



## NESI Track 4 report "Learning and training for the new economy"

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*Málaga, April 2017*

### **Workshop summaries**

The role of education is vital for a new economy. Views about the inevitability and ‘natural state’ of neoliberal economics are currently shaped early in life and both pre-emptive and re-learning initiatives are crucial to overcoming inertia to moving to a new economy. The focus of Track 4 was examining learning and training’s place in the new economy and the role of media and social media in the new economy. Participants in the learning and training workshop chose to discuss a range of ways to better contextualise economics, making it more place-based, both in terms of local social context as well as the economy’s place within nature. Within the media and social media workshop, participants focused on the existing mainstream media’s message as well as the positives and negatives afforded by social media.

### **Great stuff already happening / challenges**

In the education and learning working session, the fact that new economics material has started to find its way into economics programmes around the world alongside more holistic, embodied, and participatory pedagogies was celebrated. The general lack of research, funding, recognition, and accreditation support for new economics educational material and programmes was, however, mourned.

The principal challenge was framed with new economics and education as the near hegemony of conventional neoliberal curriculum and conventional classroom-based pedagogy. The participants agreed, however, that there are lots of movement and many opportunities in the field. The good work of organisations such as Rethinking Economics has revealed surprising levels of support and understanding from university officials.



In the media and social media focussed working session, participants celebrated the fact that social media and online media platforms have made information sharing more democratic, affordable, creative, and diverse. However, participants regretted that because of the saturation of information available and ease of media distribution and production, people have become overwhelmed and have developed shorter and shorter attention spans. Additionally, participants expressed disappointment that news stories are often shallow and not very well cited (i.e. “fake news”).

### **Key themes/insights**

Participants explored the question of who owns media platforms, craving transparency around this subject, more consumer privacy protections, and more cooperative ownership structures.

Participants also expressed concern about the “echo chambers” that we exist in online due to algorithms and how siloing prevents conversations across political and economic backgrounds. All remembered to share news from systemic perspectives to add depth to economic analyses. Participants recognized that face-to-face interactions are valuable and wondered how they could work to create more spaces for dialogue

### **New ideas/possible actions**

#### **Learning and Education**

- **Students/Teachers mobilisation.** Going forward, workshop participants decided to that mobilising greater collaboration between students and teachers and local stakeholders as well as finding funding to enable more organisations like Rethinking Economics and programmes that could introduce new economics teaching and ethics in early year’s education was vital. In general, everyone agreed to work to upgrade curricula to make them more holistic and eco-literate.



## Social media

- **Story-telling the new economy.** Going forward, several actions and commitments were made about our own media consumption habits and ways that we could be media producers of new economy stories and initiatives, learning from the examples of the great new economics media initiatives that already exist and were present in the workshop were highlighted: Stir Magazine ([www.stirtoaction.com](http://www.stirtoaction.com)), Shareable Magazine ([www.shareable.net](http://www.shareable.net)), and the Upstream Podcast ([www.upstreampodcast.org](http://www.upstreampodcast.org)).