Track 22: Sustainably Digital

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Description

Information systems carry significant potential for supporting sustainable development, that is: “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Our Common Future –report, UN, 1987). We can look at sustainability from four interrelated perspectives:

- **Environmental sustainability**: In the future there won’t be enough natural resources available to allow a continuous expansion of the existing forms of work. We call the new emerging form of work *green work*.
- **Economic sustainability**: The activities are competitive enough so that they can be expected to continue in future. The productivity level is such that the people participating in these kinds of work activities can expect to earn decent incomes.
- **Human sustainability**: People must have a possibility to maintain their health and to enjoy their work so that they can and want to continue working until the normal retirement age.
- **Social sustainability**: The sacrifices required in particular’s job, and the rewards given to people working in them, are distributed on a just manner. The working possibilities of one group of people are not realized at the cost of some other group. If injustices exist, they will probably lead to social tensions, which sooner or later threaten the continuity of existing arrangements.

The underlying issues of sustainability are therefore complex. The IS discipline is challenged to investigate the phenomenon of sustainability from different perspectives. In terms of environmental sustainability, information systems can help in designing and implementing business processes that assimilate less waste and use less energy. Green IT is looking for solutions to diminish the harm that IT generates. Economic sustainability is at the core of management information systems, transaction processing, and data management. Human
sustainability concerns personal health and well-being, where individuals can be supported by sensor networks, personal information systems, and data management, amongst others. Social sustainability can be supported by governments, companies and individual people, all together.

With this track, we aim to deepen our understanding both in Green IS and Green IT. In line with prior conference tracks at ECIS and other conferences, we would like to contribute to defining and further developing this important vein in IS research.

We invite rigorous and relevant empirical studies that employ a variety of methods as well as conceptual papers on theory development.

**Topics of Interest**

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Relationships between different aspects of social, economic, human and environmental sustainability related to IS development and use
- Information technologies as part of the problem (Green IT)
- Sustainability in globally distributed software and services provision
- Organizational sustainability transformations
- Sustainable global outsourcing
- Sustainable digital life

**Sponsorship**

*The Information Society* will invite the best papers to be published in a Special Issue.

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