

## We look up! Social and scientific festival. 2022 edition

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The climate crisis affects us all

### Are we ready to face it?

In Poland, the climate crisis manifests itself mainly through extreme “weather events”: torrential rains, gales, heat and cold waves, or thunderstorms in mid-January. Through increasingly less snowy winters and deepening droughts, and even through increases in the prices of energy, fuel, and fertilizers (and thus also food). Above all, through **the deepening fear, uncertainty, disorientation, and sense of loneliness in the face of the future.**

Very few areas in Poland are prepared for climate change. Most cities, towns, and villages have not formulated any, even general plans. And it probably won't change until the voice of local communities is heard.

That is why we, the Future Labs\* team in Poznań, decided to ask out loud the question:

How can Polish local communities, supported by modern science and social movements, respond to the changes in their lives caused by the climate crisis?

We want our answer to be concrete, practical and formulated together with those who will be most affected by the climate crisis.

To this end, we are organizing the **first edition of the social and scientific festival “We Look Up”**. It aims to trigger dialogue and cooperation between local communities, scientists and technologists, and groups involved in education and social pressure. Its outcomes will be not only projects of solutions to real problems, submitted by local communities, but also building channels of communication and cooperation for the future.

The 2022 edition will focus on two of the most pressing and least developed challenges to date:

- How to help people experiencing difficult feelings about the climate crisis happening.
- How to help local communities prepare for climate change by empowering them to act, communicate, and collaborate with others.

We will invite Polish and foreign individuals and communities from the worlds of science, technology, and social practice to share their thoughts with us. And then we will propose **innovative and practical tools** that will help us and others.

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\* [PSNC Future Labs](#) is a public research entity. Our mission includes building understanding and collaboration between the science and technology community and community movements and organizations. We bring together the strengths of communities, the scientific and technical world, and activism:

- to create concrete solutions that address real needs;
- to learn how to meet the challenges of the 21st century together;
- and to put modern technology and science at the service of society.

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### We have five very interesting months ahead of us

The culmination of the festival will be the **April Design Marathon**. It will be attended by pre-selected teams consisting of representatives of the challenges submitting communities and academics from various fields. During several days of intensive work, they will prototype and present suggested solutions, which can then be tested in practice and implemented locally.

At their disposal will be scientific and technical experts and mentors, supporting the process of cooperation and problem-solving. Awarded teams will receive further support in developing their projects into practically working implementations.

All projects participating in the marathon will be published under an open licence and made available to the public.

We will start preparations as early as in **February** by establishing contacts and cooperation agreements with partners from different environments. In **March and early April**, we will be creating a list of challenges and inviting those willing to create teams participating in the marathon. After the marathon (and the necessary time to celebrate and relax) we will devote **May and June** to prepare the post-festival publication of proceedings, start implementing the best solutions and summarize the lessons learned from this edition.

And, of course, we'll start planning the next one right away...

### Join us!

This unprecedented undertaking will be all the more successful if more people get involved. You can get involved\* in its organization as:

- a Future Labs volunteer(s), helping to organize and run the festival;
- a representative of your local community, submitting a problem or a challenge;
- a problem solver – contributing technical, scientific, or practical expertise;
- a sponsor – especially supporting volunteers who help us;

and in any other way you find interesting – **surprise us!**

### Let us boldly look up together!

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