



Today's world of work is characterised by numerous changes. Increased deployment of computer technology in the workplace is creating a shift in Tasks carried out by employees. According to the polarisation hypothesis, routine tasks will decrease at the medium qualifications level in particular because they will be increasingly substituted by computer technology and machines. At the same time, demand for persons with a high level of qualification will rise. The introduction of "Industry 4.0", which denotes interactive networking between production and the digital realm, will bring further serious structural changes in the world of work. Current research results indicate that the transformation of occupations, tasks and whole sectors being driven by digitalisation of the economy will accelerate to create services that are more dependent on technology. The job losses predicted within the scope of the polarisation thesis will, however, not come to pass because of the importance of the mix of tasks in the workplace. It remains to be seen whether these developments will offer employment opportunities to persons previously viewed as being at a disadvantage on the labour market.

Over recent years, Germany has introduced numerous changes in disability policy with the aim of improving participation of disabled persons (including in working life). Nevertheless, disabled persons are less likely to be employed on the primary labour market, face considerable problems in finding a job and thus tend to be affected by unemployment more frequently and for longer periods.

The main objective of the project is to examine the extent to which technological change improves or declines the labour market participation of disabled persons (digital divide).

A further aim is to analyse task structures and the influence of computerisation (including assistive technologies) on tasks differentiated by type of disability. Moreover, the perceived impacts of technological change are differentiated by type of disability.

The research issues will be addressed within the scope of a survey of the primary labour market (follow-up survey of the BIBB/BAuA Employee Survey 2017/2018) and a (supplementary) survey of the second labour market.

As no empirical data is yet available on the impact of technological change on employees with various types of disability a major research gap will be closed.