

The Council of the Future

A citizen assembly workshop to understand, imagine, and plan desirable futures



FUTURE^S

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'The Council of the Future' is a workshop methodology empowering citizens to imagine the future for future generations to thrive and life to flourish. Designed as a citizen assembly role play, the workshop draws on intergenerational and collective intelligence principles.

Participants are invited to step into the reality of their great-grandchildren, adopting a forward-thinking approach.

The methodology supports them to understand current issues while imagining a prosperous future in 2060, and create an action plan to make their collective vision a reality.

The workshop facilitates collective intelligence, transforming the issues of our time into opportunities for collective reinvention. In a spirit of intergenerational justice, the workshop is an opportunity for citizens to sketch out the world of tomorrow.



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The workshop was created by Niels de Fraguier, editor of the [FUTUREs game](#).

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You may not sell the methodology as a resource, but can offer your facilitation services to implement it.

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Workshop Details

Number of participants: from 5 to 40 individuals*.

Facilitation: carried out by one or more people with knowledge of the subject.

Adaptable to all themes: the workshop structure can be replicated for any subject related to sustainability.

Duration: the workshop takes 2 hours and a half to be completed.

No specific level of knowledge required: any citizen (novice or expert) can participate.

**It is recommended to have two facilitators for more than 10 participants.*

Learning Objectives

The workshop can be customised for any type of organisation (NGO, school, municipal council, company) and fulfils 3 main objectives:

1. Understanding challenges

Participants take up a subject on which they can develop knowledge and use their skills to help bring about positive change in their local society.

2. Co-creating an alternative vision

The workshop unleashes imagination, inviting participants to work together to design a desirable future. The collective diversity and collective intelligence of the group bring value to the experience and outcomes.

3. Planning actionable steps

Planning is the keystone of the activity, inviting citizens to reclaim their power and take responsibility to make their collective aspirations a reality with practical roadmaps and long-lasting impacts.



Material Required

The workshop is conducted using basic materials to report on the group's work and to provide a medium for stimulating interaction.

The facilitator will therefore need to have :

- One large sheet of paper per group
- Markers and pens in several colours
- Post-it notes in different colours if possible



Optional*

- 1 set of the game *FUTUREs* with 60 selected cards: 1 dark green generalist card in each category (20 cards), Hope cards (8 cards), Problems and Vigilance cards (16 cards), Action cards (16 cards).

*You can order the cards online to receive a digital version of *FUTUREs*.*

**While the workshop has been created to be used with the cards of *FUTUREs*, this activity can be facilitated on its own without using the game. *FUTUREs*' cards are therefore mentioned throughout the methodology as an optional tool to be used by the facilitator.*





PREPARING THE WORKSHOP

This preparatory work is organised by the facilitator. The facilitator communicates with the participants using online tools (email, online chat, shared drive folder).

The aim is to select a specific challenge with a question that will be shared with the participants. Basic information about the topic to be addressed during the workshop will be shared in advance of the activity so that they can familiarise themselves with the subject and its issues.

1. Choosing a Challenge

The facilitator is responsible for crafting a specific, relatable, and open question as the workshop challenge.

The goal is to select a local challenge to be shared with the participants as the key inquiry of the workshop. The question will be chosen to address a specific enough subject for participants to be able to answer it practically.

Examples

Local authority: 'How can we eradicate the use of fossil fuels in our city?'

Environmental NGO: 'How can we achieve responsible fishing in the region?'

Farming cooperative: 'How can we reconcile decent incomes and sustainable food in our region?'

Private company: 'How can we achieve gender parity?'

HOW TO PROCEED?

We recommend that you find a challenge linked to your expertise. Choose an OPEN question that is specific enough to enable concrete proposals to be made.



2. Sharing Resources

Present the FUTURES cards (optional)

The participants are invited to discover the cards of the game (<https://www.futurs-lejeu.fr/les-cartes/>.)



Sharing contents

Press articles, podcasts, interviews with experts, documentary films, NGO reports, etc. Depending on the chosen issue, the resources are divided between the participants to reduce the workload before the activity. Each participant will have their own area of expertise while still being able to access all the resources.

Examples

Environmental NGO: 'How can we achieve responsible fishing levels in the region?'

- Scientific report on overfishing
- Podcast on the life of a fisherman
- Government's figures on fish consumption
- Press article on fish importation
- Advocacy campaigns to combat overfishing
- Report on fisheries and national policies
- ...

HOW TO PROCEED?

We recommend that you create a shared list of all the useful resources collected for the workshop and allocate the sources among the participants so that everyone takes responsibility for consulting a particular resource.





FACILITATING THE WORKSHOP

The facilitator will be responsible for supporting the smooth implementation of the activity, while also being able to provide answers to any technical question that may arise. The whole workshop is organised around the chosen challenge.

Introduction (10 minutes)

After welcoming the participants, several important elements are recalled in the workshop introduction. We recommend that you use this [Canva presentation](#) to structure your presentation (use it as a template, adding your own information).

Temporality of the workshop: participants will focus on the present but also on the ideal situation imagined for 2060 (2 generations or their grandchildren's point of view).

Topic of the day: general presentation of the topic, reminding participants of the key points and providing background information on the challenge chosen.

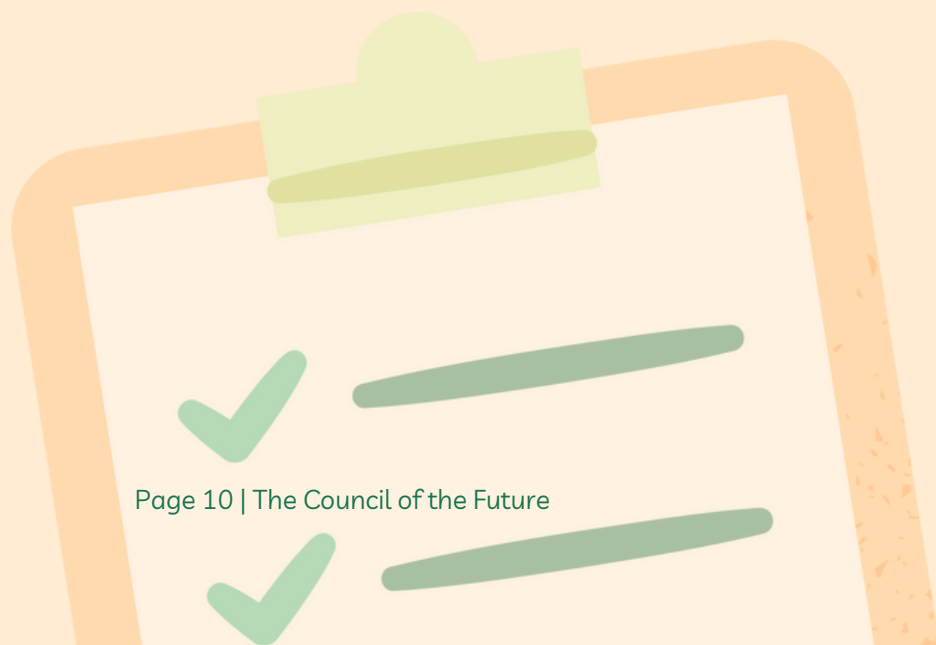
Principles: participants will agree to respect the principles governing the session (empathy, curiosity, deep listening, compromise, disagreement, diversity of opinion, self-confidence, and collaboration).

Rapporteur: one of the workshop participants will volunteer to take on the role of rapporteur. This person, being an active participant in the activity, will be responsible for taking notes to translate the group's conversations into key points. This supportive role will ensure that the workshop runs efficiently.

Questions: participants can ask questions if they have any queries.

Optional

The cards: *an overview of the FUTUREs cards used during the workshop.*



Opening of the Workshop



Futurists,

We're delighted to have you join the Council of the Future.

Today, we embark on a collective adventure to shape the world we will bequeath to future generations.

One thought drives us today, and we'll keep it in mind throughout the Council:

What if we could pass on a better world to our grandchildren?



Exploration Phase (30 minutes)



The Council of the Future is taking place, with all the participants reunited. They begin the activity by listing the main risks related to today's challenge.

You share today's challenge to make it visible to all participants.

Question linked to the challenge: 'What are the risks and why should we act accordingly?'.

Time frame: We are in the present.

Optional

Cards : *GENERALIST* cards are distributed to participants to map the issues (climate, biodiversity, social justice and well-being) and *BLACK* cards to understand the risks related to today's challenge.



Process

The group's members share their knowledge and their respective opinions, and assess the major risks associated with today's challenge. They examine the relevant information and list the major risks related to the issue discussed.



Today

2040

2060



Exploration Phase



✦ Objective

The group is responsible for creating a list of risks in order of importance concerning the 4 pillars of planetary balance (climate, biodiversity, social justice and well-being). They explain why the subject is a priority for future generations wellbeing.

Facilitation tip

We recommend that you circulate between participants to answer any questions they may have.



Meditation (10 minutes)



The participants are brought together and invited to carry out a collective meditation to resonate with the subject they will be dealing with today.

The meditation we suggest allows you to reconnect with the elements, while at the same time giving you the serenity you need to free your imagination. This is the meditation we recommend after a short breathing exercise with your eyes closed. This meditation is inspired by the work of [Moral Imaginations](#).

EARTH

Start by visualising all the parts of your body that are made up of solid matter, or the 'Earth element'—bones, skin, teeth, hair, and the physical sensation of their weight.

Visualise all the solid, earthy elements in the world. Imagine all the connections in between you and them—becoming one.

WATER

Visualise the water and all the liquid elements composing your body.

Visualise the rivers, storms, waterfalls and oceans in the world.

AIR

Visualise the air that surrounds you and the one that goes through your lungs, concentrating on the oxygen bubbles inside your body.

Imagine the air, its sounds and its sensations in the world.

FIRE

Visualise the 'fire element' of heat and energy flowing through your body through the beating of your heart.

Imagine the unbroken chain of relationships and cooperation that enables your blood to circulate throughout your body.

Take 5 deep breaths in and out. Smile to the life that is yet to come.

Imagination Phase (45 minutes)



We enter the heart of the workshop with a journey into the future. The participants step into the life of their great-grandchildren (i.e. two generations or their grandchildren's point of view). They will now imagine the ideal world to bequeath to future generations so that they can thrive and live prosperously.

You are visibly sharing the challenge of the day while sharing the question for this second phase of the workshop.

Question related to the issue: *'What kind of world do we want our great-grandchildren to inherit?'*

Temporality: We are in 2060, imagining the world in which the next generations will be born.

Optional

Cards : *HOPE cards are handed out to participants to help them imagine alternative pathways.*



Process

Taking the stance of future generations, the participants draw together the outline of the world they would like to leave to future generations.

The group constructs a collective narrative proposing a radical alternative that responds to the issues raised during the workshop. They will be the inventors of the future, imagining what it should look like to serve the needs and interests of future generations and nature.

Today

2040

2060



Imagination Phase



Objective

The group is in charge of creating a visualisation of tomorrow's world with quotes, drawings and all kinds of content that evokes the future for future generations and life. They will produce an 'image' of the world they aspire to for their great-grandchildren.

Facilitation tip

We recommend that you circulate between the participants while encouraging them to think in a new and forward-looking way. You can support participants to unleash their creativity by creating a space of trust where everyone can feel safe sharing their most creative ideas.



Planning Phase (45 minutes)



This is the final part of the workshop, where participants will have to put in place a strategy with key recommendations to make the link between the issues of the present (exploration phase) and the world they want to leave to future generations by 2060 (imagination phase).

You visibly share the challenge of the day while sharing the question for this third phase of the workshop.

Question related to the issue: *'How can we meet the challenges of today to achieve the world we want to see in 2060?'*

Timeframe: We are in the present.

Optional

Cards : *ACTION cards are distributed to participants to draw inspiration from existing solutions.*



Process

Participants work together to formulate a bold response to the priority issues identified during the exploration phase, to achieve their aspirations for the world of 2060.

They put their knowledge and creativity to work by proposing ideas for solving the challenges they face. They develop recommendations iteratively, enriching them in small group meetings if necessary. Furthermore, they are invited to come up with their own solutions they can take ownership of to lead change as part of their community.

Today

2040

2060



Planning Phase



Objective

The group is tasked with creating a list of recommendations for moving from today's problems to tomorrow's reality to which they aspire. The participants propose concrete actions. They describe the social, economic, environmental and technological implications of their proposals to demonstrate their positive contribution.

Facilitation tip

We recommend that you invite participants to be as practical as possible with measures they would like to take within their own community. Ask them to think of simple measures that would change their everyday lives about the issue raised.



Conclusion (10 minutes)

Committing to tomorrow's world, opportunities and resources to take action for a better tomorrow are within reach. The power lies in each of us to co-create the conditions for tomorrow's world.

Together, we can turn the challenges of the moment into an opportunity to live better, healthier, and happier lives.

- **Imagine:** What if power lay in our ability to design a new world?
- **Working together:** What if our greatest strength was to act as communities?
- **Inspire:** What if we could share the excitement of writing a new story?

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

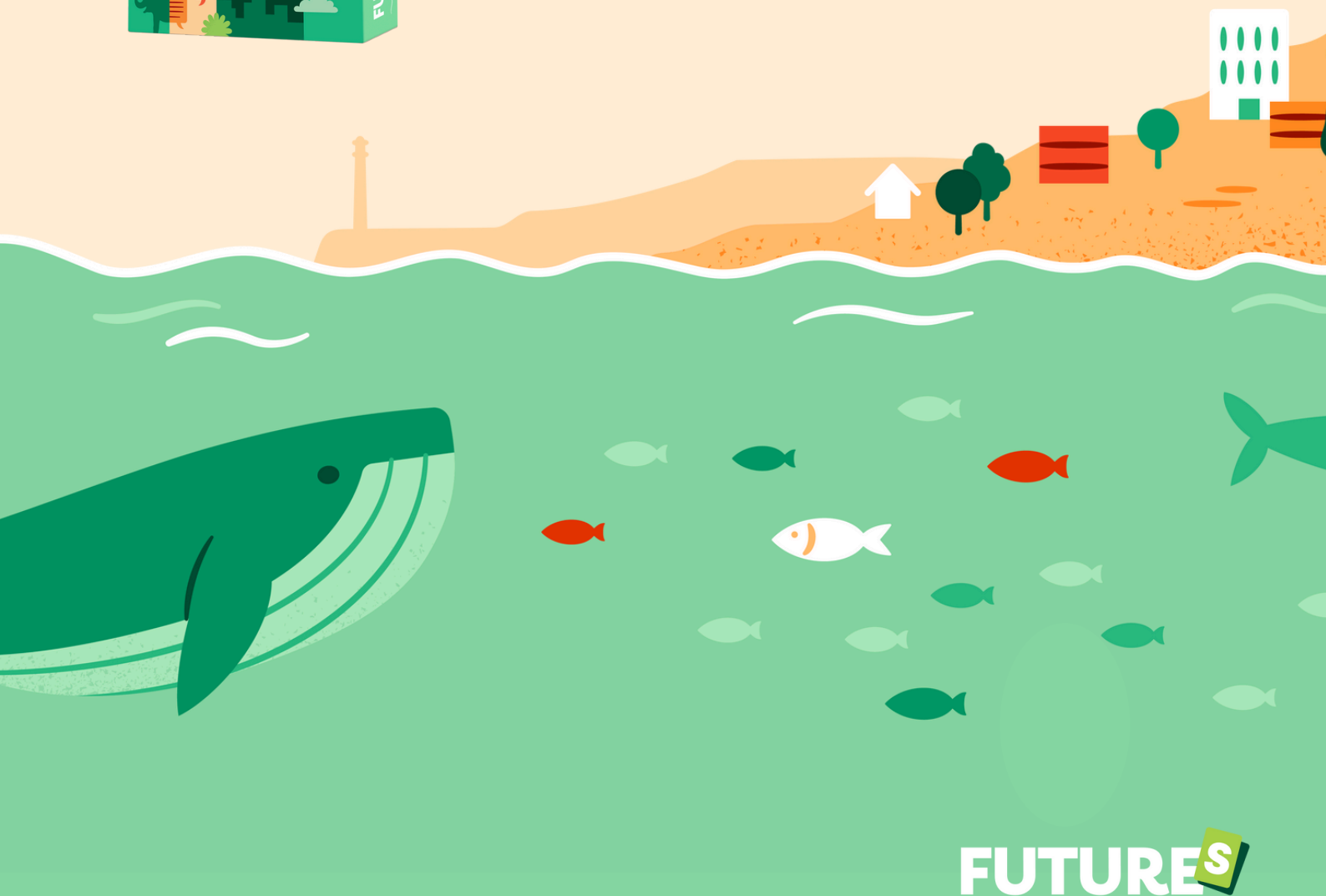
Eleanor Roosevelt

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Thank you for consulting and using the Council of the Future methodology. We would be delighted to receive your feedback so that we can continue to improve the workshop.

You can contact us at contact@futurs-lejeu.fr



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