relay

A digital Europe that benefits all
Online workshop, Thursday 17 June, 10:00-16:00 CEST

Data-driven technologies are changing nearly every aspect of our lives, from how we work, learn, eat, sleep, vote, listen to music, watch films and TV, choose partners, communicate with friends and family, get the news. It's hard to think of a single facet of contemporary life that is not being changed by big data analytics, machine-learning, algorithmic decision-making, and support systems.

Whether we like it or not, these changes are also bringing about visible social, economic, and political transformations. It may not be a stretch to say that these technologies have the possibility to alter not just how we behave, but how we understand ourselves and the social world around us, in ways that may not be concordant with fundamental European Union values. The question of whether Europe is fit for a digital age is not just a question concerning Europe's technological readiness level, but also her societal readiness level:

are Europe's economic, education, judicial, media, and political institutions prepared to lead this transformation in a manner that allows the clear benefits and sometimes obscure risks of digitalization to be distributed in a just and equitable manner?

In this virtual workshop organised by the Brightlands Institute for Smart Society, we will dive into two topics of fundamental importance for Europe's digital age. In the morning session, we will discuss about democratising and governing an increasingly digital Europe that often moves at a much faster speed than its institutions. The afternoon will be dedicated to the future of work - from what and where to how and how much -, a topic that is gaining salience as we come out of the pandemic and return (or not) to our offices and routines.

PROGRAMME

09:45 Opening of virtual room
10:00 Welcome and introduction
  Darian Meacham, BISS / Maastricht University

Session 1: Democratising and governing digital Europe
10:10 Keynote addresses
  Tamar Sharon, Radboud University Nijmegen / ERC Project Digital Good
  Photini Vrikki, King's College London / Charlemagne Prize Fellow 2020-21
  Martin Gak, Deutsche Welle, religion and ethics correspondent
11:10 Coffee break
11:20 Panel discussion + Q&A. Chair: *Francesco Tava*, UWE Bristol
  The keynote speakers will be joined by *Walid el Houri*, openDemocracy, and by *Juuso Järviniemi*, Young European Federalists
12:00 Lunch break

Session 2: The future of work
14:00 Keynote addresses
  Aída Ponce del Castillo, European Trade Union Institute
  Mark Levels & Marie-Christine Fregin, Research Centre for Education and the Labor Market at Maastricht University / TECHNEQUALITY project
  James Muldoon, Exeter University, Autonomy Digital
15:00 Coffee break
15:15 Panel discussion + Q&A. Chair: *Darian Meacham,* BISS / Maastricht University
16:00 Concluding remarks

BISS
Brightlands Institute for Smart Society

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RELAY is a Jean Monnet project that aims at discussing the European Commission's political guidelines and work programme with a wide and diverse array of stakeholders. Stakeholders will be able to provide input through a series of conferences, workshops, and working papers. At the end of the project, the results of these discussions will be integrated into a policy brief with recommendations. For more information, please visit the RELAY website.

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