



PROCURADURÍA AMBIENTAL  
Y DEL ORDENAMIENTO  
TERRITORIAL DE LA CDMX

# FINAL REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
at Mexico City



Casa abierta al tiempo  
UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA METROPOLITANA  
UNIDAD XOCHIMILCO División de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades



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The conference output remains open for consultation in recordings, presentations, articles, press releases and the research abstracts here, in our website.:  
<https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org>

## I. INTRODUCTION

After Paris 2008, Barcelona 2010, Venice 2012, Leipzig 2014, Budapest 2016 and a conference dedicated to Las Americas. Montreal 2012, it was held in Mexico City the 2018 First North South Conference of Degrowth-Descrecimiento- Mexico City, from 3 to 8 September 2018. For the first time in history a degrowth conference is held outside the countries of the global North, focused on the political, economic, social and cultural North-South conflicts, together with the Mexican slogan *descrecimiento* and organized mainly by a group of autonomous ecologists(volunteers) from Mexico City. In addition, it adopts as a motto Decolonize the social imaginary. A challenge for the Organizing Committee.

This new title, motto and nature of the organizing nucleus attracted the discussion of topics which seemed to us of great importance for the countries of the South, such as: coincidences and divergences in the proposals of the North to abandon unlimited growth (degrowth, *decroissance*, *decrecita*, *degrowth*, *postwachstum* ) and of the South (indigenous autonomies, *Via Campesina*, *descrecimiento*, and others), development and the religion of the economy, as well as the ways of coping with climate change and loss of biological diversity, the impact of new technologies (transgenic, fracking, open pit mining, robotics, megaprojects, WiFi 5G and others), the extinction of languages, cultures, epistemologies and wisdoms; the multidimensional wars against indigenous peoples, peasants, workers; the growth of the economic nexus among people, the extreme dependence on markets, the concentration of wealth, among others.

Nevertheless, the conference preserved the topics of previously held degrowth conferences in countries of the global North, mainly European: ecological sustainability and social equity as well as of the topics that were left open for future discussion at the Budapest conference that were adopted as transversal axes of the conference and the sub-themes that have been used in previous degrowth conferences. Also, the idea of a Degrowth Week (*Semana por el descrecimiento*) was adopted, to offer speakers in plenaries' presentations, workshops and exhibitions of practices that could be qualified as degrowth-*descrecimiento* for free entrance and the Preparatory Activities were introduced in order to promote in Mexico a greater interest in the ideas of degrowth-*descrecimiento* and the conference itself. Of course, the ecological and climatic aspect played an important role in this conference.



In spite of the enormous obstacles that the organizers of this conference faced it was possible to offer support for the discussion of the greatest diversity of issues and themes, presented by academics, students, activists and representatives of indigenous peoples, peasants, workers, cooperatives of many countries, from the plurality, cultural diversity, gender equity, North-South balance and multidisciplinary.

### ¿Why in Mexico City?

The Mexico City conference is related to one of the most important sources of inspiration for the rejection of unlimited growth: the more than 65 indigenous peoples and the great peasant culture of Mexico that inspired part of the work of Ivan Illich. This outstanding Austrian thinker lived in Mexico from 1960 to 1976 and created in 1969, in Cuernavaca, Morelos, the legendary Intercultural Documentation Centre (CIDOC). In those years he writes some of his most famous books that inspired Serge Latouche to launch in 2003 the French slogan *decroissance*, from which the slogan *degrowth* (2008) is derived. On the other hand, Jean Robert, a close friend of Illich who resides in Cuernavaca, Morelos since 1972, has been a very dear friend of the organizers of the conference for almost 30 years.

Based on the ideas of these two great thinkers and some others who are considered very important referents of the international ecologist movement, the Foro Regional Ecologista del Valle de México was founded in 1991, which was later refounded in 2005, under the name of ECOMUNIDADES, Red Ecologista Autónoma de la Cuenca de Mexico (basin where Mexico City is located). This eco-regional network organized in 2007 the First Cycle of Colloquiums: *La Apuesta por el Descrecimiento* (The Commitment for Descrecimiento) and adopted a new word as slogan- *descrecimiento*- as an interpretation of the French slogan *decroissance*. In 2008, during the cycle of colloquiums, the Mexican movement *Descrecimiento o colapso!* was born. In 2010, after the invitation of ECOMUNIDADES, Professor Serge Latouche lectures at large Mexican universities. A representative from ECOMUNIDADES participates in the *degrowth* conferences of Barcelona 2010 and Montreal and Venice 2012. ECOMUNIDADES convened in 2013 and 2014 the First and Second National Meeting of *Descrecimiento* in the cities of Puebla and Querétaro respectively and organized numerous talks and seminars on this topic for more than 8 years.

The following important events have arisen in Mexico City: the 68 student movement which ends with the students massacre of October 2; the neighborhood revolt generated by the great earthquake of 1985- ECOMUNIDADES was born as part of this revolt-, the first definitive electoral defeat of the hegemonic party of Mexico (PRI) in 1997 and the greater opening in Mexico to the ideas of *descrecimiento*: the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de



Mexico (UNAM) and the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM), Unidad Xochimilco offered most academic support to this conference.

On the other hand, Mexico is the fourth country in the world with mega biological diversity; since 1994 hosts in Chiapas the "most important social movement in the world" (Wallerstein), the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional, EZLN, an indigenous movement that has had great influence in many countries; since that year, resents the imposition of a great onslaught of neoliberal policies; and above all, suffers since 2006, a "war against drugs" that has led to the execution of more than 200,000 people, the forced disappearance of more than 40,000 people and the radical degradation of daily life in most parts of the country, as a consequence of the terror imposed by the criminal forces that operate to meet the huge demand of drugs of our neighbour USA, unleashed by the brutal globalization of the Mexican economy. In this extreme context, take place the overwhelming triumph of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in the elections of July 1, 2018 and the organization of the 2018 First North-South Conference on Degrowth-Descrecimiento, México City.

### Specifics aims of the Organization Committee

1. Organize the conference according to the degrowth-descrecimiento principles.
2. Establish the best conditions to unleash the international debate on the coincidences and strategic differences between the movements of the North against growth without limits (degrowth, décroissance, decrescita, decrecimiento, postwachstum, among others) and of the South (zapatismo de Chiapas, decrecimiento, Buen Vivir, Ubuntu, among others)
3. Reinforce the global debate on the decolonization of the social imaginary.
4. Introduce the international debate on Survival, Cultures and Wealth linked to degrowth-descrecimiento.
5. Hold a conference that will bring together outstanding representatives of indigenous, peasant, union, cooperativist, feminist, LGBT, ecologist, environmental, human rights, academic, scientific, professional, religious, and local business organizations from countries of the world, interested in the critique of unlimited economic growth.
6. Schedule presenters with the highest international recognition in the debates on unlimited economic growth and select presentations of global or international interest around the sub-themes, the thematic and cross-cutting themes of the conference and the debate degrowth-descrecimiento.
7. Support the creation of international networks for the exchange of information, ideas, visions and solidarity among people, groups or groups and organizations



that object to unlimited economic growth, development, progress and modernizations.

8. Establish adequate conditions for the realization of these objectives: web page, calls, communiqués, reports, quotas, secretarial support, facilities, programming of activities, support in the celebration of plenary sessions and sessions, meals, conviviality and atmosphere.

### Principles of the organization

1. Coherence: rejection of economic support from banks, transnational corporations, big business foundations, parties, white unions and political corporations.
2. Plurality: Cultural and ideological; support for the manifestation of the diversity of cultures, ideologies, opinions, disciplines and themes.
3. Gender: equity in women-men participation.
4. Culture: frugality: rejection of the manifestations of consumerism, luxury, competition, technological or ornamental ostentation.
5. Sustainability: minimum use of transportation during the conference: minimum consumption of industrialized products and services: consumption of local products and services; rejection of products with packaging or disposable packaging; minimal use of paper, plastics and electronics.
6. Participation: intense exchange of information and opinions during the activities of the conference and about the project, with the members of the Organizing Committee, the representatives of the International Support Group, the Scientific-Cultural Committee, the sponsors and various circles close to the organizers: supporters of the project in the academy, NGOs, civil associations, unions, cooperatives, social movements.
7. Justice and equality: fair and equal treatment to the people who participate in the organization of the events: volunteers or staff for fees, in the Organizing Committee or in the *Grupo de Coordinación* of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento* or in support of the organization of the Conference.
8. Conviviality: adequate size of the conference and meetings; places for conversations and amenities, face-to-face relationships; moderation in the use of technology, money, infrastructures and times.

You can find more information about the purposes of the organization at <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/propositos>



## II. THE CONFERENCE

Some 430 researchers, professors, students, activists, professionals, artisans, cooperative members and representatives of social movements from 38 countries met in Mexico City, as registered attendees at the Conference, to discuss the latest conceptual and empirical contributions of the movements that object to unlimited growth (*degrowth-descrecimiento*), usually understood as a response to the breakdown of contemporary society. Structured mainly by thematic presentations in parallel sessions and plenary discussions, the Conference was held between 3 and 7 September at the Palacio de Medicina (Former School of Medicine) of the UNAM-Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, the first four days and at the Teatro del Pueblo, the last day.

The Conference was organized based on the experience of previous *degrowth* conferences, particularly those in Budapest, Venice, Montreal and Barcelona, in order to show the latest research of *degrowth* and encourage the cooperation of several actors in the development of proposals and scientific, social and political experiments, for social transformation inspired by the ideas of *degrowth-descrecimiento*. This cooperation is very useful for academic research and to strengthen the dialogue between new knowledge and social and ecological practice. To enhance participation in this dialogue and its intensity, the Conference limited participation to a manageable number, both in terms of accepted presentations and attendees. These limitations caused frustration mainly in Mexico and other countries of the South, however, favored an atmosphere of serenity, concentration, cooperation and understanding among those who attended.





Photo 01 – Plenary in the Auditorium in the Palace of Medicine

Individual presentations and special sessions proposals in parallel sessions were selected by a group of Mexican academics (see here the Scientific-Cultural Committee), from about 150 summaries received from more than 55 countries, according to the conditions established in the calls for papers placed on the Conference webpage. Due to the insufficient secretarial support linked to the lack of funds of the Organizing Committee in the first months of its operation and to the novelty of this Conference, this small number of summaries was received, and more than 30 of them were frustrated. However, in just 3 days of the conference, 83 individual presentations on very diverse topics and 72 presentations were made in special self-organized sessions. In total, 184 speakers from 38 countries made 216 presentations in 44 parallel sessions and six plenary sessions, in 10 classrooms and an auditorium: almost one in two attendees were speakers.



Photo 02 – Special session of the Thursday with the theme: Wealth





Due to its theme and coordinators (Mexican activists), the Organizing Committee gave special support to the organization of seven special sessions of Degrowth-Descrecimiento in Action:

- Descrecimiento in the Mexican diet (Martha Elena García and Guillermo Bermúdez)
- • Urbanism and degrowth (Sergio Amador and Gustavo Romero)
- • Energetic abyss: the need for degrowth-descrecimiento (Edgar Ocampo and Luca Ferrari)
- • Anti-speciesism movement in the struggle for degrowth-descrecimiento (Israel Arriola Toiber)
- • Is Ivan Illich a precursor of degrowth- descrecimiento? (Miguel Valencia and Jean Robert)
- • Reduction of the economic nexus, indispensable to achieve equity between men and women (Miguel Valencia and Jean Robert)
- • Presentation of the book: *Technology, Globalization and Sustainable Development- Transforming the Industrial State*. Written by Nicholas A. Ashford and Ralph Hall (Miguel Valencia)

The title of the Conference forced us to raise global issues which were grouped into daily Thematic Axes: **Survival**, **Cultures** and **Wealth**



SURVIVAL	CULTURES	WEALTH
Climate change and extinction of species	Defense of vernacular languages, knowledge, millenary knowledge.	Economic nexus between people; excessive dependence on markets
New technologies; scientific essays, despeciation, transhumanism	Multidimensional war against indigenous peoples and peasants.	Concentration of wealth
Violence against bodies	Vernacular cultures as inspiration of the degrowth	Dominant concepts of wealth and poverty
Nuclear sarcophagus	Cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue	Abandonment of the religion of the economy and the cult of science and technology
The military errors and the State-induced terrorism.		Ways to reduce the wealth that causes misery, destruction and death

Table 01 – Description of Thematic Axis

The plenaries were devoted to the discussion of these three thematic axes.

The Conference adopted as cross-cutting axes those issues that were left open at the Budapest conference, for further discussion and some issues of particular importance to the Organizing Committee.

1. Degrowth in the North and Descrecimiento in the South
2. Decolonization of the social imaginary.
3. Connection between local action and global action.
4. League and connections with brother or related movements.
5. Convivial Science and Technology.
6. Individuals, Groups, Communities or Institutions that make the change.
7. Global Action Now

The cross-cutting themes were used to break with the enclosures of the disciplines and the academics' comfort zones, activists and postgraduate students, by means of the elimination of the terminology linked to disciplines. When registering the summary of its presentation,



each applicant had to select a thematic axis and/or a cross-cutting axis or a sub-topic. This self-selection favored a large number of approaches to the conflicts and threats produced by growth.

To promote the organization of future conferences and meetings of degrowth-descrecimiento, two activities were convened on the last day of the Conference (September 7, morning at the Teatro del Pueblo), with the following theme:

- Round table: Ways to spread descrecimiento in Mexico
- Assembly: First evaluation of the conference and bases for the international collaboration degrowth-descrecimiento.
- 

### Programs and Formats

The Conference’s program can be seen [here](#) while the Summary Program can be seen below:

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	TUE 4 SEPT SURVIVAL	WED 5 SEPT CULTURES	THU 6 SEPT WEALTH
09:00 a 11:00	1ª Plenary	Presentation context <b>SURVIVAL</b>	Presentation context <b>CULTURES</b>	Presentation context <b>WEALTH</b>
11:00 a 11:30	Coffee-Break	*	*	*
11:30 a 13:30	Individual Presentations	For researchers and analysts	For researchers and analysts	For researchers and analysts
13:30 a 15:00	Lunch	*	*	*
15:00 a 17:00	Sesiones Especiales	For researchers and analysts	For researchers and analysts	For researchers and analysts
17:00 a 17:30	Coffee-Break	*	*	*
17:30 a 19:00	2ª Plenary	Conclusions on <b>SURVIVAL</b>	Conclusions on <b>CULTURES</b>	Conclusions on <b>WEALTH</b>

Table 02 – Summary program of the Conference

Considering the experiences of previous degrowth conferences, in particular from Budapest, with the support of various formats, the daily work of the degrowth-*descrecimiento* theory and practice was fostered. The first day of the Conference was basically dedicated to the reception of the registered participants, the inaugural session and the first amenity (wine of honor). In the final session at the *Teatro del Pueblo*, in the first part, the format of a plenary session was used and in the second part, the format of assembly.



In the three central days of the Conference, the same formats were used for each type of activity: plenary sessions, individual presentations and special sessions. Activities began with a morning plenary session with four prominent speakers - the format of the plenary sessions of the Venice conference was adopted -, selected by the Organization Committee, based on the recognition of their contributions to the themes of *degrowth-descrecimiento* and recommendations of the Support Group and the Friederich Ebert Stiftung-Mexico. The speakers in plenary contextualized the theme of the day and opened key points for discussion during the day.

After the initial plenary, two sets of parallel sessions followed, the first before lunch, for individual presentations and the second, in the afternoon, for pre-arranged collective special thematic sessions. After these sessions, the closing plenaries were held to try to establish the issues around the theme of the day that would be open for future discussions, however, this purpose was not achieved, for the lack of coordination.

Some speakers from the plenary sessions or special sessions had the opportunity to support the free entry activities of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento*. These activities were followed by many different formats, such as book presentations, discussion tables, workshops, assemblies, theatrical events, exhibitions, documentaries or videos. You can see more about these activities in section III and [here](#).

## Sponsorship

### A socio-academic organization

A unique characteristic of the conference in Mexico City was its organization based mainly on the work of two representatives of an unregistered social organization: *ECOMUNIDADES, Red Ecologista Autónoma de la Cuenca de México*, supported by two professors from the UNAM (the *Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias of Cuernavaca, CRIM-Morelos* and the *Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales UNAM*) and two professors of the *UAM-X (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Unit Xochimilco)*. These people were part of the Organization Committee of the conference that got the sponsorship of the *Coordinación de Humanidades* of the UNAM, the *Proyecto Regional Transformación Social-Ecológica* (Transformation Project in Latin America) of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung- Mexico, the *PAOT (Procuraduría Ambiental y de Ordenamiento Territorial of Mexico City)*, Greenpeace-Mexico, the *Programa de Bioética (UNAM)*, the *Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias en Ciencias y Humanidades, CEIICH-UNAM*, the Government of Mexico City and the Heinrich Boell Stiftung-Mexico. The Organization Committee was also backed by two representatives of the Support Group, composed of the organizers of previous *degrowth* conferences. Of course, other organizations supported this conference and the



*Semana por el descrecimiento* (Degrowth Week). You can see the list [here](#). Organized with the help of very diverse actors, the conference opened many relationships, projects and synergies around the *degrowth-descrecimiento* themes and produced in Mexico some cooperation with social movements, civil society, alternative media, unions, cooperatives.

### Relocalization

The organizers didn't make efforts to demonstrate the substantial growth of the movements that in many countries object to unlimited growth or their popularity, but they tried to take the conference to other cities of the world by means of information techniques and real events in different places of Mexico City. The plenaries were broadcast by streaming and several events linked to the conference were held outside it, at the Teatro del Pueblo and various places in Mexico City.

## III. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Given the very little knowledge that exists in Mexico, around the implications of degrowth and *descrecimiento*, the Organizing Committee pushed for more than a year several preparatory activities for the conference such as:

### Descrecimiento seminars presented by Miguel Valencia:

1. June 8-9, 2017- Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-unidad Xochimilco
2. December 6,7 and 8 2017- Facultad de Ciencias Politicas y Sociales of the UNAM
3. May 14-15, 2018- Procuraduría Ambiental y de Ordenamiento Territorial de la Ciudad de México, (PAOT)
4. June 9, 2018- Facultad de Filosofia y Letras and Programa de Bioetica of the UNAM- Bioethics and Biotechnology course
5. June 13-15, 2018- Puebla-Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, BUAP
6. August 16-17, 2018- PAOT

### Coloquium

May 2, 2018- Auditorium Narciso Bassols- Facultad de Economía of the UNAM: Desafios económicos del Futuro Energético de México, with the participation of: Dr. Luca Ferrari Pedraglio, Dr. Juan Arellanes Arellanes, Dr. Fluvio Cesar Ruiz Alarcón, Arq. Edgar Ocampo Téllez, Dr. Ramon Carlos Torres Flores



## Conferences in the PAOT of the CDMX:

- March 7, 2018 - *El auto devora la ciudad-Miguel Valencia*
- March 21, 2018 - *Caminando hacia el abismo energético. La urgencia del Descrecimiento - Edgar Ocampo*
- April 25, 2018 - *¿Es segura la radiación que emiten los celulares? - Mercedes Cabañas*
- June 20, 2018 - *Decrecimiento Feliz- Julio García Camarero (Spain)*
- July 25, 2018 - *Alimentación, Agroecología y Agrobiodiversidad-Calmil - Dr. Verónica Villa Arias and Dr. Francisca Acevedo Gassman.*
- July 26, 2018 - *Alimentación, Agroecología y Agrobiodiversidad Calmil - Dr. Armando Gálvez Mariscal and Dr. Gilberto Giménez*
- August 28, 2018 - *Conversatorio sobre Derechos Humanos, Feminismo y Descrecimiento, con Georgina Romera Gaeta, Mariana Badillo Barcenás, Raul Cruz, Israel Miguel Arriola Toiber-Anima Naturalis*

## Conferences in universities:

- 1. April 23, 2018- Presented by Miguel Valencia in the Seminar on Reflexiones sobre el Impacto Humano en el Planeta of the Programa de Bioética at the Facultad de Ciencias of the UNAM. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mC7PKbHC-20>
- 2. May 28 - June 1, 2018- Presentations on Degrowth-Descrecimiento by Edgardo Mota, Bruno Lutz, Edgar Ocampo, Fabio Barbosa, Graciela Carrillo, Aleida Azamar and Miguel Valencia in the UAM- Xochimilco

## Radio talks:

- May 16, 2018 - Radio UNAM-Programa de Bioética
- May 22, 2018 - Radio Educación- Economía Solidaria
- Jul 12, 2018 - Radio Educación- Economía Solidaria

## Publications:

1. Special issue of UNIDIVERSIDAD REVISTA DE PENSAMIENTO Y CULTURA magazine of the BENEMERITA UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE PUEBLA, BUAP dedicated to Descrecimiento, with the coordination of the content by Dra. Patricia Gutiérrez Otero. Year 7 / number 28 / July-September 2017. Courtesy of Miguel Ángel Maldonado, director of the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, CONACYT- unidad Puebla.
2. Publication of the magazine Globalización of October 28. Monthly Magazine of Economy, Society and Culture.



3. Dissemination of ten articles directly linked with the topic of *descrecimiento* in 2018, with the following titles:
  - a. ¿Es posible el crecimiento infinito en un planeta finito?
  - b. El auto devora a la ciudad
  - c. Una estafa, las energías renovables
  - d. Abandonar el desarrollo, construir el postdesarrollo
  - e. En los países del Sur global, *descrecimiento* equitativo
  - f. La Tecnociencia, enemiga del clima, la ecología y las culturas
  - g. Obligada, la descolonización del imaginario social
  - h. El crecimiento ilimitado, manifestación del cáncer, el colapso y la muerte de las sociedades modernas
  - i. *Descrecimiento*, respuesta ecologista al malestar generalizado
  - j. Los movimientos sociales que objetan el crecimiento sin límites.

These and other national and international articles can be found at <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/publicaciones>

## SEMANA POR EL DESCRECIMIENTO (DEGROWTH WEEK)

Considering the very little knowledge of the ideas of *degrowth-descrecimiento* that exists among the Mexican social and civil organizations and in spite of the very reduced economic capacities of the Organizing Committee, a great effort was made in the three months prior to the celebration of the conference, to support the organization of *Semana por el Descrecimiento* with public events of free entry, a great idea introduced by the Budapest conference that could have helped us to raise awareness of *degrowth-descrecimiento* ideas in Mexico. Four months before the celebration of the Conference, the Palacio de Medicina is confirmed as the official venue and the Teatro del Pueblo, which had been facilitated for this function weeks earlier by the Government of Mexico City, was released. On the other hand, this Government denies the permission to carry out the activities of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento* in the Plaza Santo Domingo, in front of the Palacio de Medicina and in any public place of the Centro Histórico, reason why the Committee decides to use the Teatro del Pueblo, for this purpose. Also, to reduce the costs of the conference, it is decided to carry out the activities scheduled for the last day of the conference at the Teatro del Pueblo





## Organization

Once the Teatro del Pueblo was adopted as the venue for the *Semana por el Descrecimiento*, three months before the celebration of the Conference, two consecutive calls were circulated among Mexico City organizations close to the organizers; the first, to apply as members of a Grupo Coordinador of the *Semana* and the Second, aimed at artists, artisans, academics and social and civil organizations, to register activities in the Teatro del Pueblo and in other sites of Mexico City during the Week, from September 2 to 8, 2018. Five young activists from ***Comunidad MadreSelva*** accepted the challenge of organizing the *Semana* as members of its *Grupo*. They made a magnificent effort in quite difficult conditions: there were no funds to support them. They informed those who responded to the second call about the supports they could offer them and in this way, they were able to create a Program of the *Semana*. See [here](#). More than 50 activities were recorded.

Photo 03 – Activities of the Friday in the Teatro del Pueblo



The Organization Committee could only support the Grupo with ideas, contacts, recommendations, secretarial support, space for weekly meetings in the PAOT and the authorization to use the Teatro del Pueblo facilities five days of the *Semana*, from 9 am till 7 pm. Unfortunately, we could not raise funds to support these free entry activities that could help to create bridges between academia and social organizations. On the other hand, the Grupo did a great job in subjects of graphic and scenic design and in programming of the closing activities of the conference and the *Semana*. Several plenary speakers and various social groups held talks, workshops, conferences, round tables, video and documentary presentations,



artistic activities, meetings, book presentations and other activities in the Teatro del Pueblo.

Unfortunately, the light structures, for the sale of local products for local consumption, could not be installed due to the prohibition of these activities in the Teatro del Pueblo and in public places of the Centro Histórico established by Mexico City Government. Nor could be sold books in the Palacio de Medicina by prohibition of UNAM. We thank the Mexico City Government, the Procuraduría Ambiental y de Ordenamiento Territorial de la Ciudad de México (PAOT), the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, UAM-X and the Comunidad Madreselva for their support in the organization and realization of the Semana por el Descrecimiento.



Photo 03 – Activity in the Teatro del Pueblo

In spite of all the inconveniences, the Semana offered great opportunities to bring together the international participants of the Conference, with residents of Mexico



City and towns and cities close to it, Zapatistas women and groups of public and private universities. They were unique meetings between very diverse actors, visions and practices of the transition proposed by degrowth-descrecimiento, which produced moments of great joy and understanding (dances in the courtyard of the Teatro del Pueblo), certain synergies between movements, cultures and forms of conviviality.

#### IV. MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

As usual at degrowth conferences, there was no unified statement summarizing the conclusions of the conference discussions. Research and action related to ways to impose limits to unlimited growth now runs through very diverse debates, experimentations and actions on so many fronts and movements in the world that any unified declaration is irrelevant. Due to its great thematic diversity, plurality, interculturality, multidisciplinary and other factors, this conference avoided the formulation of a convergence of this type. Now, there is a great impulse in countries of the global North for research, experimentation and conceptual development on the ways of coping with the unlimited growth that allows these conferences to continue in one way or another. The slogans that have been created after the French slogan *decroissance*, such as degrowth, *decrecimiento*, *decrecita*, *postwachstum*, *descrecimiento* and others have their own interpretations of their objection to growth, so it would be inadequate to impose a declaration with claims of universality.

Due to the scarce and late funds received, there were no cameras at the Teatro del Pueblo to capture the opinions and comments of the participants in the final assembly of September 7 where the new alliances and experiences that occurred in this conference were evident. However, we can rescue some outstanding comments, such as those that in different ways approved the organization of the conference or expressed commitments to work for degrowth-descrecimiento in many ways in their localities and, above all, the statement of a Brazilian academic around to his intention to organize the 2nd North-South Conference of Degrowth-Descrecimiento in his country, in the year 2020. If this initiative is confirmed, the Organizing Committee of this conference will be very willing to support it.

On the other hand, the organizers of the Conference received a set of comments from speakers in plenary and other attendees and reports from observers of the conference that allow to make some observations about this event as degrowth-descrecimiento in action. Some felt that the fundamental themes of the conference - the differences and convergences of the movements that object to growth in the global North and South, the



decolonization of the social imaginary (in the countries of the South), Survival, Cultures and Wealth - are very immature topics in the countries of the South that deserve much more discussion in future conferences held in these countries. Others felt that these conferences in countries of the South should give priority to the socio-environmental, economic and political threats and conflicts of the countries of the global South - they should be South-North conferences - without losing the global dimension, or that the feminist, indigenous, peasant and labor movements must play a more important role in their organization, or that the academic formalisms of these conferences limit the participation of social movements which in the countries of the global South are very important or that it is urgent to introduce the discussion on the State, militarism and patriotism or that migrations and the cult of science and technology deserve more research and study.

In certain collective special sessions there was interest in supporting the continuation of the discussion on topics of major importance in degrowth conferences, such as: the end of the era of conventional fossil fuels and the irrelevance of conventional renewable energies, or ultra-processed foods, or the concentrative urbanization in the countries of the South, or the link that exists between the economic nexus and the lack of equity between women and men.

Very good opinions were received on the organization of the Conference and very few relevant criticisms in this regard. The deficiencies that were evident in the organization of the conference were treated with great indulgence by most of the attendees because they could see the great effort that the organizers were forced to make, for this event that seemed unlikely, months before its celebration. The participation of government and business representatives was virtually nil. However, very prominent academic personalities, such as the rector of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-unidad Xochimilco, expressed their great appreciation for degrowth-descrecimiento and the organization of this conference. The fact that representatives of 38 countries could participate for the first time in a degrowth-descrecimiento conference held in a country of the global South, in which 216 presentations were made on 3 global thematic axes, 7 international cross-cutting axes and some 25 international sub-themes throughout three days, it should be considered a great achievement. The conference introduced in Mexico a theme (degrowth-descrecimiento) of great multidisciplinary content that Mexico's great universities and research centers have not accepted, with a program and formats that facilitate North-South, academic-civil society-movements social, plural, debates with gender equity, intercultural, multidisciplinary, highly participatory, and a self-organization, sustainability, conviviality, unusual in Mexico. It was a historic, innovative event.



You can find the plenary recordings, certain plenary presentations, special sessions and sessions for individual presentations and photos [here](#).

## V. OUTREACH

Due to its international dimension and the very innovative conditions of the conference, the activities to inform and raise awareness focused on four objectives:

1. Provide as much information as possible about this event on the web page <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/> in English and Spanish. The webpage was created in Mexico by an autonomous technician and it was updated almost weekly in order to adjust it to the changing economic situation experienced by the organizers. Over nine months the page climbed from zero visits to receive in the last months prior to the conference about 10,000 monthly views from more than 90 countries, being the main visitors from Mexico, the United States, Brazil, something remarkable, if one considers that this growth was organic.
2. Provide monthly notice of important adjustments or changes in the calls, speakers in plenary sessions and in the conditions to register for the conference, through the international releases in English and Spanish, disseminated by means of electronic addresses international, mainly contributed by *ECOMUNIDADES* and forwarded by the Support Group network, as well as on Facebook and Twitter since December 2017.
3. Take advantage of the platforms put at our disposal by the Support Group and other Mexican entities, such as: The World Social Forum and international organizations that support degrowth conferences, regional societies for the ecological economy and the International Society for the Ecological Economy, centers and programs of the UNAM, the UAM-X, Greenpeace, Friederich Ebert Stiftung and others.
4. In Mexico: Special reports periodically sent to a circle of sympathizers of environmentalism and *descrecimiento*: diffusion of the conference, concepts and main messages behind the slogans degrowth and *descrecimiento*; visits to university executives and researchers, directors of relevant NGOs, large unions and social movements, as well as seminars, conferences, talks, radio programs (see Section V- Preparatory Activities) and the organization of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento* (See section III). Also, through the dissemination of background articles, statements on Mexican socio-environmental conflicts, national and international publications,



through Facebook, Twitter and email and on the Publications label on the web page <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/publicaciones>

5. Attract national and international media through events dedicated to them. There were two press conferences and two seminars explicitly dedicated to them. These activities proved unsuccessful: The Mexican and national media despised our events, whereas the alternative media gave them a lot of coverage. To cover the celebration of the conference, 14 Mexican alternative media were registered.
6. Use streaming in the plenaries, to extend their presentations. Find them in [youtube](#).

Practically there were no prints.

## VI. FINANTIAL AND NON FINANTIAL PICTURE

Ingresos en efectivo para la 1ª Conferencia Norte-Sur de Degrowth-Descrecimiento México 2018.

IMPORTES en Pesos Mexicanos (1 euro = +- \$21 pesos mexicanos)

FECHA	CONCEPTO	NO. DE PERSONAS	IMPORTE
12/05/17	Donativo de Gustavo Romero		\$ 600.00
15/11/17	Donativo del Support Group 3,500 Euros		\$ 75,098.76
23/02/18	Donativo de Gustavo Romero		\$ 10,000.00
18/04/18	Donativo de Federico Demaria-Conferencista	1	\$ 6,231.93
07/06/18	Donativo Adriana Matalonga-Comisión Ejecutiva	1	\$ 2,302.00
12/06/18	Donativo del Senador Alejandro Encinas		\$ 15,000.00
19/06/18	Donativo Barbara Muraca-Conferencista	1	\$ 6,439.48
31/08/18	Donativo Peter Brown-Conferencista	1	\$ 3,504.44
10/09/18	Donativo Dianne Rocheleau-Conferencista	1	\$ 2,200.00
2018	Pago de Inscripciones de 84 Ponencias Individuales	84	\$ 330,199.05
2018	Pago de Inscripciones de 24 Sesiones Especiales	23	\$ 72,313.93
2018	Inscripciones de 87 asistentes	87	\$ 227,086.20
17/08/18 al 4/09/18	Inscripción de 89 asistentes con Cuota de Cortesía (sin alimentos)	89	\$ 12,918.04
	<b>TOTALES</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>\$ 764,354.47</b>
	<b>Insumos pagados por la conferencia</b>		<b>\$ 750,753.36</b>
	<b>Sobrante</b>		<b>\$ 13,601.11</b>



<b>Resumen de asistentes</b>	<b>TOTALES</b>	<b>CON PAGO</b>	<b>SIN PAGO</b>
Ponentes individuales	89	84	5
Ponentes Sesiones Especiales	47	23	24
Asistentes con pleno pago	87	87	---
7 Asistentes Grupos 5 X 100 Euros	35	(7)	28
Asistentes cuotas \$150.00	89	89	---
Conferencistas	23	4	19
Invitados de la FES	23	---	23
Invitados de la Böll	3	---	3
Invitados PAOT	2	---	2
Voluntarios	18	---	18
Casos Especiales	12	---	12
Semana por el Descrecimiento	3	---	3
Comisión Ejecutiva	9	1	8
<b>TOTAL DE ASISTENTES</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>152</b>

**NOTA:** No están incluidas personas que entraron por la FES sin pasar a registro, ni los periodistas.





Costos-insumos para la 1ª Conferencia Norte-Sur de Degrowth-Descrecimiento México 2018.

CONCEPTO	MONTO 1 euro= +21 pesos	FINANCIADO POR						
		Coordinación de Humanidades UNAM	Friedrich Ebert Transformación Social-Ecológica	Heinrich Böll	Greenpeace	CRIM-UNAM	PAOT	CONFERENCIA
	PESOS MEXICANOS							
Renta utilización Palacio de Medicina 3-6 Sept/2018	\$1,009,200.00	\$ 777,200.00	\$ 232,000.00					
Utilización Teatro del Pueblo	Cortesía del Gobierno CDMX							
250 comidas por 3 días	\$ 255,200.00		\$ 85,067.00	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 46,400.00			\$ 34,733.00
6 Coffes-Break	\$ 56,550.00					\$ 56,550.00		
Constancias de participación	Cortesía del CRIM-UNAM							
Fiesta Hotel Majestic 6/09/18	1 \$ 62,033.73					\$ 57,200.00		\$ 4,833.73
Gafetes	2 \$ 10,440.00 [					\$ 10,440.00		
Desarrollo Página WEB	2 \$ 61,970.00 [							
Hotel Azores	2 \$ 15,760.00 [					\$ 75,360.00		\$ 2,370.00
Comisión cobrada por el CRIM 1						(\$ 7,889.65)		\$ 7,889.65
Comisión cobrada por el CRIM 2						(\$ 11,835.01)		\$ 11,835.01
Internet			\$ 71,340.00					
Livestream			\$ 37,062.00					
Traducción simultánea			\$ 78,416.00					
Audio y Sonido			\$ 1,856.00					
Ceremonia Inaugural 3/09/18			\$ 53,534.00					
Carpa Patio Central			\$ 21,344.00					
Viajes Keynote speakers- FES			\$ 33,777.41					
Viajes panelistas-FES			\$ 68,550.26					
Hospedaje invitados de la FES			\$ 93,501.30					
Registro participantes invitados FES			\$ 30,065.85					
SUELDOS								\$ 519,000.00
VOLUNTARIOS								\$ 14,200.00
Totales		\$ 777,200.00	\$ 806,513.82	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 46,400.00	\$ 36,825.34	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 594,861.39

CONCEPTO	MONTO 1 euro= +21 pesos	FINANCIADO POR						
		Coordinación de Humanidades UNAM	Friedrich Ebert Transformación Social-Ecológica	Heinrich Böll	Greenpeace	CRIM-UNAM	PAOT	CONFERENCIA
	PESOS MEXICANOS							
Totales		\$ 777,200.00	\$ 806,513.82	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 46,400.00	\$ 36,825.34	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 594,861.39
Hotel Azores-hospedaje Conferencistas- reservaciones								\$ 14,920.00
Boletos de avión conferencistas								\$ 31,053.26
Comidas, cafés, reuniones de trabajo								\$ 21,802.40
Papelería, copias, memorias de computadoras								\$ 10,394.53
Transportes locales, taxis								\$ 2,488.00
Teléfono								\$ 1,200.00
Publicidad en redes, Prensa								\$ 4,000.00
Bolsas de Bienvenida								\$ 16,672.50
Playeras voluntarios Y Comisión Ejecutiva								\$ 2,525.39
Renta de Lockers								\$ 4,025.00
Renta computadoras y cañones								\$ 13,935.00
Arreglos florales								\$ 8,100.00
Cables, manteles, clavijas, agua, etc								\$ 4,888.63
Ceremonia de cierre en Teatro del Pueblo								\$ 2,100.00
Devoluciones cuotas de inscripción								\$ 16,859.53
Comisiones bancarias								\$ 927.73
<b>TOTALES</b>		<b>\$ 777,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 806,513.82</b>	<b>\$ 89,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 46,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,825.34</b>	<b>\$ 143,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 750,753.36</b>



## VII. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The organization of this conference was coordinated by two representatives of ECOMUNIDADES, Red Ecologista Autonoma de la Cuenca de Mexico, both in the process of planning and submission of the project to the Support Group, from April 2016 to September 2017, and in the execution of the project from October 2017 to December 2018, that is to say: 33 months in total, a condition that impacted the way in which the organizational work was carried out. For close to 18 months there were not only very insufficient funds to adequately cover the secretarial or administrative matters, neither were important promises of financial support. In the planning stage, the coordinators had the moral support of the Programa de Posgrado of the Facultad de Arquitectura of the UNAM, the Centro de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias en Ciencias y Humanidades, CEIICH- UNAM , the Division de Ciencias Sociales of the UAM-X, the Facultad de Ciencias Politicas y Sociales of the UNAM, the ecological economy collective of the Facultad de Economia, the Instituto de Investigaciones Economicas of the UNAM and the Programa de Bioetica of the UNAM, as well as some activists sympathetic to *descrecimiento* .

In the organizational stage, the coordinators were supported by two representatives of the Support Group, a researcher from the Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias, CRIM of the UNAM-Cuernavaca and a professor from the Facultad de Ciencias Politicas y Sociales of the UNAM and two professors from the UAM-X, as well as a professional in computer services, and staff paid for fees: a secretarial coordination, coordination in social communication and coordination in logistics; this last coordination worked only in the last four months of the organization stage. (See Organizing Committee <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/comision-ejecutiva>) The meager funds available to the Organizing Committee during most of the organization stage, prevented the creation of an adequate team to cover all the points established in the project. This team received some support from volunteers interested in the organization of the conference and in the final stage, the support of the Grupo Coordinador of the Semana por el *Descrecimiento*. In November 2017 we agreed to hold a program of two weekly meetings of the Organizing Committee that was held almost without interruption until the conference in September 2018, with a total of 42 meetings only for the Committee to which were added about 40 weekly meetings open to volunteers and interested in supporting the organization of the conference and the more than 20 coordination meetings with the sponsors of the conference.

In 2016, through the Support Group the organizing team learned that the 15th Congress of the International Society for Ecological Economics, ISEE-Mexico 2018 was organized in the



UAM-Xochimilco and would be held in June 2018. Ecological economists from many countries habitually participate in degrowth conferences. Together, we agreed to coordinate both events, in order to facilitate that some of its participants could participate in them and support each other in the dissemination. The collective of ecological economy of the Facultad de Economía of the UNAM served as a link between the organizers of the two events. We agreed to set dates of celebration, with a week of difference between both events, leaving the conference degrowth-descrecimiento before the ISEE congress. In October 2017, the organizers of the ISEE Congress changed the date of their event, for September 2018, which forced us to change, in November 2017, the conference date to September 2018. A very important change: the presidential elections in Mexico were scheduled for July 1, 2018. It allowed us to have more time for the organization of the conference.

The organizing team lacked its own facilities for its weekly meetings: they were held in coffee shops with facilities for computer work; for the weekly open meetings, the coordination got work spaces in the Procuraduría-PAOT. There were no secondary commissions or teams that supported the Organizing Committee, outside the academic reviewers of the summaries received - the scientific-cultural committee -, the Grupo Coordinador of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento* and the PAOT-UNAM agreement in support of this conference.

As a result of the novelty and complexity of this conference, the general coordinators developed in the planning stage the substantive content of the conference (thematic axes, transversal axes, calls), with the support of academics. In relation to other matters, such as the establishment of procedures for the review of summaries, rules for registration, programs, selection of speakers, drafting of communications, adjustments to the functioning of the organizing team, among others, they were submitted for consultation to the organizing team and the representatives of the Support Group: they concentrated too much work and responsibilities and centralized the decisions. The organizing team had very little capacity to establish commitments with different universities, NGOs and civil associations, unions, cooperatives, artists, artisans, indigenous movements, peasants, labor, neighborhood, feminists, human rights, among others.

The Grupo Coordinador of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento*, received weekly information and recommendations on ways to open relationships with representatives of solidarity economy groups, eco-technicians, ecologists, activists of human rights, indigenous, ejidatarios, neighbor groups, trade unionists, cooperativist, artisans, artists, professors, researchers, merchants, small businessmen and representatives of German foundations and local governments, in order to invite them to participate in its program of activities both



in the Teatro del Pueblo, as in other places near the Palacio de Medicina. The weekly meetings open to volunteers and people interested in the conference and held at the PAOT, served to maintain close communication between the organizers of the conference and the volunteers without financial support and those of the Semana.

The coordination of financial matters had a huge workload due to the lack of support from volunteers, with economic support; It worked mainly with paid staff. The key of their work was to negotiate the financial support of the sponsors, to respond to requests for information from those who submitted summaries of individual presentations and proposals for special sessions, as well as to make payment arrangements with the sponsors of the conference and the services providers. The secretarial support was of great importance to follow up the administrative information, such as the summons, the agendas and the minutes with the agreements of the weekly meetings of the organizing committee.

The coordination for operating bulk messages or social communication was responsible for the internal processing and dissemination of monthly communications, attention to the requests for information received in the official mail of the conference, the maintenance of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the coordination of preparatory activities, including press conferences and their calls, the graphic image of the conference (page and posters) and the minutes of the open meetings of the organizing committee. The logistics coordination was responsible for two strategic tasks: liaison of the organizing committee with the technical team of the Palacio de Medicina, the Teatro del Pueblo and the Friederich Ebert Stiftung-Mexico and other service providers, in order to have the facilities, adequate services and equipment for the conference and the coordination of the team of volunteers trained in supporting the activities of the conference (more than twenty people) during its celebration. Weeks before the conference, this team of volunteers was integrated and received precise instructions for their work. His work was well recognized by the participants of the conference.

In the weeks prior to the conference, certain coordinations were created to support the operation of plenary sessions, special sessions and individual presentation sessions, as well as a coordination for the presentations of speakers and books of the conference at the Teatro del Pueblo or other places in Mexico City, in order to support the celebration of these activities and strengthen the program of activities of the Semana por el Descrecimiento. Unfortunately, this last coordination disappeared on the first day of the conference, so many flaws were presented in the Teatro del Pueblo program.



Coordination of finances, secretarial support, logistics, information and social communication, participated weekly in the meetings of the organizing committee.

More information about the conference coordinators can be found [here](#).

## VIII. KEY LESSON FOR THE FUTURE

### Organizational

The organization of this conference is unique in many ways, not only because it is the first of its kind, but because of the very special conditions in which it was held: an organization designed and carried out by autonomous ecologists from Mexico City who have worked normally for many years without funds and formal organization; a year and a half of preparatory volunteer work (presentation of proposals and detailed project) without any economic support; six first months of organizational work without significant sponsorship; eight first months of organizational work without having an adequate venue for the conference and with very small financial support; organization of the conference in a period of intense presidential campaigns culminating in the historic election of Andrés Manuel López Obrador in the presidency of Mexico; celebration of the conference in the middle of the five transition months between the federal and local outgoing and incoming government.

The experience of the autonomous ecologist from Mexico City was key in the realization of this conference; it was fundamental to be able to create the organic and traditional or mechanical organization of the conference, to develop the economy of reciprocity and self-organization and to manage the diversity of actors and the organization of networks that require the innovative degrowth conferences and the thematic of this conference, very different from previous degrowth conferences. Also, it was fundamental in the rejection of important economic support offered to the Organizing Committee by representatives of organizations that do not fit with the principles of degrowth-descrecimiento conferences; in the flexible response to the very uncertain situations that the organizers had to overcome and in the supports that were achieved, due to their relations of years, with the organizers of the previous degrowth conferences and representatives of various social sectors in Mexico. The participation of a member of the organizing team in three degrowth conferences was key in its results.



They were key lessons, too: the name of the conference, the content of the proposal, the quality of the project and the measures to avoid the overcrowding of the event (organic growth), as well as the balance between the participation of academics and university students and the participation of indigenous, peasant and labor movements; between the central days of the conference and the first day and the last day of the conference; between the conference and the *Semana por el Descrecimiento* and between the diffusion by means of the webpage, the electronic mails, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and the attention to the mass media of communication.

Obviously, the political, institutional, economic, social, cultural, ecological conditions of the countries of the global South differ greatly from those of the countries of the global North, so that research and cultural, social and political action in the face of unlimited growth must travel along very different paths, although there are very important convergences in many issues between the movements of the global North (degrowth, *decroissance*, *decrecita*, *decrecimiento*, *postwachstum*, among others) and the movements of the global South (*Zapatismo de Chiapas*, *descrecimiento*, *Buen Vivir*, *Ubuntu* and others), the South-North focus is key, to define the differences and convergences in the research and degrowth-*descrecimiento* action.

In financial matters, we faced several challenges: we could only have some definition of the budget a few weeks before the conference until most of the attendance records were paid, so more than ten people who volunteered many months in advance, could not be given financial support, so we could only do it with the very few volunteers who worked for many months without receiving any financial support and those who were trained in the last weeks before the conference, for support its operation. To avoid these failures that we had both in the conference and in the *Semana por el Descrecimiento*, it would have been very important to have an adequate body of volunteers supported economically since the beginning of the organization.

We had problems in Mexico with the registration fees that we adopted - similar to those in Budapest - for academics, civil and social organizations, indigenous people, peasants, workers and students that were not affordable; we were forced on the spot to reduce the academic fee for the global South, create the group fee (up to five people) and the courtesy



fee (without food), to facilitate the participation of some people interested in the conference. We consider it necessary to have a greater differential between the quotas of the North and those of the South and between academics and civil organizations and social organizations. However, the fees must also serve to limit the number of attendees and avoid overcrowding the conference.

In logistics, we considered of great importance to find a venue that was close to abundant tight budget accommodation (relocate), with the right places to hold in the same building the plenary sessions, parallel sessions and meals and have public spaces nearby to carry out activities of the *Semana por el Descrecimiento*. Avoiding the use of transportation during the activities of the conference and having a hotel headquarters a few steps away from the conference was a primary target of logistics. The Palacio de Medicina - UNAM fulfilled this objective very well, unfortunately, the government of Mexico City prohibited the installation of small sellers of local or artisan products and services or books in the Plaza Santo Domingo, in front of the Palacio de Medicina, and in the Teatro del Pueblo: the *Semana por el Descrecimiento* then saw its potential very diminished.

The preparatory activities were a great help to reinforce the participation of people from Mexico City and other cities of the country in the conference: seminars, conferences, spreading of articles on degrowth-descrecimiento, publications, interventions in cultural radio station programs, prior to the conference, helped a lot in understanding the degrowth-descrecimiento proposals and the organization of the conference.

## Team

The organizing team changed a lot over the months. The teams' main challenges were: the limited knowledge of the meaning and operation of degrowth conferences; the lack of financial support; the understanding between academics and non-academics and among activists and paid staff; the limited knowledge of ideas and proposals of degrowth-descrecimiento and the lack of experience in the organization of international events of most of its members. Given these challenges we agreed from the beginning to hold the two weekly work meetings of the organizing team, one closed on Tuesdays and one open on Thursdays, with an average duration of 3 and a half hours. These meetings served so that the main coordinators could inform in detail the meaning of the organization, explain the project of the conference and the agreements that should be approved, quickly correct many errors and have a common ground towards the end of the organizational stage. The





good understanding of the principles, objectives, strategies and actions that the team had to carry out was key to face the great obstacles that the organization of this conference faced.

The volunteer work and paid work balance and participatory and authoritative decisions balance were key in the functioning of the organizing team.

### Relations with the international community

From July 2016 until September 2017 we negotiated with the Support Group the organization of this conference. We accepted the conditions of the European degrowth conferences, they accepted our project in detail. They offered their support and we integrated two of their representatives into our organizing team. From this agreement, we received its very generous support and understanding in many different ways. Without this support we would not have been able to hold this conference. We especially appreciate the kind support of the representatives of the Support Group who, for 10 months, were in close contact with the organizing team. The team made a great effort to comply with the principles, objectives and purposes that we established in the ambitious conference project that was approved by the Support Group in 2017.

To start the organization of the conference, it was also very important the Support Group and Budapest team's economic support and the Malmo, Sweden degrowth conference organizers' support at the IT issues and dissemination of information of this conference. We recognize the support of the European Ecological Economy Society, the Mesoamerican Society of Ecological Economics, the Andean Society of Ecological Economics, the Brazilian Society of Ecological Economics and the Argentine- Uruguayan Association of Ecological Economics, in the dissemination of information of this conference.

## IX. CONCLUSIONS

### Self-appraisal

We made a huge effort to try to meet the very ambitious goals we set ourselves. As far as the degrowth-descrecimiento principles are concerned, we consider that we comply them quite well. With regard to the international debate on the coincidences and strategic



differences between the movements of the North against the growth without limits (degrowth, décroissance, decrescita, degrowth, decrecimiento, postwachstum, among others) and of the South (Zapatismo from Chiapas, decrecimiento, Buen Vivir, Ubuntu , among others), we believe that we weren't able to unleash this debate and we were not been able to significantly reinforce the global debate on the decolonization of the social imaginary.

Regarding the introduction of the international debate on Survival, Cultures and Wealth, we estimate that it was acceptable. We also find the cultural and social diversity of the presentations made at the conference acceptable, and the international recognition of the speakers and international interest of most of the presentations was quite good. The conference offered a good support for the formation of international networks for the exchange of information, ideas, visions, solidarity among people, groups or collectives and organizations that object unlimited economic growth, development, progress and modernizations.

We estimate that we established reasonable conditions for the achievement of the objectives we set: website, calls, communications, reports, quotas, secretarial support, facilities, programming of activities, support in the celebration of the plenary sessions and sessions, meals, conviviality and environment in general, given the great limitations in which the organizing team operated.

## General

The conference taught us that there are people at all social levels, that in principle can approve the imposition of limits on economic and financial growth, but, that there are still very few people in the world willing to voluntarily abandon, so be partially, their modern way of life and fight for the imposition of these limits. For many people, the collapse of climate, seas, aquifers, biodiversity, gas and conventional oil, communities, cities, cultures, roots, human person, modern certainties are becoming increasingly evident. The economic decline produced by government and business efforts in favor of economic growth is growing. The resistance towards growth without limits has a great future in the world as the ecological, cultural, social, economic, political and symbolic collapse increases.

We were able to confirm that in Mexico there are politicians, high public officials, high level academics and important representatives of civil society open to the critique of growth without limits; that a degrowth-descrecimiento congress can be organized by autonomous ecologists in this country. The conference surpassed, by far, the expectations we had six months before its celebration and those of the sympathizers of the descrecimiento in



Mexico. The support of the Coordinación de Humanidades of the UNAM and the Friederich Ebert Stiftung-Mexico, as well as the people of 38 countries that trusted in the organizers of this conference, was fundamental.

The celebration of this conference was a prodigy: unsuspected supports and participants from very distant countries appeared, product of the force that the critiques and proposals of degrowth-descrecimiento have; its organization was amazing. We are very satisfied with its results. We hope to have complied with the principles, objectives and strategies that we proposed in the project of this conference. We also hope that most of its participants have good memories of it and, above all, we hope that this conference will be a support, so that in other countries of the global South there will hold forthcoming conferences on degrowth-descrecimiento or on how to abandon unlimited growth, development, progress, the religion of the economy and the cult of science and technology.