Toronto Metropolitan University

Global Migration Institute

FUTURE LAB SERIES · FUTURE IMAGINARIES

Berlin Future Lab

Migration and Aging Societies

REPORT

June 24–26, 2026 · DeZIM Institute & Futurium, Berlin

Prepared for the Future of Mobility and Migration Partnership (FUTUREMIG)

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1. Executive Summary

The Berlin Future Lab — “Migration and Aging Societies: Futures, Frictions and Possibilities” — was held June 24–26, 2026 across three venues: an opening evening in Kreuzberg, a core workshop day at the DeZIM Institute, and a public day at the Futurium. It was the first in the Future of Mobility and Migration Partnership (FUTUREMIG) Future Lab series, a set of city-based labs bringing together migration researchers, policy partners, and artists under the “future imaginaries” banner. Berlin's substantive focus was the intersection of demographic aging and migration in Europe; it set the template that Accra (November 17, 2026), Singapore (April 25-27, 2027), and Toronto (October 20-22, 2027) will follow and adapt, each around their own regional theme.

The lab combined a scenario-based futures methodology — staged small-group Scenario Labs (Exploring Futures, The Shocks, and Better Futures using the Three Horizons framework), a disruptive “shock” stress-test exercise, a “Where Do You Stand?” barometer exercise, and closing fishbowl discussions — with three artistic contributions woven directly into the programme: a film screening and neighbourhood tour, a series of AI-based visual interventions, and a participatory performance piece that opened the public day. This report documents that format for internal and partner use, so the Accra, Singapore, and Toronto teams have a working record to build from.

Partners and Support

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