

# WORKING ORDER FUTURE SEARCH CONFERENCE ASPERN-SEESTADT

## PHASE 0 INTRODUCTION PRESENTATION

### **Purpose:**

Become acquainted with the participants in various groups, where they come from; countries, cities, institutions, languages, co-operations

### **Part 1 (1.) Opening of the workshop**

Relaxed atmosphere, maybe music in the room.

We are sitting in a circle in the seminar room or outside in the garden.

We are handing over a subject – stone, flower, picture etc.

### **Part 2 (2.) Who we are, and where do we come from? What are we doing ?**

sitting in a circle and starting to introduce ourselves

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### **Method**

- Tell the people about your country
- .Short description of your institution
- What are your tasks at your working place ?
- What skills do you have, which could be interesting for our project ?
- Do you have specific hobbies ?

## **Part 3 (3.) Introduction to the VITA NOVA project**

### Lecture

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### **Purpose**

Searching for common ground

### **Method**

- Powerpoint introduction
- Goals, aims and objectives of the workshop

## **(4.) Future search workshop – Introduction**

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Short introduction and overview

The process of the workshop and details about the procedure.

- + Organisational aspects, working in homogenous or mixed groups
- + Put all your information on flipcharts
- + Take care for the time schedule !
- + Try to find common ground
- + All opinions and perspectives must be respected by all the participants !!!

Have fun

### CONTENT OF THE FUTURE SEARCH CONFERENCE

PHASE 0 Introduction

PHASE 1 Searching for common ground

PHASE 2 External and desirable trends

PHASE 3 Prouds and sorries

PHASE 4 Future Scenarios

PHASE 5 Formulation Strategies

PHASE 6 Plans for action

## PHASE 1 SEARCHING FOR 'COMMON GROUND'

### **Purpose:**

Sharing information about the project "Permaculture Design Course – Aspern Seestadt" and discussion about prepared papers (Agriculture, open spaces, energy systems, spatial planning, history etc.) in relation to the region. This method of starting shows the participants that their ideas will be registered without discrimination based on status or affiliation.

### **Part 1 (5.1) Our personal relationship to the topic**

Working in mixed groups

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#### **Method**

- Tell the people in your group about your projects and what you read about various topics (regional concept, agriculture, energy systems, urban gardens, EU policy etc.)
- Using brainstorming, the group suspends judgement and evaluation.
- We emphasize spontaneous sharing of mutual perceptions rather than spontaneous appraisal of other ideas.
- All inputs are recorded on flipcharts and hung on the walls.

### **Part 2 (5.2) What happened in the past ?**

Working in mixed groups

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#### **Method**

Try to find out for yourself within some time, what occurred in the recent past which was a real turning point in relation to your life

- the past of your environment relating to politics, economy or society
- the past between cooperative activities in the south eastern part of Europe

**Your personal activities in the past** – What happened to you and what was real important for you

- + in the nineties up to now – school etc.
- + Just mention a few examples like environmental problems

### **The past of your environment (economy, politics, society –**

What happened and what was really important ?

- + in the nineties up to now
- Examples: silent revolution, the EU, the new millenium, environmental issues,

### **Part 3 (5.3) Common ground**

Plenary and discussion session

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#### **Purpose**

Searching for common ground atmosphere / informal discussion of group reports headlined on charts hung around the walls.

#### **Method**

- Choose a reporter
- prepare a 5-minute summary report for the following plenary and discussion session

## PHASE 2 / A EXTERNAL TRENDS

### Purpose:

The external trends are those which may have consequences to your work and which are seen from a policy standpoint. The probable or desirable trends are those they consider likely to extend into the future whether they are desired or not. Using brainstorming, the group suspends judgement and evaluation and allows for conflicting observations to be expressed. This scanning of the environment sets the tone for the conference.

- What are the social, cultural and economic driving forces – market conditions, price of energy etc.?
- What are the pressures (urban expansion, deforestation, emissions, etc) and impacts (climate change), which are causing soil degradation, erosion, contamination etc.) ?
- What kind of positive trends do you recognize?
- Which external trends may have consequences to your work?

Within group work try to gather within your group most important external trends of your environment in relation to economic, cultural, ecological and social problems. Additional we will set up a **mind map**.

### Part 1 (6.1) Which external trends and problems may have consequences to your work ?

Working in homogenous groups

Take a short glance to your publication, case study etc. relating to the subject.

#### Method

- Just tell the group, what was important in relation to your paper and your work.
- Identify five or six major trends that are shown by the work you have already done.
- All inputs are recorded on flip charts and hung on the walls.
- This simple technology assists in the symbolic representation of the shared world of the participants. They can see that their perception is legitimately a part of the whole group.

### Part 2 (6.2) Elaborating a mind map

Working in the plenum

Gathering external trends which are important for you.  
Elaborating a mind-map in the plenum

#### Method

Try to find some catchwords in relation to your personal environment about economic, social and ecological trends

#### Make some notes ...

We will put up a mind map in the plenum about trends

#### Rules of the game

1. Brainstorming. The purpose is to generate as many ideas as possible. Don't reject proposals or criticize.
2. Who nominates a trend, may decide where to put it on the mind map. Members have an equal chance to express their views.
3. Try to bring up examples

## PHASE 2 / B DESIRABLE TRENDS – MIND MAP

### Purpose:

The group then moves to sort these trends into desirable and probable categories. This phase is characterized by more detailed knowledge and would correspond to define the operating environment of the system.

### Part 3 (6.3.) Selection of trends – diagnosis

Plenum

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#### Method

- Try to select five trends out of your mind map, which are most important for you
- Indicate these trends with a sticking point (diagnosis)
- the small group present their scenarios to the large group and common themes are combined into the total group's most desirable and most probable future scenarios.

### Part 4 (6.4.) Desirable and probable categories

Homogenous groups

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Choose a moderator and reporter for elaborating new categories

#### Method

1. Make some notes on a flip chart about three or four trends (it could be also a mind map) which are most important within your group
2. Write down on your flip chart, what are you doing already today in relation to these trends
3. Additionally take a note on the flip chart, what you will do in the future in relation to these trends ( and most of all what you don't do yet today)

- **Reporter:** prepare a 5-minute summary report for the following plenary and discussion session

Results of present issues: for instance green corridors, using public transportation,

What you will do in the future: For instance – improving environmental education, elaborating participation processes

## PHASE 3 PROUDS AND SORRIES

**Purpose:**

Evaluate your present situation and find out common values  
Select a moderator

### **(7.1.) Strength and weaknesses of the present situation**

Homogenous groups

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**Method**

- Identify Prouds and Sorries, strength and weaknesses of the present situation (projects, your country, ect.), of events happening right now.
- Identify a set of issues in your group which you are proud about and also three topics you are worrying, in relation to the project and also show up constraints which you are sorry about. This phase explicitly calls for creativity and innovation. The future of the system can now be designed using ideal characteristics that reflect participants´ values.
- Record your ideas on flip charts on the walls.

**Reporter:** Have volunteers lead discussions.

First ideas .....

### **(7.2.) Short Plenary and discussion session**

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Examples:

PROUDS:

SORRIES:

## PHASE 4 FUTURE SCENARIOS

### Purpose:

Identify desired / preferred future scenarios for the city of the future. Consider the newspaper article you want to read about this region in 5 years. Don't do problem solving at this point. Create your own ideas.

This phase explicitly calls for creativity and innovation. The future of the system can now be designed using ideal characteristics that reflect the participants values.

### Method

In mixed groups identify desired/preferred scenarios for the year 2020 and prepare a creative production of your vision to the plenum. Consider the newspaper article you want to read about in five years. What does it say, what is doing worthy of note. It is your desired future. Don't do problem solving at this point.

1. Make a list on a flip chart about all achievements you made since 1999. Take your time and be sure you don't miss any important thing which is valuable for you. Elaborate concrete examples about your personal accessible future.
2. Make a list about all your surmounted obstacles, and also all useful chances.
3. Discover a creative production of your vision. Think about, your vision could be already realised. Examples: TV production, press conference, collage, painting,

## (8.) Scenarios about an ideal future

Mixed groups

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**Reporting** is the whole group. Your presentation 8 minutes max.

### Additional instruction:

This phase is not directed toward concrete strategies or solutions, although they might be suggested during brainstorming. On the contrary, we suggest people devise curative, unconventional and surprising conceptions of what the system ought to be. This kind of activity is best performed in small groups. When a small group generates enough design characteristics they can switch their work with another group.

## PHASE 5 FORMULATION STRATEGIES

### Purpose:

The formulation of strategies follow the same mode as the previous phase. Four small groups generate the means by which the idealized future can be attained and develop a list of strategies that the group endorses. A copy of the idealized future document is supplied to each work group so that the targeted future is the same negotiated future they can strive for.

### Part 1 (9.) Formulation of projects and measures

Mixed group work

#### Method

- Elaborate goals and objectives about an idealized future  
**What we want to achieve ?**
- Find some examples for realizing your ideas  
**How we want to achieve ?**

Examples

**Purpose:** Ecological design and planning in architecture and open space design, agriculture, energy systems, forestry and economy

**Ideas to realize:** Community gardens, agro-economic relationship between the bioregion Marchfeld and the city, development of efficient energy systems, municipal composting, etc.

### Part 2 (10.) Presentation and discussion

group report

Choose a reporter and two group members for elaborating a list of common ground.

#### Method

- 1.. Elaborate a list within your group about the common grounds (what)
- 2.. Elaborate a list within your group how you want to realize your ideas (opportunities)
- 3.. Elaborate a list within your group about unsolved problems and obstacles (constraints)

Finally try to put together all the lists for creating one final document. The products of the action groups are presented to the large group to be followed by a debate and a discussion of their desirability and feasibility

Make a discussion what you agree upon and what you cannot put together. Some differences we have to accept, which we cannot solve at the moment.

## PHASE 6 PLANS FOR ACTION

**Purpose:**

Once the strategies are articulated, the participants then self-select action plan groups to design implementation plans for their chosen strategies.

- Choose a reporter and prepare a 5-minute summary report for the following plenary and discussion session

**Method**

The workshop concludes with the participants identifying activities through which they intend to maintain contact with the project. Put all results into the list

Titel of the project				
Project goals and objectives				
Working group / additional project partners				
What	Who	with whom	till the end of the IP workshop	till End of Dec. 2012

### Part 1 (11) Clarifying open questions for the IP

Mixed group work

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Clarifying open questions for the Intensive program

### Part 2 (12) Review

Discussion / Questionnaire

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Gathering opinions, which was important for you.

**Method**

Make critical comments to the future search procedure

**Make some notes ...**

Put in on a flipchart

### LITERATURE

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OSINGER, Dietmar (2001): Brücken schlagen – Netze knüpfen. Eine Zukunftskonferenz als Einstieg in das Projekt 'BRIDGE'. In: BRIDGE Lifeline Danube. Nachhaltige Entwicklung und Freiraumgestaltung. Ein Kommunikationsnetzwerk der Städte entlang der Donau. Visionen für den Donaoraum. Wien: BOKU, IFL p37-41

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