

Futures4Europe Conference 2026
Daring to Imagine Otherwise

National Research Council of Italy Headquarters, [Via dei Marrucini s.n.c., 00185 Rome, Italy](#)

FIRST DAY (30 September)

PLENARY (MAIN ROOM) 9:00-10:10

08:15 – 9:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 - 09:10 Welcome

09:10 – 09:20 The conference, (CNR, TBD)

09:20 – 09:40 Eye of Europe, Radu Cristian Gheorghiu (UEFISCDI)

09:40 – 10:10 From imagination to reality, Gabriele Rizzo (Longviews)

10:10 – 10:40 Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 10:40 – 13:00

MAIN ROOM: oral presentations

1. When Jurists Imagine ... The Bee is a Fish, Flaminia Stârc-Meclejan (West University of Timișoara, The Faculty of Law)
2. Gamechangers in Scenarios - the example of SCAR Foresight, Kerstin Cuhls (Fraunhofer ISI)
3. A foresight backcasting approach to tackle societal challenges: the role of science and technology, Luisa Tondelli (CNR)
4. Anticipating Today: Moral Imagination in Anticipatory Governance, Federica Lucivero (University of Oxford)
5. Too resilient to fail? Using the Delft Strategic Foresight Approach as a method to challenge institutional continuity assumptions, Lara Meijer (TU Delft)
6. Social and Democratic Dimensions of Law-Making: Partnerships, Legitimacy, and Participation in Standard-Setting and Enforcement, Helen Tung (Tung Chambers)
7. Archive 1983–1989: Speculative Fiction as Counter-Imaginary in Post-Communist Romania, Daria Anghel (Utrecht University)

ROOM 1: oral presentations

1. Exquisite Frictions: Reimagining waste practices in a neighbourhood in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Corelia Baibarac-Duignan (University of Twente)
2. Systems that shape the future: a collaborative foresight journey for 2040 innovation in Central Macedonia, GR., Eliza Savvopoulou (Helenos Consulting)
3. Waiting Room or Future Frontier? Reframing the Western Balkans in European Policy Imaginaries, Marina Andeva (University American College Skopje)
4. Normative futures for food systems in time of crises, Olivier Mora (INRAE DEPE)
5. From Futures Thinking to Youth Agency: Imagining a Value-Driven Approach to Technological Innovation for EU Competitiveness with Higher Education Students, Valeria Piras (Institute for Educational Technology, National Research Council of Italy and UCD Dublin)
6. Institutionalizing Ideation in National Governance, John Rodman (Strategy Futures Reimagined, LLC)
7. Drawing Futures for Decision-Makers: Comics as a Bridge Between Foresight and Institutions, Nicolas Minvielle (Alt-a)

ROOM 2: oral presentations

1. Imagining Otherwise: Narrative Foresight as a Teaching Practice, Elizabeth Hofvenschiöld (Reutlingen University)

2. Envisioning mental wellbeing in the future: participatory futures thinking and intergenerational dialogue in the Future Workshops, Nicoletta Boldrini (Tech4Future)
3. Vision Possible: Empowering young and female entrepreneurs through futures literacy for sustainable innovation, Julia Vögele (MCI | The Entrepreneurial School®)
4. Strengthening Imagination in Anticipatory Processes from the Inside Out, Sheila Pontis (School of Radical Imagination)
5. From Taxonomy to Topology: Reimagining Foresight Infrastructure, Greta Cappellini (Nextatlas)
6. The Smart Boardroom 2029: Interacting with Non-Humans in the Near Future Workplace, Romi + Tehilla Mikulinsky + Shwartz Altshuler (University of Tampere's Game Research Lab + The Israel Democracy Institute + Jio Institute, Mumbai, India)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

PARALLEL SESSIONS 14:30 – 18:30, *running coffee*

MAIN ROOM: oral presentations

1. Narrative Design, Alice Manieri (Alice Manieri)
2. Making the Future Feel Natural: Brands as Mythotechnologies Shaping Collective Imaginaries, Tamar Dan (Bar Ilan University)
3. Relocating Linguistic Futurity: Imaginaries of Language Futures in Applied Linguistics (1981–2025), Samira Yaghouti (Finland Futures Research Centre, Turku School of Economics, University of Turku)
4. Physics Education and Collective Imaginaries of the Future, Olivia Levrini (University of Bologna - Foundation Italian Institute for Future)
5. MATTERS of Care: Expanding Foresight Through More-Than-Human Design Anthropology, Eva Monestier (MATTERS Design Collective)
6. From Anticipatory Assumptions to Strategic Action: How Collective Imagination Enabled Futures-Literate Policy Making inside the European Training Foundation, Cristiano Cagnin (ETF)
7. Imagining Otherwise: Anticipatory Systems, Imaginaries, and the Phenomenology of Future Images - Felipe Koch (UNESCO Chair on the Futures of Education for Health and Living Well | Université Paris-Est Créteil), & Riel Miller, Felipe Koch
8. Living in the Futures: A Toolkit for Semiotic Futures Personas between Critical Imagination and the Prefiguration of Reality, Arianna Mereu (Fondazione Italian Institute for the Future)
9. Connecting with the higher: An exploratory study of self-transcendence to elicitate enriched future imaginaries among university students, Danica Rath (Hochschule der Medien Stuttgart - Stuttgart Media University)
10. AI Agents for Human Collective Imagination and Foresight, Isabel Fernández Peñuelas (The Futures Factory S.L.)
11. Tools for Collectively Creating Hopeful Future Visions, Cara Meffert (Okeanos-Foundation for the Sea)
12. Bringing Design Futures into Space. Worldbuilding as a collective practice for imagining societal futures., Giovanni Caruso (Domus Academy)

ROOM 1: workshops (60 min each)

1. Seven Ways of Knowing the Future: A Futures Literacy Game Lab, Makeda Gershenson (Mosaics in the Making)

2. Recognizing the Future in the Room: Emotional Foresight through a Group-Based Adaptation of the Future Self Resonant Framework, Iuliana Adina Apostol (HeliosTree GmbH, AdinaEverywhere)
3. The Future is Not Neutral: A Futures Workshop to Rethink Technology through Critical Pedagogical Imagination, Nik Baerten (Pantopicon in collaboration with Institute for Educational Technology, National Research Council of Italy, CNR-ITD)
4. Refusing to Disappear: A Hope Circle as Feminist Foresight from the Global South, Bareera Rauf (HopeWorks)

ROOM 2: workshops (60 min each)

1. Imagine One Health–Futures from a Non-Human Perspective, Susanne Giesecke (Austrian Institute of Technology)
2. Imagining sustainable futures with a card game, Johanna Vallistu (TalTech Ragnar Nurkse school of innovation and governance)
3. Pieces of the Future: Tangram-Based Facilitation for Inclusive Foresight, Katarzyna Figiel (Fundacja Tangram)
4. Countervisuality Futures Lab: Making Other Futures Visible, Anna Sacio-Szymańska (_BW_Lab / Biennale Warszawa Foundation)

WALKING APERITIF 19:00 – 21:00

Posters and side events

SECOND DAY (1 October)

PARALLEL SESSIONS 08:40 – 11:00

MAIN ROOM: oral presentations

1. Strategic or Reflexive? The Fundamental Dilemma of Science Communication in Futures Studies, Magdalena Soetebeer (Schaltzeit GmbH)
2. Futures oriented collective intelligence through the lens of European Citizens, Claus Seibt (Basel Institute for futures oriented collective intelligence/ Eurosense initiative)
3. A Design Futures Intentional Compass, Ania Hildebrandt (Aalborg University)
4. Epistemic Plurality in Participatory Foresight: Indigenous Knowledge-Inspired Inputs and Future Imaginaries. Findings from an Exploratory Study., Sarah Ben Bernou (À VENIR Berlin | Freie Universität Berlin (Master))
5. Future Literacy as Democratic Armour: How Baltic Youth Foresight Workshops Build Resistant Imaginaries on Europe's Eastern Frontier, Dmitri Teperik (National Centre of Defence & Security Awareness)
6. Evaluating WFD as a Method for Collective Intelligence, Mara Di Berardo (The Millennium Project)
7. Envisioning a Post-Boundary Convivial World in 2050: Living with Diverse Beings and Multiple Selves, Asako Okamura (National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, NISTEP, Japan)

ROOM 1: oral presentations

1. Care, Responsibility and Participation in Foresight: An Ethics-of-Care Perspective on Forward-looking Activities, Judit Gáspár (Corvinus University of Budapest)
2. Using ParEvo: a participatory approach to the development of branching narratives about possible futures, and their analysis, Rick Davies (Independent Evaluation Consultant)
3. Adversarial Foresight and the Blue Valve Reclaiming Hydro Political Agency, Yigit Karatas (Global Shapers)

4. Reframing Urban Foresight Through Participatory Imagination, Trisha Mehta (Royal College of Art)
5. Impossible worlds: an image-driven method to spark collective imagination towards better futures, Clarice Garcia (University of Technology Sydney)
6. Forecasting, Foresight, and Imagination: Beyond traditional anticipation of the uncertain, Anna-Maria Kanzola (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
7. The Future of Living Knowledge: Scenarios for Researchers' Careers in 2040, Radu Gheorghiu (UEFISCDI), Bianca Dragomir (Institutul de Prospectiva)

ROOM 2: oral presentations

1. Embodied Futures in Practice: Public Staging as a Method for Collective Sense-Making and Scenario Evaluation, Silvio Cioni (Domus Academy)
2. Navigating the Unknown: Innovation, Decision-making and Relationships in Times of Uncertainty. Future & Innovation Constellation Work, Henrik Langholf (Spirit for Future_Agency for Systemic Organisational & Regional Development)
3. Roll 4 Future: Tabletop Role-playing Games for Futures Immersion, Oliver Lauenstein (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
4. Materialising Possible Worlds: A Multisensory Demonstrator for Scenario Exploration and Strategic Sense-Making, Sebastian Wagner (Fraunhofer Institute for Communication, Information Processing and Ergonomics FKIE)
5. (Un)radical Imagination Lab: An Embodied Approach to Spatial AI, Micaela Terk (Fabricated Futures)
6. The interface between policy and young generations in facing the future, Damiana Biga (MediaLab APS)
7. From What is to What if: Imagining the Future Together, Theo Silberston (Shared Horizon)
8. Feel and Imagine Futures: Emotion as a Creative, Innovative and Epistemic Engine for Foresight, Uğur Şahan (CoreXas)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

PLENARY (MAIN ROOM) 11:30 – 13:30

11:30-12:15 Panel session on education, moderated by Nikos Kastrinos

12:15-13:00 Panel discussion “Foresight and policy”, moderated by Pier Francesco Moretti (CNR)

- OECD (Katerina Ciampi Stancova)
- European Parliament (Eszter Lakos)
- European Economic and Social Committee (Stefano Palmieri)
- European Commission (TBD)

13:00 – 13:30 Final remarks

Poster list (to be updated):

- Reimagining Security: From Collective Imagination to Policy Action in Building Resilient Societies, Michal Pazour (Technology Centre Prague)
- Foresight and governance of complexity in the era of AI, Luigi Mazari Villanova and Pier Francesco Moretti (CNR-DSSTA)
- Ukraine 2035+: Designing a Resilient Research & Innovation System in Times of Uncertainty, Henriette Kirch (DLR-PT)