



The Project  
**Growth-independent just transformation pathways towards a climate neutral Austrian economy**

*What's it all about?*

**Our motivation:**

Both (1) ecological *limits to growth* and (2) *secular stagnation* make it paramount to consider **growth-independence** in climate mitigation scenarios.

Growth independence ensures high levels of societal well-being and environmental stability, even under conditions of economic stagnation or decline.

**Our main research questions:**

- RQ1)** What are the **characteristics** of growth-independent pathways?
- RQ2)** Which **baseline scenarios** and **measures** are necessary to develop and assess growth-independent transformation pathways for Austria?
- RQ3)** How can growth-independent transformation **pathways** achieve climate neutrality while enhancing societal well-being in Austria in an equitable way?

**Our methods:**

1. **Review** of Reviews & Policy Mapping → Characteristics & Model Requirements
2. **Knowledge integration** processes → Scenarios, Pathways & Feasibility
3. **Macro-economic model** simulations → Simulation, Causal Mechanisms

Work Package 3  
**Stakeholder participation & dissemination**  
Integrating knowledge

*Valuing stakeholder perspectives*

**Objective (addressing RQ2 and RQ3):**

Establish an appreciative and continuous communication and interaction with stakeholders to ensure a valuable knowledge transfer in both directions.

**Methods:**

Interactive **workshops, surveys, newsletters & handouts:**

1. Workshop on growth-independence and pathways
  - Establishing a dialogue & envisioning a just future
  - Identifying first measures and puzzle pieces for pathways
2. Survey regarding scenario finalization, incl. values for parameters and indicators
3. Workshop on policy recommendations and feasibility



Work Package 5  
**Modelling growth-independence**  
Simulation & Analysis

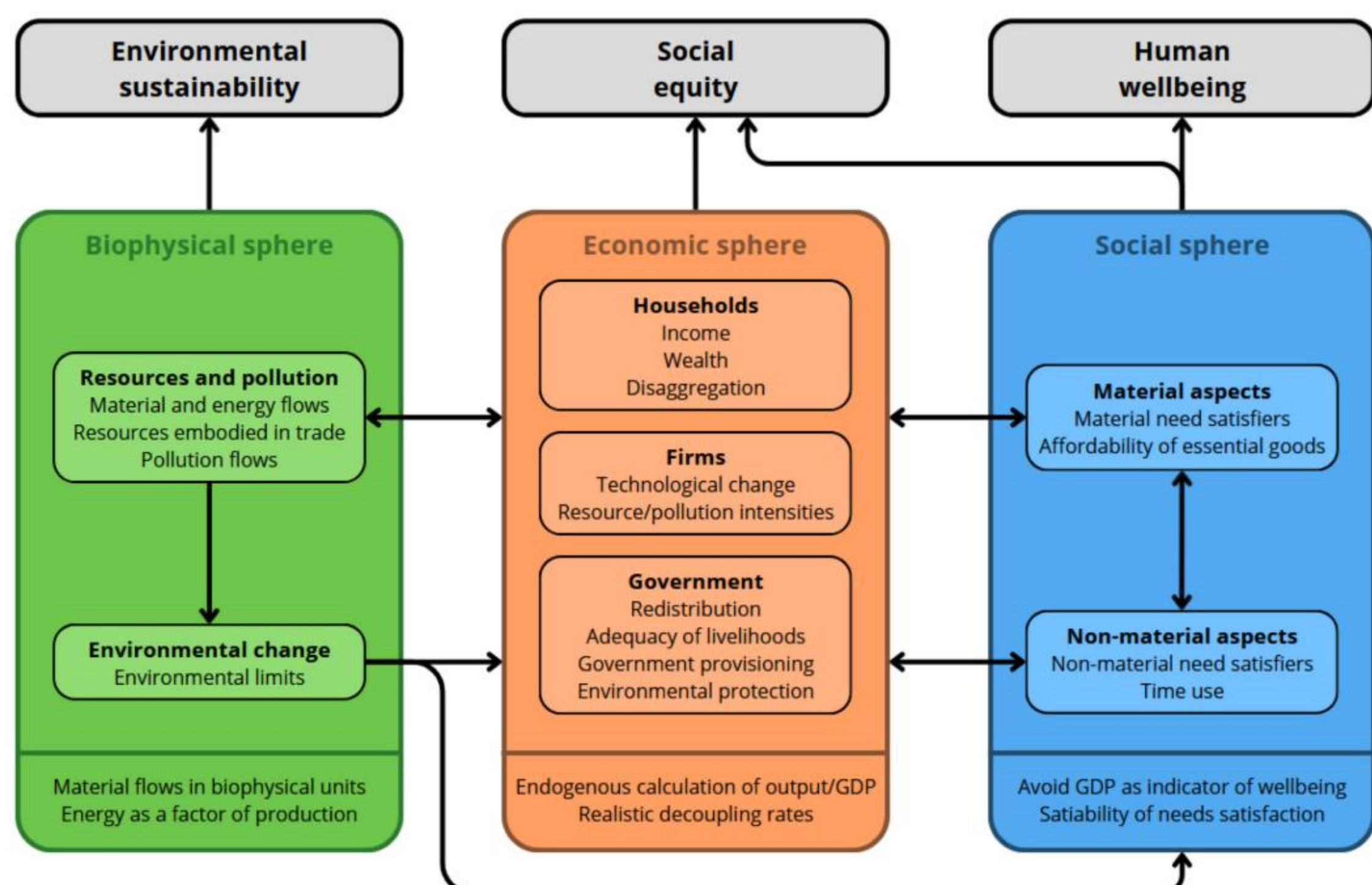
*Exploring economic mechanisms*

**Addresses specific research objective of RQ3:**

- i. **Simulate** the baseline scenarios and transformations pathways with the three macroeconomic models WEGDYN-AT, MIO-ES 2.0 and iSDG-AT

**Tasks:**

- Set-up and adjust models to requirements
- Harmonize model inputs & assumptions
- Simulate baselines & pathways



A Post-Growth modelling framework by **Van Eynde et al. (2026)**; Our **model extensions** will **focus** specifically on advancements in the **social sphere**, as these are currently underrepresented in most models. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2026.108928>

Work Package 2  
**Scoping of growth-independent pathways**  
Review of Reviews & Policy Mapping

*What is different about growth-independent pathways?*

**Addresses specific research objectives of RQ1:**

- i. Identify the defining **characteristics** of growth-independent pathways
- ii. **Compare** these pathways with other transformation pathways (e.g. Austria)
- iii. Determine the model **requirements** for simulating such scenarios and pathways

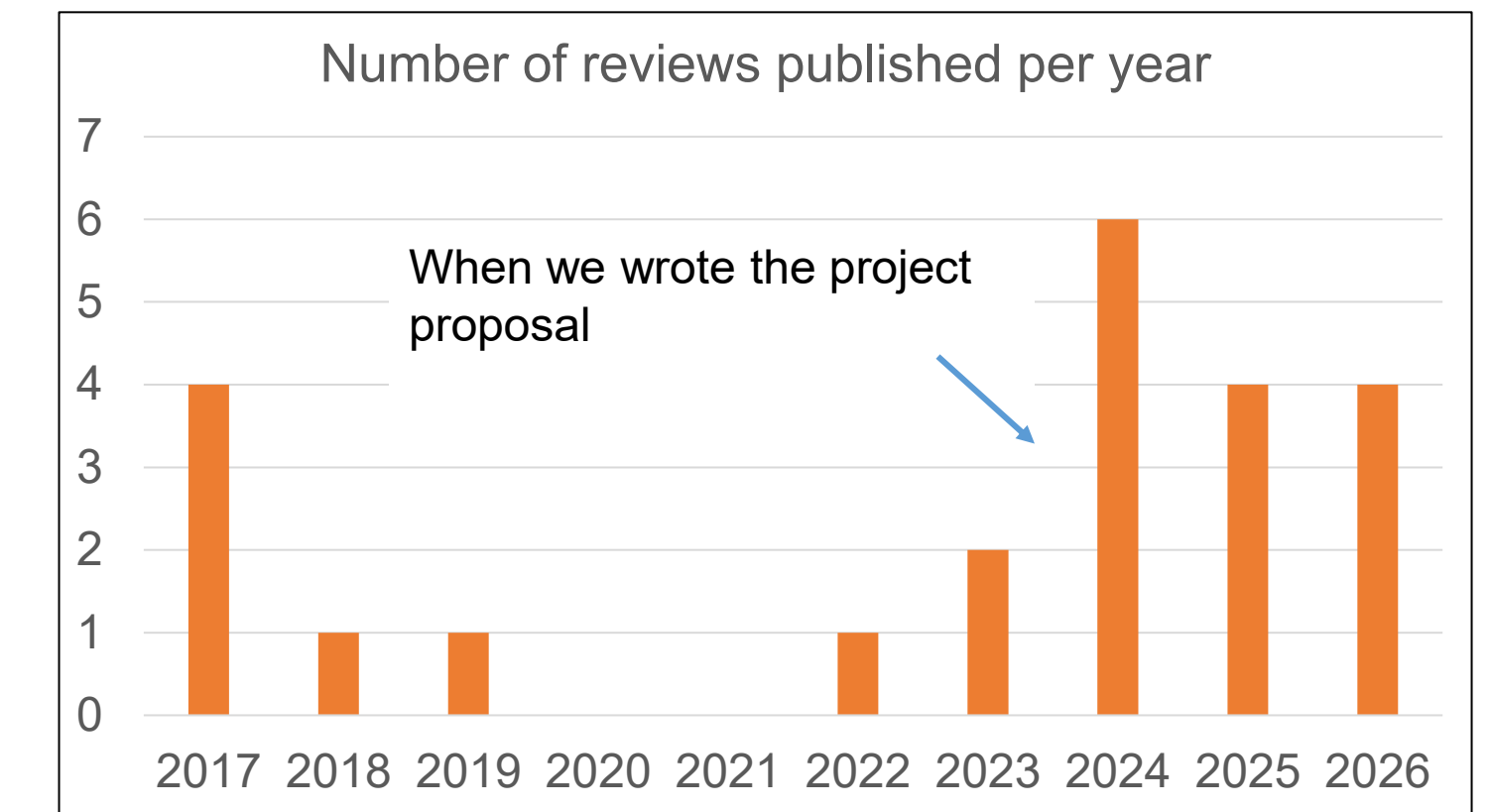
**Review of Reviews – First insights**

**23 reviews** published related to growth-independence (14 since 2024!)

- Themes: Degrowth, Post-Growth, Eco-social, Growth-Dependence, A-Growth
- Focus: General (13), Policy (6), Modelling (4)

**Policy proposals:**

- Focus on social issues and structural change (compared to mainstream)
- Lack of concreteness (“policy dropping”) and interaction effects
- Bottom-up vs. top-down tension
- Strong on normative knowledge (common & explicit objectives)
- Clear and ambitious recommendations for modelling



**Policy Mapping & Expert Assessment**

**177 policies** identified (Review, AAR2, IPCC, UBA scenarios, ACRP projects)

Expert assessment to evaluate and map the following:

- **Economic growth**
  - **How dependent** is the effectiveness/implementation/acceptability of the policy **on positive economic growth**?
  - What is the likely **effect** of this policy **on economic growth**?
- Further: mitigation effect & distributive impact

Mapping of policies with respect to:

- Goal & purpose; ASI-classification; School of thought (origin & alignment); Representation in Austrian climate scenarios
- **Modelling requirements:**
  - How well can they be represented in models?
  - What parameters/variables are affected in the model?

Work Package 4  
**Development of scenarios & pathways**  
Qualitatively & Quantitatively

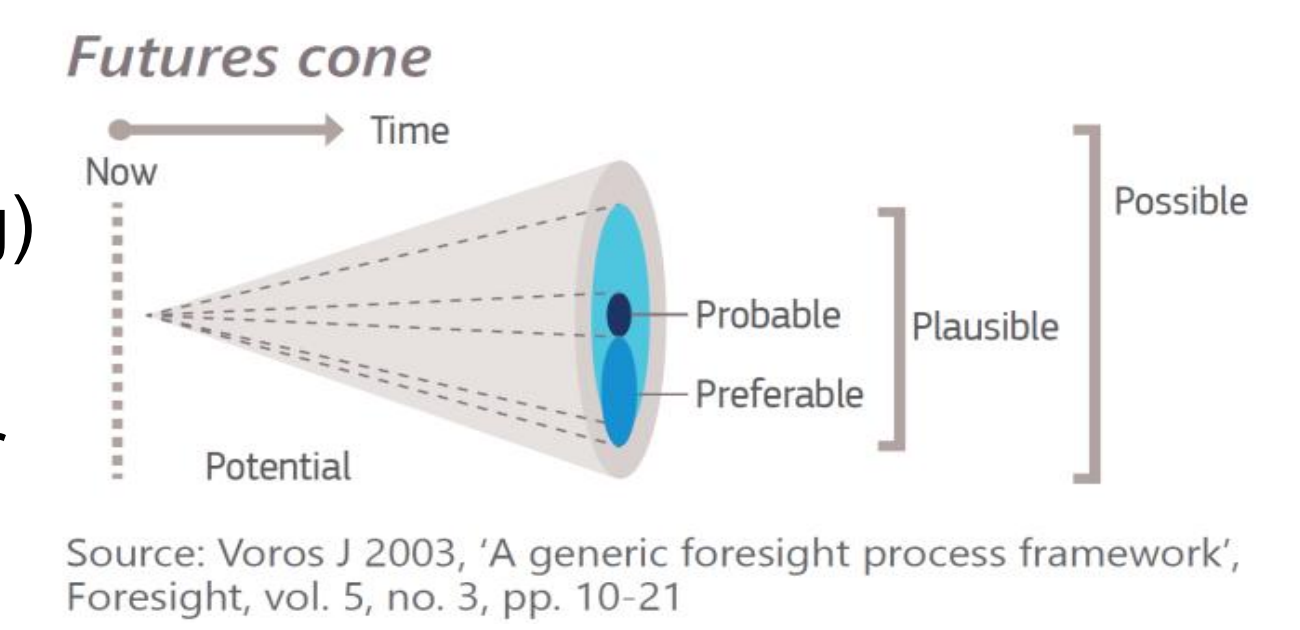
*Exploring possible & desirable futures*

**Addresses specific research objectives of RQ2:**

- i. Design **baseline** scenarios tailored to the assessment of growth-independence
- ii. Develop growth-independent transformations **pathways** for Austria
- iii. **Quantify** scenarios and pathways

**Methods:**

Scenario development based on WP2 (Scoping) and the first stakeholder workshop (WP3). Online surveys will be used to identify range for parameters and indicators.



Work Package 6  
**What do we recommend?**  
Synthesis and feasibility

*Identifying recommendations for action*

**Addresses specific research objectives of RQ3:**

- ii. **Assess** the socio-economic and technical **feasibility** of growth-independent transformation pathways and provisioning systems
- iii. **Provide** modelling and policy **recommendations** based on the analysis

**Methods:**

- Synthesis of findings
- Feasibility assessment
- Final stakeholder workshop

