



# Wellbeing of digitalized societies and workplaces

*CALL*

*Church Action on  
Labour and Life*

*European network  
in partnership with*



**cec**

conference of european churches



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

# **Wellbeing of digitalized societies and workplaces**

Towards ethical guidelines  
for sustainable digitalization

Albrecht Knoch



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# Digitalization

versus ? and ?

# Sustainability





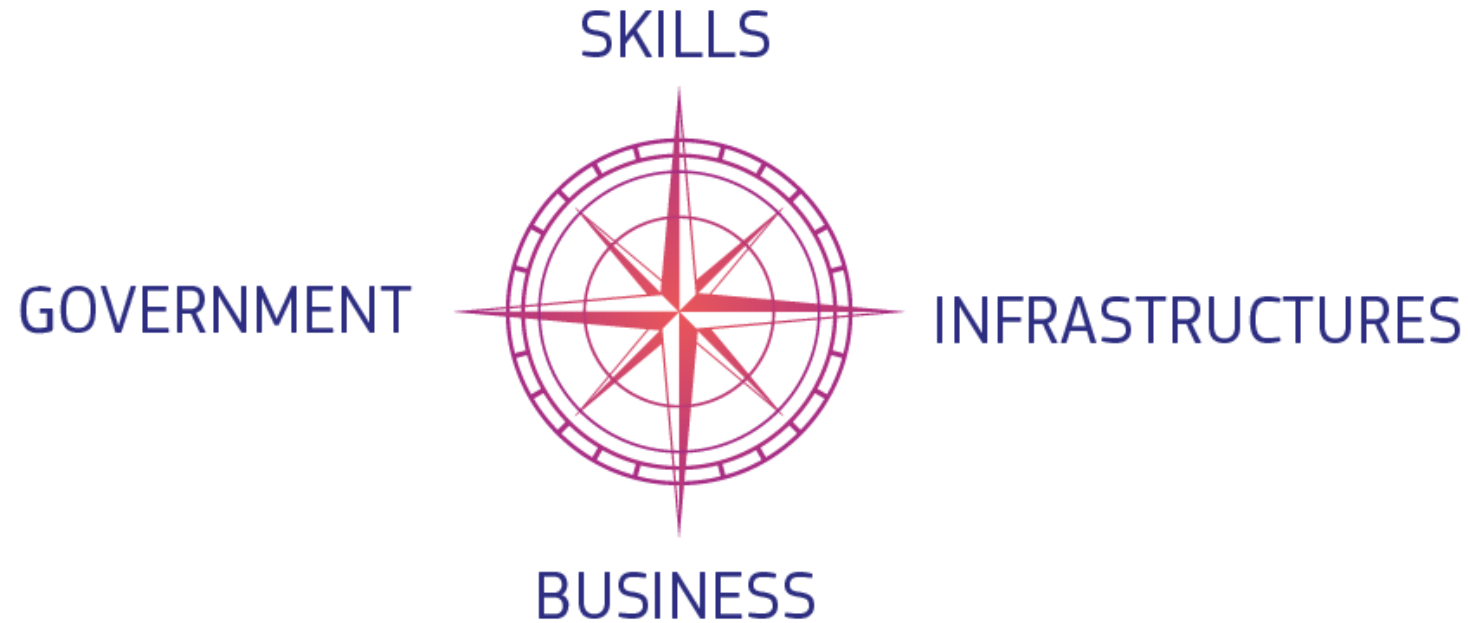
# sustainability

- ecologic
- economic
- social





## The Digital Compass – EU commission



“The EU will pursue a **human-centric, sustainable** vision for digital society throughout the digital decade to empower citizens and businesses.”

9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade#ecl-inpage-kyvdstob>  
Europe's Digital Decade | Shaping Europe's digital future (europa.eu)



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# Digital citizenship: rights and principles for Europeans

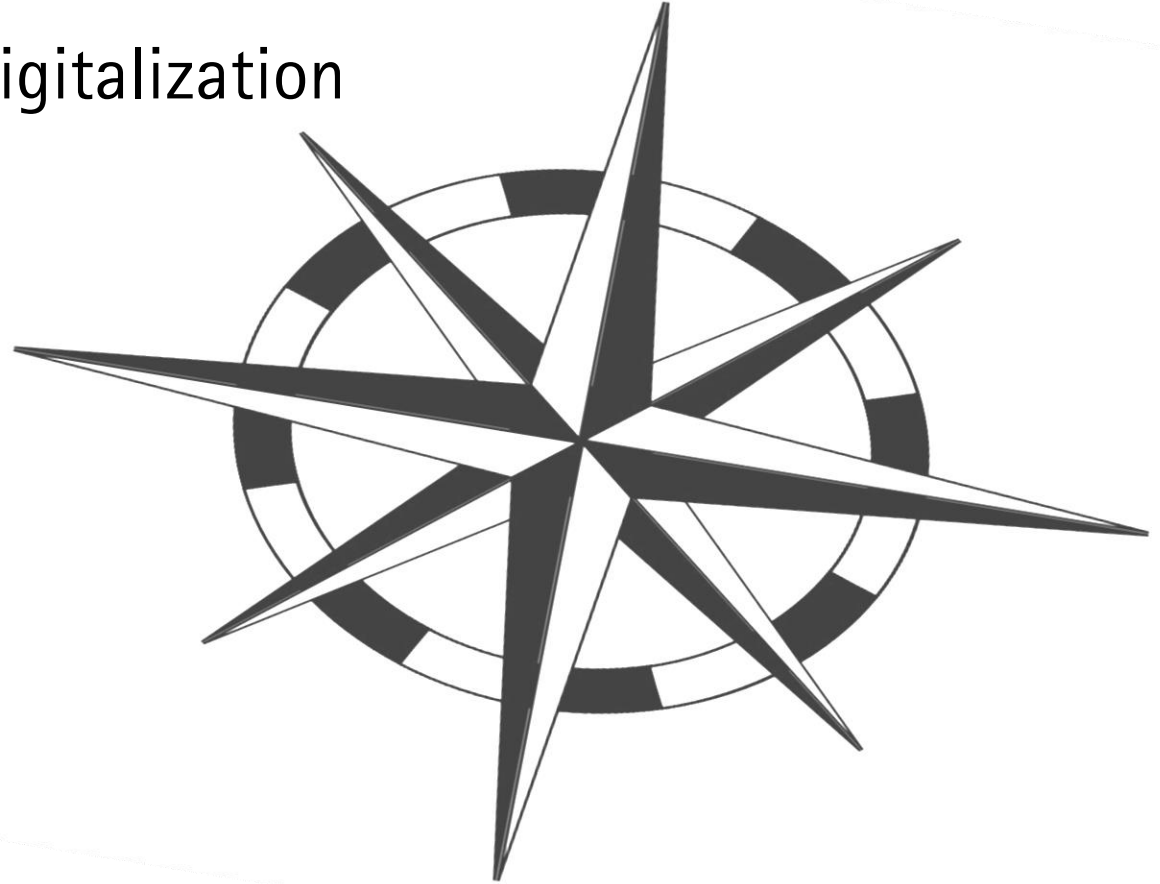
On 26 January 2022, the Commission proposed an inter-institutional solemn declaration on digital rights and principles for the digital decade.

- People at the centre
- Freedom of choice
- Safety and security
- Solidarity and inclusion
- Participation
- Sustainability



Proposal of CALL network:

Ethical compass for sustainable digitalization



Main orientation: justice and dignity

Social sustainability

Ecologic sustainability

Economic sustainability

holistic view  
more complex

needs to reach everyone  
need to simplify!





design

hardware

design

software

design

use

**Political framework**



# Main ORIENTATION

Wellbeing in solidarity  
(participation and dignity)  
in just institutions

« Viser la vie bonne avec et pour les autres  
dans des institutions justes »

(Paul Ricoeur, in: Soi-même comme un autre, 1990)



# Example:

## App – Design

- green code
- lean code
- Non-discriminating
- Easily accessible
- Plattform workers :  
possible parameters



# Electronic devices and software



## Production

80% energy

origin of minerals ?

Working conditions ?

## use

Internet infrastructure

origin of energy ?

Processing energy ?  
Dark Data ?

## Re-use / re-cycle

Repairability  
updates  
separability of materials

Working conditions ?



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# Participation

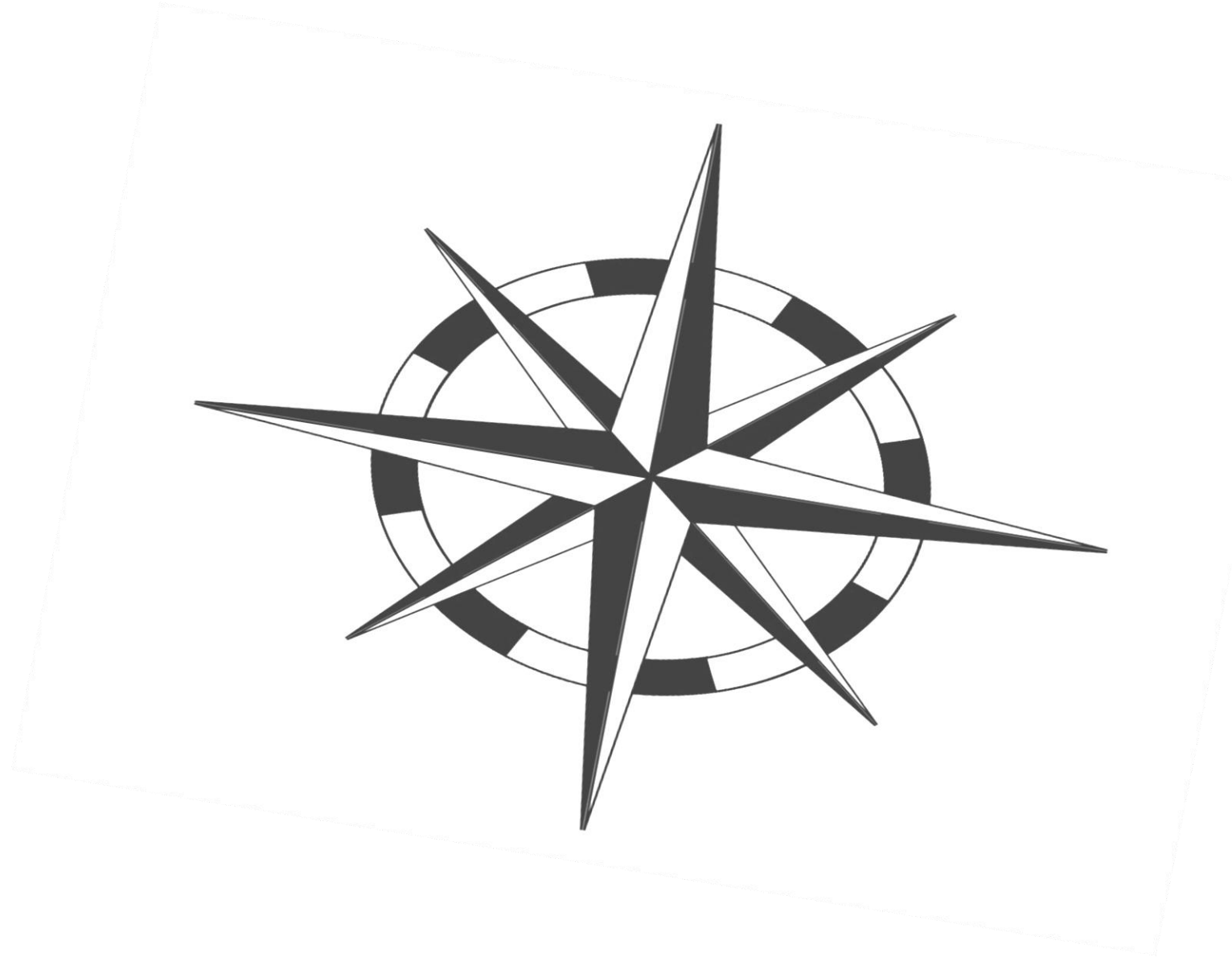
- Accessibility (esp. E-governance, design, ...)
- "Minimum digital income"  
(Digitales Existenzminimum  
<[http://www.change.org/digitales\\_existenzminimum](http://www.change.org/digitales_existenzminimum)>)
- ...





# Workplaces

## Social dimension



# Design !



Left:  
CALL participants discussing with Kooglof cyclists  
<https://kooglof.coopcycle.org/fr/>

ph: A. Knoch (2)



# Production innovation by digitalization

Needs to be designed with regards to  
the physical or psychological impact

## Digitalized workplaces

Needs exact communication rules

Needs a renewed mindset

for "bosses" and "employees"

*(trust and self-responsibility)*





# Promised land ?

- Equal opportunities via internet
- Equal access to knowledge
- Equal participation

## Freedom

- Needs to be preserved
- No new slavery!



## Internet sources 2022

Institut du Numérique Responsable

[www.institutnr.org](http://www.institutnr.org)

<https://charte.institutnr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/english-charter-sustainable-it.pdf>

Europäische Digitalstrategie bis 2030

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade#ecl-inpage-kyvdstob> oder

[Europe's Digital Decade | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade#ecl-inpage-kyvdstob)

„Green Cloud Computing: Lebenszyklusbasierte Datenerhebung zu Umweltwirkungen des Cloud Computing“ (Umweltbundesamt, 2021)

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/5750/publikationen/2021-06-17\\_texte\\_94-2021\\_green-cloud-computing.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/5750/publikationen/2021-06-17_texte_94-2021_green-cloud-computing.pdf)

Wissenschaftlicher Beirat der Bundesregierung Globale Umweltveränderungen

**Unsere gemeinsame digitale Zukunft**

<https://www.wbgu.de/de/>

[https://www.wbgu.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/wbgu/publikationen/factsheets/flt\\_2019/WBGU\\_2019\\_\\_SustainableDigitalAge\\_DE.pdf](https://www.wbgu.de/fileadmin/user_upload/wbgu/publikationen/factsheets/flt_2019/WBGU_2019__SustainableDigitalAge_DE.pdf)

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Dritter Gleichstellungsbericht der Bundesregierung (10. Juni 2021)

**Digitalisierung geschlechtergerecht gestalten**

<https://www.dritter-gleichstellungsbericht.de/>

Memorandum of EKD:

<https://www.ekd.de/en/digital-freedom-1559.htm>

