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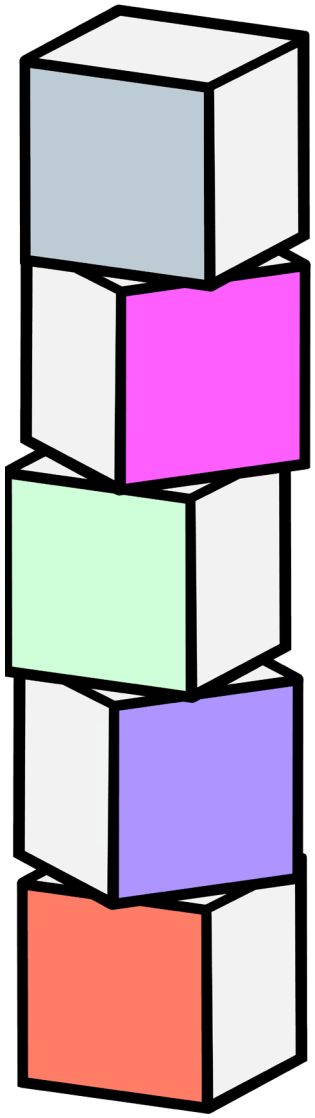
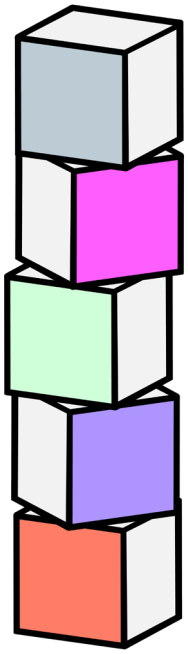


Policy BuildingBlocks

Making digital policy fair

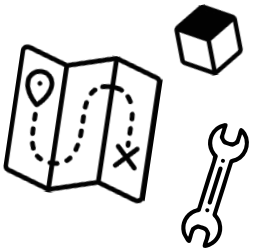


Digital policy is social policy!

Time to shape it as such. This is not always easy, as the social impact of digitalization is complex. This makes it all the more important that we take a close look at them.

The Policy Building Blocks help us to ask the right questions. Like building blocks, they work individually and together, but are best hand-picked - whether you choose to read from top to bottom or browse through the content by clicking the links.

The Policy Building Blocks are



a reminder
to reflect on your own position and avoid past mistakes.

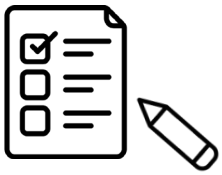
flexible
they help to shape and scrutinize policies, strategies and processes.

a starting point
where we begin to shape digital policy with foresight.

elements / blocks
which can be expanded or deepened.

a mapping tool
to analyze the development and regulation of technology - comprehensively.

teamwork
because good digital policy requires many perspectives.



not a checklist
that will take care of everything. Because it's not that simple!

no substitute
for data protection impact assessments and other specialist assessments. But they are a good addition!

The Policy Building Blocks

The Policy Blocks help to apply an intersectional feminist analysis in active policy-making. They do this on four levels: The social, the systemic, the global and the contemporary-historical level.

The policy blocks make no claim to completeness or neutrality. They are a construction kit that can be adapted and supplemented depending on the context. The Policy Building Blocks consider four dimensions in order to successfully implement fair, sustainable digitalization:

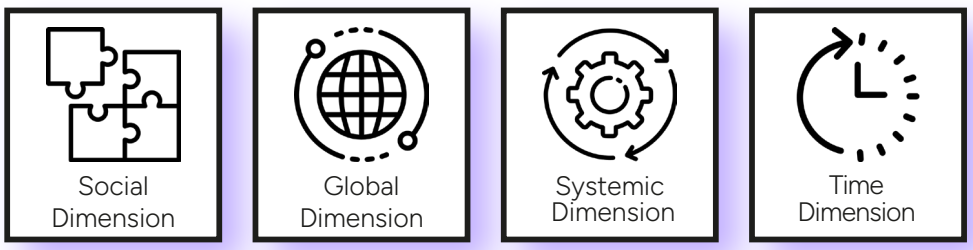
The Social Dimension
Shaping digital policy fairly by reducing social injustices.

The Systemic Dimension
Strengthening digital policy through clear responsibilities.

The Global Dimension
Viewing and understanding digital policy in a global context.

The Time Dimension
Making digital policy fit for the future

To the Policy Building Blocks:



Social Dimension

The Social Dimension:

Digitalization affects many social issues: Access, participation, transparency - in other words, opportunities. We must therefore ensure that digital policy measures reduce social inequalities, are proportionate and follow the right priorities for society as a whole.

Differentiation

Which groups are most negatively affected?
Which are the most positively affected?

Target group

Whose interests are prioritized? (e.g. those of the economy, society, research, upper or lower income groups, families, etc.).

Overall social situation

Why do we prioritize this project over other political projects?
In what larger legislative and (administrative) legal context is it embedded?
Is something else not being implemented because of this initiative?

Impact

Which social groups are most affected by the measure, and how in detail?

Power and participation

Which groups can influence political or downstream decisions (e.g. technical implementation) - and which cannot?
Who has theoretical influence and who has actual influence based on existing resources, information and networks?

Global Dimension

The Global Dimension

All factors of digital transformation, from technology development to regulation, have global consequences, whether intended or not. They must therefore be assessed in a global context:

Intended effects

Does a measure have an intended global economic, legal or regulatory effect? (see: Brussels effect)
How are these effects measured, and are the evaluations incorporated into legislative amendments?
How are people who are affected by the effects consulted?

Unintended effects

What unintended effects can a measure have on legislation, law enforcement or markets in other countries?
Does a law impose new legal or technical measures that may serve to restrict fundamental rights in other countries (see Network Enforcement Act, technical function creep)?

Governance structure

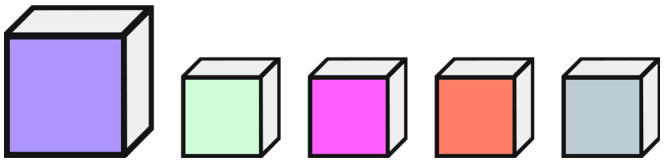
Does a project have an influence on global governance structures?
Should existing structures be included in the design of the project?

Distribution of wealth

Does digital policy influence global value chains or employment relationships?
Is precarious work relocated to another region or upgraded?

Supply chains

What are the implications for supply chains at home and abroad?
Do they lead to more strategic independence, at what social and financial cost?



Systemic Dimension

The Systemic Dimension

The digital transformation is taking place in the field of tension between state responsibilities and global technical infrastructures. We are implementing it in a time of multiple crises. We must therefore consider digital policy projects in a wider context. Governance and power issues cannot be analyzed in isolation, but only as a whole.

Fundamental rights

Does a project strengthen the fundamental rights of all people in a society?
Which legal interests must be weighed against each other, and according to which criteria?

Impact on other political goals

How does a digital project impact other overarching policy goals, such as whether we meet sustainability goals?

Distribution of power

Which actors will be given new powers or capabilities to act - state, business, civil society, individuals?
Who gives up power?
Does the redistribution lead to more participation and empowerment?

Transparency

Which technical, legal and social structures filter who gets insight and opportunities to participate and who does not?

Legal context:

What interactions arise between a digital policy project and existing legislation? (e.g. monitoring bill)

Responsibility

Are government and commercial tasks clearly defined and separated?
Are tasks assigned to the state or the economy that were previously in the hands of the other?
What impact does this have on liability issues, resilience, etc.?

Expansion of powers

Does a digitalization measure create new powers for the judiciary and executive?
In recognition of institutional abuse of power, racism and paternalism, we suggest critically scrutinizing new powers for government agencies and providing them with transparency and audit requirements.

Time Dimension

The Time Dimension

In order to shape the digital transformation for the future, we must look to the past: an awareness of our responsibility and our positioning in the world is a basic prerequisite for any analysis and shaping of the future. The digital transformation is not a future issue - it has a history from which we can learn.

Historical awareness

What does responsible action mean in the context of (German, European, World) history?
(see: Role of census data in the Third Reich; automation in social services; Afrocensus as a community rather than administration-driven project)

Inequality

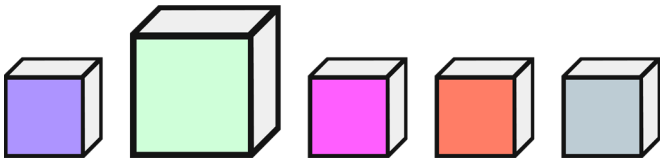
Does an impact assessment analyze historical inequalities and concentrations of power?
Are new measures aimed at reducing them?

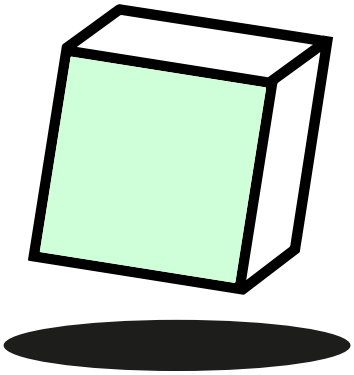
Future-proof

What foreseeable possible developments can we provide for, what scenarios do we need to be prepared for?

Sustainability

Is a project a short-lived quick fix or a sustainable solution that takes longer to implement?
Why is the latter preferable in this context?
What accompanying, long-term measures are necessary?

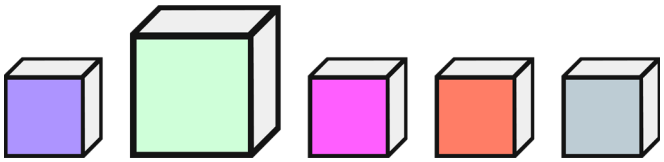




Examples of use

We integrate the policy blocks into our work at various points. The following examples show what this looks like:

- Define topics
- Strategic work
- Design touchstones
- Shaping Digitisation



Example 1

Define topics meaningfully: The debate on digital violence

Define topics

The guide helps to break open established discussion frameworks, look at topics in a new light or find gaps that have not received any attention so far.

In this way, we can develop new, necessary narratives and derive the necessary measures without being constrained by the public debate.

READ UP:

https://feministtechpolicy.org/fallbeispiele/digitale-gewalt/

We are opening up the debate on the problem of digital violence. Digital violence is often summarized under „hate and hate speech on social media". The guide helps to question and describe this limitation:

Who is affected by digital violence?
Through which technical means?
What are the motivations behind it?

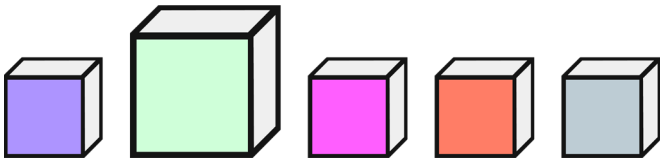
This scrutiny makes it clear that public violence on social networks is only a small part of the broad field of digital violence, which primarily takes place in the context of intimate partner violence and gender-based violence. It is therefore more helpful for the discussion from a feminist perspective to understand digital violence as part of the „continuum of violence".

Example 2

Strategic work

Strategic work

We also use the guidelines to prioritize which topics we can work on with the limited resources of a non-profit organization. We do not lose sight of the big picture in individual actions and projects and can always identify where our work should have an impact and how, and what further steps would be necessary for systemic change.



Example 3

Who needs to help shape: A digital healthcare system

Shaping Digitisation

Politicians often only open up to certain interest groups in hearings. With the Policy Blocks, we work out which stakeholders need to contribute their expertise in order to critically think through a legislative proposal and make it future-proof. In this way, we are able to bring network policy demands into the mainstream and present a broad alliance to politicians.

We comment on the digitalization of the healthcare system with IT experts, patient representatives, experts on the rights of people with disabilities and chronic illnesses and doctors. Together, we achieve more than technical design specifications and embed the topic in the overall context of a healthcare system that is perceived as discriminatory.

READ UP:

https://feministtechpolicy.org/fallbeispiele/gesundheitsdaten/

https://inoeg.codeberg.page/openletter1223.html

Example 4

Design touchstones: Digital public services

Design touchstones

How can we ensure that regulation and administrative digitalization ensure social justice while strengthening fundamental rights? To do this, we need a forward-looking view of the impact of digital policy projects on society as a whole.

With the help of scenario methods, we are trying to achieve a broad-based, socio-technical risk assessment of digital technologies. Looking ahead is particularly important for digital projects with a long-term impact, which must function well even if external conditions change.

For the implementation of register modernization, we bring together experts from IT security, administration, data protection and design. We work with them to develop minimum standards for future-proof register modernization based on structured future scenarios.

READ UP:

https://feministtechpolicy.org/fallbeispiele/registermodernisierung/

https://feministtechpolicy.org/fallbeispiele/pruefsteine-regmod/

https://superrr.net/2023/07/18/Szenarienmethode-RegMod-Workshop.html

What can politicians do with it?

The Policy Building Blocks are a method for people who want to pursue feminist digital policy strategically.

This means linking measures together with foresight instead of seeing individual projects fizzle out in terms of their impact.

It means overcoming silo thinking and using digital policy for justice and sustainability.

The building blocks make it possible to develop visions instead of reactive individual measures. Finally, this methodology helps to ensure future-proof policymaking that can continue to have an impact for the next 30 years and beyond.

LET'S TALK! LET'S TALK! LET'S TALK!

Call to Action: Let's talk!

You want to use the Policy Building Blocks, but don't know exactly where to start? Do you have questions or suggestions about the method?

Then contact us - we'll take you on a journey into feminist digital policy.

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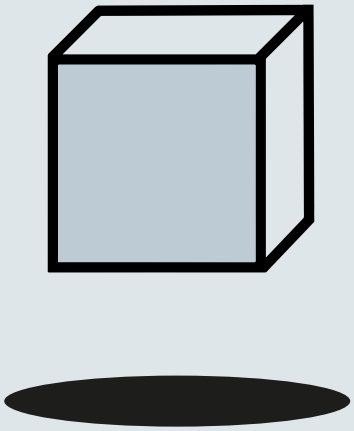
10969 Berlin
Contact Person: Elisa Lindinger
elisa@superrr.net

LET'S TALK! LET'S TALK! LET'S TALK!



More SUPERRR Tools

Many factors shape technology. We believe:

Everyone can contribute to making technology fairer.

We have published various tools to discuss tech topics and their societal impacts, to analyze use cases from an interdisciplinary perspective, and to derive policy recommendations from them. Together, they help shape the digital transformation proactively and constructively.

Feminist Tech Policy

… is our manifesto for a fair and sustainable digital transformation. It introduces the concept and, through case studies, illustrates how a feminist approach changes current internet policy debates.

Feminist Tech Principles

… help design good technology. They provide developers, activists, and policymakers with food for thought to reshape technology, its usage, and its regulation.

Critiquing Futures

… is a methodical approach to uncover potential biases and patterns of discrimination in future scenarios of digitalization, to question one's own assumptions, and to critically examine tech utopias.

Imprint:

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Participation: Corinna Vetter
Design: Larissa Rodiga

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