



Scanning the Horizon

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW



What is Scanning the Horizon?

Scanning the Horizon is one of the few collaborative platforms in the civil society sector dedicated to spotting and analysing emerging trends. Its members include leading international civil society organisations, national civil society umbrella organisations, philanthropy actors, and development consultancies.

Members join a community of futurists, strategists, trend analysts, learning leaders and research specialists who exchange insights, explore key developments, and work together on practical strategies. Through peer learning and shared tools, Scanning the Horizon helps organisations not only stay ahead of change, but actively shape the future instead of simply reacting to it.

What are our goals?

Scanning the Horizon aims to help civil society organisations confidently use futures thinking to shape their strategies and respond to long-term challenges. It brings people together in an open, collaborative community to share knowledge, explore what kind of futures we want, and encourage others to work towards them. The initiative also places strong emphasis on feminist, decolonised, and participatory approaches, supporting foresight practices that are inclusive, equitable, and grounded in real-world impact.

[Read our
Theory of Change](#)

Who's part of our community?

The Scanning the Horizon community is a group of leading international civil society organisations, national civil society umbrella organisations, philanthropy and development consultancies.



The benefits

Scanning members are part of a supportive, forward-looking community that helps organisations spot change early and respond with confidence. By connecting with people from different sectors who work on future trends, strategy, and learning, members share practical knowledge, ideas, and tools they can actually use. This shared learning helps organisations make better decisions, plan ahead, and take concrete steps in response to new challenges. Scanning also encourages peer support and the sharing of resources, making it easier to turn futures thinking into everyday practice. With a strong focus on inclusive, feminist, and decolonised perspectives, the community supports civil society organisations to adapt, stay resilient, and move forward with purpose.

Get involved

We're always open to welcoming new members into the Scanning the Horizon community. If you're interested in futures thinking, strategic foresight and practical ways to apply it in your organisation, please get in touch with Alexandra Schlegel (aschlegel@icscentre.org).



Key Activities

Scanning the Horizon helps civil society organisations build the skills and confidence to shape the futures they want to see. It does this by bringing members together in a collaborative network focused on shared learning, peer support, and practical foresight tools. Through this work, members are better able to plan ahead, respond to change, and develop strategies that support inclusive, decolonised, and feminist futures.

COMMUNITY

Scanning the Horizon brings together a community of international, regional and national civil society organisations and funders who are committed to investing in and maintaining future skills, methods, and roles. These members form the backbone of a vibrant learning community.

FUTURES THINKING AND STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

A core part of Scanning the Horizon is creating and sharing practical resources on futures thinking and strategic foresight. These are designed to help civil society organisations better understand what's changing around them, spot emerging trends and uncertainties, and respond in informed and timely ways.

ONLINE MEETINGS

The Scanning the Horizon community meets regularly for virtual sessions that provide a dynamic space for discussing and exploring futures methods and outcomes. These meetings feature expert speakers who share methodologies or update the group on emerging trends. Participants actively build their skills by practising and applying these methods, collectively identifying trends and signals. The sessions also provide a platform for peer exchange, supporting members in embedding futures thinking into their organisation's strategies and practices.

PEER SUPPORT

Scanning the Horizon places significant emphasis on peer-to-peer learning and support. Members share challenges, successes, and practical advice, enabling the community to grow together and advance their foresight capabilities collectively.



Membership Fees

Please write to us (aschlegel@icscentre.org) if you have any questions or concerns about your membership and we hope we can find a fitting solution together.

Corporate and Philanthropy	1,575€ (ex VAT)
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International civil society organisations (excluding Centre core supporters)	1,370€ (ex VAT)
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International civil society organisations (Centre core supporters) and Academia	1,050€ (ex VAT)
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National CSO and Individuals	525€ (ex VAT)
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In-kind support	Zero cost / reduction
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Meetings in 2026

Within the Scanning membership, two colleagues from the same organisation are allowed to attend the online Scanning events.

- **SCANNING COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

- #1 Thursday, 12 February 2026, 14:30-16:00 CET , online
- #2 Thursday, 07 May 2026, 14:30-16:00 CEST, online
- #3 Thursday, 10 September 2026, 14:30-16:00 CEST, online
- #4 Thursday, 10 December 2026, 14:30-16:00 CET, online

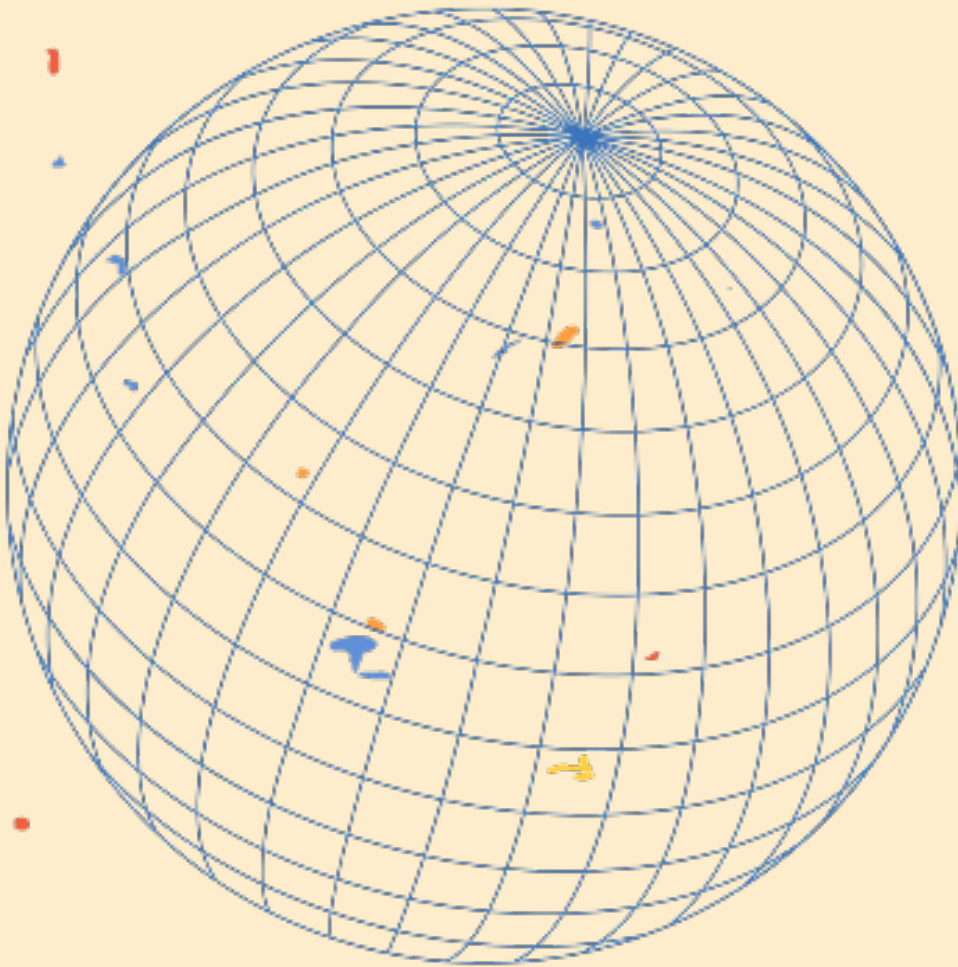
- **SCANNING ANNUAL MEETING**

30 June – 02 July, online





International
Civil Society Centre



We look forward to
welcoming you to
the Scanning
community in 2026!

www.icscentre.org