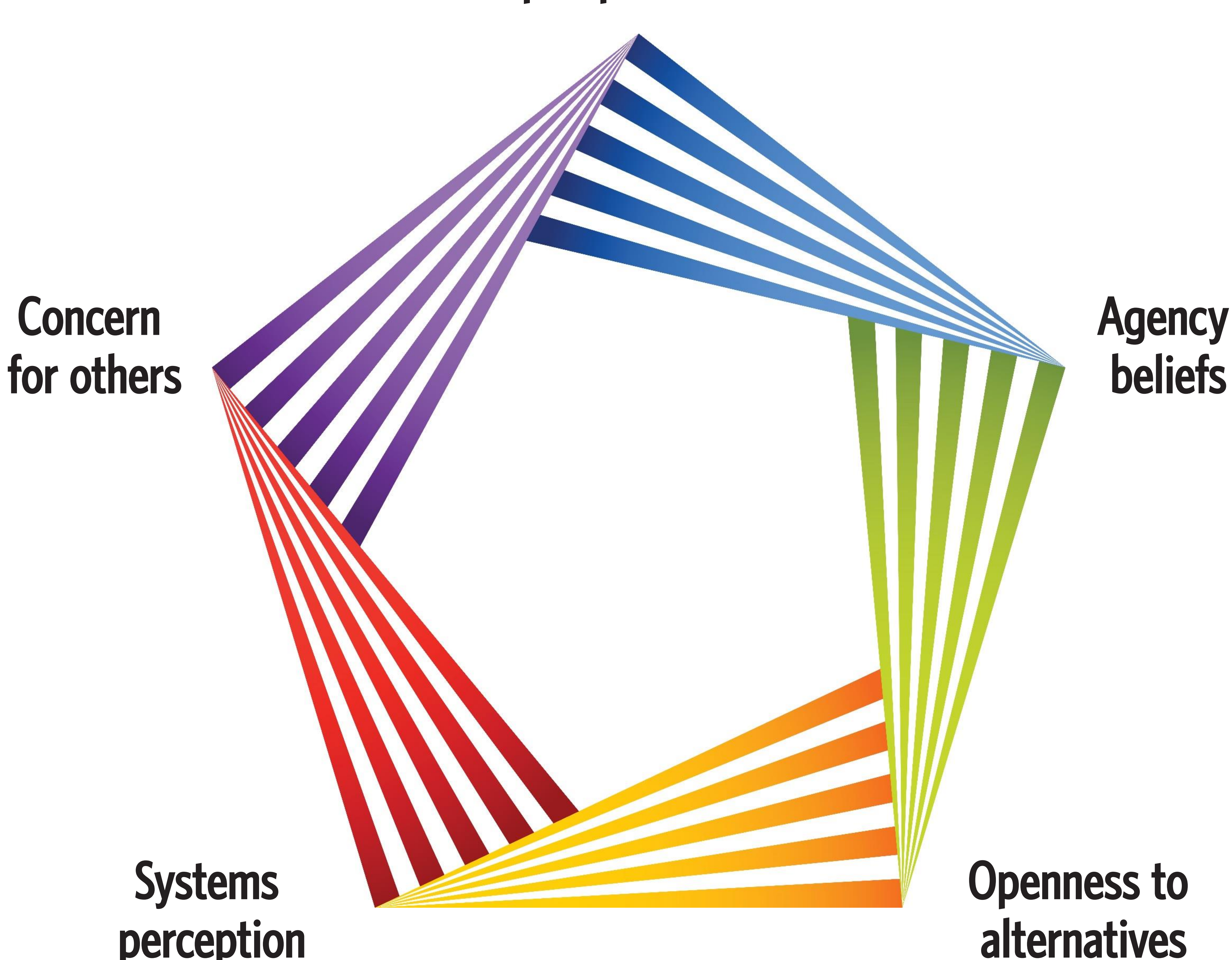


The Five Dimensions of Futures Consciousness

Futurists talk about future consciousness, but what is it, actually? What does a future-conscious person or organization look like? What kinds of features or traits do they have?

Time perspective



Future consciousness refers to the human capacity to understand, anticipate, prepare for, and embrace the future.

Our research team aims to develop a sufficiently simple concept of Futures Consciousness to be used in empirical research.

The five dimensions above have been derived through a review of futures literature. As such they are applicable to actors at various organizational levels.

The five dimensions have been explored and analyzed further by utilizing psychological constructs to depict these dimensions in human behavior. They serve as a basis for the psychometric Futures Consciousness Scale with which the prevalence of future consciousness can be measured within individuals.

The Futures Consciousness Scale has been tested with multiple respondent groups in three countries and has been found psychometrically valid and reliable.

By studying individual Futures Consciousness profiles and identifying differences in the ways individuals approach future, we can learn about how future consciousness can be enhanced amongst individuals and societies.

Ahvenharju, S., Minkkinen, M. & Lalot, F. (na) *The Five Dimensions of Futures Consciousness* (under review)

Time perspective makes us aware of the way how events and their consequences follow each other as sequences over time.

Agency beliefs describe the extent to which we feel able to shape the course of future events both at personal and societal level.

Openness to alternatives enables us to critically question established truths and see the possibilities that emerging changes may bring about.

Systems perception helps us to see the interconnectedness between human and natural systems as well as the complex consequences of the decisions we make.

Concern for others describes our inclination for being concerned about and committing ourselves to bettering not only our own future, but the future of others, of society, and even the future of generations yet unborn.

For more information, please contact us:

Sanna Ahvenharju
sanna.ahvenharju@utu.fi
Matti Minkkinen
matti.minkkinen@utu.fi
Finland Futures Research
Centre, University of Turku

Fanny Lalot
fanny.lalot@unige.ch
School of Psychology,
University of Geneva



European
Commission

#foresight4EU

**FUTURE
IN THE MAKING**

FTA 2018

FUTURE-ORIENTED
TECHNOLOGY ANALYSIS

BRUSSELS 4 - 5TH OF JUNE, 2018
THE SQUARE BUSINESS CENTER
<http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/eupolicylab>

Joint
Research
Centre