SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Moderator:
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Panelists:
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Along with digitalization that rapidly conquers virtually everything in the modern society we are witnessing many disruptions, and anticipate changes that can fundamentally transform the society. New kinds of jobs, that previously did not exist, are emerging, while many traditional jobs are disappearing. Our ways of communication, education, research, means of transportation, government, economy, healthcare, entertainment, our everyday lives are changing   drastically.
This process of radical disruptive change poses big challenges on sustainability. Will the society be able to adopt and manage all these changes in a smooth and sustainable way?

Sustainability here comprises the environmental sustainability, but also social sustainability, economic/business sustainability, and technical sustainability.

This panel will discuss opportunities, challenges, and threats of digitalization to sustainability. Different aspects of digitalization and its consequences for sustainability will be discussed: Smart cities and transport are examples of domains in which digitalization has direct impact on sustainability. Another example is the utilization of new ICT technologies, that, based on available information enable intelligent optimizations of large systems, and systems of systems, and greatly contribute to sustainability, for example to the environment. On other side, results of intelligent data processing can produce information which might be false, or not properly valued, and that can have severe consequences. Cybersecurity is becoming of the immense importance, but it can also collide with privacy both on the individual or a group level. Digitalization is drastically increasing the productivity in many sectors. But is productivity the final goal in itself or the benefits for the society? What can be implication of drastic increase in productivity for the sustainability?

In the panel, the panelists will shortly elaborate their statements on digitalization and sustainability, illustrated by indicative examples. The opening statements will be followed by a discussion between the panelists and finish with the questions from the audience on the mutual relation between digitalization and sustainability, and important concerns in the process of digitalization to ensure sustainable development of the society. The panel will relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals discussing how digitalisation can contribute to achieve these goals, and what are the threats from digitalisation to realizing these goals and what can be done to face challenges.