Since the beginning of the 1990s the term ‘knowledge-based society’ gained significant importance in scientific and political debates. Although there is broad agreement in describing industrialised societies as ‘knowledge societies’, the issues of description are differing considerably. Coming from the technology side, the term ‘knowledge society’ is based on the concept of the information society with a strong bias on information and communication systems. Here, the introduction of information technologies as well as information systems has led to profound changes in different societal spheres such as the production and the service sector. But also with regard to changes within and between organisations in the public and the private sector, a deep transformation regarding the function of ‘knowledge’ in modern societies can be stated. Here, commodification processes should be considered as transformation processes with a double edge. Each innovation requires a new cohort of ‘knowledge workers’ who bring about the routinisation of the work of others. ‘Upskilling’ therefore goes hand in hand with ‘downskilling’ and new forms of specialisation come along with the creation of increasingly generic activities. Thus, the development towards knowledge-based economies has different impacts on different social groups.

Based on the current theoretical debate as well as on the empirical results of the European WORKS project, the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis is organising an international workshop to discuss these changes. The aim of this workshop is to analyse and discuss comprehensively the function of ‘knowledge’ in different societal spheres in numerous European countries. Specifically, changes of working processes will be taken into consideration.

The workshop wants to contribute to this discussion in two aspects: first, in bridging the gap between theory and practice and discussing the effects of new forms of knowledge in every day’s working life. Second, in discussing these effects and bringing them into the context of the societal development.
Hotel Reservation

Please make your reservation until May 20, 2009. We have booked a limited number of rooms at the Hotel Renaissance in Karlsruhe until April 30, 2009. Please mention the reference “WORKS” when you book your accommodation.

Hotel Renaissance
Mendelssohnplatz
76131 Karlsruhe
Phone: +49 721 3717 381
Fax: +49 721 3717 333
e-mail: rhi.reservierung.karlsruhe@renaissancehotels.com
Rates: € 80.00 Single room
       € 99.00 Double room

If you have any further questions or need additional help with your booking, please contact Monika Zimmer (phone +49 7247 82 6346, e-mail: zimmer@itas.fzk.de).

Venue

Fortbildungszentrum für Technik und Umwelt (FTU)
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH
in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

Aula, Room Nr. 130, Building 101
Room Nr. 162, 163 for the Parallel Sessions,
Building 101
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1
76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen
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Organised by

Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

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