# Selected Highlights from 2026 Activities

# Memorandum

**Millennium Project – The Icelandic Node**

This memorandum highlights selected events that were specifically announced and held during 2026. It does not include news items or reports published during the year. Considerable work also went into following up on and contributing to the development of the Nordic Foresight Network: *https://futuresfinland.com/en/nordic-foresight-network*. In November, I published an article on a Nordic website covering Nordic affairs: *https://listeds.com/articles/does-nordic-culture-provide-an-advantage-for-the-future*.

**2 November 2026 | The Future Leader**

A participatory session on the skills and qualities required of future leaders. The aim was to activate our futures literacy and jointly develop a roadmap of leadership skills that the future may require.

**2 October 2026 | Artificial Intelligence in Practice: Where Does the Real Value Lie?**

The seminar reviewed developments in artificial intelligence over recent months, focusing on the shift from experimentation to practical application. Topics included international developments, cybersecurity, and the main opportunities for creating value. The work of New Nordics AI and Almannarómur was also briefly introduced.

**8 September 2026 | The Age of Imagination – A Great Event with Bergur Ebbi**

Bergur Ebbi discussed his book The Age of Imagination. The publisher describes it as an intellectual journey through the present, recent history, and the future. Artificial intelligence is a defining issue of our time, and Bergur Ebbi writes about this broad subject with enthusiasm, sound judgment, and knowledge.

**15 August 2026 | Challenging Climate Futures**

An online seminar with Dr Tom Harris, hosted by David Wood. The discussion explored what is really happening to the Earth's climate, whether we are approaching tipping points that could bring faster and more extensive change than previously expected, and how El Niño may affect developments. It also considered how to assess different future scenarios when scientists do not agree.

**19 May 2026 | International Symposium on Global Futures: Insights into Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Higher Education in a Rapidly Transforming World**

Artificial intelligence is already transforming higher education at remarkable speed, affecting learning and teaching, student admissions, administration, academic systems, research, and university governance. Important questions remain: How significantly will AI disrupt the traditional university model? What tangible benefits can it bring to learning and the student experience? What ethical standards, governance models, and safeguards are needed to ensure responsible implementation?

**7 May 2026 | Annual Meeting of the Futures Studies Professional Group**

The professional group held its annual meeting.

**16 April 2026 | Examining the Green Transition and Different Futures**

Eyþór Eðvarðsson discussed the report The Green Transition and Future Challenges: Scenarios to 2040, prepared for the Alþingi Committee on the Future. The report is available on the Icelandic Centre for Future Studies website, framtidarsetur.is. Eyþór has written extensively about climate issues, including how other countries are approaching the green transition and what Iceland can learn from them. His presentation reviewed the report's key findings and connected them with developments in Europe, including the green transitions in Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

**7 March 2026 | A Future Society Without Ageism**

A workshop at the Reykjavík City Library's Future Festival. This was a joint project of the Icelandic Centre for Future Studies and the Centre for Successful Ageing, and formed part of the Northern Futures Hub project, led by the non-profit organisation Folke in Tromsø with support from the Nordic Atlantic Cooperation (NORA).

**28 February 2026 | World Futures Day 2026: Join the Conversation about the Future of Humanity – 1 March**

An invitation to take part in a conversation about the future of humanity.

**16 January 2026 | New Year Seminar of the Futures Studies and Artificial Intelligence Groups: What Lies Ahead?**

The seminar featured David Wood of London Futurists. The panel included Sylvía Kristín, CEO of Nova, and Róbert Bjarnason, CEO of Citizens Foundation.