## **Innovation believers**

## By Professor Jan Willem de Graaf

Professor of Brain and Technology, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Deventer, Netherlands

ut in black and white: if we decide to keep a technology/practice if we get at least one positive result from it, we don't have to change anything at all. Factory farming, keep it up. Wars, fine! Stop with climate agreements immediately. War stimulates knowledge development and solidarity. Factory farming can help parents, if they so wish, to give their children a 'happy' meal every day.

At affordable prices, air traffic makes mass tourism possible without materially demanding road networks and other infrastructures that cut through nature reserves. Private jets play an important role in moving donor organs quickly and AI could help our complex, chaotic world to make decisions that we now consider necessary, for example in healthcare, or ... for the "big reset".

Cut the ..., stop the madness! The more complex the systems we build around us, the more confusing it becomes to see through what is good or bad. It becomes clearer every day that with the current world life we are heading for an unlivable future. Until recently, the Western 'first' world still provided development aid to cultures in which tribes still lived in perfect ecologically sustainable balance, as a result of which their numbers are now also declining... While change is inevitable, all causes of this unsustainability are defended by the people, arguing that only a few innovations are needed, including clean energy and higher clock speeds. Again, once you find the right perspective, any practice is defensible... For example Manfred Weber, the leader of the EPP/Christian Democrats in Europe, tried to sweep the Nature Restoration Act off the table by expanding small perspectives in a populist way (terror of the concrete). Pope Francis called on him to have an eye for the transcendent perspective (importance)...

## Very dangerous

Everyone calls ChatGPT (Open AI) very dangerous and also promising in the same breath. Here we go again! Yawn. Promising for medical specialists who can fall back on smart AI after a long day at work, I read in the newspaper this morning. Also promising for a pilot who needs to keep his/her attention during a flight of over 10 hours. They claim that our world is too complex, we really need AI, which can take a few billion steps in a split second, totally incomparable to our "turbo" monkey brain. In doing so, they seem to have forgotten that we all started to think and express ourselves in terms of "information", which has voluntarily passed into the hands of the tech giants in various forms via the world wide web that they control.

We are the living component in "living technology", living information generators, voluntarily exposing themselves to a virtual sea of data for the (dis)likes of others, begging for attention. Like languorous Snow Whites, we're throwing messages in a bottle into the virtual ocean of data, hoping to be kissed awake one day. Just as easily we overlook the fact that despite miracle specialists and fully technological hospitals, we still get sick and die and perhaps most of all need real attention, real arms around us. We need so much more than the shared - half - attention of all those fellow sufferers, who also try to draw attention to themselves by posting their own digital messages. SOS. Connecting and slowing down physically is a necessity. The practice is characterized by (digital) acceleration and even more acceleration.

Due to the complexity and all the "smart" devices and apps, we may have started to feel, think and connect less. However, we have definitely not lost these deep-rooted properties of our human nature. We only have to put the devices away, play a board game together, or go for a walk in nature, and our sense of direction returns almost immediately, literally and figuratively. Addiction to our modern substances is broad, but superficial. There is a way back, or rather forward. We have lost nothing, not even our judgment, we know that we should not believe in innovation, but in our own Inner Development!