



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.