

Gulbenkian Sustainability Programme



CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN
FOUNDATION

Lisbon, 2019

Sustainability is a core value of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Created by the last will and testament of Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is of **perpetual duration** and works for the **entire mankind**.

Given its intrinsic vocation towards **long term issues**, the Foundation launched in 2018 the Gulbenkian Sustainability Programme, focused in two main topics:

1

Sustainable Production and Consumption

2

Intergenerational Justice

Why Sustainable Production and Consumption?

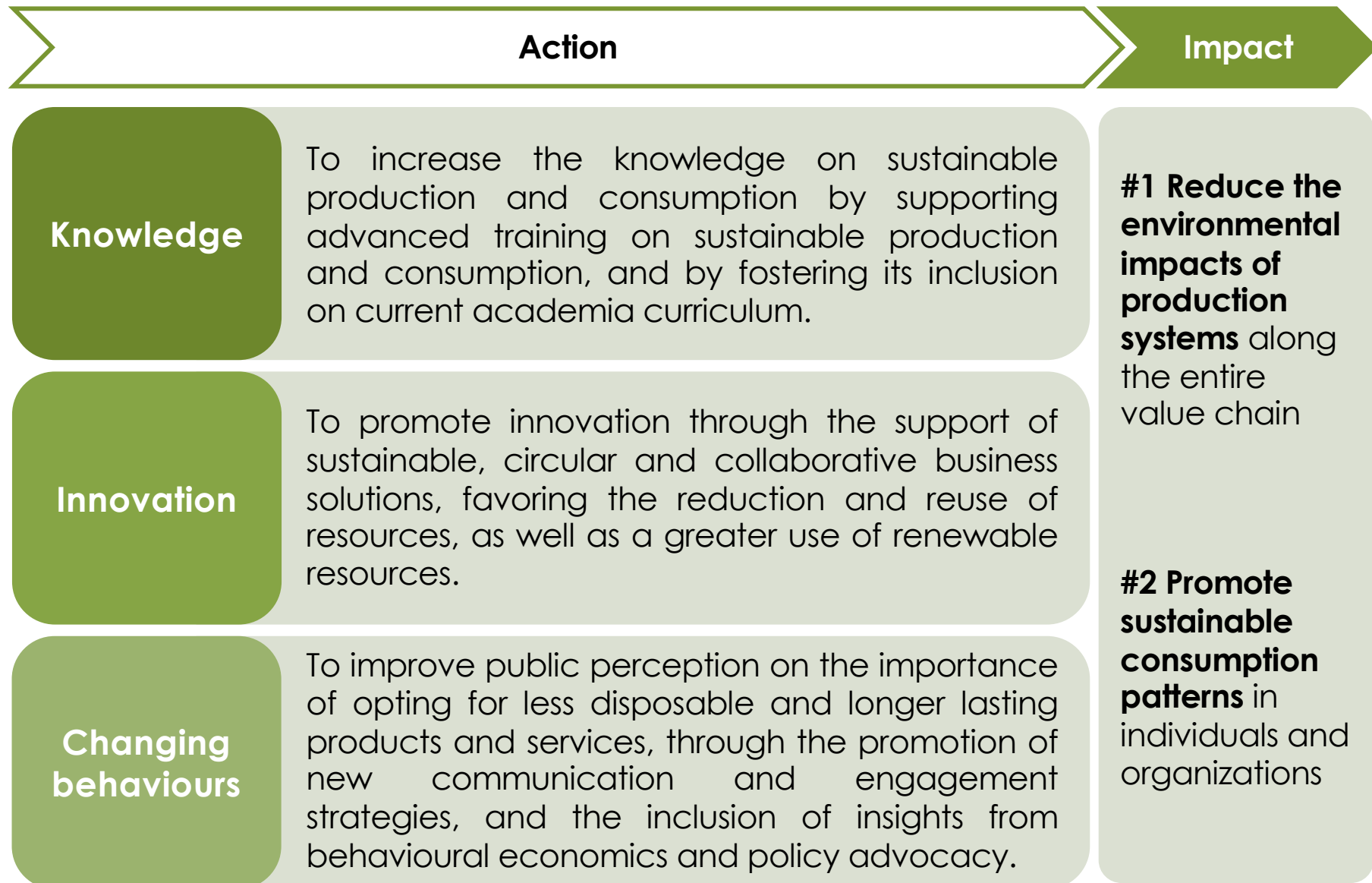


Current patterns of production and consumption are one of the main contributors to climate change, destruction of nature, scarcity of essential food, chronic diseases, migrations and other negative impacts.

The transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns represents one of the most explicit and profound transformations of contemporary economic systems and lifestyles, affecting governments, businesses and citizens, and seeking to promote economic growth aligned with the global agenda for sustainable development.

We want to help accelerate this transition.

Our Action Plan for Sustainable Production and Consumption



Why Intergenerational Justice?

“Sustainable development is development that **meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**”

*Brundtland report “Our Common Future”, 1987
World Commission on Environment and
Development, United Nations*

“Across Europe the **social contract is broken**”

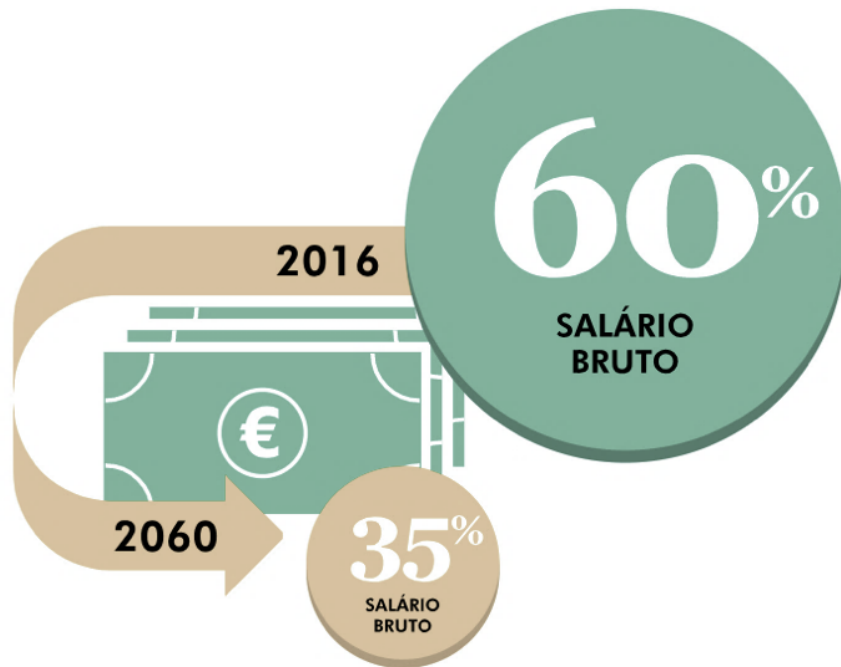
*special committee on taxation report (TAX3),
2019, European Parliament*

Intergeneration Justice and concerns with Future Generations are a fundamental departure point to initiate a discussion on Sustainability.

Future generations will have to deal with the consequences of current decisions and policies. Hence, **we are committed to bring intergenerational justice to public discussion and to the political agenda.**

We will also work on the development of methodologies and tools that will facilitate the inclusion of future generations' interests into current decision-making processes.

Intergenerational Justice – an urgent debate (I/II)

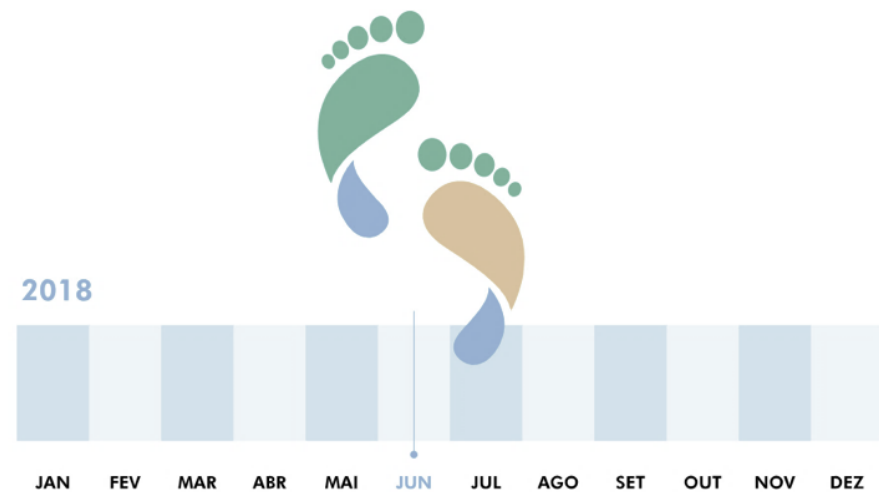


In 2016, a pensioner received almost 60% of his gross salary; At 2060, will only receive about 35%

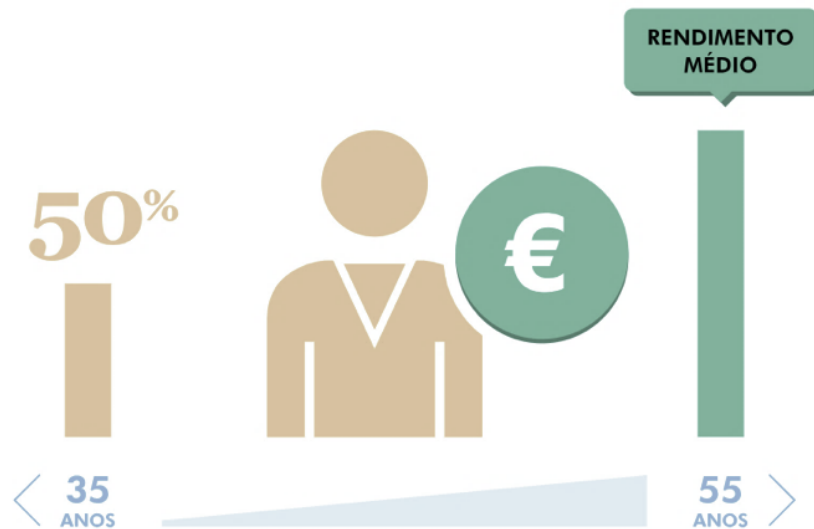
European Comission, Ageing Report 2018

On 16 June 2018 Portugal has depleted the resources that the country has the capacity to regenerate in the period of one year

Global Footprint Network



Intergenerational Justice – an urgent debate (II/II)



Among the Portuguese with secondary or higher education, the average income of people under 35 years is about half of the average income of the >55 years

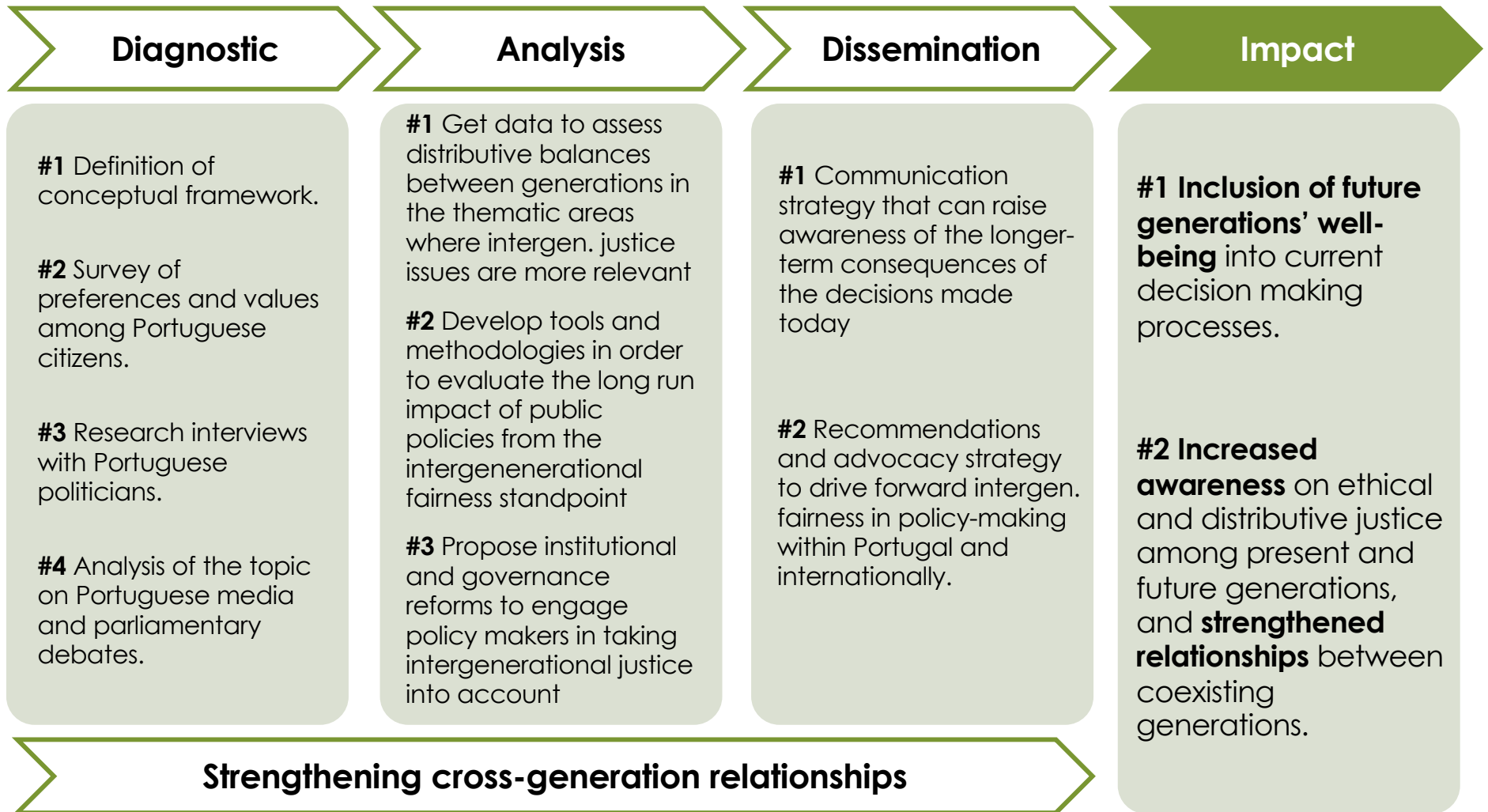
Banco de Portugal, Economic Bulletin, June 2018

Public debt has doubled in the last fifteen years

National Institute of Statistics



Our Action Plan to integrate intergenerational fairness into Portuguese policy-making process

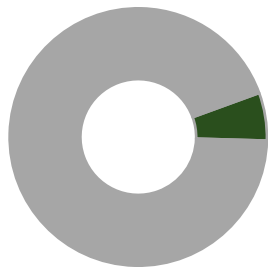


Policy-makers haven't been talking about intergenerational justice often

How many times have future generations been mentioned during parliamentary debates?



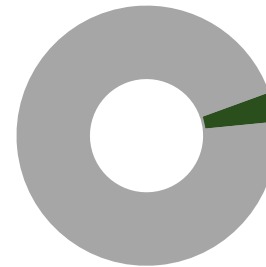
6 in 100
parliamentary
debates on the
Environment



In only

6%

of
parliamentary
debates on
Public Debt

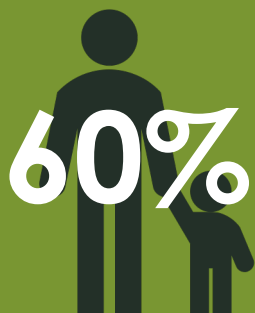


In only

4%

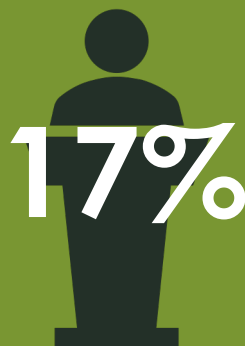
of
parliamentary
debates on
Social Security

What do citizens think about intergenerational justice?



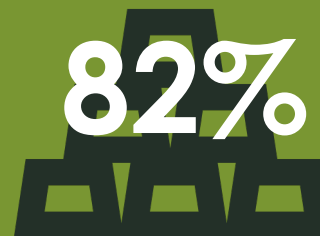
60%

are very concerned with the safeguard of the future generations' interests.



17%

think that decision-makers are very concerned with future generations.



82%

think that there should be limits to Public Debt.

Why haven't decision-makers done more on behalf of intergenerational justice?

1	Absence of studies on intergenerational fairness in tangible public policy areas
2	Lack of political incentives to advocate for future generations

“My political activity is synchronized with the electoral market, and sometimes with the media.”



“Governments do not rule for the next generations, rule for the next elections”

How to measure intergenerational imbalances?

COMMISSIONED

PUBLIC FINANCE



Our aim: to disaggregate public revenues and expenses by generation, evaluating its net contribution to the national budget and public debt, and **identifying the current value of the financial obligations left for the future generations**

Our aim: to analyze the **evolution of housing access since 1970**, identifying possible intergenerational inequalities and their causes



HOUSING

PLANNING

ENVIRONMENT



Our aim: to develop a methodology that quantifies the **contribution of each generation to the environmental footprint indicators**, and their corresponding impact on the Portuguese share of the planetary boundaries

Our aim: to analyze the **evolution of labor patterns across generations** over the last decades in Portugal (e.g. wages, duration of careers, risk of unemployment), identifying possible intergenerational inequalities



LABOUR MARKET

What makes a public policy fair from an intergenerational standpoint?

A methodology that allows policy makers to perform such an assessment is largely missing

We intend to address this gap:

- ❑ Developing an innovative **methodology** and a robust framework to **evaluate the long run impact of public policies** from the intergenerational fairness standpoint
- ❑ In partnership with the **School of International Futures**, a leading expert in long-term thinking and strategic foresight



“As for the future, your task is not
to foresee it, but to enable it”

Antoine de Saint-Exupery



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