



**PROJECT 101055705 — DIALOG CITY**  
**TOOLKIT WITH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR**  
**FUTURE LITERACY WORKSHOPS**

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This Futures Literacy toolkit contains the essential materials to equip artists with the knowledge needed for the initial needs analysis phase. It enables them to facilitate workshops with citizens and decision-makers, fostering future-oriented thinking. The toolkit is available for download on the project's website <https://dialogcity.eu/project/future-literacy-design-thinking-toolkit/>

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# Executive Summary (EN)

Deliverable D3.7 presents the **Futures Literacy Toolkit**, developed within Work Package 3 of the DIALOG CITY project, providing a structured set of tools, methods and learning materials to support artists in facilitating participatory workshops with citizens and decision makers.

The toolkit operationalises the Futures Literacy methodology by translating conceptual frameworks into **practical, accessible and adaptable tools**. It is designed to strengthen the capacity of artists as facilitators of dialogue, enabling them to guide participants in reflecting on present conditions and imagining alternative futures. The approach is grounded in visual literacy, storytelling and experiential learning.

A core component of the toolkit is a collection of **14 Visual and Futures Literacy tools**, which support critical thinking, creativity, empathy and collaborative exploration. These tools enable participants to uncover assumptions, reframe perspectives and engage with uncertainty, while fostering inclusive and participatory processes. The toolkit is complemented by structured workshop formats, including warm-up exercises, reflective activities and inter-session tasks that sustain engagement over time.

The materials were developed and tested through practical implementation, notably within the “Imag(in)ing Living” workshop series (2025), involving artists from multiple countries. This ensured methodological robustness and applicability across diverse cultural and social contexts.

The toolkit targets a broad range of users, including artists, educators, cultural professionals, researchers and community stakeholders. It supports applications across cultural, educational and civic contexts, contributing to inclusive participation and capacity building in digital and societal transformation processes.

Overall, the deliverable provides a **transferable and scalable methodological framework**, reinforcing the role of arts and culture in fostering future-oriented thinking, citizen engagement and democratic dialogue within the DIALOG CITY project and beyond.

## Executive Summary (IT)

Il Deliverable D3.7 presenta il **Toolkit di Futures Literacy**, sviluppato nell'ambito del Work Package 3 del progetto DIALOG CITY, che fornisce un insieme strutturato di strumenti, metodi e materiali didattici per supportare gli artisti nella facilitazione di workshop partecipativi con cittadini e decisori.

Il toolkit rende operativa la metodologia della Futures Literacy traducendo quadri concettuali in **strumenti pratici, accessibili e adattabili**. È progettato per rafforzare il ruolo degli artisti come facilitatori del dialogo, consentendo loro di guidare i partecipanti nella riflessione sul presente e nell'immaginazione di futuri alternativi. L'approccio si basa su: alfabetizzazione visiva, storytelling e apprendimento esperienziale.

Un elemento centrale del toolkit è rappresentato da una raccolta di **14 strumenti di Visual e Futures Literacy**, che promuovono pensiero critico, creatività, empatia ed esplorazione collaborativa. Questi strumenti aiutano a individuare assunzioni implicite, riformulare prospettive e affrontare l'incertezza, favorendo al contempo processi inclusivi e partecipativi. Il toolkit include inoltre strutture di workshop, attività di riscaldamento preparatorio, esercizi riflessivi e attività tra le sessioni per mantenere attivo il coinvolgimento nel tempo.

I materiali sono stati sviluppati e testati attraverso applicazioni pratiche, in particolare nel ciclo di workshop "Imag(in)ing Living" (2025), che ha coinvolto artisti provenienti da diversi Paesi, garantendo solidità metodologica e adattabilità a contesti culturali differenti.

Il toolkit si rivolge a un'ampia gamma di utenti, tra cui artisti, educatori, professionisti culturali, ricercatori e stakeholder locali, supportando applicazioni nei contesti culturali, educativi e civici.

Nel complesso, il deliverable offre un **quadro metodologico trasferibile e scalabile**, rafforzando il ruolo dell'arte e della cultura nel promuovere un pensiero orientato al futuro, la partecipazione dei cittadini e un dialogo democratico.

# Executive Summary (DE)

Deliverable D3.7 präsentiert das **Futures Literacy Toolkit**, das im Rahmen von Arbeitspaket 3 des Projekts DIALOG CITY entwickelt wurde. Es stellt eine strukturierte Sammlung von Methoden, Werkzeugen und Lernmaterialien bereit, um Künstlerinnen und Künstler bei der Moderation partizipativer Workshops mit Bürgerinnen und Bürgern sowie Entscheidungsträgern zu unterstützen.

Das Toolkit operationalisiert die Futures-Literacy-Methodik, indem es konzeptionelle Ansätze in **praktische, zugängliche und anpassbare Werkzeuge** überführt. Ziel ist es, die Rolle von Künstlern als Vermittler zu stärken und sie dabei zu unterstützen, Teilnehmende zur Reflexion über die Gegenwart und zur Entwicklung alternativer Zukunftsszenarien anzuleiten. Der Ansatz basiert auf visueller Kompetenz, Storytelling und erfahrungsbasiertem Lernen.

Ein zentrales Element ist eine Sammlung von **14 Visual- und Futures-Literacy-Tools**, die kritisches Denken, Kreativität, Empathie und kollaborative Prozesse fördern. Diese Werkzeuge helfen, implizite Annahmen sichtbar zu machen, Perspektiven neu zu rahmen und mit Unsicherheit umzugehen, während sie gleichzeitig inklusive Beteiligungsprozesse unterstützen. Ergänzend enthält das Toolkit strukturierte Workshop-Formate, Aufwärmübungen, Reflexionsaufgaben sowie Zwischenaktivitäten zur nachhaltigen Einbindung der Teilnehmenden.

Die Materialien wurden im Rahmen praktischer Anwendungen getestet, insbesondere in der Workshop-Reihe „Imag(in)ing Living“ (2025) mit internationalen Künstlern, wodurch ihre methodische Qualität und Übertragbarkeit gesichert wurde.

Das Toolkit richtet sich an eine breite Zielgruppe, darunter Künstler, Pädagogen, Kulturakteure, Forschende und lokale Stakeholder, und ist in kulturellen, Bildungs- und zivilgesellschaftlichen Kontexten einsetzbar.

Insgesamt bietet das Deliverable einen **übertragbaren und skalierbaren methodischen Rahmen**, der die Rolle von Kunst und Kultur bei der Förderung zukunftsorientierten Denkens, Bürgerbeteiligung und demokratischem Dialog stärkt.

# Executive Summary (EL)

Το Παραδοτέο D3.7 παρουσιάζει την **Εργαλειοθήκη Εγγραμματισμού του Μέλλοντος** (Futures Literacy), η οποία αναπτύχθηκε στο πλαίσιο του Πακέτου Εργασίας 3 του έργου DIALOG CITY και παρέχει ένα δομημένο σύνολο εργαλείων, μεθόδων και εκπαιδευτικού υλικού για την υποστήριξη καλλιτεχνών στη διευκόλυνση συμμετοχικών εργαστηρίων με πολίτες και υπεύθυνους λήψης αποφάσεων.

Η εργαλειοθήκη μετατρέπει τη μεθοδολογία Εγγραμματισμού του Μέλλοντος σε **πρακτικά, προσβάσιμα και προσαρμόσιμα εργαλεία**. Στόχος είναι η ενίσχυση του ρόλου των καλλιτεχνών ως διαμεσολαβητών διαλόγου, δίνοντάς τους τη δυνατότητα να καθοδηγούν τους συμμετέχοντες στην κατανόηση του παρόντος και στη διαμόρφωση εναλλακτικών μελλοντικών σεναρίων. Η προσέγγιση βασίζεται στον οπτικό εγγραμματισμό, την αφήγηση και τη βιωματική μάθηση.

Βασικό στοιχείο της εργαλειοθήκης αποτελεί μια συλλογή από **14 εργαλεία Οπτικού και Εγγραμματισμού του Μέλλοντος**, τα οποία ενισχύουν την κριτική σκέψη, τη δημιουργικότητα, την ενσυναίσθηση και τη συνεργατική διερεύνηση. Τα εργαλεία αυτά βοηθούν στην ανάδειξη υποκείμενων υποθέσεων, στην αναδιαμόρφωση οπτικών και στην αντιμετώπιση της αβεβαιότητας, ενώ παράλληλα προάγουν συμμετοχικές και συμπεριληπτικές διαδικασίες. Η εργαλειοθήκη περιλαμβάνει επίσης δομημένα σχήματα εργαστηρίων, δραστηριότητες εισαγωγής, ασκήσεις αναστοχασμού και ενδιάμεσες δραστηριότητες για διατήρηση της συμμετοχής.

Τα υλικά αναπτύχθηκαν και δοκιμάστηκαν μέσω πρακτικής εφαρμογής, ιδίως στο εργαστήριο «Imag(in)ing Living» (2025), με τη συμμετοχή καλλιτεχνών από διάφορες χώρες, διασφαλίζοντας τη μεθοδολογική εγκυρότητα και προσαρμοστικότητα.

Η εργαλειοθήκη απευθύνεται σε ένα ευρύ φάσμα χρηστών, όπως καλλιτέχνες, εκπαιδευτικούς, επαγγελματίες του πολιτισμού, ερευνητές και τοπικούς φορείς, υποστηρίζοντας εφαρμογές σε πολιτιστικά, εκπαιδευτικά και κοινωνικά πλαίσια.

Συνολικά, το παραδοτέο προσφέρει ένα **μεταφέροσιμο και επεκτάσιμο μεθοδολογικό πλαίσιο**, ενισχύοντας τον ρόλο της τέχνης και του πολιτισμού στην προώθηση της μελλοντοστραφούς σκέψης, της συμμετοχής των πολιτών και του δημοκρατικού διαλόγου.



# dialog city

## OUR COMMON FUTURE TOOLKIT

How to develop a workshop with  
citizen and decision makers



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# What is Futures Literacy?

**Futures Literacy** is the capacity to imagine and understand multiple possible futures in order to make better decisions today. Recognized by **UNESCO** as a key skill for the 21st century, it empowers individuals and communities to challenge assumptions, reveal blind spots, and explore alternative paths. Rather than attempting to predict the future, Futures Literacy focuses on anticipation as a tool for **reflection, creativity, and transformation**. It encourages a shift from reactive thinking to proactive imagination, making it especially relevant for artists and cultural practitioners who are already engaged in envisioning new realities.



# The project

**Dialog\_City** is a European cultural initiative reimagining digital transformation as a participatory, creative, and inclusive process. It brings together seven partners from small and medium-sized cities across **Austria, France, Germany, Greece, and Italy** to explore how digital innovation can foster civic engagement and cultural participation.

## Key Components:

- **Citizen Archive Platform (CAP):** A digital space for citizens and artists to preserve and share cultural heritage.
- **Futures Literacy Toolkit:** Creative tools for imagining and shaping desirable futures.
- **Hybrid Festivals:** Events blending physical and digital formats to enhance cultural participation.
- **Art for Public Residency:** Residencies for artists focused on participatory urban interventions.

# Imag(in)ing Living – Workshop Series

**Imag(in)ing Living** was a five-week online workshop series (Jan 9–Feb 8, 2025), exploring the imagination and shape of the future of “living” through visual literacy tools, storytelling, and critical reflection.

The workshop brought together **25 artists** from 9 countries (Italy, Greece, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Colombia, Serbia, and Romania–USA).

The workshop was organized by different organisations, 2 Vocational Training Centers from Italy (CFPCEMON and CIAC) and a Civil Society Organisation from Greece (CulturePolis).

Academic coordination was led by **Dr. Vicky Karaiskou**, Associate Professor at the Open University of Cyprus & UNESCO Chair Holder in “Visual Anticipation and Futures Literacy towards Visual Literacy”.

# Imag(in)ing Living Toolkit

The tools are designed by Dr. Vicky Karaiskou - Associate Professor at the Open University of Cyprus & UNESCO Chair Holder in “Visual Anticipation and Futures Literacy towards Visual Literacy” in collaboration with Andromachos Dimitrokallis - Business & Personal Development Coach, specialized in strategic foresight, innovation, and transformation.

The tools make part of a larger collection of educational methods applied during the workshops. This toolkit includes **14 visual literacy tools** designed to help people reflect on how they live and envision the future. Used in workshops, it encourages critical thinking, empathy, and creativity.

## **What it offers:**

- Promotes self-reflection and social imagination
- Reveals hidden assumptions and values
- Fosters inclusion and innovative thinking
- Supports storytelling and collaborative work

# Who can become a Futures & Visual Literacy trainer?

This path is open to anyone interested in exploring and deepening their understanding of Futures & Visual Literacy, especially those who:

- Engage Communities Through Art
- Have an artistic practice that involves people and encourages active participation.
- Care About Social Transformation
- Are committed to using creative work to support social change and community development.
- Embrace Digital Tools & Enjoy experimenting with digital technologies as part of their creative or educational processes.
- Have Experience in Learning Contexts
- Bring experience in developing or participating in educational projects or initiatives.
- Value Collaboration & Enjoy working with others, especially in group or interdisciplinary environments.
- Prioritize Citizen Engagement

# Who Can Benefit from Visual & Futures Literacy Tools?

The **tools** are designed to be accessible and adaptable to a wide range of users, workshop audiences, and thematic focuses. They can be applied across research, professional, and personal contexts. Specifically, these tools are useful for:

- **Individuals** seeking to understand what stands between their needs, desires, and a more fulfilling reality.
- **Students**, from the final years of primary school to postgraduate education.
- **Educators** at all levels who aspire to become catalysts for critical thinking and awareness in their students.
- **Researchers** and professionals from all disciplines, from the humanities to applied sciences.
- **Cultural sector stakeholders**, who play a key role in shaping identity and perceptions of reality.
- **Business professionals**, including employees and managers, aiming to foster leadership, growth, and inclusion.
- **Organizations and NGOs** working on sustainability, governance, health, environmental challenges, vulnerable populations and social justice.

# The Visual & Futures Literacy tools are:

1. Alternative Futures
2. BABEL
3. Barcoded Baby
4. Frame
5. Identity Triangle
6. Improv-storytelling
7. Reframing concepts
8. Role Model Stereotypes
9. Role-playing
10. Sensing instead of making Sense
11. Stage
12. Visual Stimulus
13. Visuality Iceberg
14. Wall

# How can the tools help?

Visual and Futures Literacy tools support exploration, reflection, and transformation across personal, social, and cultural dimensions. They can be used to:

- **Value personal experience:** Recognize individual stories as meaningful sources of learning and growth.
- **Uncover assumptions:** Surface underlying beliefs and expectations that influence perceptions of the future.
- **Embrace uncertainty:** Navigate change and ambiguity while exploring resilient and creative possibilities.
- **Reframe and innovate:** Shift perspectives to stimulate new ways of thinking and acting.
- **Connect memory and identity:** Investigate how memory shapes individual and collective identities.
- **Build understanding:** Foster dialogue, empathy, and connection beyond divisions.
- **Support democratic engagement:** Reimagine the past to reinforce participation, agency, and civic responsibility.

# Workshop Structure

The Futures Literacy workshop must be an **immersive and participatory** experience combining critical thinking, visual creation, and emotional exploration.

## The ideal structure include:

- Warming up activity.
- Icebreaker
- Discussions of prior tasks
- Short theoretical inputs
- Exercises based on tools
- Intersession activities kept personal reflection alive between sessions.

# Warming up activity

**Goal:** Encourage participants to think critically and creatively about the future of how we live.

## How to run the activity:

1. Introduction (2 min): Explain that this is a reflective exercise. There are no right or wrong answers—just personal perspectives.
2. Questions (10 min): Ask participants to answer spontaneously and individually:
  - *What is your prediction for the future of living?*
  - *What do you expect everyday life to look like?*
  - *What assumptions are behind your vision? What are you taking for granted?*
  - *What alternatives emerge if you change those assumptions?*
  - *What is your preferred, ideal future of living?*
3. Sharing (10–15 min): Invite volunteers to share. Encourage comparison of different perspectives and ideas.

# Inter-Workshop Activity

## **Purpose:**

When we explore abstract concepts like “living,” personal memories and perceptions become essential. They shape, deepen, and diversify our shared narratives. Using images helps make these subjective realities more concrete and emotionally resonant.

## **Instructions for participants:**

1. Reflect on what the word “living” truly means and feels like to you. It can carry many meanings—there's no single interpretation.
2. Take a photo with your phone or camera that represents your personal sense of “living.”
  - It doesn't need to be artistic or staged—just honest.
  - Please do not use images from the internet. We want your lived perspective.
3. Add a few keywords or a short phrase that captures what “living” means to you through this image.

There is no right or wrong here—just your own authentic view.

# Inter-Workshop Activity

## **Purpose:**

This activity helps uncover the often unnoticed narratives in our surroundings—especially public spaces—that shape how we understand and experience the concept of "living." It encourages awareness of the subtle yet powerful cultural influences around us.

## **Instructions for participants:**

1. Look around your daily environment—at home, in the street, online, in shops, on screens, etc.
2. Identify images or symbols that seem to tell you what “living” is or should be about.
  - These might come from: social habits, advertising, media, traditions, values, norms, etc.
3. List them in bullet points. Name as many as you can—don’t overthink it.

There’s no need to analyze them yet—just observe and collect.

# Inter-Workshop Activity

## **Purpose:**

To help learners reflect on how societal norms and hidden biases shape their ideas of role models, and how these perceptions influence identity.

## **Task:**

Choose and label three images:

- A – What you want a role model to be in the future
- B – A predominant role model in today's society
- C – What you hope role models will represent in future society

## **Reflect:**

- What are the differences or similarities between A & B? How do they make you feel?
- What stands out when comparing B & C?
- What assumptions influence your image choices and reflections?

# Inspiration future workshops

- **Time:** Desire for slower living and alignment with natural rhythms.
- **Work:** Reimagining work as meaningful and community-centered.
- **Care:** Emphasizing mutual support and emotional resilience.
- **Territory:** Advocating sustainable, just, and shared living environments.



# Relevant readings

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# Participants quotes



"We imagine in very conventional ways. No one dared to think big."



"Art could be a tool to challenge the status quo, but sometimes we don't know how to use it."



"I realized that my daily choices aren't as free as I thought."





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