
Introduction

When we choose “governance of digitalization” as the topic of the year at the International Center for Corporate Governance (ICfCG) in June 2016, we were aware at the timeliness of the topic, judging by the extensive feedback we received, but we did not know where the journey might take us. In that sense, our journey has been similar to the journey many boards of directors and top management teams take when they embrace the opportunities and challenges of digitalization: a high degree of uncertainty mixed with a lot of expectations.

We have been privileged to find many co-travelers on this journey to shed light on the multifaceted topic of governance of digitalization. While both topics, that is, corporate governance and digitalization, are highly complex on their own, combining them in a way that made sense was an even greater challenge, which a group of executives, scholars, and thought leaders embarked upon jointly. We had the opportunity to share our ideas at various occasions throughout 2016, e.g. at the ICfCG Partner Meeting in St. Gallen, Switzerland on June 3, at the EIASM Research Workshop on Corporate Governance at Bocconi University, Milano, Italy on October 28, and at the Board Seminar on Governance of Digitalization in Zurich, Switzerland on November 28.

This book is the result of all of these interactions and individual research projects, containing 12 perspectives on governance of digitalization, bringing together viewpoints from different disciplines, including business, law, and information technology.

The 12 chapters are structured along four dimensions, providing a comprehensive view on governance of digitalization:

1. Providing strategic direction for digitalization (keep it strategic)
2. Controlling for outcomes of digitalization (keep it controlled)
3. Promoting the culture of digital transformation (keep it integrated)
4. Adapting the digital approach to the context (keep it situational)

As this topic will remain relevant and continue to transform as we speak, we invite you to continue the dialogue on our dedicated online platform at governance.digital. We hope you find this an interesting read, and we look forward to learning your views on this fascinating topic.

Prof. Dr. Michael Hilb

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