

Futures Expeditions



Young people have many questions: What do I aspire to be? What's going to happen to our climate? Will mobility in our cities change? Futures expeditions give young people between the ages of 14 and 18 the opportunity to tackle these and other questions together. They are intended to enhance participants' self-efficacy and resilience, reduce fears about the future, and develop new ways for action regarding their own futures. In addition, a contribution is made to democratic education as ideas for the future are developed together.

In the words of UNESCO, this strengthens participants' Futures Literacy, which is the ability to deal with the uncertainty and openness of the later-than-now. Futures literacy involves the use of the plural "futures".

The expeditions

The expedition project began in the autumn of 2022 with participatory futures expeditions in German on topics such as "Futures of Work" or "Futures of Democracy". During those expeditions, participants first explore their own expectations and wishes on the topic together with others. By then immersing themselves in an alternative, unfamiliar future they strengthen their imagination and creativity. This leads to powerful new questions and concrete options for action in the present.

An expedition for 12 to 30 participants lasts about four to six hours and is facilitated by a team of experienced futures guides using the well-established method of the Futures Literacy Laboratory on-site and free of charge. Online expeditions can also be arranged. An expedition could be embedded in a project week during which different futures methods can be explored before the event and results can be deepened afterward in writing, drawing, building, or digitally.

Your contribution

Are you a teacher, a student, a supervisor at a youth club, or in other ways connected to a group of young futures explorers? Would you like to initiate a futures expedition and have access to a suitable location for hosting such an event? Get in touch with lilly.herde@expedition-zukuenfte.net or stefan.bergheim@zgf-fortschritt.de to coordinate a date and a topic for your futures expedition.

You are not sure yet and would first like to find out more about the project sponsor, the organizers, the goals, the procedure, etc.? Then have a look at www.zgf-fortschritt.de or in the book "Futures - Open to Variety: A manual for the wise use of the later-than-now" or contact us directly.

The project sponsor

The non-profit association "ZGF – Zentrum für gesellschaftlichen Fortschritt e. V." or "Center for Societal Progress" is a research organization dedicated since 2009 to topics such as quality of life, education, and health.

The director of the ZGF Dr. Stefan Bergheim and the project lead Lilly Herde are responsible for the conception of the project, the coordination between schools and expedition guides, for facilitating the first expeditions, and for the evaluation of the results. They have significant experience with Futures Literacy Laboratories and other participatory futures methods. Funding comes from the ZGF budget. Guides for the expeditions (facilitators) initially come from the ZGF network. Later, additional facilitators can be trained.

As of 31. March 2023