



# FutuResilience

Building sustainable futures together


# NEWSLETTER #4

## DECEMBER 2024

### A year in review: why scenarios could help build resilience?

As 2024 comes to a close, we would like to reflect on an inspiring year. Together, we have worked across Europe to address multiple complex challenges our societies face, fostering resilience and innovation through impactful initiatives. The 10 FutuResilience Labs have been recently focusing on **developing scenarios** with stakeholders, leveraging on the learnings of the framing phase. Scenario planning could offer a structured approach for communities to envision multiple plausible futures and design policies that remain effective regardless of which scenario unfolds.

In times of multiple, overlapping or concatenated crises, building societal resilience requires learning and **addressing diverse challenges and planning for multiple possible futures**. The project labs exemplify this forward-looking approach by working on challenge-based cases, meeting local needs and addressing key societal dimensions. From tackling digital skills gaps in manufacturing sector in Porto to addressing multi-local ways of living in Tartu and fostering integration in Hamburg and Chios, the labs provide pathways for creating adaptive, sustainable solutions. Other notable efforts include incorporating the cross-border dimension in France-Germany, designing inclusive housing strategies in Tarragona, exploring climate adaptation strategies in Cesena and Murcia, improving resilience of healthcare systems in Bulgaria and formulating cybersecurity policies in Slovenia.



We have achieved **key milestones**: the labs hosted 22 workshops in 9 European countries, complemented by 4 expert-led webinars and one hybrid open conference, exploring themes ranging from anticipatory governance to engaging vulnerable groups in policymaking. On the digital side, our community has grown on social media to more than 1160 followers, contributing to more than 37,000 content impressions throughout the year.

Looking forward to 2025, we remain dedicated to leveraging the opportunities of collaboration, foresight, and innovative thinking to build a more resilient Europe. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

*Matias Barberis*  
Project Coordinator



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101094455.



## Featured news

### The strengths of future thinking for building societal resilience

The FUTURESILIENCE project connects resilience-building with sustainable development goals through strategies like anticipatory governance and scenario planning. Policymakers can strengthen social cohesion, governance, infrastructure, and economic systems by exploring multiple futures. Anticipatory governance is a crucial approach, and so scenario planning helps identify risks and design adaptive policies, as evidenced in the ten project labs, which guide proactive policymaking to address societal challenges. This approach builds societal resilience by avoiding overreliance on any single outcome and better equipping communities to handle unexpected shifts.

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### Foresight in the context of new challenges. Estonia's dilemmas

Estonia must navigate economic and social transitions while addressing rising inequalities, an aging population, and competing healthcare priorities. Effective strategy-making requires long-term planning, international cooperation, and improved communication to reduce vulnerabilities to global risks. Expert groups recommend adopting scenario planning and fostering stakeholder compromise to enhance governance and prepare for crises. In other words, they suggest separating data from stakeholders, whose conflicts may hinder progress, and to balance competing interests while fostering compromise.

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## Updates from the FUTURESILIENCE Labs

### TIMES Lab (Italy)

As part of the engagement strategy, TIMES Lab organised four focus groups that involved different local stakeholders and civil servants, to collect feedback, needs and insights on volunteers' management during the 2023 flood in Cesena.



Additionally, 142 on-line questionnaires on the experience of the flood and the volunteering engagement were collected.

An Info Day was organised on 10th October 2024, where an interactive mapping activity was set up to visualise the community resources and key reference public and private spaces for the volunteers during the 2023 emergency. Memories from the volunteering experience were collected through writing postcards, to start building a storytelling of the experience and work on the themes of community resilience and emergency psychology. These activities represented the first stage of the TIMES participatory process, and they will be followed by 3 thematic workshops between December 2024 to February 2025.

[Read more on Times Lab](#)





### **MULTILOCAL Lab (Estonia) - Enhancing governance at times of the polycrises in the context of new multilocal living arrangements**

The MULTILOCAL Lab has conducted its second workshop in Tartu, bringing stakeholders together to explore scenario forecasts for the region, focusing on emerging spatial patterns and multi-local living arrangements. Key discussions covered the impacts of residential mobility and multi-locality on security, sustainable transport and service provision. During the workshop, a local government income tax calculator prototype was proposed, which is now being further developed based on feedback gathered directly from stakeholders. This input contributes to improving the tool's usability and functionality. The next steps will focus on policy solutions to help local governments adapt to these evolving trends.

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### **FICTIONS Lab (Portugal) - Addressing labour market challenges today to build a resilient manufacturing sector**

Since July 2024, FICTIONS Lab has provided training in AI, human-computer interaction and cyberphysical systems to workers from three industrial units at the dst group, in Portugal. Four co-creation workshops with the same group of workers had been conducted by implementing a lead user approach.



During the workshop, factors that will be relevant for the future of technology at work (ageing, migrations, etc.) were identified. Moreover, the workshop shed light on the consequences of these factors in workers' workplaces and allowed the creation of a speculative prototype of technology that could anticipate issues raised by those factors, and generated policy recommendations to relevant stakeholders based on a general reflection about all the work done in the workshops.

As for next steps, the Lab will repeat the initial survey, involving a larger number of workers to understand whether attending workshops had an impact on workers' attitudes towards technology. Another workshop, with external specialists, will be organised to present and discuss the outcomes of the participatory speculative work done with the workers.

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### **LIQUIDHOUSING Lab (Spain) - Addressing the housing "liquefaction" process after three crises in Tarragona**

The LIQUIDHOUSING Lab organised the second workshop in October at the University Rovira i Virgili. The workshop brought together 20 people from different institutions (e.g. foundations, public administration, professional associations, social-sector institutions, neighbourhoods associations, academia, etc.), which worked together in three focus groups with the aim of drawing scenario cores, combining the factor projections elaborated in the first workshop. These scenarios will be the basis for the organisation of the policy testing workshop, that will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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### **BAPEMED Lab (Bulgaria)**

Based on the findings and insights gathered during the first phase of the project, foresight experts leading the BAPEMED Lab developed four potential scenarios for the future of Bulgarian healthcare system. These scenarios were shaped by key factors, each focusing on the impact of one of the following: i. addressing climate change in the context of healthcare system; ii. the increasing role of AI as a central component of healthcare delivery; iii. the growing influence of the private sector as a primary driver of innovation and service delivery; iv. maintaining the current trajectory without significant political or policy changes. On 30th October 2024, the lab team hosted a virtual workshop with a group of stakeholders (medical professionals, researchers, private sector representatives, members of NGOs, and policymakers). The scenarios presented to the stakeholders sparked lively discussions, allowing for their refinement and laying the groundwork for the next step: policy testing of policies selected from the FUTURESILIENCE Knowledge Base.

[Read more on BAPEMED Lab](#)

### **IMMER Lab (France-Germany) - Science-Fiction as a way to think the future**

In the last five months, the IMMER Lab conducted two workshops with local stakeholders from the mobility and energy sectors to improve their preparedness to future crisis. During the first workshop in July 2024, attendees developed, through a “Future Café” framework, three science-fiction crisis scenarios (total social collapse, long-term blackout, river tsunami) that could hit the territory by 2050. They already drafted the first actions that could be taken in 2025 to mitigate and to be prepared for these extreme scenarios.

In the following workshop in November 2024, attendees undertook an in-depth analysis by using a TOSA-matrix (Threats, Opportunities, Stakes, Actions). A first evaluation of the results has clearly demonstrated that even

though the crisis scenarios are different, the driving factors and required actions are similar throughout the scenarios. For the next workshop, community-building exercises with private and public actors will be envisaged to increase local resilience in relation to energy and mobility issues.

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### **CHIOS Lab (Greece)**

The research on migration and resilience in Chios Island has provided valuable insights into the island's challenges and opportunities in migration management. Key findings were: i. importance of strategic spatial planning to accommodate population shifts; ii. multiculturalism to foster mutual respect for refugees' heritage; iii. access to essential services (education, healthcare, and employment) to support integration. However, persistent legal and societal barriers underscore the need for targeted policy reforms and public engagement.



Next steps include a Virtual Scenario Drafting Workshop in December 2024 and an In-Person Stakeholder Workshop in February 2025 to evaluate and refine these proposals. This will additionally contribute to the development of an ABM model aimed at generating inclusive resilience policy recommendations in partnership with the University of Maastricht.

[Read more on Chios Lab](#)





### **MURCIA Lab (Spain)**

The Scenario Development workshop was held on 24th September 2024 at the assembly hall of the Local Development Agency of the Murcia City Council. Mr. Antonio Navarro Corchón, Delegate Councillor for Urban Planning, Garden and Environment, and Ms. Mercedes Bernabé Pérez, Delegate Councillor for Open Government, Economic Promotion and Employment opened the workshop.



The workshop gathered more than 25 stakeholders, among whom were specialists from the Murcia City Council, the Autonomous Community, teachers, environmental associations and citizens who contributed with their knowledge and experience to the proposed topics (heat islands, floods, compact urban structure). This workshop analysed how climate change has accelerated unsustainable ways of living and urbanisation.

[Read more on Murcia Lab](#)

### **COSIGHT Lab (Germany) - Fostering integration and resilience in Germany**

Following the recent CoSaturday workshop (with 50 citizens of the City of Hamburg) in which resilient approaches in Hamburg have been discussed, the COSIGHT Lab have hosted another workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, focusing on how identified approaches could effectively integrate low-qualified groups – particularly women and young people with

immigrant heritage - into the local labour market.

This meeting brought together 20 stakeholders from diverse sectors (Science, Media, Civil Society, Economy, Politics) to gain interdisciplinary perspectives on the challenges and barriers involved. Foresight backcasting method has been used to outline a possible roadmap and actionable recommendations for local policymakers to address the issue in a sustainable way. COSIGHT Lab has planned a follow-up meeting in February 2025 with local policymakers to present key insights and learnings.

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### **SCRL Lab (Slovenia) - Cyber resilience: the impact of global crises on security of a start-up**

In latest months, the SCRL Lab held several online meetings with key stakeholders to build future scenarios, with the focus on future geopolitical and economic uncertainties. The SCRL Lab activities and results were also presented at the yearly Cybersecurity Conference, organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia on 18th October 2024.

All these activities were topped off by an in-person workshop, held on 20th November 2024, which focused on scenario refinement and policy building. The participants of the workshop identified several key policies from the Knowledge Base and provided some crucial feedback on how to build and improve the cyber resilience of Slovenian R&D communities, based on existing policies.

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## 2nd FUTURESILIENCE Mutual Learning Workshop (In-Person)

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the 2<sup>nd</sup> FUTURESILIENCE Mutual Learning Workshop was organized in-person at the University of Ferrara, Italy. Around thirty people from Labs, advisory and ethic boards and consortium partners attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the second phase of labs' implementation: scenario development.

The workshop aimed to identify good practices, lessons learnt, success factors and barriers, in addition to foster communication and collaboration among Labs. It included several activities: firstly, attendees were divided into three small groups related to problem solving and uncertainty, different stakeholder engagement difficulties and policy development and testing. Each attendee reported his/her experiences and knowledge about these specific topics. Secondly, three learning modules were organised by project partners, covering topics such as *"Policy Entrepreneurs, crises, and policy change"* (by NTNU Social Research), the dynamics of private contributions for the provision resilience, that might be considered as a public good (by University of Urbino), and agent-based modelling as supporting tool for decision-making (by University of Maastricht).



## Events

### FUTURESILIENCE Thematic Webinar #2

The thematic webinar *"Uncertainty and Expertise in Public Policy"*, held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024, has explored how policymakers navigate uncertainty in designing and implementing effective policies. Featured speakers include Arnault Morrison (Sciences Po) on challenge-driven policies and André R. Karlsen (NTNU Social Research) on pandemic crisis management.

[Watch the recordings](#)

### FUTURESILIENCE Thematic Webinars #3

The webinar *"Engaging vulnerable groups in building resilient futures"*, has taken place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, and was a result of a collaboration among FUTURESILIENCE, ACCTING, and R4C projects. It aimed to raise awareness on the importance of involving vulnerable populations in the framing and design of policies and activities to build resilience.

[Watch the recordings](#)





### **CERIS - Disaster Research Days 2024 (Vienna, Austria)**

On 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the Disaster Research Days 2024 have convened scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and local communities to discuss advancements in disaster risk reduction (DRR). The event emphasised the importance of collaboration across research, policy, and funding instruments to enhance societal resilience. Highlights include knowledge-sharing, strategy development, and innovative solutions for DRR. The FUTURESILIENCE project was featured in Panel 5: "Shaping Resilient Futures through Foresight", with presentations by project coordinator, Dr. Matias Barberis, as well as Evangelia Petridou and Jörgen Sparf (NTNU Social Research). The event has fostered partnerships and integrated approaches to effective disaster management.

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### **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Annual Forum (Visby, Gotland, Sweden)**

The Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was held on 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 and focused on Sustainability, Resilience, and Security, exploring

collaboration across these topics. Dr. Matias Barberis was invited as a speaker in the session about "*Recipes for Resilience – Communities, Culture and Comprehensive Security*", organised by the Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat. The session examined how communities build resilience through cohesion, trust, and cooperation, with local authorities playing a critical coordinating role.

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### **Open Conference "Designing policies for a resilient Europe" (Ferrara, Italy)**

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the University of Ferrara organised the international conference "*Designing Policies for a Resilient Europe*". The event hosted invited international speakers: Giliberto Capano (University of Bologna) presenting on policy strategies, Francesco Nicolli (University of Ferrara) on the green economy's role, and Valeria Rijana (International University of Catalunya) on societal resilience and urban challenges. The experts discussed fostering resilience through systems thinking, knowledge valorisation, and entrepreneurial policymaking.

[Watch the recordings](#)

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