

TRACK 9

ENGLISH VERSION

Digitalisation and Work: Perils and Promise

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Changes to the nature of work due to automation and data-driven technologies are a high policy priority. While new technologies can create new jobs, many jobs are also vulnerable to automation and newly created ones will require combinations of digital and social skills. These changes also threaten to exacerbate job polarization, regional disparity and inequality. Digitalisation in the workplace is also transforming many jobs, at both ends of the wage scale.

The usual focus on (economically) productive work has been also criticized for overlooking all those forms of non-productive work that underpin society. With the emergence of automatization these jobs, that are often related to care will assume a different relevance.

The radical changes that are forecasted by some authors raise several questions related to the impact of digitalisation on labour and the consequences for social interactions.

What are the negative and positive aspects in adopting data-driven technologies? If work performed by technologies might be more accurate and faster how can we address issues of responsibility related to their results? Where polarization threatens to hollow out middle income jobs, are alternative measures of welfare sufficient to replace the potential loss of *meaning* of work for individuals in their social interactions?

In the last decade in Europe the discussion over ethical aspects related to emerging technologies has become stronger than ever. Accordingly, researchers and policy-makers are seeking for different methodologies to evaluate these issues and to enlarge the debate to a broader audience. Responsible Research and Innovation for instance, aims at covering the different levels of engagement to address the issues arising from specific contexts and their connection with the overall modifications of social dynamics.

How can stakeholders work together to ensure a just transition and implementation of data-driven technologies? What understanding of responsibility can better link efficiency with legitimacy? How can we steer digitalisation towards democratic features in order to protect vulnerable actors? What measures can realistically be helpful in order to achieve such objective?

The session welcomes contribution addressing these questions and the overall relation between digitalisation of work and democratic/responsible processes. These include presentations addressing the objectives and impact of digitalisation on work, the methodologies to address the impact of digitalisation and the ethics frameworks related to it. Besides, the session will welcome papers discussing the concepts of responsibility and vulnerability in relation to digitalisation and work. Contributions providing models of implementation for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) are also welcomed.