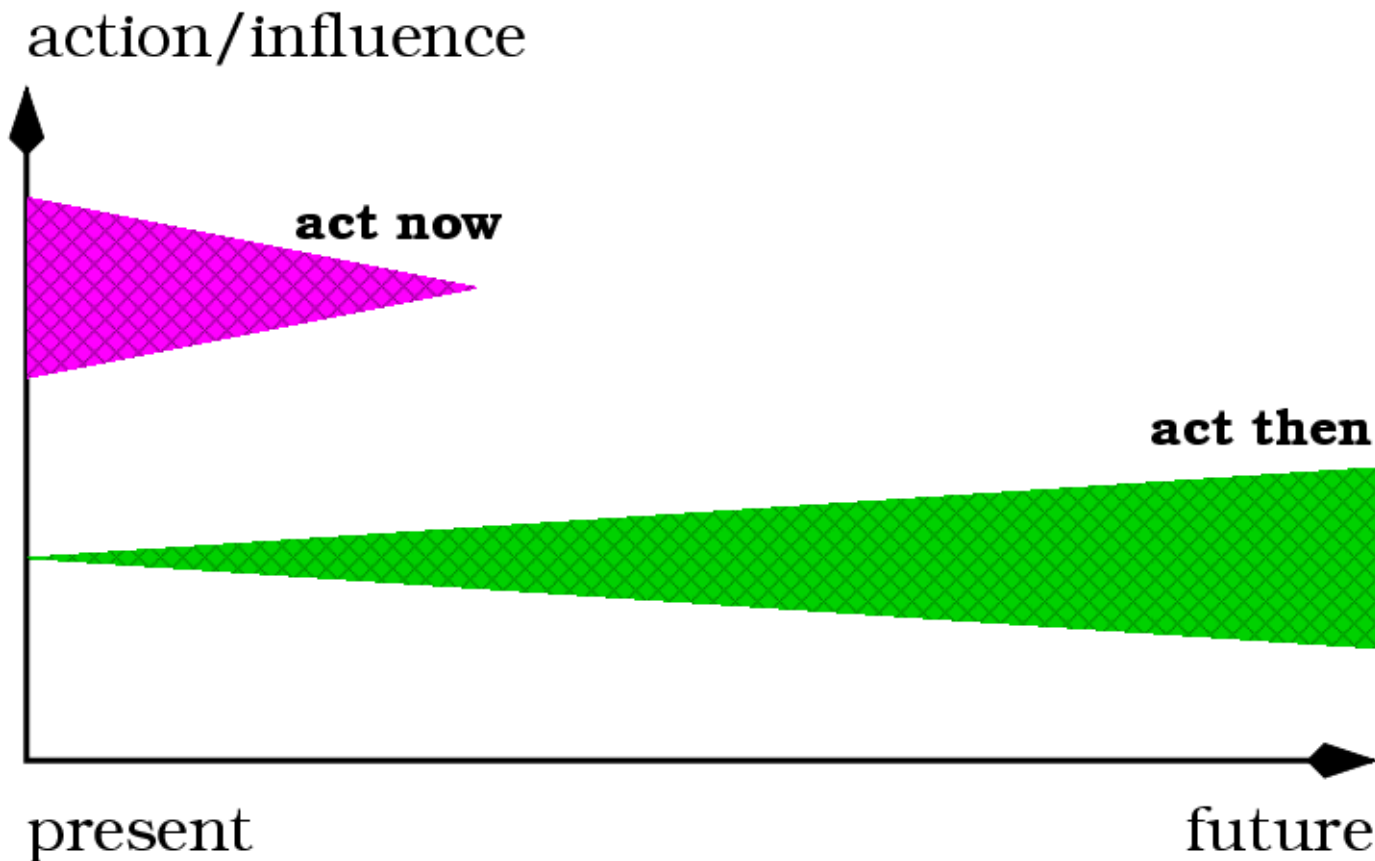


# Can we Personally Influence the Future with our Present Resources?

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# The need for long-term thinking and acting

## **`Act now'**

- very important, but we need guiding principles
- ad-hoc solutions to pressing problems without long-term perspectives
  - talk by Kay Hamacher –

## **`Act then'**

- analysis of long-term perspectives
- preparation of actions in the far-term future
- complementary to standard approach `act now'

## Long-term thinking and acting

### **Public discussion on controversial subjects needed to define our place in nature and in the cosmos**

- Is there an 'optimal' population density?
- Is there an 'ecological justness' between the needs of mankind and the biosphere of the earth?

### **Long-term projects and long-term acculation of capital needed**

- Habitats for future generations of animals
  - sustainable habitat protection –
- Settlement of out space – very long-term engagement unlikely by the public sector or by rich individuals

# What can we do personally?

## **`Act-now' - initiatives**

- Jacob von Uxkull – World Future Council  
[www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org) – `world parliament' of wise thinkers
- Vladimir Burdyuzha – Scientific Center for the Study of the Future
- Don Beck – Center for Human Emergence  
[www.coche.dk](http://www.coche.dk) – consious cultural evolution

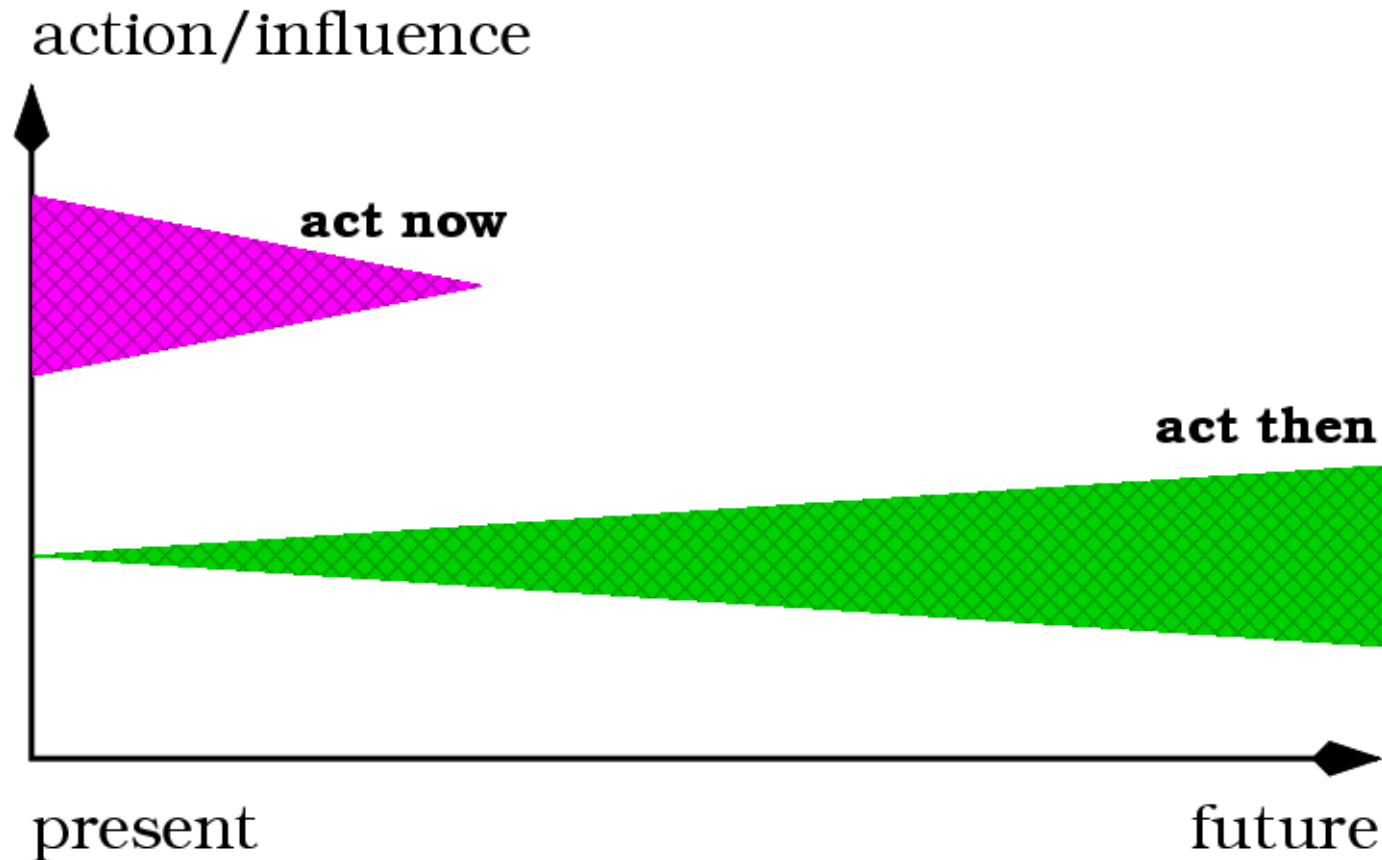
## **Important but difficult**

- big money or large-scale mobilzation needed
- dependence on politics?

## **Initiative Foundation Future 25**

- growing influence by long-term growth: `Act-then'
- personal engagment with limited resources: independence

## Influence through long-term Growth



### **Act then: in the distant future (indirectly)**

- \* start with modest resources (personal)
- \* continuous long-term growth
- \* substantial influence possible, but somewhat less focused
- \* organization with long-term stability necessary

# Mission vs. Organizational Structure

**The structure of an organization needs to be consistent with its mission**

## example

A non-profit foundation with self-electing organs (cooption is the standard organizational form for charities) does not have the moral authority to support grass-root democracy.

## example

An NGO involved in day-to-day political activities has difficulties to speak up for long-term thinking.

## **Mission vs. Structure: Future 25**

long-term engagement < - > private  
long-term stability < -- > democratic structure  
continous growth < -- > openness  
global outreach < -- > organization via Internet

Concept: Future 25  
- Initiative for a non-profit Foundation -

**an global organization dedicated to**

- ✘ **long-term growth: financial, of knowledge and of ideas**
- ✘ **optimization of internal democracy: developing novel tools for intra-organizational participation (via Internet)**
- ✘ **active continuously**

*Building a platform for future-related activities. Dedicated to long-term thinking, supporting the development of life and of mankind on earth, the planets and in the universe*

<http://www.future25.org> Participation welcome!

## In the year 2525 (Exordium & Terminus)

“In the year 2525  
If man is still alive  
If woman can survive  
They may find ...”

...

“Now it's been 10.000 years  
Man has cried a billion tears  
For what he never knew  
Now man's reign is through  
But through the eternal night  
The twinkling of starlight  
So very far away  
Maybe it's only yesterday...”

by Zager & Evans, 1969 (a number-one hit)



# Long-term financial Growth

**tax exemption necessary: non-profit foundation**

US tax-law

5% of endowment per year for charitable projects

German civil-law

2/3 of annual returns for projects, endowment protected

Warren Buffett

Rule-of-thumb for investments into companies with large market capitalizations

$\%(\text{growth of GNP}) + \%(\text{divident yield}) + \%(\text{inflation})$

historical

3.0% =  $\%(\text{growth of GNP})$

3.6% =  $\%(\text{dividend yield})$

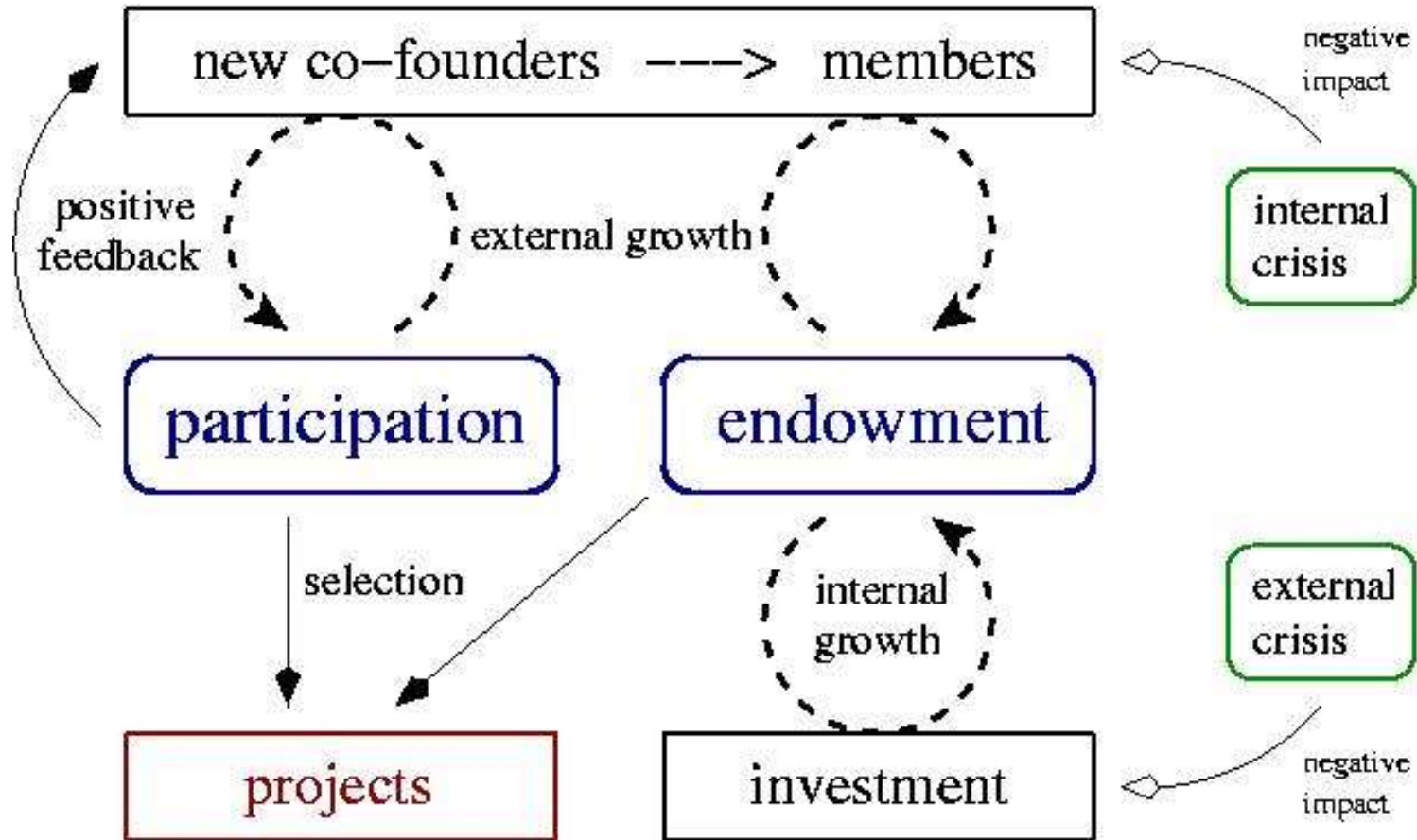
realizable in the future?

4.2% long-term internal growth above inflation

2.6% per year for projects

- endowment would increase 67-times in 100 years
- influx of donations possible

# Members, Participation and Stability



membership: small but substantial donation

# Participation and Opinion-Formation

## Voting Systems

- Condorcet method
- random selection

## Voting and Opinion-Formation

- secondary information from ballots
- voting observers, randomly selected
- enhancing internal communication

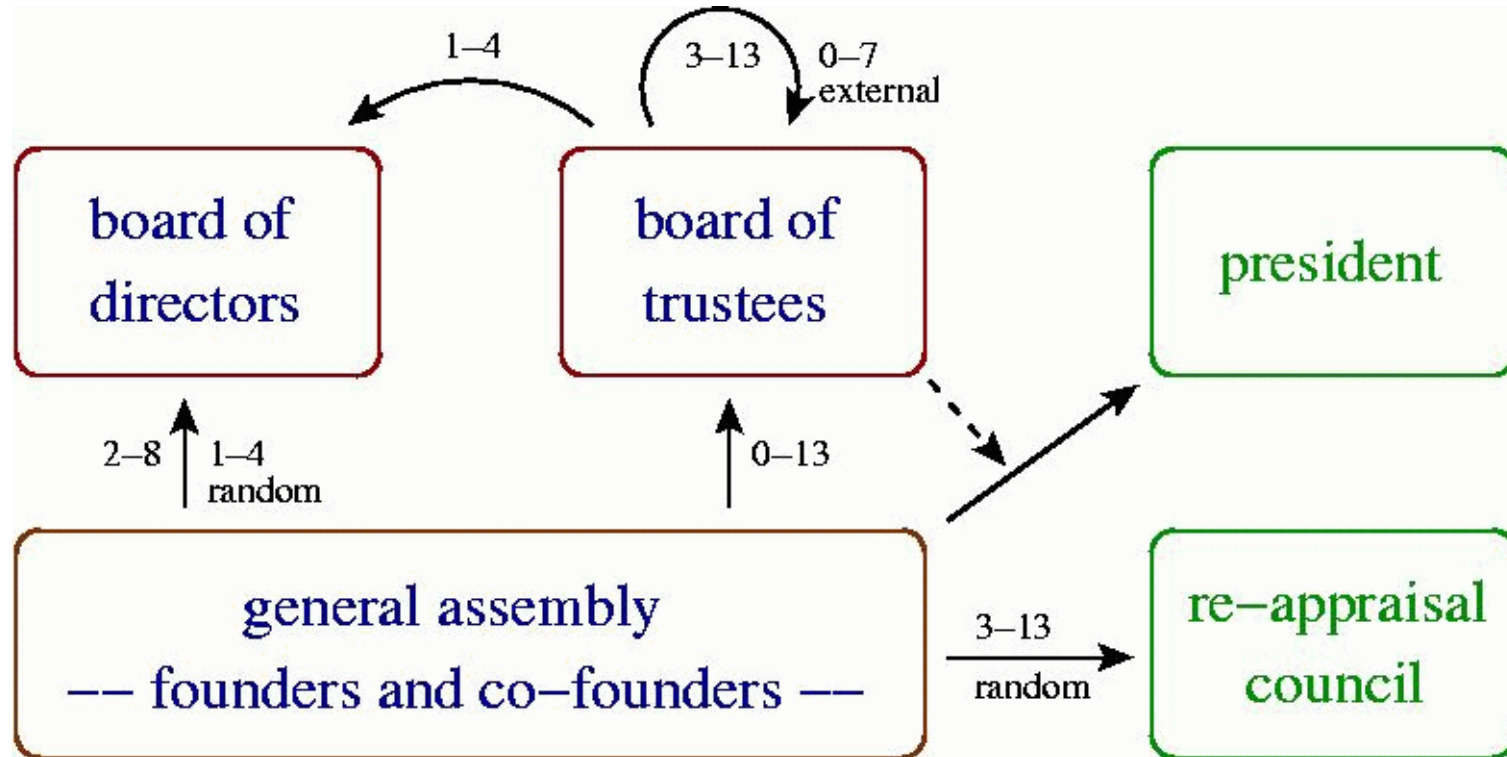
## Structured Opinion-Formation via Internet

- for the selection of candidates and projects
- layered system of selection processes

## Result-Oriented Discussion Forums

- closed-end threads with résumés
- tools to judge the relevance of a discussion thread
- publication of summaries on homepage/internal newsletter

# Competitive Internal Structure



- **board of directors**: executive
- **board of trustees**: control
- **assembly**: democratic stabilization
- **president**: representation
- **re-appraisal council**: re- evaluation

- **maximal participation** and communication via internet
- competitive selection of organs via elections and **random selection**

# Avenues to the Future

## (A) Act here and now

- \* teaching, writing books, articles
- \* building networks
- \* political activities
- \* fundraising

mobilization of human capital  
and of financial capital

## (B) Act then: in the distant future (indirectly)

- \* religious organizations
- \* political organizations
- \* NGO (non-governmental organizations)
- \* Future 25

Projecting human/financial capital into the future  
(a) socialization of idea, purpose, mission, beliefs  
(b) continuous (financial) growth