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Digital Reset

Redirecting Technologies for the Deep Sustainability Transformation

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Time seems out of joint. The world society has experienced a centennial pandemic, the global thermometer has displayed a sequence of hottest years on record, and Russia's war on Ukraine has shattered political order. Unsurprisingly, the economy is severely affected.

Governments worldwide hope that digital technologies can provide key solutions. Yet this report shows that digitalisation, in its current and mainstream form, is rather aggravating than solving many of the pressing social and environmental crises at hand. What is needed instead is a deep sustainability transformation that fundamentally reorganises the economy and all its sectors – agriculture, mobility, energy, buildings, industry, and consumption.

The Report »Digital Reset« shows how digital technologies can support the quest for such a deep sustainability transformation. The report provides a blueprint for the European Union on how to reconceptualise digitalisation so that it first and foremost contributes to achieving carbon neutrality, resource autonomy and economic resilience while supporting equity and fully respecting citizen's rights and privacy.

The report is the outcome of a two-year international science-policy dialogue, »Digitalization for Sustainability« (D4S), and presents an up-to-date comprehensive analysis of opportunities, risks and governance options regarding digitalization and sustainability.



© Steffen Lange

Steffen Lange

Steffen Lange erforscht als promovierter Volkswirt am Institut für ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung (IÖW), wie eine Wirtschaft ohne Wachstum – als Postwachstumsökonomie – stabil und nachhaltig gestaltet werden kann. Zudem ist er ehrenamtlich bei Organisationen und Initiativen wie dem »Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie«, »Common Future« und der »Zivil-Enquete Wachstum, Wohlstand, Lebensqualität« tätig, um nachhaltiges Wirtschaften Wirklichkeit werden zu lassen.

Steffen Lange is senior researcher at the Technical University in Berlin. He investigates the economics of a social-ecological transformation and the nexus of digital technologies, eco-social policies, and the role of economic growth in sustainable economies.



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Tilman Santarius ist Professor für Sozial-Ökologische Transformation und Nachhaltige Digitalisierung an der TU Berlin und am Einstein Center Digital Futures. Er forscht zu den Themen Klimapolitik, Handelspolitik, nachhaltiges Wirtschaften, globale Gerechtigkeit und digitale Transformation. Ehrenamtlich engagiert er sich im Aufsichtsrat von Greenpeace Deutschland.

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Tomas Diez is a founding partner and Executive Director of the Fab City Foundation and member of the board of trustees as well as senior researcher at IAAC Foundation. He examines the potentials of using digital fabrication tools to transform reality and how new technologies can change human living.



© Hugues Ferreboeuf

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© Stephanie Hankey

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Stephanie Hankey is the co-founder and Executive Director of Tactical Tech and a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She is a practising designer, curator, educator and writer working at the intersection of design, technology, equity, and sustainability.



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