

Why Society6.0?

I first heard the term Society5.0 as a further development of the term Industry4.0 in Germany on a business trip to Japan at the beginning of 2017 and directly felt attracted by it: The idea of putting people at the center to master future economic and social challenges is very attractive. The business model of Society5.0, as propagated in Japan, looks at people in a technology-based environment and with many resulting application scenarios that are essentially considered smart.

Smart is almost everything today. Smart are the phones with which we communicate for business or on socialmedia, listen to music, exchange data, images, information. Smart are our household appliances, which communicate at the touch of a button and programmed with voice assistants to take work away from us. Smart are business people, young people are smart: many things are now called smart with ease, so that linguistic inflation occurs. However, much is left by the wayside.

If everything would be as smart as we often say, many and fundamental problems of our society would already been solved, in harmony with our society and our environment. We all know that this is not the case. The Japanese government's term Society5.0 is used in Japan synonymously for an intelligent and fully connected and sustainable society across all levels, whose primary objectives are to improve living conditions and quality of life. The foundation of this society is digital infrastructures, platforms and services, all based on so-called smart technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and robot-controlled process automation (RPA), Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, and Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR). These technologies have been the hype technologies of this century in the last decade. They are seen as technologies which enable significant economic and social changes, changes that have not been possible since the Industrial Revolution, and which nevertheless frighten many people.

Society6.0 - Movement for People and the Environment eG i.G. goes a big step further. Society6.0¹ is a community of values that brings together people from very different areas of our society to address the many challenges of society collectively and *holistically*. It is the stated goal of Society6.0 to develop a sustainable and responsible society in which all people are given equal opportunities, without fear of new technologies and the necessary changes in society resulting from those. Society6.0 creates transparency through communication that is appropriate for people and gives all people the support they need to discover and develop their skills. We are united by the understanding that social and economic establishments, which are only designed to look after themselves and to exploit our world and our environment, will not survive. Society6.0 provides a networking platform that promotes exchanges on social, technological, and economic issues and pays particular attention to knowledge-transfer, continuing training in enterprises, and the education of people, regardless of status and skills. We use and combine the different perspectives of approaches to create better solutions than we do have now. To this end, the many individual and in many places already begun very good approaches are combined in a topic-oriented manner in our network. Society6.0 promotes the development of responsible action through the integration of all people and the understanding that the individual may do little to enable changes, but together we can build a sustainable society using existing and new technologies with the primary aim of achieving an improvement in living conditions and an increase in the quality of life for all without exploiting us and our environment.

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The translation of the German paraphrase *Bewegung für Menschen und Umwelt* into English is *Movement for People and Environment*.

¹Society6.0 is hereinafter synonymous with *Society6.0 - Movement for People and the Environment* eG i.Gr. to make the document readable.