GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Future Thinking: An Essential Life Skill for Students and Educators

Nathan Ellul
Peter Magro
Daniel Henderson

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

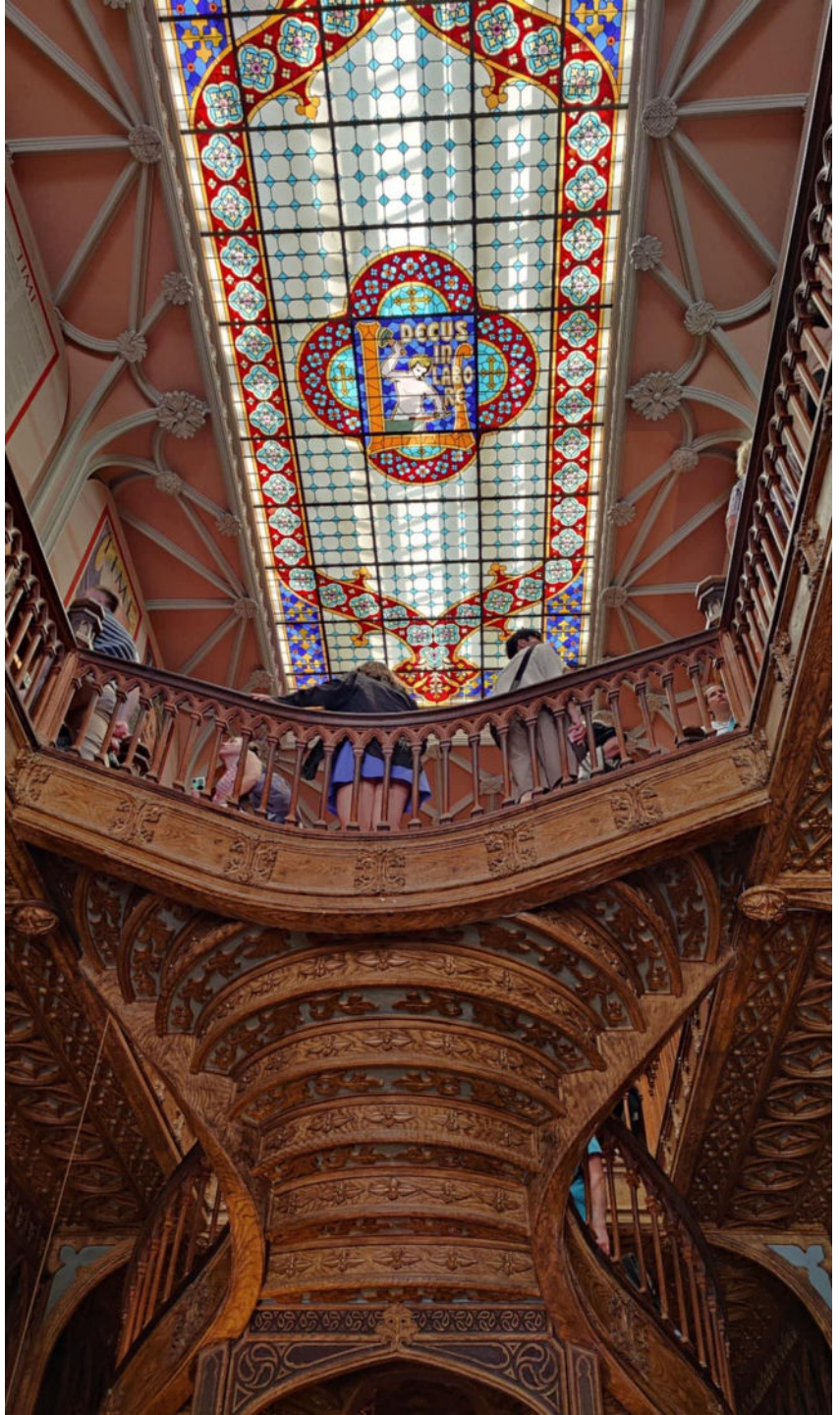
eupa

FONDI.eu

Exploring Lisbon & Porto

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



AVILASPACES
offices.cowork.meeting rooms

Our Class

LASALLIAN CORE PRINCIPLES
Faith in the Presence of God
Concern for the Poor and Social Justice
Inclusive Community

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

What is Future Thinking?

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

What is Future thinking?

Definition: Future thinking is the ability to anticipate, imagine, and plan for possible futures using creativity, critical thinking, and foresight.

European Union

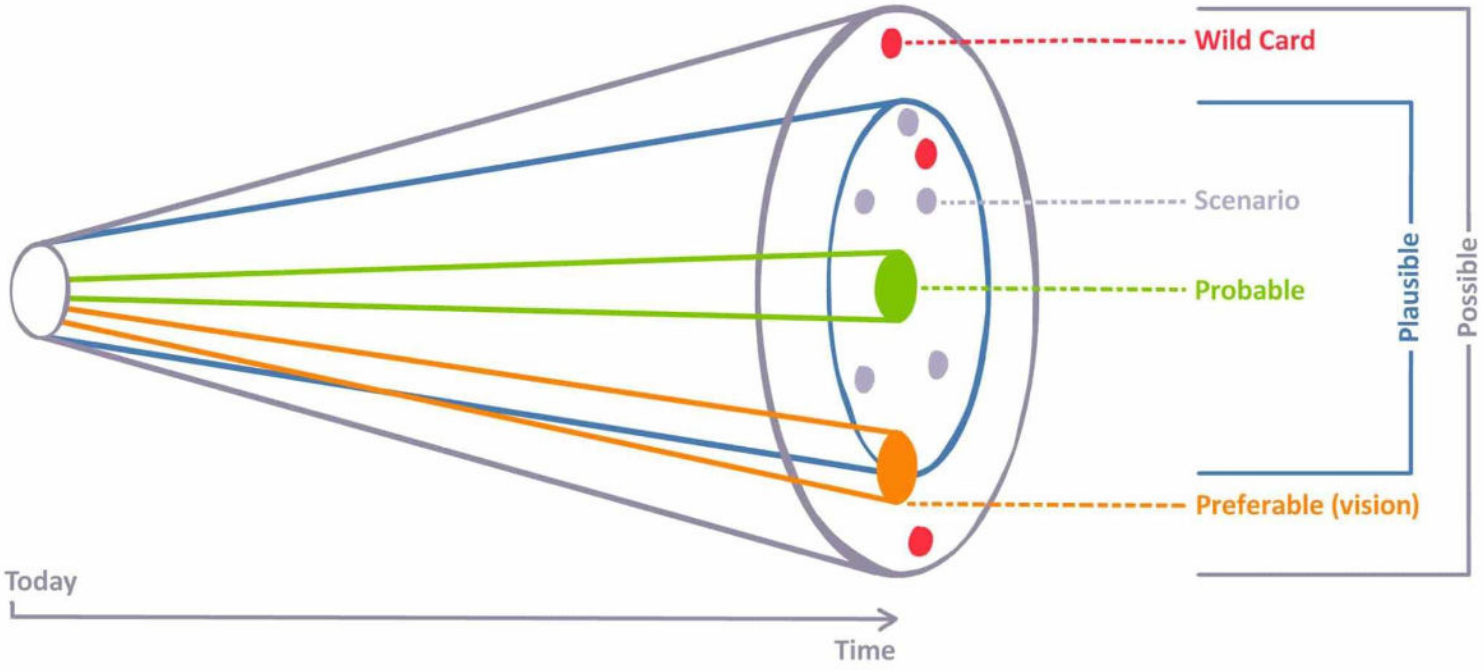
Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

The Future cones

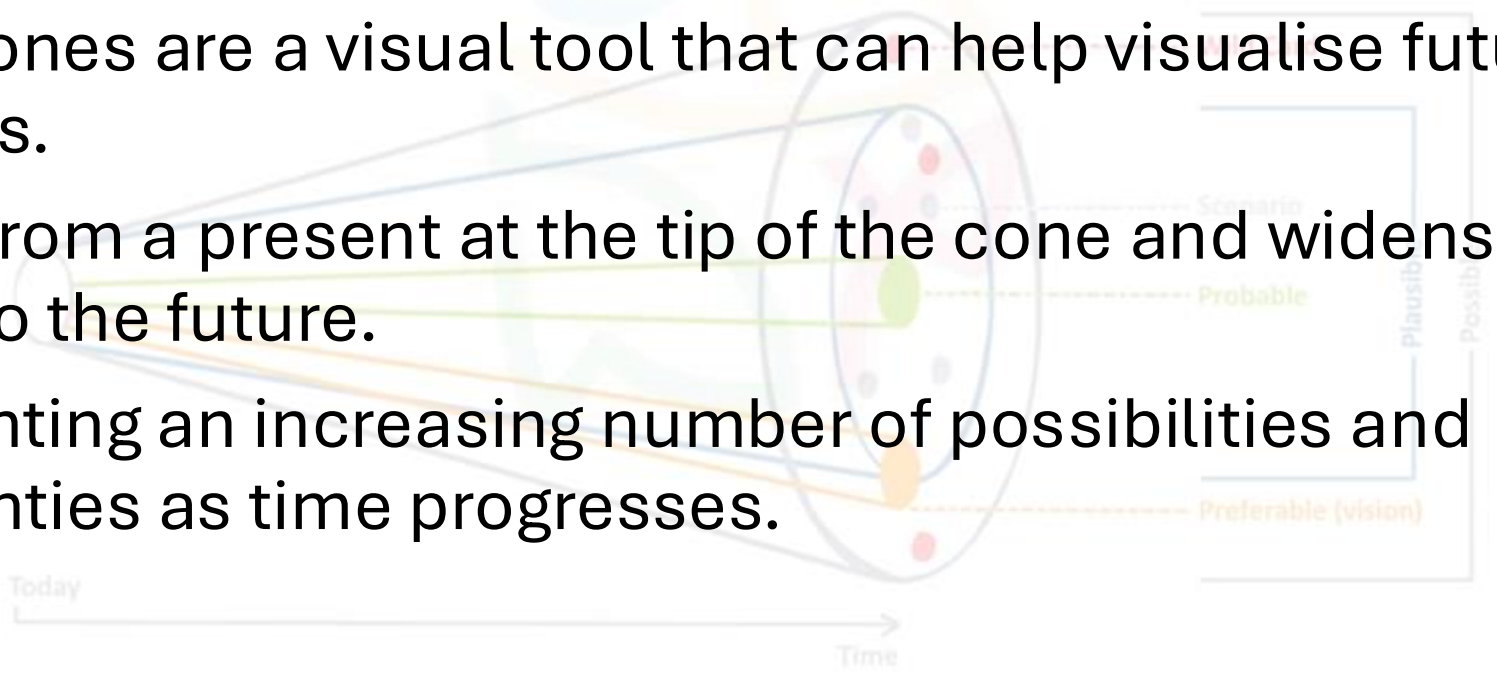


European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

The Future cones

- Future cones are a visual tool that can help visualise future scenarios.
- It starts from a present at the tip of the cone and widens as you move into the future.
- Representing an increasing number of possibilities and uncertainties as time progresses.

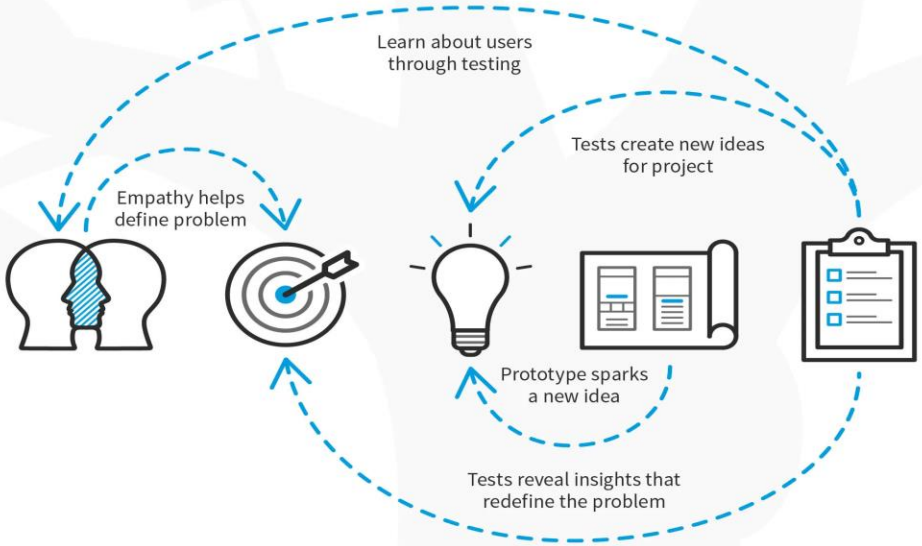


GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Design Thinking: A Non-Linear Process



Interaction Design Foundation
interaction-design.org

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Design Thinking: A Non-linear Process

1. **Frame a Question**: Inspire your team to think about your users and what they actually need
2. **Gather Inspiration**: Go out into the world and seek inspiration by observing and discovering what people really need.
3. **Generate Ideas**: Use the inspiration you gather to help push past the obvious to come up with fresh solutions to your problem
4. **Make Ideas Tangible**: Build rough prototypes and find what's working and what's not.
5. **Test to Learn**: Test your prototypes, gather feedback, and iterate.
6. **Share the Story**: Once you've arrived at the right solution, craft and share the story to introduce it to your colleagues, clients, and customers.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Why Future thinking matters?

- We live in an unpredictable, rapidly changing world (technology, climate, jobs, etc.)
- As a society, future thinking can help plan for challenges and opportunities that we cannot yet predict.
- More importantly as educators, we have an important role to prepare our students for their future.

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Benefits for teachers

- Helps teachers become more mentally agile with unpredictable situations (Lack of electricity, Backlog of lessons, Challenges with students' behaviors)
- Enhances professional development and highlights the necessity for lifelong learning.
- Enables educators to help students think similarly.

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Benefits for students

- Boosts creativity and problem-solving.
- Promotes critical thinking and foresight.
- Encourages curiosity about global issues and future careers.
- Builds motivation and a sense of purpose.

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Challenges and considerations

Although we try to prepare ourselves for any possible outcomes and futures, some situations are still difficult to predict.

(Wild Cards)

Black Swan: It refers to highly improbable and unforseen events that have a massive impact. (Covid-19, Fall of Berlin Wall)

Black Elephant: highly probably events but rejected by society and choses to regard as unlikely they occur despite their clear warning signs.

Black Jellyfish: represents known and normal risks that escalate out of control due to positive feedback (a sudden collapse of a major financial institution)

White Leopard: a hidden or camouflaged risks that can have large impacts. (Cybersec urity could represent a threat that often goes unnoticed until it causes significant da mage/ acts of terrorism).

Grey Rhino: Obvious events that are being ignored (Growing public debt th at threatens economic stability or economic inequality between rich and poor that generates social and political tensions).

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Activities on Future Thinking

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Activity 1: Megatrends

- Megatrends are large, transformative forces that shape the world over time.
- They are trends that shift the social, economic, environmental, technological, or political dynamics that have a major impact on our lives.

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Activity 1: Megatrends

- Sitra is an organisation that has developed a series of digital Megatrend cards that can be online.
- The cards can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.sitra.fi/en/digital-megatrendcards/

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH A TREND The trend's impact on what we do

TREND
Choose from the trend cards

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TREND TO US
Mark on the scale:

insignificant — significant

IMPACTS ON US
What opportunities and threats does the trend pose to our activities?

CHANGES IN SOCIETY
How does the trend show itself and how does it affect everything around you?

NOW	5 YEARS	20 YEARS

THIS IS HOW WE ACT
How do you respond to and prepare yourself for the changes caused by the trend? Think of three actions that you can take now.

OUR STRENGTHS IN RELATION TO THE CHOSEN TREND

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Activity 1: Megatrends

In groups of 4 people, you will have 15 mins to discuss a Megatrend and fill in the template you are given.

The groups will then have time to discuss their ideas with the rest.

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Activity 2: Choosing a preferred Future

The idea of this activity is to think about a preferred future by focusing on a challenge like the Climate Crisis and then looking at this challenge from the point of view of some developments.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Challenges

Holocene Extinction

Climate Crisis

Pandemics

Developments

Fourth Industrial Revolution

AI, Robotics & Aeronautics

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Refuse, Rethink

Digital Transition

Alternative Energy Sources

Sustainability

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Activity 3: Fab Lab

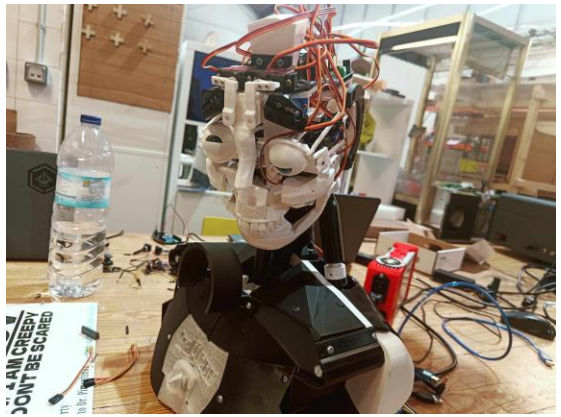
- Fab Lab, or digital fabrication laboratory, is a place to play, to create, to mentor and to invent: a place for learning and innovation.
- Fab Labs provide access to the environment, the skills, the materials and the advanced technology to allow anyone anywhere to make (almost) anything.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Activity 3: Fab Lab - Welcome | FabLabs



European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

eupa

FONDI.eu

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?

European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.