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Welcome to the GI-NI project quarterly newsletter. Our message is to contribute to an inclusive Europe of shared prosperity by providing a better understanding of the changes and joint impact of three major transformations: technological progress, globalisation and migration; and offering policy and governance solutions to better equip citizens and companies, securing more equal opportunities and outcomes.

Editorial by Professor H.C. Garmann Johnsen

GI-NI PLUS: our Norwegian sister project

The University of Agder has received funding from the Norwegian Research Council for initiating a discussion in Norway about the future of work, based on the findings from the GI-NI project. The municipality of Kristiansand and the county of Agder are partners in the project. They are both working on strategies for preparing their region for tomorrow's work life. The municipality is responsible for primary schools and the county for the high schools. The pupils there are the ones that will spend most of their working career in the future work life that we are now discussing; what should they prepare for, what skills will be required, and what will the workday look like? As we discuss this, we are, hopefully, at the end of a pandemic that has accelerated many processes, like on-line work, platform economy, and home-based work. For the teaching sector, on-line teaching has been used extensively lately. For the restaurant sector and food stores, home delivery has increased. On-line shopping is at an all-time high. Doctors have increased the number of consultations by phone or video conference.

What will happen next? Over the last ten years, we have seen a sharp increase in academic work. Many of these jobs are within the healthcare sector and, what is called, business services. We might see tendencies to a polarisation between low skilled work within distribution, service sector, building industry and trade, and academic work related to business administration, technical work, and professions. Furthermore, productivity has decreased during the pandemic, and retirement has increased. It is, at the moment, unclear whether all those working from home will go back to work or if part-time work will increase.

Parallel to this, technology changes, with the increased use of intelligent robots and Artificial Intelligence, are changing how the industry works. At the same time, the new Norwegian government announces that the industry and other sectors of the economy will be facing radical changes, as society is bound to become carbon neutral within some years. This will, among others, have severe consequences for the huge oil-related industry in Norway, but it is also a call for all sectors to become sustainable. This development has consequences both for how we work and how we live. Can this indicate the future of work?

Through workshops and discussions with Norwegian partners, where scholars from the GI-NI project will take part, GI-NI PLUS will try to provide a platform for addressing the future of work. In addition, we plan to develop videos for use in schools, to make the coming workforce aware of the reality that might meet them. We do not expect to provide answers to how the future of work will be, but we believe that by bringing together what we know so far, with good reflections on some of the megatrends that we are facing, we can be better prepared for the future of work.

Interdisciplinary research of GI-NI: New video

GI-NI has produced a new video, which provides an explanation of the concepts to analyse inequalities within and between countries and how these inequalities are influenced simultaneously by three 'shocks'; technological change, migration and globalisation.

Ronald Dekker (TNO; The Netherlands) and Hans Christian Garmann Johnsen (University of Agder; Norway) set the conceptual background for studying the interaction and the joint impact of these shocks.



Interdisciplinary Research Framework

Events GI-NI project is participating in

CEPS Ideas Lab: "Inequalities in times of Covid-19"

CEPS Ideas Labs is an innovative platform of exchange and co-creation that brings together think tanks from across Europe, representatives of national governments, businesses, NGOs and European institutions to debate key policy issues for Europe.

The 1st of June 2022, the GI-NI consortium will be present in Brussels during the CEPS Ideas Lab and will organize one of the parallel sessions at the event entitled "Inequalities in times of Covid-19". The outbreak of Covid and the unprecedented policy response to mitigate its impacts may have increased and at the same time levelled out EU income inequality. What can be said for sure about the impact of Covid on income inequality? Did Covid foster other forms of inequalities? To what extent the pandemic marks a change compared to previous trends? Should such changes be expected to be long lasting?

The discussion panel will be held to evaluate the current situation in EU regarding the migration, technology and inequality. More information about the activity [here](#)

GI-NI Scientific Conference

At the end of 2022, GI-NI has its first Scientific Conference. First results of research will be discussed. Several sessions will be organised on the topics of technology, globalisation, migration and inequality. A call for papers will be sent out soon.

Publications

It is still early time in the GI-NI project. The project team has aligned its ideas in an internal note. You will see several ideas coming out of this note in our blogs and future newsletters.

About GI-NI (H2020)

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The sole responsibility of this newsletter lies with the authors (GI-NI consortium). The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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Growing Inequality: a novel integration of transformations research @@transform_H2020
GI-NI research (H2020) is about inequality, migration and globalisation in the context of technological transformation.

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