## Gulbenkian Sustainability Programme



### 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:

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

#### **Action**

**Impact** 

Knowledge

To increase the knowledge on sustainable production and consumption by supporting advanced training on sustainable production and consumption, and by fostering its inclusion on current academia curriculum.

#1 Reduce the environmental impacts of production systems along the entire value chain

Innovation

To promote innovation through the support of sustainable, circular and collaborative business solutions, favoring the reduction and reuse of resources, as well as a greater use of renewable resources.

#2 Promote sustainable consumption patterns in individuals and organizations

**Changing** behaviours

To improve public perception on the importance of opting for less disposable and longer lasting products and services, through the promotion of new communication and engagement strategies, and the inclusion of insights from behavioural economics and policy advocacy.

#### 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

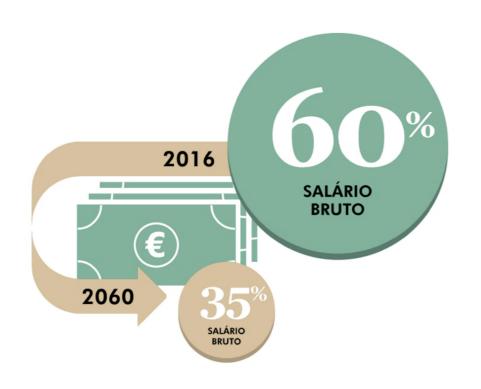
"Across Europe the social contract is broken"

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)

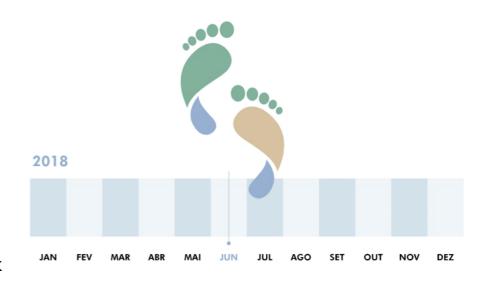


In 2016, a pensioner received almost 60% of his gross salary; At 2060, will only receive about 35%

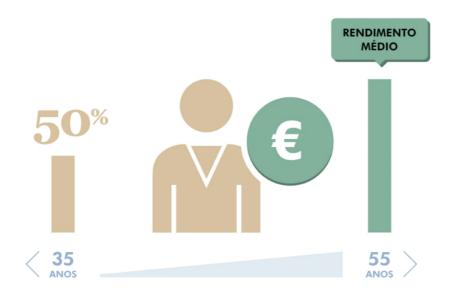
**European Comission, Ageing Report 2018** 

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)

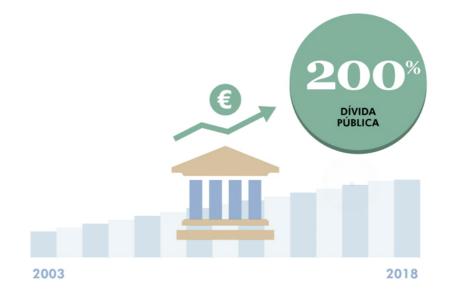


Among the Portuguese with secondary or higher education, the average income of people under 35 years is about half of the average income of the >55 years

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

#### Diagnostic

#### **Analysis**

#### **Dissemination**

#### **Impact**

- **#1** Definition of conceptual framework.
- **#2** Survey of preferences and values among Portuguese citizens.
- **#3** Research interviews with Portuguese politicians.
- **#4** Analysis of the topic on Portuguese media and parliamentary debates.

- #1 Get data to assess distributive balances between generations in the thematic areas where intergen, justice issues are more relevant
- #2 Develop tools and methodologies in order to evaluate the long run impact of public policies from the intergenenerational fairness standpoint
- #3 Propose institutional and governance reforms to engage policy makers in taking intergenerational justice into account

- **#1** Communication strategy that can raise awareness of the longer-term consequences of the decisions made today
- **#2** Recommendations and advocacy strategy to drive forward intergen. fairness in policy-making within Portugal and internationally.

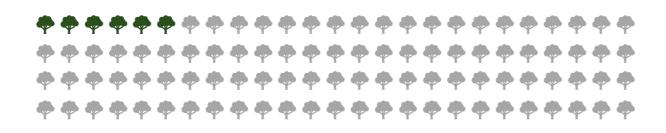
#1 Inclusion of future generations' well-being into current decision making processes.

#2 Increased
awareness on ethical
and distributive justice
among present and
future generations,
and strengthened
relationships between
coexisting
generations.

#### Strengthening cross-generation relationships

## 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

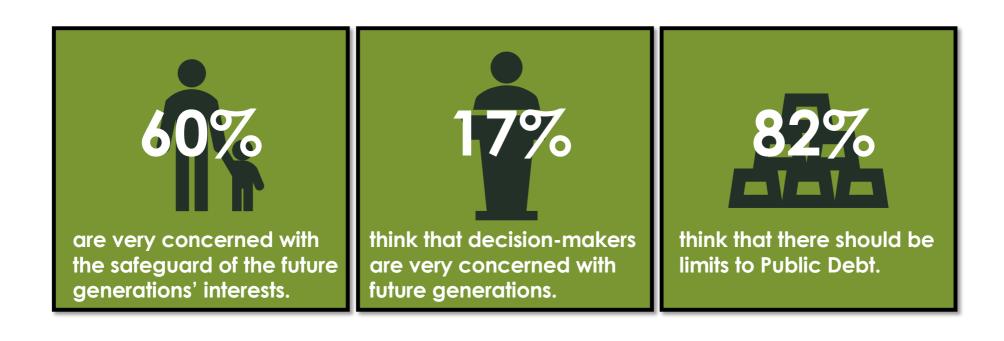


In only

4%

of parliamentary debates on Social Security

#### What do citizens think about intergenerational justice?



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

Absence of studies on intergenerational fairness in tangible public policy areas

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 intergeracional imbalances?

# COMISSIONED

#### **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



# PLANNING

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



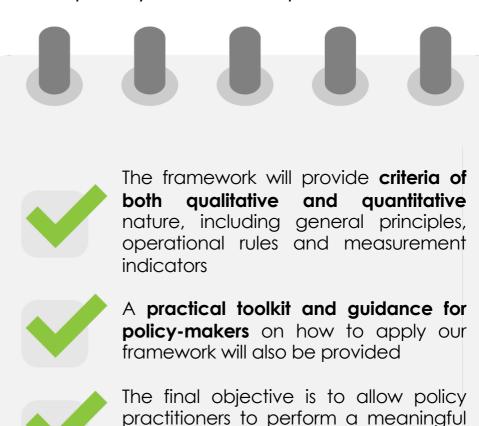
What makes a public policy fair from an intergenerational

**standpoint?** A methodology that allows policy makers to perform such

an assessment is largely missing

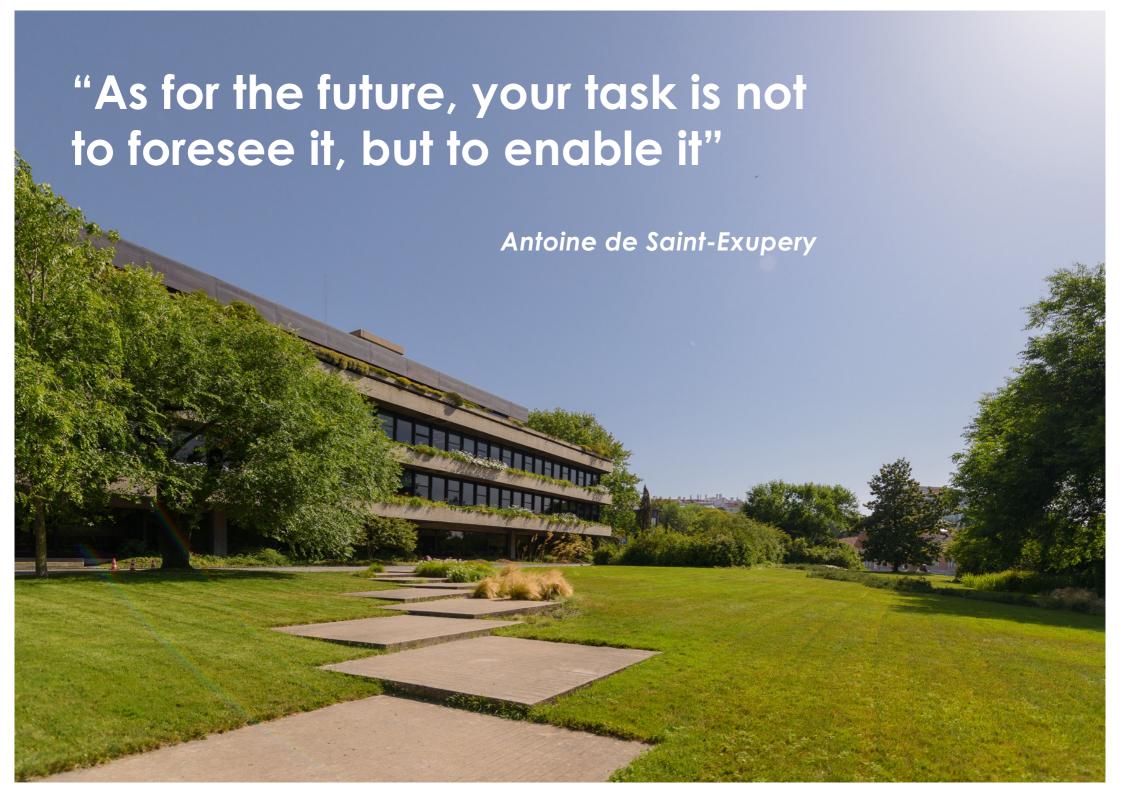
#### We intend to address this gap:

- 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



of real-world policies

intergenerational impact assessment



Luís Lobo Xavier

Gulbenkian Sustainability Programme

Ixavier@gulbenkian.pt

