



4th International Conference
INTEGRAL GREEN ECONOMY FOR A BETTER WORLD – IGE2018:

**INTEGRATING LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON BURNING
ISSUES AND LOOKING FOR INTEGRAL GREEN SOLUTIONS
ON A PATH TOWARDS SDGs AND BEYOND**

Poljčane, Slovenia, 13 & 14 September 2018

First Announcement

The Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia and Trans4m Center for Integral Development from Geneva, together with several organisations and institutions from Slovenia, Europe and Africa, would like to invite social innovators from various areas, including policy and decision makers, to join the all-day 4th **International Conference Integral Green Economy for a Better World (IGE 2018)**. The title of the conference that will take place in Poljčane, Slovenia on Thursday, 13 September 2018, is **Integrating Local and Global Perspectives on Burning Issues and Looking for Integral Green Solutions**. The conference will be followed by a whole day co-creative workshop on the same topic.

The conference follows the previous conferences on Integral Green Economy in 2013, 2014 and 2017 in Slovenia and the release of the new Gower and Routledge volume [Integral Green Slovenia](#) in June 2016.

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND AND FOCUS

The 2030 Agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets is the response of the global community to the immense challenges to sustainable development, complemented by the recognition that we also live in a time of enormous opportunities. This ambitious agenda, adopted in 2015, 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. Sustainable development is successful only when it improves citizens' well-being without degrading the environment. Despite growing adoption of the SDGs and other policies that strive to increase well-being without sacrificing the environment, measuring the Ecological Footprint (EF) and Human Development Index (HDI) reveals that very few countries come close to achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, when we look, for example, at the European environment, we acknowledge that the long-term outlook is not so positive as recent trends may imply, due to interdependences with global developments and systemic characteristics of environmental challenges. Therefore, fundamental transformation of societal



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systems (energy, transport, food and material use systems), that are at the root cause of environmental and climate pressures, are urgently needed – i.e., through profound changes in dominant structures, practices, technologies, policies, lifestyles, thinking. Social and technological innovation, as well as education for sustainable development have key roles in this process.

Global challenges are meeting us in the here and now, and in the future we can expect an increase in intensity and complexity. Multiple crises in Europe and neighbouring regions, the persistent migrant crises being one of the most severe, prolong the threat of disintegration of the European Union and call for integral wisdom as well as more effective sustainable social innovations. That also includes a rethinking of the relationships of the EU with other world regions, such as Africa. New conceptual and practical approaches could enrich the Europe – Africa cooperation, considering the population trends, with populations in African countries expanding rapidly, together with continued economic growth, intensified global competition for resources, growing pressures on ecosystems, increasingly severe consequences of climate change, and increasing environmental pollution.

In a unique approach to fuse and upgrade the paradigms of sustainability and integrality, a new, integral conceptual framework geared to holistically and transformatively address the burning issues of our time (the *Integral Worlds* paradigm) has been developed by Trans4m Center for Integral Development in Geneva, and elaborated, *inter alia*, in the realm of economy, offering (theoretical and practical) alternative(s) to the mainstream non-sustainable economic paradigm. The *Integral Worlds* paradigm emphasizes dynamic balance among equal and four mutually reinforcing dimensions (nature and community; culture and spirituality or consciousness; science, systems and technology; finance, enterprise and economics) and the centre – the moral value core. Furthermore, it incorporates an inbuilt transformational rhythm, called the GENE (an acronym for Grounding, Emerging, Navigating, Effecting) – this concept can also essentially enrich education and innovation systems and activities. Integral Economics 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. With the transformational process rooted in nature and community, the *Integral Worlds* paradigm can significantly evolve our understanding and practice of sustainable development and hence to release the GENE-ius of Self-Organisation-Community-Society, including Economy.

In a unique process of co-construction, Trans4m and the Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia have applied this new framework within the innovation ecosystem of the European Union, on the level of individual sustainable enterprises and local communities, but also on national level, and depicted this multidimensional and multi-layered process in the Gower and Routledge volume [*Integral Green Slovenia*](#) (Piciga, Schieffer and Lessem, 2016). Among other contributions, a new concept of “smart integration of European Union policies for sustainable development” has been proposed that:

- complements the traditional conceptualisation of sustainable development: sustainable development is described with four dimensions (environment, economy, society, *and culture*), and emphasis on values of social responsibility is added;
- builds on existing EU policies for sustainable development (e.g. 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, ...) with a view of smartly integrating them, and thus emphasizes and promotes synergies and cross-sector approach. Good practices presented throughout the book *Integral Green Slovenia* witness that smart integration already works.

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.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Continue and build on the *Integral Worlds* paradigm for addressing global challenges and as promising theoretical background for the 2030 Agenda as well, particularly building on Ubuntu philosophy ("I am because we are") originating from Africa.
- 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.
- Explore the possibility of using combined SD metrics, i.e. EF and HDI, to plan and monitor integral green development on various levels.
- Showing potentials and expected benefits of integral green economy and society approach - illustrated with promising practice cases - for resolving challenges to SD in Africa that can also be promoted through Europe – Africa cooperation.
- Present and strengthen Slovenia as a Pilot Country for an Integral Green Economy and Society, particularly as a possible Learning Region for SD.
- 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.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The international event will evolve around three main topics:

- ❖ Integrally Framed Sustainable Development of Organisations, Communities, Municipalities and Regions in Slovenia, within the European Context.
- ❖ Reflection on Slovenia as a Learning Space for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ Integral Worlds in Africa, a Promising Path for Sustainable Development and Well-Being of All.

A dozen of participants from international TRANS4M community will be actively sharing applications of the integral approach in Africa, Middle East and other World Regions. Contributions from Slovenia will be presented by authors of the book [*Integral Green Slovenia*](#) and several other innovators for sustainable development; many of them are introduced in Slovenian language in [*Integralna serija*](#).

Participants will be guests of the Kindergarten Poljčane, with the opportunity to experience its sustainable life and work and enjoy its exquisite cuisine. Kindergarten Poljčane is a low-energy and high-standard kindergarten that was erected in 2014 for the healthier living of children and increased exploration; it blends with the natural heritage and also represents a cultural centre for the community. "Grounded in nature and community", the child-centred approach and socially responsible attitude towards nature, heritage and values are all qualities of an integral educational institution, embodied in the entire Kindergarten Oton Župančič Slovenska Bistrica, the bigger organisation that Kindergarten Poljčane belongs to.

DAY 1 – International Conference, Thursday, September 13	
9:00 – 10:00	Arrival, Registration, Welcome drink and snacks
10:00 – 10:15	OPENING
10:15 – 11:30	KEY LECTURES: Dr Darja Piciga , Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia: <i>How the Integral Worlds Approach & Integral Green Thinking Permeate the Planning and Action for Sustainable Development, in Slovenia and Europe</i> Prof Alexander Schieffer , Trans4m Center for Integral Development:

	<p><i>Integral Worlds – Globally Applied = An Overview of Application and Impact of the Integral Worlds Approach</i></p> <p>Prof Ronnie Lessem, Trans4m Center for Integral Development: <i>The Communiversity as a Vehicle for Societal Transformation / Global Applications and Relevance for Africa-Europe cooperation</i></p> <p>Prof Ana Vovk Korže, International Centre for Ecoremediation, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor: <i>Dravinja Valley – A Learning Region for Sustainable Development, for Slovenia and the World</i></p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break with snacks
12:00 – 13:30	PRACTICE CASES & SPECIFIC TOPICS (Part I)
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	POSTER SESSION (with coffee)
15:30 – 17:00	PRACTICE CASES & SPECIFIC TOPICS (Part II) DISCUSSION CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE
17:00 – 18:30	Visit and Tour of the Kindergarten & Poljčane Development Centre (with the local shop)

The sessions on PRACTICE CASES & SPECIFIC TOPICS and the POSTER SESSION will include, among others, the following topics:

- Integral Green Zimbabwe & Pundutso Communiversity/Nhakanomics Research Academy
- Sekem in Egypt Renewed Integral Approach to Human Development, including Enterprise-Community-and-Economy-Development
- Collaboranomics / Integral Economic Development of Municipalities in (South) Africa
- How to restore African culture through building up an authentic African Fashion enterprise/economy; »Young Integral Entrepreneur in Africa«
- Integral Education and Holistic Emancipation of Women and Society in Northern Nigeria
- Community Engagement in Integral Education for Societal Transformation in Jordan
- Role and Participation of South African Women Business Leaders in Technology and Social Innovation
- Integral Applications, Smartly Integrated, from Local to National Level: Ecological Footprint, Findings on Global Megatrends, Concept of Sustainable Transitions with Innovations in Low-Carbon Economy, Circular Economy & Bio-Economy
- Learning from Slovenian experiences with development cooperation
- Community Based Resource Management in Slovenia, including Study Circles and Commons
- Integral Green Development starts in the Kindergarten: The Model of Kindergarten Slovenska Bistrica, Plans for Kindergarten Slovenske Konjice
- Integral Green Innovations for Reaching Sustainable Development in the Savinjska Region

DAY 2 – International Workshop, Friday, September 14

Participants of the International Workshop (a practical working roundtable) will further elaborate key topics of the International Conference (DAY 1). Participants will have the opportunity to co-create:

- ✓ “Integral outcomes” for their own respective organisations and initiatives, proposals for regional and local projects.
- ✓ A strong message for EU leaders and European people on Integral Worlds in Africa as a Promising Path for Sustainable Development and Well-Being of All, to be supported through Africa – Europe cooperation.
- ✓ A concept of entire Slovenia as a Learning Space for Sustainable Development.

The Workshop will conclude with a visit to the Learning Polygon in Dole (Prof Ana Vovk Korže).

We reserve the right to update and change the agenda.

AUDIENCE

- Cross-sectoral audience from Slovenia – from various areas of sustainable development
- Members and supporters of IGS Citizens' Initiative
- Members of the global Trans4m Network
- Policy and decision-makers from Slovenia and Europe

ORGANIZING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Dr Darja Piciga (Chair), Prof Alexander Schieffer (Co-Chair), Ivana Leskovar, Prof Ronnie Lessem, Stanka Stegne, Prof Ana Vovk Korže, Iva Zorenč

CALL FOR POSTERS

Participants are invited to present their sustainable good practices in a form of poster. Instructions for authors are available on the Conference website ([in English](#), [v slovenščini](#)).

Deadline for submitting abstracts: August 31st.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Venue of the Conference & Workshop:

Vrtec Poljčane
Dravinjska cesta 28
2319 Poljčane
Slovenija

Click here for the [location on the map](#).



Further information:

Website [in English](#), [v slovenščini](#).

E-mail: integralnaslovenija@gmail.com

Information for English-speaking participants: integralnaslovenija@gmail.com AND martin.maric@rasr.si.

Registration: Registration is obligatory for all participants.

Registration for the Conference: Click the link for the Conference: [in English](#), [v slovenščini](#).

Registration for the Workshop: Click the link for the Workshop, [in English](#), [v slovenščini](#) (previous participation at the Conference obligatory).

No Conference & Workshop fee.

Registration deadline: September 7th or until all vacancies are filled.

Working language: The conference (DAY 1) will be held in Slovene, with translations to English.

The workshop (DAY 2) will be held in English, without translation.

ORGANISED AND SUPPORTED BY:

Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia
TRANS4M Centre for Integral Development, Geneva, Switzerland
Kindergarten Oton Župančič Slovenska Bistrica
International Centre for Ecoremediation, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor
Development Agency of Savinjska Region
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
Stritih Sustainable Development
Institute of Applied Mycology and Biotechnology
And several other organisations - representatives of the Republic of Slovenia, local communities, business companies, NGOs, academia, ...