



TWIN TRANSITION: WHAT IMPACT FOR THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS



This article is written by **Alessia Sebillo**, Executive Director at Diesis Network.

In the last months Diesis has been talking about the Twin Transition as the one way to overcome the environmental and societal challenges of this century. If the Covid-19 pandemic amplified even more the needs of a structural change in our society at all levels underlining the need of a change of direction, what do we exactly expect from this Twin Transition?

While the green transition is a necessary response to the climate crisis, the digital one is necessary to support the growth of all industrial sectors. As a strategic approach for the future of the economy the European Commission decided to pair and promote both, to maximise the awareness and the impact on the medium/long term.

In order to achieve the ambitious intermediate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030[1], the Commission has unveiled some key measures. The European Green Deal is intended to be a new model of growth for the Union. The Commission has committed to mobilise at least €1 trillion of investments over the next decade to support a just and green transition[2].

This will impact also on the European work force who will need to be reskilled. According to the latest assessment of the ILO and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), a green recovery scenario with investments into renewable energies, building efficiency and green transport would create some 20.5 million additional jobs by 2030[3].

On the other hand, the digital transition is about the EU not falling further behind its peers on digital technologies and harnessing the benefits that come with a modernised digital economy.

The European Commission has long promoted digital transformation to enhance economic competitiveness, while also recognising that digitisation can contribute to sustainability goals and enable the changes needed for a just green transition. The pandemic has also exposed the vulnerabilities of European digital space, its dependencies on non-European technologies, and the impact of disinformation on our democratic societies[4].



The Commission's twin green and digital goals are seen to complement each other well. The uptake of digital solutions and the use of data will help in the transition to a climate neutral, circular and more resilient economy. As an example, last March 2022, the Commission has launched the Destination Earth initiative^[5] to help tackling climate change by monitoring, modelling and predicting natural and human activity, and developing and testing scenarios for more sustainable development.

The twin ecological and digital transitions will inevitably affect every part of our economy, society and industry. If for once political goals and societal challenges look aligned, the questions remain whether us, European citizens, are prepared to face these changes and how it will reflect on our lives.

References:

[1] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0562>

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_24

[3] https://www.ilo.org/brussels/information-resources/news/WCMS_785635/lang-en/index.htm#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20latest%20assessment,million%20additional%20jobs%20by%202030.

[4] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0118>

[5] <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/destination-earth>

