



G20 GERMANY 2017
WOMEN 20 DIALOGUE



Women20 Study on „The Effects of Digitalisation on Gender Equality in the G20 Economies”

- Executive Summary -

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Women20

The main goal of Women20 (W20) is to promote women's economic empowerment as an integral part of the G20 process. W20 unites the global experiences of women's civil society organizations, women's entrepreneur associations, and academia to implement strong recommendations within the G20 negotiations.

Web: www.w20-germany.org | Twitter: @WomenTwenty_Ger

IfW Kiel

The Kiel Institute for the World Economy, founded in 1914, is an independent, publicly funded international center for research in global economic affairs, economic policy consulting, and economic education. The Institute engages especially in creating solutions to urgent problems in global economic affairs. On basis of its research, the Institute advises decision takers in policy, business, and society and informs the broader public about important developments in international economic policy.

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Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogues

Under the umbrella of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogues provide a network of stakeholders and decision-makers from think tanks, multinational corporations, and the financial sector to jointly develop and implement solutions for sustainable economic development.

Web: www.emsdialogues.org | Twitter: @EconPolicyForum

THE STUDY

The Women20 study on “The Effects of Digitalisation on Gender Equality in the G20 Economies” investigates how digitalisation will affect women’s labour market and financial inclusion in G20 countries, in what ways the G20 governments currently foster gender equality, and which additional policies they should adopt to foster gender equality more effectively in the digital age.

This is a summary of the key findings of the study. The full version of the study will be available on the occasion of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, July 2017, on the following websites:

W20: www.w20-germany.org

EMSD: www.economic-policy-forum.org/topic/digital-economy/

IfW: www.ifw-kiel.de/publications/e-books

KEY FINDINGS

- • • **Digitalisation creates opportunities for narrowing gender gaps in G20 countries**

The digital revolution, characterised by machine learning, big data, mobile robotics and cloud computing, will contribute to enhancing women’s inclusion both financially and on the labour market. It should be complemented by policies that enable women to access and use the new technologies to their full potential.

- • • **Women's jobs will be less affected by digitalisation**

About 40-60% of jobs in G20 countries will face a high risk of digitalisation in the foreseeable future. However, women's jobs will, on average, face lower risks of being replaced by digital technologies than men's jobs. This is primarily because many low-skill jobs commonly held by women, e.g. in health care or household services, are less easily automated than the low-skill predominantly male jobs, e.g. machine operators.

- • • **Women need better access to higher education**

Gender gaps are still large in high-skilled jobs, which face the lowest risk of digitalisation. Reducing the gender gaps among university graduates, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math(STEM) workers and managers in particular will further reduce women's susceptibility to digitalisation.

- • • **Overcoming the divide via enhanced digital literacy, access, and data security**

The gender gap in accessing and using mobile and digital technologies is still wide in the rural areas of developing and emerging economies. Women in such regions need better technical literacy, affordable access to the new technologies, and effective support in regard to data security problems.

KEY FINDINGS

- • • **Complementarities between higher education, social skills and digital skills will favour women**

Women often have better developed social skills, which have gained strongly in importance in the digital age. Combining social skills with higher education and advanced digital skills will allow women to take full advantage of digital technologies for their own benefits.

- • • **Activating unused entrepreneurial opportunities**

Digitalisation creates ample new entrepreneurial opportunities, yet women are still less likely to pursue an entrepreneurial career, particularly in information and communications technology (ICT) and knowledge-intensive sectors. They need equal chances to exploit new entrepreneurial opportunities. In particular, better entrepreneurial skills, entrepreneurial role models, more managerial or work experience in ICT or other sectors, and improved access to financial resources is required.

- • • **Improving womens' access to finance**

The digitalisation of financial services will greatly advance womens' financial inclusion. Innovations such as crowdfunding will help reduce cultural barriers against funding womens' ventures, overcome womens' constraints in terms of mobility, grant them more privacy in decision making, and increase their creditworthiness.

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