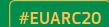
Transition challenges of going green

Angela Köppl – Margit Schratzenstaller Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)









Where do we stand

Short-term and long-term challenges

- Current health and economic crisis
- Long-term: Reduction of emissions and accounting for planetary boundaries as profound challenges
- Synergies and trade-offs between long-term systemic change and short-term policy response



Rising emissions



2019 World Bank data: 19,6% global GHG emissions priced or planned for



Global fossil fuel subsidies



Current growth path accompanied by more resource use





Deep structural change



Road to low carbon economy is a transformative process for which policies today frame the direction – Green Deal and recovery packages



This calls for an alignment and climate mainstreaming in all policy areas

- Energy policy
- Transport policy
- Public procurement
- Fiscal policy
- •









Policy orientation for deep structural change

Resilience

More robustness against disturbances like Covid-19 and climate change

Reconsider prosperity

Functionalities or human needs like mobility or shelter as ultimate purpose of economic activity

Continuous innovation







Which structural changes drive transformation

Multifunctional buildings

- Focus on quarters instead of single building
- Active integration into the energy system

Intermodal and interlocking mobility

 New understanding of mobility: Focus on access to people, goods and places

Integrated Networks

• Bidirectionally operated networks, connected via information network

Circular Economy

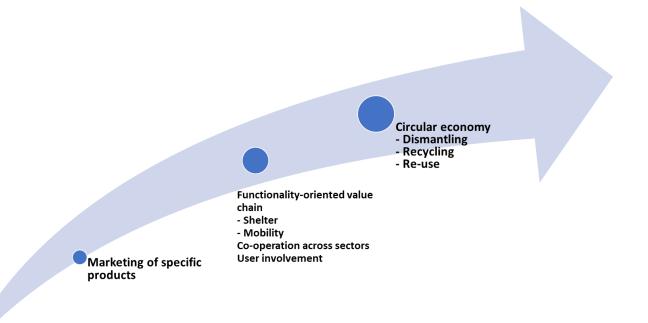
Emission reductions through resource efficiency and innovations in value chains







From product-oriented to functionality and circular oriented value chains









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Transformative potential of policy responses in Covid-19 crisis







Phases of the Covid-19 crisis and fiscal response

Immediate emergency response

- Provision of liquidity for businesses and households, mitigation of solvency risks
- Limited options for introducing transformative elements but measures should not counteract long-term goals ("do no harm")

Economic recovery

- Economic stimulus to support (post-pandemic) recovery phase
- Opportunity to introduce green elements supporting deep structural change
 expenditures and tax measures, possibly accelerating already existing plans
- Reinforcing carbon pricing and dismantling fossil fuel subsidies to encourage climate-friendly investment and consumption within revenue-neutral tax shifts using additional revenues for cuts in distortive taxes (particular high taxes on labour) to support growth and employment

Budget consolidation

- Opportunity to introduce / increase taxes incentivizing transition towards low-carbon economy after post-pandemic recovery temporary use of additional revenues for budget consolidation
- Protection of spending aiming at supporting deep structural change from budget cuts

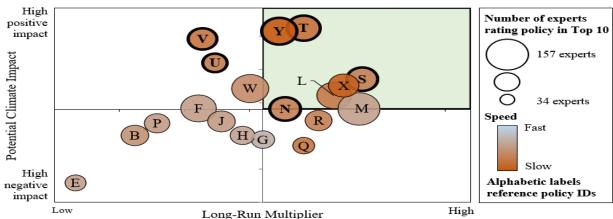




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Economic recovery and transformation

Global Survey of Fiscal Recovery Policies



- B Assisted bankruptcy (super Chapter 11)
- E Airline bailouts
- F Not for profits, education, research, health inst. bailouts
- G Reduction in VAT and other goods and services taxes
- H Income tax cuts
- J Business tax relief for strategic and structural adj.
- L Education investment
- M Healthcare investment
- N Worker retraining
- P Rural support policies

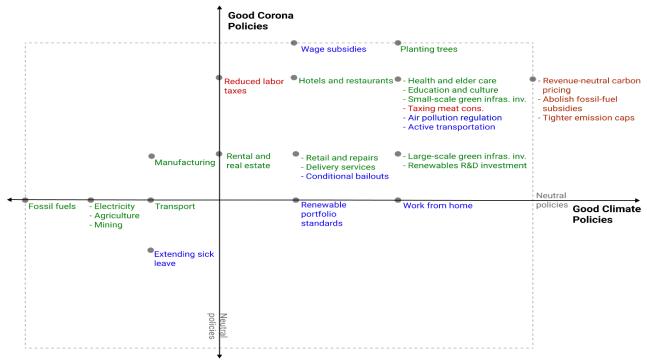
- O Traditional transport infrastructure investment
- R Project-based local infrastructure grants
- S Connectivity infrastructure investment
- T Clean energy infrastructure investment
- U Buildings upgrades (energy efficiency)
- V Green spaces and natural infrastructure investment
- W Disaster preparedness, capacity building
- X General R&D spending
- Y Clean R&D spending





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Economic recovery and transformation



Summary of policy evaluation; green: stimulus spending policies, red: tax reform policies, blue: cross-cutting policies.

Source: Engström, G., Gars, J., Jaakkola, N., Lindahl, T., Spiro, D., van Benthem, A.A., 2020, What Policies Address Both the Coronavirus Crisis and the Climate Crisis?, Environmental and Resource Economics







Architecture of transformative recovery policies in an EU perspective

Member State level

Use transformative potential of recovery policies

EU level

- Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Reform of fiscal rules (consideration of green public investment)
- Extension of carbon pricing (increase of carbon price, increase of scope of ETS, introduction of border carbon adjustment)
- Reform of Energy Tax Directive
- Green Deal



Thank you!

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