Reference Framework for the Theme of Innovation Week 2026

INNOVATION WEEK 2026

The Future Is Collective

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To build an event such as Innovation Week, it is necessary to make choices and define themes and subthemes. Research on the overarching theme brings together concepts and ideas that guide this process. This document presents the references used by Innovation Week team and, just as they inspired us, they may also inspire you.

Innovation Week 2026 Manifesto

We like to think that the future will wait for us.

But that is not really the case. The future does not stop: it is happening now, and we are the ones shaping it.

The future is collective. It is not born in closed offices or computer spreadsheets. It emerges when actions, ideas, territories, and technologies come together. When we recognize that we are part of something greater and that what we do affects people, organizations, and nature.

If our actions shape the future, then we have both the responsibility and the opportunity to decide which futures we want to live in.

And that is precisely where innovation can help: as a tool to imagine, design, and make real the futures we want.

Innovation is not only about new technologies. It is not about waiting for the next shiny machine to solve everything. It is about opening space for new ways of thinking, feeling, and acting. It is about creating solutions that leave no one behind. It is about building bridges between government and society. It is about understanding that, in times of artificial intelligence, being deeply human is transformative.

At Innovation Week 2023, we reconnected.

In 2024, we learned new ways of caring.

In 2025, we faced the global emergency and reaffirmed: one planet, one chance.

In 2026, it is time to dream together and make sustainable, fair, and plural futures happen. Here, the collective is a reflective practice: we are all co-authors of tomorrow.

Innovation Week 2026 is our invitation: The Future Is Collective. Let us collaborate to imagine and build sustainable and inclusive futures.

Why is it important to think about the future?

“...Humanity is facing an urgent and decisive choice: breakdown or breakthrough.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

The study of trends and the exercise of imagining futures have become disciplines applied across many fields of knowledge. People and organizations have specialized in trying to visualize the future, whether in broad terms or in specific aspects. For us at Innovation Week, pausing to analyze and reflect on what the present tells us and points to as the future may mean our very survival, since this is what will guide governments’ choices and actions at all levels.

Thinking about the future is a public capability because governments deal with uncertainty, complexity, and systemic risks — and need to prepare for disruptions and opportunities before they turn into crises. The OECD describes strategic foresight as a way to improve government effectiveness by identifying risks, opportunities, and changes that may arise in the coming years.

In addition, “futures literacy,” in UNESCO’s approach, is a capacity to use the future to rethink the present, escape dominant narratives, and expand possibilities for action.

And there is a very concrete reason for 2026: the climate crisis and related risks. The IPCC synthesizes evidence of growing impacts and risks and reinforces the need for present-day decisions aligned with future mitigation and adaptation pathways.

In plain language: thinking about the future helps anticipate impacts such as climate change, demographic shifts, AI, and inequality; reduce the costs of delayed decisions; prioritize investments with a long-term perspective; and create more resilient and legitimate public policies.

Thematic axes

In addition to the thematic axes, Innovation Week 2026 is guided by cross-cutting principles that run through the entire program, the curation, and the event experiences.

Principle 01: Generations, Youth, and the Intergenerational Future

Principle 02: Imagination, Art, and the Creation of Futures

In 2026, the cross-cutting principles reinforce that innovation means building inclusive processes that are sensitive to differences, attentive to future generations, and capable of mobilizing social imagination.

This year's five thematic axes are:

- **Collaboration and Democratic Participation for Collective Futures**
- **Technologies, Data, and Humanizing the Future**
- **Climate Action, Justice, and Regeneration**
- **State Capacities for the Future**
- **Territories and Communities as Seeds of Tomorrow**

What has the Federal Government been doing on this topic?

Brazil 2050 Strategy. Development challenges require coordinated efforts that go beyond sectoral boundaries and presidential terms. For this reason, the National Planning Secretariat is leading the development of a National Long-Term Strategy called Brazil 2050 Strategy. It seeks to ensure greater predictability in government action, improve the business environment, and increase transparency.

Futures of Brazil Report: Signals of Transformation. Brazil is a member of this international network, which helps people understand why and how we use the future to prepare, plan, and engage with the complexity of our societies. Through practical learning experiences known as Futures Literacy Laboratories (FLLs), communities and individuals can learn about the origins of what they imagine and become empowered to diversify their actions. UNESCO works with a broad set of partners to reimagine more than 50 different themes, including technology, youth, gender, climate change, and value creation, enabling innovative leadership and sustainable solutions.

UNESCO Futures Literacy & Foresight Network. O Brasil é membro desta rede internacional que ajuda as pessoas a compreender por que e como usamos o futuro para nos preparar, planejar e interagir com a complexidade das nossas sociedades. Por meio de aprendizagem prática, conhecidas como Laboratórios de Alfabetização em Futuros (Futures Literacy Laboratories – FLLs), comunidades e indivíduos podem aprender sobre as origens daquilo que imaginam e podem se capacitar para diversificar suas ações. A UNESCO trabalha com um amplo conjunto de parceiros para reimaginar mais de 50 temas diferentes, incluindo tecnologia, juventude, gênero, mudança do clima e criação de valor, possibilitando lideranças inovadoras e soluções sustentáveis.

ENAP/ GNova

1. Escola Virtual.Gov / ENAP course — “Introduction to Futures Thinking in Public Management” - https://www.escolavirtual.gov.br/curso/665
2. GovFutures Community of the InovaGov Network - https://comunidade.enap.gov.br/s/comunidade-de-futuros/home

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Readings

- **The State of the Future 20.0** is a 500-page publication offering a unique and comprehensive overview of future issues and opportunities, compiled by The Millennium Project. It provides a broad, detailed, and accessible panorama of the challenges and opportunities facing humanity's future — and of what we need to know today to avoid the worst and achieve the best for the future of civilization. The Executive Summary presents an overview of the entire book, functioning as a kind of concise bulletin on the future of humanity as a whole.
- **Brazilian School of Futures (EBF)** is a platform focused on disseminating knowledge about futures studies, strategy, and innovation with an emphasis on the national context. It aims to enable individuals and organizations to anticipate transformations, using methodologies such as strategic foresight and speculative design to build a fairer future.
- Article published last year on the Stanford Social Innovation Review platform about how only a collective approach to social innovation can solve challenges that are too great for individual organizations.
- On how science fiction can help us understand reality.
- **Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley** — a classic book about control, manufactured happiness, and freedom.
- List of schools and programs around the world: https://designoftomorrow.notion.site/17720236b6cf4261929b09d2ba4f36bb?v=e2f537da503440279c1a98fd2c73ea8e

- https://futurism.com/ A leading daily source of science and technology news, focused on breakthroughs shaping the future. It covers AI, space, biotechnology, and social impacts through accessible articles, videos, and original reporting. Great for staying up to date on short-term innovations and speculative ideas.
- **singularityhub.com** Developed by Singularity University, this website offers news and insights on exponential technologies such as AI, robotics, biotechnology, and energy, and their potential to solve humanity's greatest challenges. It emphasizes long-term forecasting and "singularity"-style thinking inspired by Ray Kurzweil.

Podcasts

- **Bobagens Imperdíveis, Episode 1 — How to Predict the Future** Aline Valek is a Brazilian writer and illustrator, and also works as a columnist and content producer. She is particularly known for fiction and science fiction. In the podcast, she brings up the issues that have been on her mind, including "the mental unravelings caused by living in the 21st century," and promises to invite listeners to think about the future together. Fundamental questions about existence open the first episode, which features writer and professor Fábio Fernandes. Duration: 38 minutes. **Listen here.**
- **FuturaMENTE (CBN)** — technology and innovation, with a strong focus on AI and its impacts on daily life.
- **Possible Futures** — weekly conversations about trends, scenarios, and futures.
- **Society 5.0** — discussions on innovation, digital transformation, and future-related issues, including business, impact, and technology.

- **InovaSocial** - created with the goal of disseminating and promoting content about social innovation.

- **InovaPod - Zaika Santos in "Afrofuturalities: Coexisting Futures"**
  This episode features a multi-artist, data scientist, researcher, producer, and editor of speculative fiction in Afrofuturism and Afropresentism. Zaika encourages us to dive into a perspective of futuristic approaches that are rapidly emerging in this present dominated by technological advance, where everything happens at once and at dizzying speed. She speaks with great objectivity, clarity, and lightness about the global landscape of new technologies, revealing what truly matters to be spread: democratizing access to technologies. By bringing racial perspectives and those of other minorities to the center of this urgent debate, she poses the fundamental question: how can technology be used for the benefit of all human beings? If you want to stay informed about the changes already projected for the near future, watch this episode. Duration: 39 minutes.

Films, videos, and documentaries

- **Futurist Amy Webb's presentation at SXSW 2026** - Every year at SXSW, futurist Amy Webb, CEO of Future Today Strategy Group and professor at NYU Stern, decodes and presents trends in business, culture, and society to help us think about the future. In 2026, however, she addresses Creative Destruction and proposes the end of trend reports and a path toward convergences. In a world of permacrisis, the map of the future is already obsolete the moment it is created.

- **Years and Years** - a BBC and HBO series that follows the life of a British family over 15 years and how their everyday life is affected by political, economic, and technological issues. It says a great deal about our time, while offering a very interesting — and somewhat frightening — vision of possible futures.

- **The Blue Trail (2025)** — a Brazilian drama/dystopian film starring Rodrigo Santoro and Denise Weinberg. Set in the Amazon, the plot portrays a future in which older people are sent to compulsory colonies, focusing on the resistance of the protagonist, Tereza. It prompts reflection on issues such as ageism and the strength we have when we collaborate with others.
- **Innovation means thinking about history and memory** a brief talk by Anapuaka Tupinambá defining how we should think about the future.

Works of art

- **Brasileas Future Scenarios for Brazil, by Fosques**

  This exhibition aims to present scenarios of transformation and collapse in Brazil from Social, Technological, Governmental, and Territorial perspectives. To do so, immersive visual artworks were created to allow viewers to glimpse possible future developments and influence present-day attitudes. This construction was developed from inputs gathered during the Future Challenges workshop held at ENAP Innovation Week 2021.

- **Afrofuturism** – an aesthetic, political, and cultural movement that reconstructs narratives about the future based on African traditions and the diaspora, extending into music, literature, fashion, and cinema.
- **Amazonfuturism** - Amazonfuturism is an emerging science fiction genre and cultural movement that brings together Indigenous ancestral knowledge, Amazonian biodiversity, and advanced technologies. It reimagines the future of the region from a Global South perspective, with a focus on sustainability, anti-colonial resistance, and technology shaped by the forest. The movement seeks to create narratives in which Indigenous culture is the protagonist, not merely a survivor.

- **Imaginary Atlas, Belém do Pará** is an immersive and interactive installation created by artists Gabriela Bilá and Diogo Costa Pinto, on display at SESI Lab through March 2026. This work of “Amazonian sci-fi” projects what the city of Belém will look like in 100 years, blending cinema, games, and real data on the climate crisis to show the fusion between city and nature.
- **Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley,** is an 1818 literary work considered the first science fiction work in the world and a precursor of futurism, as it anticipates dilemmas surrounding the creation of artificial life. The book is in the public domain.
- **Suggestion of a contemporary art work.** Artist Darks Miranda investigates the science fiction imagery of the last century in order to reflect on the failure of the Western modernizing project and its notions of future and progress.

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