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Green Jobs: Growth Engine for the EU or more Hype than Substance?

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Definition of Green Jobs

■ Harmonized EUROSTAT - DEFINITION: Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS):

- Definition looks at the objective of the company
- It`s not possible to define Green Jobs Professions

=> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia has an EGSS-Pilot Project



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Employment Potential of Green Jobs

- Positive net employment effects could mean less productivity. Interpretation of employment effects isn't clear.
- Most studies look at gross and not on net effects, but only net effects can answer the question if green jobs help to fight unemployment.
- Net employment effect= gross employment effect- substitution effect +/- income effect (+ exports – imports)



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Causes of Green Jobs

Example: Austria

- ca. 150.000 (not counted as Green Jobs): Public Transport
- 44.841 Green Jobs: Organic Farming
- 38.723 Green Jobs: Renewable energy
- 36.026 Green Jobs: Waste and wastewater treatment
- 26.374 Green Jobs: Savings of energy/heat (mainly thermal insulation)

→ Most Green Jobs can be explained through this five causes



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Net employment effect: public transport

- Positive net employment effects
 - Surveys show that people also want more staff
 - By investing in public transport it is possible to create a lot of new and good jobs by saving the environment.
- ➔ But: Public Transport isn't a green jobs sector



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Net employment effect: organic farming

- Organic farming is time intensive
 - More unpaid family members and longer working hours+ negative Income effects and less workers in fertilizer industry
- Net employment effect is zero or negative
- Organic Farming has a positive environmental impact



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Net employment effect of renewable energy

	Effect of investments	Effect of operation	Income effect	Substitution-effect	Net effect
Wind power	278,91	550,64	696 -2784	328	3783 - 8235
Photovoltaics	220	10,4			
Small hydro power	4268,53	125,8			
Biomass	181,2	993,5-1956,48			
Biogas	77	188,65 – 1590			



Net employment effect of waste and wastewater treatment

- We need an alternative to calculate the substitution effect
 - ➔ Reduction of waste: longer service life
- Usual story: Shift from the secondary to the tertiary sector ➔ substitution of energy through manpower
- But the secondary sector isn't more energy intensive than the tertiary sector ➔ More Waste = More Green Jobs.



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Net employment effect of energy efficiency: exap: thermal insulation

- Energy Efficiency Measures =positive employment effects because of good income effects
- Gross effect: 12-14 jobs/million €: Net effect depends on funding, but is positive in all cases.
- Thermal insulation helps saving the environment and creates jobs.



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Are Green Jobs good for the Environment?

More Green Jobs:

- More Waste
- More Cars

Less Green Jobs

- More Public Transport
- More Energy Efficiency

→ Green Jobs are not a good indicator for the protection of the environment



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Are Green Jobs Good Jobs?

- **Social Criteria aren't included in the definition.**
 - **Public Image: well paid high-tech jobs**
 - **Reality: Green jobs are (too often) characterized by heavy physical labor, health problems and precarious employment.**
- Green Jobs are not automatically good jobs, but we have to make them good jobs!**



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What to learn:

- **Include social criteria (like working conditions) in your green jobs assessments**
- **Look at net employment effects and not at gross employment**
- **Include Public Transport in your Analysis**
- **Bear in mind that Green Jobs aren't an indicator to measure the protection of the environment**



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How to create sustainable employment:

- **Environmental investments: Public transport, thermal insulation, energy efficiency and partly renewable energy should be the focus of your investments.**
- **Investments in kindergartens, schools, universities and nursing facilities could help to solve social problems without compromising the environment.**
- **Working time reductions**



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Conclusio

- **To answer the question if green jobs can really help to reduce unemployment, you have to calculate the net employment effect of green jobs**
- **It is crucial to include social and ecological criteria in an assessment of green jobs.**
- **There are some sectors where it is possible to create substantially positive net employment effects by saving the environment.**



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Thank you for your attention!

