



Conference on the Future of Europe

SUMMARY RECORD

Working Group on 'Digital Transformation', Chaired by Ms Riina Sikkut, national Parliaments (Estonia)

Friday 22 October 2021, 11:00 to 13:00

1. Introductory remarks of the Chair

This was the first, constitutive meeting of the Working Group. The meeting was held in hybrid format. The Chair, Ms Riina Sikkut, welcomed members together with Elina Valtonen (national Parliaments/Finland), who will take over as Chair next year. Members were then given the floor in alphabetical order, allowing each of them to briefly introduce themselves and to present one or two priority topics, as well as expectations in relation to the output of the Working Group.

2. Discussion

One of the representatives of the European Citizens' Panels opened the discussion by giving an overview of the work in Panel 1 (*'Stronger economy, social justice and jobs / youth, sport, culture and education / digital transformation'*) in relation to digital transformation (see [streams](#)).

In the interventions of Working Group members topics raised and suggestions made included:

- The need to promote digital services and a digital economy, removing current barriers;
- The need to support citizens in the digitalisation process and to ensure that the human aspects are well considered, for example when it comes to ageing populations or disadvantaged groups;
- Ensuring a sustainable, fair and inclusive digitalisation and overcoming the digital divide;
- Seeing democratic digitalisation as a human right;
- Striving for a European, ethical approach to digitalisation, such as on issues such as artificial intelligence;
- Giving consideration to the impact of digitalisation on jobs and employment (for example of artificial intelligence) and ensuring the right digital skills for entrepreneurs and employees;
- The need to create a level playing field for companies and avoid abuse of market power;
- Working in partnerships with the private sector to address digitalisation;
- The importance of appropriate infrastructure and accessibility (such as access to fast internet and facilities for electric cars, also in rural areas);
- The need for digital sovereignty of the EU (pointing for example to the lack of semiconductors) and linked to that the need for a stronger global role of the EU in related issues;
- The importance of digital data as the core of digitalisation;
- The key role of education and digital skills and digital literacy; also as an important element of a safe use of digital tools;
- Digital health;

- The crucial role of cybersecurity and the importance of data protection
- Health impacts of digitalisation (impacts on children, social media day off) and the risks of disinformation;
- Stressing the need for interdisciplinary dialogues and need for creativity.

In relation to the expectations of members on the outcome of the Working Group the following points were made:

- The need to listen to citizens;
- The wish to come to clear recommendations of the group, at least 3 to 4 policy briefs traceable to the citizens input and an outline with concrete actions;
- Ensure proper reflection, no rush to legislation;
- Make a real contribution to the future of Europe and proposals and demands, be offensive and ambitious;
- Stressing the need for time to come up with something concrete;
- There were suggestions for informal meetings (possibly remote) or meetings/written exchanges in between, inviting experts and a written report to the plenary;
- Need for a specific number of visible goals and a timetable for the coming years, need to be clear and feasible.

3. Concluding remarks of the Chair

Concluding the meeting, the Chair thanked all for their contributions, underlining that there is already some common ground emerging around the theme of finding the European way for the digital transformation in order to build an ethical, human-centred, transparent and safe digital society. There seemed to be also common ground to have an ambitious approach and to use the opportunities digitalisation offers, but also to manage the risks and challenges brought about by digitalisation. The Chair also noted that there is a real expectation by members to come up with tangible results and announced that members will be informed ahead of the December Plenary of the planned next steps.

ANNEX: List of members of the Working Group on Digital Transformation

ANNEX: List of members of the Working Group on Digital Transformation

Chair: Riina SIKKUT (Elina VALTONEN as of 1.1.2022) (National Parliaments)

Title	First name	Last name	Component
Mr	Thomas	BYRNE	Council
Ms	Dita	CHARANZOVÁ	European Parliament
Ms	Josianne	CUTAJAR	European Parliament
Ms	Claudia	DÖRR-VOSS	Council
Ms	Jelena	DRENJANIN	Committee of the Regions
Ms	Yordanka	FANDAKOVA	Local/Regional representative
Mr	Vasco	FERNANDES	European citizens panels
Mr	Radosław	FOGIEL	National Parliaments
Ms	Antje	GERSTEIN	European Economic and Social Committee
Ms	Marietta	GIANNAKOU	National Parliaments
Mr	Antonio	GIARDINA	European citizens panels
Ms	Marketa	GREGOROVA	European Parliament
Mr	Filip	HOFMAN	European citizens panels
Ms	Eva Maria	HOLZLEITNER	National Parliaments
Ms	Assita	KANKO	European Parliament
Mr	Othmar	KARAS	European Parliament
Ms	Miapetra	KUMPULA-NATRI	European Parliament
Ms	Constance	LE GRIP	National Parliaments
Ms	Eva-Maria	LIIMETS	Council
Mr	Morten	LØKKEGAARD	European Parliament
Ms	Gisele Marguerite	MAGNERY	European citizens panels
Ms	Jánosné	MASEVSZKI	European citizens panels
Ms	Eva	MAYDELL	European Parliament
Mr	Paulo	MONIZ	National Parliaments
Ms	Noelle	O'CONNELL	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Sirpa	PAATERO	Council
Mr	Stefano	PALMIERI	European Economic and Social Committee
Mr	Chrisis	PANTELIDES	National Parliaments
Mr	Alessandro	PANZA	European Parliament
Ms	Gergana	PASSY	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Sandra	PEREIRA	European Parliament
Mr	Iulian-Vasile	POPESCU	Council
Mr	Carles	PUIGDEMONT I CASAMAJÓ	European Parliament
Ms	Lucia	PUTTRICH	National Parliaments
Ms	Jessika	ROSWALL	National Parliaments

Mr	Lukas	SAVICKAS	National Parliaments
Prof.	Paola	SEVERINO	National citizens panels/events
Ms	Riina	SIKKUT	National Parliaments
Mr	Radoslaw	SIKORSKI	European Parliament
Ms	Vita Anda	TĒRAUDA	National Parliaments
Mr	Jean-Louis	THILL	Council
Ms	Rocío	TOVIO DIAZ	European citizens panels
Ms	Elina	VALTONEN	National Parliaments
Ms	Mirja	VEHKAPERÄ	Committee of the Regions
Ms	Margrethe	VESTAGER	European Commission
Ms	Veronique	WILLEMS	Social Partners