

# Promoting Futures Literacy. Some Reflections.

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in Learning Society  
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University of Turku, Finland



**UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU**



# FINLAND FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE

The largest Nordic academic research institute specializing in **futures research** and **foresight**. Founded in 1992.

The cornerstones of our activities are on developing **academic futures studies**, **critical interdisciplinary research**, high quality **education**, **strategic foresight** and insightfully produced **futures knowledge**.





# UNESCO Chair in Learning Society & Futures of Education



**Goal:** To make use of tools of futures research to eradicate poverty and improve human well-being globally

**Means:** Research, education and development activities focusing on global capacity building for futures thinking (individual futures literacy)

**Outcome:** Individuals with higher level of futures literacy = more future literate society

## Cognitive level

Knowledge of the surrounding world  
Temporal thinking  
Basic principles of futures studies  
Change dynamics

## Motivational level

Emotions  
Expectations  
Attitudes  
Values

## Planetary living skills

- Awareness of one's own impact on the planet
- Physical and emotional connection to nature

## Complexity skills

- How to think in systems
- Capacity to think and act clearly in complex situations

## Creativity skills

- How to use intuition
- How to find new solutions to old problems

## Empathy skills

- How to move out from being self-centered
- How to take future generations into account

## Active skills

Personal resilience

**Futures literacy**

Proactive futures mindset



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-Pouru, L. & Wilenius, M.

# Our approaches to promoting futures literacy

# 1) Educational co-operation with universities in Cuba

Universities of Santiago and Havana: Courses on futures studies, globalization, energy systems... student exchange etc.



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# 2) Providing coaching & tools for teachers

## Learning goals

- Own role & responsibility in the building of the future
- Understanding the dynamics that shape the future
- Creative and critical outlook on the future
- Self-knowledge, trust in the future, own place in the world
- Personal resilience
- Proactive futures mindset

## Key teaching themes

- Time perspective: past-present-future
- Understanding weak signals, trends, megatrends, black swans
- Possible, propable, preferable futures
- Self-knowledge
- Systems thinking
- Values, ethics, sustainability
- Visionary capability

## Different levels of perception

## Methods

- Environmental scanning
- Images of future
- Futures pathlines and scenarios
- Futures workshops
- Artistic methods
- Futures games,
- Various other methods, endless opportunities



Micro level:  
Personal futures



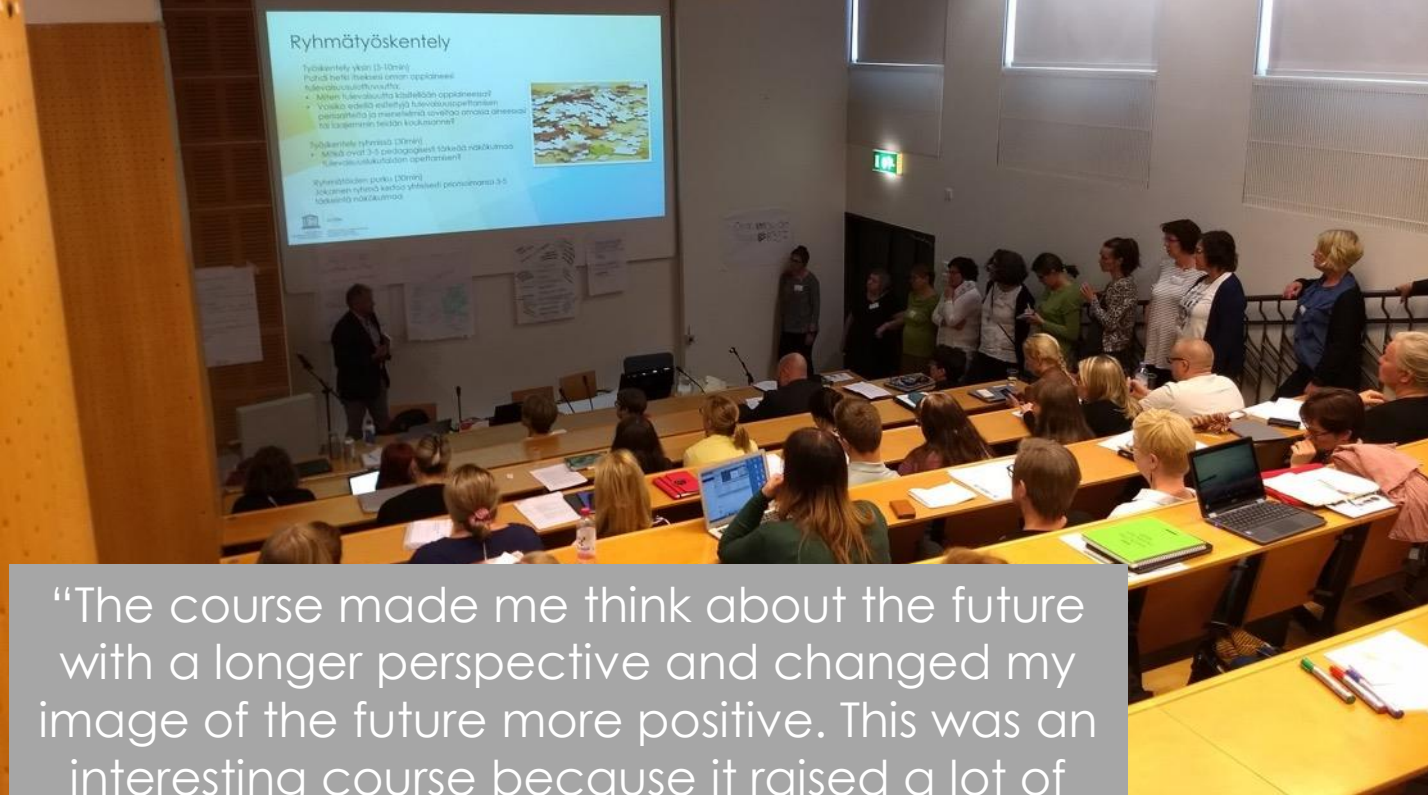
Meso level:  
Local futures



Macro level:  
Global futures







**Ryhmätyöskentely**

- Työskentely väki (3-10hlö)
- Porukalla tekee työkseen oppimiseen mielekkäämpää ja mielekästä.
- Välillä on mahdollista kysyä kysymyksiä ja saada vastauksia.
- Välillä on mahdollista kysyä kysymyksiä ja saada vastauksia.
- Työskentely työntekijöiden (TET) kanssa.
- Miksi on 3-5 pedagogian työntekijää?
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“The course made me think about the future with a longer perspective and changed my image of the future more positive. This was an interesting course because it raised a lot of new ideas.”



“I learned a lot of new things and got new perspectives as well as expanded my way of thinking. The course was very helpful!”













# 3) Get that Future Lab- mobile learning course on futures literacy



# 4) National Futures Day to raise public futures awareness

<b>4</b> FUTURES ACTIVISTS 	<b>5</b> MONTHS 	<b>1</b> BIG GOAL 	<b>70+</b> EVENTS
<b>9</b> PATRONS	<b>5</b> IMPACT PARTNERS 	<b>4</b> SPONSORS	
<b>#1</b> TOPIC IN TWITTER FI 1.3.2019 650+ TWEETS 	<b>7</b> TRANSLATIONS OF THE MATERIAL 	<b>NATIONAL FORESIGHT AWARD 2019</b> 	





# Contents

## Introductory cards

- Welcome to exploring futures!
- How to use the Futures Day cards
- Tips for exploring futures
- Tips for futures dialogue

## Theory cards

- Why is futures thinking so challenging?
- Principles of studying futures
- Alternative futures

## Research cards

- Introducing futures
- Exploring futures
- Interpreting futures
- Making futures

## Phenomenacards

- Future of work and skills
- Democracy and future generations
- Climate change and climate anxiety
- Circular economy
- Artificial intelligence and ethics

### Climate anxiety and hope

*Content in co-operation with Environmental Researcher Panu Pihkala*

The global temperature has risen by one degree Celsius compared to the preindustrial era (1850–1900). Global warming cannot be halted, but the rise in temperatures can be limited to what is accepted as the critical threshold of 1.5 degrees. This requires that global emissions are sharply reduced by 2020 and that the world is emissions-free by 2050.

Climate change is such a major problem that it understandably raises many emotions. It is not always easy to talk about these emotions with other people, yet it is important for all of us to have some way of processing difficult emotions, otherwise the negative emotional energy may spill over and lead to depression and other problems. Retaining hope is crucial to one's own health and well-being.

Emotions can be processed in various ways. Often just giving verbal expression to what one is feeling can help to ease the emotional burden. Anxieties can also be alleviated by taking concrete action to address the problem concerned. Everyone can do something, but because no one can do everything, it's important to maintain a balance. There is no point draining yourself physically or overwhelming yourself with feelings of guilt and inadequacy.

#### Classroom assignments

- Engage your students in a discussion about the feelings they have about climate change. What feelings have you observed in one another? Do you want to talk about your feelings? You can work together to make paintings or collages expressing your feelings. Finally, you could exchange views on different ways in which to channel your emotional energies.
- Bad news are more likely to make the headlines. There is hope that the advance of climate change can be slowed, but we must be able to find the signs that this is happening. Scan the horizon (see card no. 11) to identify positive signals. What did you find? Summarise your observations in your class's own futures table worksheet.
- Climate change is a huge problem, but it can be solved. Select one hopeful signal (see the assignment above) and imagine a future where it has grown into a trend or megatrend. You can present the instance.

	PREFERRED	UNPREFERRED	PROBABLE
SOCIETY			
ECONOMY			
PEOPLE			
TECHNOLOGY			
ENVIRONMENT			

1.3.2019  
#FuturesDay

# Σχολεία

Παιδιά και Νέοι



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praxi»  
help-forward network



UNESCO Chair on Futures Research, PRAXI

1.3.2019

# Escuelas

niños y jóvenes

eds.  
Laura Pouri Minna Koskelo  
Otto Tähtkäpää Annina Antinranta

# Escola

crianças e jovens

eds.  
Laura Pouri Minna Koskelo  
Otto Tähtkäpää Annina Antinranta

1.3.2019  
futuresday

1.3.2019

# Scholen

kinderen en jongeren

eds.  
Laura Pouri Minna Koskelo  
Otto Tähtkäpää Annina Antinranta

1.3.2019

# Scuole

bambine/i e ragazze/i

a cura di  
Laura Pouri Minna Koskelo  
Otto Tähtkäpää Annina Antinranta

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# Futures Day Co-campaign

“Faith and confidence in the future are also key in peace building. Therefore, as a member of the UN Secretary-General’s Peace Mediation Advisory Board, I hope that the Futures Day will also raise global discussions and increase understanding of alternative paths to future. Every one of us is needed to build a sustainable future for our planet and humanity.”



-Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland



**Karolina Meckiewicz**  
1. maalisukuuta · 🌐

Today Finland and the whole world celebrates International Futures Day! 🎉 We have parliamentary election in Finland this Spring. On this occasion, the organizers of the Futures Day asked: what would you do as the next Minister of the Futures. Here is my answer 😊 What'd be yours? #FuturesIsNotHappening #ItIsMade

**1.3.2019**  
Toukokuu

As the Minister of the Futures, I would advocate for more experimental and learning culture, especially in the public administration - allowing ourselves to think big, think cross, and not be paralyzed by risk of mistakes!

Dealing with uncertainty is a key skill for 21st century and we need to learn how to handle the unknown not only on the personal level but also in the administration. For this, we need better futures skills, incl. futures consciousness, futures literacy and above all - Futures Thinking.

#Tulevaisuusministeri

**Karolina Meckiewicz**  
Project Manager, Futures, Facilitator

Sinä, Otto Tahkkipää, Amos Taylor ja 45 muuta  
1 kommentti



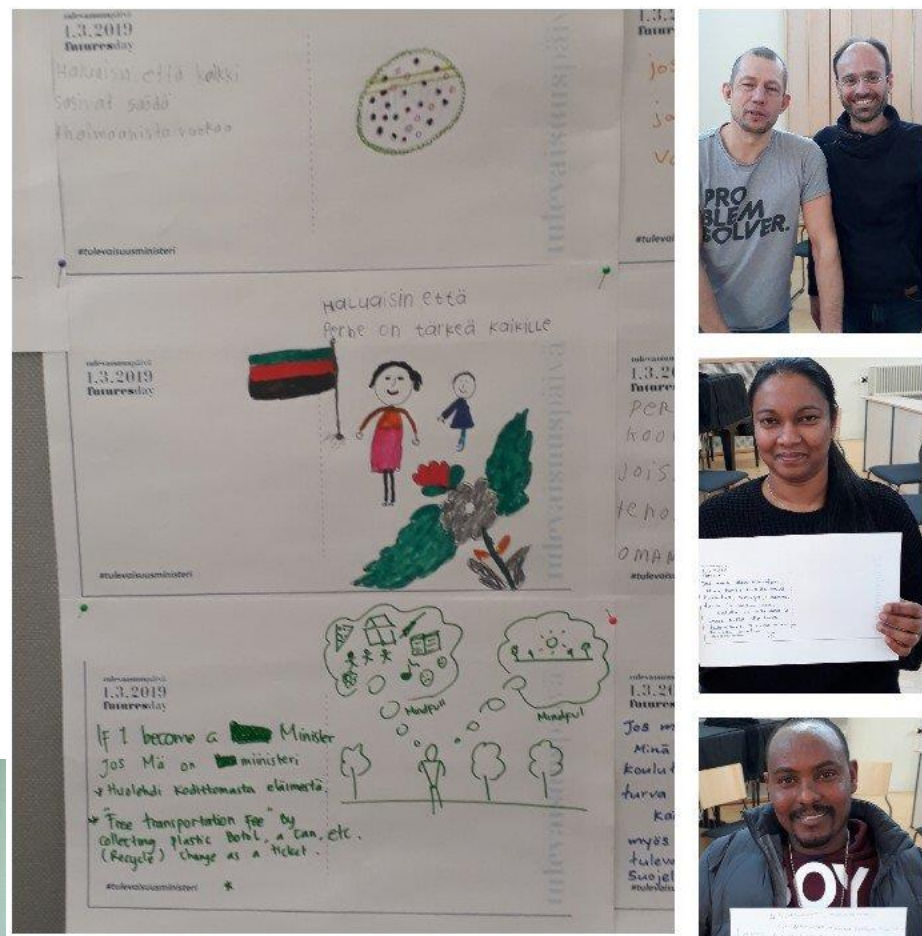






Ilolansalo elderly service house, Masterminds entrepreneurship training, Järvenpää Church College

**future**day



PIC•COLLAGE



The city of Jämsä



**Miksi tulevaisuuden ajattelu on haastavaa?**

Miksi ihmiset ennen oltu kunnostaan kovinkin hyvin ajattelevia tulevaisuutta. Lähtökohdasta lähtien tapaa on monta asiaa lähtökohtana ennen ajattelun aloitusta. On tapaa ymmärtää, että tulevaisuuden ajattelu on haastavaa, koska se on jatkuvasti muuttuva ja se on jatkuvasti muuttuva. Tulevaisuuden ajattelu on haastavaa, koska se on jatkuvasti muuttuva ja se on jatkuvasti muuttuva.

**Äänestys tulevaisuudesta** - tulevaisuudesta ei välttämättä puhuta, vaan sen ajattelu on usein liian kaukana. Tulevaisuudesta puhutaan yleensä jossainkin vaiheessa, mutta näitä on hyvä muistaa. Tulevaisuudesta puhutaan yleensä jossainkin vaiheessa, mutta näitä on hyvä muistaa.

On myös hyvä muistaa, että järkevästi ajattelu on tärkeää, jotta ennen ole kunnostettu, jotta ennen ole kunnostettu. Tulevaisuudesta puhutaan yleensä jossainkin vaiheessa, mutta näitä on hyvä muistaa.



Ground Comms



The city of Vaasa











Foresight Friday: Prime Minister's Office  
& PALO-research project



National Parliament:  
Committee For the Future:  
Technology Futures



Kharkov, Ukraine



Omsk, Russia



Minsk, Belarus



# What have we learned?

- The concept Futures literacy (=tulevaisuuslukutaito) has been well received in the Finnish educational sector and also wider in the society.
- There seems to be demand for futures thinking tools in schools and also more widely in society, as the awareness of our planetary crisis increases
- Rising awareness and demand in fast changing societies like Cuba



# Thank You!



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