

The Preferred *Future*

DDC

Toolkit - new days

The preferred future summarizes the essential themes discussed in the New Days workshops. Thus, it represents some of the most important transitions that have been identified.

Welcome to the ecosystem of caring

We have been nurturing a new understanding of the concept of value and thereby revised our societal priorities: Today, care is the most exemplary virtue. Everything revolves around it, and it is the basis for all decisions.

Care defines our perception of each other and the world we live in. It is not merely reduced to a practical exchange of services within a particular framework funded by taxes. Instead, care is the framework for society itself, with this a recognition of our connection through a comprehensive and intertwined system of relations that need attention to grow. Self-care, mutual care, and caring for nature and what was and for what comes next are all connected in a valuable ecosystem of care.

Some might believe that we strive to be connected by the hip. This couldn't be further from the truth. Instead, we commonly believe in personal dreams, ideas, emotions, and physical appearance defining us as unique individuals. However, we are also defined by our individual importance in our shared living ecosystem. And we cannot ignore this reality. Instead of neglecting society and focusing on our personal freedom, let's empower a community where we can create better opportunities for everyone.

Your own true path

We trust in every person's individual ability to find and pursue their path in life. Dividing people into age is an obsolete categorization that we have moved beyond to focus on personal attributes, dreams, and needs.

Societies are intelligent, well-designed systems that foster the idea that regardless of age, anyone should take risks, educate themselves, take pauses, or take extended periods of absence from work to express care for themselves or for their relatives.

Expanding value

The old and inadequate perception of value led to an oversimplified view of our fellow human beings. In the past, we justified putting a price on life - a price as unrelatable as the act itself.

Today, the valuation of life and decisions takes a much more nuanced approach. Our evolving views of human nature have led us to discover that value can take on infinitely different forms and sizes.

Care work plays a vital role

In the new value framework realm, a key transition in society revolves around the value of care. Being able to provide care for others is a privilege and not a tedious job in any regard. People increasingly define themselves in their relation to others.

Rather than avoiding or outsourcing care jobs, an appreciation of care as a binding agent in our networks has emerged. Whether it is business, organizations, small communities, or families, the importance of care is recognized across all sectors.

The idea of taking pride in one's work has lost its meaning, however by old standards, care jobs would appear as the most prestigious in the job market. Aspirations toward spending work life in such a meaningful way is a top priority for the youth, whether it's about caring for other fellow human beings or other living organisms. Even the salary is excellent.

Strong bonds across all generations

We have eliminated generational gaps. It is common practice in any family, self-established or not, to live together across all generations. As a result, everyone has very different living circumstances. Clusters of families settle down, bringing new life to cities and local communities.

By living close together, we can better help one another when needed. Because all people – regardless of age – are considered equal. Whether help is given or received, the balance of everyone's contribution is changing through time, but someone always has something to offer.

Long-term justice

Everyone treats each other with respect, and age is never an exception for this. The narrative about the youth and the elderly being helpless, fragile, and naive has changed drastically. Condescending pity is no longer prevalent. Care and aid are natural ways of recognizing each other as an extension of a new kind of long-lasting justice. Equality across age is the recognition of everyone's unique contribution to society.

Our mutual empathy has, in many ways, been expanded. We have a greater awareness of our place in history, resulting in a greater sense of responsibility toward our ancestors and descendants. This awareness implies more emphasis on long-term decision-making, taking the needs of future generations into account. We take pride in our approach to leaving the world a better place than when we found it.

Life within limits

Our planet has its own limitations, and we must adapt. As we have become more aware of these limitations, we have been able to adjust our behavior, our systems, and our resource consumption in ways that maintain nature's balance. Besides reducing our footprint, we should also strive to contribute to a positive feedback cycle. Nothing is wasted, and we restore more to nature than we take. Care is not reserved for people only.

We understand that human beings can regenerate and establish healthy relationships, systems, and communities rather than simply extracting and destroying them. We can engage constructively with ecosystems. We are an active part of nature. Our lives depend upon it; we learn from it, manage it, look after it, and raise our children to follow in our footsteps. We are proud to witness our ongoing restoration of what we used to exploit.

Empathic technologies

We are not reluctant to develop new technologies, but we demand transparency, ethical awareness, and genuine value. Technology is considered more of a means to an end than itself. Although technology creates new - and sometimes incredible - possibilities, we do not think of it as a solution by default to our problems. Sometimes it is better to look elsewhere.

In many ways, digital technologies have merged with our physical reality. They are a natural extension that we barely notice – not because we are unaware, but because their expression has been designed subtly to remain in the background when no interaction is necessary. Digital services help us with all the things we find essential. They carry out tasks in the background, so we can focus on what is important to us. For instance, artificial intelligence helps us with everything from preventing diseases to understanding fragile ecosystems that we have the responsibility of restoring.

Prevention beats prescriptions

We have put our immediate attention towards preemptive action in the health care system. Treatments rely a lot on technology, but the development of innovative social, organizational, and leadership practices are just as important, if not more important.

Additionally, we are deeply aware that our new systems create positive and meaningful lives - rather than relying on outdated systems that only fix the wrongs after the damage is done. To prevent illness, we must intervene in the context surrounding life, not treat it once it has occurred.

Acceptance of death

Death is an honest companion. It is not considered an ominous taboo but rather a natural part of life. However, we can control it more than ever before. Modern medicine allows us to live longer, and sometimes death even becomes an active choice.