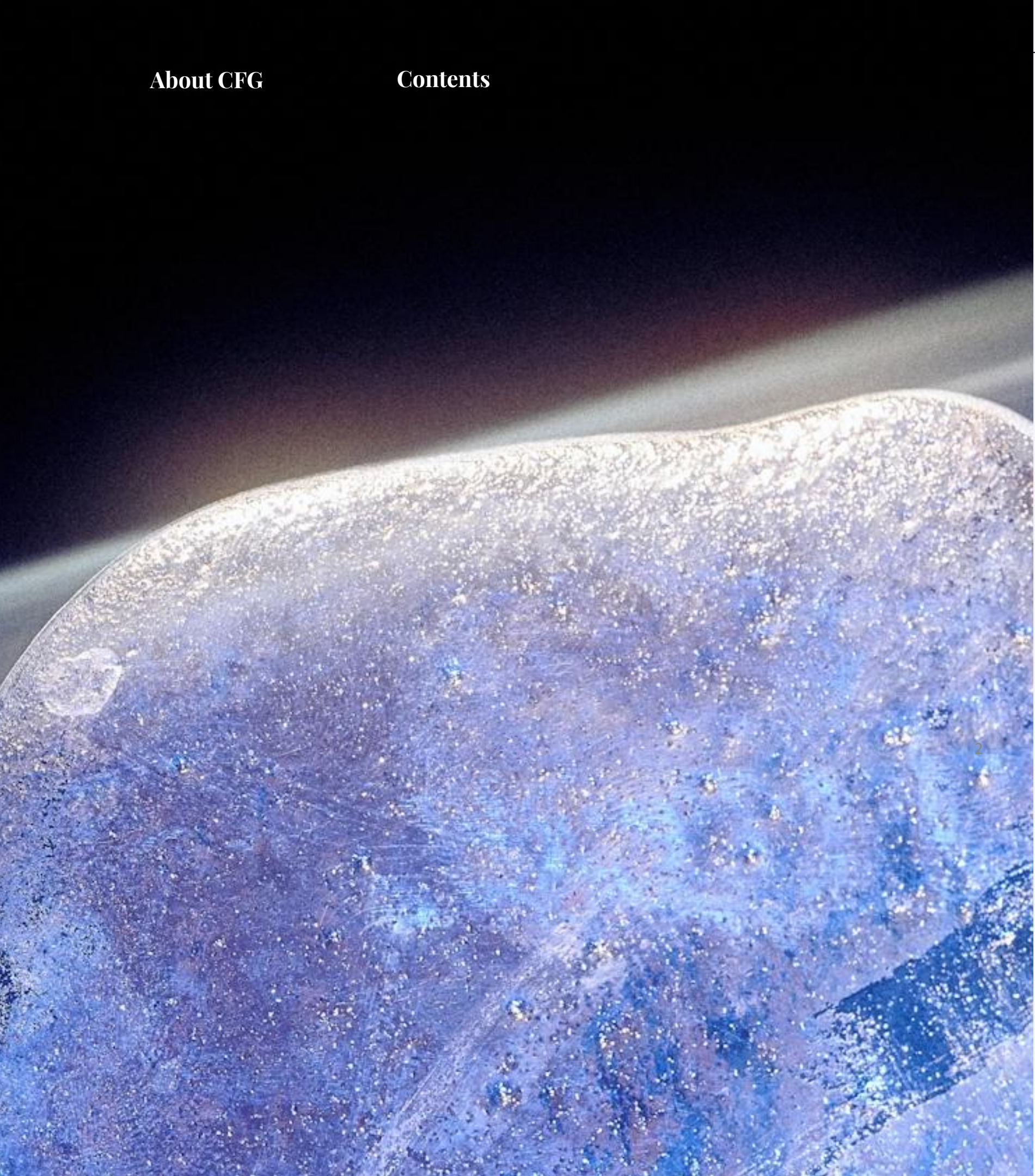


# About CFG

## October 2025 update





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# Introduction from our CEO

**Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Centre for Future Generations. We describe ourselves as a ‘think and do tank’ – an organisation committed to help policymakers anticipate and govern rapid technological change.**

I joined CFG in March 2025 and have been blown away by the quality of the team here and the impact we are making across our programmes. We are exploring policy solutions to some of the hardest issues arising from the emergence of new technologies in our society.

This short overview aims to provide a concise update on CFG’s activities from 2025, as well as background about the organisation as it has evolved from scrappy startup to respected think-and-do tank in the Brussels ecosystem.

We are grateful to our donors for their support to CFG from the beginning. I hope that this report illustrates how impactful these resources have been.

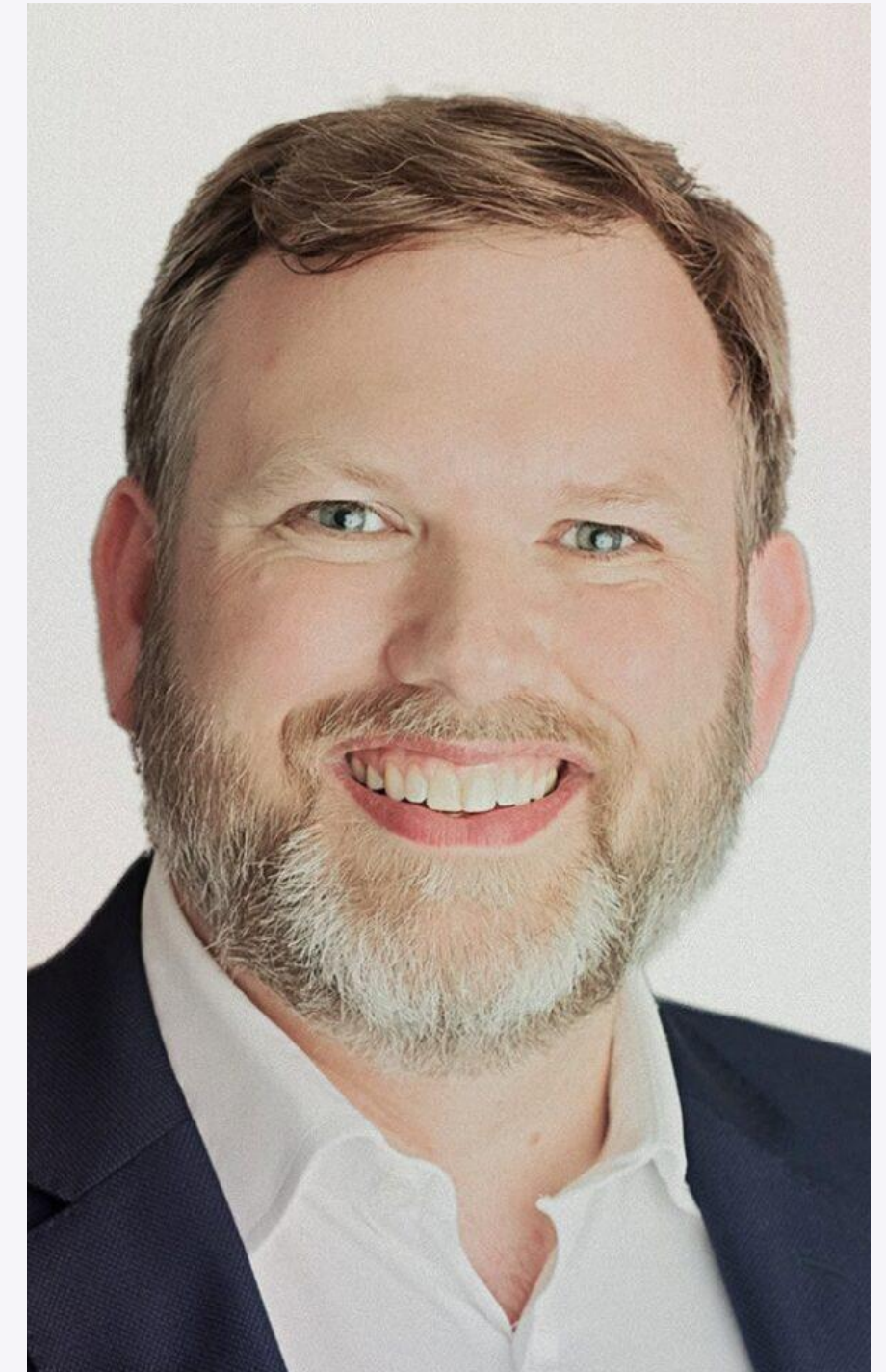
CFG is no longer at the very beginning of its journey, but there is no doubt these are still early days. I am very proud of the quality of our work, depth of relationships we have built with key stakeholders, and the critical position we have carved out in a crowded and highly contested policy ecosystem. These are strong foundations to build on in the years to come - but we are well aware of the scale of the challenge in front of us.

It is clear that questions of how and why to govern emerging technologies will be a critical thread running through the most important discussions of our age, from defence and security to climate to economic prosperity to democracy.

Our team of researchers, scientists, advocates, and policy experts are committed to building a world where powerful technologies are used to help tackle the challenges of our time while protecting human life, autonomy, rights and freedoms.



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Thomas Lingard, CEO  
Centre for Future Generations,  
October 2025



# Impact showcase



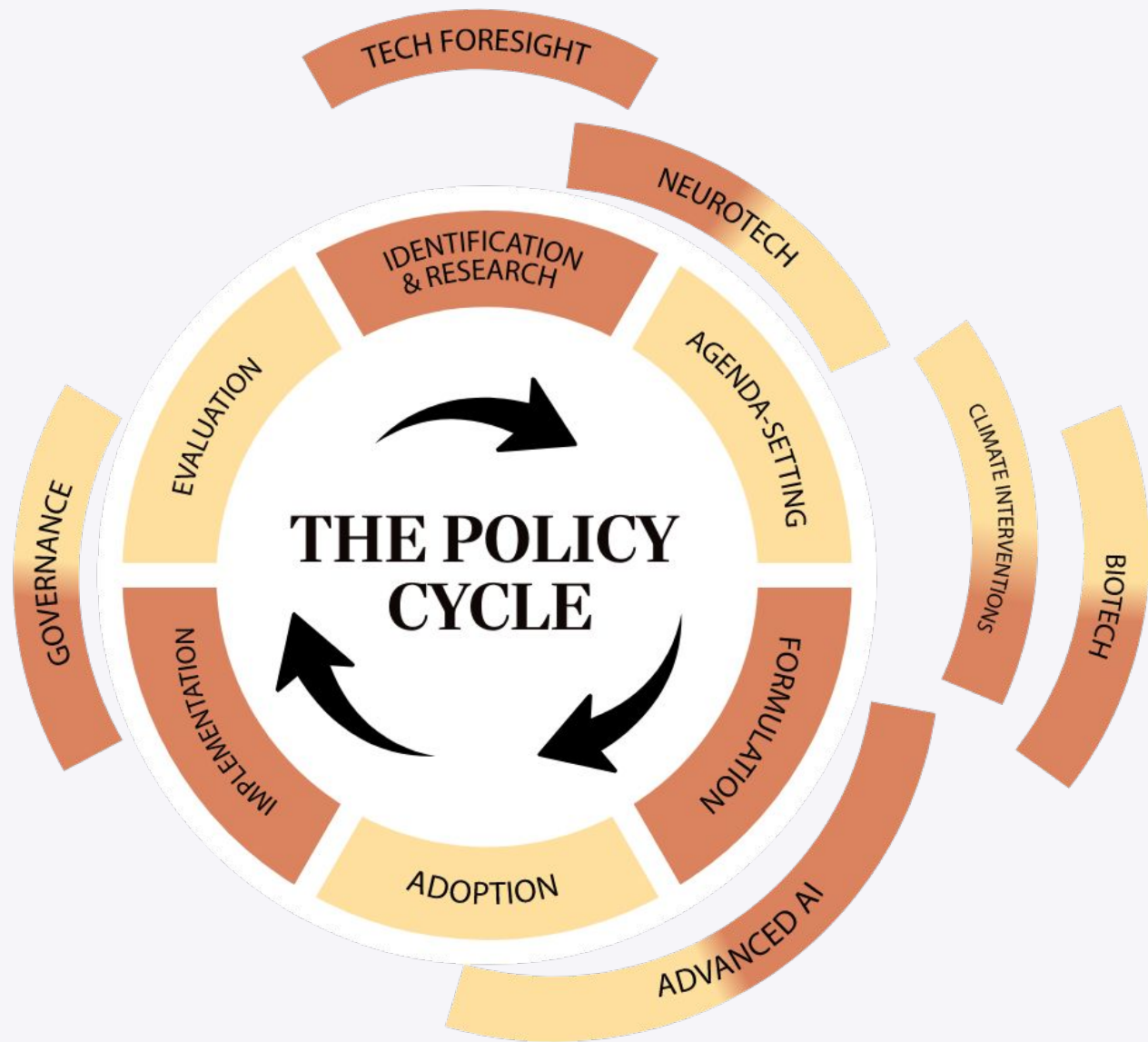
# What we do

## **OUR MISSION**

**To help policymakers anticipate and govern powerful, emerging technologies in the interests of current and future generations.**

- **Anticipate.** We use foresight methods to identify emerging scenarios and issues.
- **Inform.** We educate policy makers and those that influence them about the opportunities and risks of emerging technologies.
- **Influence.** We also propose solutions to policy challenges and advocate for their implementation.

# Meet our programmes



**The technologies we work on could offer countless benefits.**

**However, unfettered development and use – or misuse – can exacerbate inequalities, disrupt democracies, and inflict other harms.**

We consider emerging technologies key pillars of the economies of the future and essential part of the lives and livelihoods of future generations.

We believe in governance and policymaking as tools to implement the necessary mechanisms to deliver public good and to prevent harm.

# Advanced AI

## Advancing trustworthy AI

In 2025, the Advanced AI team has been working closely with the European Institutions as they formulate in real time a European vision for AI.

Our goal is to realise the creation of a CERN for AI, first backed by Europe but then accessible to the world, so there is a credible alternative to the winner-takes-all paradigm being pursued in the US and China.

Advanced AI isn't just a new technology, it's a new ecosystem that enables and accelerates developments in multiple venues, from other technology areas to democracy to the wider economy.

This technology is evolving rapidly—and attracting billions in investments—but we still don't know what "safe AI" is. CFG focuses on this core oversight.

We pushed the EU to develop an institutional approach for "safe AI", a critical safeguard against the risks of rapidly emerging AI capabilities, through our 2024 report proposing a [CERN for AI](#). We helped get this idea onto the top of the EU policy agenda (as shown in in this [speech](#) by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen in February 2025), which was informed by two of the most in-depth reports on the topic: our 2024 [report proposing a CERN for AI](#) and our January 2025 report on the [institutional design options for a CERN for AI](#).

We engaged directly with policymakers at political and technical levels on the need for a CERN for AI, with media appearances [in Brussels](#) and in [the national](#) and [international](#) press, and by organising [high-profile public](#) and technical [private](#) events.

## Building CERN for AI

*An institutional blueprint*



centre  
for future  
generations

Cover of CFG's second full length report on the CERN for AI concept, both written and published following it being mentioned by Commission President Von der Leyen in 2024.

# Biotech

## Shaping our biotech future

The primary focus for the Biotech team has been to sharpen minds and hearts around what could be a massive European advantage: carving out an area of emerging tech where the EU could not just compete, but potentially win across the entire value chain - securing and safeguarding key tech in the process.

Biotech breakthroughs hold great potential for growth, security and wellbeing, but turning scientific excellence into strategic advantage needs integrated thinking.

As policymakers are often very distant from these breakthroughs, they need practical intelligence on what is emerging, where, and how, in order to make decisions to shape a competitive future for Europe.

Our team connects science, industry, and policy expertise to help Europe harness emerging biotechnologies and drive safe, strategic innovation.

We helped EU policymakers balance the promises of new biotechnologies with the risks of [existing and future biothreats](#), advocating for the embedding of biosecurity into critical EU policy strategies like the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, and Medical Countermeasures Strategy.

We met the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Economy and Productivity, Valdis Dombrovskis, where we shared perspectives on the forthcoming Biotech Act. The team also hosted a [very well attended evening event](#) on the governance of synthetic biology as part of CFG's 'Tech & Tonic' series, featuring speakers from OECD and an established AI applications company.



Registrations at our Tech & Tonic event on shaping Europe's synthetic biology future. Held in Brussels, September 2025.

# Climate interventions

## Governing the technologies of desperation

This team is focused on decoupling questions of research of climate cooling technologies - technologies that are still only theoretical at this stage - from questions about how to actually deploy them.

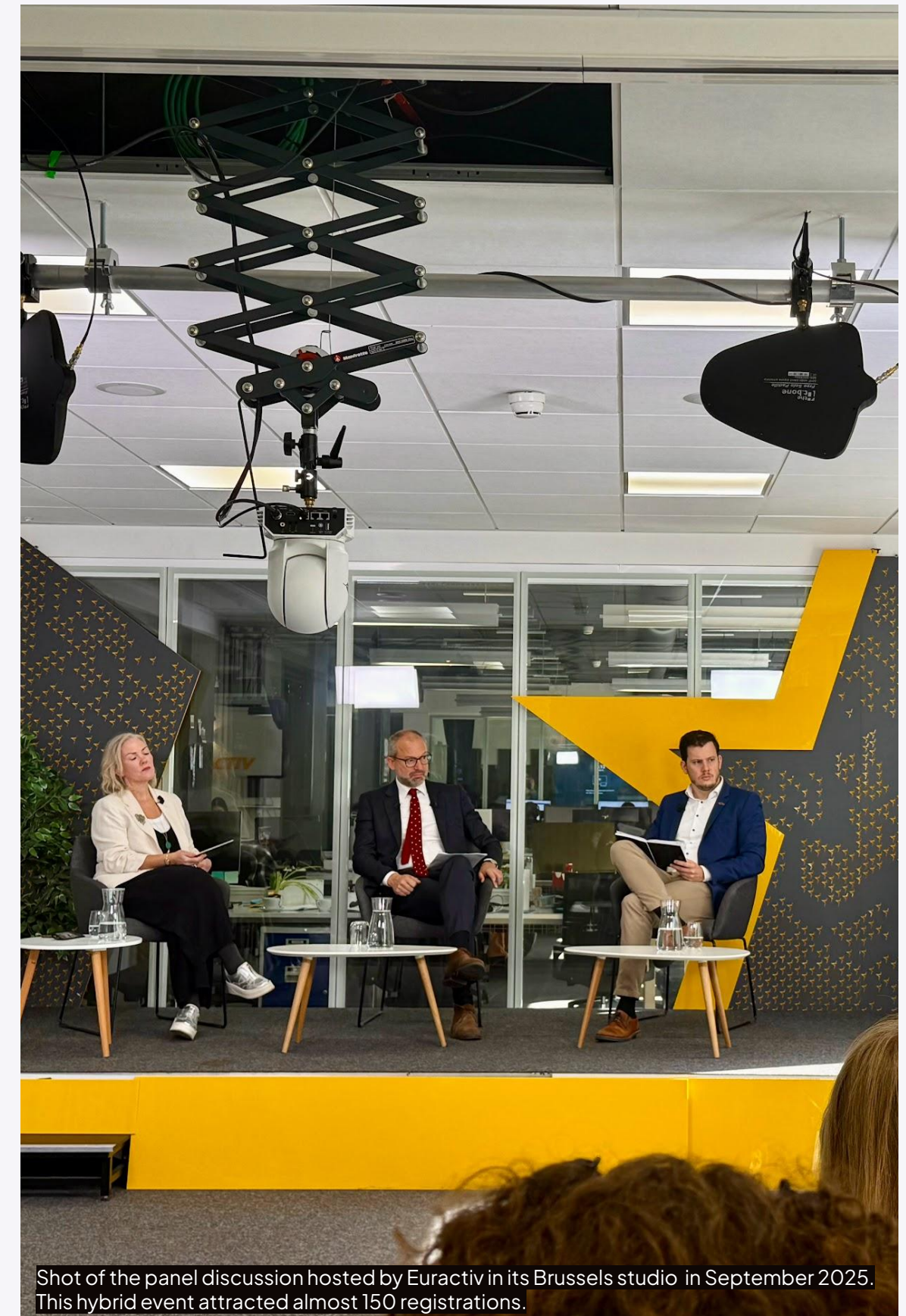
Worsening climate impacts raise the question: might humanity stop the heating and erratic weather with a planetary sunshade made of invisible droplets?

CFG's work strengthens governance based on science and inclusive discussion - to prevent unwise quick decisions with global and long-term consequences.

In the absence of a robust, international and transparent research agenda and international governance, their emergence could disrupt both international relations and the climate system.

Our work on solar radiation modification has focused on policymaker education, both in Brussels and at the member state level. Our team has secured high-level briefings with officials in Italy, France, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, the UK, and the Netherlands as well as meetings with the European Commission discussing both the [governance](#) and [climate security](#) implications of this technology of desperation.

The team hosted [the first high profile Brussels event](#) to discuss the governance of solar radiation modification, attracting speakers from academia, the UN, and the European Commission, and a Ghanaian Minister.



Shot of the panel discussion hosted by Euractiv in its Brussels studio in September 2025. This hybrid event attracted almost 150 registrations.

# Governance

## Navigating societal impacts of tech

CFG's Governance team is focused on investigating the nuts and bolts of how tech is being governed - especially after a bill has been passed. It is often in the margins of the policymaking process that critical failures and oversights are revealed.

The broader remit of the team is to reimagine how emerging technologies should be governed with an eye to future generations.

That means thinking about technology not only as a vertical - the responsibility of one Ministry or Department - but as a horizontal, a key factor that informs, distorts and enables policy options across the government.

CFG launched [the Enforcement Initiative](#) to help close the EU's digital enforcement gap. We're helping policymakers, politicians, activists, researchers, and journalists to understand and improve how the EU's new suite of digital and data laws are actually working in practice.

We built a first-of-a-kind policy enforcement tracker—an evidence base and interactive dashboard—to help journalists, watchdogs and activists uphold the EU's growing portfolio of tech policy.

We have also kicked off two new workstreams to reimagine tech governance around [tech and the brain](#), and [tech and the planet](#) - two complex problem sets that connect our other tech-focused work with the critical spheres of mental health and the climate crisis.



Maria Koomen, CFG's Governance Director, presenting a keynote address at TUV Nord Group's basecamp futures event in June 2025.

# Neurotech

## Bridging minds and machines

Our Neurotech work is an early warning system built to flag the rapidly approaching concerns and opportunities that come from technology that interfaces with our neural pathways.

There is a wave of commercialised neurotech products entering the market, with companies looking to leverage this technology to find profits all across the map - from defence to office work to transportation.

Even in these early days, it is clear that there are complex questions to be answered around data governance, rights and autonomy, as well consent and manipulation in the information ecosystem. Right now, nobody has the answers - but there is a window of opportunity for policymakers to get ahead of these issues before they become mainstream concerns.

In 2025, we conducted the first-ever comprehensive mapping of the rapidly growing [consumer neurotechnology landscape](#), spotlighting how brain-sensing wearable technologies will likely soon be embedded into everyday life. We have been anticipating [emerging regulatory and ethical challenges](#) and generating [insights](#) for policy-makers to [take action](#) before the sector becomes fully mainstream. These findings have been subsequently highlighted at high profile policy events, including the [European Health Forum in Gastein](#).

We also conducted a comprehensive mapping of [the governance landscape for neurotechnologies](#), highlighting gaps and inconsistencies that must be addressed to ensure these technologies develop



Neurotech Programme Director, Virginia Mahieu, speaking at the European Health Forum in Gastein.

# Tech foresight

## Anticipating future challenges

The work of this team is aimed squarely at changing the way we think about the future of emerging technologies - and providing our policymakers with more tools to unpack their impacts.

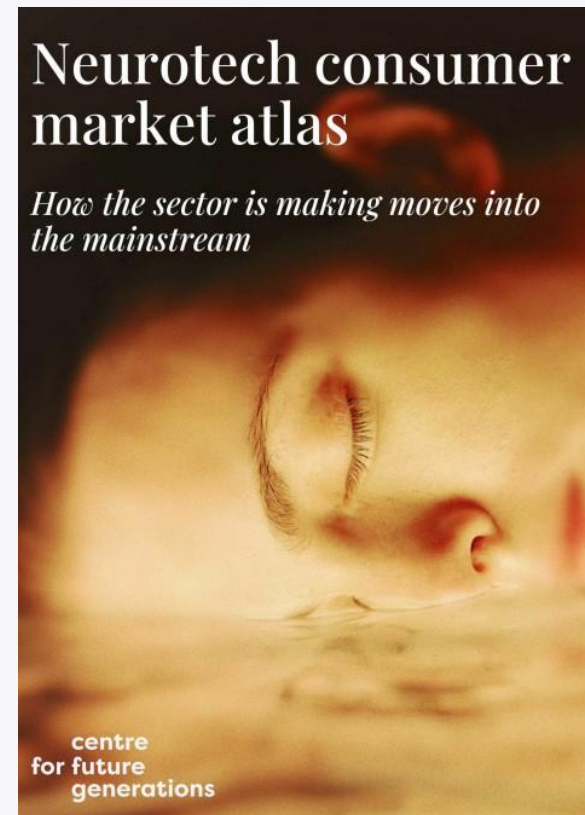
Technology evolves faster than policy, leaving decision-makers struggling to address risks, surprises, and unforeseen consequences.

The Tech Foresight programme creates scenarios and structured analyses, equipping EU policymakers to navigate uncertain opportunities and mitigate emerging threats.

In 2025, we used our foresight and modelling approach to produce [five comprehensive scenarios](#) about how AI could develop, allowing governments to stress-test policies against a range of different potential futures.

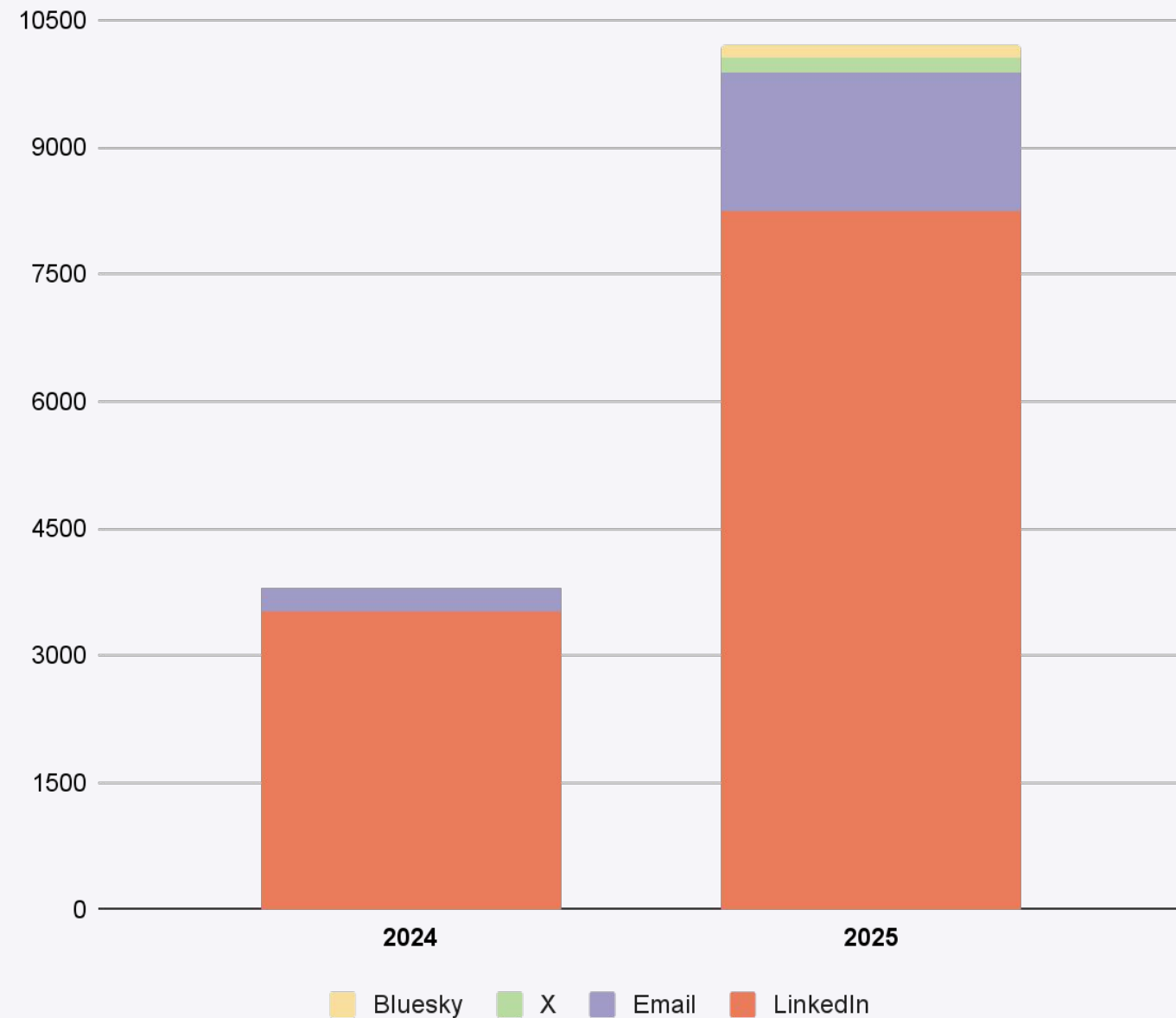
In relation to this, we briefed EU Commissioner Glenn Micallef, his cabinet, and several members of the EU's Joint Research Centre on our recommendations for the EU's annual Strategic Foresight Report - and our work on the [impacts of AI on the labour market](#) was directly cited in this report.





## Follower growth

We have tripled our followers since last year, as well as adding two new channels to reach different audiences.



67

External speaking engagements for CFG experts

652

Registered guests for CFG events

55

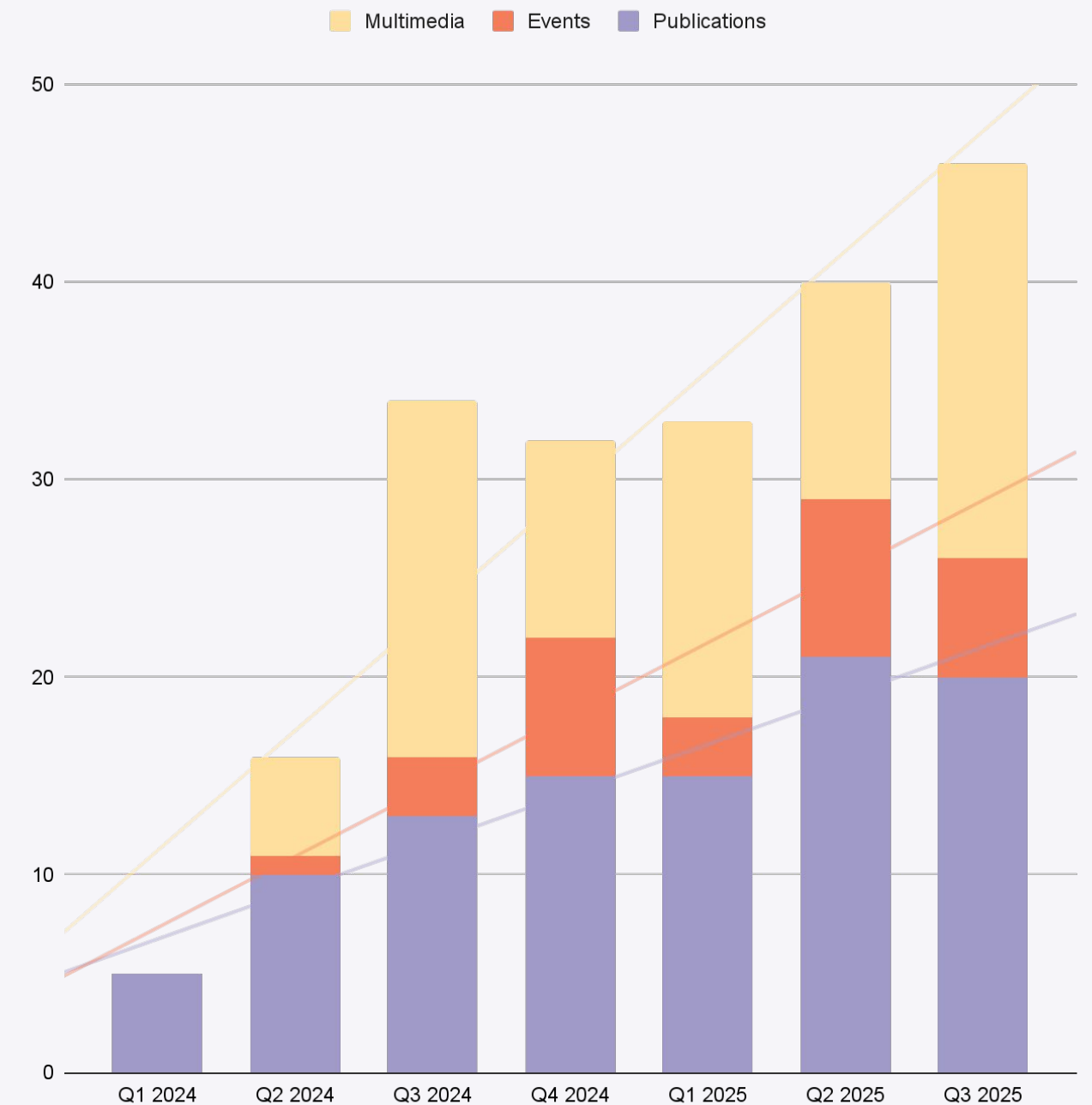
Media mentions

951%

Annual increase in traffic to the CFG website

## CFG outputs

All programmes now have a substantial catalogue of research, briefs, videos, commentaries and op-eds.



## Selected media highlights



### EU urged to consider DNA order screening to prevent an engineered pandemic

January 16, 2025

CFG included in this article covering biosecurity concerns being raised with the European Commission.

This outlet is primarily designed to connect European research centres, labs, and universities with the Brussels policy discussions.



### From superchips to energy: this is how much it would cost to start Cern for AI

February 20, 2025

Full feature coverage of CFG's research on what it would take to make the CERN for AI idea a reality.

Published by Italy's equivalent to the Financial Times.



### Why EU Policy Must Catch Up to the Neurotechnology Boom

July 7, 2025

Op-ed supporting the launch of [the first comprehensive overview](#) of the emergence of consumer-oriented neurotech companies.

Authored by CFG's Neurotech Director, this piece was placed in the insider's go-to source for tech policy analysis.



### Scientists Warn Against Plans to Artificially Cool Polar Regions

September 9, 2025

Coverage of the ongoing debate within the scientific community on the merits of researching climate cooling technologies.

CFG's Climate Interventions Director was quoted - the only non-academic voice included.

# Beyond Brussels

**CFG and its supporters see the EU as the best available lever for achieving oversight of emerging technologies – but not the only one.**

While Brussels remains a critical lever for impact – not only as the foremost legislator for global issues but also as the heart of one of the world’s most important markets – the CFG team thinks beyond ‘the bubble’, engaging with both policymakers and strategic partners around the world.

## Selected global engagements:

- **AI+ Expo for National Competitiveness.** Our Advanced AI team spoke at this Washington DC event, promoting the prospect of a globally integrated CERN for AI.
- **Degrees Global Forum.** Held in South Africa, our Climate Interventions team participated in the largest conference to date on solar radiation modification.
- **London Climate Action Week.** Our Governance team organised a highly praised side event focusing on the connections between compute resource construction and grid decarbonisation.
- **NATO’s 76th Summit.** Members of our Biotech team joined discussions at this critical international summit in the Netherlands, with the team speaking at an exclusive Biosecurity event hosted by Foreign Policy.
- **New York Climate Week.** This whirlwind of panels, networking, and roundtables drew Senior Fellows from our Neurotech and Climate Interventions teams who spoke at various partner-hosted events.
- **Open Government Partnership Summit.** Held in Spain, this event welcomed 2000 guests including over 60 ministers and multiple heads of state, with our CPO appearing on a high-level panel focused on technology.
- **Türkiye–Europe Future Forum.** Our Advanced AI team participated in this bridge building event, focusing particularly on the security and defence implications of AI.



SPOTLIGHT

# Copenhagen Democracy Summit

In May 2025, we co-hosted the Copenhagen Democracy Summit with the Alliance of Democracies. It was a two-day event; CFG was the lead organiser of the second day.

Two of our colleagues made keynote speeches: our Chief Programme Officer, Velislava Petrova, made an opening speech and our Neurotech programme director, Virginia Mahieu, spoke about how neurotech can redefine privacy and democratic agency in the digital age.



## Endorsements & affiliations

“I really found your insights and level of acumen, experience amazing—I honestly need more high-quality input of this nature on all my projects relating to emerging tech.”

Jon Andrews, Senior Coordinator, UNHCR

“No one else is using foresight for digital policymaking—and we desperately need it.”

Kai Zenner, political advisor to MEP Axel Voss

“This is the first document that synthesizes all the global initiatives for the governance of neurotechnologies. So it is useful and relevant. Public authorities must support an emerging technology that is needed for economic and above all therapeutic reasons while protecting patients and consumers from possible abuse. Complex situation.”

Pascal Maigne, French Ministry of Health

“In my 12 years as an MP, I have never learned so much about a new topic in one meeting, as I just did in the last 30 minutes”

Peter Frølich, Member of Parliament, Norway

“One of the biggest areas omitted by and large from the climate conversation is how we manage the role of tech in the transition. Not just how governments like the UK's square the desire to be leaders in AI with sustainability commitments, but what governance we need to ensure emerging technologies are used in the best interests of humanity. That's what Centre for Future Generations exists to do, and thank you for a mind-blowing roundtable on a subject that needs a much higher profile.”

Andy Last, UK Sustainability Advisor

“We read through your Emerging Biotech Atlas. It was really cool to see the framings of biotech tools that we know, but then you guys added new ones for emerging tech. It was cool to see this explained so clearly.”

Policy Officer, European Commission

“The magnitude of the speed of new technologies and the challenges it poses to society I believe lays the ground for a new social contract to be struck between the public, private and civil society sector. I believe organisations such as the Centre for Future Generations are very well placed to be those holding discussions and in crafting that new way of collaboration.”

Eva Maydell, Member of the European Parliament

“We usually push back when we hear 'forecasting' because we want to emphasise that we are thinking about different futures. But you really showed, through examples, that doing so is too quick and that this is a chance for foresight and forecasting to work together.”

EU Joint Research Committee member

“CFG is onto something important that is nevertheless difficult to explain. It's creating public trust - and that's an important project right now.”

Kim Stanley Robinson, world-renowned author



**Part of expert advisory groups:**  
- Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Civil Society Forum.  
- Responsible Innovation & Technology Coalition under the Intergenerational Fairness Strategy.



**One of the first 50 affiliate members.**



**Named by On Think Tanks as one of the 100 Think Tanks to Watch 2025.**



**Member of two of the largest networks of think tanks, research centres and nonprofits in Brussels.**

# People & finances



# Personnel developments

CFG has grown to a total of over 40 colleagues today, including both employees and contractors, as we have strengthened and consolidated our programme capacity.

Beyond welcoming a new CEO, here are some notable appointments:

- [Ashley Noriega](#) was made Biotech Director after several years in the UK civil service.
- [Thom Legge](#) joined us as Senior Development Director from the European Climate Foundation.
- [Lara Natale](#) joined us as Senior Public Affairs Director from Vodafone.

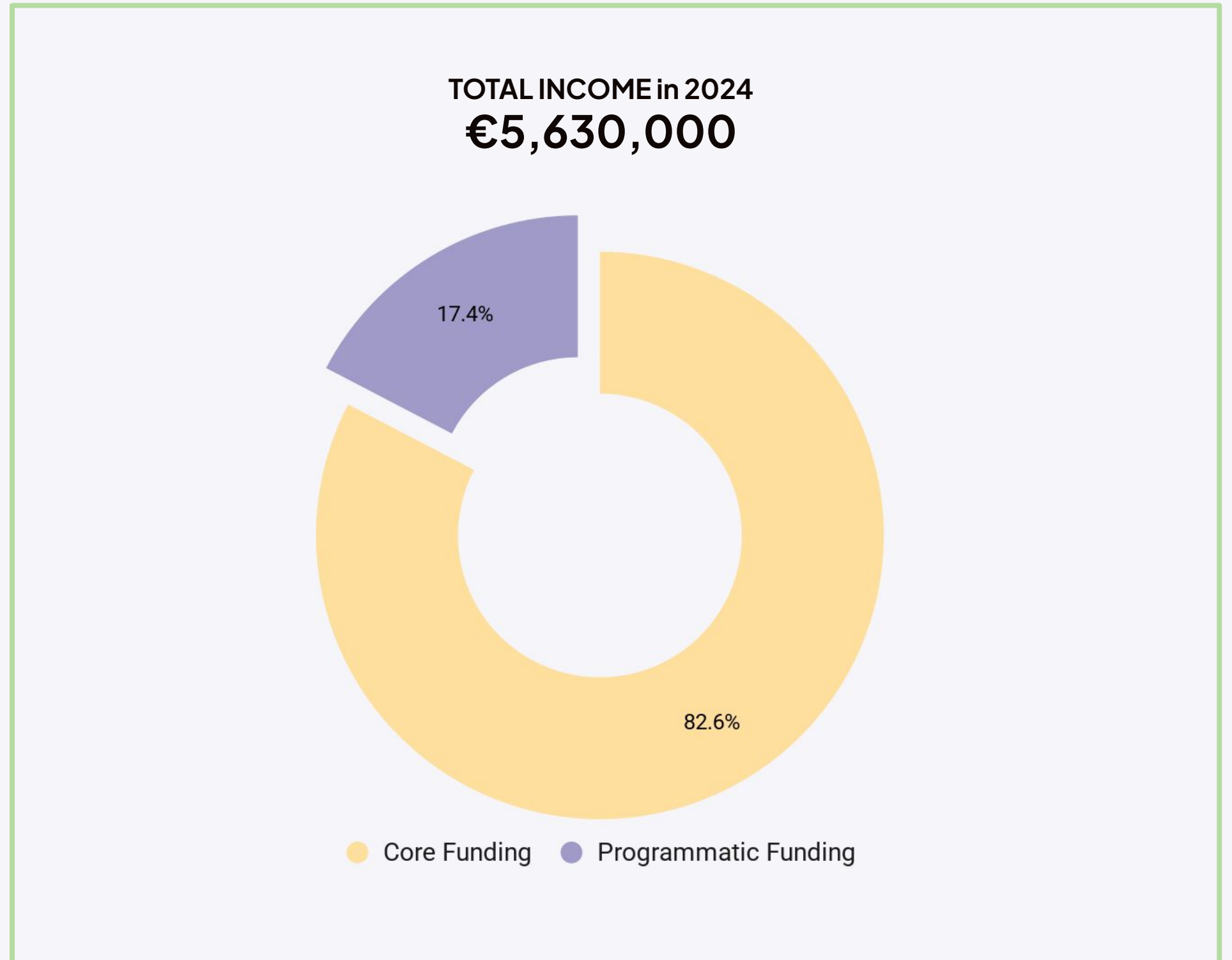


# Financial overview

**Centre for Future Generations is a nonprofit organisation whose work is made possible through the generous support of its donors.**

Our seed funding came from two philanthropic foundations and we are now growing and diversifying our funding model to include donations and grants from foundations, research agencies and public institutions. We do not accept primary funding from governments or corporations, nor do we accept funding from political parties or groups who exist to further party political interests.

We are committed to engaging with a wide range of representatives across the political spectrum, with the exception of those who express positions that encourage misogyny, discrimination, infringement of human rights, or other forms of extreme behavior.



# Where we are headed

CFG is moving from reliance on reserves to a more diversified income base that underpins our ongoing activities.

Our current focus is on growing the funding base and stabilizing at our present organizational size, ensuring that we are well positioned for the next period of growth and improvement.

**We express our sincere gratitude to the philanthropic institutions and individuals who support our work.**

## Our supporters

As of October 2025, CFG is supported by the following funders:

- ACX Grants, in partnership with Manifund
- ARIA | Advanced Research + Invention Agency
- DAFgiving360, made possible by the generosity of The LAD Climate Fund
- Dreamery Foundation
- Giving What We Can USA Inc.
- Open Society Foundations
- Powoki Foundation
- Tanka Foundation
- The AI Safety Tactical Opportunities Fund (Transatlantic)
- The Long Term for Planet and People foundation
- The Silicon Valley Community Foundation

# The future will be strange

**It will surprise all of us, including the people who imagine that they control it.**

There is nothing preordained about how technology will transform society. It is up to us to shape it, collectively, so we can use these powerful tools to tackle the biggest problems – from climate to inequality to human autonomy.

We know that powerful emerging technologies need legislative oversight to ensure they benefit both present and future generations, but that won't happen without anticipatory, science-backed research that connects to the here-and-now demands of our political moment.

The future is accelerating and policymakers are not prepared to deal with it – and that's why CFG exists.

**centre  
for future  
generations**