



# FUTURES

NEWSLETTER NO.1  
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DEVELOP YOUR  
CAPABILITIES TO

# USE THE FUTURE

IN THE PRESENT



It is our pleasure to present the 1st FUTURES newsletter and briefly introduce our project, the project objectives, and the project team!

*Bialystok University of Technology*  
project coordinator

## WHAT IS FUTURES PROJECT ABOUT?

**Future laboratories for professional and personal development - FUTURES** (2020-2023) is a European project which emphasizes the importance of high-quality adaptation skills as the means to support individuals in acquiring and developing key competences. A major part of these transversal competences and “soft skills” is the development of integrated and innovative ways of supporting personal development, resilience, adaptation, and critical thinking. As Futures Literacy (FL) increases individuals’ capacity to ‘use the future(s)’ to explore the present, the project aims to adopt such a methodology also to foster professional development. In particular, the project underlines the need to develop skills of young people, for anticipating and promptly reacting to scenario changes, and imagining professional career paths.



**The current global pandemic highlights precisely the importance of futures thinking, developing foresight and preparedness, but also an ability to embrace emergence, adapting to unforeseen circumstances that might impact participants’ professional lives.**

Within the FUTURES project, we aim to develop the innovative, future-oriented processes, tools, and methods that will foster personal and professional development among European University Students, Early Stage Researchers and High School Students, including also those that aspire to enroll in University. The training materials developed in the project will empower individuals to realize that their images about the future (anticipatory assumptions) have a significant bearing on (limit or open up) their actions and choices today.

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# THE PROJECT WILL SERVE TO REACH THE FOLLOWING **RESULTS:**

**Design principles for a Future-oriented Training Programme (Intellectual Output 1);**

**Foresight Toolbox and Training Manual for improving University Students and Early Stage Researchers future-oriented competences for personal and professional development (Intellectual Output 2);**

**Foresight Toolbox and Training Manual for improving High School Students future-oriented competences for personal and professional development (Intellectual Output 3).**

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The project aims to develop the participants' capabilities to "use the future" in the present by combining pragmatic (foresight) and experimental, learning-by-doing approaches to imagining professional career paths.

***The partners will develop training courses aimed at interpreting and imagining their professional futures, and providing them with tools that extend their ability to imagine futures and develop their capability to adapt to future scenarios, embracing uncertainty.***

The "tools" of Futures Literacy (FL) and foresight will be addressed to students (University and high school) and Early Stage Researchers, to help them understand which kind of professional future they are interested in.





## THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

**Conducting research on the interconnections of distinctive areas - namely future literacy, foresight, personal and professional development, and theatre arts.**

**Identify skills gaps and shortages, regarding futures literacy skills, common to the partner countries which are preventing students from reaching their full potential, from a personal and professional point of view.**

**Contributing to innovation by developing, adapting, and testing FL and foresight tools and methods (including future-oriented performance-based pedagogies) pertinent to personal and professional development.**



## THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE:

**Objective 1:** to define a set of principles for a future-oriented training programme.

**Objective 2:** to provide the target groups with notions to better understand their professional identity and to increase their personal resilience (learning how to embrace uncertainty).

**Objective 3:** to define a professional development strategy and a personal development strategy. This twofold approach will allow target groups to understand how the professional environment relates to their personality (their vision) and how they can interact effectively with it (their values).

**Objective 4:** to present to University professors and counsellors or high-school teachers how to use the FUTURES workshops as blueprints/guiding principles, to keep on adopting the training methodologies after the project ends. The project partners will develop a Training Manuals for this purpose.

# PROJECT PARTNERS

## BIAŁYSTOK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY POLAND (LEADER)



**Białystok University of Technology**, Poland (BUT) is a modern, dynamically developing institution with over 70-year-old experience in educating scientists and technologists. At present there are nearly 12 thousand students studying at BUT in its 6 faculties. BUT, especially Faculty of Engineering Management has already a recognized position in conducting foresight research and offers Futures Literacy courses, respectively at curriculum level.

[pb.edu.pl/en](http://pb.edu.pl/en)



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# PROJECT PARTNERS

**HANZE UNIVERSITY GRONINGEN**  
THE NETHERLANDS



**Hanzehogeschool Groningen** (HG/Hanze UAS) is a university of applied sciences. It focuses on educating students to become professionals who are able to adapt well to their future work environment - both as regards the skills and knowledge related to their (future) profession, and the personal and communication skills necessary to work at professional levels higher in general. HG has about 26,000 students and offers four year Bachelor courses and an increasing number of Master courses covering almost all sectors of Dutch education in applied sciences: Business and Management, Communication and Information, Technology Engineering and Technology, Social Studies, Health Studies, Education, Sports Studies, Fine Arts, Dance and Music.

HG offers a wide range of courses in English, both semester courses and full degree Bachelor and Master programmes. Some courses are developed jointly with international partners. Research is of an applied nature and concentrated in six so-called Centres of Applied Research and Innovation. As knowledge brokers, the centres are of great value to the innovation capacity of business, industry and the not-for-profit sector in the Northern part of the Netherlands and beyond.

Being a university of applied sciences, the institution maintains strong relations with the relevant work fields. It offers tailor-made courses, consultancy and applied research to (regional) companies, agencies, health- and social institutes. Apart from student and staff exchanges with over 200 international partner universities worldwide, the university has been, and still is, participating in projects under various European programmes, and also in development cooperation projects funded by the Dutch government in several non-European countries.

[www.hanze.nl/eng](http://www.hanze.nl/eng)



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## PROJECT PARTNERS

### FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS GREECE



**The Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH)**, established in 1983, is one of the largest Research Centers in Greece with highly qualified personnel and a reputation as a top-level research foundation. PRAXI Network, a distinct unit of FORTH (PRAXI Network/FORTH), is the leading technology transfer and innovation support organization in Greece with longstanding experience in assisting SMEs and research organizations throughout the country and abroad to enhance their competitiveness. PRAXI NETWORK/FORTH also hosts the UNESCO Chair on Futures Research, which was awarded to FORTH in 2019. The UNESCO Chair on Futures Research focuses its efforts on filling the futures/foresight expertise gap observed at a national and regional level.

Through a series of targeted activities, programs and projects the Research Chair:

- fosters the development of futures literacy in Greece by raising public awareness and launching capacity building and training initiatives in schools, NGO's, civil society, etc.;
- contributes decisively to the establishment of a foresight culture at a national and regional level through the development and dissemination of innovative futures/foresight tools and methods;
- promotes a national Futures Research Agenda while undertaking research in areas relevant to Smart Specialization, as well as topics of broad public interest, such as the future of work, the future of migration, climate change, etc.

[www.forth.gr](http://www.forth.gr)



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## PROJECT PARTNERS

**VALUEDO S.R.L.**  
ITALY



# ValueDo

ValueDo S.r.l. is specialized in activities of European, national, regional and local project management and in the support of public socio-economic innovation policies. Our company is also specialized in entrepreneurial education, in activities of research dedicated to the evaluation and definition of the best initiatives within the strategic planning, in addition to the use of EU structural fund. ValueDo is based in Florence where it manages 91C: coworking space on public socio-economic innovation policies.

[www.valuedo.eu](http://www.valuedo.eu)



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**MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY LONDON**  
THE UNITED KINGDOM



**Middlesex  
University  
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**Middlesex University** was established as Middlesex Polytechnic in 1973, and was awarded full university status, with degree awarding powers in 1992.

It is comprised of three faculties: Arts and Creative Industries; Professional and Social Sciences; and Science and Technology. It is a truly global university, with campuses in London, Dubai, Mauritius and Malta, and 167 nationalities represented by our students and staff.

[www.mdx.ac.uk](http://www.mdx.ac.uk)



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# PROJECT PARTNERS

## ŁUKASIEWICZ RESEARCH NETWORK - INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES POLAND



# Łukasiewicz

## Institute for Sustainable Technologies

**Łukasiewicz Research Network - Institute for Sustainable Technologies** in Radom is part of the network which connects over 30 institutes in Poland.

The Institute conducts basic and applied research in the areas of machine construction and maintenance, materials engineering, optomechatronic and environmental technologies. Furthermore, it is involved in scientific and application activities in the areas of support for innovation, knowledge and technology transfer, and education. In the area of foresight it executes research projects concerning the development and application of foresight and futures literacy methods.



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[www.en.itee.radom.pl](http://www.en.itee.radom.pl)

### Are you interested in:

- interpreting futures?
- imagining futures?
- professional development?
- personal development?

If you answered **YES** at least once, the results of the project could be appealing to you!



[/FuturesEuropeanProject](#)



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