work” aims at a redesign of the social provisioning system based around care work in the US: The project wants to strengthen the local community and to raise awareness, by sharing experiences,

organizing strikes and events. In the long run, the goal is to achieve workers’ empowerment and political engagement.

The project **“Community Toolbox”** strives to foster community in the city of the future, by receiving a fixed contribution of property developers. The community then decides collectively on where to best spend the money. The goal is to have the needs of the community integrated into city planning.

“Towards sustainable agriculture” aims for achieving reforms in food production in the EU: In the first approach, the group proposes to set up a European Citizen Initiative and collect signatures. The goal of the second approach, called “from seed to change”, is to raise awareness for the development of plants: The group gave out seeds to their colleagues and invited them to share their experiences with it. Find out more on their Instagram:

[@_from_seed_to_change_](#)

The goal of the project **“Changing business mobility”** is to re-design the mobility of employees, using two approaches: restrictions and incentives. On the one hand, the project proposes a limitation on combustion engine mobility via policy changes as well as the expansion of public transport offers. On the other hand, the project also suggests a strengthening of the workplace mobility.

With **“Money changer”**, the group developed an illustrative board game to show the flaws of and alternatives for our monetary system. Its goal is to foster understanding on how the current system works – as well as to where the leverage points for change are. The game includes a “donut” board, impact chips, action-, activism- and policy cards.

THE ACCOMODATION

Living together, learning from each other.

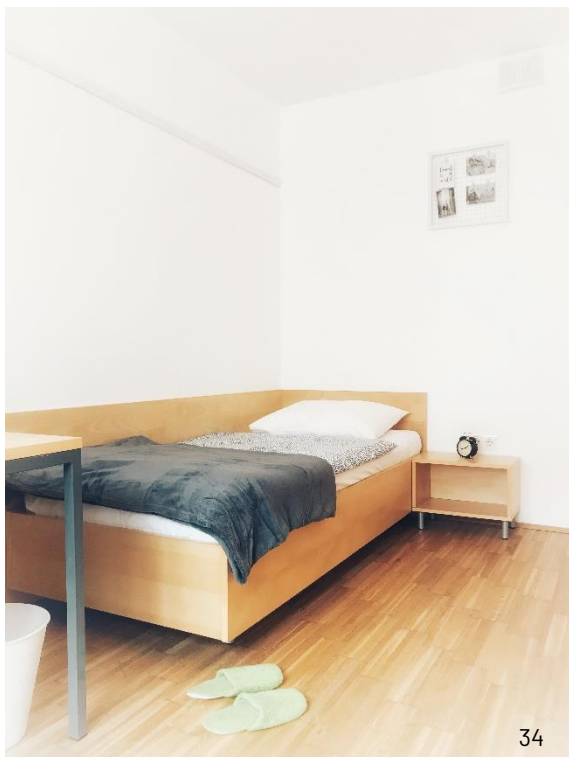
During their stay in Vienna, our students got to enjoy the most livable city in the world. They all lived together in two student residences:

One group lived in the passive house student guesthouse at Kandlgasse. The energy-efficient building in the 7th district of Vienna is very centrally located and of high comfort to our students – complete with a beautiful courtyard and the big common room. This guesthouse is operated by the non-profit OeAD student housing, who also organizes the AEMS Summer School:

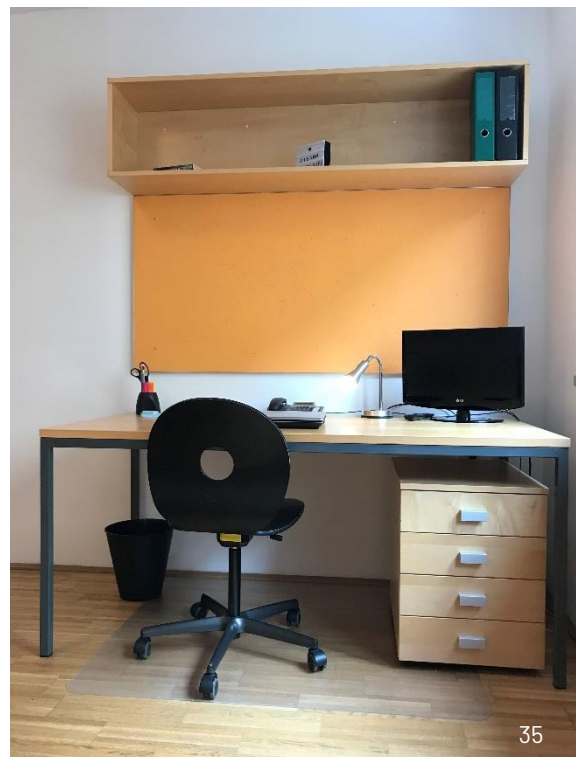
The main responsibility of the company is the accommodation of about 12.000 international and national students every year in Austria's university towns in Vienna, Graz, Leoben, Linz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg and Innsbruck – more than 7.000 of which live in Vienna alone. In 2005, the company opened

their first passive house student guesthouse in the 2nd district of Vienna – at the time it was the first student residence built in the passive house standard worldwide. In line with the company's motto of "passive houses for active students", since then, the passive house standard has become the minimum criterion for the construction and operation of new student guesthouses. So far OeAD student housing has built eight student guesthouses in the passive house standard in Austria.

The second group of AEMS students lived at the student accommodation campus at Campus Brigittenau: This residence is the biggest student accommodation campus in Austria. It's located in the 20th district of Vienna, close to the Danube Channel. The accommodation was arranged by OeAD student housing.



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THE SPIRIT OF AEMS

"Enlighten yourself, and then influence others by what you are."

Wilhelm von Humboldt

AEMS 2022 was back for an in-person format, proving another great success! Apart from the new perspectives and insights gained, AEMS left its students with a spark of inspiration - what we call the spirit of AEMS!

Participants from all over the world learned about the flaws and problems of our economic and financial systems and got to understand how they influence not only our daily lives, but also the environment and natural systems on a large scale. They are aware of the important role of political measures in our interconnected world, all the while witnessing a global pandemic which led to a shift in priorities.

But most importantly, they were inspired by the many ideas and innovative solutions that already exist. Following the mindset of "there is no alternative for alternatives", they are keen on contributing to making a difference and take this approach with them to their respective home countries, their families and friends, their workplaces and

universities. Many of them are inspired to get going and join a movement or initiate their own projects to make a difference in the world.

Even though the summer school is over, students remain connected and exchange information about their ambitious project ideas and initiatives. Many have found new friends as well as potential partners for their projects within the community during the three-week program.

Changing the world is not an endeavor for one person alone to undertake - but we can do it together. Following this train of thought, we are planning to foster the connection between the current and previous participants of AEMS and to give room to their many ideas.

Become a part of our AEMS community!

www.facebook.com/AEMSVienna

www.twitter.com/AEMSVienna

www.instagram.com/aemsvienna

www.linkedin.com/company/aemsvienna



OUR GRATITUDE

"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way."

Napoleon Hill

We would like to thank **all participants, partners, sponsors and contributors** who made this event possible and an outstanding experience!

Many thanks to our **tutors**, Elisabeth Laa, Denise Morandell and Benjamin Schemel for their much appreciated support, and to all our **lecturers and speakers** for their valuable inputs: Ernest Aigner, Kurt Bayer, Harald Bender, Teodoro Criscione, Anika Dafert, Brian Fath, Christian Felber, Harald Frey, Iris Frey, Arnulf Gruebler, Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Mira Kapfinger, Halliki Kreinin, Christian Kreiss, Thomas Kubo, Friedrich Leitgeb, Tim Lenton, Léo Malherbe, Roswitha Minardi, Yeva Nersisyan, Edward Ongweso Jr., Adam Pawloff, Sigrid Stagl, Lea Steininger, Bernd Villhauer and Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker

Special thanks go to Lukas Kronsteiner for his support in organizing the summer school as part of his voluntary environmental year, and to Nora Laufer for her great moderation skills. We also thank Nina Hainfellner and Mathias Heisler for their high-quality photos. Heartfelt thanks also go to our colleagues at OeAD student housing for taking care of all

housing related issues and to the Green.Building.Solutions. team for their organizational and emotional support.

Peter Kompatscher and the TU team made the wonderful setting at TU Kuppelsaal and TUtheSky as well as the live stream of our opening event possible. The Gaumenfreundinnen offered their delicious vegan and vegetarian food and regional beverages at these events. A big thank you also to Heuriger Feuerwehr-Wagner and the sports place 48er Platz for hosting us and providing us with a great dinner, as well as to Günter Lang and passathon for the organized bike-tour throughout Vienna.

Many thanks also go to IIASA for kindly welcoming us for an entire day filled with exciting lectures and workshops as well as to Votivkino for providing us with a great ambience for the movie night. We are further very grateful for the possibility to visit Boutiquehotel Stadthalle, Deewan, R.U.S.Z. and VinziRast mittendrIn. Many thanks also go to BOKU Mensa for providing us with delicious sandwiches for the final picnic.

AEMS will be back next year!
Stay tuned for more information to come!

E-Mail us: aems@oead.at

Visit us: www.summer-university.net

Watch us: www.youtube.com/oeadhousing

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- Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and klimaaktiv
- FH Oberösterreich – University of Applied Sciences
- FH Technikum Wien – University of Applied Sciences
- Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) and Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC)
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- Stadt Wien – Kultur (MA 7)
- Stadt Wien – Umweltschutz (MA 22)
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- Wohnbauvereinigung für Privatangestellte (WBV-GPA)

...AND OUR PARTNERS



PHOTO CREDITS

All pictures on page 2: © Maya Ings (Shepherd PR).

Picture on page 7: AEMS students discussing @OeAD-WV

Pictures no 1 – 15: @ Matthias Heisler

Picture no 1: Speakers at the opening event and the AEMS organizational team. fIFR: 2nd row: Helga Kromp-Kolb, Carina Kamptner, Günther Jedliczka, Harald Frey, Karin Stieldorf, Petra Isepp. 1st row: Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker, Anika Dafert

Picture no 2: Guests applaud at the opening event.

Picture no 3: AEMS group picture

Picture no 4: Anika Dafert

Picture no 5: Christian Obinger

Picture no 6: Harald Frey

Picture no 7: Karin Stieldorf

Picture no 8: and 9: Guests in the TU Kuppelsaal

Picture no 10: Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Harald Frey, Anika Dafert

Picture no 11: Opening event at TU Kuppelsaal

Picture no 12: Günther Jedliczka

Picture no 13: Helga Kromp-Kolb

Picture no 14: E.U.v. Weizsaecker talking to a guest

Picture no 15: Guests enjoying the buffet

Picture no 16 – 28: @OeAD-WV

Picture no 16: AEMS students at the sports evening playing volleyball and basketball

Picture no 17: AEMS student at IIASA

Picture no 18: AEMS students at IIASA playing the World Climate Simulation

Picture no 19: AEMS students at IIASA

Picture no 20: World Climate Negotiations

Picture no 21: AEMS tutor at sports evening

Picture no 22: AEMS students playing volleyball at the sports evening

Picture no 23: Moderators and Panellists at TUtheSky. fIFR: Mathias Kirchner, Colleen Schneider, Yeva, Lea Steininger, Richard Werner, Christian Kreiss

Picture no 24–26 and 28: Guests of the panel discussion at TUtheSky

Picture no 27: Moderators and panellists at TUtheSky

Picture no 29: Students at the “pay-as-you-wish”-restaurant, Diwan. @Christian Hübl

Picture no 30: Students at the Heisl-Bike-Tour. @Christian Hübl

Picture no 31: Colleen Schneider @OeAD-WV

Picture no 32: Christian Felber @OeAD-WV

Picture no 33: Helga Kromp-Kolb @OeAD-WV

Picture no 34 and 35: Room in the OeAD guesthouse Kandlgasse @OeAD-WV

Picture no 36: Group project “Reclaim the streets!” @Christian Hübl

Picture no 37: Group project “Graduation tree”. @Christian Hübl