

Youth Foresight on Intergenerational Equity/Fairness in the Context of the Triple Planetary Crisis and Sustainable Development

Concept Note

“One of humanity’s strongest survival assets was foresight – the ability to observe, remember, and predict. [...] Today we are witnessing the results of our lack of foresight as we have committed our children to living in a time of class five hurricanes, hundred-year floods, droughts, and fires every other year. Our scientists tell us with increasing emotion (considered scientifically unbecoming), that we are heading to the point of no return.”

— Severn Cullis-Suzuki in “Intergenerational Equity: Environmental and Cultural Concerns” (2019)

Abstract: The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and the progress of achieving sustainable development raises critical questions about fairness between generations. This collaborative research project explores how young people define and perceive Intergenerational Equity (IE) (or Intergenerational Fairness) and aims to co-create future-oriented, youth-informed, and quantifiable indicators to assess it. Through online surveys (300 - 500 participants) and foresight workshops with 40 - 60 core participants, the project applies a Four Horizons model to explore how IE might evolve over the next 25 years. Young people, with contributions from established policy experts for triangulation of findings, will co-develop plausible future scenarios and contribute to designing indicators that reflect their values and visions of equitable futures. The resulting assessment framework is intended for researchers, institutions, governments, and policymakers seeking to embed long-term thinking and consider intergenerational equity in the global governance system.

Target audience:

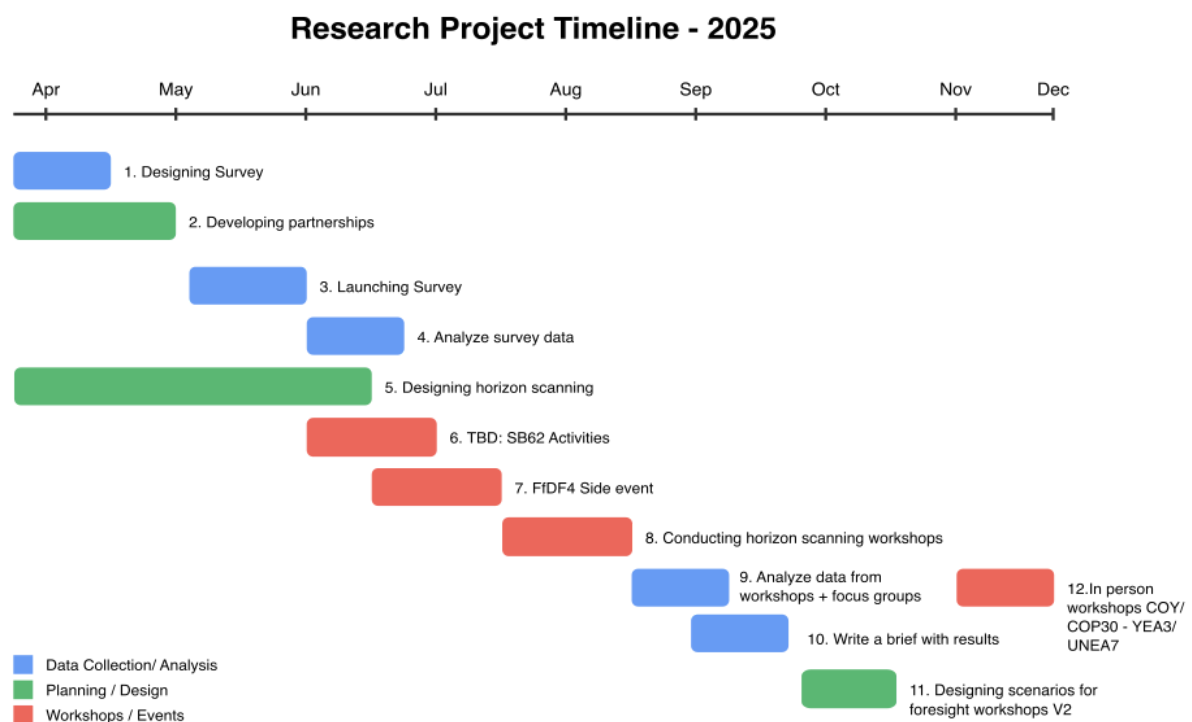
- Young people below the age of 35 across the globe who are:
 - Interested in understanding and shaping the concept of Intergenerational Equity
 - Personally or professionally engaged in addressing the triple planetary crisis and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Willing to share and document their values and lived experiences
 - From diverse backgrounds, including students, early-career professionals, activists, advocates, and Indigenous youth
- Experts, professionals, and decision-makers over 35 years old or not self-identified as youth who are:
 - Interested in sharing their perspectives on Intergenerational Equity
 - Working in policy, research, advocacy, or program implementation in the broader field of sustainable development and global governance
 - Open to engaging in dialogue with youth participants to co-create a common understanding of the concept and its long-term implementation

For any questions or comments, please reach out to:

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Objectives/Outcomes of the research:

1. To review current literature and understand how young people define and interpret IE/IGF in the context of the triple planetary crisis and sustainable development.
2. To identify and analyze the core principles, values, and dimensions of IE/IGF as perceived by youth across diverse geographies and backgrounds.
3. To apply foresight methodologies to co-develop multiple youth-driven scenarios that explore how the level of IE could evolve over the next 25 years, including tensions, breakthroughs, and (dis-)enablers.
4. To develop a scalable, adaptable, and scenario-aware IE assessment framework that institutions and stakeholders can use to evaluate and promote intergenerational equity in policy and practice



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