

# A Youth-Driven Foresight Playbook for EU-LAC Digital Governance



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João Victor Archegas - Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro  
Camila Breventano - Universidad Católica del Uruguay  
Ana Carolina Amado Britto - Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro  
Lionel Brossi - Universidad de Chile  
Ana María Castillo Hinojosa - Universitat Internacional de Catalunya  
Isadora García Avis - Universitat Internacional de Catalunya  
Pablo Gomez Ayerbe - Technical University of Munich  
Natan Jamil Angelo - Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro  
Luis Maurin Hakala - Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro  
Joselyn Vargas - Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris

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<b>BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION:</b> Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany	
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</b> Urs Gasser	<b>PROJECT COORDINATOR:</b> Pablo Gómez Ayerbe
<b>PROJECT COORDINATOR ORGANIZATION:</b> Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany	<b>PROJECT COORDINATOR EMAIL ADDRESS:</b> pablo.ayerbe@tum.de



## Executive Summary

Digital governance currently undergoes a structural problem that expertise alone cannot solve. Across the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, regulatory cycles operate on timescales of years while the technologies they seek to govern evolve on timescales of months. The actors best positioned to detect emerging signals (young people living inside these digital systems) are systematically absent from the foresight processes designed to anticipate them. This playbook closes that gap. It presents a three-layer methodology that inverts the conventional logic of anticipatory governance: youth participants generate the first-order signals; hybrid AI-assisted structuring translates them into scenario architectures; expert validation legitimizes the outputs for institutional audiences. The underlying claim is both simple and consequential: youth proximity to digital systems is not a demographic characteristic - it is an epistemic position. Their knowledge is positional rather than analytical, and no horizon scanning exercise can replicate it. Tested across four countries through HEMISPHERES partner institutions, this playbook proposes the infrastructure to make that knowledge a standing feature of EU-LAC digital governance cooperation.

## How to Read This Document

This playbook is organized in four sections, each with a distinct function. Section 1 presents the evidence base: the research, methodology review, and empirical findings that underpin the strategic recommendations. Section 2 provides the methodological framework: a review of the three foresight approaches that underpin the playbook and the case for their combination. Section 3 is the operative core: a three-layer foresight model designed to integrate youth voices into EU-LAC digital governance conversations in a structured, replicable way. Section 4 translates the playbook's outputs into action, presenting the strategic direction, policy recommendations derived from the three thematic workshops, and the evaluation architecture for the governance model as a whole.

Throughout this document, "youth participants" refers to the general category of young people engaged in the foresight process, including students, youth civil society actors, and young professionals across EU and LAC contexts. "Student participants" is used specifically to refer to the university-based pilots conducted through HEMISPHERES partner institutions, involving students between the ages of 17 and 24. This distinction matters: the methodology is designed for youth participation broadly, and the university pilots are its first operational test, not its definitional boundary.

The central strategic claim of this document is that youth are not merely stakeholders to be consulted; they are first-order signal detectors. Their proximity to emerging digital realities, combined with their lived experience within digital platforms, AI-mediated education, and data environments, makes them an irreplaceable source of foresight intelligence. This playbook operationalizes that claim by treating youth proximity to digital systems as a structural epistemic position - one that generates signals that no amount of expert analysis can replicate, since their knowledge is positional rather than analytical.

## Section 1 - Findings and Evidence Base

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### The Core Epistemic Claim

This playbook is built on a single conceptual foundation: youth are not merely stakeholders to be consulted in digital governance processes; they are first-order signal detectors and positionally irreplaceable methodological collaborators. This is not a normative claim about inclusion, though inclusion matters. It is an analytical claim about knowledge.

The concept draws on the tradition of situated knowledge, the recognition that knowledge is always produced from a position, and that some positions generate insights that others structurally cannot. Young people navigating AI-mediated education, platform governance, and

data environments are inside the systems being governed. Their observations are not mediated by professional distance or institutional framing. That proximity is an epistemic asset, one that no amount of expert analysis can replicate, because the knowledge is positional rather than analytical.

This playbook operationalizes that claim across three layers. It treats youth-generated signals not as raw material to be processed by experts, but as the first analytical layer from which structured foresight is built.

## 1.1 Policy Context and Problem Definition

Digital governance policymaking across the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) faces a structural mismatch. Regulatory and institutional cycles operate on timescales of three to seven years, while the digital technologies they seek to govern - generative AI, platform ecosystems, data infrastructures, immersive environments - evolve on timescales of months. The result is a persistent condition of reactive governance, where policy catches up to technology rather than anticipating it.

This mismatch is particularly acute in six thematic areas that define the HEMISPHERES mandate: [Artificial Intelligence](#), [Youth & Media](#), [Emerging Technologies & Metaverse](#), [Internet, Privacy & Security](#), and [Platforms, Equity & Safety](#). In each of these areas, EU and LAC institutional actors share an interest in developing forward-looking, anticipatory approaches to digital governance. However, they lack a shared methodological infrastructure to do so.

Three foresight methodologies are available to address this gap and have been reviewed for this playbook: AI-augmented foresight, traditional strategic foresight using the Delphi method, and creative and speculative methodologies. Each brings distinct strengths; their combination, as argued in Section 2, is more powerful than any single approach deployed alone.

The key problem this playbook responds to is not a lack of expertise; both regions have strong research and policy communities, but a lack of structured mechanisms for (a) integrating youth and civil society perspectives into foresight processes, and (b) translating foresight outputs into actionable EU-LAC policy dialogue. These are the two gaps this playbook is designed to close.

## 1.2 The Youth Participation Gap in Digital Governance

Despite being the primary users, subjects, and eventual shapers of digital systems, young people remain structurally absent from the formal governance processes that regulate those systems. Three structural features explain this absence and its consequences:

- Institutional foresight processes (Horizon Europe foresight exercises, OECD anticipatory governance frameworks, ECLAC digital strategy consultations) are almost exclusively expert-driven. Youth participation, where it exists, tends to be tokenistic, invited to validate predetermined framings rather than contribute to the problem definition itself.
- Young people in EU and LAC contexts navigate markedly different digital infrastructures, regulatory environments, and socioeconomic conditions. A foresight process that aggregates their perspectives across this diversity generates richer scenario spaces than one confined to institutional expert panels.
- The pace of change in AI-mediated education, platform governance, and data environments is most legible to those currently living within these systems: students, young workers, digital natives in both regions. Their situated knowledge constitutes early warning intelligence that traditional horizon scanning tools cannot replicate. This is not a claim about the depth or breadth of youth knowledge relative to expert knowledge; it is a claim about structural position. Young people live within the systems being governed; most institutional actors engage with them from the outside.

This playbook positions youth not as a target group to be protected or consulted, but as positionally irreplaceable methodological collaborators in the production of foresight intelligence.

The three thematic exercises being conducted through HEMISPHERES partner institutions: Youth AI and Future of Education (UIC<sup>1</sup> + UChile<sup>2</sup>), Human Qualities in AI-mediated Work (ITS Rio<sup>3</sup>), and Policy Challenges (UCU<sup>4</sup>) are the first operational test of this positioning.

**From the field - UCU pilot exercise, Uruguay**

*“The arrival of AI has created a sense of demotivation among students. We feel that many tasks can now be performed directly by AI, which generates real insecurity about our professional futures. A university degree no longer carries the weight it once did - we must now complement our formal training, and a central part of that is developing knowledge and competencies in AI. Universities should rethink their curricula and orient them toward AI, so that they are genuinely preparing the workers of tomorrow.”*

UCU student groups, April 2026. This signal appeared independently across both UCU course groups and mirrors the “crisis of the validation model” identified by UIC and UChile students in Spain and Chile - the same concern surfacing in three countries without cross-pollination between groups.

## 2. Methodological Framework

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The Working Group reviewed three categories of foresight methodology for their relevance, complementarity, and suitability for the EU-LAC youth-integrated context. The following is a concise comparative synthesis. Detailed methodological content, including step-by-step protocols are presented in the following section.

### 2.1. Three Foresight Approaches

#### 2.1.1. AI-Augmented Foresight

AI-Augmented Foresight integrates Large Language Models (LLMs) and Generative AI into traditional foresight workflows to accelerate horizon scanning, driver identification, scenario drafting, and signal monitoring. Its primary value in the EU-LAC context is speed and scale, it allows small institutional teams to process large volumes of unstructured data and generate scenario structures that would otherwise require months of desk research.

Key strengths include real-time trend detection (through tools like Joint Research Centre - JRC and Tools for Innovation Monitoring - TIM), rapid scenario narrative drafting, and the use of generative agents to simulate stakeholder perspectives. Its central limitations are bias amplification (LLMs inherit the skews of their training data, which tends toward English-language, Western contexts), hallucination risk, and the tendency to reinforce existing futures rather than surface genuinely novel ones.

Critical design principle: AI in this playbook functions as a cognitive partner and structuring tool, not as a decision-maker. Human judgment, and specifically youth judgment, governs the framing, validation, and interpretation of all AI-generated outputs.

#### 2.1.2. Traditional Strategic Foresight - The Delphi Method

The Delphi method, developed at the RAND Corporation in the mid-twentieth century, remains a widely used and institutionally established methodology for expert-driven anticipatory governance. It operates through iterative, anonymous rounds of structured expert consultation designed to surface consensus on probable and desirable futures while minimizing groupthink.

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<sup>1</sup> Barcelona International University of Catalonia - EU

<sup>2</sup> Universidad de Chile - LAC

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Technology & Society of Rio - LAC

<sup>4</sup> Catholic University of Uruguay - LAC

In the context of this playbook, the Delphi method serves a specific function: it provides the validation and expert enrichment layer for scenarios generated through youth-led and AI-assisted processes. It does not replace bottom-up generation; it stress-tests and legitimizes its outputs. This sequential positioning (youth first, expert validation second) is the key design innovation of the three-layer model.

The three thematic exercises conducted through HEMISPHERES partner institutions - at UIC and UChile in Spain and Chile, ITS Rio in Brazil, and UCU in Uruguay - represent the first operational deployment of Layer 1 of this methodology. These pilots were designed primarily to test and refine the signal-generation phase, and their outputs are presented as use cases throughout this playbook. The Delphi validation round constitutes the natural next step in scaling this methodology beyond its pilot phase: as HEMISPHERES moves into its next cycle, the scenario architectures produced through these and future Layer 1 exercises will serve as the inputs for structured expert consultation across EU and LAC institutional networks. The design of the expert panel, thematic scope, and round structure will be calibrated to the scenario outputs generated through the consortium's ongoing thematic work.

### **2.1.3. Creative and Speculative Methodologies**

Creative and speculative methodologies - including speculative design, design fiction, scenario storytelling, participatory role-play (LARP), and immersive future artifacts - offer what quantitative and expert-driven approaches cannot: the disciplined exploration of futures that are plausible but not yet probable. Their foundational logic, articulated by theorists including Dunne and Raby, Stuart Candy, and Ruha Benjamin, is that futures become real through the stories we tell, and that expanding the collective narrative repertoire is itself a form of democratic governance.

These methodologies are the primary entry point for youth engagement in Layer 1 of the playbook (Section 3.1). They lower the technical barrier to participation, generate high-quality qualitative signals, and produce outputs (narratives, prototypes, visual artifacts) that are legible to both policy audiences and broader publics.

Their main limitations, including concerns about scientific legitimacy, scalability of resource-intensive workshops, and low policy uptake due to institutional short-termism, are mitigated by the structural design of the three-layer model, which explicitly connects creative outputs to structured scenario development and policy dialogue.

## **2.2. The Case for a Hybrid Approach**

No single methodology is sufficient. AI-augmented foresight is fast but biased toward the past. Delphi is rigorous but expert-captured. Creative methodologies are inclusive and generative but difficult to translate into policy-ready outputs without additional structuring. The three-layer model in Section 3 sequences these methodologies deliberately. Creative and speculative tools, through collaborative and collective discussions, generate the raw signal; AI-augmented foresight structures and scales the analysis; and the Delphi method validates and legitimizes the outputs for institutional audiences.

# **3. The Policy Playbook: A Three-Layer Model for EU-LAC**

## **Foresight Governance**

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Most foresight exercises in digital governance run top-down. A commission or agency defines the question, convenes experts, produces a scenario set, and then, if participatory design is considered, invites public input to validate conclusions already reached. This playbook inverts that sequence.

The three-layer model starts from the bottom: from the lived digital experiences of young people in EU and LAC contexts. Their scenarios, stories, and imaginaries are not raw data to be processed by experts; they are the first analytical layer, the signal-generation engine from which structured foresight is built. Expert judgment and AI-assisted structuring come second and third, not first.

This inversion has both normative and strategic justifications. Normatively, digital governance decisions affect young people most directly and over the longest time horizon; their participation in anticipatory processes is a question of democratic legitimacy. Strategically, youth perspectives surface signals that expert panels systematically miss, not because experts lack knowledge, but because their analytical frameworks emerge from professional or institutional distance from the systems being governed, while youth frameworks emerge from embodied proximity to them.

The playbook is designed for use by HEMISPHERES consortium institutions, partner universities, and EU-LAC policy actors seeking to embed this bottom-up logic into structured, policy-relevant foresight processes. It is transversal: the three-layer model can be applied to all six digital thematics HEMISPHERES works on.

### 3.1. Sensing: Youth-Led Horizon Scanning - Layer 1

Layer 1 is the signal-generation phase. Its purpose is to mobilize students, youth organizations, and civil society actors as first-order detectors of emerging trends, tensions, and imaginaries in the digital governance space. It is the most participatory and methodologically flexible layer of the model.

#### 3.1.1. Entry Tools: Creative and Speculative Methodologies

The primary entry tools for Layer 1 are the creative and speculative methodologies reviewed in Section 2. Their role is to lower the barrier to participation and generate high-quality qualitative signals without requiring participants to have prior foresight or policy expertise.

- **Speculative prompts as entry points:** facilitators introduce thematic questions using 'In a world where...' or 'What if...' frames calibrated to each of the six digital thematics. These prompts do not prescribe answers - they open the possibility space.
- **Scenario storytelling and narrative construction:** participants develop short narratives situating themselves in a digital future (5, 10 or 15 years ahead, depending on the object being investigated). Outputs may include written stories, visual artifacts, digital prototypes, or role-play scenarios depending on the workshop format.
- **Creative Sandboxes:** structured rapid-ideation sessions combining individual reflection, small-group development, and plenary synthesis. These are time-efficient (2-4 hours) and adaptable to both in-person and hybrid formats across EU and LAC partner institutions.
- **Future Artifacts:** where institutional capacity allows, participants can create tangible outputs (data shadows, scenario postcards, designed interfaces) to make abstract futures more legible to broader audiences and policy stakeholders.

Layer 1 unfolds in two interlocking movements within a single workshop session, not as two sequential stages. The entry tools (speculative prompts, scenario storytelling, creative sandboxes, and future artifacts) are the opening mechanism: they lower the barrier to participation and generate the raw qualitative material. The foresight steps (Section 3.1.2.) run alongside and immediately after this creative work, providing the analytical structure that converts that material into usable foresight inputs. In practice: the facilitator opens with an entry tool to generate energy and raw signals, then guides participants through Steps 1-3 to frame, conceptualize, and classify what emerged. Neither movement is optional and neither precedes the other in the sense of being complete before the other begins; they are iterative and mutually reinforcing within the same session.

#### 3.1.2. Structured Signal Capture: Foresight Steps 1-3

Creative outputs are valuable but only policy-relevant if they can be translated into structured analytical material. Layer 1 incorporates the first three steps of the foresight methodology as a translation mechanism:

- **Step 1 - Framing and System Architecture:** facilitators work with participants to define the analytical boundaries of the exercise - theme, time horizon, sector, and focal question. This step is typically completed in plenary and anchors the creative work that follows.
- **Step 2 - Conceptualization of the Core Object:** participants define the primary unit of analysis - what is being examined across futures (e.g., youth employment in AI-mediated labor markets; privacy norms in platform-mediated social life; human qualities irreplaceable by automation). This conceptual grounding prevents creative exercises from drifting into speculation without analytical purchase.
- **Step 3 - Identification of Drivers of Change:** structured group exercises (using STEEP - Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political) identify the external forces shaping the core object. AI tools may be used here to expand and classify the driver space, but human validation - especially from youth participants with direct experiential knowledge - is the quality control mechanism.

Once the drivers of change have been identified (Step 3), it is extremely useful to encourage the youth participants to reflect on those drivers and consider, in a more exploratory way, which recurrent vulnerabilities may emerge (that is, which structural risks, tensions, or fragilities tend to arise from each driver) as well as which recurrent opportunities can be identified (meaning the structural advantages, enabling conditions, or leverage points) that also recur in connection with the identified drivers.

### 3.1.3. Facilitation Principles for Cross-Regional Youth Engagement

Running Layer 1 exercises across EU and LAC contexts requires attention to asymmetries that standard foresight toolkits do not address:

- **Language and cultural framing:** speculative prompts must be adapted for local digital realities. A 'smart city' scenario lands differently in Bogota than in Munich. A 'platform ban' discussion resonates differently in Brazil than in the European context of the DSA. Facilitators should develop region-specific variants of each prompt.
- **Infrastructure asymmetries:** some LAC partner institutions have limited access to high-speed internet, AI tools, or immersive visualization technology. Layer 1 is designed to be fully operable with minimal technical infrastructure; pen-and-paper scenario exercises are methodologically equivalent to AI-assisted ones at this stage.
- **Power dynamics in cross-regional workshops:** when EU and LAC youth participants engage together, facilitators must actively design for equitable voice distribution. Structured turn-taking, anonymous signal submission, and breakout group design by region before plenary synthesis are recommended.
- **Documentation and signal extraction:** all Layer 1 outputs (narratives, visual artifacts, driver lists) should be documented using a standardized template that preserves both content and provenance (who generated it, in which regional context, using which prompts). This documentation feeds directly into Layer 2.

**UIC + UChile - Spain and Chile** Youth, AI and future of education

When students in Santiago and Barcelona worked from the same speculative prompts, they generated structurally different signals. Santiago participants prioritized socioeconomic inequality, the digital divide, and the democratization of knowledge. Barcelona participants prioritized ethics, algorithmic bias, and the devaluation of creative professions. Same methodology, two continents, two distinct foresight registers.

**Why this matters for Layer 1:** This divergence is direct empirical evidence for the facilitation principle above - that speculative prompts must be adapted for local digital realities. It also demonstrates that running

the same exercise across EU and LAC contexts generates a richer scenario space than any single-region exercise could produce alone.

## 3.2. Structuring: Hybrid Foresight Translation - Layer 2

Layer 2 is the analytical structuring phase. It takes the signals, narratives, and driver lists generated in Layer 1 and translates them into scenario architectures in the technical sense: internally coherent scenario architectures that can be stress-tested and policy-evaluated. This is where the hybrid methodology, combining human judgment, AI-assisted analysis, and structured foresight logic, does its core work.

### 3.2.1. From Signals to Scenarios: Steps 4-6

Layer 2 operationalizes three further steps of the foresight methodology, using AI as an augmentation tool:

- **Step 4 - Selection of Critical Uncertainties:** drivers identified by youth participants in Step 3 are evaluated on two dimensions: their impact on the core object and the uncertainty of their future trajectory. Drivers that are both high-impact and high-uncertainty become the axes of the scenario matrix. AI tools support the structured comparison; human deliberation (including student participants in workshop settings) makes the final selection. The goal is 2-3 critical uncertainties that generate genuinely differentiated futures.
- **Step 5 - Architecture of the Futures (Scenario Matrix):** the selected critical uncertainties are translated into a 2x2 scenario matrix. Each quadrant defines a distinct structural world, a coherent combination of axis poles whose internal logic must be made explicit through a 'skeleton' before any narrative is written. AI supports skeleton generation; human validation ensures causal coherence.
- **Step 6 - Foresight Test (Scenario Narratives and Stress Testing):** each scenario skeleton is expanded into a full narrative structured around initial conditions, system evolution, and horizon configuration. The core object is tested across all four scenarios: how does its demand, value, substitutability, and distribution change in each world? This is the analytical heart of the exercise: scenarios exist to test the focal issue, not merely describe environments.

#### **Governance Principle:**

Human-in-the-Loop Oversight: students must critically review and validate all AI-generated findings/scenarios before submitting their final work.

### 3.2.2. Cross-Impact Balance as Validation Layer

For exercises requiring higher analytical rigor, the Cross-Impact Balance (CIB) methodology can be applied as an additional validation layer between Steps 5 and 6. CIB systematically tests the internal consistency of scenario architectures by assessing the causal relationships between all future projections, filtering implausible combinations before narratives are written. This is particularly valuable for the more complex thematic areas (AI governance, platform regulation) where driver interactions are dense and non-linear.

### 3.2.3. Youth Validation and Enrichment

A distinctive feature of Layer 2 in this playbook is the return loop to youth participants. After AI-assisted structuring produces a scenario architecture, student participants are brought back to validate the critical uncertainties selected and the scenario logic generated. This serves two purposes: it ensures that the analytical structure remains grounded in the experiential knowledge of Layer 1, and it deepens participants' engagement with the foresight process as genuine co-producers rather than initial informants.

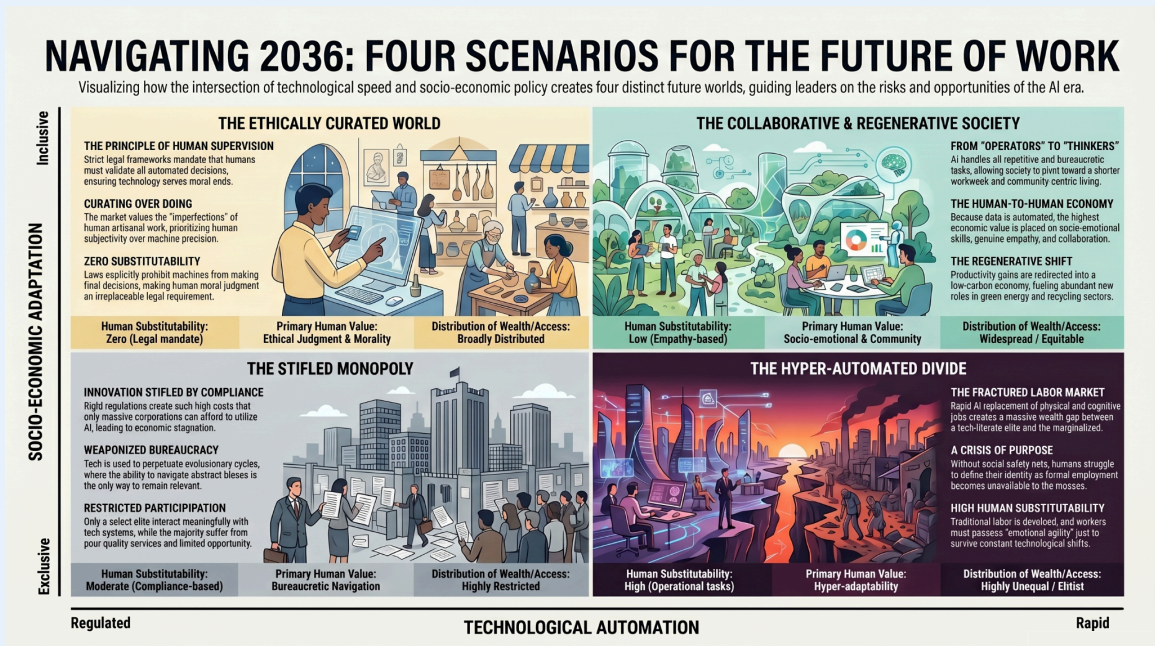
Workshop Suggestion: at the Step 4-5 boundary, student groups can be asked to deliberate on and defend proposed critical uncertainties using explicit criteria (high impact, high uncertainty, conceptual independence). Structured debate between groups defending different uncertainty pairs is both analytically productive and pedagogically powerful.

**ITS Rio - Brazil** Human qualities in AI-mediated work

ITS Rio students, asked which human qualities would remain valuable by 2036, converged independently on two structural tensions: how fast automation would proceed, and whether adaptation would be inclusive or exclusive. These became the axes of a 2x2 scenario matrix producing four genuinely distinct futures - from a Collaborative and Regenerative Society (rapid automation, inclusive adaptation, empathy as economic capital) to a Stifled Monopoly (regulated automation, exclusive adaptation, compliance over creativity).

The figure below was generated with the assistance of AI from the students' raw workshop data and their collaborative scenario-building exercise, translating qualitative insights into a visual representation of four possible futures of work:

**Figure 1 - AI-Assisted Visualization of Student-Generated Future of Work Scenarios**



Source: ITS Rio, 2026.

**Why this matters for Layer 2:** The axis selection in Step 4 was not prescribed - students arrived at these uncertainties through collective reflection on their own driver analysis. This validates the playbook's claim that youth participants can produce analytically rigorous scenario architecture without prior foresight training, provided the workshop structure gives them the right framing.

**3.2.4. AI as Structuring Tool - Governance Principles**

Throughout Layer 2, AI is used as a structuring and drafting tool under human oversight. Several governance principles apply:

- AI does not select critical uncertainties, build scenario axes, or make strategic recommendations. These are human-led decisions.
- All AI-generated outputs (scenario skeletons, and narrative drafts) are treated as inputs to human deliberation, not outputs for direct use.
- Transparency and disclosure: the use of AI in foresight exercises should be disclosed in all publications, and the reasoning processes behind AI-assisted outputs should be documented. Within the EU, this aligns with AI Act requirements on transparency; outside EU jurisdiction, disclosure is not legally mandated in most contexts, but remains methodologically sound practice. Foresight outputs that cannot account for how AI

shaped their analytical structure are harder to validate, challenge, or replicate, which is a limitation regardless of the legal framework in which the exercise takes place.

- **Bias monitoring:** given LLMs' tendency toward English-language, Western-centric framing, all AI outputs in EU-LAC exercises should be reviewed for regional applicability before use. The LAC coordinator at each partner institution should participate in this review.
- **Infrastructure asymmetry in AI-assisted structuring:** Layer 1 is designed to be infrastructure-neutral, but Layer 2 is not equivalent in this respect. The AI-assisted structuring in Steps 4-6 presupposes connectivity and tool access that are unevenly distributed across EU and LAC contexts. In practice, this means that exercises conducted under low-resource conditions will require the structuring phase to be run in conjunction with a partner or facilitating node with the necessary technical capacity. The methodology's equity logic holds only if the institutions whose Layer 1 outputs are being processed retain full deliberative authority over the resulting scenario architectures; AI-assisted structuring is a service to their analytical judgment not a substitution.

### 3.3. Validation: Expert Analysis - Layer 3

Layer 3 introduces the expert validation phase of the foresight methodology. After scenarios have been generated through youth-led exercises (Layer 1) and structured using hybrid AI-assisted foresight methodologies (Layer 2), this layer serves to validate and enrich these outputs through structured expert engagement.

This layer is designed to ensure that foresight outputs are not only imaginative and participatory, but also analytically robust and institutionally credible. It does so without displacing the bottom-up logic of the model: expert input does not replace youth-generated foresight, but rather acts as a structured feedback loop that stress-tests, refines, and legitimizes its results.

#### 3.3.1. Expert Validation Mechanism: The Delphi Method

The primary validation mechanism in this layer is the Delphi method, which functions as an expert-based iterative feedback process applied after the development of initial scenario sets. Consistent with the hybrid methodological framework outlined in Section 1.3, the Delphi process occupies a posterior position in the analytical sequence: it does not generate foresight inputs, but evaluates and strengthens those produced through participatory and AI-augmented processes.

Rather than seeking artificial consensus, the Delphi method is used here to assess the robustness, plausibility, and policy relevance of the scenarios developed in Layer 2. It also serves to identify blind spots, introduce missing variables, and refine the analytical structure of the foresight outputs.

#### 3.3.2. Operational Design of the Delphi Validation

The Delphi validation round can be implemented through a combination of structured surveys, iterative feedback rounds, and expert deliberation formats. The appropriate design can be defined case by case, some suggestions are:

- **Iterative survey rounds:** experts from EU and LAC contexts are invited to assess the scenario outputs through structured questionnaires. Evaluation criteria may include plausibility, desirability, internal coherence, and policy relevance. Responses are aggregated and anonymized, and subsequent rounds allow participants to revise their assessments in light of the group's feedback, promoting convergence toward informed judgment.
- **Expert panels and deliberative workshops:** groups of selected experts engage in facilitated discussions to qualitatively assess the scenarios, challenge underlying assumptions, and identify blind spots or missing variables, particularly those linked to regional or sector-specific dynamics.

These designs can be used independently or in combination. Survey rounds are more scalable and allow for broader participation, while expert panels enable deeper qualitative refinement. In both cases, the objective is not to replace the outputs generated in previous layers, but to strengthen their analytical robustness and ensure their relevance for EU-LAC policy dialogue.

The outcome of the Delphi validation is a refined and validated set of scenarios that integrates three layers of intelligence: youth-generated signals and imaginaries, AI-assisted structuring and analytical modeling, and expert judgment and institutional knowledge.

## 4. From Foresight to Governance: Recommendations and Strategic Direction

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### 4.1. Shaping: EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Integration

This section presents the policy translation phase of the playbook. It takes the validated outputs produced through the previous layers and routes them into actual EU-LAC digital governance conversations through three strategic pathway options. This is where foresight becomes governance.

#### 4.1.1. Strategic Pathway Options

Three pathway options for embedding foresight outputs into EU-LAC policy dialogue have been identified. These are not mutually exclusive, as different thematic areas may be better served by different pathways, and the HEMISPHERES consortium may pursue more than one in parallel.

- **Option A - EU-LAC Digital Foresight Forum:** structured biennial exchanges between foresight practitioners, policymakers, and youth delegates from EU and LAC institutions, organized around HEMISPHERES' thematic Working Groups. Scenario sets developed through Layers 1 and 2 serve as the analytical inputs to Forum discussions. The Policy Forum 2 (ITS Rio, June 2026) is the first operational test of this pathway.
- **Option B - EU-LAC Scenarios Exchange and Future Policy Games:** interactive policy simulation exercises in which EU and LAC institutional actors engage with youth-generated scenarios as decision-making environments. Policy games allow participants to test regulatory options, identify unintended consequences, and build cross-regional understanding of governance asymmetries in a low-stakes, high-engagement format.
- **Option C - Future Signals Observatory:** a standing, AI-supported monitoring infrastructure that continuously scans EU and LAC digital governance environments for signals relevant to HEMISPHERES' six thematics. The Observatory would aggregate signals from youth networks, civil society actors, and academic partners, feeding a shared horizon scanning dashboard updated on a quarterly basis. This is the most resource-intensive option but offers the highest long-term institutional value.

#### 4.1.2. Instruments for Embedding Foresight in Policy Cycles

Regardless of which pathway option is pursued, several instruments are needed to ensure that foresight outputs have genuine policy uptake rather than remaining in academic or NGO circulation:

- **Scenario policy briefs:** 2-3 page distillations of each scenario set, formatted for direct use by digital governance policymakers in EU institutions (DG CONNECT, European Parliament committees) and LAC counterparts (ECLAC, OAS digital units, national digital ministries). Each brief should include the scenario matrix, key implications for the relevant thematic area, and 3-5 monitoring signals.

- **Youth delegate participation in policy forums:** youth participants from Layer 1 exercises should have structured roles in Layer 3 policy dialogue and validation- not as observers but as co-presenters of scenario findings. This closes the loop between bottom-up signal generation and institutional uptake.
- **Foresight-to-regulation translation workshops:** targeted workshops with regulatory teams in EU and LAC institutions, using scenario outputs to identify regulatory options, stress-test existing legislative proposals, and map cross-regional governance gaps. These are distinct from the participatory exercises of Layer 1 - they are expert-facing and action-oriented.

## 4.2. Strategic Direction

The preferred governance model for EU-LAC digital foresight cooperation is a Hybrid Human-AI Foresight Framework combining creative and speculative methodologies through youth engagement, AI-augmented horizon scanning and scenario drafting; as well as expert-based participatory validation, governed by clear ethical and validation protocols.

This hybrid model is preferred over any single-methodology approach for three reasons:

- **Legitimacy and contextual sensitivity:** traditional participatory methods - led by human facilitators and grounded in youth experience - ensure that scenarios reflect the lived realities of EU and LAC digital environments rather than the projections of technical experts or AI systems trained on historically biased datasets.
- **Analytical rigor:** CIB analysis and structured foresight logic (Steps 4-6) provide the methodological discipline needed for scenario outputs to be credible in institutional policy settings. Without this layer, creative and participatory exercises remain perceptive but not policy-ready.
- **Scalability and responsiveness:** AI-augmented tools allow the consortium to maintain continuous horizon scanning across all six thematics without requiring each partner institution to maintain a full-time foresight unit. The Observatory model (Option C, Section 4.1.1.) is the long-term infrastructure for this scalability.

The long-term governance vision is the institutionalization of anticipatory governance as a routine component of EU-LAC digital policy cooperation: regular foresight cycles embedded in HEMISPHERES work plans, shared methodological standards across consortium partners, and structured mechanisms for routing youth-generated foresight intelligence into EU and LAC policy dialogues.

## 4.3. Success Indicators

The effectiveness of this playbook and the foresight governance model it proposes should be assessed through the following five indicator categories:

- **Foresight product volume and quality:** number of structured foresight products developed per policy cycle (exploratory scenario sets, CIB-validated scenario matrices, horizon scanning reports), and their methodological quality as assessed by independent peer review.
- **Policy uptake rate:** frequency with which foresight outputs are explicitly referenced in policy documents, funding calls, regulatory proposals, or strategic frameworks at EU and LAC levels. References should be tracked at both institutional and thematic levels.
- **Participation diversity:** number and diversity of participating institutions, countries, and stakeholder groups (including the ratio of youth to expert participants and the EU-LAC geographic balance). Diversity here is both a quality indicator and an equity commitment.
- **Institutional embedding:** establishment or reinforcement of permanent foresight functions within participating policy bodies, including the repeated use of the hybrid framework over multiple cycles, not only as a one-off exercise.
- **Adaptive revision evidence:** documented instances in which scenario sets were revised, methodological assumptions updated, or policy pathways recalibrated based on

new horizon scanning findings. This indicator distinguishes genuine anticipatory governance from static scenario production.

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