

The World Economic Forum: Committed to improving the state of the world

The World Economic Forum is an independent, impartial and future-oriented international organization, committed to trust-based, multistakeholder engagement, and driven by its mission to improve the state of the world.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution – the current period of rapid, simultaneous and systemic transformations driven by advances in science and technology – is reshaping industries, blurring geographical boundaries, challenging existing regulatory frameworks, and even redefining what it means to be a human.

As the global platform for interaction, insight and impact, the Forum focuses on the effective and ethical deployment of innovation for the benefit of global society. In this context of pressing regional and international challenges, the agile development of policy norms and frameworks and the application of these innovations are urgently needed.

Drawing on its global convening power, excellence in community creation and management, insight generation and technology, the Forum is uniquely positioned to drive action on closing the governance gap that has developed as the Fourth Industrial Revolution has progressed.

That's why the Forum has founded the **Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution**. The Center is a new space for global cooperation and committed to developing principles and frameworks that accelerate the application of science and technology in the global public interest.

A Global Space for Public Private Collaboration

Emerging technologies inevitably have both merits and risks. It is almost certain, for instance, that autonomous vehicles will cause some accidents, but they also promise to enhance mobility and improve urban infrastructure. The extent to which benefits are maximized and risks mitigated depends on the quality of governance – policies, norms, standards and incentives that shape the development and deployment of these technologies.

The **Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution** is a global space for public private collaboration.

Governance frameworks should be stable, predictable and transparent enough to build confidence among investors, companies, scientists and the general public, but also agile enough to remain relevant in the face of rapid advances in technology and user behavior.

Policy governing emerging technologies is currently piecemeal: some areas are regulated heavily, others hardly at all. Often, mechanisms allowing for policy-makers to interact with people at the cutting edge of research simply do not exist, as they intersect areas that present challenges for regulatory remit.

There is a need for a global space where the world's leading technology companies, dynamic start-ups, policy-makers, international organizations, regulators, business organizations, academia and civil society can connect. Only together can we develop the agile policy norms and partnerships needed to stimulate the enormous potential of science and technology, deliver rapid growth and make sustainable, positive impact for all.







Accelerating the benefits of science and technology for society

The Center is a platform for global, multistakeholder cooperation to develop policy frameworks and advance collaborations that accelerate the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

A global hub of expertise, knowledge-sharing and collaboration, the Center is located in San Francisco, in close proximity to the world's foremost technology companies, start-ups, investors, venture capital firms and leading academic institutions.

The Center aims to enable the effective deployment of innovation across economic, social and political spheres by developing global norms, principles, frameworks and partnerships. To better facilitate this deployment, most of the Center's applied research and projects will be integrated into the Forum's System Initiatives – multistakeholder efforts to drive holistic, cross-industry action on systemic challenges. Examples include **Shaping the Future of Mobility** and **Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society**.

Center projects will all feature a strong science or technology component, strive to generate impact across industries and national borders and engage multiple stakeholders.

Areas of focus currently being considered:

- Autonomous vehicles
- Blockchain (distributed ledger technology)
- Civilian use of drones
- Digital trade
- Industrial internet of things (IoT) safety
- Industrial policy for the future of production
- Improving the state of the oceans
- Precision medicine
- Project-based workforce – sharing and circular economy
- Trust and empowerment – the individual in the era of big data, IoT and AI

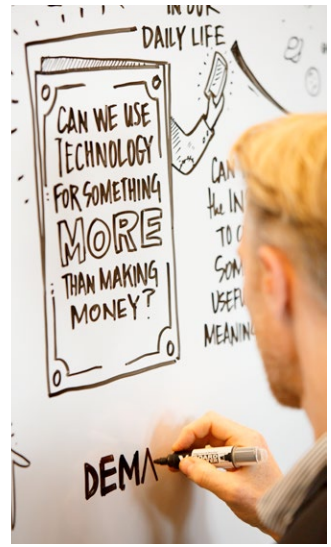
The principles driving the Center's operations

The Center is part of the World Economic Forum and will be run according to eight operating principles that form the basis of the Forum model:

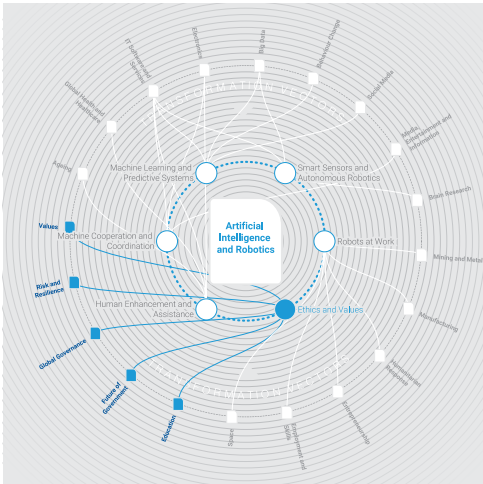
-  **Thought leadership:** The Forum is an established thought leader on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
-  **Independent and impartial:** An independent and impartial global platform for dialogue and engagement.
-  **Multistakeholder approach:** Agile technology frameworks require engagement from government, policy-makers, experts and academics, international organizations, youth, civil society and innovators, in addition to the prominent involvement of business.
-  **Technology company engagement:** Active participation of large technology companies and start-ups is essential. Existing Partners of the Forum include most of the world's leading technology companies and a large community of technology pioneers.
-  **Global context:** Agile technology frameworks must be placed in a wider context. The Forum's global perspective is reflected in its communities, initiatives and events.
-  **Future orientation:** The Forum engages with the world's leading universities and a network of experts from around the world to help shape a better future.
-  **Systemic thinking:** All Center projects will be integrated within the Forum's System Initiatives, which are designed to stimulate effective public-private responses to complex challenges affecting multiple industries.
-  **Ecosystem approach:** All activities must be integrated into a holistic economic, social and policy-making context.

These principles allow the Center to implement a uniquely horizontal approach. Projects will examine and advance the transformative impact of technology across all industries and national borders, rather than within traditional verticals or along geopolitical boundaries.





Transformation Maps: Understanding the forces shaping the future



The world today is a complex ecosystem of interconnections. In order to identify long-term opportunities and threats requiring effective policy responses, leaders need a holistic view of the issues driving global change.

Organizations partnering with the Center can access the Forum's proprietary contextual knowledge tool to explore the connections between regional, industry and systemic issues, and thus better understand the forces shaping our world.

Covering an extensive range of topics, from digital currencies through to cybersecurity, Transformation Maps attest to the breadth and depth of knowledge of Forum communities on the issues shaping dialogue around the Fourth Industrial Revolution today.

Equipped with this unique tool, leaders access the most current content, in the context of a systemic framework, and are linked to a community of thought leaders.

How do I engage? Your role in shaping a better world

Participation in the Center's projects is reserved for academic institutions, experts, civil society, the business community, start-ups, international organizations, governments and regulators with an interest in shaping Fourth Industrial Revolution policy norms and principles.

Depending on the depth of their engagement, participants can engage with a number of projects each year, and may be entitled to embed key personnel within the Center for extended periods.

Engagement allows for attendance at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions, the Forum meeting devoted to science, technology and innovation, held annually in China. In addition, it gives access to the Forum's online platforms, TopLink and Transformation Maps. Partnering organizations will also be able to participate in meetings and workshops at the Center.

To find out more about engagement opportunities, please contact Silvia von Gunten, Head of Business Engagement, at silvia.von-gunten@weforum.org.



Shape a Better Future

The Center provides a unique opportunity to shape global policy norms relating to science and technological entrepreneurship in the global public interest.

Engagement allows participants the occasion to interact with stakeholders from various industries, regions and backgrounds, each of whom shares the Forum's holistic, future-oriented vision.

Forum events, such as the Annual Meeting of the New Champions, and project workshops linked to wider System Initiatives include representatives from global business, policy, academia and civil society, enhancing opportunities for greater global collaboration on science and technology deployment around the world.

We extend a warm invitation to engage with the **World Economic Forum Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution**. Join us to help shape a better future.



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REF 09122016

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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

The logo for the World Economic Forum, featuring the words "WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM" in a bold, sans-serif font. A blue arc is positioned behind the text, starting from the top right and curving around the bottom of the word "FORUM".

**COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD**

The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

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