

B2

Learning segment

Future Mapping

The purpose of Future Map is to create a shared view of industry trends in the recent past, present, and future — participants map key trends from the past year, current year, and three years ahead. Then review the map, identify patterns and discuss the relevance of different trends.



TIMEFRAME

30 – 60 minutes



GROUP SIZE

Up to 25 participants



FACILITATION LVL.



COMFORT ZONE



Use it to...

- Raise awareness and create a shared view of industry trends in the recent past, present, and future



MATERIALS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Coloured Pens/Markers
- A4 paper sheets
- Stickies

Potential application to the the geospatial dimension

This activity may be applied to explore with a high level perspective, from more specific themes such as "Smart Cities" to the wider/transverse thematic of digital transformation in the public sector

Future Mapping

Walkthrough

1. Set up the timeline

Before the workshop make sure that you have a wide enough empty wall with free space to stand in front. Divide the wall roughly into five same-size sections with tape with flipchart sheets of paper. At the top of each section write visibly with a thick marker the following 5 year sequence: last year (Y_{0-1}), present year (Y_0), next year (Y_{0+1}) and the following two years after that (Y_{0+2} , Y_{0+3}). For example, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

2. Go through instructions

Give each participant a marker and post-its. Have the group stand around in a semi-circle facing the preset wall while you explain the purpose of the workshop and give out the instructions.

3. Fill up the timeline with stickies

Start to fill the last year (Y_{0-1}) section. Allow 3 minutes to fill up that section with stickies. Move on to the present year (Y_0) and so on for each subsequent year. Help the group keeping up the pace and encourage everyone to participate. If you feel the momentum is dragging, ask relevant questions or make

suggestions to inspire and spark the group's thinking.

4. Organise themes

When the time is up ask everyone to stare at the stickies on the wall and look for patterns and common themes in each year. If time allows, create subgroups and give them about 10 minutes to sort the trends under each year and summarize the key patterns.

6. Reflect and share

Run a group reflection and discussion. Some good questions to explore could be:

- *What patterns catch your attention when looking at this timeline?*
- *Which trends do you feel are most important for us to be aware of and to learn more about?*
- *With this overview in mind, how do you feel about the past, present, and future?*
- *What implications or what might this mean for your project team? organization? sector? How does it affect your particular role?*

Future Mapping

Notes and tips

At the start...

Explain the purpose of the exercise by sharing the following instructions:

- *We will, as a group, co-create a vision of the future of <theme> through the lens of the past and the present.*
- *The goal is to identify the significant "forces" (trends, technologies, behavioural shifts, etc.) on stickies: one per sticky and one year at the time.*
- *As you stick your "force", read your post-its out loud so the rest of the group can hear.*
- *There are no taking turns - As soon as you a "force" written down just go up to the year and stick it up.*
- *The wall must be filled up in 25 minutes*
- *Don't overthink it too much. The aim is to get lots of different driving forces up on the wall.*

At the end...

Wrap up the activity by sharing some of the key themes that you heard throughout the discussion. Ask the group how they would like to capture their thoughts and actions to use in the future.

Optionally, close by inviting each participant to share one insight or action that they take with them from the workshop.



DOs, DON'Ts & BE AWARE

- ! As this is a fast, often loud exercise, soft spoken or introverted participants may slip into the background, especially when the group is large. Be sure to encourage full participation by support the lower voices and encouraging those who have not participated.