

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.



Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	n.3 - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale SCARL - IRS
PIC number:	996850668
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP7, T7.2
Event name:	International pilot: participatory scenario building event
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Italy, Bologna (BO)
Date(s):	13th-14th May, 2025
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/">https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/</a>
Participants	
Female:	25
Male:	5
Non-binary:	\
From country 1 [Italy]:	18
From country 2 [Germany]:	3
From country 3 [Albania]:	1
From country 4 [Belgium]:	1
From country 5 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 6 [France]:	1
From country 7 [Greece]:	1
From country 8 [Hungary]:	1

From country 9 [Romania]:	1		
From country 10 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 11 [Spain]:	1		
Total number of participants:	30	From total number of countries:	11
<b>Description</b>			
<p>The “<i>International Pilot : Participatory Scenario Building Event</i>” took place in Bologna (Italy) on May 13–14, 2025, as part of WP7 (T7.2) of the FOSTER project. Organised and facilitated by IRS - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale members (Flavia Pesce, Elena Ferrari, Siro Ciarimboli), the event brought together <b>30 participants from 11 different countries</b> (Italy, Germany, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain), including project partners and local citizens. Among the attendees, 25 identified as female and 5 as male.</p> <p>The workshop was hosted at <b>Salus Space</b>, a multifunctional facility born out of a collaborative urban regeneration initiative. The venue provided an inspiring context for exploring long-term visions of urban and environmental futures, in line with the FOSTER project's aims. Salus Space has been, and will continue to be, the venue for all FOSTER events related to the local pathways in Bologna, reinforcing its role as a symbolic and practical hub for community-based climate reflection and action.</p> <p>The event was designed as both a training opportunity and a <b>demonstration pilot to build the capacity of partners in participatory foresight and scenario building</b>, in preparation for local workshops implementation (WP8). It combined theoretical grounding, collaborative exercises, and peer exchange with a specific focus on land consumption and climate-related challenges. This focus was chosen based on the priorities expressed by the local community during the previous needs assessment event (WP6) and the case of Bologna was used as a reference for the simulation, since foresight exercises tend to be more effective when grounded in a territorial context, such as one's own city, neighborhood or community.</p> <p><b>Day 1</b></p> <p>The first day began with a short introduction aimed primarily at participants from outside the consortium. This session provided an <b>overview of the FOSTER project</b>, its structure, and the overall work plan, helping external participants understand the broader framework of the initiative and the purpose of the event within it.</p> <p>The workshop then continued with two distinct warm-up activities designed to stimulate reflection on personal attitudes and collective imaginaries about the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the <b>Polak Game</b>, participants placed themselves on a grid based on their feelings about the climate future and their perceived ability to influence it. The exercise encouraged discussion on perspectives and emotional orientations towards climate action. This activity revealed a prevailing sense of pessimism among participants regarding the climate future, although many still felt they had the capacity to make a positive difference;</li> <li>• the subsequent <b>Headlines from the Future</b> exercise engaged participants, using Slido, in imagining newspaper headlines from the year 2035, reflecting possible developments in their communities in relation to climate change. Submissions were shared and discussed collectively, revealing a range of hopes, concerns, and critical issues. In particular, most of the headlines reflected catastrophic or provocative scenarios: examples included “The submerged city”, “No more seasons, just a lot of heat”.</li> </ul> <p>After the warm-up activities, brief <b>theoretical inputs</b> were offered on key concepts of strategic foresight and scenario-building to introduce the methodology that would guide the practical exercises. Then, to contextualise the scenario-building activities, IRS presented an <b>overview of Bologna's local context</b>, including demographic info (such as ageing and migration), the city's strong tradition of civic engagement and associational life, recent climate-related challenges (e.g. increasing temperatures, air quality, flooding), and the city's institutional responses to them. This framing helped international participants better understand the issues at stake and anchor the foresight work in a specific territorial reality.</p> <p>Participants then took part in a <b>Futures Wheel</b> exercise centred on the driver “High levels of land consumption in Bologna”. Divided into five groups reflecting the STEEP dimensions (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political), they explored both immediate and ripple effects of</p>			

this phenomenon. The discussion highlighted how first-order impacts, though initially tied to a specific domain, often led to broader second-order consequences cutting across multiple spheres. The resulting diagram offered a structured and comprehensive view of these complex interrelations, laying the groundwork for the scenario-building phase that followed.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in a scenario-building exercise based on the widely used **2x2 matrix** methodology. The activity was structured as a step-by-step process, facilitated through clear instructions and prompt questions. It began with a brainstorming phase, during which each group explored the core features and possible dynamics of one quadrant of the matrix, each representing a distinct combination of two key uncertainties, identified by facilitators before to the workshop:

- the level of institutional support and governance capacity;
- the degree of community engagement.

Participants were encouraged to draw inspiration from the insights and reflections that had emerged during the Future Wheel exercise earlier in the day. In particular, the theme of environmental challenges - and specifically land consumption - provided a common backdrop for imagining plausible futures for the city of Bologna in 2035. Following the initial brainstorming, each group developed a written narrative scenario, describing how life, institutions, and urban environments might evolve under the conditions defined by their quadrant. In particular:

- Scenario A imagined a city with strong institutions but weak civic involvement, where top-down innovations fail to meet citizens' needs, leading to social fragmentation, gentrification, and limited trust in public policies.
- Scenario B described a positive future of high institutional support and active community participation, where anticipatory governance enables inclusive growth, improved public services, and environmental regeneration.
- Scenario C depicted a deteriorating Bologna marked by weak governance and civic disengagement, with rising inequality, depopulation, institutional corruption, and urban decay.
- Scenario D envisioned a grassroots-led city compensating for fragile institutions, where active civil society drives change, albeit with tensions over resources, uneven access to innovation, and limited policy influence.

The process culminated in a plenary session where each group presented and discussed its scenario, opening space for collective reflection and comparison across the four imagined futures.

## Day 2


The second day was dedicated to the project partners and began with a collective **recap of the previous day's activities**. This moment served to consolidate the shared experience of the workshop and to gather direct feedback from participants. Partners reflected on the methodology, shared their impressions, and offered suggestions for improvement based on their observations and needs. In parallel, IRS presented a **preliminary draft of the scenario-building toolkit** (T7.3). The presentation included the proposed table of contents, offering a first look at the structure and key components of the toolkit, which is meant to support partners in replicating scenario-building workshops within their local pathways (WP8). The discussion allowed partners to voice specific needs and expectations concerning the toolkit's content, format, and level of guidance, in order to assure its relevance and usability in diverse local contexts.


Following this exchange, the morning continued with a **coordination meeting** among project partners, facilitated by Nadia Di Iulio from ALDA. The session focused on upcoming steps in the project timeline, with particular attention the organisation of local pathways and the next international events.

## Conclusions

The International pilot event, held in Bologna, contributed to the simulation of participatory scenario-building practices within the FOSTER project. Participants engaged in a series of structured activities aimed at exploring long-term urban and environmental futures, with a focus on land consumption and climate-related challenges. The event also served as a space for testing methodologies and exchanging perspectives among partners and external participants. Inputs collected during the sessions will inform the refinement of the scenario-building toolkit and support the preparation of upcoming local pathways (WP8).

### Useful links:

Infopack and agenda:  [IRS - International Pilot infopack - Bologna.pdf](#)

Presentation:  [IRS - International Pilot presentation - Bologna.pdf](#)

Photos:  [Pictures](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).