

Crowdsourced Futures Window

TOOL TYPE: PROCESSING

RUN TIME: 60-90 MINUTES; PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Created by Sirkka Heinonen
& Elina Hiltunen (Finland).

Adapted by Futures for Inter-
generational Equity.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

10-100 people

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Leadership buy-in.
- Video display (large TV, monitor, or video projection);
- Printed sign for next to the window;
- Slideshow software (e.g. MS Powerpoint).

KNOWN APPLICATIONS

Workplace Futures Awareness.

USE CASE INSIDE UN

Exercise in weeklong workshop, Resilience Frontiers, Global Adaptation Week, hosted by UNFCCC, Republic of Korea (2019).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A Crowdsourced Futures Window is a tool for inviting colleagues in an organisation to **reflect upon future possibilities and their present-day values**. It involves engaging the future through **photos and visuals**, and sometimes also music. It can be applied as a warm-up in futures workshop or as an audio-visual installation. In this adaptation, a 'crowd' (e.g., your colleagues) are invited to submit photos which they 'see the future' in. These photos are then curated into a slideshow, which is presented next to signage indicating how to use it.

HOW IT SUPPORTS INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

The Futures Window supports intergenerational equity by promoting an attentive stance toward the potentials for change which helps in long-term futuring. It helps locate one's own values and concerns in the present, an intercultural competence.

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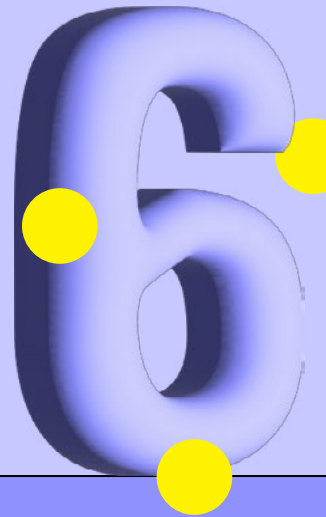
CONCISE INSTRUCTIONS

- Recruit a small team and sponsor in the organisation to run the project.
- Designate a Futures Window organiser (individual or whole team).
- Invite everyone in the unit or organisation to submit photos which make them think about futures of generational relationships - in any way, positive, negative, or contemplative.
- Choose a location for your Futures Window installation high-visibility area of your organisation (e.g., building lobby or popular staff cafeteria).
- Set up your installation with a large video display and a sign that says (something like): 'This is a Futures Window, crowdsourced from our organisation. What futures of generational relationships do you see in these images?' Also include instructions for how to participate.
- Curate all received photos on a periodic basis (e.g. weekly or monthly). Make photos into a slideshow, 3-5 seconds per slide with no captions or text. Publish the slideshow to your installation's display.
- Run your Futures Window program for as long as there is interest or capacity to run it. Ideally, at least one month.
- Optional, follow up participants to learn more about their experiences with it.

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Wider visibility and awareness of futures thinking and intergenerational equity.
- Reflective awareness of one's own values as well as new ideas about the future.
- Heightened attention to future potentials inspired by the physical (non-textual) world;
- Organisers can enable agency about raising intergenerational equity perspectives in their part of the UN system.

RESOURCES

- [“The Futures Window: A Medium for Presenting Visual Weak Signals to Trigger Employees’ Futures Thinking in Organizations.”](#) HSE Working Papers W-423. Helsinki: Helsinki school of Economics Print. Hiltunen, Elina. 2007.

FEEDBACK

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