

SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2023



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 offered a variety of content that allowed us to learn about how the economy has an impact on society, as well as climate change. The professors were great and each one offered knowledge on how we can make an impact and could share our knowledge for the common good.

It was really interesting to meet classmates from different countries and backgrounds, all with different ideas. The group project was very fun and we learned how to produce and implement an idea, while growing as a team.

Amir Etminan, Iran

I really enjoyed learning more about economics and monetary systems. I would definitely recommend this course to anyone who comes across it and who can come and experience it in Vienna. It's a beautiful city with great public housing.

During AEMS, I came across so many people from different walks of life and I have come to truly appreciate them. This is a summer program that everyone needs and requires to better understand not only the monetary economic systems, but how we can use the current systems that exist in society to make the planet a better place.

Rhona Sinamtwa, Tanzania



I don't really have an economics background, but I came to AEMS to learn the different theories and to expand my knowledge.

One of the main things that I enjoyed was meeting new people from around the world and sharing ideas.

The whole course was absolutely fantastic and I would definitely recommend AEMS to anyone who's interested in economics and wants gain insight of different points of view.

Dylan Rosenbach, UK



The AEMS program was really rigorous and allowed me the opportunity to meet a diverse group of scholars and students from different backgrounds and countries.

Vienna was great – I love the model of the social public housing and the public transport. I very much recommend the summer program. It's rich in content and allows you to meet a lot of people and think about what society going forward should look like.

Isaac Abotebuno Akolgo, Ghana

What I enjoyed about AEMS 2023 was the diversity of the people. Not only that – I also loved the quality of people too. There were days when we were in the same session, but had two different perspectives, which I liked the most.

I've travelled to many cities and countries before, but Vienna is actually my favourite. I would recommend AEMS because it's a good way to see alternative economic systems, which is something that I think many universities are not able to provide these days. It's allowed me to see a very positive reflection of how our future could be.

Aya Ouhichi, Tunisia



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

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the AEMS Summer University, which has so far created a community of more than 440 alumni in 79 nations! With a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, and program points being open to the public, the program fosters interdisciplinary exchange to discuss ideas for a socio-ecological transformation since 2014. AEMS strives for achieving a good life for all and this is based on long-term sustainability. Our students learn about the interconnections between economy, ecology and society. While they know of the problems at hand, they are also inspired by projects and changes that are already being implemented all over the world.

Why AEMS? While the 10th anniversary of this project is of itself a reason to celebrate, the reasoning behind implementing this summer program is less so. Just a few days after the summer program, the month of July 2023 has been officially declared the hottest month since the beginning of records. Globally. The message is clear:

The time for change is NOW. To minimize the impacts of the climate crisis, there is no time left to lose. We need to get acting. Therefore, we need to understand the problem, which is by and large 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 nervousness 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, adds further 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 through its spending – 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-breaker. After all, what's more costly than continuing the path of destruction? Therefore, AEMS strives to inspire change not only by raising awareness of 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. 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),
Tobias Riepl (Central European University),
Nathalie Spittler (BOKU University),
Daniel Körner (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 University was born out of the pressing need for a systemic change. Our economic and financial systems, as they have been working for the past 70 years or so, are causes of climate change and we need to join forces to act against this global crisis. The program is organized as a collaborative 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!".

We aim at raising awareness of the necessary transformation our economic system needs to make. In this, the program is supported by numerous academic and scientific partners from all over the world by providing their latest research findings and 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, where participants gain knowledge on the current socio-economic climate and explore real alternatives. To get a holistic view, the students were guided by our interdisciplinary academic team consisting of Helga Kromp-Kolb, Tobias Riepl, Nathalie Spittler and Daniel Körner. Their deep understanding of the climate crisis and knowledge of alternative economic and monetary systems supported 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 university focuses particularly on environmentally friendly behavior. Measures taken therefore include exclusively vegan and vegetarian catering with organic, 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 participants to share their ideas in a multi-cultural and open-minded setting. The program therefore includes interactive program points, as well as social activities. As a result, our alumni often stay in touch even beyond the summer program. They share ideas on how to change the world to a better one, keep the others updated about initiatives they are part of, swap invitations for related events and visit each other in their home countries all around the world.

01

Economics with social and ecological values

- What's wrong with current economics?
- Planetary boundaries
- Climate change economics
- Social Tipping Points
- Climate negotiations

02

Finance, money and the environment

- The role of money, banking and financial markets
- Interest & compound interest
- Central banks
- Money and moral Power structures

ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS

MODULES

03

A social ecological transformation

- Democratic banking
- Participatory economy, solidarity economy
- Economy for the Common Good
- Universal Basic Income, Universal Basic Services
- Complementary currencies, digital money
- Modern Monetary Theory (MMT), Sovereign Money
- Sustainable development, de-growth, greening the economy, circular economy
- Sustainable agriculture
- Resource usage and scarcity
- Sustainable energy, energy transition
- Working-time reduction, care economy, share economy

04

Wrap-Up & Synthesis

- Group Project presentations
- Analysis, Reflection & Conclusions

CURRICULUM

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

Immanuel Kant

The AEMS program 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 program. This year, the program was structured into a preparatory phase and the lecture phase, with the latter taking place at BOKU University from 17th July to 4th August 2023:

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

The lecture phase was split into four

modules spread over three weeks, building up from the preparatory work. This main part of the summer university includes lectures with enough time for questions and discussions, workshops with simulations and educational games, as well as excursions. The four modules are:

1. "Economics with social and ecological values" 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.

2. “Finance, money and the environment”

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.

3. “A social, ecological transformation”

enables students to assess available alternatives for reforming the economic and financial systems from a holistic perspective. Areas discussed include democratic banking, degrowth, work time reduction, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, universal basic services, and the role of cities in the socio-ecological transition. Students also presented initiatives in which they are involved.

Bringing about change is not an easy

endeavour and collaboration is essential. As a part of module 3, students therefore work in groups 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 university.

4. “Wrap-up and synthesis” gives students the opportunity to reflect and consolidate the many issues and concepts they have experienced and learned about. Therefore, this module is an integral part of the summer university. Each day, there is at least one reflection session with the academic team. In addition to their group project, the students also write glossary entries in small groups of two people on a key-question of a specific session of the program each. These are then consolidated to a glossary and published on the AEMS website at

www.summer-university.net/aems



AEMS students 2023

Program: Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems 2023						
WEEK 1						
Day / Date	Start	End	Preliminary topic of the session	Lecturer	Format	Location
Introduction & Module I: Economics with Social and Ecological Values						
Monday 17.07.2023	13:00	16:00	AEMS participants Get-together	AEMS team	Interactive	OeAD
	17:00	20:00	Public Opening Event: A good life for all within the planetary boundaries	Austrian Federal President, Alexander Van Der Bellen; Helga Kromp-Kolb, Renate Hammer and Anika Dafert	Lectures	Uni Wien
Tuesday 18.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Introduction Plural Economics	Florian Penz	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	History of money	Colleen Schneider	Lecture	BOKU
	13:30	14:45	Introduction to economic theories	Ernest Aigner	Interactive	BOKU
Wednesday 19.07.2023	15:00	16:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Power, politics, activism	Sarah Siemers	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	Intro to Group Work	AEMS team	Lecture	BOKU
Thursday 20.07.2023	13:30	15:30	Group Work	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:15	Short overview of IIASA and Schloss Laxenburg	Brian Fath	Interactive	IIASA
	10:15	11:00	Flourishing within limits	Brian Fath	Lecture	IIASA
	11:00	11:45	Climate Change - Social Tipping Points	Caroline Zimm	Lecture	IIASA
	11:45	12:30	Reflection (with reference to "Crash course on climate change" video)	Helga Kromp-Kolb	Interactive	IIASA
	13:30	16:30	Climate negotiations	Helga Kromp-Kolb	Interactive	IIASA
Friday 21.07.2023	16:30	17:30	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	IIASA
	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Doughnut Economics	Katy Shields and Christian Zauner	Interactive	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	Solidarity Economy	Harald Bender	Lecture	BOKU
Saturday 22.07.2023	12:30	14:30	Group Work Consultation	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	10:00	13:00	<u>Optional</u> : Social Housing Tour	AEMS team	Interactive	Vienna

WEEK 2						
Monday 24.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	12:00	Economy for the Common Good	Christian Felber	Lecture / Interactive	BOKU
	13:30	14:45	Economic democracy	Alexandra Strickner	Lecture	BOKU
	15:00	16:15	Harvest Game	Helga Kromp-Kolb and AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	16:30	17:15	Reflection & Summary of first module	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	18:00		<u>Optional:</u> Sports evening: Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Chill out	AEMS tutors	Interactive	48er Platz
	Module II: Finance, Money and the Environment					
Tuesday 25.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Global financial institutions	Kurt Bayer	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	Money, interest, compound interest	Thomas Kubo	Lecture	BOKU
	13:30	14:45	Sovereign money	Christian Felber	Lecture	BOKU
	15:00	16:00	Reflection	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	16:00	17:00	<u>Optional:</u> Implications of sovereign money	Christian Felber	Lecture	BOKU
Wednesday 26.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Digitalization of Money	Brett Scott	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:30	Money and ethics	Bernd Villhauer	Interactive	BOKU
	13:45	16:30	Group Work	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
Thursday 27.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	12:00	Money, inflation and power structures	Richard Werner	Lecture	BOKU
	13:00	17:00	Strategies for transition	AEMS team	Exhibition	BOKU
			Public Panel Discussion: Sovereign Money, CBDC and MMT - Uniting fiscal and monetary policy to combat climate change	Christian Felber, Bernd Villhauer, Brett Scott, Helga Kromp-Kolb	Discussion	TUtheSky
	18:30	20:00				
Module III: A social ecological transformation						
Friday 28.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Circular economy	Fridolin Krausmann	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	Reflection & Summary of 2nd week	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	12:30	14:30	<u>Optional:</u> Group Work Consultation	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU

WEEK 3						
Monday 31.07.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Complementary currencies with the Austrian example of Wörgl	Heinz Hafner	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	Degrowth	Livia Regen	Lecture	BOKU
	13:30	14:45	Universal Basic Services and Universal Basic Income	Richard Bärnthaler	Lecture	BOKU
	15:00	16:15	The role of cities in the socio-ecological transition	Dirk Holemans	Lecture	BOKU
	16:30	17:15	Reflection	AEMS team	Lecture	BOKU
	18:00	Optional: Sports evening: Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Chill out		AEMS tutors	Interactive	48er Platz
Tuesday 01.08.2023	09:00	09:30	Warming up	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	09:30	10:45	Food and agriculture	Friedrich Leitgeb	Lecture	BOKU
	11:00	12:15	Earth for all	Club of Rome	Lecture	BOKU
	13:30	16:30	Group Work	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	20:00	Movie Night - Screening of the movie "2040" by Damon Gameau		Carina, Petra and Tutors	Movie Night	Cinema
Wednesday 02.08.2023	Time for Group Work				Interactive	
Module IV: Wrap-up and Synthesis						
Thursday 03.08.2023	10:00	12:00	Group Project Presentation	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	13:30	15:00	Group Project Presentation	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	15:30	17:00	Analysis, Reflection and conclusions	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	18:00	Heuriger		AEMS team	Dinner	Restaurant
Friday 04.08.2023	10:00	12:00	Feedback Round and Diploma	AEMS team	Interactive	BOKU
	12:00	14:00	Picnic		Picnic	BOKU

Locations:	OeAD	OeAD, Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Wien, room: 2+3
	Uni Wien:	University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien; room: Grosser Festsaal
	BOKU:	BOKU University, Peter-Jordan-Straße 82, 1190 Wien; room: Ilse-Wallentin-House, SR29/2
	IIASA:	IIASA, Schloßplatz 1, 2361 Laxenburg
	TUtheSky:	Technical University, Getreidemarkt 9, 1060 Wien, 11th floor
	Cinema:	Votivkino, Währinger Str. 12, 1090 Wien
	Restaurant:	Heuriger Feuerwehr Wagner, Grinzinger Str. 53, 1190 Wien
	48er Platz:	Achtundvierziger Platz, 1140 Wien



AEMS participants 2023

GRAND 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 and Green.Building.Solutions. (GBS) summer universities welcomed around 270 people joining us online or in person at the Main Ceremonial Hall of the University of Vienna. In one of the oldest and largest universities of Europe we discussed the challenging question on how to ensure a good and enjoyable life for all without overburdening the ecological boundaries of our planet.

The event started off with words of thanks and appreciation for inspiring young generations by Austrian Federal President, **Alexander Van der Bellen**. Continuing from there, this year's around 100 international students of the AEMS and GBS summer university were warmly welcomed by **Gernot Wörther** (Climate and Energy Fund), **Kurt**

Hofstetter (City of Vienna, MA50), **Doris Damyanovic** (BOKU University) and the main organizers **Guenther Jedliczka** (OeAD student housing), AEMS academic head **Helga Kromp-Kolb** (BOKU University) and GBS academic head **Karin Stieldorf** (TU Vienna).

The keynotes focused on the central question of how to achieve a good life for all within the planetary boundaries. Speakers **Renate Hammer** (Institute of Building Research & Innovation ZT-GmbH), **Helga Kromp-Kolb** and **Anika Dafert** (Fridays for Future Austria) gave insights into different aspects, such as building technology, societal responsibilities and the overall interconnectedness of economy, ecology and society.

The break that followed gave the audience the opportunity to **network** at the buffet on-

site, or in short 1:1 online-meetings.

Afterwards, the speakers discussed the main question of the evening in a **panel discussion**, moderated by Alicia Prager (Der Standard). The discussion also included

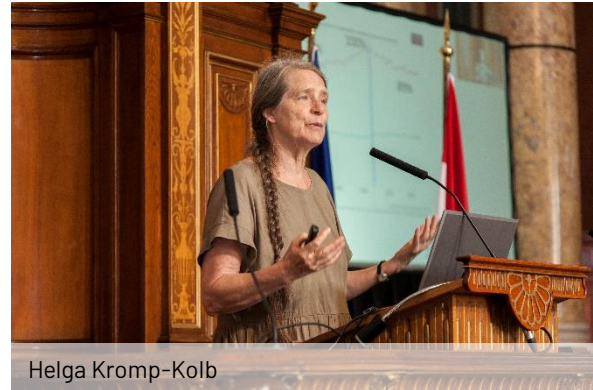
questions from the audience – in-person or via the online-tool slido.

The event was recorded and is available on OeAD student housing's YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/oeadhousing



Anika Dafert



Helga Kromp-Kolb



Renate Hammer



Panel discussion moderated by Alicia Prager



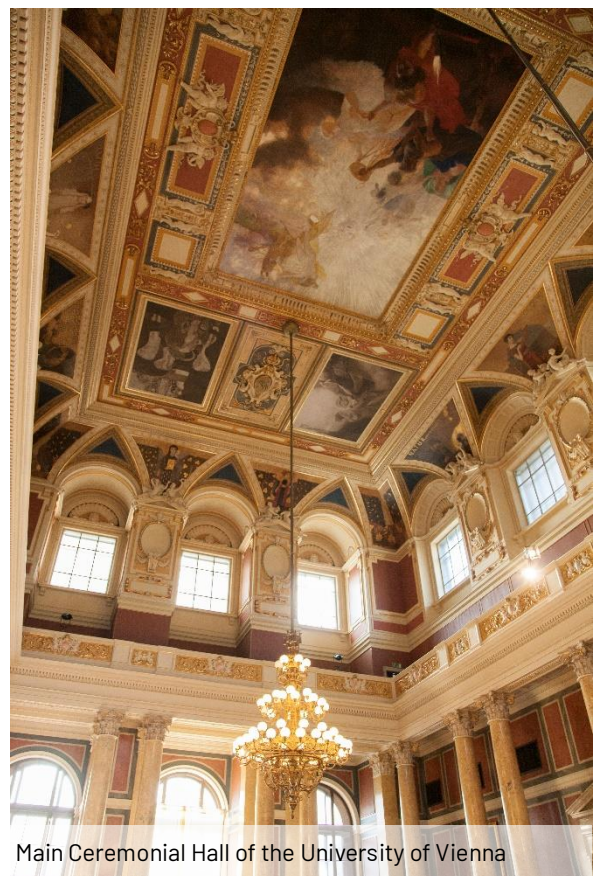
Guests of the Grand Opening Event at the Main Ceremonial Hall of the University of Vienna



AEMS organizational team and speakers. F.I.t.r. 1st row: Tobias Riepl, Helga Kromp-Kolb, Günther Jedliczka, Anika Dafert, Petra Isepp, Carina Kamptner, Magdalena Wanderer, Simon Probst. 2nd row: Gernot Wörther, Doris Damyanovic, Renate Hammer, Brian Fath, Karin Stieldorf, Benjamin Schemel



AEMS participants in the courtyard of the University



Main Ceremonial Hall of the University of Vienna

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 offer a space for networking and reach not only our participants but also a broader audience. This year we organized three public events. In addition to the opening event, we had a panel discussion and a movie night:

At the public panel discussion **"Sovereign money, CBDC and MMT"** speakers **Christian Felber** (Economy for the Common Good), **Helga Kromp-Kolb**, **Brett Scott** (author & journalist) and **Bernd Villhauer** (Institute of the Weltethos Foundation) discussed the question on how fiscal and monetary policy can be united to combat climate change. Moderator **Joseph Gepp** (Der Standard) led throughout the evening and included questions of the around 120 people in the online and in-person audience into the discussion. The event is available online for re-watching on OeAD student housing's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/oeadhousing

The public **movie night** invited all interested people to Votivkino for a screening of the movie "2040" by Damon Gameau (2019): The movie inspires to think about what the world could look like in 2040, if we take different paths for various parts of life, such as agriculture, energy, economy or mobility. After the movie, everyone was invited to stay for reflecting and networking in a relaxed atmosphere with snacks and drinks.

In addition to these public events, we organized several **social activities** for our students to get to know each other out of classes:

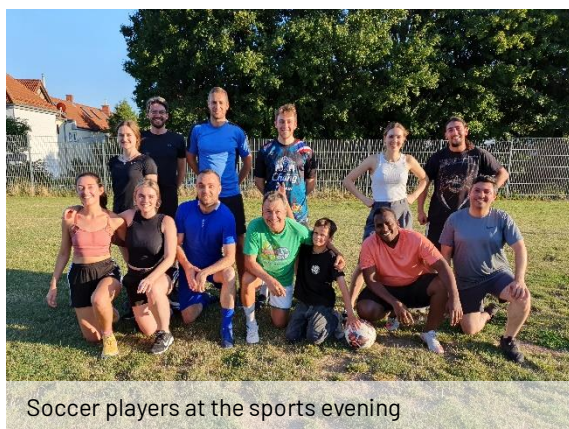
A dinner at a typical Austrian restaurant offered a great opportunity for exchange to our students and lecturers. They got to taste Wiener Schnitzel, Apfelstrudel and other traditional Austrian dishes.

During the **excursion to our partner institution IIASA** (International Institute for Applied System Analysis) in the beautiful town of Laxenburg, the students had the chance to tour a historical castle. They also took on the roles of political leaders during the World Climate Simulation Game to negotiate climate protection measures for the respective nation they were representing. The aim was to reach the goal set in the Paris Agreement of keeping global warming well below 2°C.

At the **Strategies for transition**-exhibition, students used the opportunity to present initiatives and projects they are part of.

The **Social Housing Sightseeing Tour** was an optional program point, where students got to learn more about social and affordable housing in Vienna and visited some of the so-called "Gemeindebauten", which can be found all throughout the city.

Further highlights were the two optional **sports evenings**, where students could play football (soccer), volleyball or tennis together with students from the Green.Building.Solutions. summer university. The sports club also provided us with a buffet of a large choice on meat, vegetarian and vegan dishes.





Students in class



Doughnut Economics Workshop



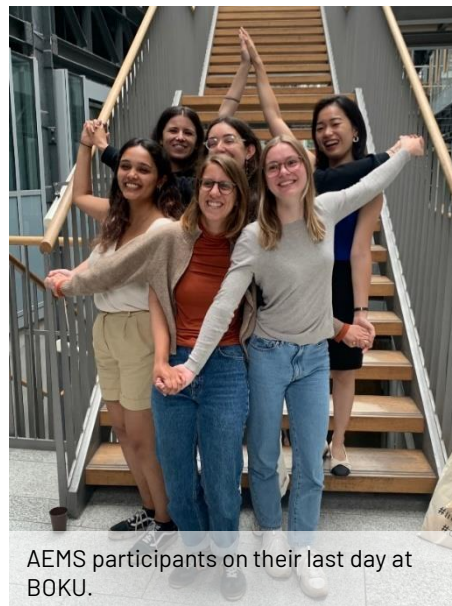
AEMS team and Bhutanese participant, Rinzin Dorji



AEMS participant, Gerald, and Katy Shields (Doughnut.Coalition.Wien)



Participant Belinda explains her project at the strategies for transition exhibition



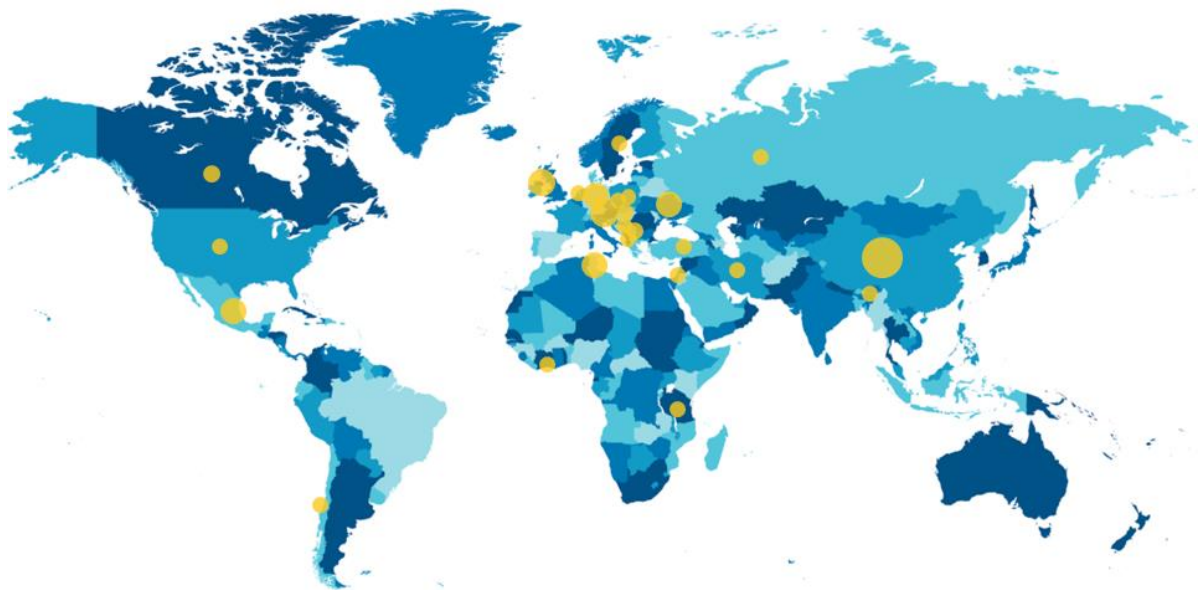
AEMS participants on their last day at BOKU.



Social Innovation Tour with Eugene Quinn



Visiting "Gemeindebauten"



THE PARTICIPANTS

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

Socrates

48 people from 24 nations participated in the AEMS Summer University 2023. They came from countries such as China, Tanzania, the UK, Albania, Canada, Tunisia, Ukraine, Mexico, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Chile, Russia, Turkey, USA, Iran, Croatia, Italy, and 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. It is not necessary to have an economic background in order to participate. 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!

This year, AEMS welcomed students and professionals of 18 to 63 years of age from different disciplines, such as economics and business studies, natural sciences and sustainability research, social and cultural studies, IT, political science, law, journalism, arts, linguistics, or engineering sciences. The summer university is open to students and professionals of all walks of life and does not only bridge this diversity but thrives on it.

The manifold academic and professional backgrounds and interests of our students enable rich discussions from different perspectives and contribute to a holistic understanding. Expanding on this, students not only learn from renowned experts, but also grow through the personal exchange amongst each other – which all in all composes the unique character of the program and an eye-opening summer experience!

THE LECTURERS

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

Confucius

The experts lecturing at the AEMS summer university are mainly part of the academic world and/or activists. The names of all lecturers in alphabetical order:

Ernest Aigner (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Richard Bärnthaler (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Kurt Bayer (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)
Harald Bender (Akademie Solidarische Ökonomie)
Anika Dafert (Fridays for Future Austria)
Brian Fath (IIASA)
Christian Felber (Economy for the Common Good)
Heinz Hafner (Unterguggenberger Institut)
Renate Hammer (Institute of Building Research & Innovation ZT-GmbH)
Martin Hoffmann (The Club of Rome – Austrian Chapter)
Dirk Holemans (Green European Foundation; Oikos)
Till Kellerhoff (The Club of Rome)
Daniel Körner (BOKU Wien)
Fridolin Krausmann (BOKU Wien)

Helga Kromp-Kolb (BOKU Wien)
Thomas Kubo (writer and publisher)
Friedrich Leitgeb (BOKU Wien)
Florian Penz (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Livia Regen (Degrowth Vienna)
Tobias Riepl (Central European University)
Colleen Schneider (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Brett Scott (author, journalist, economic anthropologist, and former financial broker)
Katy Shields (Doughnut.Coalition.Wien)
Sarah Siemers (BOKU Wien)
Natalie Spittler (BOKU Wien)
Alexandra Strickner (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Bernd Villhauer (Institute of the Weltethos Foundation)
Richard Werner (Linacre College, University of Oxford)
Christian Zauner (Doughnut.Coalition.Wien)
Caroline Zimm (IIASA)



Brian Fath, IIASA



Natalie Spittler, BOKU



Fridolin Krausmann, BOKU

GROUP PROJECTS

Think globally, act locally. During the AEMS summer university, our students not only learn about alternative ideas for a more sustainable economy - they also develop their own project ideas to make a difference. At AEMS 2023, they worked on projects for a systemic change, with the aim of overcoming a socio-ecological and/or economic challenge. In international groups of four to five students with different academic backgrounds, the following eight projects were designed this year:

"Austria Eco-Odyssey" strives to strengthen ecotourism with a focus on sustainability, by following the motto "high value, low volume": Tourist groups are smaller in size. Workshops are offered to learn about and opt for sustainability, and collaborations with local communities and environmental organizations are established.

The project **"Barbie Talks"** focuses on disseminating knowledge and raising awareness for alternative economic approaches by use of pop culture and social media: Their "Barbie" explains the problems of mainstream economics to "neoclassical Ken" and introduces the audience to differing approaches. Find out more on their Instagram: [@barbietalksmoney](https://www.instagram.com/barbietalksmoney)

"Eco Photo" is an artistic project that aims at contributing to a mindset shift in favor of sustainability by showcasing photos that highlight the contrasts of the "dark side" of economy to positive and inspiring visions for the future. To achieve this, the group created photo-collages and montages to be used in an exhibition.

"Education for all" is an education-oriented

project with the long-term goal of encouraging social demand for action on climate change: The group created a learning hub that includes a website as well as an offline scavenger hunt with informational posters (DOHUNT). [Link to website](#)

The project **"Food WastEND"** aims to reduce food waste by shifting the paradigm of waste is acceptable towards circularity and re-use. The group conducted interviews with local restaurants and shared the insights gained from them.

"Public homes not private houses" strives to break the misconception of public housing being only for the poor, but instead a right for all by creating a video for social media. The group conducted interviews residents of publicly funded housing in Vienna to analyze chances and barriers they're facing.

"Rhisome" aims to promote sustainable businesses in Vienna via engaging content on TikTok and Instagram. By showcasing positive business examples as well as insights into their origins and the challenges they have faced. In doing so, the project strives to inspire others to identify sustainable businesses in their own areas. Find out more on their TikTok: [@rhisomewien](https://www.tiktok.com/@rhisomewien)

"Weather Portal" is an interactive project aiming to create transnational networks for individuals to share their experiences of weather and climate change across international locations. The project consists of an interactive livestream with overlays of weather information for the respective locations. [Link to website](#)

THE SPIRIT OF AEMS

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

Wilhelm von Humboldt

Once again AEMS has provided a unique experience for students and professionals from all around the world. Along with the new perspectives and insights gained, AEMS left its students with a spark of inspiration - what we call the spirit of AEMS!

International participants 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. Underlined by witnessing this year's extreme weather events, they are aware of the important role of political measures in our interconnected world and realize the need for 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 university 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 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.

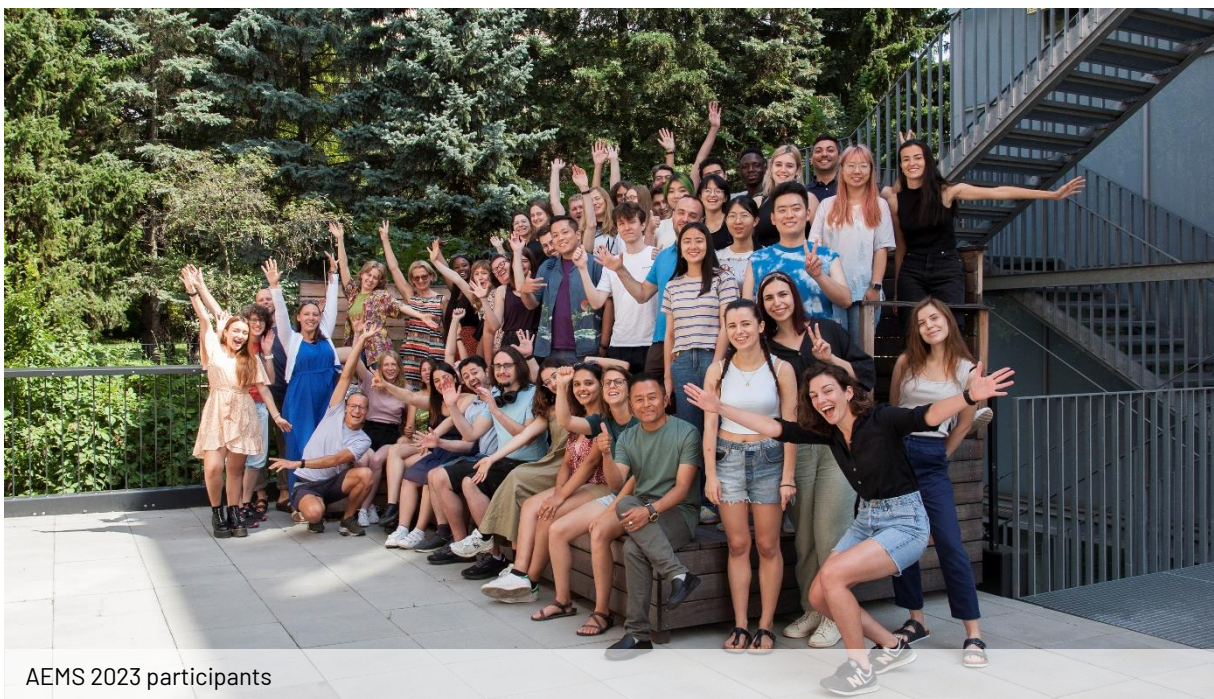
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AEMS 2023 participants

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**, Magdalena Wanderer, Simon Probst and Benjamin Schemel for their much appreciated support, and to all our **lecturers and speakers** for their valuable inputs: Ernest Aigner, Richard Bärnthaler, Kurt Bayer, Harald Bender, Anika Dafert, Brian Fath, Christian Felber, Heinz Hafner, Renate Hammer, Martin Hoffmann, Dirk Holemans, Till Kellerhoff, Daniel Körner, Fridolin Krausmann, Helga Kromp-Kolb, Thomas Kubo, Friedrich Leitgeb, Florian Penz, Livia Regen, Tobias Riepl, Colleen Schneider, Brett Scott, Katy Shields, Sarah Siemers, Natalie Spittler, Alexandra Strickner, Bernd Villhauer, Richard Werner, Christian Zauner and Caroline Zimm.

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We are grateful to Austrian Federal President **Alexander Van der Bellen** to join our opening event via video message – thank you very much!

Many thanks to the University of Vienna and TU Vienna for the atmospheric settings at the opening event and the panel discussion respectively, as well as their IT teams for making the live streams of both events possible. A big thank you also goes to the IT team of BOKU University for supporting us with all questions and requests. Thank you to Gaumenfreundinnen, who offered their delicious vegan and vegetarian food and regional beverages at these events. A big thank you also goes to Heuriger Feuerwehr-Wagner and the sports place 48er Platz for hosting us and providing us with a great dinner.

Thank you very much to Brian Fath and 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 to Eugene Quinn for offering a Social Housing Tour through the city of Vienna. Many thanks also go to BOKU Mensa and TÜWI for providing us with delicious food.

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- MIGRA Gemeinnützige WohnungsgesmbH
- Stadt Wien – Kultur (MA 7)
- Stadt Wien – Umweltschutz (MA 22)
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Umweltcenter der Raiffeisenbank Gunskirchen
- Wohnbauvereinigung für Privatangestellte (WBV-GPA)

...AND OUR PARTNERS



CONTACT

Are you interested in the Alternative Economics and Monetary Systems Summer University?
Just write to us, call us, or visit our website and social media channels.

Mag. Carina Kamptner, B.A.

Projektmanagerin AEMS

OeAD-WohnraumverwaltungsGmbH

Ebendorferstraße 7, 1010 Wien

Tel. +43 1 53408 800

E-Mail: aems@oead.at

www.linkedin.com/in/carinakamptner

Petra Isepp, BSc

Projektmanagerin AEMS

OeAD-WohnraumverwaltungsGmbH

Ebendorferstraße 7, 1010 Wien

Tel. +43 1 53408 800

E-Mail: aems@oead.at

Homepage: <http://www.summer-university.net>

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AEMS will be back next year:

July 15th to August 2nd, 2024

Stay tuned for more information to come!