

# University Preview 2021

A summary of emerging signals and trends collected from the  
Aalto community in October 2021 as part of the University Preview

**A!**

Aalto-yliopisto  
Aalto-universitetet  
Aalto University

Compiled by Rediet Abebe

October 2021

# Management actions: University Preview 2021-2022

AUFB

**23.-24.11.2021**

**AUFB** Community event and discussion with AMT

PMT/AMT

**16.12.2021**

**AMT** University Preview: discussion on need to revise major trends in strategy. If needed, task force established prior to University Review.

SGs

**26.10-17.11.2021 SGs**

Discussion on weak signals and trends  
(optional)

Schools / all units

**30.9.2021**  
**Community event**  
Cross-cutting approaches

**30.9.-15.10.2021**  
**Community members and stakeholders**  
Possibility to participate in survey on emerging trends and weak signals

**23.11.2021**  
**Community event with AUFB**

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

# Uncertain future of our planet

Concerns over the wellbeing and sustainability of our planet is only growing amid mounting dissatisfaction with the slow progress in undertaking tangible measures globally. This may provide additional motivation for HEIs to focus on education, research and innovation that builds capacity for a climate-friendly way of life.

## Important issues:

- Inadequate understanding of climate change actions among politicians
- Substantial underfunding of climate research
- Overly ambitious goals for climate change (e.g. carbon neutrality by 2030)
- Resentment towards young people's involvement in climate change movements (Elokapina)
- Weakening impact of national level climate change measures

## Reappeared from 2020 foresight survey:

- Potential for technological advances in the transportation sector
- Attention to expanding energy capabilities, preparedness and transition
- Limited awareness about Africa's role in climate change actions



# Changing societal values

The unprecedented effects of the pandemic has expedited changes in societal values. Understanding emerging values could guide the way to a better life in the post-pandemic era.

## Important issues:

- Greater importance attached to personal time
- Declining interest in business travels
- Job safety and stability
- Tendencies of buying second home
- Spreading of militant political movements
- Aalto University's role as societal leader (e.g. support the benefits of cultural diversity and prepare the public to the complex future)

## Reappeared from 2020 foresight survey:

- Increasing hybrid working
- Growing political polarisation



# Resilience for higher education

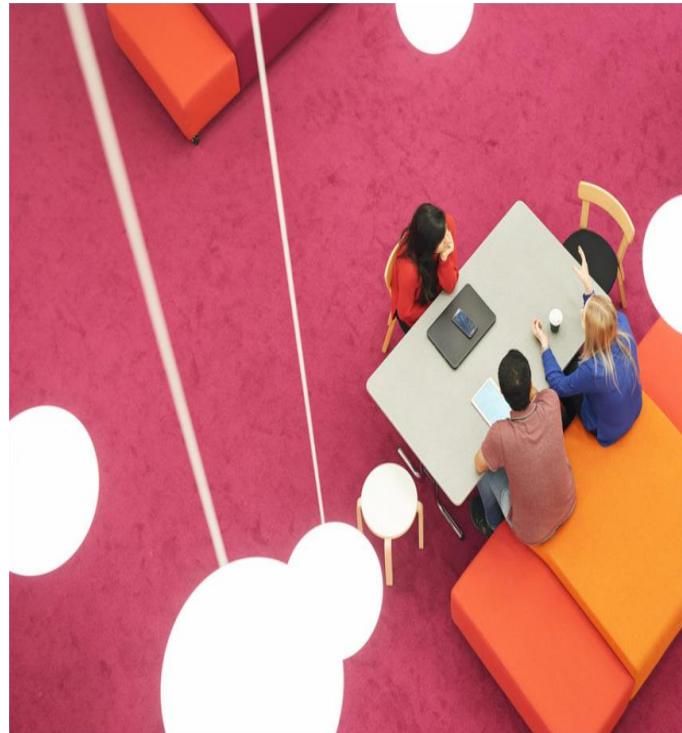
New demands and challenges facing higher education highlight the necessity of building resilient HEIs.

## Important issues:

- Respond to the rising global anti-science sentiments
- Clear definition and effective implementation of strategy at various levels (e.g. clarify interconnections between strategic cross-cutting approaches)
- Improve the quality and sustainability of education
- Ensure student engagement and wellbeing
- Introduce innovative courses to curriculum
- Gap between the documented and the perceived progress at Aalto
- Incentivise and retain high performing and committed staff
- Make staff feel heard in decision making
- Implications of the layoffs at Tampere University
- Strengthen international collaboration

## Reappeared from 2020 foresight survey:

- Opportunities to continue distance learning
- Renew commitment to ethical values (e.g. handling cheating during remote exams)



# Global political-economy and security

The dynamics in the global political-economy and military power balance could pose emerging concerns. Early detection and response could ensure a stable and secure future.

## Important issues:

- Growing impact of Chinese economic and military power
- China's actions towards e.g. Taiwan raise concerns
- Importance of securing superiority in innovation and technology



# Remarks about foresight survey 2021

- Low response rate (13 respondents)
- Need for improving the clarity of questions
- Similarity of issues identified in the 2020 foresight survey
- New signals emerging within familiar categories of trends and developments

# Input from Steering Groups

## Name of the steering group:

Which of the emerging signals and trends do you think would have meaningful impact on your respective Steering Groups?

You may also describe other important signals and trends that were not covered in this summary.