


FUTURE SCENARIOS

WHAT

Planning tool that uses envisioning technique that stimulates foresight and helps you prepare for different scenario's. For groups of 10-12 people.

WHEN TO USE

- **Stage(s):** Preparation & setup, prototyping
- **Goal:** Map & engage stakeholders/actors, create new knowledge & ideas, think ahead & find solutions to address challenges/problems plan & implement/apply knowledge
- **Type:** Participation & co-creation tool
- **Time & Effort:** 1 - 2 hrs 

HOW TO USE

- Describe the project and how you measure the success of your project. What are the success factors?
- Split up in two groups. each group imagines a different future: the best case and worst case scenario. Avoid extreme thinking and stay realistic.
- Each group describes the scenario based on the success factors and identifies the trends that support this version of the future - use a flip chart
- Bring the groups together and compare both versions of the future. use this as a starting point to describe the Likely future Scenario.
- Use the worst case scenario to identify possible threats and the the best case scenario to identify opportunities
- Determine what threats and opportunities are most important to focus on

FUTURE SCENARIO'S

STRENGTHS

- Clarifying the future helps to identify the necessary actions to reach that future.
- Helps to determine our impact in creating the future.
- Does not require much time.
- Seeing the future helps to plan it 'if we can see it, we can built it.

WEAKNESSES

- Predicting the future is impossible, the tool only gives a possible version of the future.
- Based on the input of participants and not on actual data,so it is prone to participants' biases
- Beware not to come up with extremely unlikely scenario's

Source: 3 Tools for Futures Thinking & Foresight Development | emergent by design