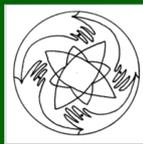


INTEGRALNA  
ZELENA  
SLOVENIJA®



RaSu

Razvojna agencija Savinjske regije d.o.o.

**5<sup>th</sup> International Conference**  
**INTEGRAL GREEN ECONOMY FOR A BETTER WORLD – IGE2019:**  
**THE FUTURE OF EUROPE IN A TURBULENT WORLD:  
INTEGRATING PERSPECTIVES AND ACTUALISING POTENTIALS  
ON THE PATH OF SUSTAINABILITY**

**Žiče Charterhouse & Špitalič & Poljčane, Slovenia**  
**22 - 24 November 2019**

**First Announcement:**  
**Invitation to Social Innovators for Sustainable Development**

The Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia, Kindergarten Slovenske Konjice, Development Agency of Savinjska Region, Kindergarten Poljčane and the Trans4m Center for Integral Development cordially invite social innovators for sustainable development from all areas of society, including policy and decision makers, to join the two-day **5<sup>th</sup> International Conference Integral Green Economy for a Better World (IGE 2019)**. This year's conference focusses on **The Future of Europe in a Turbulent World: Integrating Perspectives and Actualising Potentials on a Path of Sustainability** – thereby responding to an increasingly challenging reality, filled with intense problems and potentials at the same time. IGE2019 will showcase future oriented, integral development practices, cases and speakers from Slovenia and different parts of the world. With the conference taking place at three neighbouring and interconnected venues – Žiče Charterhouse (Žička kartuzija), Špitalič and Poljčane – each representing an innovative perspective on sustainable development - participants will be exposed to a rich experience of co-learning and co-creation. The conference will be followed by a day of co-creative workshops on selected topics.

We are proud to announce that this year the International Conference for an Integral Economy is celebrating its fifth anniversary. IGE 2019 follows the successful conferences of 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2018 in Slovenia and the release of the Gower and Routledge volume [Integral Green Slovenia](#) in June 2016.

*"There is no other way for humanity on earth to prosper than to follow an integrated approach to sustainable development. ... Integral Green Slovenia represents such an integrated approach towards sustainable development on a societal level driven by a courageous citizens' initiative."*

Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, Egypt, former and late Chairman of SEKEM Group; Founder of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development; Winner Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Price 2003)

## CONFERENCE BACKGROUND AND FOCUS

The IGE conferences build on the conceptual framework of the *Integral Worlds* approach, in particular its application in the economic and enterprise field, as well as the model of Integral Green Slovenia as a case of Integral Green Economy for Sustainable Development in the context of the European Union and its policies. The starting point is the recognition that massive global challenges are taking place in the here and now. In the future we can expect even more challenges, most likely with further increases in intensity, speed and complexity. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, is the response of the global community to these challenges.

While this UN document provides a comprehensive catalogue on the major development issues, a new, integrative conceptual framework and dynamic process to bring forth practical solutions in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the offering of alternative(s) to the mainstream non-sustainable economic paradigm, is urgently required. This ambitious agenda has to be strongly supported by equally ambitious and integrally framed, holistic, trans-sectoral policies for sustainable development on all levels, including integrated metrics, from local to regional and global level.

The *Integral Worlds* approach, developed by the TRANS4M Center for Integral Development in Geneva, Switzerland and Hotonnes, France, represents such a conceptual framework and process. It is based on some 20 years of researching of cutting-edge theories and advanced best practices to sustainable development. TRANS4M is now a local global movement for Integral Development – focussing on the interconnected holistic development of individuals-communities-organisations-societies.

Integral Development is an approach to actively actualise integral solutions to burning issues in our societies. By integral we mean the simultaneous and holistic inclusion of Nature & Community (South), Culture & Consciousness / Spirituality (East), Science & Knowledge (North) and Economy & Enterprise (West). The past research and ongoing action research driven applications of the Integral Development approach shows that such holistic and dynamic inclusion is vital for the long-term resilience and sustainability of our social systems.

Integral Economics, based on the Integral Worlds approach, is building on and connecting alternative economic theories and models (e.g. Mondragon in Spain, Grameen in Bangladesh, SEKEM in Egypt, Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka, Interface in USA) that are already successfully implemented today, thus offering (theoretical and practical) alternative(s) to the mainstream non-sustainable economic paradigm. Participants of the conference will have the opportunity to learn about these cases and to understand them in the light of Integral Development from one of TRANS4M's co-founders, Prof. Alexander Schieffer, who will also reveal the original Integral Words Approach for addressing imbalances in a holistic manner. The conference programme will be enriched by relevant comparative expertise and contexts of Trans4m's research and enterprise community from Africa, Middle East and Asia. Participants from international TRANS4M community will be actively sharing applications of the integral approach in Africa, Middle East and other World Regions. Among them feature Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President of Sri Lanka's prominent Sarvodaya Movement and Martina Dinkel, a senior and longstanding member of the Sekem Initiative in Egypt; both organisations have won a number of awards for their outstanding and holistic contribution towards sustainable development.

Good practices of Integral Green Economy and Society exist and are emerging also in Slovenia. This country has valuable experiences and knowledge with regards to actively working with the integral conceptual framework and is the first nation to integrate them into a comprehensive national model with practice cases that is presented in the Routledge and Gower volume on [Integral Green Slovenia](#) (Piciga, Schieffer and Lessem, 2016). In a unique process of co-construction with a widespread ecosystem of Slovenian social innovators across all sectors of society, Trans4m and the Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia have applied the new integral framework on the level of individual sustainable enterprises, local communities, regional development initiatives, as well as on a national level. This unique multidimensional and multi-layered process has then been shared in Integral Green Slovenia, serving as an inspiration for

other nations in the European Union and beyond. As an innovative and holistic societal and economic agenda for sustainable development, including also the concept of smart integration of the EU's sustainable development policies, Integral Green Slovenia represents in itself a social innovation and can serve as a pilot case to the European community on its path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### About Integral Green Slovenia:

*»This is a fascinating book about an extraordinary journey towards an Integral Green Slovenia, a vision of a sustainable society and economy. It argues that values and a moral economic core are the foundations of long-term sustainable economy and business, comprising all actors and all sectors.*

*It shows that local communities, and green and social businesses, inspired by their cultural heritage and looking beyond national boundaries and short-term interests, will contribute to a renewed global partnership that will help us in caring for our world, for our common home.*

*The book should be of particular interest for all those looking for new, complementary, and alternative pathways of development. I hope each reader will learn something from this book, as I did. This is a very timely book coming as it does when our entire world faces so many changes.«*

Dr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
(IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, shared with former US Vice-President Al Gore)

Contributions from Slovenia will be presented by authors of the book [Integral Green Slovenia](#) and other innovators for sustainable development; many are also introduced in Slovenian language in [Integralna serija](#).

The three locations of the conference – Žiče Charterhouse (Žička kartuzija), Špitalič and Poljčane – have been carefully selected as embodiments of integral development, a fact that will be highlighted and shared in the course of the three-day event.

#### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Continue and build on the *Integral Worlds* paradigm for addressing global challenges on the levels of individuals-communities-organisations-societies and as promising theoretical background for the 2030 Agenda.
- Proposing the Integral Green Economy and Society theoretical model, illustrated with practice cases, as the conceptual framework for developing sustainable local and regional policies and practices.
- Showing potentials and expected benefits of the integral green economy and society approach – illustrated with promising practice cases – for resolving challenges to SD in Africa, Middle East and Asia that can also be promoted through development cooperation with the European Union and can enrich education and training programs for migrants from these regions.
- Present and strengthen Slovenia as a Pilot Country for an Integral Green Economy and Society, particularly as a possible Learning Space for a regenerative approach to Sustainable Development.
- Creating a powerful co-learning, research and networking opportunity for Slovenian and international participants (from the global Trans4m network, as well as others) of the conference, with a view to future cooperation.

## Appeal for an Integral Green Europe<sup>1</sup>

Being aware of multiple crises in Europe and neighbouring regions, the persistent migrant crisis being one of the most severe, while the EU, after the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, is even facing a threat of disintegration, we are proposing to step on the path of holistic, integral societal and economic renewal. In addition, multiple other crises in Europe and neighbouring regions prolong the threat of disintegration of the European Union and call ever more for integral wisdom as well as more effective sustainable social innovations. In our times, such a renewal has to be based on the paradigm of sustainable development and therefore needs to fully embrace the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>2</sup> The conceptual framework of the *Integral Worlds Approach* can inform endeavours towards SDGs in a Renaissance mode, as we aspired with the Appeal for an Integral Green Europe:

- ✦ By placing *fundamental values*, underlying the European cultural heritage, in the centre and as the starting point of visionary thinking as well as practical policies and measures – to inspire, to integrate different spheres, and to enable a strong connection of all stakeholders to the innermost value core of the European society.
- ✦ By rooting sustainable development in *nature and community* and including the *culture* of the particular society as a crucial, but often neglected, component of a holistic approach to development. The integral paradigm of sustainable development therefore encompasses four, mutually balanced dimensions – economy, environment, society, culture – and is strongly based on the moral core. An Integral Green Europe is authentically building on European culture(s) as well as recognising contributions of neighbouring and other cultures.
- ✦ By revisiting the *economic paradigm* that is to a large extent responsible for current environmental degradation, social and economic crises. The future of Europe’s economy has to be rebuilt on the wealth of integral impulses from all spheres and sectors of society, promote various economic approaches and paths that are successful in free market conditions and resilient to crises (e.g., green economy, social entrepreneurship and cooperatives), and take into account the whole of the environmental and social impact of business operations.
- ✦ By connecting and upgrading a number of successful European *integral green practices*, explaining them with the help of Integral Economics and Integral Development; among them Integral Green Slovenia as a pilot country.
- ✦ By *smart integration* and effective implementation of existing EU policies based on sustainable development principles, such as the green, low-carbon and circular economy, environmental policy, social economy and socially responsible entrepreneurship, ethical banking, sustainable development of towns and rural areas with organic food and energy self-supply, revitalisation of cultural heritage, ... through emphasizing and promoting synergies and cross-sector approach. (Good practices presented throughout the book *Integral Green Slovenia* witness that smart integration already works.)
- ✦ By helping Europe to become aware that “Integral Age” and “Societal Renaissance” are *emerging in other cultures*, too, and to support such integral impulses for societal and economic renewal in developing countries.

---

<sup>1</sup> This appeal resulted from the 3rd International Conference **Integral Green Economy for a Better World – IGE2017**, held on 31 January 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and organised by Citizens’ Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia and TRANS4M Centre for Integral Development, in cooperation with 28 national and international organisations and institutions.

<sup>2</sup> After all the European Union was the most active political entity in negotiations for Agenda 2030 and has expressed the ambition to play a leading role in its implementation domestically – with several well elaborated policies already in place – and on a global scale. (see: Proposal for a New European Consensus on Development: Our World, our Dignity, our Future, COM(2016) 740 final ([https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-proposal-new-consensus-development-20161122\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-proposal-new-consensus-development-20161122_en.pdf)) and *Next steps for a sustainable European future*. European action for sustainability, COM(2016) 739 final & SWD(2016) 390 final ([http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/commission-communication-next-steps-sustainable-european-future\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/commission-communication-next-steps-sustainable-european-future_en)).

## The unique Locations of the Conference

The three interconnected locations of the conference have been carefully selected. All three embody important aspects of integral development which will be demonstrated in the course of the conference.

**Žiče Charterhouse:** For hundreds of years, Žiče Charterhouse (Žička kartuzija) was a major cultural and spiritual center of Slovenia and Europe. Though formerly closed down in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Žiče has maintained its unique character till today. A place of breath-taking beauty, it can be envisioned as an important place for the future development of the region and society. Established around 1165, the “integral relevance” of the Carthusian approach for our time can be summarised as follows:

- Nature & Community: The monks formed and lived as a community, embedded in nature.
- Culture & Spirituality: The monastery and the monks represented a cultural force. They were deeply engaged in contemplation and in spiritual practice.
- Science & Knowledge: The monks of Žiče Charterhouse were knowledge creators, establishing one of the largest libraries in Europe. That knowledge was purposefully building on the vast knowledge foundation of the past, while connecting it to the future.
- Economics & Enterprise: Finally, the monastery was also a viable business; in fact, it was a vital center of the local economy.

In order to create the future, a meaningful connection to the past is needed, as well as a meaningful connection to the nature, culture, history and spirit of the place. One can see Žiče Charterhouse as a role model for learning about holistic (wholesome / healing-oriented) living and integral development and as a “connection point” to the deepest values of the region, if not Slovene society. The monastery has a huge potential role to play in the renaissance of St. John’s valley where it is located, together with the village Špitalič. Out of the connection to own local cultural, natural and value source and resources, a holistic development perspective for the valley can be developed – and it can then also radiate into the whole of Slovenske Konjice, Slovenia and Europe. Then once again, like at the time of the monks of Žiče Charterhouse, that place and region could become a center for the integral renewal of Europe – culturally, economically, ecologically, and knowledge-wise.

**Kindergarten Slovenske Konjice:** Through its holistic activity, Kindergarten Slovenske Konjice lays the foundations for the sustainable development of the wider society and its surroundings. With the support of the municipality and cooperation with all those who contribute to the development of the area, Kindergarten Slovenske Konjice has become an exceptional example of good practices both in Slovenia and worldwide, operating on the principle of an integral green society. Part of the conference will be held in Špitalič near Slovenske Konjice, close to the Žiče Charterhouse. In Špitalič you will be able to experience how the place breathes, connects, preserves and cultivates its rich cultural and natural heritage. The kindergarten and school are very important institutions in Špitalič. They are the essence of the place, the moral core and the connection between the local citizens. However, Špitalič is just one small unit of Kindergarten Slovenske Konjice, there eight of them, all at different locations and all being equally important units of the kindergarten. Every location is of utmost importance for the development of the area where it is located. Participants will feel welcome to Špitalič and the surrounding St. John’s valley, where one will be touched by the beautiful countryside, warm-hearted people and the inspiring energy of cultural wealth and wellbeing that has been cultivated for many years.

**Kindergarten Poljčane:** Participants will also be guests of the Kindergarten Poljčane, the location of the [IGE 2018 Conference](#), with the opportunity to experience its holistic educational approach, sustainable life and exquisite cuisine. Kindergarten Poljčane is a low-energy and high-standard kindergarten that was built in 2014 to ensure healthy living and increased exploration space for the children. It perfectly blends with the natural heritage of its environment and also represents a cultural centre for the community. “Grounded in nature and community”, a child-centred approach and a socially responsible attitude towards nature, heritage and values are all qualities of this integral educational institution. It is embodied not only in the Kindergarten Poljčane, but also in Oton Župančič Slovenska Bistrica, the kindergarten group it belongs to.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

### Venues of the Conference & Workshops:

- [Žiče Charterhouse \(Žička kartuzija\)](#) & [Špitalič, Slovenia](#)
- [Poljčane, Slovenia](#)



### Further information:

E-mail [integralnaslovenija@gmail.com](mailto:integralnaslovenija@gmail.com)

Website <http://integralna-zelena-slovenija.si/en/>