# EPPC 2019

# SYNCING SOCIETIES:

## EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF TECH & POLICY

The rise of technology is transforming cities, governments and society as we know it, creating new challenges for Europe and beyond. As economic relations, access to information, and modes of communication are fundamentally altered, the syncing of societies is generating incredible innovation but also raising serious concerns. Spatial disparities, digital exclusion, gentrification, and creating inclusive growth are among the many challenges that societies face today.

In order to ensure future governance and collaboration among private and public actors, Europe must consider different stakeholders' perspectives in their approach towards digital transformation, to create comprehensive recommendations for future policy-making.

The European Public Policy Conference (EPPC) 2019 focuses on the crucial intersection of technology, societies, and the policy process in order to offer solutions for creating inclusive and equitable societies in the digital age. The conference will be broken down into three conceptual areas:

### Tech: disrupting or reinforcing inequalities?

Popular opinion suggests that the rise of tech has improved our overall quality of life. However, has this rapid societal shift amplified existing economic and social inequalities in the world at large? Or has it served as a sign of progress towards unsettling the established structures of inequality? This conference seeks to explore how the rise of tech may be deconstructing barriers of exclusion or, conversely, creating new ones.

### Who has a right to the city?

As the forces of urbanization progress ever faster, city landscapes, economics and demographics are fundamentally reconfigured. As we quickly move towards smart cities and tech dominated urban centers, integral questions on how these changes impact society and urban communities are crucial. Since urban politics are affected by the rapid expansion of tech, understanding what is to be gained from the creation of smart cities and who benefits from it are essential in understanding the cities of tomorrow: What does it mean to have a right to the city in the digital age?

### Is the rise of tech changing the state as we know it?

One of the biggest challenges for European society and States today is the rise of new technology. Specifically, how can European states approach gaps in national and international regulation? How should European states regulate the provision and usage of new technologies when privacy, security and ethical concerns are at stake? Can European governments tap into the power of tech to improve the delivery of public services as well as ensuring economic development? These are key challenges that the EU and European states face in future policy-making.

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