# Digital Economy as a Driver of Sustainable and Disruptive Business Transformation: A Literature Review

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# Background and Objective

- Digital technologies are reshaping how firms create value
- Sustainability pressure runs in parallel with digital disruption
- Evidence is scattered across business, entrepreneurship, and education

## Research questions

RQ1 How does the digital economy contribute to sustainable business transformation?

RQ2 Which technologies, business models, and organizational conditions are discussed most?

RQ3 Which challenges and research gaps remain?

# Method

1

## Search

Keywords on digital economy, sustainability, and business model innovation

2

## Select

2019-2025, English, peer-reviewed, full text available

3

## Extract

Authors, year, method, context, and key findings in a matrix

4

## Analyze

Thematic content analysis to answer RQ1–RQ3

Result: 15 articles reviewed

# Profile of the 15 Articles

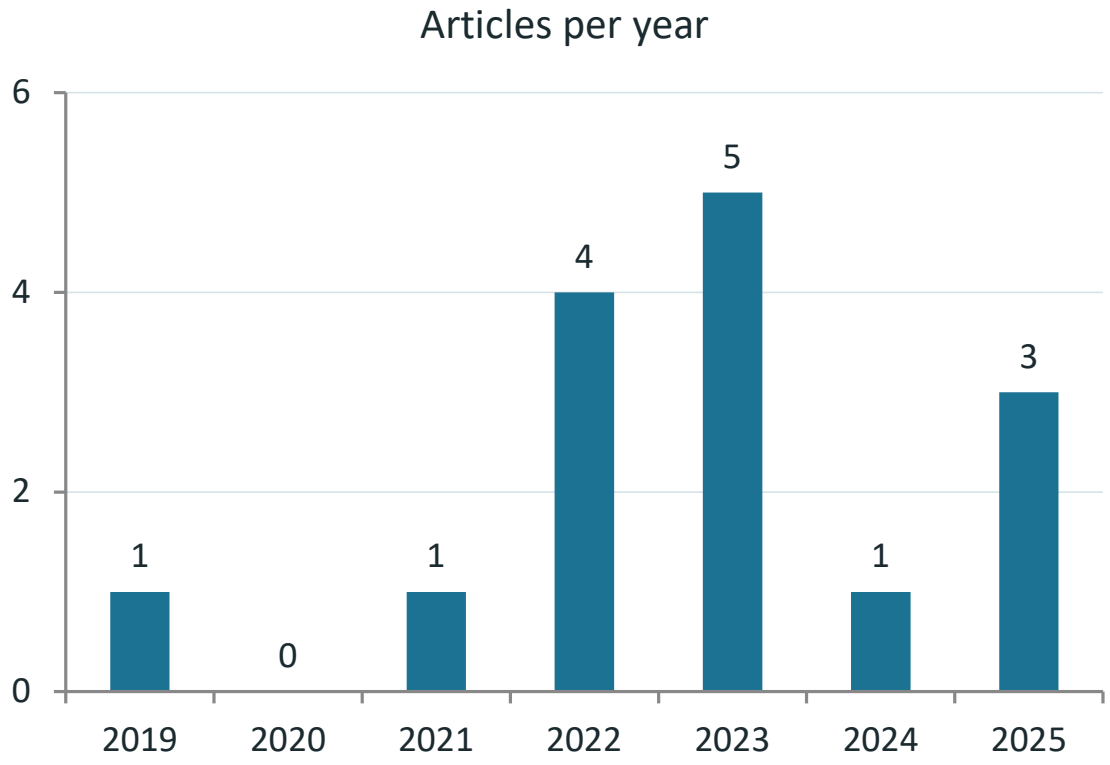
**15**

articles, 2019-2025

**9 : 6**

reviews versus empirical studies

9 of 15 appeared in one journal, Sustainability



# Four Themes in the Literature

1

## Business model enablers

Digital technology works mainly indirectly, through innovation and business model change

2

## Digital entrepreneurship and SMEs

Digital orientation, IoT, and platforms drive sustainable digital innovation

3

## Leadership and ESG

Digital leadership, ESG management, and knowledge decide the outcome

4

## Education

Digital transformation in higher education supports sustainable curricula

# Research Gaps

1

## Fragmented definitions and constructs

Digital, innovation, and sustainability concepts are defined inconsistently

2

## Limited longitudinal and sectoral evidence

Effects differ across SME types, sizes, sectors, and countries

3

## Under-studied negative effects

E-waste, high energy consumption, monopolies, and data protection

4

## Education is weakly integrated

Only 2 of 15 articles address education, both in higher education

# Conclusion

## Indirect pathways

Digital technology supports sustainability through innovation, business model change, and knowledge

## Conditions matter

Leadership, ESG management, and entrepreneurial orientation shape the outcome

## Next steps

Broaden databases, test relationships empirically, and study emerging economies