

Responsible Leaders Innovation Forum in Berlin
11 October 2024, Berlin

Future Backwards Workshops Concept Note: Climate Resilient Cities



Calling All Future Creators! Yes, YOU!

Great solutions are out there. But we need a common road map for implementation and leaders to assume responsibility from start to impact. We see the global challenges as an opportunity to unite leaders and experts and to work together on concrete tasks and explore different visions of the future. By collaborating in this way, we aim to develop strategies that make our economy more innovative, thereby strengthening our societies.

Future Backwards Workshops

On Friday, October 11, 2024, we will host three 'Future Backwards Workshops' as part of our Responsible Leaders Innovation Forum in Berlin. In each workshop, 25 experts and leaders from diverse sectors will tackle complex challenges by visualizing and prototyping future scenarios. The workshops take place in the afternoon from 1:30 – 5 pm CEST (including a coffee break).

We invite you to contribute with your insights and expertise to the Future Backwards Workshop on

Building the Future: Global Pathways towards Climate Resilient Cities

With their specific characteristics such as a large population, critical infrastructure, building density and surface sealing, cities are extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts. Cities worldwide need to prepare for present and future climate crises by adaptation and resilience measures. We will utilize future foresight methodologies to explore key questions such as: What is needed to build climate resilience in cities? How can we ensure that all citizens benefit equally? And what technical and financial resources are needed to strengthen urban resilience? We aim to uncover main obstacles and explore innovative strategies, collaboration efforts and existing solutions towards climate resilient cities around the world. The session will bring together experts in climate change adaptation, urban planning, policy making, business and finance to identify potential scenarios and pathways for shaping a resilient urban future.

What to expect from a Future Backward Workshop

The workshops are about envisioning what the future might hold and starting to prototype and explore our response in advance. Together with Forum for the Future, we will explore different visions of the future, to 'backcast' and identify concrete opportunities for innovative solutions and better decision-making today. This will involve a diverse group of stakeholders, ranging from politics, business, industry, and the financial sector to science, civil society, and the media.

Participation in the workshop is a unique opportunity to train future literacy and anticipation skills as well as enable new alliances and collaborative capacity to take these insights further.

The Responsible Leaders Innovation Forum

At the Responsible Leaders Innovation Forum in Berlin, we want to identify and help scale solutions to the challenges of net-zero transition and industrial competitiveness. That's why we are mobilizing over 300 international participants to create alliances for action.

At our event, we will create an immersive experience where science meets business and tech fuses with the arts. A space for open conversations and forward-thinking dialogues.

More information at: bmw-foundation.org/events/innovationforum24

Forum for the Future

Forum for the Future is a leading international sustainability organization operating out of offices in the UK, US, India, and Singapore. Since 1996, they have been working in partnership with business, governments and civil society to accelerate the shift towards a just and regenerative future in which both people and the planet thrive.

That is why Forum for the Future is focused on enabling systemic and urgent action in three potentially game-changing areas: how people and organizations think about, produce, consume, and value both food and energy, and how to reimagine the purpose of business in our society and economy.

The BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

The BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt unites economic innovators, political decision-makers, leading scientists, and civil society representatives in a global network. Together, we transcend borders, cultures, and systems to advocate for solutions and sustainable changes that pave the way for innovative economies and resilient democracies. These efforts serve as the foundation for a fairer and more livable future.