

Institute for Future Research

Connecting knowledge, people and institutions to explore possible futures and make better decisions today.

Who we are

The Institute for Future Research (IFR), also known as Gelecek Araştırmaları Enstitüsü (GAE), is an independent, nonprofit organization established in Türkiye in 2015. IFR works across disciplines and sectors to strengthen future-oriented thinking, research collaboration and innovation capabilities. Its international network connects contributors and stakeholders in Türkiye, Europe, North America and beyond.

Our approach brings together academia, industry, public institutions and civil society. We believe foresight is not prediction: it is a collaborative way to recognize emerging change, examine alternatives and support decisions that are resilient, inclusive and informed.

What we bring to a foresight ecosystem

- Strategic foresight and horizon scanning - identifying emerging signals, trends, uncertainties and their implications across technologies, institutions and society.
- Participatory futures and scenario exploration - facilitating multidisciplinary workshops, stakeholder dialogue, visioning and collective sense-making.
- Research and innovation ecosystem development - connecting universities, research actors, industry, government and civic organizations to strengthen collaboration and uptake.
- Capacity development and futures literacy - helping professionals, young people and organizations apply futures thinking in practical contexts.
- Emerging technology and societal transitions - exploring intersections of AI, digital transformation, education, skills, sustainability and public policy.

Distinctive value

IFR can serve as a cross-sector convenor and ecosystem bridge: helping research findings reach practice, bringing regional and international perspectives into European conversations, mobilizing diverse stakeholder communities and translating foresight into learning, collaboration and actionable initiatives.

From future insights to collective action

Experience across international R&I; collaboration, participatory programmes and institutional capacity-building.

European research & innovation engagement

MAPIT | Horizon Europe (2024–2027). IFR participates in MAPIT, which supports partnerships among research organizations, innovation networks and digital innovation stakeholders. IFR contributes to future studies for human resource development and to activities that connect foresight with institutional capability, internationalization and the European Research Area.

Research ecosystem outreach. IFR engages with universities, technology transfer actors, innovation organizations and public institutions through international events and partnerships, including Horizon Europe-focused stakeholder convening in Türkiye.

Examples of programmes and methods

- GÖK (Learning from the Future) workshops: participatory futures-oriented workshops designed to strengthen integrated thinking, foresight capacity and strategic decision-making.
- Youth engagement and future skills: programmes exploring emerging technologies, innovation, resilience and youth participation in shaping possible futures.
- Cross-sector dialogue: discussions and collaborative formats at the intersection of research, policy, business, education and society.

Collaboration opportunities

IFR welcomes dialogue with foresight institutes, research universities, public-sector innovation teams, industry associations, networks and civil-society partners. Potential roles include stakeholder engagement, regional ecosystem connection, participatory foresight activities, horizon-scanning contributions, dissemination and knowledge uptake, and capacity building - subject to the needs and governance of each collaboration.

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Profile prepared for professional networking and research collaboration. Individual project roles and partnership arrangements are defined separately for each initiative.