Technequality

Understanding the relation between technological innovations and social inequality

TECHNEQUALITY Update

By now, we are well underway with the third and last year of our project. Let us start with some numbers: in 2019 and 2020, we finished about one third of our deliverables (papers/reports, policy briefs, workshops and datasets). That means that we have this last year to finish another two thirds of the results. Because the planning is tight, our researchers are working very hard. Luckily we have already made significant progress.

And for some more good news: the European Commission considers Technequality as one of its success stories! Please read the interview with our project coordinator Mark Levels on their website. As we consider good cooperation with the EC of utmost importance, we are very happy with this.

TECHNEQUALITY results so far

Skills, automation and earnings: employment on technology driven labor markets

Robotisation, machine learning and artificial intelligence have revolutionised production methods, increasing productivity and welfare. However, as with previous technological revolutions, these innovations will likely cause a number of tasks and jobs to be entrusted to machines instead of humans. Furthermore, in the most recent wave of technological change, machines have been said to be increasingly proficient at carrying out complex non-routine tasks such as driving cars, diagnosing diseases or providing elderly care.

To be employable, humans would then need to be able to work with machines, to complement machines, or to compete with machines. Cognitive and non-cognitive skills would be crucial for labor market success, in particular in those sectors of the economy most affected by technological change.

This report explores these issues, examining the links between automation risks, cognitive and non-cognitive skills and labor market attainment. It focuses on the school-to-work transition, analysing short- and long-run attainment in Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. The results show that cognitive and non-cognitive skills improve labor market success in all countries, but also that in some countries, non-cognitive skills (such as emotional stability) may moderate employment risks generated by technical change, while cognitive skills appear to be less important. But the impact of automation is far from uniform. This is in line with earlier research, suggesting that national contexts are of vital importance for understanding how technological innovations are implemented and what consequences they have for workers.

Read the full report here.

TECHNEQUALITY events and news

Webinars in January and February 2021

Last January and February, we hosted a series of three short lunch webinars about our results so far. The presentations can be found on our website. The series was quite a success with a large number of attendants for each webinar (about 45 per webinar on average). The participants were a mix of consortium members, policy makers, scientists, students and even some people from commercial firms. At the end of each webinar, there were interesting discussions, and one webinar had a follow up in the form of two individual meetings with the OECD and a Dutch ministry.

The webinars were well received! We therefore decided that whenever our reports or papers are suitable for presentation and discussion, we will plan webinars to present them to a broader public. Interested? Follow us on Twitter (see below for our new twitter account) or check our website regularly for any news.

Technequality Spin-off: How will the gender employment gap fare in the age of automation?

Through her work for Technequality, Cambridge Econometrics' principle consultant Cornelia Suta explores how the age of automation could affect the gender employment gap. Read about what she found out here.

New twitter account will replace the old

As of 1 April, we have launched a Twitter account with our two EU funded sister projects on technological transformation: Beyond 4.0 and GI-NI. All our tweets will come from this new account, called Transformations H2020. Please follow us on @Transform_H2020 for the latest news on the consequences of robotisation and AI on labour.

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