

INVITATION

Digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Opportunities and Risks for Romania

*4th of April 2016, 17.00-19.00, Connect Hub Bucharest,
Bd. Dacia 99, 4th floor, Bucharest*

Recent years have seen an increased use of digital technologies in economic production, with machines and robots taking over more and more activities and communicating autonomously with each other. Many claim that this “Industry 4.0” will profoundly impact the labor market and individual workplaces and point at the risks that jobs might be replaced and inequalities might increase. Others argue that new jobs, new services, and new business models will compensate for potential job loss due to digitalization. Some studies show that Romania will be among the most affected, more than 60% of the existing jobs being at risk of computerization. But for a country like Romania, characterized by a well-developed and relatively competitive IT sector on the one hand and some important manufacturing industries on the other hand “Industry 4.0” could offer opportunities if policies and framework conditions are supportive.

In this context, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania (FES) and the Foundation for a Democratic Left (FSD) aim to debate the challenges posed by the digitalization for Romania.

We are interested to discuss the digitalization’s impact on certain industries and sectors, on the labor market, on the educational system and also to explore the best public policies options which the Romanian government could adopt in this context for maximizing the opportunities and diminishing the losses.

The conference will be in Romanian language, with simultaneous translation into English language.

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AGENDA

17:00 Introduction

- **Matthias Jobelius**, Representative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Romania and Republic of Moldova
- **Victor Negrescu**, President of the Foundation for a Democratic Left

17:15 Input

- **Henning Meyer**, Editor-in-Chief of Social Europe Journal, Research Associate at LSE Public Policy Group (PPG), London School of Economics and Political Science

17:45 - 18:30 Panel discussion

- **Varujan Pambuccian**, Member of the Romanian Parliament
- **Radu Merica**, President of the German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce
- **Dorin Pena**, General Manager, CISCO Romania
- **Florentin Iancu**, President of the Timisoara IT Trade Union (SITT)

Moderation: Victoria Stoiciu, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania

18:30 - 19:15 Discussion