



# The economic program of de-growth and a possible connection with capability approach

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- I. Why is it necessary to stop growth?
- II. The way of de-growth
- III. The capability approach
- IV. Similarities and differences of the de-growth program and the capability approach



# I. Why is it necessary to stop growth?

- Social reasons
  - Inequalities
  - Growth in GDP and life satisfaction?
- Environmental reasons
  - The limits of nature's carrying capacity
  - Global environmental problems



## II. The way of de-growth

- Serge Latouche
- Slogan for a *totally different logic* to shake up everybody from the charm of growth
- Produce less, consume less, work less, have more spare time for valuable activities and social relationships
- „The 8 Rs’ angelic circuit” should be followed:
  - Reevaluate
  - Re-conceptualize
  - Restructure
  - Redistribute
  - Re-localize
  - Reduce
  - Reuse
  - Recycle

## II. The way of de-growth

- Reevaluate: highlight and follow the value of
  - Justice
  - Responsibility
  - Solidarity
  - Intellectual life
  - Respect of democracy
- Re-conceptualize: redefine e.g.
  - Poverty and richness
  - Scarcity and abundance
- Restructure:
  - Production and social relationships should follow the changes in values
  - Question: Can it be achieved within the frame of capitalism?

## II. The way of de-growth

- Redistribute:
  - The access to goods and natural heritage on global, social and intergenerational level also
- Re-localize: „Think globally, act locally!”
  - Local needs from local production
  - Local culture and local politics
- Reduce: production, consumption, risks, working hours, transportation
- Reuse and Recycle:
  - Longer product lives
  - Environmentally friendly technologies

## II. The way of de-growth

Possible results:

- Protection of environment
- Well-being
- Less unemployment, less stress
- More transparent production chains
- Reduction of dependence on multinational companies
- Increasing safety in all sense
- Strengthening participation and democratic attitude
- Opportunities for the Third World

# III. The capability approach

- Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum
- Development defined as broadening those freedoms that people actually enjoy
- The sources of lack of freedom should be terminated
- Different forms of freedom are both means and objectives
- The means can be changed to functionings (valuable doings and beings) which are the set of capabilities





# IV. De-growth and capability approach

1. *table.* Similarities and differences of the de-growth program and the capability approach

	<b>De-growth program</b>	<b>Capability approach</b>
<b>Main focus</b>	Transformative theory, well-being without growth in production and consumption	Redefining well-being
<b>Main problems</b>	Destruction of nature, poverty, injustice	Poverty, health problems, injustice
<b>Responsible for problems</b>	The North	Not specified
<b>Measure of</b>	The criticism of utilitarian measures of welfare	
<b>Means</b>	Restructure the current system and de-growth	Widening capabilities
<b>Equality of</b>	Not specified	Capabilities
<b>Participation in decisions</b>	The importance of local level	
<b>The role of technology</b>	The problem itself / technological regime change is needed	Not specified

Source: Own editing.

# What can de-growth learn from capability approach?

- More elaborate concepts on
  - Welfare and its measurement

# What can capability approach learn from de-growth?

- Being more sensitive to environmental problems
- Identify more precisely the role of technology
- Identifying stakeholders (who is responsible and who should start to act)

# Thank you for your attention!

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