6th CARPE Conference „Strengthening Partnerships"
27- 29 October 2021, University of Debrecen

Proposal for a Societal Challenges SIG on Friday, 29 October/11.00 – 13.30

Title: Societal challenges, environmental, technological and social response alternatives
Subtitle: *Guiding Social Values in the age of technological innovation*

Introduction:
Technological innovation and digitalisation have radically transformed the world we know and in recent years continues shaping also the way we think about our society. Often technological innovations are proposed as ways of addressing social and environmental challenges. However, in times of rapid change, there is some consensus that seems to provide a stable compass on the road of transformation: creating inclusive, innovative and reflective societies, protecting freedom and social security of the citizens in Europe and across the globe.

To address these goals societal challenges brings together resources and knowledge across different fields. Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Computer Sciences and Humanities (SSH), environmental science, public policy and moral philosophy. Interdisciplinary research and creative innovation has a leading and sustaining role in this field. The prime purpose is to enhance our understanding of societal conditions, to ensure transformative and structural changes promote future prosperity, well-being and social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. We aim to make sure that innovation, including technology innovation reinforces our core social values.

Three areas of the complex theme will be presented during the panel and the connections between the themes will be discussed:
- the changing world of work and social security,
- the social impact and complexity of environmental challenges,
- the relationship between artificial intelligence, virtual environments and human society.

Aim of the session is:
- To discuss the main questions of the topic: societal challenges
- To raise awareness to the topic of societal values in times of technological innovation and environmental challenges
- To discuss: which topical aspects of the three themes presented would be highlighted by CARPE partners
- To create links between interested researchers during the discussion and outline opportunities for collaboration and joint research

Agenda
- Welcome and short introduction to session incl. moderation: Judit Csoba, University of Debrecen and Kate Miler, UWS
- Keynote presentations on the three thematic priorities by members of the Societal Challenge SIG
- Discussion