

D4.1 Pre-conference document

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1. Purpose of the document

This document provides an overview of the international online conference “Committed to the future towards resilient communities”, detailing its objectives, agenda and other event’s details. It includes key documentation, detailed description of the panels, including insights into speaker profiles, and the topics covered in numerous case studies. The document aims to capture the key themes and speakers’ contributions.

2. Overview of the international online conference

TITLE	Committed to the future towards resilient communities
TYPE OF INITIATIVE	One day online conference with expert keynotes, scientific presentations, case studies from various European countries (SK, AT, IT), Q&A, debate and exchange of expertise
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the knowledge about participative governance in Europe ▪ Provide experience and knowledge about foresight in participative policy making ▪ Promote knowledge about tools to apply participative governance and foresight strategy on different levels (local, regional, national) ▪ Provide tools to evaluate and measure participation in quality and quantity
TIME FRAME	12 March 2025 From 10.30am To 4.30pm
TARGET GROUPS	FOSTER project partners, experts from local, national and international level, public authorities and civil society organizations at different levels and from various European countries
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AGENDA	<p>The Agenda will consist of two keynotes, two panels, three breakout sessions, and a plenary and a closing keynote.</p> <p>The conference combines pan-European (EESC) and international (OECD) with local and national experiences.</p> <p>The conference will be opened with a keynote speech by EESC - European Economic Social Committee.</p> <p>The core of the agenda is divided in two panels respectively on foresigh in policy making and participatory governance.</p> <p>Both panels are structured in a keynote speech, with the purpose to share a comprehensive introduction of the topic of the panel, and followed by two or three case studies to provide the audience with concrete and successful examples of the methodology introduced.</p>

	<p>Specifically:</p> <p>Panel 1 - Foresight in local governance and citizenship: opportunities and challenges Keynote by OECD and case studies presented by two experts respectively on a foresight process in mental health and future thinking on urban regeneration.</p> <p>Panel 2 - Participatory Governance Keynote by the Citizens' participation forum from Bulgaria. Case studies presented by University of Bratislava and the Member of the National Council in Austria.</p> <p>Breakout sessions The objective is to share lessons learned, opinions, reflections, etc. One topic per room such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foresight, Policy Making and Participation 2. Measuring Quantity and Quality: How to implement the Participation Index, 3. Participatory Governance: Necessary Preconditions and framing <p>The conference will be closed by a keynote on Participatory governance in the Future from Ehs & Fils Democracy Consulting</p> <p>Evaluation and Conclusion</p>
<p>DOCUMENTATION/REPORTING RECOMMENDED READING</p>	<p>Website of WP responsible, Website of partners, project documentation</p> <p>Articles on Participative budgeting in Eastern Europe https://sjps.fsvucm.sk/Articles/about_2_2021.pdf</p> <p>Foresight and Roadmapping (German) https://www.zsi.at/object/publication/5124/attach/info_18_12_20_SAG.pdf</p> <p>Strategic Foresight in business (Diss. German) https://digitalcollection.zhaw.ch/items/051f71ae-bd88-426d-be17-64309d1a74c8</p> <p>Citizens and Multi-actor Consultation More than 1000 citizens met during the winter 2015/2016 at national vision workshops where 179 visions for sustainable and desirable futures were formulated http://www.cimulact.eu/index.html</p> <p>EU Foresight Report 2021 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2021-strategic-foresight-report_en</p> <p>Framing the future: What is Strategic Foresight? https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AGRIP/613d38fc-c2ec-4e1a-b31f-03fa706321aa/UploadedImages/documents/AGRIp_Workbook_FramingTheFuture_FINAL.pdf</p>

	<p>FOSTER Toolkit on participatory and multistakeholder governance and foresight strategy FOSTER - Training of Trainers - Toolkit</p> <p>FOSTER Training on foresight and participatory democracy D1.2-FOSTER-Training-modules_compressed.pdf</p> <p>Conference materials and presentations: Committed to the future towards resilient communities – Foster Europe for strong European Regions</p>
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3. Overview of Panel 1. Foresight, local governance and citizenship: opportunities and challenges

3.1. Keynote speech

Title: Foresight & local governance: tools, practices and prospects
Speaker: Katerina Ciampi Stancova, Policy Research and Advice, Capacity Building Lead, OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Focus: Foresight in policy making
Bio (150 words): Prior to working at the OECD, Katerina worked as a Scientific Officer at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre. She has also been a visiting scholar at Georgetown University, Washington DC, and Stockholm University. Katerina holds a PhD in Public Policy and Sustainability from Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa and Master's in Foresight from University of Trento.
Abstract (150 words): In an era of rapid change, local governments and communities are facing unprecedented challenges and uncertainties. Climate change, technological advances, shifting economic landscapes and evolving demographics are reshaping residents' daily lives and demanding innovative approaches to governance. Traditional local governance models, often reactive and siloed, struggle to unite stakeholders around a shared vision for the future. By moving beyond traditional forecasting methods - such as reliance on historical data and linear projections - foresight enables the design of more adaptive local development strategies. This presentation explores why foresight is essential for local governance and highlights the transformative potential of future literacy in empowering citizens and fostering participatory decision-making.
Resources: Capacity building activities and networks at the OECD Trento Centre OECD

3.2. Case study 1

Title: Strategic Foresight for Mental Health: Enhancing Services in Veneto through Cooperative Innovation

Speaker: Nicoletta Boldrini, Futures & Foresight Director, Tech4Future | **Authors**

Focus: Strategic Foresight - Participatory Governance - Human Rights - Mental Health - Local Social Services

Bio (150 words): Nicoletta Boldrini specializes in ETS – Emerging Technologies Scanning and Technology Foresight. She is a Maieutic Facilitator, Practitioner & Trainer, applying Futures & Foresight and various methodological frameworks, including Creative Problem Setting/Solving, Liberating Structures, Design Thinking, and LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®, in workshops for companies and academic institutions.

A humanist lent to Science, she is a journalist and popularizer in the field of technology and science, as well as a Futures Literacy Advocate, with a strong focus on emerging technologies and future scenarios. She is the Editor-in-Chief of Tech4Future, a speaker, and an event anchor.

A Board Member of AFI, the Association of Italian Futurists, she is also a member of the APF - Association of Professional Futurists, WFSF - World Futures Studies Federation, and IFTF - Institute for the Future. She actively participates in international communities of practice in Futures Studies, contributing to the advancement of Futures Literacy.

Abstract (150 words): The future of mental health services depends on our ability to anticipate societal needs and design adaptive, people-centered solutions. This session explores how CONFCooperative Veneto is leveraging futures and foresight methodologies to improve mental health service delivery. By integrating strategic foresight into cooperative governance, this case study illustrates how participatory approaches can foster resilience, inclusivity, and long-term well-being. The discussion will highlight key insights, challenges, and lessons learned, providing a roadmap for other regions aiming to enhance their mental health frameworks through future-oriented strategies.

Resources: [Nicoletta Boldrini | Futures & Foresight Practitioner](#)

3.3. Case study 2

Title: Salus Space: a shared future thinking experience of socio-economic urban regeneration
Speaker: Pier Francesco Orsi, Salus Space Project Manager
Focus: Urban Regeneration - Community Management
Bio (150 words): Pier Francesco Orsi is a project manager specialized in the field of community management, diversity management, and social innovation.
<p>Abstract (150 words): Salus Space represents a pioneering initiative in socio-economic urban regeneration, embodying a shared future thinking experience. This multifunctional centre was designed to foster community engagement and inclusivity, featuring a diverse array of facilities such as housing, art studios, a theatre, a study centre, and a hostel. Additionally, the weekly farmers' market and community gardens serve as vital spaces for local produce and community interaction, while an inn offers welcoming accommodations for visitors.</p> <p>Originating from a European project under the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) program, Salus Space emphasizes collaborative governance, bringing together local entities, non-profits, residents and other citizens in a dynamic partnership. By fostering synergies between various stakeholders, Salus Space aims to cultivate a sustainable, future-oriented community that not only addresses current socio-economic challenges but also envisions a thriving, interconnected urban landscape seeking holistic approaches to urban regeneration and community development.</p>
Resources: Home - Saluspace 2.0

3.4. Case study 3

Title: Images of the Future: Young people's imaginations of human-water relations
Speaker: Furkan Sorkuncuk, Project Coordinator, Volonteurope
Focus: Experiential learning, speculative design, futures, strategic foresight

Bio (150 words): Responsible for grant writing, coordination of EU-funded projects with six years of experience (Horizon Europe, CERV and Erasmus+) as well as projects financed by the Council of Europe (Civil Society Grant). Furkan is a Project Coordinator at Volonteurope and a European Climate Pact Ambassador for the European Commission, representing Belgium and Germany, with a background in law and European studies. He manages the Volonteurope's ECI for a Water-Smart and Resilient Europe. He is experienced in horizon scanning and analysis of weak signals in foresight research, implementation of participatory action research, organising and facilitating training activities, speculative design, storytelling, data visualisation and citizen engagement on human rights, climate change and democratic participation.

Abstract (150 words): FLOW (Future Lives with Oceans and Waters) studies young people's relations with water bodies in seven bio-geographical regions of Europe. A horizon scanning was implemented to collect weak signals and trends and cultural products were studied. Futures workshops were organised with 134 young people where, through experiential learning and speculative design, young people had the chance to understand the past-present-future of human-water relations. We collected young people's imaginations, fears, hopes, aspirations, and anxieties connected to the future as well as actionable ideas. By analysing these inputs, we tried to understand what might be human-water relations prevailing among young people. We co-created action models with young people to be implemented in different regions and local communities as well as insights for policymaking at various levels: local, regional, and European. This is to ensure ownership of policies developed by policymakers among young people.

Resources: [Home | FLOW-horizon](#)

4. Overview of Panel 2. Participatory governance: European successful experiences

4.1. Keynote speech

Title: **Measuring Quantity and Quality: The Participation Index**

Speaker: George Petrov, Citizen's participation Forum, Bulgaria

Focus: Bulgarian legal and institutional support for citizen participation.

Bio (150 words): Director, Citizen Participation Forum

Abstract (150 words): This area of research shows the extent to which the Bulgarian legislative and institutional environment supports and facilitates citizen participation. It includes two indicators: on the one hand, the laws regulating the different levels of participation - information, consultation and partnership, and on the other, the existence of institutions, networks and media that create the conditions for participation.

4.2. Case study 1

Title: Participatory democracy case studies from Slovakia

Speaker: Martina Balazova, Comenius University Bratislava

Focus: Slovak best practices in municipal participatory budgeting and youth-oriented participation.

Bio (150 words): She gained a master's degree in World Politics and International Relations from the Università degli Studi di Pavia in Italy and a master's degree in International Trade from the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Abstract (150 words): Presentation of the two best practice examples from Slovakia: one focused on municipal participatory budgeting and the other on youth-oriented initiatives.

4.3. Case study 2

Title: The Climate Council, Deliberative experience on the federal level

Speaker: Lukas Hammer, Member of the National Council, Austria

Focus: Establishment of deliberative processes on the federal level & lessons learned

Bio (150 words): Lukas Hammer is a member of the Austrian Parliament and Austrian Green Party. He studied political science with a focus on environmental economics and environmental policy. He chairs the Environment Committee of the Austrian Parliament and serves as the speaker for mobility and environmental policy for the Austrian Green Party.

Abstract (150 words): The establishment and development of Austria's Climate Council (Climate Citizen Assembly), its outcomes, and key takeaways from this initiative will be

discussed. Reflection on lessons learned and on how future deliberative processes can be improved.

4.4. Case study 3

Title: **Participatory Governance in Past and Present: the Slovakian Experience**

Speaker: Daniel Klimovsky, Comenius University, Bratislava

Focus: Slovakia's participative governance: evolution, key factors, and current practices.

Bio (150 words): PhDr. Daniel Klimovský, PhD. Assistant Professor at the Public Policy Institute, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Slovakia, Chairman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Abstract (150 words): This section discusses the development of participative governance approach in Slovakia post the Velvet Revolution and separation from CSR; the key factors influencing its establishment on local and national levels, and how participative governance is handled today in Slovakia.