

World Future Day – Young Voices

World Future Day is held every year on **March 1st** to spark a global conversation on the future. We want to make sure **young people** are also part of the conversation. In the end, it is their future we are all talking about. Teach the Future & Millennium Project, together with partners and friends, therefore initiated the young edition.



24 hour conversations about the future March 1st is World Future Day. Live events on Zoom were hosted, March 1st 2021, all around the world with young people to join in on the conversation about their future. They brought in sparking ideas, interesting perspectives and had great conversations addressing hope and bringing in energy for beautiful futures.

Couldn't join online? Want to know what they discussed, see the summaries below. Or check out some of the conversations online via [Youtube](#).

UTC-1 // 10:00 BRT – Sao Paulo, Brazil (Portuguese)

Our first World Future Day: Young Voices event focused on the future of education from the perspectives of four protagonists of the future concentrating their efforts on technology, science, mathematics, and entrepreneurship. Kids discussed the past, present and future of education and created a manifesto of their ideas. The event was guided by three core questions:

- 1) What is happening today in education?
- 2) What do you think may happen in the next ten years?
- 3) What do you want to happen and what are you already doing to make that future happen?

"After the quarantine there will be a big change, it was a big impact! We will have a lot of innovation or we will fall." ~ Teteus 15 yr old

"Today, one of the main problems is the lack of connection in the classroom between the teacher and the student." ~ Micaele 17 yr old

"The educator also got tired of this system." ~ Guilherme 17 yr old

"Back to school, the teachers could be closer to the students, really see the difficulties they have and not just order this or that at home." ~ Catarina 12 yr old

"Guys, I fell in love with these masterful students. They filled my heart with hope for a more humane and incredible future!" ~ Desiree (Audience Member)

The event was also watched by students, as part of their teaching, life in the classroom

Hosted by [Teach the Future](#) Hub Brasil

UTC-4 // 16:00 CET – Netherlands, Spain, Belgium (English)

We enjoyed an insightful discussion on WFD Young Voices in Europe, with youngsters from the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Germany and Romania, aged 11 to 24.

During the session, we learned about the project “**KinderTrendrede**” and the **different demands of young people for the future of the city of Breda**. Like the desire to integrate more nature in the city, start a no-more-bully group or include more young voices in the decision-making process, collaborating and working together. They referred to amongst others their advices [KinderTrendrede 2018](#) and make sure there is much more green and climbing forests in Breda. No stones. Nature is important and KinderTrendrede 2020 wanted to ‘start a no-more-bully group’ in Breda.

We also heard young voices from Seville, from the **school San Francisco de Paula**, where they are currently following future classes. Sharing interesting thoughts about new innovative technologies applied to their city, like flying taxis that are already being tested in Spain and other countries.

The students from **VIVES University of Applied Sciences** shared their website project www.unforseeable.org that has the objective to be a tool for young people to learn and reflect about the future.

Together, we learned that we can’t think about the future if we don’t take care of basic needs first, for us humans, and also for the planet, like good health, wellbeing, clean water and sanitation. And that when people, countries and communities come together, listen to each other with an open mind, we can come to better solutions.

“I think that the future can be happy but it can be really bad if we don’t treat it right so we must make it right. [Adults] need our help because it’s our future.” ~ Arlynn 12 yr old

“We need to have different perspectives on issues, stay critical about various topics because I think that’s a very important thing - that we don’t have a tunnel vision.” ~ Simon (Age?)

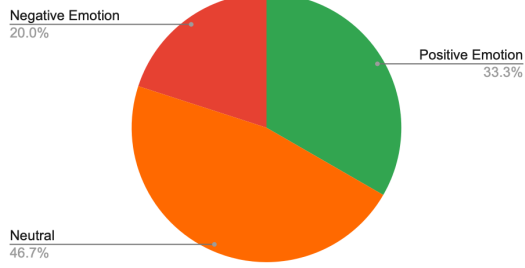
“[Youth are] willing to take action. In 40 years, I’ll be 50 years old, so I still will be living on this planet and this planet has to continue to be a healthy planet.” ~ Stavroula (Age?)

“We need to understand what is going to happen in the future. I imagine flying cars in the future, helping with better mobilization and transportation.” ~ Nicolás 11 yr old

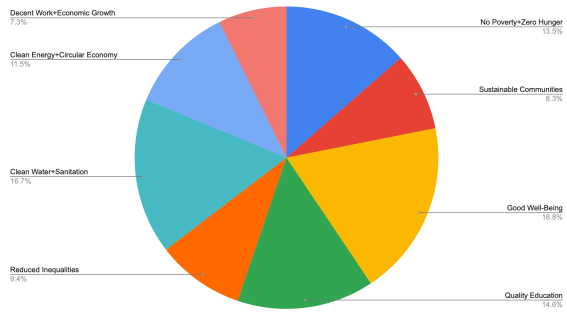
“World Future day shed the light on the importance of empowering young people who will definitely build a better world, by allowing them to think critically and creatively about the future. This event honored the youth voice and highlighted the importance in investing in young people to build a better world.” ~ Rim Jalloul, ISESCO (Audience Member)

Hosted by [Teach the Future](#) Hubs Belgium, Netherlands, Spain

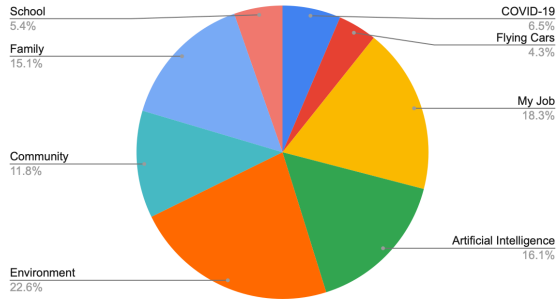
How do you feel about the future?



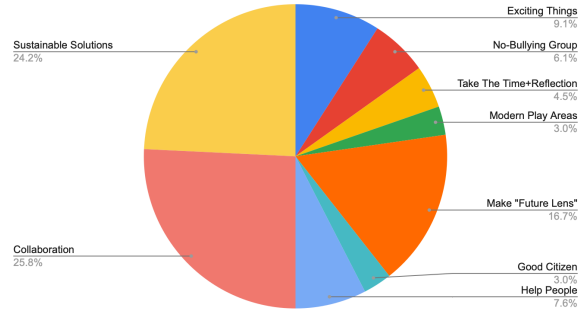
What UN SDGs are most important to you?



When you think about the future, what do you think about?



Young Voices Initiatives



UTC-5 // 18:00 CET – Europe (English)

On the occasion of the World Future Day as well as Remembrance Day, Youth Fusion decided to launch its newest program: Youth Fusion Elders. Youth Fusion Elders are long-time leaders in the peace and disarmament fields – those who we hold in high esteem, and whose leadership, accomplishments, ideas and wisdom we want highlight throughout our activities.

Our 1½ hour long webinar included an intergenerational dialogue between four of our new Youth Fusion Elders and the young Youth Fusion members & individuals from the audience participating through Zoom's Q&A chat box.

Question: "Do you have any recommendations for youth today on how to combine their academic ambitions with their activist beliefs and objectives?"

Answer: "Make choices without sacrificing your values and principles."

~ Ms. Ana María Cetto

"We all have something to contribute that will carry a great weight in the large scheme of things even though we might be unable to see just how." ~ Nico 25 yr old

"Thank you very much for inviting me to this conversation with a younger generation. It is very important because if you don't see nuclear disarmament in the context of policies, then you may not understand the full meaning of nuclear disarmament "

~ Ms. Uta Zapf

"Thank you. Very compassionate and enlightening." ~ Kathleen (Audience Member)

The [Youth Fusion Elders](#) who participated in the event were [Mr. Bruce Kent](#), [Ms. Uta Zapf](#), [Mr. Mogens Lykketoft](#), and [Ms. Ana María Cetto](#).

If you would like to listen to this wonderful intergenerational dialogue, please [click here](#).

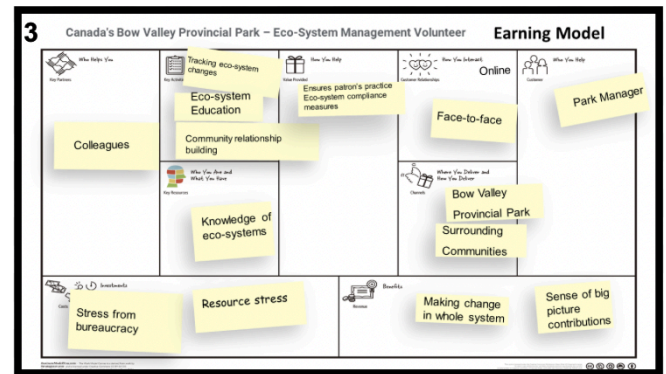
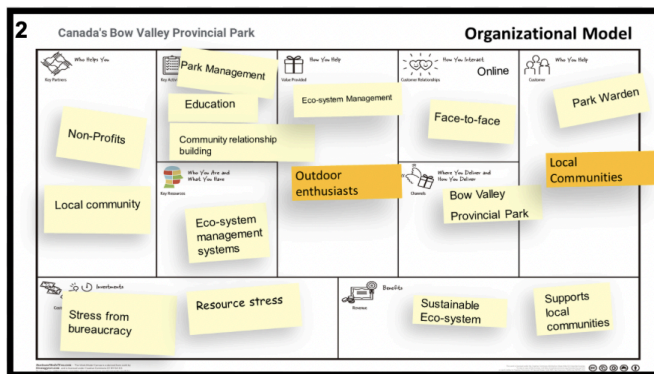
Hosted by [Youth Fusion](#)

UTC-5 // 09:00 EST – Washington, USA (English)

The discussion covered The 15 World Challenges by the Millennium project and The Future of Work in Your Community and students engaged in a Whole System Collaboration and Change activity. In attendance were 42 high school and first-year college students representing four countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Canada.

Students were introduced to systems and wicked problems, they were introduced to each of the 15 Global Challenges. Next, students were organized into an organizational community and learned about it's system and a work role within the system. The students were assigned community roles and each community faced one or more of the 15 World Challenges.

The community members were introduced to whole system collaboration and change with an eight-stage process to build sustainable change in a community.



Finally, students were presented with joining Business Model Youth in 2021 September to begin working towards World Future Day 2022.

"I learned a lot about the global challenges the world faces, and how I might be able to help solve these problems." ~ Jens 19 yr old

"The community activity was engaging, I am looking forward to participating in the next World Future Day." ~ Ellie 17 yr old

Hosted by [Business Model Youth](#), LLC, as part of their Learner2Earner programming.

UTC-6 // 12:00 CST – Mexico City, Mexico (Spanish)

What a delightful conversation listening to Latin American children imagining their future in the year 2030. The youth ranged from 6 - 25 years old and they broadcasted all the way from Mexico to Columbia and Peru! We were able to appreciate interesting points of views on topics such as climate change, economic entrepreneurship and social inclusion.

Each student gave a mini presentation on the topic of their choice where they stated 5 . Topics ranged from social change, diversity equity and inclusion education, climate change regarding saving our animals habitats, alternative energy modalities, and mental health awareness. The takeaway advice given by the youth is that they all care about the future and their relationships with others, in turn it is everyone's duty to take care of the environment we share and live in.

The participants expressed ideas on how to achieve positive changes in the future. Something that could stimulate the development of activities like this would be the realization of creative visualization workshops as well as divergent thinking.

"You spend most of your time in your head; make it a good place to be."
~ **Maria 22yr old**

"All of us build the future; children, young people, adults you and me!"
~ **Andres 13yr old**

"Everything changes. Life may not be all that we want but it is all that we have so in order to not be sad, put a flower in your hat." ~ **Angelina 21yr old**

"All of us children come into the world to make a change on the planet."
~ **Miranda 6yr old**

"These conversations are illuminating, the most important thing I am hearing the youth panel speak of is about quality education, to incorporate future thinking into our schools at an early age and it must reach everyone!"

~ **A Student's Mother (Audience Member)**

Hosted by [Teach the Future](#) Hub Mexico

UTC-9 // 15:00 CST – Houston, USA (English)

This session involved young people from the Eastern and Central time zones of the U.S. and Canada. Each student brought in their topic of the future, how they think they can help shape this future themselves and which influential person could help them.

Topics ranged from education, health, hunger, the environment, governance, and technology, all revolving around the UN SDGs.

“Pave the way for a new generation of citizen scientists.” ~ Kate 17 yr old

“We are still experiencing the backlash of virtual learning unpreparedness.” ~ Miranda 14 yr old

“Light the beacon of liberty in even the darkest corners of the globe.” ~ Nikhil 15 yr old

“Empathy itself is really just knowledge with a little imagination.” ~ Anmar 15 yr old

“This was the first formal introduction I’ve ever had into how I can become a positive spokesperson for a better future.” ~ Edward (Audience Member)

If you would like to read the letters of the eleven panelists and their discussions, [click here](#).

Hosted by [Teach the Future Hub USA](#) and [Future Problem Solving Program International](#)

UTC-11 // 15:00 PST – San Francisco, USA (English)

In this session, we explored how some new emerging multi- or cross-disciplinary areas of study and work might be applied to dealing with some of the Millennium Project's 15 Global Challenges.

The session began by looking back at projects from 2009-2010 of a major study by the

[Institute for the Future](#), called *Future Work Skills: 2020*

Six major drivers for future work skills were included: Extreme Longevity, Computational World, Super-Structured Organizations, Rise of Smart Machines and Systems, New Media Ecology, Globally Connected World. We focused mostly on “rise of smart machines & systems”, the major growth of AI and machine learning over the past decade, as well as increasing aging populations of those living into their 90's and beyond- and how both of these might relate to some of the MP's 15 Global Challenges

“There's so much stress of choosing a profession for a high school student today, when in reality, 80% of professions will no longer exist in 2030 as they do today.” ~

Deona 14 yr old

“College majors and jobs need to start emphasizing our interdisciplinary world.” ~

Pari 16 yr old

We then looked at an exercise that crosses a number of adjectives with different traditional college majors or areas of study, like astro, digital, micro, nano, narrative, genomic, socio, bio-evolutionary, artistic and more.

“After attending this session, I feel so relieved about my possible future areas of study and work. I can even build my own path and I think that is really cool.” ~

Deona 14 yr old (Audience Member)

Hosted by [Design Worlds for College and Careers](#)

World Future Day is an annual event initiated by [Humanity+](#) and the [Millennium Project](#) in 2013. They organize a **24-hour online worldwide conversation** during this day where grown-ups discuss the future. The Millennium Project, a global foresight participatory think tank, will host this conversation for adults on the future in collaboration with the Association of Professional Futurists (APF), Humanity+, UNESCO's Global Futures Literacy Network, the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), and the World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF).

Teach the Future is a global movement that **promotes futures literacy** for students and educators. Their aspiration is that every young person is prepared to navigate an uncertain world and has the agency to imagine and create their preferred future. They do this by teaching futures-thinking skills to students and educators around the world and to inspire them to influence their futures.

Our main inspirator and partner is [The Millennium Project](#). And of course, all our **partners from all over the world** that support young people and their future. [Colegio Internacional de Sevilla -SFP](#), [KinderTrendrede Team](#), [DesignWorlds for College and Careers](#), [Future Problem Solving Program International](#), [Young Fusion Elders](#), [Business Model Youth](#) and more (see this [link](#)).

Not able to join but interested to start developing futures thinking skills? Take a look at [this set](#) of Future Cards. They are created by the Finnish Team of [Finland Futures Research Center](#), [Tulevaisuuskoulu](#) and [Futures Specialist Helsinki](#). Teach the Future community members translated them in various languages. [Download](#) them now for free!

Let's imagine the future together and talk about different ideas from different locations with young minds from all over the world.

We are designing a full program for **World Future Day Young Voices 2022**. Are you interested to participate in the next edition, feel free to reach out world-future-day@teachthefuture.org

More info: <https://www.teachthefuture.org/world-futures-day>