Digitalisation and the transition to a climate-neutral economy are two significant megatrends impacting the EU’s society, economy and labour markets. These changes are taking place in parallel to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Digitalisation is changing the world of work

Technological change has become more rapid. The pandemic has accelerated the pace of change, as well as innovation and technological adoption.

New forms of employment such as platform work and ICT-based mobile work are on the increase.

New employment relations between employer and employee will create opportunities and risks depending on their deployment and the economic, regulatory and institutional framework conditions.

Impact of change in the EU

Investigating the effects of the twin transition will provide an understanding of any complementarities or trade-offs between digitalisation and the transition to a climate-neutral economy.

Where are the opportunities and risks?

Economic structure

Labour supply and demand

Working conditions

Work organisation

Living conditions

Industrial relations, social dialogue and policymaking

Looking to the future

Technology has the potential to improve job quality and the competitiveness of European businesses through the large-scale production, collection and use of data.

Clarification and regulation of data ownership and data protection are critical to avoid speculative and unethical practices.

As the EU emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring the effects of digitalisation and the transition to a climate-neutral economy on employment, working and living conditions, including social protection, will be important.

Eurofound research on digitalisation is ongoing while work on the green transition will continue to focus on topics such as regions, sectors and inequalities.