



"Young and Experienced" | 25.02.2021

Project: DigiTeRRI | GA n° 873010

Event Format: web-based round table discussion, bringing together regional/national stakeholders and experts

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To be published on webpage: www.digiTeRRI.eu/styria

Executive Summary

Roundtable 1 “Young and Experienced”

The round table discussion “Young and Experienced” was an excellent start of the series of round table discussions organized by the project team “DigiTeRRI Styria”. The round tables should support the roadmap process, help to better understand the regional characteristics, the future challenges for the various stakeholder groups, their different perspectives and needs in context with digitalization.

Key topics for the round table discussion are derived from the Styrian roadmap vision (see graphic below).



Styrian Vision

further information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul1OMhRhq0s&feature=youtu.be>

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The first web-based round table discussion concentrated on the different challenges and needs of young and elderly generations, gender equality and aspects in the business world regarding digitalization. For the first round table discussion, various stakeholder representatives and experts were invited to discuss the multiple perspectives and topics of interest. Stakeholders with different backgrounds shared their personal and professional perspectives. In the round table event, more than 15 participants attended the discussion.

Discussion panel of the first roundtable:

- Manuel-Tom **Rieser** | HTL Leoben, class representative of “engineering program” IT and Smart production of first course
- Julia **Brandstetter** | ÖH Montanuniversitaet Leoben, Speaker of Student Union
- Marianne **Hörlesberger** | AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, DigiteRRI Project Coordinator
- Corinna **Hörmann** | Johannes Kepler Universität, Scientist on Didactic of MINT disciplines
- Gabriele **Legat** | AMS, Gender equality agent General Management of Arbeitsmarktservice Steiermark
- Michael **Ulm** | Representative of association “Junge Wirtschaft”
- Alexandra **Haider** | ComputerStudio Jungwirth
- Alexandra **Gmundtner** | General Manager of HTL Leoben

Moderated by Brigitte Kriszt | MUL

Introduction to the DigiTeRRI Project by Teresa Riedenbauer | ZAT

Other members of project team:

Julia Schmidbauer | MUL

Erich Weber | Standort und Marketing Bruck an der Mur GesmbH

+ registered external participants

Main statements and discussion points

• Young generation

The roundtable started with the youngest participants. They pointed out “Digitalization shouldn’t be more effort, it should be an ease of task and we should not forget the people’s social needs.” Young people are already more “digital natives”, their fear on changes - caused by digitalization - is low. They see benefits in the fields of job perspectives and flexibility.

• Experienced generation

Our experienced participants referred that they want to keep the control and decisiveness, but showed a strong bias to increase the professional competence. Automation of every process cannot be the future goal. The use of social media for social interaction and exchange, the pressure to be update every meeting, is something which the elderly generation is not familiar with, but not aspired. The access to a learning environment like a digital lab will be favorable.

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- **Labour market and gender equality**

During the past year, the CORONA pandemic forced a rapid development of introduction of digitalization and opened the door for the future. In the area of adult's education, there is still a need for offers, but also to catch up with modern hardware equipment. Not all people are yet open for the new digital tools; those must be motivated with more information initiatives to overcome that skeptical attitude. Females are more engaged in digital oriented jobs, but currently job options or internships in the region are missing. New role models and professions should not lead to a further discrimination of females on the labour market.

- **New ways of teaching people**

Digitalization asks for more experienced and professional teaching methods for young people. The difference between distance learning and home schooling is evident. Capacities and skills of young people should be focused on networked thinking and analyzing complex systems. The dual training (apprenticeship and Matura) was proposed in order to achieve a higher level of training with practical skills. In this area, digitalization should be integrated into existing job profiles. New learning environments, or even learning models, should be used more often. The example given was the learning of apprentices from a large company in the region from HTL students.



Members of the panel and participants of the 1st round table on the DigiTeRRI Styria Roadmap development

- **Representatives of economy**

All business-orientated stakeholders agreed that companies need training on digitalization and tools of digitalization. On the one hand, the training courses should enable low-threshold access to knowledge, but also enable specialist knowledge as required. In principle, open access to knowledge and learning is seen as necessary for both, the company and its employees. Digitalization in the workplace and also digital communication enable new ways in networking, cooperation and economic opportunities.

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Summarizing the key topics of the discussion:

- *New learning and training methods and programs are asked for all generations.*
- *Role models are needed to motivate young people to take an interest in digitalization.*
- *Digitalization should support the people and not dominate their actions.*
- *Digitalization-relevant teaching content should be integrated into existing training or teaching.*
- *It must be actively counteracted with targeted measures the disadvantage of women in the new job profiles.*
- *Active regional support for companies in creating new job profiles and support in measures relevant to the labour market, such as internships and the creation of job options, in order to integrate better knowledge.*
- *Easy access to education and training on digitization for all generations.*
- *The corona pandemic has led to the rapid use of digital instruments in training and in business life, but it must also be ensured in the future that areas for traditional social exchange are preserved.*
- *Joint initiatives, cooperations and supporting resources (expertise and financial support) are crucial.*