

# Future role of trade unions

Agnes Streissler-Fuehrer  
December 7th, 2017

# GPA-djp – Who we are

- Union of private employees (white collar)
- 250.000 members (~ 10-15% of all private employees)
- „Digitalisierung mitgestalten“  
co-creating digitisation, active participation in shaping digital economy and workplace
- My role: innovation management, digitalisation



# New role for trade unions

- What is the future of work?
- What is the future of democracy and participation?
- How should we react / adapt / proact?

# Future of work

- Not significantly fewer but other jobs – transformation!
- Uncertainty
- Precarisation is a problem, but let's not forget about other workers as well
- Convergence and change of industries and business models
- New qualifications
- New needs and ideas of „Good Work“

# Future of democracy

- Populism: mobilisation but no participation
- Volatility: conviction alone is no longer a stable value proposition
- Bubbles: how to reach those in other bubbles?

# Reacting / Acting / Proacting

- Organise all kinds of work; develop new offers for new and so far neglected groups
- Discuss „Good work 4.0“
- Empower work councils and trade unions in change management
- Old but still good: Fairness and level playing fields  
Sustainable businessmodels

# Necessary policies on European level

- Right to vocational education: less training, more learning!
- Binding minimum standards in labour laws, social protection, representation rights for all kinds of work
- Strengthening of collective bargaining systems both as protection against inequality and as best practice systems for resilience and mobility of the labour market
- Competition law: making collective bargaining possible for one-person firms; stricter enforcement of market power (data collection as economic activity)
- Taxation of profits to finance the costs of transformation



# DIGITALISIERUNG MITGESTALTEN

**GPA**  **djp**  
GEWERKSCHAFT DER PRIVATANGESTELLTEN  
DRUCK - JOURNALISMUS - PAPIER