FutuResilience
Building sustainable futures together

NEWSLETTER #3
JULY 2024

The societal resilience journey

As we have reached the first half of the FUTURESILIENCE project, we are thrilled to share the achievements of meaningful milestones: our journey started early 2023 with an intensive consortium work, mapping R&I findings stemming from European research and tackling societal resilience, starting from diverse challenges such as health, housing, disasters, climate-related, digital or financial. We concluded with a key achievement: the launch of our open-access Knowledge Base with more than 600 documents including science-based analysis and concrete policy actions to build societal resilience.

This year, we have also launched 10 FUTURESILIENCE labs working on concrete challenges as starting point to co-create policies with the aim of increasing preparedness for multiple types of crises and thus, creating resilient communities. The labs work with a Foresight-based approach and a combination of policy and thematic tools that are part of a beta-version of a toolbox that will be publicly released in 2025. It will also include innovative approaches that are tested as part of the experimentation policy design of the labs – including the use of science-fictions narratives, speculative design, community-based approaches to framing challenges or analytical digital tools.

All our labs are now finalising the framing phase of their challenges and moving towards the design of scenarios of how the challenge may unfold in the future. This process is embedded by mutual learning activities, aimed at facilitating the exchange and facilitate cross-learning from the different labs. We have also launched a thematic webinar series, inviting experts in different fields to share their experience in handling processes to build resilience in different sectors, including circular economy, disasters or cybersecurity.

This newsletter will provide the entire community with a snapshot of achievements, in depth readings from labs challenges and activities from the different labs. Join our community online, spread the voice and stay tuned for the upcoming events!

Matias Barberis
Project Coordinator

News about the project

Urban resilience to climate change: Challenges in Murcia's neighbourhoods

Given the relevance of risks related to climate change and their heterogenous effects across EU, Dr. Fernando M. García Martín (UPCT) has prepared an **insight** about this challenge by focusing on the **MURCIA Lab** (Spain). The Lab works on two neighbourhoods: Vista Alegre, characterised by dense urban layouts and limited green spaces, is ideal for examining **heat island effects**. Espinardo, facing flooding challenges due to the Rambla de Algaramasa, further presents an interesting case of coping with **extreme weather events**. The MURCIA Lab explores how urban heat islands impact health, energy use, and social equity and emphasises Nature-Based Solutions to enhance urban comfort and biodiversity.
Read More

Chios lab: building resilience on a Greek island

The **migration crisis** can be seen as one of the most important challenges in building societal resilience. The **CHIOS Lab** focuses on this topic based on a collaborative approach. The lab tackles **economic diversification**, **social inclusion**, and **cross-border cooperation** with a participatory approach, engaging stakeholders like the European Commission, local associations, and international organisations. The Lab emphasizes context-based solutions, inclusive decision-making, and trust-building. Addressing migration, economic challenges, and climate resilience, it seeks to boost local resilience and inform broader policies. Key areas include balancing **self-sufficiency** with **global engagement**, leveraging agriculture, and improving refugee services. The CHIOS Lab's innovative co-creation methods aim to develop a resilient model for island communities globally.
Read More

Healthcare resilience and multidimensional challenges

Societal resilience also means talking about health. In this direction, EU is facing significant **healthcare challenges** due to demographic shifts, rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and escalating costs. **BAPEMED Lab** is studying and analysing this topic in Bulgaria. Bulgaria's healthcare system mirrors these issues, with an urgent need to enhance **preventive care**, improve **health data collection**, and update **regulatory frameworks**. Key strategies include integrating disease prediction, prevention, and early diagnosis into the core healthcare model, developing digital health infrastructure, and ensuring cohesive, data-driven approaches.
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An open access knowledge base to enhance societal resilience

The FUTURESILIENCE project has launched an **open-access Knowledge Base**, a key step in turning research into policies that build societal resilience. This initiative emphasizes the importance of Research and Innovation (R&I) in guiding policy decisions and preparing for future crises. The Knowledge Base, includes over **620 research results and policy recommendations** that are evidence-based, tested in society, and relevant for policymaking. It covers topics such as digitalisation, health, mobility, and climate, targeting various societal challenges. Available to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, this user-friendly platform facilitates policy design with advanced search and filter options. By promoting open access, FUTURESILIENCE project supports the exchange of information, broadening discussions, and enhancing informed decision-making for resilience across Europe.
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Updates from the FUTURESILIENCE Labs

FICTIONS Lab (Portugal)

As a first step, the FICTIONS Lab ran a **survey to industrial workers** of the 'dst group' to understand their **attitudes towards the implementation of digital technology at work**. The first workshop gathered external specialist who analysed the results of the survey and helped in **defining clusters of workers** and steering the next phases of the project.

After that, Fraunhofer AICOS provided a **training session** to a subset of 15 workers who had a high interest and concern about digital innovation and technology. The training focused on emerging technologies such as cyberphysical systems, human-machine interaction and artificial intelligence. The team is currently preparing the first of a **series of creative workshops** with the same workers to speculate about the future of technology at work.

Read more on Fictions Lab |FUTURESILIENCE Fictions Lab (video)

CHIOS Lab (Greece)

CHIOS Lab employs advanced methodologies for resilience-building in response to migration crisis. The CHIOS team has conducted a problem analysis, administered stakeholder interviews and developed an online questionnaire for citizens. **Two workshops have been organised**. The first, an online workshop held on 20th December 2023, introduced stakeholders to the Chios Lab and was attended by more than 50 participants (local institutions, NGOs, and community sectors), who have discussed project objectives, the specific refugee crisis context of Chios, and strategies for bolstering island's resilience against depopulation and climate challenges. The 2nd workshop was done in person on 21st June 2024, at the City Hall. It was the occasion to start debating on **practical solutions to enhance resilience in the face of increased refugee and migrant arrivals**, **climate crises, and economic pressures**.

Read more on Chios Lab | FUTURESILIENCE Chios Lab (video)

BAPEMED Lab (Bulgaria)

As part of its engagement strategy, on 14th February 2024 the BAPEMED Lab hosted a **workshop** in Sofia that brought together medical professionals, researchers, NGOs and policy makers.

The goal was to **identify the challenges facing Bulgarian healthcare system**. Based on the workshop insights, CIFS experts are currently developing what could be possible **future scenarios**. Furthermore, the Lab has selected some policies from the FUTURESILIENCE Knowledge Base and has decided to test them against these scenarios soon. The idea is to design effective and efficient policies, that are relevant to different contexts and results will form the basis of discussion in the next forthcoming workshop.

Read more on BAPEMED Lab | FUTURESILIENCE BAPEMED Lab (video)

MULTILOCAL Lab (Estonia)

The mission of the MULTILOCAL lab is to explore how municipalities are adapting to new residential mobility patterns and multilocal ways of living. The ultimate goal is to develop an innovative digital tool for projecting future population scenarios.

In early May 2024, a **design thinking workshop** provided an overview of current **trends and residential mobility patterns in Tartu County**. Collaborating with stakeholders and experts, the team identified the most pressing local challenges, trends, and problems related to public service provision using **foresight methods**. These insights and ideas will inform the development of a digital tool prototype. The next step involves the administration of a survey to identify key drivers of change and uncertainties, which will guide the creation of strategies for local resilience and well-being.
Read more on Multilocal Lab |
FUTURESILIENCE Multilocal Lab (video)

SCRL Lab (Slovenia)

Slovenian start-ups drive innovation, research and development in several economic sectors, but still lack resources to effectively manage challenges such as cybersecurity. With the uncertain geopolitical situation, advances in technology development and digitalisation of every aspect of our lives, cybersecurity presents a huge challenge for the present and the future. SCRL lab discussing those challenges with various stakeholders, to propose the policy-based solutions for the future.

In April, the lab conducted a **survey among Slovenian start-up companies**, to determine which factors influence their ability to implement cybersecurity measures. This was topped off with the first workshop in May, where more than 25 different stakeholders from start-up ecosystems, as well as policymakers and representatives from private sector discussed around key factors as basis for the development of future scenarios.
Read more on SCRL Lab | FUTURESILIENCE SCRL Lab (video)

COSIGHT Lab (Germany)

The COSIGHT Lab aims to strengthen societal resilience by improving democratic forms of participatory engagement in Europe and to establish a 'blueprint' for successful citizen involvement processes to enhance societal and individual resilience.

The COSIGHT Lab builds on a citizen dialogue format called CoSaturday, aiming at developing new forms of dialogue concerning conflictual societal issues such as migration/integration among different stakeholders. In this direction, the **1st workshop** took place on 17th June 2024 in Hamburg, tackling the question, "*How can integration be achieved in Hamburg?*". The workshop featured a wide array of participants, including local citizens, civil

society members, NGOs, academics, businesses, and political representatives.

They used the **tetralemma method to explore various 'integration' scenarios for the city**. The outcomes of this workshop will be incorporated into a CoSaturday dialogue series and, additionally, they will be shared with a wider audience of local stakeholders and policymakers.

Read more on Cosight Lab | **FUTURESILIENCE Cosight Lab (video)**

LIQUIDHOUSING Lab (Spain)

The first months of the LIQUIDHOUSING Lab have been devoted to **collecting and analysing quantitative and qualitative data on the "Liquid Housing" phenomenon in the city of Tarragona** through desk research, surveys and individual interviews with relevant stakeholders.

The **1st workshop** took place on 19th June 2024 at the Conference Centre of Tarragona, with more than 25 people from different institutions (professional associations, social-sector institutions, public administration neighbourhood associations, academia, etc.). The Director of the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy of the University of Galway (Padraic Kenna) highlighted that **resilience in this field means providing affordable housing and security of tenure to people affected by "Liquid Housing"** and addressing their needs from a holistic point of view.

Read more on Liquidhousing Lab | **FUTURESILIENCE Liquidhousing Lab (video)**

TIMES Lab (Italy)

On 14th May and 11th June 2024 the TIMES Lab organised **two full days of interviews, study visits and focus groups with municipal experts** about community welfare, volunteering and Information and Communication Technologies. They aimed at collecting a first set of feedback, stories, specific needs and insights on the experience of managing civil volunteering during the Emilia-Romagna flood of May 2023.

The work was organised around three key cross-cutting topics: management of civil volunteering, community resources, communication and digital tools used. The results of the interviews will be the basis to designing the main contents of the three workshops and they will help in designing the integrated framework for the scenarios.

Read more on Times Lab | **FUTURESILIENCE Times Lab (video)**

MURCIA Lab (Spain)

The Murcia Lab is exploring the possibilities of citizen science and collaborative mapping to define solutions to improve urban resilience against the impacts of climate change. On 30th May 2024 the team organised a **workshop** aimed at identifying the **key factors that influence heat islands, flooding and compactness of the city** in the specific area of the Vista Alegre and Espinardo neighbourhoods. Different technicians (in the areas of urban planning, infrastructure, environment, emergencies and public health)

from local (municipality of Murcia) and regional institutions, representatives of universities, citizens and environmental and other associations attended the event. In September 2024, a **2nd workshop** will take place and will focus on developing future **scenarios**.

Read more on Murcia Lab | FUTURESILIENCE Murcia Lab (video)
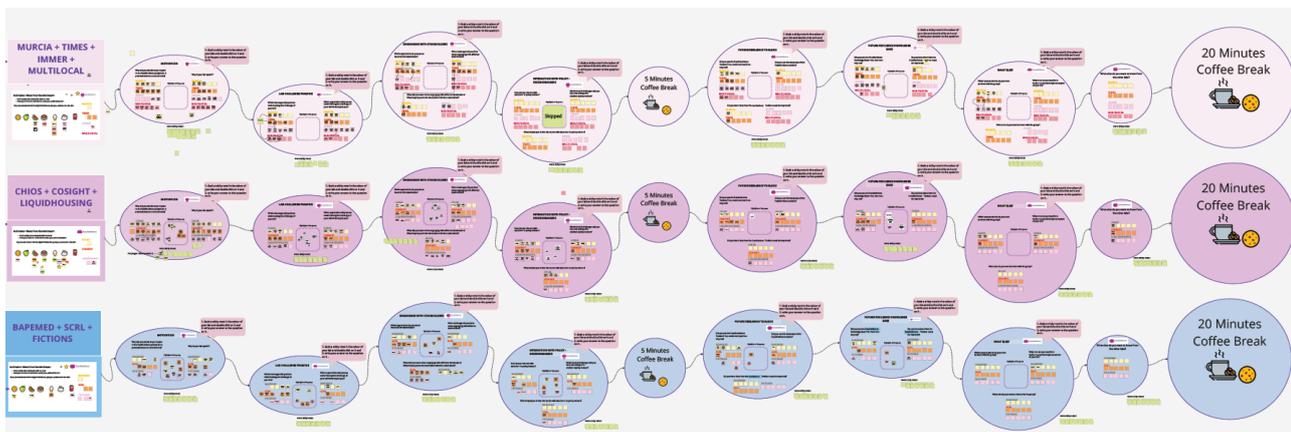
IMMER Lab (Germany)

The IMMER Lab aims at strengthening the local resilience of mobility and energy-related activities in the cross-border Strasbourg-Kehl region. The first stage was devoted to administering **interviews to partners** to gather **key information for better managing and targeting future crises**. The **1st workshop** will be held on 4th July 2024. All the project partners are invited to attend (companies, the fluvial ports of Strasbourg and Kehl, energy producers, mobility operators and public authorities). The aim of the workshop is to **encourage** these key local stakeholders to **use foresight methods** to think about the future of the Upper Rhine region in 2050. The feedback obtained from the workshop will help to guide their activities to improve the region's preparedness for future crises.

Read more on Immer Lab | FUTURESILIENCE Immer Lab (video)

1st FUTURESILIENCE Mutual Learning Workshop (Online)

On 27th May 2024 the **1st FUTURESILIENCE Mutual Learning Workshop** was held online and brought together FUTURESILIENCE Labs teams and their mentors as well as members of the Advisory and Ethics Boards. This first workshop was organised and facilitated by the UNIURB Team in collaboration with EFIS Centre and Fraunhofer ISI. It focused on their first phase of implementation (framing phase) and with

The workshop aimed to **identify good practices, lessons learnt, success factors and barriers, and to foster communication and collaboration among labs**. The idea behind is to build a learning community. The discussions focused on the **implementation phase**, in which smaller groups of labs exchanged their experiences about the motivation of their project, the challenges they have faced in framing it and engaging stakeholders, and the interaction with policymakers.

Events

FUTURESILIENCE Thematic Webinar #1

FUTURESILIENCE consortium organised its first **Thematic Webinar** on 4th June 2024. This webinar series aims to support the 10 FUTURESILIENCE Labs with inspiration from experts sharing their experience and good practices on building societal resilience.

The first webinar aimed to share insights from real-world applications of different approaches for designing policies that could implement efficient co-creation activities and knowledge valorisation. Dr. Kerstin Cuhls, Fraunhofer ISI; Dr. Lauren Traczykowski, Aston University and Dr. Cristian Matti, EU Joint Research Centre were our invited speakers for this first event of the series.
Read more | Watch the recordings here

MeRest Workshop (Carpi, Italy)

On 28th-30th May 2024, members of the FUTURESILIENCE project participated in the **MEREST EU-funded project joint staff event** organised in Carpi (Italy). The aim of the event was to support the **exchange of project results** between European initiatives, to **align the knowledge** of different stakeholders and to **share awareness of the specific needs of groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic**. Dr. Fabiola Onofrio, from UNIFE team, presented the **relevance of societal resilience in building long-term oriented solutions.**
Read more

CHIOS Lab at the 63rd ERSA Congress (Terceira-Azores, Portugal)

Prof. Yannis Psycharis and the CHIOS Lab team will **present a paper** ("*Localizing megatrends: a participatory study of the resilience of Chios Island during the refugee crisis*") at the ERSA 2024 Conference in Azores (Portugal). This represents an opportunity to share knowledge about the **impact of the refugee crisis on the local community of Chios Island, as perceived by citizens and local stakeholders**.
Read more

Get in touch with us!

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