



**European Christian Workers Movement**  
**Europäische Bewegung Christlicher ArbeitnehmerInnen**  
**Movimiento de Trabajadores Cristianos de Europa**  
**Mouvement des Travailleurs Chrétiens d'Europe**

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Results of the seminar on the topic: "Digital work - working anytime and anywhere - impact on the workers and their families". from 18 - 20 October 2018 in Birmingham/England

The European Christian Workers Movement (ECWM), consisting of 12 workers movements in 10 European countries, met from 18 to 20 October 2018 in Birmingham (England) with the aim of discussing the influence of digital technologies on people. Both the dimension of work and that of family life were the focus of the discussion.

The following findings were obtained:

Digitisation has both negative and positive dimensions. The challenge is to shape these developments. It is important to ask how employees are affected privately and especially at work, and how they deal with the resulting changes. The question is how to ensure comprehensively that human dignity can be preserved and protected. Man is holy to us because he is the image of God.

In a nutshell, one can formulate: Technical developments have to serve people and not the other way round. This optimistic perspective is overshadowed by serious fears and seemingly overpowering media oligarchs or data companies. At the same time, digitalisation is sometimes too much for people when the boundaries between work and leisure are blurred, when every step and every statement can be monitored, when the whole digital world is always present at the family table, when the connections and technical processes cannot be grasped and understood. One aspect that is particularly relevant for employees and which we believe remains underestimated in the discussion is the ecological side of digitisation. In addition to digital transformation processes, we must also devote ourselves to ecological transformation. The question of growth must be linked to human dignity and to ecology, which ensures the basis of life for all of us.

As an ECWM, we want to take an active and confident approach to the challenges posed by digitisation. We use our different methodologies to capture and pool the experiences of the working population. Furthermore, we want to strengthen the cooperation with the trade unions, the church, politics and civil society and introduce and underline our Christian values in the disputes. Due to the complexity of the issue, education seems to us to be a central key for shaping the process. For this reason, among other things, we will discuss the reflection of the COMECE Social Commission on the topic "Shaping the future of work" and enrich it with our own experiences. To this end, the coordination group will take the first steps at its next meeting. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the "International Labour Organisation (ILO)" we will get involved and use the possibilities of networking to support the WMCW in its work in the group of Catholic-inspired organisations at the ILO. A joint action for the Day of Decent Work on 7 October 2019 is to be placed in the context of the ILO anniversary.

The measures outlined here already represent first elements of active shaping in the sense of a humane society in the digitalized world, because we accept the challenges, inform ourselves and shape society in solidarity. The path started here will be in the context of the ECWM Seminar in October 2019.