



NextFood has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 771738.



**Funding:** Horizon 2020, European Union

**Call:** Rural Renaissance – Fostering Innovation and Business Opportunities

**Topic:** RUR-13-2017 Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice

**Grant agreement:** No 771738

**Duration:** May 2018 to April 2022

**Coordinator:**

Dr Martin Melin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden

**WEBSITE:**

<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



## Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

### Practice Abstract #61: Visionary thinking as a core competence in the NextFood approach

Author: Marie Henriksen Bogstad (NMBU, Norway)

In the NextFood educational approach, visionary thinking is a competence whereby the learners imagine a desired future within specific agrifood and forestry systems. Students practice visionary thinking together with farmers and other stakeholders in the field. Such a shared activity can bring people of different backgrounds, values and assumptions together and open up for co-creation of future oriented knowledge. When a shared vision is created, the room for transformative change increases as the vision provides direction for action plans and decisions along the way. Having a shared vision based on what is meaningful for a group collectively also creates ownership and individual responsibility.

Visionary thinking is a holistic and pro-active approach to the future, different from problem solving which puts the problem at the centre of attention. Visionary thinking encourages sole focus on thinking about the desired future focussing not on what stakeholders want to get away from, but rather what they want to create. Visionary thinking can be developed only through practice and when training visionary thinking, keep in mind that it is a very versatile approach that can be utilized in many ways, scales and situations. Before starting a visioning exercise 1) create the right environment and thoroughly inform participants about the process; 2) ask questions that allow for the imagination to 'run free'. In many cases the use of guided imagery to 'travel to the future', can serve as a fruitful way to observe and visualize what the desired future state is all about. In any case, it is important to create a relaxing atmosphere that allows for suspension of judgement.



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### Practice Abstract #61: Visjonstenking som nøkkelkompetanse i NextFood-modellen

Author: Marie Henriksen Bogstad (NMBU, Norway)

I NextFood-modellen er visjonstenking en kompetanse hvor man forestiller seg en ønsket fremtid innenfor et spesifikt mat-, gårds- eller skogssystem. Studenter praktiserer visjonstenking med bønder og andre aktører ute i felten. En slik kollektiv aktivitet kan bidra til å forene ulike interesser, aktiviteter og verdier, og åpne opp for samskaping av fremtidsrettet kunnskap. Når en delt visjon er utformet øker rommet for transformativ endring da visjonen fungerer som et nav for handlingsplaner og avgjørelser underveis. Å ha en delt visjon basert på hva som er viktig for en gruppe i fellesskap øker også eierskap og individuelt ansvar.

Visjonstenking er en helhetlig og proaktiv tilnærming til fremtiden, forskjellig fra problemløsning som er reaktiv og spesifikk. Problemløsning setter problemet i forsetet, mens visjonstenking heller vier fullt fokus til forestillingen om den ønskede fremtiden. Oppmerksomheten er da rettet mot hva aktørene ønsker skape.

Som for en hvilken som helst kompetanse kan evnen til å utøve visjonstenking kun utvikles gjennom praksis. Når man øver på visjonstenking er det viktig å huske at det er en allsidig tilnærming som kan brukes på mange ulike måter og situasjoner. Før du starter en øvelse i visjonstenking er det viktig å sørge for trygge omgivelser og informere godt om prosessen i forkant. Det er også viktig å stille spørsmål som oppmuntrer til frislipp av fantasien. I mange situasjoner kan det fungere å bruke en 'guidet forestilling' som en metode for å reise frem i tid, og for å observere og visualisere hva den ønskede fremtiden handler om. Uansett er det viktig å skape en avslappet atmosfære som tillater deltakerne å se bort ifra fordommer.



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## Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

### Practice Abstract #61: El pensamiento visionario como competencia básica en el enfoque de NextFood

Author: Marie Henriksen Bogstad (NMBU, Norway)

En el enfoque educativo de NextFood, el pensamiento visionario es una competencia por la que los alumnos imaginan un futuro deseado dentro de sistemas agroalimentarios y forestales específicos. Los estudiantes practican el pensamiento visionario junto con los agricultores y otras partes interesadas en el campo. Esta actividad compartida puede reunir a personas de diferentes orígenes, valores y supuestos y abrirse a la cocreación de conocimientos orientados al futuro. Cuando se crea una visión compartida, el espacio para el cambio transformador aumenta, ya que la visión proporciona la dirección para los planes de acción y las decisiones a lo largo del camino. Tener una visión compartida basada en lo que es significativo para un grupo colectivamente también crea propiedad y responsabilidad individual.

El pensamiento visionario es un enfoque holístico y proactivo del futuro, diferente de la resolución de problemas, que pone el problema en el centro de atención. El pensamiento visionario anima a centrarse únicamente en pensar en el futuro deseado, centrándose no en lo que las partes interesadas quieren evitar, sino en lo que quieren crear. El pensamiento visionario sólo puede desarrollarse a través de la práctica y, al entrenar el pensamiento visionario, hay que tener en cuenta que es un enfoque muy versátil que puede utilizarse de muchas maneras, escalas y situaciones. Antes de comenzar un ejercicio de visión, hay que: 1) crear el entorno adecuado e informar exhaustivamente a los participantes sobre el proceso; 2) formular preguntas que permitan "dar rienda suelta" a la imaginación. En muchos casos, el uso de imágenes guiadas para "viajar al futuro" puede ser una forma fructífera de observar y visualizar el estado futuro deseado. En cualquier caso, es importante crear una atmósfera relajante que permita la suspensión del juicio.