+++ Theses on the topic "Social Cohesion in a Digitalised Environment"

The following theses were drawn up by a circle of private persons and will be presented to the participants of the Fachtag *the 9 February 2017 in Stuttgart for further discussion.*

Network: "Social Cohesion in a Digitalised Environment"
Theses for collective action

Thesis 1: The digital transformation is a challenge for society as a whole

The digital transformation of economic and professional worlds entails a holistic change of the different living environments. This shift does not only represent an industrial or economic issue. Digital transformation poses a challenge for society as a whole and requires a confident and constructive response by the public. 'Industry 4.0', 'Work 4.0', 'Craft 4.0', 'Middle Class 4.0' and 'Administration 4.0' do not only concern companies, workshops and offices. They concern all citizens. Therefore, all citizens are invited to partake in the shaping of said shift.

Thesis 2: Social innovation ensures the sustainability of the transformation

Industry and engineering introduce a transformation of profession, work and leisure. This transformation requires sustainability in a democratic, social, cultural, legal, ecological and economical manner. This sustainability can only be achieved if social innovation, social standards, democratic rights and socio-political as well as structural measures ensure this sustainability. Steps to foster social cohesion must continually be actively developed.

Thesis 3: Technology must serve humans

The digital transformation of economic and professional worlds changes the relationship between man and technology. Technology must serve humans. The human must not become the mere assistant of digital technology. A society shaped by digitalisation and virtualisation presupposes a public and open discourse about modern ethics and the human's position in a technology-backed environment. The positive usage of new technologies by society requires judicious, well-integrated and participative research toward the use of autonomous software systems. An active and preventive estimation of possible consequences or side effects is essential.

Thesis 4: Privacy must be protected as it is one of democracy's basic principles

The applications of new digital and virtual tools in work and everyday life influence the relation between publicity and privacy. To be able to secure the advantages of digitalisation for society, citizens need a strengthened right to informational self-determination, a more intensive protection of their privacy and extensive protection of their data and identity. The protection of privacy is an important cornerstone in the foundation of democracy.

Thesis 5: The citizen's access to education, work and social infrastructure shall be preserved

The process of digital transformation of work and life changes the citizen's access and the accessibility of knowledge and education, work and income as well as social services and infrastructure. This transformation, on one hand, reduces barriers, but on the other hand, establishes other obstacles. Growing abstraction, increasing speed and complexity as well as decreasing comprehensibility act as new barriers for many people. Citizens as well as actors of civil society shall be included in the finding of social innovations and development and introduction of new technologies to avoid dangers of exclusion, gender inequality and possible digital divides. Early inclusion can increase social cohesion, personal autonomy and solidarity and thus simplify integration, self-determination, the finding of virtual identity and inclusion.

Thesis 6: Changed professional biographies require new regulations for social security

The progressing digital transformation changes professional biographies and leads more and more frequently to unintended self-employment or unemployment. To reduce social fractures and the dangers of precarious phases of life, new societal agreements and social regulations in favour of freelance- or crowd-workers are urgently required. In a digitalised society, we need new social impetuses for the social security of those unemployed. For this, impulses can be sought from the discussion around the unconditional basic income.

Thesis 7: New cultures of education shall encourage to an autonomous life

The increasing digitalisation and virtualisation of work, life and leisure poses a challenge to society to create a new culture of education that adapts to different situations in life. Said educational culture shall encourage to an autonomous life and pose as a learning aid in schools as well as in adult education. There, the focus should not be the technical tool or infrastructure, but accompanied learning in cooperative community, which should only later be supported by technological assistance systems. Revaluation of personal encounter must be the response to the increasingly rapid virtualisation of education.

Thesis 8: An environmentally friendly strategy for the usage of digitalisation is necessary

The new digital technologies can contribute to more energy- and resource-efficient behaviour at the workplace, in urban life, mobility, traffic and leisure. Without the use of modern information technology and without the 'intelligent' digital tools, the climate-protecting agreements cannot be achieved. To approach these goals, an environmentally friendly strategy for the usage of digitalisation and the tools it provides is necessary. Especially for the successful development of cities and communities, any such strategy is imperative.

Thesis 9: Networks of actors of civil society are vital – not only in Baden-Württemberg

In Spring 2015, the government of Baden-Württemberg, representatives of industry and commerce, trade unions, trade associations and research facilities have founded the network "Allianz Industrie 4.0 Baden-Württemberg" in a common effort. This network, mainly focused on technological innovations, should be accompanied by an open network of actors of civil society, churches, associations and initiatives. Such a network shall broaden the dialogue about the future of Baden-Württemberg as well as take a stand for societal and social innovation. Such a network shall give impulses for democratic participation, equal opportunity and treatment, for accessibility and social standards, for educational opportunities and assisting youth work, for the protection of privacy and consumer protection, for a culture of self-determination and autonomy, for education built around the different phases of life and for education conveying competence also in complex situations, for integration and inclusion, for the protection of the climate, *Open Government* and for the strengthening of rural areas.

The undersigned suggest to the participants of the Fachtag 'Arbeit 4.0 und Gesellschaft 4.0?!' *in Stuttgart, the 9 February 2017 at Stuttgart the founding of a societal network 'Social Cohesion in a Digitalized Environment'. The theses present shall provide inspiration for the discourse.*

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