

Open Government Group 2

Shaping Intergenerational Futures

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Our Team



Sushmita Charlu



Paul Grandchamp



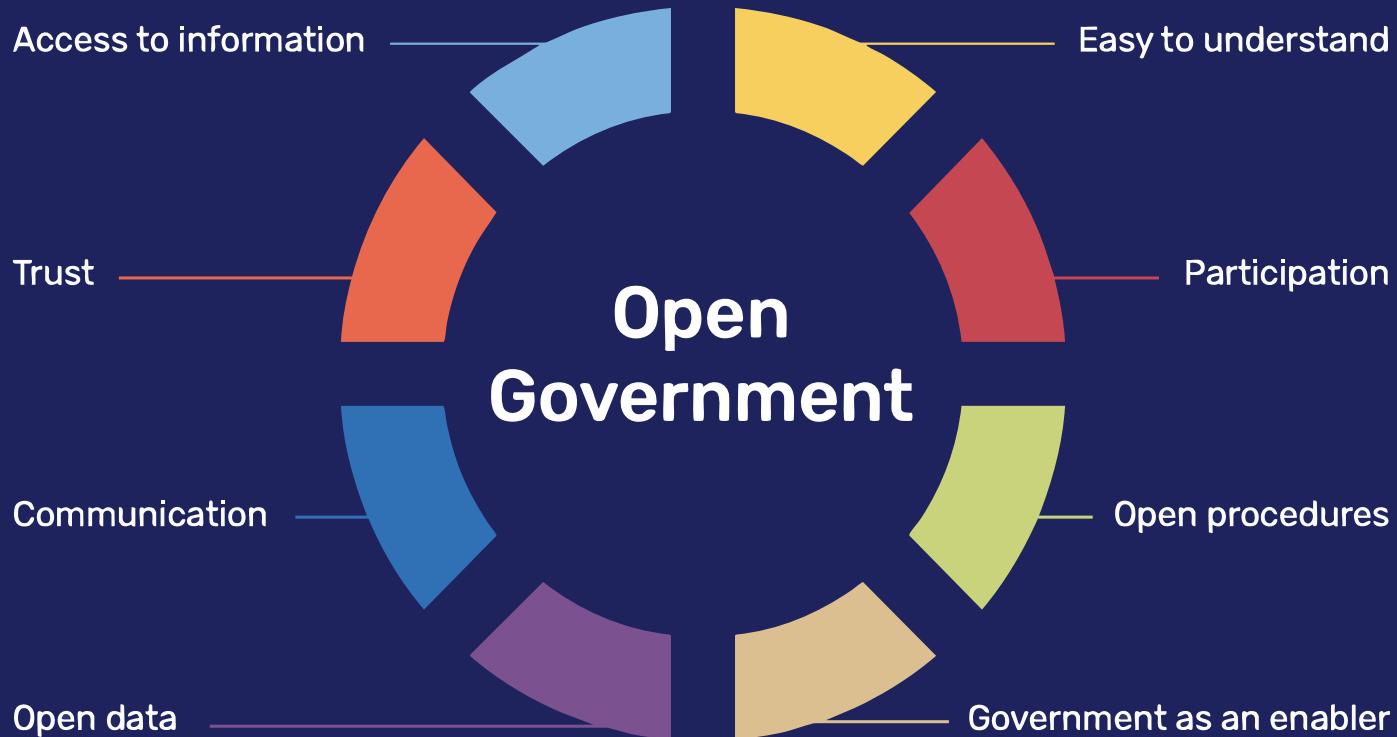
Xuan Huang



Warda Mohamed



Valeria Nova



Source: Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027 Finland

"Open government builds trust, security, and confidence in the future among citizens."

Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027 Finland

The background image is a wide-angle aerial photograph of a vast forest in Finland. The forest is composed of numerous tall, thin trees, likely pines or similar conifers, creating a dense, textured pattern. In the distance, the forest gives way to a lighter-colored area, possibly a clearing or a different type of land use. The overall scene is serene and emphasizes the scale of the natural environment.

Whose future of Finland are we really building?

Photo: Jussi Vierimaa

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Desktop Research

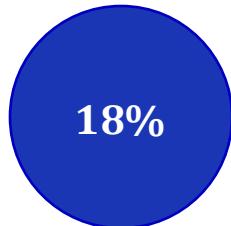


Collaborative Work With our Partners

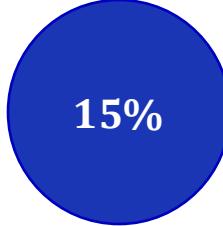


13 Interviews

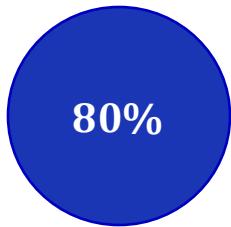
Finns Confidence in the Future is Declining and Uneven



believe Finland's future will improve (29% in 2023).



believe they can influence the **future of their municipality**.



feel that they can influence their **own future**.

Older adults report the lowest influence and confidence in the future.



Future Barometers Report, Sitra (2025)

Dominant Narrative



Source: Helsinki Youth Citizen's Council

“We make the future.”

Youth Citizens Council Representative

Missing Narrative

**“The elderly have a future
too... A 30-year gap
between 65-95 is a lifetime.”**

Elderly Citizens Council Representative

Source: Helsinki Elderly Citizen's Council



Declining Confidence in the Future

Growing sense of uncertainty across society



Youth feel overwhelmed and under pressure



Older adults seen as recipients, not contributors



Aging framed as a societal cost



Age-segmented participation mechanisms



Innovation and disruption dominate the discourse



Lack of intergenerational spaces in policymaking

Dominant Ageist Narratives

Beliefs about who the future is for—and who belongs in shaping it



*So, what if we embraced
a new narrative?*

Greater Confidence in the Future

Connecting generations to build trust and ownership of what comes next



Intergenerational dialogue becomes normalized



Legacy thinking and long-term planning are valued



Lived experience and wisdom are honored



Institutionalized intergenerational participation



Funding for long-term, multigenerational initiatives



Age-inclusive design in civic spaces and engagement tools

Intergenerational Futures Narrative

Reframing futures work to include youth and those we've left out

Open governance isn't just about principles like transparency, participation, and accountability— it's about building 'trust, security, and confidence in the future' by ensuring that *everyone*, across generations, feels **seen, valued, and part of shaping what comes next.**

Why Does this Matter Now?



Long-term crises require long-term thinking



Trust is fragmenting



Futures work is scaling—
but not equally

"Government's capacity to plan ahead and minimize uncertainty is an important driver of trust in government and the civil service."

OECD, Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions in Finland (2021)

To meet this moment, open governance in Finland must adopt:

An Intergenerational Model



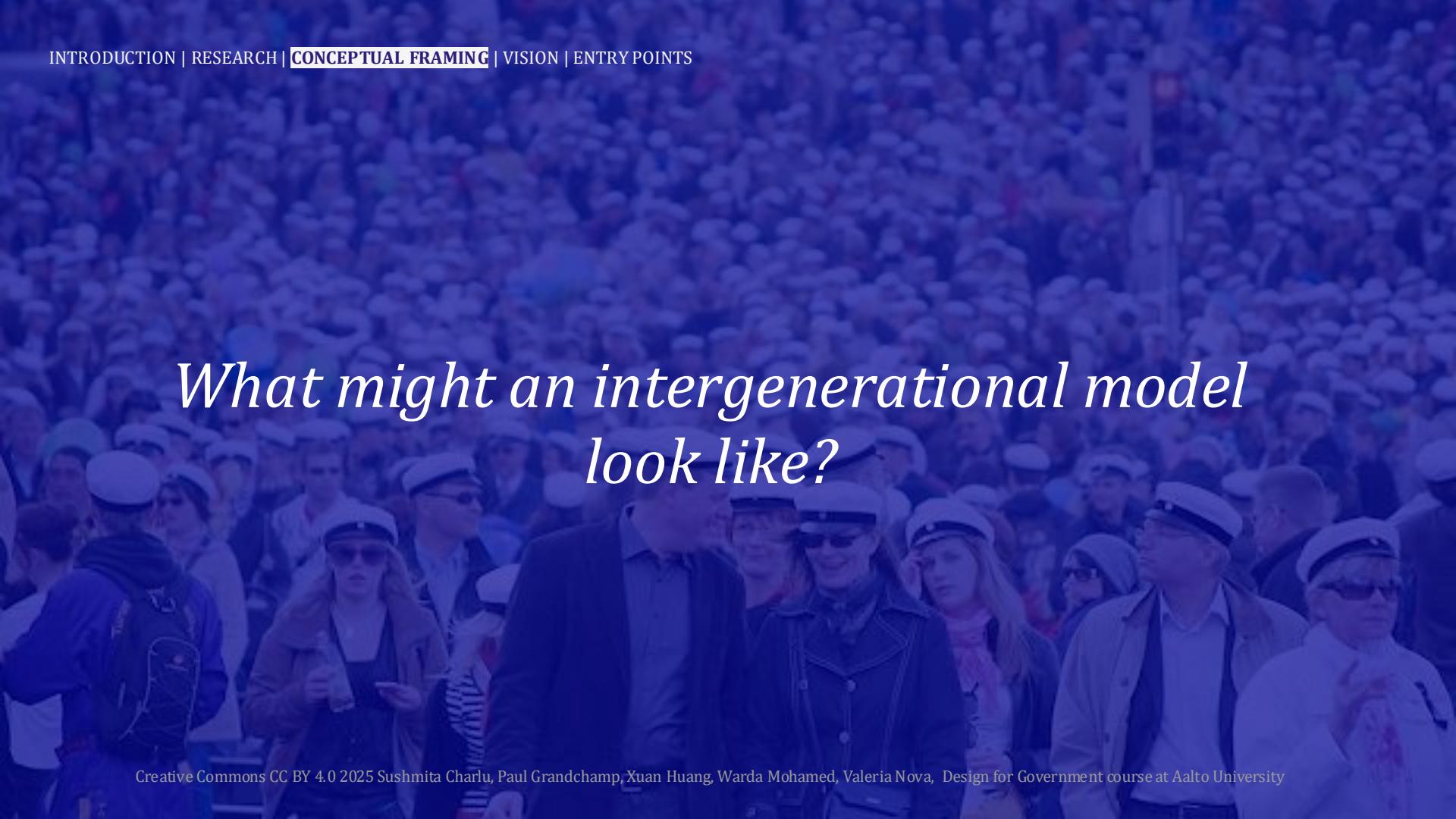
Promotes **mutual understanding across ages** through dialogue and civic interaction



Fosters a **collective sense of purpose** and hope for the future



Ensures **diverse voices**—especially older adults—**help shape the future of Finland**



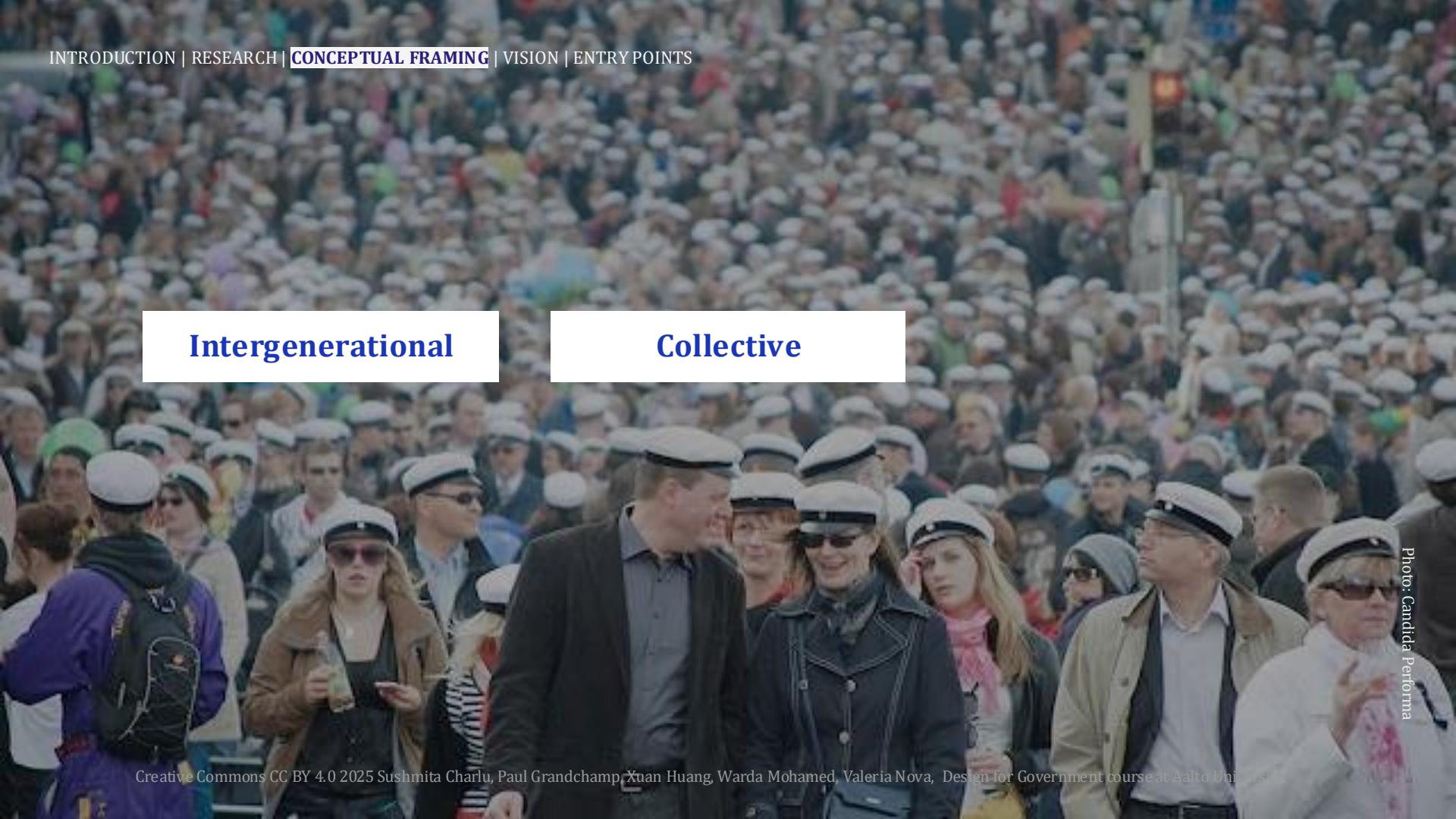
What might an intergenerational model look like?



Photo: Candice Performa

Intergenerational

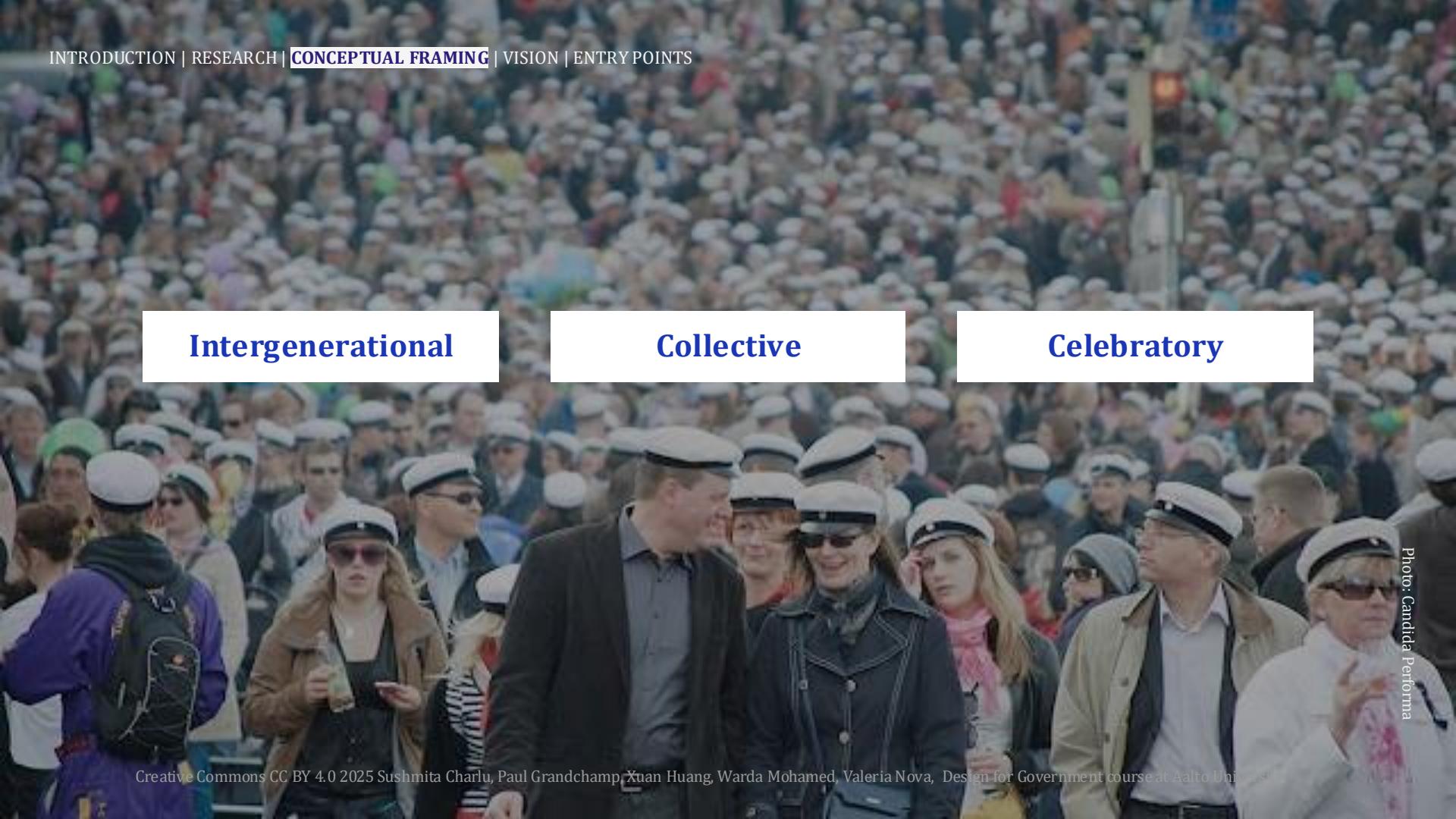
Photo: Candida Perinma



Intergenerational

Collective

Photo: Candida Perinola



Intergenerational

Collective

Celebratory



A vision towards an intergenerational future

What if Open Government
encourages **intergenerational**
dialogue to build common
understanding?



Photo: Rantanen, 2020

What if Open Government tailored its current tools and created new initiatives to support diverse citizens in shaping Finland's future?



Photo: Topias Dean, Sitra

What if Open Government leverages different lived experiences to look at short-term, mid-term and long-term futures in foresight activities?



Photo: Sitra, 2019



How do we get there?

Photo: Timo Kilpeläinen

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Entry Points



Utilizing existing mechanisms



Pioneering new initiatives

1

Utilizing existing mechanisms

The Action Plan

The National Dialogues

CSO Academy

Open Democracy Network

Currently

The Action Plan

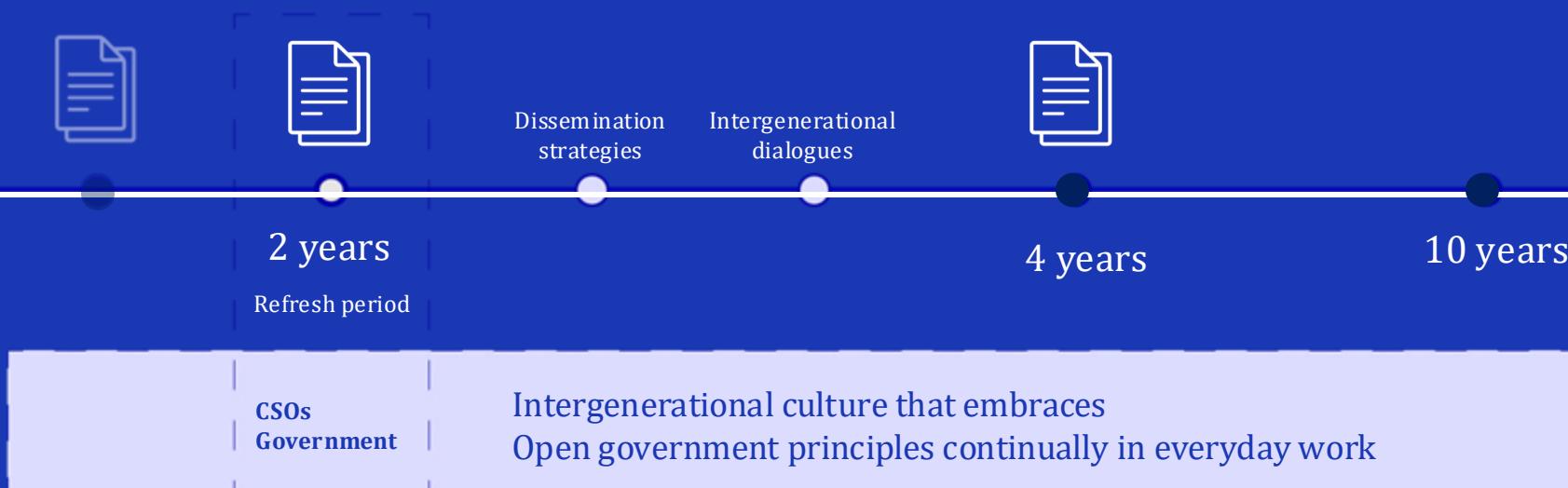
Action plans are at the core of participation in the international Open Government Partnership.



Our proposal

The Action Plan

Leveraging the Action Plan Refresh Period



Our proposal

The Action Plan : Consultation

Intergenerational Councils

A consultation process that considers different lived experiences to look at short term, mid-term and long-term futures will feed into a future facing and aging-friendly Action Plan.



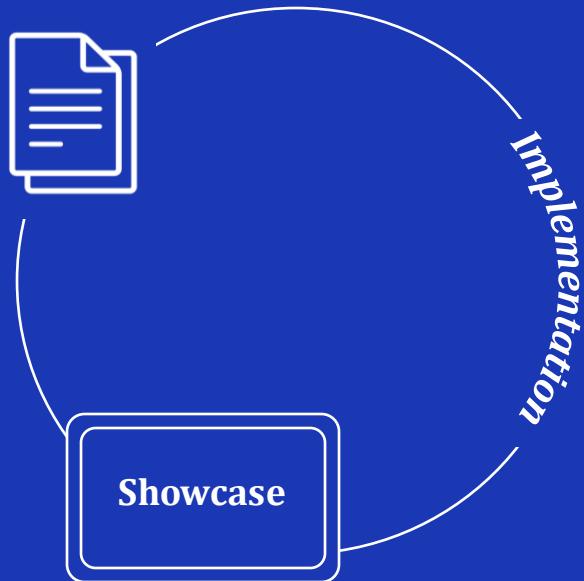
"We need more than an Open Government bible.
We need to root the principles
in our everyday work."

Participation Expert, City of Helsinki

Our proposal

The Action Plan : Dissemination

From Feedback to Action



Currently

The National Dialogues

Aims to increase understanding about the issues to be discussed, about other people and about oneself.



*"It's about the moment
of participation,
to feel invited and heard."*
Representative, Open Government Finland

Our Proposal

The National Dialogues

A tool to increase intergenerational dialogues that are focused on midterm and long-term futures



"To have more mixed groups and more formats where decision-makers can meet with citizens could have a huge impact. We need to scale-up the model."

Representative, Dialogues Academy

"We will utilize the National Dialogues and their results as part of the Government's futures work, for example in the preparation of foresight reports."

Open Government Action Plan 2023 - 2027

2

Pioneering new initiatives

Future-thon



Source: Taiwan Presidential Office

Taiwan hosts a presidential hackathon every year to promote cross-border and interdisciplinary public-private collaboration while combining open data and technology to propose creative solutions to societal issues.

Our Proposal

Future-thon

Bring people from different generations together



Work on
common goals



Creative civic
Participation



Creates a sense
of urgency



Strengthened
intergenerational
dialogue



Democratized
foresight

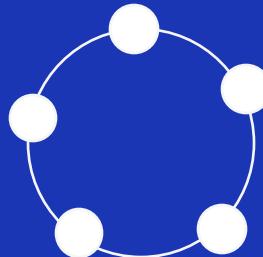


Increased confidence
in ability to shape the
future

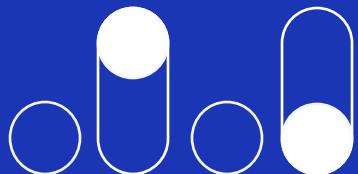
*From a short-term
participatory model*



*To a long-term civic
engagement model*



From siloed participation



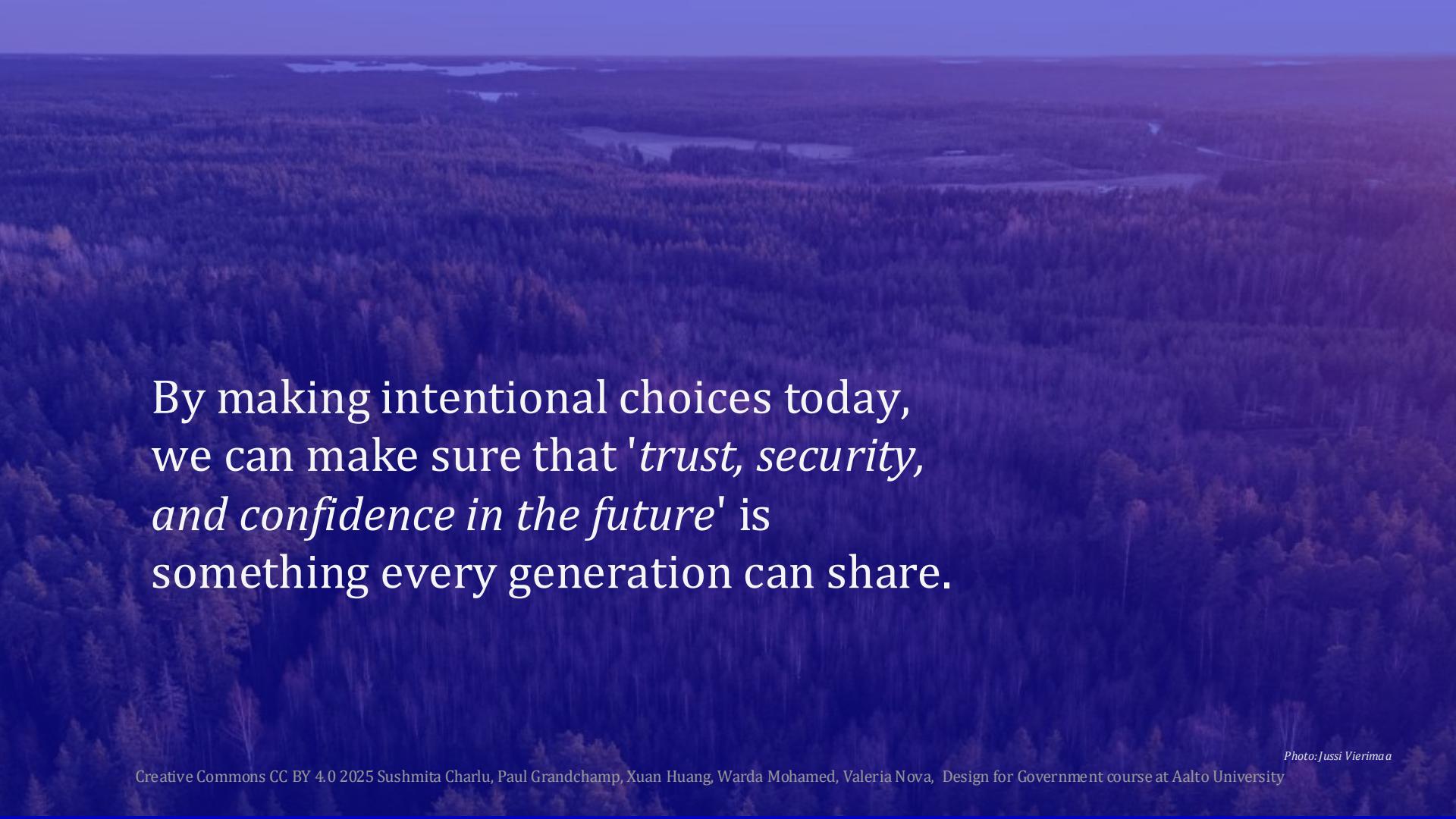
To intergenerational collaboration





"Most Finns believe that we can influence the future – this is a resource for Finland that we could be utilizing better."

Sitra Future Barometers Report (2025)

A wide-angle aerial photograph of a vast forest. The forest is composed of numerous tall, thin trees, likely coniferous, creating a dense green texture. A winding, light-colored river or path cuts through the center of the forest. In the distance, a small town with several buildings and a road is visible. The sky is clear and blue.

By making intentional choices today,
we can make sure that '*trust, security,
and confidence in the future*' is
something every generation can share.

Photo: Jussi Vierimaa

Open Government Group 2

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*Here's to our **shared future!***

References

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