The Idea of a Green New Deal in a Quintuple Helix Model of Knowledge, Know-How and Innovation

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ABSTRACT

The climate change and the financial and economical crises are posing new challenges to the quality of democracies. This article is about the discussion of a correlation between a potential Green New Deal project and the scientific innovation model of a Quintuple Helix in advanced democracies to demonstrate that the sought for knowledge, sustainability, and green development can imply an excess in quality of democracies. Conclusion of the discussion is that the social and scientific subsystems of a democracy must, as part of a new deal, take over new tasks. At the same time, a new scientific cooperation and exchange system between advanced democracies should be implemented on an international level.

Keywords: Democracy, Green New Deal, Innovation, Knowledge, Quality of Democracy, Quintuple Helix, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

The more well-to-do a nation, the greater the chances that it will sustain democracy. (Lipset, 1960, pp. 48-49)

Because of stagnating economical growth in established democracies, the climate change and the worldwide economical and financial crisis we should begin to think in new solutions. The climate change hereby seems to become exceptionally serious (UNDP, 2007). This change in climate will be the challenge of our age since it will not only make a dramatic difference to our daily life, but will also incur tremendous cost and impact the free market economy. These challenges can at the moment not be anticipated, but will in consequence increase the danger of a generally increasing social disparity (see Stern, 2009, p. 8; Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009, pp. 245-248). In addition we face the loss of biodiversity, the global environmental damage and the exploitation of and accompanying shortage of resources (Le Monde diplomatique, 2005, pp. 60-61, 2009, pp. 72-75). It is therefore time for mankind for a rethinking and acting in sustainability.

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This article is about the effects and implications of a Green New Deal plan for the scientific disciplines in an “advanced democracy” on a national level and in conclusion, what has to follow on an international level. Because of the climate change a new responsibility and solutions for the future are needed to regain the balance with nature and to allow prospective generations living a life on earth in plurality and variety. This rethinking towards more “sustainable development” is scientifically discussed as a Green New Deal (see, for example, Müller & Niebert, 2009; Green New Deal Group, 2008; Barbier, 2009). The main task of a Green New Deal plan is to give a new sense to the economically stagnating industrial states, which are in the most cases “high-quality democracies” (see Campbell & Pölzl Bauer, 2010, pp. 10-12; Carayannis & Campbell, 2010, p. 56; Barth, 2009, pp. 63, 91).

Were under the ambition towards “wealth of nations” the creation of quantitative economical growth used to be the sense of political, economical and social actions (Smith, 2007/1776), the new sense - in the age of universally generated prosperity in advanced democracies, globalisation and the transformation to a knowledge economy or „democracy of knowledge“ - is the pursuit towards sustainability through production of knowledge, creativity and know-how (see Carayannis & Campbell, 2009; 2010).

In fact, this article is about the potential of a democracy in the 21st century: The explicit question to be asked today is hence not, whether a democracy can be described as a democracy or not, but what the quality of an existing democracy is? (Campbell & Barth, 2009, p. 210) In times of new global crises and change it is important to define democracies with new tasks and to give them an advanced sense through more quality (see Campbell, 2008, 41). This new democratic quality management is based on the creation of knowledge, know-how and innovations in accordance with “nature” (Carayannis & Campbell, 2010, pp. 59, 62).2 It seems, that only under this aspects a “sustainable development” and quality of life conservation can be ensured for advanced democracies today as well as in future: The “Quintuple Helix” as a model of “non-linear” innovation combining knowledge, know-how, innovations and the natural ecological system to a “interdisciplinary” und “transdisciplinary” framework can give us a theory to scientifically understand a possible Green New Deal and to assist “sustainable development” (ibid., p. 42).

Since the idea of a Green New Deal could give back the sense to advanced democracies of seeking for new objectives this article is about the following questions: How can the positive effects of a Green New Deal program be analysed with a Quintuple Helix Model and the correlation between the scientific disciplines be understood? What can in essence be the task for the scientific disciplines and the added value for the quality of democracies with such a green project? The target therefore is to start a pathbreaking scientific debate of applying the function of a Quintuple Helix Model to advanced democracies. My assumption hereby is that the Quintuple Helix Model is a suitable theoretical framework to analyse and visualize the impacts and scientific interconnections coming from a Green New Deal, because it looks to the entirety of the exchange and correlations of knowledge, know-how and innovation in a democracy. Thus, the next section will be containing a short delineation about what is in essence meant with a Green New Deal and what the reasons for such a program are. It is then defined, what in effect the understanding of democracy is and how democracy, quality of democracy and the Quintuple Helix Model are interlinked. Based on this, the Quintuple Helix is shown as a non-linear innovation model of an advanced democracy respectively a democracy of knowledge. Connected to that, it is described what a Green New Deal means for an advanced democracy on the national level and what the positive effects of such a green program could be for the sciences. The conclusion follows, that a Green New Deal can be implemented with much more success on national level, if a new international system for the cooperation and exchange concerning knowledge, know-how and innovation is build up between the advanced democracies.
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