Futures Beyond Our Times

Our World in 2125

Foresight Whitepaper

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND, 2025

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Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt

Envisioning 2125

A Hopeful Blueprint for Humanity

What kind of world do you want to leave behind? What does it take to not just imagine the next quarter or year, but the next century? And how can we create spaces for hope - not just as blind optimism, but as the courage to embrace an uncertain future?

In January 2025, at the sidelines of the **World Economic Forum in Davos 2025**, a diverse group of thinkers, leaders and creatives came together for a **2.5-hour foresight workshop:** *"Futures Beyond Our Times - Our World in 2125."*

Together, we embarked on a journey beyond our own life span. Knowing that the future is inherently unpredictable - shaped by different assumptions and incomplete knowledge - we didn't aim to create a perfect forecast. Instead, we embraced the unknown and invited participants to explore what might be a possible and desirable future. We deliberately avoided anchoring the conversation in today's dominant buzzwords like "AI" or "blockchain." Instead, we focused on nine fundamental areas of life as essential societal functions that will likely remain, even as their forms evolve.

In a world grappling with overlapping crises, we need more than just resilience. We need imaginative resolve, a willingness to overcome challenges by thinking outside the box and finding innovative solutions.

The future may never unfold exactly as we imagine it - but imagining it is the first step toward making it better.

The nine open-ends that you will find in this report are not utopias. They are grounded, imperfect, and incomplete snapshots of our future. But they carry something powerful: hope. Not the naive kind, but the determined kind - born from the conviction that even if we cannot see the full path ahead, it is still worth walking.

Across these futures, common themes emerge: economies that serve people and the planet, healthcare and education that empower individuals, cultures that harmonize rather than clash, and technology as a tool of liberation instead of control.

Yet, tensions arise, too: Between decentralization and collective governance, between technological progress and ethical responsibility, between global unity and cultural preservation.

We crafted these visions to provoke, challenge, and inspire. They are meant as invitations to question, to disagree, and to deepen the conversation.

We are deeply grateful to all contributors who shared their time, imagination, and courage in co-creating these visions. Now, let's start the dialogue.

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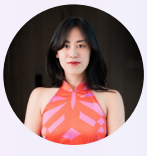

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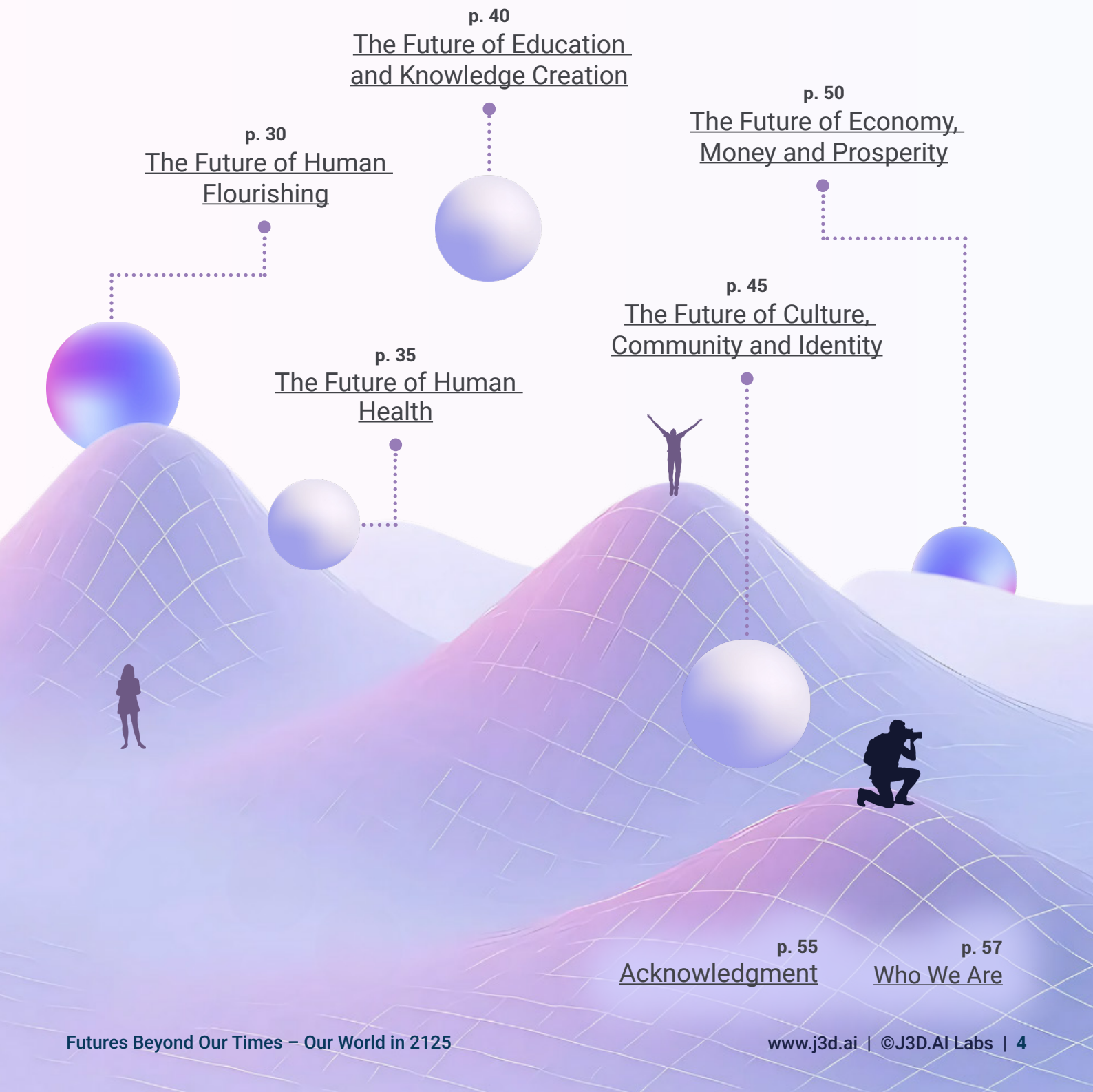
Journey into the Year 2125

A Reading Map for the Curious



Cultivating Long-Term Thinking

Harnessing Collective Imagination and Backcasting for Generational Impact

This foresight paper is the result of a collaborative experiment conducted over a **2.5-hours workshop in Davos in January 2025.** The *Futures Beyond Our Times* intervention was designed as a transformative foresight experience that invites participants to step out of the constraints of short-termism and engage in radical long-term thinking. The fundamental idea and integration of principles were inspired by Roman Krznaric's book The Good Ancestor, the participatory method was jointly developed and conducted by the editors of this report.

Participants engaged in a structured yet creative process that began with imagining a thriving world in 2125. Using exponential backcasting, they then mapped backwards to identify key milestones and finally defined "first bricks" - immediate actions to begin that journey. Through storytelling, group dialogue, and symbolic building blocks, each group contributed to a shared "collective monument" capturing their vision, pathway, and commitment to the future.

Guiding Principles

1. Deep-Time Humility

At the heart of the workshop was the principle of deep-time humility - the recognition that our place in history is both fleeting and formative. This mindset cultivated reverence for the past, responsibility in the present, and care for the distant future.

2. Legacy Mindset

Participants were invited to think like future ancestors. What would they leave behind? Whose lives would they touch, and how? This legacy perspective shifted the focus from short-term gains to long-term impact, anchoring foresight in intergenerational thinking.

3. Transcendent and Transformational Goals

Rather than aiming for incremental improvement, the workshop challenged participants to envision systemic change. Goals were crafted to transcend individual interests, institutions, and timeframes - connecting participants to something larger than themselves.

4. Cathedral Thinking as a Mental Model

The workshop drew inspiration from the concept of cathedral thinking: the idea of embarking on bold, multi-generational efforts with the understanding that we may never witness their completion. This model informed the entire structure and spirit of the experience.

At the beginning, participants engaged in a guided meditative exercise on intergenerational thinking combined with sound healing frequencies from the Frequency School. This immersive practice helped participants break free from present-day constraints and imaginatively project themselves into the world of 2125.

Key elements

The method emphasized vivid imagination as a strategic tool for systemic foresight. Participants co-created future narratives grounded in thematic pillars such as climate, education, or governance. These stories helped uncover structural assumptions, highlight leverage points, and establish a shared language for long-term transformation.

Exponential Backcasting and the First Brick

Rather than working linearly from present to future, the workshop reverses the process - beginning with a clear vision of 2125 and working backward. This non-traditional approach freed participants from present-day constraints and encouraged possibility-oriented thinking.

A central tool for that was the exercise of exponential backcasting - a non-linear approach in which participants identified a series of "waypoints" marking exponential shifts in technology, policy, culture, or behavior.

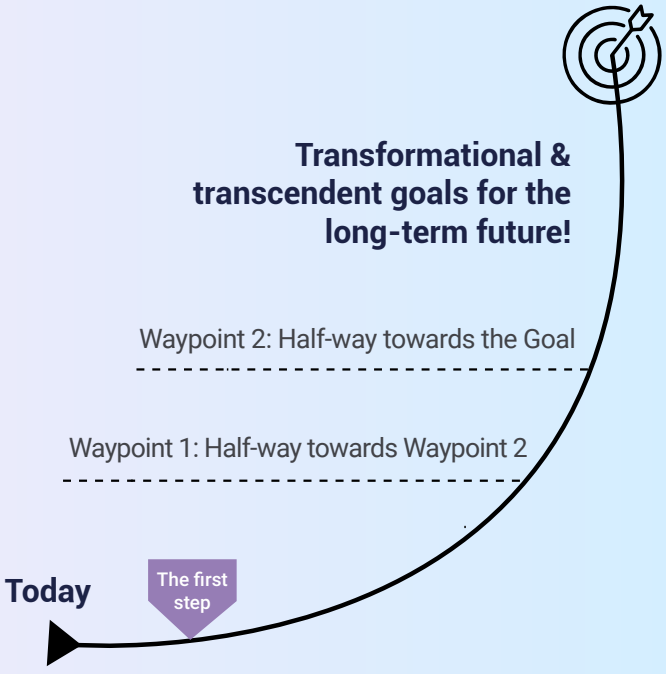
Through recursive questions - What would it take to be halfway there? And halfway to that? - groups explored critical inflection points and sequenced transformative milestones. These insights were visualized as symbolic building blocks in a shared artifact (see next section).

Despite its long-term focus, the workshop remained grounded in action. Each group defined a "first brick" - a tangible, immediate step that could initiate the path toward their envisioned future. These actions were designed to be both feasible and ambitious, bridging visionary thinking with present-day agency.

The idea of exponential backcasting emphasizes starting with a long-term goal and then working backward to identify key waypoints that represent progress along the way. The goals as visionary endpoints inspire significant shifts in systems, mindsets, and practices, while connecting to larger, enduring values.They are both transformational as well as transcendent: Transformational, because we need goals that inspire fundamental shifts in how we live, work, and relate to one another and the world - fostering new systems, mindsets, and practices.

Transcendent, because we need goals that rise above immediate, self-centered, siloed or short-term interests, connecting us to something larger than ourselves.

The idea of "exponential backcasting"

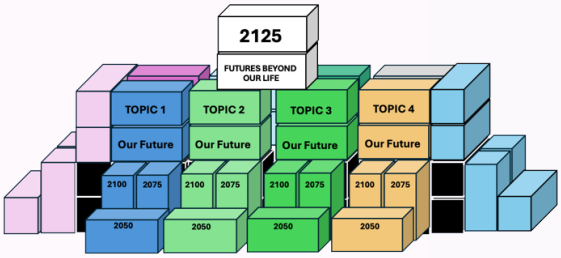


A collective monument representing the "Wonders of Tomorrow"

Inspired by the Seven Wonders of the World, the workshop aimed to create a collective monument symbolizing the transformational contributions we hope to leave for future generations.

Unlike physical structures, this monument represented enduring ideas, actions, and innovations - reflecting our commitment to systemic change, intergenerational justice, and a thriving future.

From concept to reality



Conceptual draft of collective monument.

The core facilitators posing in front of the final installation.

The Nine Key Areas: Why They Were Chosen

The workshop focused on nine thematic areas. These were selected for their systemic relevance and long-term impact on global well-being. Together, they reflect critical leverage points where change today can ripple across generations, making them ideal entry points for envisioning and building transformational futures.

AI-Assisted Synthesis & Refinement

Following the workshop, we employed J3D.AI Labs' Conference Intelligence Platform, powered by large language models (LLMs), to extract and distill key themes from the discussions. This AI-assisted synthesis was then presented back to the groups, who were tasked with reviewing, editing, and aligning their final op-eds before submission.

The Future of Humanity & Technology

The Dawn of a Liberated Humanity

By Dr. Mahault Albarracin, An Mai, Begonia Merayo, Maximilian Nols

Life in 2125

Technology as a Liberating Force

By 2125, technology has transformed human life, not by dictating its course, but by freeing people from physical, economic, and social constraints. Once seen as a source of inequality and control, technology is now an enabler of human potential, unlocking greater autonomy, creativity, and connection.

A person in 2125 is no longer limited by geography, labor markets, or rigid institutions. Education is personalized and lifelong, tailored to each individual's evolving interests and capabilities. Health is continuously optimized, ensuring people remain physically and mentally vibrant well beyond 100 years. Travel is instantaneous, borderless, and emission-free, making physical distance irrelevant.

Economic survival is no longer a burden - automated industries and new economic models have untied well-being from financial insecurity.

Instead of working to afford basic needs, people contribute to society through research, art, exploration, and knowledge-sharing, driven by purpose rather than necessity.

Most importantly, technology has deepened human relationships rather than replacing them. Thought-based communication, immersive storytelling, and collective intelligence networks allow for deeper collaboration and understanding across cultures, disciplines, and even planetary boundaries.

But this transformation did not happen overnight. It was shaped by deliberate investments in education, governance, and economic restructuring, leading humanity toward a new era of freedom, creativity, and connection.

A Vision of 2125

Technology That Frees, Not Controls

By 2125, technology no longer replaces or exploits human effort, it enhances, supports, and elevates every individual.

Physical limitations have diminished

Advanced medicine, neural enhancement, and regenerative treatments allow people to move, learn, and create without barriers.

Knowledge is borderless

Education is no longer locked within institutions, and learning is a lifelong, personalized process.

Travel is seamless

New propulsion and energy systems have made movement between continents and even planets accessible to all.

Economic survival is decoupled from labor

Society values contribution over consumption, enabling people to explore their true potential.

Above all, governance has evolved beyond hierarchical control - decision-making is decentralized and participatory, ensuring that technology serves communities rather than corporations or states.

This transformation required a shift in mindset, governance models, and financial priorities. Understanding how we arrived here reveals the critical turning points that led to the dawn of a liberated humanity.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Shift Toward Human-Centered Innovation

At this crucial milestone, the world recognized that technological advancement alone was not enough - it had to be directed toward human freedom, well-being, and equitable opportunity.

- Healthcare became predictive and preventative, ensuring long, healthy lives for all.
- Education was restructured to become a lifelong, evolving experience tailored to individual curiosity and development.
- Economic security was redefined, ensuring that technology enhanced, rather than displaced, human prosperity.

This was the period when societies stopped treating technology as an industry and started using it as a foundation for human flourishing.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Redefinition of Work, Mobility, and Autonomy

As automation reduced the need for labor, new financial and governance systems were developed to prevent inequality from re-emerging in new forms.

- Universal well-being models replaced wage-based economies, ensuring people had the freedom to pursue creativity, research, and knowledge-sharing.
- Governance decentralized, allowing local communities to control their well-being without interference from centralized institutions.

This phase confirmed that human liberation was no longer a utopian ideal, but an achievable reality.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, the first glimpses of this future are visible, advances in automated healthcare, experimental financial models, and decentralized governance experiments are proving that a new world is not just possible, but already in motion. However, achieving this vision requires bold action today.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Redefine Healthcare as a Right, Not a Service

- Shift global health investment toward regenerative medicine, neural augmentation, and preventative care.
- Ensure universal access to transformative medical technologies, preventing disparities in longevity and well-being.

Make Education a Lifelong, Personalized Experience

- Move away from standardized education toward adaptive, curiosity-driven learning models.
- Invest in open-access educational platforms, ensuring knowledge is free and unrestricted.

Expand Sustainable Travel and Mobility

- Alternative propulsion systems, and interplanetary transport, ensuring that mobility is no longer a privilege.
- Decouple citizenship and opportunity from national borders, ensuring that people can thrive anywhere.

Fund new Economic Systems that Promote Human Freedom

- Experiment with post-scarcity financial models that allow people to contribute to society without relying on wage labor.
- Shift investment from corporate profit incentives toward community-led resource distribution models.

Who Needs to Act?

Governments

Redirect public investment toward technologies that enhance freedom, not control.

Businesses

Ensure technology enables opportunity rather than extracting labor.

Communities

Advocate for governance models that prioritize autonomy, well-being, and decentralization.

People

Put humans at the centre of every decision & ensure the table includes a genuinely diverse mix and considers the needs of the different communities in every single stage of our development.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how technology reshaped civilization.

When sustainable travel became possible, what finally convinced society to invest in it at scale?

Ren, a planetary mobility strategist

When automation freed people from survival-based work, how did you ensure that economic systems supported lifelong purpose and learning?

Mira, a well-being economist from 2125

When technology made it possible to remove barriers to education and healthcare, how did you prevent inequality from persisting in new form?

Jonan, a decentralized governance expert

The Future of Climate Resilience

Designing Adaptive Systems for a Thriving Planet

By Deniz Erkus, Prince Sunday Adeojo, Océane Desvigne, Dr. Mariam Ketait, Russ Wilcox

Life in 2125

A Human-Centered Experience

In the year 2125, the Earth is thriving. Climate resilience is no longer a reaction to crisis but an integral part of how societies function. Human civilization has shifted from extraction and exploitation to regeneration and symbiosis with the natural world.

A coastal community in what was once Bangladesh lives safely in floating cities that expand and contract with sea levels. In the Amazon, vast networks of rewilded forests absorb carbon while providing food, medicine, and habitat to humans and wildlife alike. On the outskirts of Nairobi, self-sustaining agri-villages combine regenerative farming with advanced AI to ensure balanced food production while restoring biodiversity.

This is not just a technological shift but a cultural transformation. People see themselves as active stewards of the planet, embedding climate resilience into daily life. Every home is energy independent, every city is designed to cool itself naturally, and every financial decision is tied to planetary health. The climate crisis of the early 21st century is now seen as a turning point, a moment when humanity chose to rebuild its relationship with the Earth rather than destroy it.

In this new era, trees are no longer seen as passive scenery but as legal and spiritual members of society. They are storytellers, archivists of time, and witnesses to the human journey. Certain ancient groves are granted legal personhood, with appointed guardians who speak on their behalf in matters of environmental policy. People gather beneath their canopies not just for shade, but to hear their history - a combination of biometric data, folklore, and wisdom stored in roots and rings. These sacred spaces reconnect humans to nature as a living archive, honoring the mutual respect needed for true resilience.

A Vision of 2125

A World Built on Climate Resilience

The world of 2125 was not inevitable; it was designed. Across industries, governance, and daily life, systems were rebuilt to align with ecological balance and long-term sustainability.

Energy is decentralized and abundant

The Global South, once disproportionately affected by climate change, has become the epicenter of renewable energy innovation. Solar farms in the Sahara, oceanic turbines off Indonesia, and bioengineered algae energy in South America power the world.

Cities function as living ecosystems

Urban centers are carbon-sinks, with high-rise forests, permeable surfaces for water retention, and regenerative agriculture woven into city planning. Wildlife and human populations co-exist in designed harmony. In this vision, forests and trees are not just preserved but empowered, life in oceans and waters is expanding, all the problems with acidity and loss of species are resolved. With recognized rights and representation, trees participate - symbolically and legislatively - in the shaping of policies that affect their environments. Urban ecosystems now include tree councils and biodiversity boards, where nature's interests are voiced by scientists, indigenous leaders, and AI interpreters trained to decode ecological feedback. These rights have fostered deeper trust between humans and the Earth, ensuring not just sustainability but dignity for all living systems.

The world has become carbon-negative

Temperatures are back to pre-industrial levels. Once removing around 20 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide annually, the carbon removal industry is now shrinking as companies and individuals dramatically reduce their emissions. These combined efforts have restored the planet's climate equilibrium, yielding immense benefits for the oceans and other vital ecosystems.

Biodiversity has been restored

Genetic preservation and rewilding efforts have brought back lost species, and ecosystems once on the brink of collapse now flourish. Rivers that had run dry flow again, and coral reefs, long thought dead, have adapted to new environmental conditions.

Economies prioritize planetary well-being

Traditional currency systems collapsed in the late 21st century, replaced by sustainability-linked financial systems that tie wealth to environmental regeneration. Land stewardship is incentivized, and businesses must actively contribute to ecological health to remain viable.

Education has also been transformed. Children are raised with an inherent understanding of planetary cycles. Learning happens outdoors as much as in virtual spaces, blending indigenous ecological wisdom with the most advanced scientific discoveries. People do not simply learn about sustainability - they experience it as a way of life.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

Regenerative Infrastructure Becomes the Norm

By the midpoint between today and 2125, cities no longer operated as concrete jungles but as regenerative ecosystems. Advances in biomimicry, urban farming, and circular economies led to urban centers that actively contributed to environmental restoration rather than harming it. This evolution included the emergence of "consent-based planning" for ecosystems - where construction near forests or wetlands required a formal ecological review that included the representation of local tree populations. Roads and buildings were rerouted to preserve elder trees and ancestral groves, symbolizing a shift from dominance to collaboration.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Redefinition of Work, Mobility, and Autonomy

In this period of acceleration, the Climate Resilience Accord was enacted, enforcing strict ecological regeneration quotas and corporate sustainability mandates. Unlike previous climate agreements, this was not voluntary - it was enforced through legally binding planetary governance mechanisms.

One of the Accord's most transformative clauses was the formal recognition of nature's legal rights - especially trees, rivers, and coral ecosystems - as sentient co-inhabitants. Inspired by global precedents, from Aotearoa's Whanganui River to Switzerland's Nature Rights Act post-Davos 2023, this declaration enshrined the right of trees to exist, flourish, and be heard. It reframed ecological restoration not as charity, but as justice.

Carbon removal methods and technologies have scaled to 10 Gigatons of removals a year to offset the residual emissions of the world, enabling the world to reach Net-Zero. However global temperatures are above the 1.5*C limit, and carbon removal still needs to scale further to reduce temperatures.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

As we stand in 2025, the early indicators of this transformation are already visible. Nations are investing in regenerative infrastructure, businesses are shifting toward circular economic models, and AI is increasingly used to monitor, restore, and sustain ecosystems. However, achieving the vision of 2125 requires immediate, bold action today.

Meanwhile, artists, activists, and ecologists collaborated to record the stories of ancient trees - using data sensors, storytelling circles, and cultural festivals to center their importance. Early pilot programs in Europe and Latin America gave trees symbolic voting rights in municipal councils, foreshadowing the paradigm shift that would become law within decades.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Revolutionizing Climate Education

Climate literacy must be woven into all levels of education, ensuring future generations understand both the science and cultural significance of environmental stewardship. This means:

- Integrating indigenous ecological wisdom with modern scientific research.
- Prioritizing nature-based learning, ensuring people experience the environment first hand rather than through textbooks.
- Introduce the concept of "nature as a legal person" into climate literacy, encouraging students to understand trees and ecosystems as entities with rights, memory, in full harmony and value beyond utility.
- Consciousness becomes a norm as part of education for everyone.

Empowering the Global South as a Climate Leader

- Shift investment toward renewable energy projects in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia, where much of the world's sustainable innovation is already emerging.
- Support localized, community-driven climate adaptation projects, ensuring equitable access to resources.
- Many indigenous communities in the Global South have long considered trees as living ancestors. Empowering these communities includes recognizing their ecological jurisprudence - where trees have agency, spiritual importance, and community roles. Legal systems must evolve to integrate this worldview, not override it.

New economy in 2125

- With oil diminishing fast, finding a new energy source in Africa to empower the Global South.
- The USD is losing its attractiveness and value, resulting in a new economical system based on a new currency launched worldwide correlated to the progress of climate action, recovery of nature and people's health as well as value of data and knowledge.
- Climate migration starting towards the Global South from Western developed countries.
- The private companies focus less on profit and essentially more on the community's shared prosperity.
- The Global Future Council is planning the future for the people and planet, including wellbeing communities, biodiversity and culture combined with wisdom from ancestors and consciousness.
- The Voluntary Carbon Market is a thriving part of any business which reverses the current state of carbon emissions to create net negative carbon balance with focusing on expanding healthy oceans, land and humans.

Aligning Technology with Environmental Goals

- AI must be developed not just for profit or efficiency, but with a core function of climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, and ecosystem monitoring.
- Through AI, find a new way to connect people, allowing us to create a common ground by communicating with no barriers of languages, cultural differences and place.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

- For mobility and digitalisation, find a new technology within a community, not finding a community for technology, robots become advanced devices embedded in the day to day lives of all communities, fully aligned with the Law of Nature.
- Foster global AI collaboration, ensuring that technological advancements serve both humanity and the planet.
- Develop tree-based AI interfaces that translate forest health into readable human metrics and narrative forms, allowing trees to “speak” at local and international policy levels through ecological representation.
- Satellite imagery and IoT devices are used to help us collect data on the environment.

Who Needs to Act?

Governments

Must create legally binding climate policies, redirect subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables, and protect land and water rights for environmental preservation. Crucially, they must also expand legal frameworks to grant ecosystems - such as rivers, forests, and trees - legal personhood, ensuring that nature itself has representation in policy-making and judicial processes.

Businesses

Must transition to regenerative economic models, ensuring that environmental impact is a fundamental part of financial success. Companies must be accountable not only to shareholders but also to ecological stakeholders - recognizing that forests and biodiversity-rich areas have intrinsic rights and must be safeguarded. Businesses co-evolve with their stakeholders and are deeply engaged with everything that is living, going beyond value chain mitigation.

Communities

Must drive grassroots climate action, ensuring that change is both systemic and locally adapted to different ecosystems and cultures. Community-led conservation can flourish when local people act as stewards and legal guardians of nature, giving voice to trees, waterways, and land through collective advocacy and ancestral knowledge.

People

Must develop themselves to become an Earth-friend by learning, teaching, acting and transforming the way they think, feel and act, whereby people’s daily lives are enriched with expanded consciousness. Each person is learning through the family, mentors, schools about awareness and learns again how to connect and live together with nature and become a part of it, rather than a consumer of natural resources.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how technology reshaped civilization.

How did society shift from car-centric concrete cities to ones that function as living ecosystems?

Leila, an urban planner from 2125

As technology advanced, how did you ensure that local communities - not just corporations - had access to the innovations that shaped climate resilience?

Ama, a farmer and community leader from 2125

What was the turning point when the economy stopped relying on environmental destruction and started restoring the planet? Was it when we finally granted legal rights to trees and other living ecosystems, allowing nature to have a voice in governance and law? Could it be that recognizing forests as legal entities changed how we valued the natural world - no longer as resources to consume, but as partners in our shared future?

Tao, a climate policy advisor from 2125

Whispers from the Canopy: A Tree's Reflection from 2125

I am not your resource. I am your kin. For centuries, I stood in silence, holding your history in my rings. In 2125, you finally listened - not to my words, but to my presence.You gave me rights, not as a gift, but as a remembrance: that we are part of the same breath. Now, you walk beside me - not above - and together, we grow a future rooted in respect.

Never Forget Our Ancestors: Indigenous communities share their wisdom for the Earth population in 2125 and beyond

Chief Seattle, wise Native American leader

The world-famous Cree Indian Proverb - Native Canada

‘Only when the last tree died

The last river has been poisoned

The last fish has been caught

Will we realise that we cannot eat money’

The Future of Governance

Governance Bubbles and the New Geography of Power and Belonging

By Paula Pirinen, Moona Ederveen-Schneider, Grace Rachmany, Klas Roggenkamp

Life in 2125

The Emergence of Governance Bubbles as Post-National Institutions

In 2125, governmental and other borders will no longer be the default way of defining political and social organization. The concept of centralized nation-states has given way to fluid governance bubbles: dynamic, decentralized decision-making entities that form and dissolve based on stakeholdership, necessity, and shared interests.

On what was once a disputed border between two countries, people wake up to a world where governance is no longer tied by national borders. In this framework, governance structures are decoupled from traditional territorial boundaries and instead organised around shared systems and resources to which individuals are materially or functionally connected. Individuals participate in multiple governance bubbles, each corresponding to a distinct element, such as a river basin, a digital infrastructure, or an ecological zone, in which they hold a stake by virtue of use, impact, or dependency.

Participation in a given governance bubble is premised not on residence alone, but on stakeholder status arising from an individual's relationship to a particular system. For instance, individuals who reside within or affect a watershed area may engage in the governance of that river system, irrespective of their national affiliation. Similarly, those contributing to or reliant on a shared technological platform may take part in its ethical and operational governance.

These governance bubbles operate concurrently and may overlap, reflecting the multifaceted and cross-jurisdictional nature of interdependencies.

This paradigm shift redefines the locus of governance authority. While individuals may remain embedded within nation-states, their governance participation increasingly occurs through functional affiliations with transboundary systems. Governance bubbles, formed around shared dependencies, whether ecological, technological, infrastructural, or other, provide a framework through which stakeholders exercise co-responsibility. These structures are not static. They arise where collective stewardship is needed, operate across jurisdictions, and dissolve when no longer relevant. As such, they represent an evolution from fixed territorial governance to a dynamic, networked model that reflects the lived realities and interdependencies of the 22st century.

As an example, a fisherman in Senegal is part of a global fisheries bubble that regulates sustainable ocean use. A biotech entrepreneur in Mumbai is involved in an ethics bubble designing responsible AI regulations. A regenerative farmer in Patagonia contributes to a biodiversity restoration bubble spanning continents. These decision-making structures form, adapt, and dissolve as challenges evolve, ensuring that governance is always relevant, inclusive, and participatory.

This shift did not happen overnight. It emerged in response to the failures of traditional governance structures to address 21st-century global challenges, such as climate change, economic instability, and technological disruption. The path to fluid governance was shaped by key turning points that marked the gradual erosion of nation-state dominance and the rise of issue-based governance models, such as the fragmentation of global climate accords, the inadequacy of national regulations to contain cross-border technological risks, and repeated failures to equitably manage shared natural resources.

As public trust in centralised institutions eroded, alternative models began to emerge, often experimental, decentralised, and participatory in nature. Grassroots coalitions, transnational networks of experts, and digitally-mediated citizen assemblies demonstrated the potential of governance that is both agile and deeply contextual.

A Vision of 2125

Governance Without Borders

The world of 2125 is governed by function rather than geography. The focus has shifted from territorial control to issue-based collaboration, ensuring that governance is more effective, inclusive, and adaptable than ever before.

Unlike the static institutions of the past, governance bubbles continuously evolve. They merge, dissolve, and reconfigure based on emerging needs, new technologies, and shifting priorities. Decision-making is no longer limited to elections held once every few years but is instead an ongoing, participatory process where individuals engage in shaping policies that affect their lives in real-time.

Biodiversity Bubbles

Biodiversity bubbles ensure ecosystems have representation in decision-making.

AI-powered Governance

AI-powered governance platforms break down linguistic and cultural barriers.

Decentralized Economies

Decentralized economies operate through blockchain-based governance models.

Governance in 2125 is not a system of rulers and ruled but a collective, participatory practice embedded in daily life.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Rise of Decentralized Governance

At this pivotal moment, nation-states no longer retained exclusive authority over governance. In response to prolonged global instability, a growing number of communities, municipalities, and transnational networks established alternative governance bubbles, rooted in local autonomy and issue-specific decision-making.

Traditional government structures - often characterised by bureaucratic inertia, centralised control, and opaque decision-making - proved increasingly ineffectual in managing transboundary risks and technological disruption. Persistent corruption, institutional capture, and a failure to adapt regulatory frameworks further eroded public trust. Moreover, individuals found themselves disempowered, with limited channels to influence decisions that directly affected their environments, data, and livelihoods.

These limitations became especially apparent in the face of climate crises, economic volatility, and digital transformations, where timely, inclusive, and evidence-based responses were essential. In this context, experimental governance models began to take root. Cities, regions, and civil society coalitions piloted innovative mechanisms such as AI-assisted deliberation, digital participatory frameworks, and blockchain-enabled transparency systems, offering more adaptive, accountable, and stakeholder-driven alternatives to traditional state-centric governance.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Expansion of Adaptive Governance

Over time, governance bubbles evolved into the dominant organisational framework. The rigidity of traditional national structures gave way as individuals increasingly opted into voluntary, overlapping governance models to address distinct domains of life - from ecological stewardship to digital ethics and economic coordination. These models, underpinned by AI-enabled platforms, ensured broad inclusivity, procedural transparency, and real-time participatory engagement.

- Crucially, nature was recognised as a stakeholder. Environmental governance bubbles conferred legal personhood or rights-based protections upon ecosystems, enabling their representation in collective decision-making and dispute resolution processes. This marked a shift toward ecocentric legal frameworks embedded within broader governance architecture.
- Artificial intelligence played a pivotal role in mediating trust, facilitating deliberation, and enabling cross-cultural and cross-ideological collaboration at scale. Meanwhile, the rise of decentralised financial systems displaced reliance on national currencies, reconfiguring economic governance as a distributed, non-sovereign domain.
- Governance was no longer defined by hierarchical authority, but by a networked configuration of expertise, accountability, and mutual obligation, capable of evolving alongside the systems it was designed to steward.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, the seeds of decentralized governance are already visible. While governance bubbles do not yet dominate, the limitations of traditional nation-states in addressing global crises have become evident. The rise of participatory democracy movements, blockchain governance experiments, and localized decision-making initiatives signals the early stages of this transformation.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Develop Frameworks for Governance Bubbles

- The concept of governance bubbles must transition from theory to practice.
- Policymakers, technologists, and civic leaders should design prototype models and test them at local, regional, and global levels.
- Technologists and civic innovators must develop interoperability and communications protocols that better reflect the types of communications and sensory data that need to pass from bubble to bubble.

Leverage Technology for Transparent Decision-Making

- AI-driven platforms, blockchain, and decentralized communication networks must be developed to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and security.
- Governments, businesses, and civil society must invest in scaling these tools to create viable governance alternatives.

Empower Localized Decision-Making

- Communities must be given the autonomy and training to self-govern within larger frameworks.
- New stories must be shared and developed about what it means to self-govern.
- Legal and financial structures should support participatory decision-making experiments that prioritize adaptability over centralized control.

Who Needs to Act?

Communities in place

which may not be like-minded but have rights to local commons

Actively engage in localized decision-making, testing new models of participatory governance.

Communities of interest, online and in place

with expertise in particular areas that need to be governed

Create and test governance models.

Governments

Recognize and experiment with governance bubbles at municipal and regional levels.

Tech Innovators

Develop systems, protocols, and platforms that enable decentralized governance and AI-assisted participation.

Educators and artists

Create, develop, share and educate around new stories of what it means to self-govern and what civic duty means in the evolving world.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how technology reshaped civilization.

Back in 2025, when state governments made decisions about ecosystems, how did they ensure that nature was represented - not just managed?

Mira, facilitator of an environmental governance bubble

What kinds of capabilities did people have to develop to govern more wisely and effectively than the old nation-states ever could?

Julián, urban planner working across governance bubbles

What was the first pivotal moment when society truly began to believe that governance without borders might not only be possible - but preferable?

Amara, historian from 2125

The Future of Communication & Collaboration

Brain-to-Brain Communication and the Rise of Shared Consciousness

by Bianca Scheffler, Julia Dudenko, Marc Schäfer

Life in 2125

A Seamless Web of Minds

By 2125, silence is no longer an absence of words but a bridge between minds. Thought-based communication has become as natural as breathing. The evolution of human interaction has transcended spoken and written language - people now transmit ideas, emotions, and knowledge directly to one another, creating an unprecedented level of understanding and collaboration.

A scientist in Lagos and an engineer in Seoul no longer need to rely on shared languages or digital platforms. Instead, they exchange raw concepts in real time, fusing ideas seamlessly. A medical student in Buenos Aires absorbs decades of expertise from a retired neurosurgeon in Berlin within seconds. A musician in Bangkok and an artist in Nairobi create synchronously, their thoughts interwoven in a shared mental canvas.

This world is no longer fragmented by linguistic or cognitive barriers. Decision-making is faster and more transparent, creativity is more fluid, and misunderstandings that once led to conflict have been dramatically reduced. Empathy has expanded beyond mere sentiment - it is experienced directly.

But this transformation did not happen overnight. The ability to share thoughts, once the subject of speculative fiction, became reality through deliberate scientific breakthroughs, ethical negotiations, and cultural shifts..

A Vision of 2125

The Age of Collective Intelligence

In 2125, brain-to-brain communication evolved into a global neural web, fostering deep interconnectivity across societies. Humanity now operates within fluid intelligence networks, where knowledge is instantly accessible and personal learning curves have collapsed.

Thought-sharing is instantaneous

Allowing individuals to co-create, problem-solve, and innovate at a speed once unimaginable.

Personal and collective intelligence merge dynamically

Allowing people to contribute to projects or discussions in real-time and withdraw as needed.

Traditional education is obsolete

Expertise is acquired not through years of study but through direct neural absorption.

Governance has become more transparent

Leaders are no longer distant figures, but active participants in real-time, empathy-driven decision-making.

This transformation has fundamentally altered human relationships, shifting from transactional interactions to deeply immersive collaborations. It has created a new form of social cohesion, where differences are not just understood but felt.

However, this transition was not without challenges. Ethical dilemmas, technological hurdles, and power dynamics shaped the evolution of this new reality. Understanding how we arrived at this point reveals the critical milestones that turned thought-sharing into the foundation of human communication.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Rise of the Neural Grid

- At this pivotal moment, neural interfaces became sophisticated enough to enable limited brain-to-brain communication. What began as experimental applications in research found broader societal and professional use, accelerating cross-cultural understanding, knowledge-sharing, and ethical discussions.
- The first secure neural networks were developed, ensuring mental privacy and cognitive autonomy.
- Quantum physics and AI integration pushed brain-to-brain connectivity beyond medical applications and into mainstream use.
- A global ethical framework emerged, preventing the exploitation of neural interfaces and ensuring equitable access.

At this point, the idea of a collective mind was no longer a question of technological capability, but of human readiness and regulation.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Integration of Thought Networks

During this acceleration phase, brain-to-brain communication expanded beyond isolated networks. The world saw the emergence of fluid intelligence clusters, where people could seamlessly share knowledge and expertise across vast distances.

- Governance models adapted, as collective intelligence was integrated into decision-making at local and global levels.
- Traditional educational institutions declined, as expertise could be downloaded and absorbed instantly.
- Inequality debates intensified, as early neural interfaces remained accessible only to privileged populations before global policies ensured universal adoption.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) remain in their infancy, yet early breakthroughs suggest a shift toward direct mental communication is on the horizon. AI-powered brain interfaces are already being tested for medical applications, while emerging neuroscience research hints at the future of thought-sharing technologies.

However, the realization of a collectively intelligent society is not inevitable - it depends on the actions we take today.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Invest in Neuroscience and Brainwave Communication

- Governments and private sectors must prioritize funding for neural interface research, accelerating the safe and ethical development of thought-sharing technologies.

Establish Global Ethical Frameworks

- International policies must be designed to regulate cognitive privacy, prevent mental manipulation, and ensure neural networks remain voluntary.

Foster Public Engagement and Awareness

- The implications of brain-to-brain communication must be openly discussed, ensuring that public concerns and ethical dilemmas are addressed before widespread adoption.

Ensure Equitable Access to Neural Technologies

- Policies should prevent exclusive access for the wealthy, ensuring that cognitive augmentation and thought-sharing capabilities are not restricted to elites.

Who Needs to Act?

Governments

Develop regulatory frameworks for neural interfaces, ensuring privacy and ethical integrity.

Tech and Research Institutions

Lead innovation in brain-to-brain communication while prioritizing public accessibility and safety.

Educational Systems

Prepare future generations for a world where learning is no longer bound by traditional structures.

Philosophers and Ethicists

Explore the implications of a post-linguistic society, redefining human identity and autonomy.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how collective intelligence reshaped human communication. and identity.

When thoughts could be shared instantly, how did you decide which ideas were truly your own?

Eryx, a neural network facilitator from 2125

When brain-to-brain communication first became possible, what finally convinced people to connect their minds?

Sihara, an empathy researcher from 2125

At what point did people realize that sharing knowledge was not just about efficiency, but about reshaping human relationships?

Taikon, a historian of technological ethics

The Future of Human Flourishing

Wellbeing Beyond Survival in a Technologically Advanced Civilization

By Dr. David Rock, Ladina Kindschi, Lily Cheung, Dr. James Kayliang Ong, Laure Merlin

Life in 2125

A World Where Well-being Is a Right, Not a Privilege

By 2125, human flourishing is no longer a privilege of the few - it is the foundation of society. Governance, economies, and communities have shifted toward a holistic model of well-being, where health, prosperity, and purpose are accessible to all.

A person waking up in 2125 is no longer burdened by financial insecurity or health risks that were once considered inevitable. Food, healthcare, and education are guaranteed as public goods, rather than private commodities. Cities are designed with human well-being in mind, integrating green spaces, clean energy, and community-led decision-making that fosters connection and resilience.

Economic systems have evolved beyond wage-based survival. People are no longer forced into unfulfilling work - instead, they pursue knowledge, creativity, and social contribution. Communities govern themselves, ensuring that policies are shaped by those they impact rather than distant institutions. The military-industrial complex has been redefined, with global defense budgets redirected to ecological restoration and disaster response.

Technology has played a role in enabling these shifts, but the real transformation came from governance, financial restructuring, and a redefinition of what societies value. Well-being is now a collective responsibility rather than an individual pursuit.

This transformation did not happen overnight. It was the result of deliberate steps taken over a century, shifting humanity from an era of scarcity and inequality to one of sustainability, security, and shared prosperity.

A Vision of 2125

A Society Built on Abundance and Collective Well-being

By 2125, scarcity-based systems have been dismantled in favor of governance and economic models that prioritize flourishing over profit.

Healthcare is universal, proactive

And community-driven, preventing disease rather than treating symptoms.

Food systems are regenerative

Ensuring that nutrition is abundant and equitably distributed rather than dictated by corporate markets.

Financial security is guaranteed

Allowing people to explore their potential without the fear of poverty or economic instability.

Education is lifelong, flexible, and personalized

No longer limited to standardized institutions but integrated into daily life.

Governance is decentralized and participatory

Ensuring that policies reflect the real needs of communities rather than the interests of centralized power structures.

This was not a natural progression - it required bold shifts in policy, economy, and collective decision-making. The milestones that led to this transformation highlight how societies moved from inequality toward a thriving global civilization.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Transition to a Well-being Economy

At this milestone, societies moved beyond profit-driven models that fueled inequality and redirected public investment toward human and planetary well-being.

- Governments adopted Well-being Budgets, measuring progress through health, social cohesion, and ecological stability rather than GDP.
- Public healthcare shifted from treatment to prevention, ensuring that communities controlled their own health systems.
- Food production was localized and sustainable, ending the reliance on industrial agriculture that had driven environmental destruction.

This period marked a turning point where economic structures finally reflected the true needs of people and the planet.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Redefinition of Prosperity and Security

By this phase, well-being had become a central pillar of global governance and economic strategy.

- Military budgets were redirected toward ecological restoration and planetary resilience, recognizing that climate disasters posed a greater threat than war.
- Universal financial security models emerged, severing the link between work and basic survival, allowing people to contribute in ways that enriched society rather than just maintaining labor markets.
- Governance was localized, with community-led councils replacing top-down bureaucracies, ensuring that decisions were responsive to real-world needs.

This period proved that well-being could be financed sustainably - not by accumulating debt, but by redistributing existing resources toward long-term prosperity.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, we are already seeing glimpses of this transformation. Governments are experimenting with alternative economic models, localized governance structures are gaining traction, and food and healthcare accessibility are growing. However, for this shift to accelerate, strategic action is needed now.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Invest in Well-being as a Public Infrastructure

- Governments must allocate resources to healthcare, food security, and regenerative systems, shifting budgets from crisis response to prevention.
- Public health should focus on community-led models, ensuring accessibility without financial barriers.

Ensure Universal Access to Sustainable Nutrition

- Agricultural subsidies should be redirected toward regenerative farming and local food production.
- Food systems must be removed from corporate speculation and food security established as a universal human right.

Reallocate Defense Budgets to Climate and Disaster Resilience

- The military-industrial complex should transition toward environmental and humanitarian restoration, recognizing that security is rooted in planetary stability, not armed conflict.
- Disaster response and climate adaptation should be publicly funded and globally coordinated.

Create Financial Models That Support Lifelong Flourishing

- Basic income initiatives and new economic frameworks should ensure financial security without requiring continuous labor participation.
- Economic policies should incentivize contribution-based participation over extractive profit-making.

Who Needs to Act?

Governments

Reorient budgets toward long-term well-being rather than short-term economic growth.

Businesses

Invest in regenerative industries rather than profit-driven scarcity models.

Communities

Advocate for participatory governance and demand investment in public well-being.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how collective intelligence reshaped human communication. and identity.

What finally made people in your time realize that well-being wasn't just a personal responsibility, but something society should guarantee for everyone?

Elias, a well-being policy strategist from 2125

At what point did people stop waiting for governments to fix things and start shaping their own communities?

Sanya, a community-led governance advocate from 2125

What was the hardest part of moving beyond a system where making money was people's main daily concern?

Nilo, a regenerative economy designer from 2125

The Future of Human Health

Living 150 Years in Full Vitality and Purpose

By Anne Margo Reintsema, MD, Dr. Philipp Müller, Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri, GK Reid, Dr. Sheena Tranter

Life in 2125

A World Transformed

In 2125, human longevity has expanded well beyond what was once thought possible. A 150-year lifespan is no longer a rare exception but an expected reality, with people living not only longer but in sustained good health. The ailments that defined previous centuries - cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurodegeneration - have been eliminated, not just treated but prevented at the molecular level.

A person reaching their 100th birthday today is not considered elderly, nor are they approaching the end of their career. Instead, they are entering their prime years of productivity, reinvention, and learning. It is not uncommon for someone to start a third or fourth career at 120, or for families to span five or six living generations, bound together by an entirely new understanding of the human lifespan.

Precision medicine is at the heart of this transformation. Treatments are no longer reactive but predictive, using AI-driven diagnostics to detect imbalances before illness takes hold. Genetic enhancements and regenerative medicine allow individuals to tailor their physiology to their personal needs. Neural interfaces optimize cognitive health, ensuring that memory and mental agility remain intact well into later years.

Beyond biological advancements, society itself has adapted to accommodate this extended lifespan. Education is no longer front-loaded in youth but woven throughout life, allowing people to continuously acquire new knowledge and adapt to shifting careers. Economic structures have evolved to support century-long professional paths, and governance has decentralized, prioritizing sustainability, well-being, and equitable access to health resources.

Yet, this transformation was not inevitable. The expansion of human health required not just scientific breakthroughs but fundamental shifts in policy, ethics, and the way society values longevity. Understanding how we arrived here reveals the key transition points that shaped this reality.

A Vision of 2125

Health as a Human Right, Not a Privilege

In 2125, access to advanced medical care is not limited to the wealthy or the privileged - it is a universal human right. The health disparities that once plagued society have been erased, thanks to globally coordinated health initiatives and decentralized governance models that prioritize well-being over profit.

Disease free World

Diseases are no longer “treated” - they are prevented at the genetic and cellular levels.

Aging is managed, not endured

With cellular rejuvenation and neuroplasticity maintenance keeping people active and engaged across their lifespan.

Personalized medicine

Ensures that every individual receives care tailored to their genetic profile, lifestyle, and environmental needs.

Medical technology is seamlessly integrated into daily life

Allowing for continuous health monitoring and proactive interventions before symptoms even arise.

Beyond healthcare, this longevity revolution has reshaped society. Economic systems are no longer built around retirement at 65, but instead accommodate multi-stage careers and lifelong personal growth. Governance structures have evolved, prioritizing public health, sustainability, and collective well-being as the cornerstones of civilization.

But how did humanity get here? The path to a 150-year life was shaped by key milestones that transformed not only medicine but our entire approach to human health.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Era of Personalized Longevity

At this turning point, medicine became fully individualized. Genetic modifications were no longer controversial but standard practice for disease prevention. AI-driven diagnostics ensured that treatments were tailored to each person's unique biological makeup, eliminating trial-and-error medicine.

- AI-led research fueled breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, making organ failure and age-related decline preventable.
- Cellular rejuvenation therapies reversed aging at the molecular level, extending vitality well beyond a century.
- Public health policies shifted, prioritizing preventative care over reactive treatment, making healthcare provision less about acute disease management and more about lifelong wellness.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Redefinition of Aging and Lifelong Health

As longevity became not just possible but expected, society adapted. The rigid structures of education, work, and governance evolved to accommodate multi-century lives.

- Education systems transitioned to lifelong learning models, allowing people to reinvent themselves at multiple stages of life.
- Economic models shifted away from short career spans, ensuring that work was fulfilling, flexible, and not bound to the retirement age of past centuries.
- Governance decentralized, allowing communities to create health policies suited to their specific populations, ensuring equity across regions.

This phase marked the true cultural shift - where living to 150 was not just a biological feat but an integrated part of human identity and society.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, humanity is already laying the foundation for this longevity revolution. Advances in AI-driven diagnostics, regenerative therapies, and genetic medicine indicate that the path toward a 150-year life is within reach - but its realization depends on the actions taken today.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Invest in Universal Health Innovation

- Governments and private institutions must fund research into regenerative medicine, AI-driven diagnostics, and genetic health solutions.
- Medical advancements, including AI models, must be made accessible to everyone, ensuring that the benefits of longevity are not exclusive to the wealthy or dictated by large technology companies or geopolitical factors.

Build a Lifelong Health and Learning Culture

- Education must integrate health literacy from an early age, empowering individuals to take control of their well-being.
- Universities and professional industries must restructure around lifelong learning, ensuring people remain mentally agile as they age.

Adopt Decentralized Health Governance

- Local governance models should allow communities to tailor health policies to their specific cultural and environmental needs.
- Ethical frameworks must be established now to prevent health monopolies and ensure fair access to longevity technologies.

Who Needs to Act?

Governments

Ensure equitable access to medical advancements and regulate longevity-related policies.

Businesses

Invest in prevention-centered value-based-care models rather than profit-driven disease treatment.

Communities

Drive localized health initiatives, shaping governance structures that prioritize well-being.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how longevity reshaped humanity.

When living longer became possible, how did you ensure that extra years meant more life, not just more time?

Elian, a 132-year-old longevity researcher from 2125

When regenerative medicine advanced, who decided who had access - and how did you make sure no one was left behind?

Saida, a public health advocate from 2125

As people lived beyond 150 years, how did you keep society innovative rather than stuck in the past?

Ravi, a neuroscientist specializing in cognitive health

The Future of Education and Knowledge Creation

Learning as a Lifelong, Decentralized, and Co-Created Journey

By Dr. Lena Bernhofer, Kirsten Spahr van der Hoek, Nathan Li, and Aaron Unt

Life in 2125

A Human-Centered Experience

In the year 2125, learning is no longer a standardized, one-size-fits-all process. Education has evolved into a dynamic, lifelong journey, where individuals move fluidly between disciplines, continuously expanding their knowledge in ways that serve both their personal growth and tjjhe world's evolving challenges.

A twelve-year-old in New Delhi is simultaneously advancing in bioengineering and philosophy, designing nature-inspired medical solutions. In São Paulo, an elderly entrepreneur, once a musician, has mastered emerging technologies.a. A climate researcher in Lagos collaborates with oceanographers in Tokyo and technology ethicists in Berlin, working in real-time through immersive, interconnected learning networks.

Individuals progress based on curiosity and skill application, not by age or rigid curriculums. Education is deeply personalized, responding dynamically to each learner's cognitive patterns, strengths, and aspirations. Artificial Intelligence serves as both a tutor and a facilitator, ensuring that knowledge acquisition is tailored, engaging, and adaptive.

Education and learning is motivated, for example, by curiosity, societal need, and purpose and strongly embedded in everyday experiences. Collaborative learning ecosystems enable people from different cultures and backgrounds to co-create knowledge, fostering deep interdisciplinary expertise that allows individuals to think across fields and innovate in ways unimaginable a century ago.

A Vision of 2125

A World Shaped by Personalized and Interdisciplinary Learning

At the foundation of this transformation is a new paradigm of education, where knowledge is fluid, personalized, and globally shared.

Unconstrained education

Education is not constrained by the limitations of traditional schooling. Instead of pre-defined structures, learning is shaped by real-world applications, curiosity-driven exploration, and human-machine collaboration. AI-driven platforms analyze individual learning styles and adapt content in real time, ensuring that each person follows a path aligned with their unique potential.

A “dual genius” society

The concept of a “dual genius” society has emerged, where individuals master multiple domains and blending of disciplines is the norm. A biologist turned neuroscientist works alongside musicians to create soundscapes that enhance cognitive function. Climate scientists collaborate with AI ethicists to develop sustainable planetary solutions.

Learning networks operate beyond traditional borders

Learning networks operate beyond traditional borders (national, institutional or other implicit borders), functioning as open, interactive ecosystems. All girls and women have equal access to learning, just asboys and men. Knowledge is decentralized, creating an interconnected web of learners, mentors, and AI-assisted facilitators. These collaborative environments ensure that the world’s most pressing challenges - climate change, public health, technological ethics - are tackled by interdisciplinary teams, rather than siloed institutions.

Education is no longer a linear process

Education is no longer a linear process with a fixed endpoint. Instead, it is a lifelong pursuit, deeply integrated into everyday life. It supports people to continuously retrain, reskill, and explore new fields, driven not by external requirements, but by personal interest and the needs of the world around them.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Shift to Global Knowledge Networks

By the midpoint between today and 2125, traditional schools and universities evolved into flexible, networked institutions that facilitated interdisciplinary learning across cultures and geographies. Students, educators, and professionals collaborated across AI-powered platforms, co-creating solutions to global challenges. Education has transitioned into a more decentralized knowledge system.

Quarterly Hallmark

Personalized Learning Becomes the Norm

In this period of acceleration, AI-driven adaptive learning platforms have become standard. Education was no longer based on age or geography but on individual progress and real-world problem-solving. Learning became more immersive, integrating augmented reality, virtual mentorship, and AI-assisted simulations to ensure deep understanding.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, the foundation for this transformation is already being laid. While we are far from the educational structures of 2125, early shifts indicate a movement toward more personalized, interdisciplinary, and technology-driven learning models. However, realizing this vision requires deliberate action today.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Implement Interdisciplinary Learning Models

Educational institutions must challenge rigid subject divisions to enable integrated learning frameworks. Pilot programs that allow students and teachers to blend disciplines - combining humanities, sciences, and technology - will foster holistic thinking and prepare individuals for a world where knowledge is interconnected and complex societal challenges need interdisciplinary approaches.

Invest in AI-Driven Personalized Education

Educational institutions and governments must accelerate the discussion and development of AI-driven learning platforms that adapt to individual cognitive styles, strengths and skills. These systems should go beyond delivering content - they must cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and continuous learning.

Strengthen Cross-Sector Collaboration

Businesses, universities, and governments should co-create curricula that bridge academic knowledge with real-world applications, ensuring that students and professionals are equipped to solve complex challenges.

Provide technology enabled access to education

(Educational) institutions and governments should provide funding to expand technology infrastructure and teach basic tech skills to enable everyone (girls, women, older people, economically poor people, etc.), everywhere in the world to access (digital) education.

Focus on responsible learning

We all receive a call to action to reflect on and protect the values that are important in our educational systems. With access to knowledge at everyone' s fingertips in an AI supported exponential world, we need to proactively reflect on the dialogues, social interactions and individual by-products of our evolving educational system, not all of which will be positive. Leaders and teachers from public and private sector players should personally contribute to a learning system and society that fits our aspired values-system.

Who Needs to Act?

Businesses and industries

Partner with educational institutions to fund interdisciplinary innovation labs, enabling students to address real-world challenges. Additionally, create "Future Skills Councils" with experts, startups, educators, and policymakers to co-design adaptive curriculums that evolve with the world's needs.

Governments

Establish policies that support interdisciplinary learning, personalized education models, and equitable access to emerging technologies. Additionally, support the development of AI Learning Companions for students, which can evolve with their cognitive style from childhood to lifelong learning.

Educational institutions

Embrace flexibility by moving away from standardized testing and rigid curriculums toward student-driven, problem-based learning. Launch "Mission-Based Learning" programs, where students tackle grand challenges like climate resilience and AI ethics, blending science, humanities, and technology.

You, me, everyone

Actively contribute and engage in discussions about how we want to shape our educational future, ensuring we all play a role in driving these changes.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how collective intelligence reshaped human communication. and identity.

When schools decided what you should learn, how did you figure out what you were really capable of?

Anna, a 17-year-old from 2125

What finally made learning something people pursue for life, not just for a degree?

Xianlei, a lifelong learner from 2125

When new learning models became possible, who decided who got access - and who was left behind?

Aisha, an education policymaker from 2125

The Future of Culture, Community and Identity

Redefining Belonging in a Hyperconnected World

By Sabrina Goerlich, Anette Maria Rennit, Erica Sierra, Lu Yun Ju

Life in 2125

Living Trust, Belonging, and Identity

In the year 2125, it's a warm afternoon in a bustling city square. Children chase each other, their laughter weaving naturally between languages and accents, their differences no longer seen as barriers but as bridges to deeper understanding. Neighbors gather in shaded corners, sharing dishes seasoned with spices carried across generations. Here, identity is personal - owned, protected, and celebrated.

People move freely between communities, choosing affiliations that reflect their values and aspirations rather than inherited national identities. It's common to belong to multiple groups simultaneously: one for heritage, another for your art or your ambitions, another simply because it brings joy. Festivals, storytelling, and shared rituals bring people together, fostering a sense of belonging that transcends borders.

Governance has shifted to community-led models where cultural and local identity is self-defined. Decentralized structures allow people to shape policies that reflect the diverse traditions within their communities rather than adhering to rigid, top-down laws. The conflicts of the past - driven by fear of difference, resource scarcity, and nationalistic divisions - have given way to a society built on trust, respect.

In this world, identity is no longer something you're assigned or must earn approval for. It's something each person shapes and reshapes freely, guided by personal experiences and inner truths. People don't ask, "Where are you from?" anymore. Instead, they ask, "What matters to you?"

This transformation did not come easily. It took intentional action, policy shifts, and a collective decision to reimagine how humanity defines identity and community.

In 2125, identity isn't a label fixed to your chest - it's an unfolding story that you live, express, and share with others.

A Vision of 2125

Living Difference, Owning Identity

By 2125, humanity has embraced a simple but powerful truth: we don't have to be the same to live well together. This world rests on three guiding beliefs.

Identity belongs to the individual

No government or corporation has the final word on who you are. Identity - personal, cultural, emotional - is something you carry, shape, and express on your own terms. It's not a performance or product. It's a process of becoming, protected by trust and held in community.

Ownership isn't just about data. It's about letting go of the need to be accepted by fitting in. Authenticity is valued over conformity.

Cultural Coexistence and Evolution

Communities actively enrich one another. In this future, harmony does not mean uniformity. Cultures remain distinct, evolve in parallel, free from pressure to merge. What makes communities rich is not agreement, but the presence of many voices, many rhythms, many roots - held together by mutual respect.

We don't all have to think the same, believe the same, or live the same way. We must be willing to listen - and let differences expand our understanding, not shrink our comfort.

Children as Catalysts for Change

The shift didn't start with laws. It started on playgrounds - where children were allowed to explore who they are, and who others are, without fear. Joy, not judgment, shaped relationships. Drawing together, playing together, and learning together planted seeds of collaboration before anyone used that word.

As they grew up, those children maintained their trust, changing the world with them.

This is the foundation of life in 2125:

- A society that doesn't erase difference, but builds on it;
- A culture that isn't inherited - but co-created;
- An identity that isn't assigned - but individually shaped.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The Last War Ends - Through Conversation, Not Conquest

By 2075, humanity crossed an irreversible threshold: war became a thing of the past.

Conflict persisted, but because people learned to face it differently. The final war ended not with victory, but with dialogue. Communities long at odds began speaking, listening, and acknowledging each other - not to erase differences, but to coexist with them.

Friendship and collaboration became more than soft values - they were tools for survival. Across the world, groups once defined by opposition now coexisted through open disagreement, trust between different communities, and the freedom to express identity without fear.

This was the moment the world realized: coexistence isn't about agreeing. It's about choosing not to fear what's different.

Quarterly Hallmark

The First Student Crosses a Divided Border

In 2050, South Korea welcomed its first North Korean exchange student.

It wasn't a grand political gesture - it was a deeply human one. A student was trusted to cross a historic divide, to learn, to share, to belong. That act of courage cracked open decades of silence. It told the world: reconciliation doesn't begin with leaders. It begins with letting the next generation meet without judgment.

From there, cross-border youth exchanges spread. Former enemies opened their classrooms, shared meals, and created space for curiosity. The wounds of history were still there - but something new was growing in the space between.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

Youth 360 - Opening Minds Through Shared Learning. The seeds of this transformation are already here. In 2025, education systems around the world are experimenting with more holistic, human-centered learning. Initiatives like Youth 360 are connecting young people across cultures, giving them access to each other's stories, experiences, and ways of thinking.

Children are learning to listen without fear and disagree without shame. These aren't just soft skills - they are the foundation of a new society.

When young people are free to explore who they are, and curious about who others are, something shifts. And that shift is already underway.

This is how the future came into view. Not through revolution, but through relationships. Not through conquest, but through curiosity. And not through erasure, but through the radical act of fully seeing everyone.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Enhanced Identity and Ownership

- **Cultural shift toward self-defined identity.**
  Actively promote social acceptance that identity is fluid, personal, and evolving, moving beyond rigid categories set by governments or institutions. Identity should be recognized as a lived reality shaped by the individual, not a status assigned from outside.
- **Establish enabling and protective frameworks**
  We need legal safeguards and trust-based digital infrastructures that allow individuals to manage and express their identity on their own terms - secure from surveillance and misuse.

Build Joy and Peace in Community

We must design community experiences - locally and globally - that naturally build trust, spark curiosity, and promote lasting peace through shared human connection.

- **Cultivate Community Trust through Shared Experiences**
  Embed play, storytelling, and community rituals into education and public spaces, encouraging genuine connections and strengthening local trust.
- **Expand Cross-Cultural Learning Globally**
  Support educational initiatives that facilitate international student exchange, multilingual learning, and collaborative cultural projects, nurturing curiosity and respect across global communities.

Honor Distinct Cultures

We must actively preserve cultural uniqueness while encouraging respectful and meaningful cultural interactions and shared evolution.

- **Legally Secure Cultural Diversity**
  Implement national and international policies that protect distinct cultural identities, ensuring these are seen as vital public resources and safeguarded against forced assimilation.
- **Encourage Community-Led Cultural Exchanges**
  Invest public funding and institutional support in grassroots cultural initiatives, storytelling events, and artistic collaborations, allowing cultures to evolve naturally through participation and exchange rather than market pressures.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on how collective intelligence reshaped human communication. and identity.

At what point did people realize that identity isn't something given to you, but something you define for yourself?

Kaia, a cultural rights advocate from 2125

Why did people in 2025 think they had to fit into just one culture, when their lives were already shaped by many?

Amari, a global heritage storyteller from 2125

Why did people in 2025 keep saying "I'm fine" when what they really needed was someone to knock on the door?

Soren, a community leader from 2125

The Future of Economy, Money and Prosperity

Designing Inclusive Systems That Work for All

By Dr. Efi Pylarinou, Dr. Martha Boeckenfeld, Harald Friedl, Tiiu Tõnspoeg

Life in 2125

A Prosperous World Beyond Money

By 2125, prosperity is no longer measured in wealth accumulation but in well-being, sustainability, and shared abundance. The global economy no longer serves a privileged few - it serves the planet and all people, ensuring that resources flow where they are needed most.

Clean energy powers every home and industry. Universal healthcare is a birthright, not a privilege. Scarcity, once an economic tool, has been replaced by regenerative systems that prioritize balance over endless growth. Poverty is no longer a structural inevitability but a historical footnote.

Governance has transitioned from centralized financial institutions to participatory economic models. Communities make financial and resource decisions at local levels, while global economic frameworks ensure stability and prevent exploitation. The world no longer runs on unchecked competition but on cooperative economies that prioritize long-term well-being over short-term gains.

But this reality was not the outcome of an organic evolution. In 2025, humanity stood at major crossroads. The cracks in the old economic paradigm - inequality at many levels, environmental degradation, and profit-driven exploitation of resources - were impossible to ignore. It took bold decisions, structural reinvention, and new governance models to create an economy that truly worked for all.

A Vision of 2125

Economy as a Force for Good

By 2125, economic systems are designed to serve human and planetary well-being, rather than financial expansion.

Wealth is measured in well-being indexes, not GDP

Ensuring that economic policies prioritize happiness, stability, and sustainability.

Regenerative economies eliminate waste

Making extraction-based industries obsolete and prioritizing reuse, regeneration, and resource equity.

Universal access to basic needs - healthcare, clean energy, and education - is guaranteed

Freeing people from survival-driven labor and enabling purpose-driven contribution.

Governance structures ensure fair resource distribution

Preventing financial monopolization and promoting collaborative decision-making.

This transition was not easy. It required policy shifts, financial restructuring, and a fundamental redefinition of what “prosperity” means.

The Path to 2125

Key Transition Points

Half-Way Hallmark

The End of Profit-Driven Scarcity

At this turning point (around 2075), societies began dismantling economic structures that rewarded exploitation over equity.

- Nations had completely abandoned GDP as the primary measure of success, replacing it with well-being indexes that tracked quality of life, sustainability, and wealth distribution.
- A global wealth redistribution fund was established, ensuring that excess corporate and private wealth was reinvested in public well-being initiatives.
- Financial policies shifted toward long-term sustainability, with taxation favoring regenerative industries over extractive ones.

This period marked the first tangible proof that economies could thrive without inequality being an inevitable reality of a large, diverse, global population.

Quarterly Hallmark

The Rise of Regenerative Finance & Decentralized Economies

By this phase, economic systems were no longer centralized but community-driven, ensuring equitable resource distribution without reliance on top-down governance.

- Universal access to clean energy and water was achieved, making essential resources independent of financial status.
- Philanthropic investment became the primary driver of economic growth, shifting capital away from profit-seeking and toward mission-driven impact.
- Regenerative economies became the standard, eliminating waste-based industries and ensuring products and resources were endlessly repurposed.

This shift proved that an economy based on mutual benefit, rather than individual accumulation, was not only possible but inevitable for a peaceful and prosperous global society.

Today's Stepping Stones: The First Steps in 2025

In 2025, we stand at the starting point of this transformation. Pilot projects in alternative financial models, regenerative agriculture, and post-scarcity resource distribution are already underway. But achieving this future requires urgent action today.

The Call to Action in 2025

What Must Be Done Now

Key Priorities for Today

Redefining Prosperity

- Governments must start adopting well-being indexes to shift economic priorities away from growth-at-all-costs policies.
- Businesses must embed sustainability and social responsibility into their models rather than pursuing profit maximization alone.

Investing in Progressive Education

- Philanthropic initiatives must fund global education programs that emphasize economic literacy, sustainability, and cooperative problem-solving.
- Schools should prioritize ethical business models, social equity, and environmental responsibility over traditional economic principles.

Encouraging Wealth Redistribution & Regenerative Finance

- Tax policies must incentivize wealth reinvestment into public well-being initiatives.
- Social impact investment models should replace venture capital, ensuring that resources flow toward mission-driven enterprises rather than profit-driven speculation.

Accelerating the Transition to Renewable Energy & Resource Equity

- Governments and businesses must fund large-scale clean energy transitions, making them accessible and affordable for all.
- Economic policies must ensure that natural resources remain a shared global right rather than a privatized asset.

Who Needs to Act?

Governments

Legislate progressive economic policies and enforce wealth reinvestment initiatives.

Businesses

Shift investment toward sustainability and long-term well-being rather than short-term profit.

Communities

Fund initiatives that prioritize social and planetary prosperity rather than financial expansion.

Communities & Individuals

Advocate for economic systems that work for everyone, not just the wealthiest.

Visitors from 2125

Questions from the Future

Three visitors from 2125 arrive, reflecting on the bold steps that reshaped global prosperity.

What convinced people to collaborate on global prosperity from day one of their working life?

Asha, a regenerative finance architect from 2125

What was the hardest mindset shift when societies stopped measuring success in financial growth and started valuing well-being instead?

Leila, a post-scarcity economic strategist from 2125

When industries moved away from waste and overproduction, what helped businesses transition without fearing collapse?

Mateo, a circular economy pioneer from 2125

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We also recognize the incredible **authors of the "Futures Beyond Our Times – Our World in 2125" workshop.** Many of you had never met before, yet in a mere 2.5 hours, you engaged in a profound and deeply collaborative effort to shape the world a century from now. Your willingness to challenge assumptions, navigate tensions, and co-create shared visions is a testament to the power of collective intelligence.

Finally, thank you to **everyone who believes in the power of foresight, dialogue, and imagination.** The future is not something we passively inherit - it is something we actively shape. This whitepaper is only the beginning. The next step is up to all of us.

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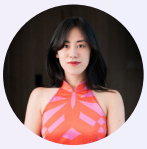

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The Future is Not a Fixed Destination

The visions outlined in this whitepaper are not predictions; they are possibilities. They represent a **deliberate act of future-building,** a process of imagining what could be rather than passively inheriting what will be. The year 2125 may seem distant, but the seeds of that world are planted today.

Throughout these nine op-eds, common themes emerge: a world where governance is decentralized yet interconnected, where economies serve well-being over profit, where education is lifelong and personalized, and where technology enhances human potential rather than diminishing it. These visions are ambitious - but they are not beyond reach.

However, futures are never without conflict. Some of the ideas presented here may seem at odds with each other. Decentralization may challenge global coordination. Technological empowerment may raise ethical dilemmas. Extended human lifespans may create societal and resource tensions. These contradictions do not make the visions less valid - they make them more real. Progress is never smooth; it is negotiated, adapted, and refined.

The real question is **not whether these futures are possible, but how committed we are to shaping them.** The actions of 2025 will set the course for the coming decades. Will we prioritize well-being over outdated economic measures? Will we embrace education as a lifelong journey? Will we rethink identity, governance, and prosperity in ways that serve all of humanity?

As part of this ongoing dialogue, we invite you to join us at our upcoming workshops and initiatives, where we will continue to explore, challenge, and co-create pathways toward these futures. Together, we can take the first steps in building a world that aligns with the ambitions outlined here. Stay connected with us, and let's shape the future, together.

The question remains, what future will we choose to build?

Davos, Switzerland 2025

Who Are We?

Curators and Conveners of This Whitepaper

The "Futures Beyond Our Times – Our World in 2125" workshop and whitepaper are co-facilitated and co-developed by **Prof. Dr. Laura Bechthold,** multi-awarded researcher at the Bavarian Foresight Institute (BFI), and the founders of the **J3D.AI House of Collaboration, Yip Thy Diep Ta and Kevin Varend.** The workshop was held and launched in Davos, alongside the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, as part of J3D.AI's House of Collaboration.

About J3D.AI

J3D.AI is a global advisory and technology company specializing in expert-led convenings, including future-focused summits like the House of Collaboration and Zebracorn Deep Tech Castle Retreat; AI-powered market intelligence to provide actionable insights from expert forums for decision-making; and strategic consulting for governments and businesses, facilitating high-impact engagements between Europe and Asia.

About J3D.AI
J3D.AI Platform
House of Collaboration in Davos
Deep Tech Castle Retreat

About Bavarian Foresight Institute

The **Bavarian Foresight Institute** focuses on technology-oriented foresight research, examining the economic and social interdependencies of emerging technologies. The institute aims to create synergies with THI's research institutes, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence, sustainability, and mobility. Research is carried out in an application-oriented context, with results integrated into consulting projects, scientific publications, and exchange forums.

About Bavarian Foresight Institute
About Prof. Dr. Laura Bechthold

Futures Beyond Our Times

Our World in 2125

Foresight Whitepaper

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