



# The MWW Five-Step Relational Design Method

## Overview

The MWW Five-Step Method is a **relational design framework** for working in conditions of uncertainty, complexity and systemic tension. It does not aim to solve problems, optimise systems or predict outcomes. Instead, it supports **ethical feedback, situated awareness and meaning-making** within socio-technical environments.

The method is recursive, embodied and non-linear. It treats human awareness not as bias, but as a **feedback mechanism** within living systems

Living\_Feedback\_Lab\_MWW\_CNR\_Ant...

## **Step 1 — Human Conditions (pre)**

### **Sensing before knowing**

The process begins with sensing the relational field rather than defining the problem.

Using the STUART compass (Safety, Trust, Understanding, Awareness, Relaxation, Togetherness), participants attune to:

- emotional climate
- ethical tension
- relational safety
- unspoken constraints

This step deliberately precedes analysis. It prevents premature abstraction and instrumental framing.

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## **Step 2 — Human Perspectives**

### **Multiplicity without resolution**

Systemic contexts are explored through multiple lenses:

- ecological
- social
- technological
- economic
- institutional

Contradictions are not resolved. Temporal tensions are held. The goal is **visibility**, not alignment.

This step resists causal closure and preserves systemic plurality.

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## **Step 3 — Human Actions I**

## Language as anticipation

Participants articulate emerging meanings, tensions and narrative openings.

Here, language functions as an anticipatory act—not a description of solutions, but a probe into possible futures. AI, when used, operates as a **reflective mirror**, not a generator of answers.

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## Step 4 — Human Actions II

### Prototyping meaning, not solutions

Instead of producing outputs, participants prototype:

- narrative seeds
- embodied scenarios
- relational states
- speculative governance shifts

Design is treated as inquiry. Prototypes remain provisional and reversible.

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## Step 5 — Human Conditions (post)

### Ethical feedback

The process closes by returning to the STUART compass to sense:

- shifts in awareness
- ethical resonance
- relational change
- what became possible or impossible

Evaluation is not performance-based. It is reflective, embodied and ethical.

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## What this method is *not*

- It is not behavioural training
- It is not a moral instruction
- It is not solution engineering
- It is not consensus-seeking

It is a **relational practice** for working at the edge of system limits.