

Special Issue

Industry 4.0 – Implications for Sustainability in Supply Chain Management and the Circular Economy

Message from the Guest Editors

Industry 4.0 has often been investigated from the perspective of smart factories, intracompany digital transformation, and further isolated solutions. However, to unlock its full potential, we need to examine the whole supply chain with regard to its core concepts: horizontal and vertical integration. Likewise, much of the potential of Industry 4.0 regarding sustainability or a circular economy can only be approached when inter-organizational structures or systems, i.e., entire supply chains, value networks, or ecosystems, are considered regarding Industry 4.0. Such an approach might match the complexity of sustainability in the interorganizational sphere with advancements in data availability, real-time connectivity, and decision making that Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things offer. However, extant literature only scarcely regards Industry 4.0 from the perspective of horizontal integration, supply-chain management, and its implications towards sustainability. In response, this Special Issue seeks contributions in but not limited to the following fields connected to Industry 4.0 and supply-chain management.

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