



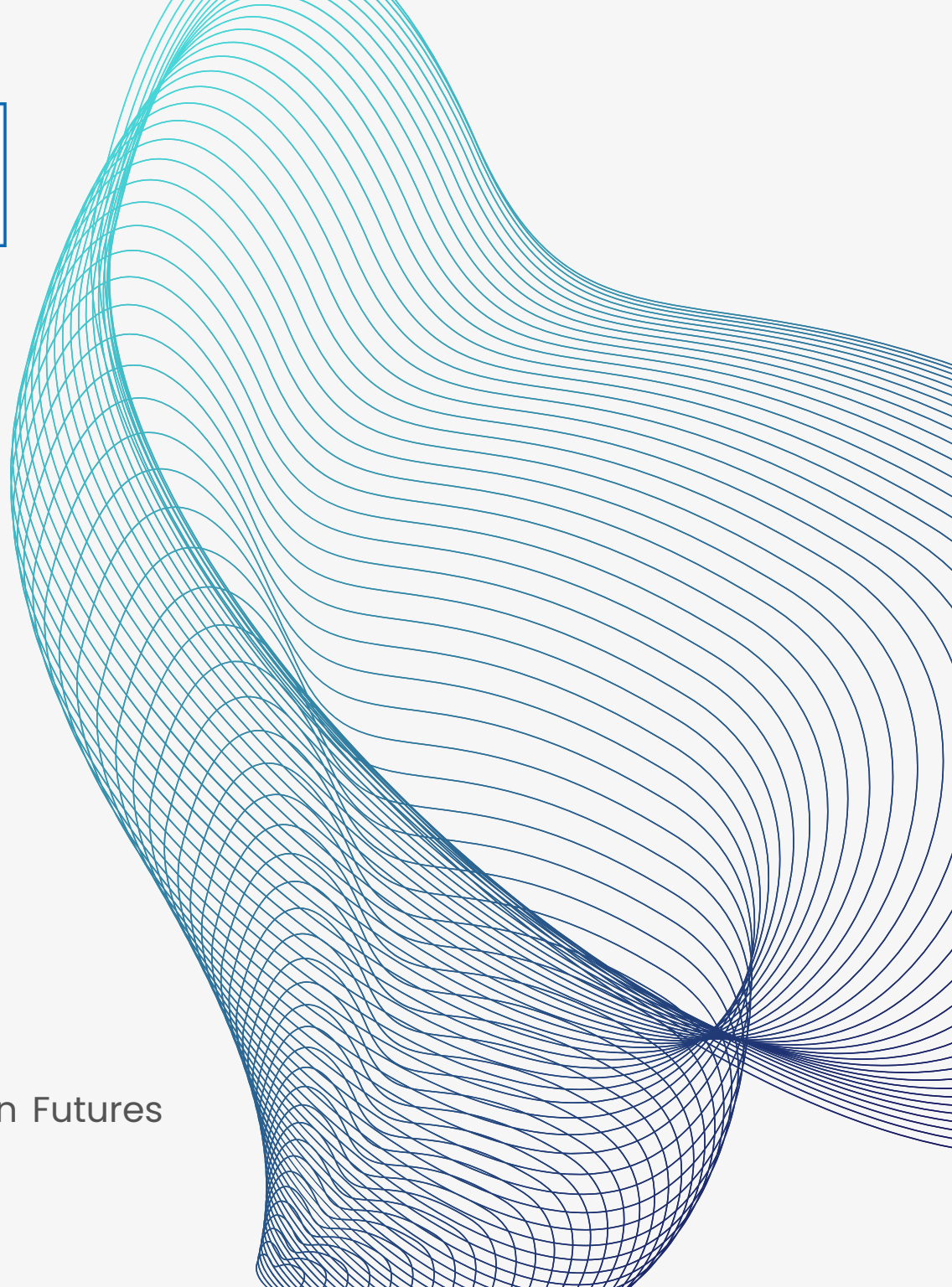
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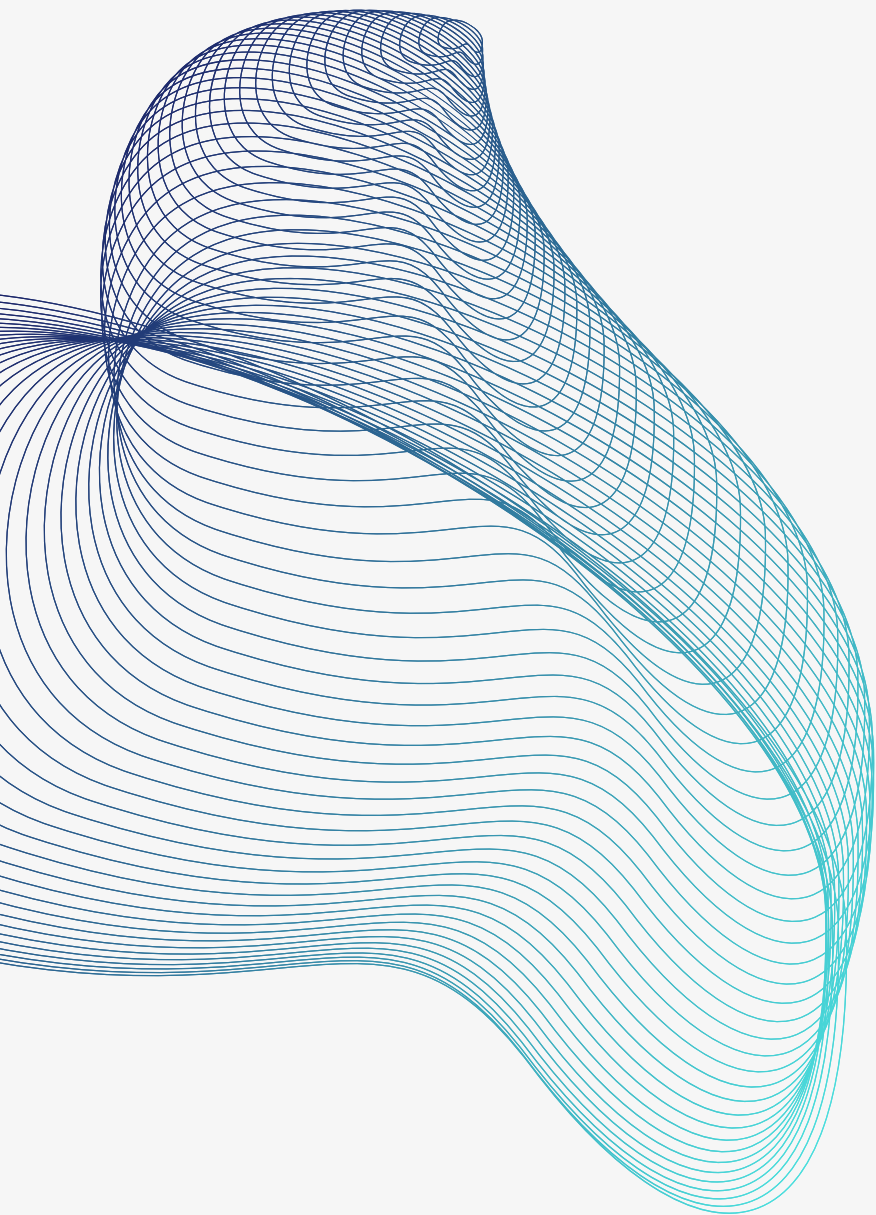
Futures Literacy

A KEY COMPETENCE FOR THE
21ST CENTURY

Focus on human

Irianna Lianaki Dedouli, Consultant on Futures
Literacy and Foresight, SHS / UNESCO
EPSA Workshop Sept. 2022





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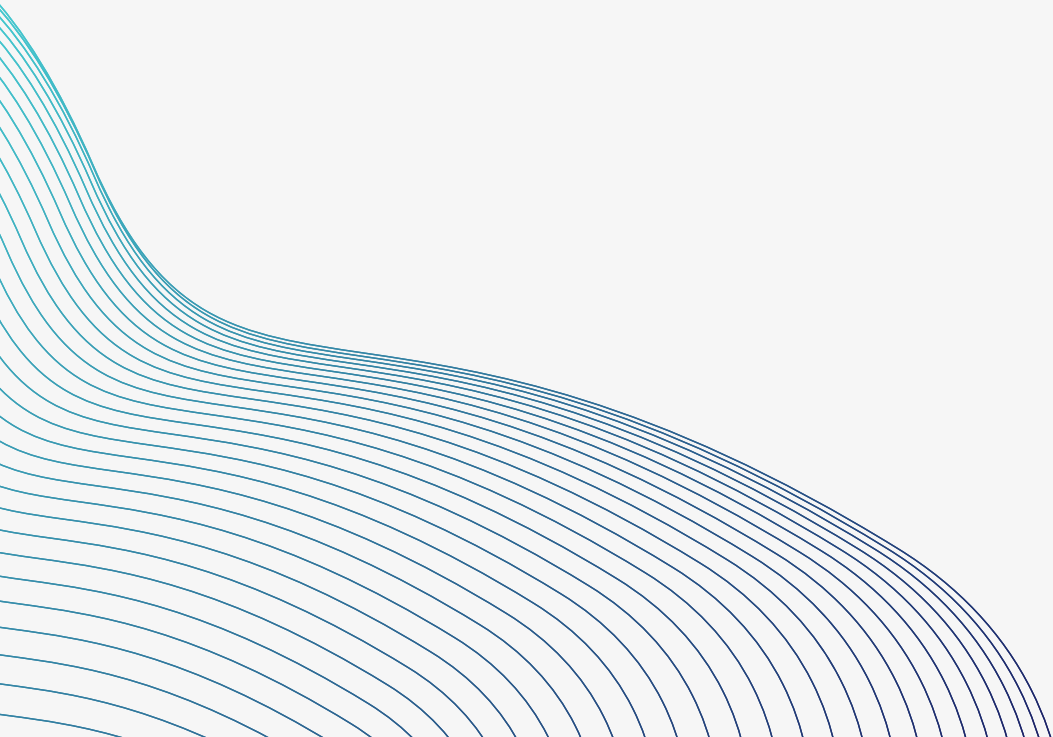
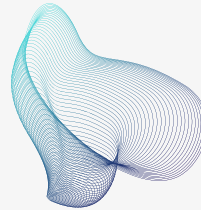
Applications

Futures Literacy Programme



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How does the future **feel** today?

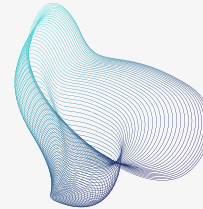




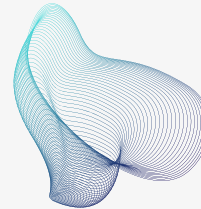
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Futures

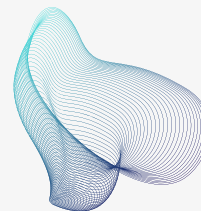
In futures field and futures work we use plural to emphasize the multiplicity and open nature of futures



**Futures encompass
our images about the
future, ideas,
assumptions, beliefs**



emotions



values

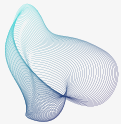
(FLXDeep, 2020)



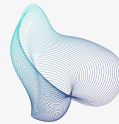
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Guiding principles

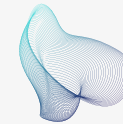
UNESCO's Futures Literacy has been informed and largely influenced by the following principles and UNESCO's mission:



- **Our images about the future are important because they frame what we see and do in the present (Miller, 2018)**



- **The future cannot be predicted**
- **The future is not predetermined**
- **The future can be influenced (Amara, 1981)**



**We need to enable favorable conditions for people and communities to diversify their future images (Miller, 2018)
to anticipate, imagine and aspire (Fuller, 2019; Appadurai, 2015)**



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Focus on people

A capability driven approach to development.

Create a critical mass in communities, organisations and institutions to enable change, foster agency and resilience.



- Address poverty of imagination
- Escape dominant future narratives and imaginaries that often serve as self-fulfilling prophecies



- Foster resilience and creative adaptability
- Treat complexity and uncertainty not as threats but as resources



Futures Literacy a key competence for 21st century that "enhances our ability to prepare, and invent as changes happen"
(World Economic Forum, 2022)

Futures Literacy

UNESCO in its role as a laboratory of ideas has been investing and developing its Futures Literacy Programme in collaboration with UNESCO Chairs Network in Futures Studies and Futures Literacy for more than 10 years.

A competence that can be nurtured and learned.

- Accessible to all people as it relates with the human capacity to imagine.

Draws on the Discipline of Anticipation_

- All living beings are anticipatory beings, having internal anticipatory systems and processes that inform action. (Rosen, 1985)
- Anticipation is the future exist into the present
- Anticipation occurs “when the future is used in action” (Poli, 2019; Rosen, 2015)

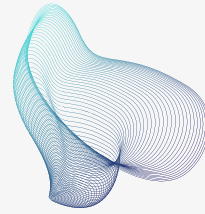
Futures Literacy

Futures Literacy is the competence to expand /diversify why and how we use futures.

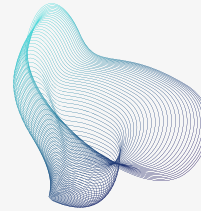
We use diverse futures as lenses for different purposes.

By doing so we become better not only at preparation/ planning but also at innovating the present as change happens.

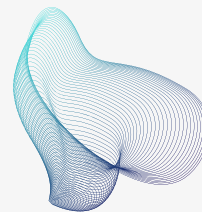
At a practice level Futures Literacy calls for:



Active, conscious futures thinking



Being reflective and critical



being able to engage in rigorous imaging and skilled at switching among different kinds of futures for different purposes

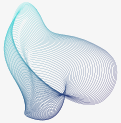
(Miller, 2018; FLXDeep, 2020)



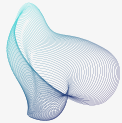
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Futures Literacy Labs

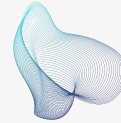
A Main Tool to develop Futures Literacy



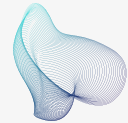
Reveal
make anticipatory
assumptions explicit



Reframe
engage with
unfamiliar



Reflect
on the topic and the
overall experience



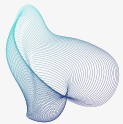
Next Steps
(Ground)



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Futures Literacy Labs

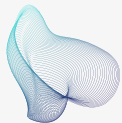
A Main Tool to develop Futures Literacy



Reveal
make anticipatory
assumptions explicit

Identify and critically examine
our underlying anticipatory
assumptions
realize our anticipatory patterns
identify any inconsistencies /
gaps

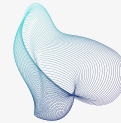
**probable & preferred
futures**



Reframe
engage with
unfamiliar

move beyond probable &
preferred
immerse ourselves in an unfamiliar
scenario
engage with what we do not
already fully know or we do not yet
have a name for

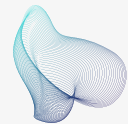
**unfamiliar
futures**



Reflect
on the topic and the
overall experience

take a step back
think new questions,
rethink issues, patterns of
behavior and action,
processes
dynamics
generate insights

present



**Next Steps
(Ground)**

purpose specific
co-create new ways for
individual or collective action
identify innovation or
experimentation opportunities
generate recommendations



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Futures Literacy Labs

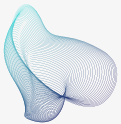
A Main Tool to develop Futures Literacy

Tailored made workshops (action research & intervention research)

Action Learning

Collective Intelligence

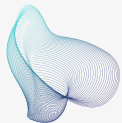
Reframe dominant paradigms



Reveal
make anticipatory
assumptions explicit

Identify and critically examine
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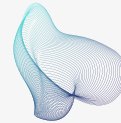
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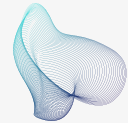
**unfamiliar
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**Next Steps
(Ground)**

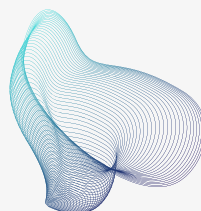
purpose specific
co-create new ways for
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identify innovation or
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generate recommendations

Futures Literacy

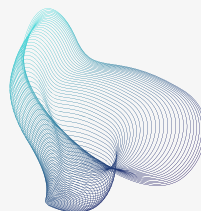
There are common ways of using the future and less common ways.

Use diverse kinds of futures as lenses to expand sense making, perception, notice internal and external transformation, identify opportunities for action .

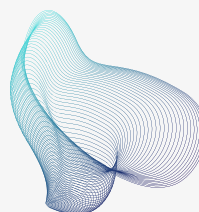
Different kinds of futures



Probable futures
Desirable futures
Normative futures



Transformative futures
Speculative futures
Radical futures



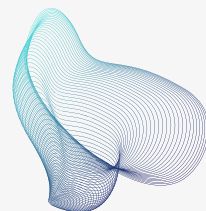
unfamiliar futures
disposable futures

(Miller, 2018; Balcom-Raleigh and Lianaki-Dedouli, 2020)

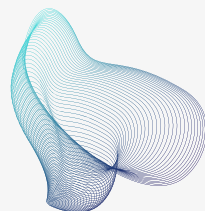


Applications

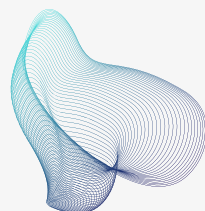
Capacity building in Futures Literacy



100+ Futures Literacy Laboratories conducted worldwide by UNESCO, covering over 50 themes in over 35 countries with Member States, academia, private sector, NGOs.



30+ FLLs targeting policy makers, decision makers and leaders with intergovernmental organisations, ministries and regions



FLL themes may focus on (re-imagining /re-thinking the future of X organisation; region; or topic

topics range from climate change and long-termism in Europe, to decolonized futures in Africa, the design and intergenerational dialogue in Asia or resilience in the Americas.

Testimonials

from participants' experience

"I experienced a journey into the future; I gained new knowledge"

Participant, Kozani 2040, EIT Climate KIC FLxDEEP Project

“

"The Lab helped me realize how narrow my perception was... By opening up to different futures I can see now new opportunities"

Participant, The future of human mobility.

“

"The journey was interactive, full of imaginaries, and used multiple viewpoints to rethink just transition".

Participant, Kozani 2040, EIT Climate KIC FLxDEEP Project

“

"An opportunity to peer beneath appearances and to achieve a novel understanding of some matters; a different development paradigm based on novel structural, scientific, and societal fields"

Participant, Kozani 2040, EIT Climate KIC FLxDEEP Project

Futures Literacy activities

at a glance

UNESCO works with governments, UN entities, civil society, academia and the private sector

publications

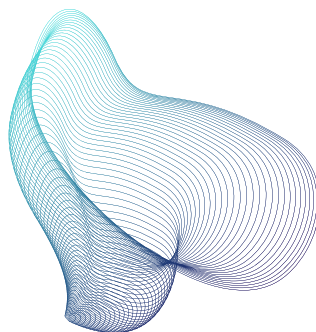
Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century

Published in Arabic, English and French

Futures Literacy Laboratory Playbook (forthcoming)

partnerships

Dozens of partnerships with a wide range of actors, foundations, governments, NGOs to conduct research, organize Labs and learn Futures Literacy by doing.



Capacity building

Futures Literacy Labs

Futures Webinars

Futures Literacy Masterclasses

Facilitation of the development of FL trainings, higher education curricula

conferences / fora

UNESCO'S World Futures Day December 2nd (first celebration 2022)

2020: First Futures Literacy Summit (largest virtual event of the UN with 8000 people from 122 countries)

2019: First Global Futures Literacy Design Forum at UNESCO HQ, launch of Global Futures Literacy Network

and UNESCO chairs & UN activities



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UNESCO Chairs

in Futures Literacy, Futures Studies and Anticipation

A network of 37 Chairs in 31 countries providing intellectual leadership

 Anticipatory Techniques & Futures Design

 Futures Capability for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

 Images of the futures and co-creation

 Planetary Wellbeing and Regenerative Anticipation

 Anticipatory Systems in Innovation and Venture Creation

 Futures Studies for Development and Competitiveness

 Visual Literacy & Futures of Culture

 Anticipation, Foresight and Territorial Sustainability

 Anticipatory Leadership & Futures Capabilities

 Learning for Transformation and Planetary Futures

 Financial Anticipatory Systems Thinking

 Futures Studies and International Strategic Intelligence

 Organisational Futures, Resilient Leadership and Educational Innovation

 Sustainable Futures in the Mediterranean: Actors & Discourse

 Futures Research: Imagining the Futures of Greece

 Anticipatory Systems

 Interdisciplinary Anticipation and Global-Local Transformation

 Anticipatory Socio-Technical Systems

 Future Studies: Anticipation for Sustainability

 Foresight, Anticipatory Leadership and Innovative Futures

 Anticipating the Futures of Urban Life in the Global South

 Futures Literacy

 Leadership, Innovation and Anticipation

 Anticipatory Governance and Regenerative Cities

 Futures Studies

 Transitional and Inter-generational Anticipation

 Futures Studies, Story-telling and Anticipation: Living Traditions, Transitions, and Resilience

 Complex Systems and Transformative African Futures

 Heritage Futures

 Positive Futures, Futures Literacy, and Anticipation

 Resource Governance and Futures Literacy

 Futures Studies, Foresight, and Strategic Decisions

 Anticipation, Futures Studies and Strategic Foresight

 Anticipatory Systems for Prosperous Future

 Responsible Foresight for Sustainable Development

 Socio-Cultural Anticipation and Resilience

 Futures Studies for Sustainable Policymaking



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UNESCO Chairs

in Futures Literacy, Futures Studies and Anticipation

2 International Symposiums of UNESCO
Chairs in Anticipatory Systems,
Trento (2019), Saudi Arabia (2021),
Paris (2023)

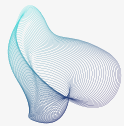
	Anticipatory Techniques & Futures Design		Leadership, Innovation and Anticipation
	Images of the futures and co-creation		Futures Studies
	Learning for Transformation and Planetary Futures		Heritage Futures
	Financial Anticipatory Systems Thinking		Responsible Foresight for Sustainable Development
	Futures Studies and International Strategic Intelligence		Transitional and Inter-generational Anticipation
	Sustainable Futures in the Mediterranean: Actors & Discourse		Futures Studies, Foresight, and Strategic Decisions
	Futures Research		Socio-Cultural Anticipation and Resilience
	Anticipatory Systems		Future Studies: Anticipation for Sustainability
	Interdisciplinary Anticipation and Global-Local Transformation		Resource Governance and Futures Literacy
	Futures Literacy		Anticipatory Systems in Innovation and Venture Creation



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UN Futures activities

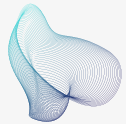
(co)-led by UNESCO Futures Literacy Team (Social & Human Sciences Sector)



**Coordinator of UN High Level
Committee on Programmes
Foresight Network (established in
2020) -
31 UN entities**

10+ capacity building FLLs & futures activities
with entities such as (UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, FAO,
UNICEF, UNODC, World Bank & IMF, HLCP IAWG AI)

Current work: Futures Masterclasses Pilot
Futures for Intergenerational Equity in support of
HLCP Duties to the Future workstream



**UN Futures Lab Initiative foreseen
in SG's "Our Common Agenda" Co-
lead along with UNGP and UNDP to
foster UN-wide Futures Literacy
(including Foresight) capacity
building**

Workplan is under development
UNESCO's Contributions will focus on
Futures Capacity Building, Knowledge transfer,
Community building, Mobilization of Networks



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Get in touch

if you are interested in using
the future in innovative ways
drop us a line!



futuresliteracy@unesco.org



en.unesco.org/themes/futures-literacy

**thank you for
your attention!**

thank you for your attention!



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