



There are three stages for preparing, conducting and wrapping-up a workshop using the VUCA CANVAS. For each stage the various tasks are described in more detail on the next pages.

1. define 3. select 4. organise 2. set prepare social system participants venue & space boundaries workshop 8. find conduct 5. introduce 6. form 7. get interventions scope & canvas landscapes insights workshop wrap-up 9. share 10. initiate interventions results workshop

Prepare workshop



1. define social system

2. set boundaries

3. select participants

4. organise venue & space

Agree about the scope of the social system to be explored. A social system is a network of individuals, groups and institutions. A structure that shapes a stable group; a team, an organisation, a social platform or place.

Define the boundaries of the social system to explore and organise. This is important as workshop participants have to dialogue about the same dynamics and interactions between people, groups and institutions.

Select people who are participating in the workshop. It is important to have different stakeholders and perspectives at work. Complex phenomena can only be uncovered by a variety of insights.

Find a place where creativity can flourish. The space should be large enough to host 6 tables (1m²) and a maximum of about 30 people. There should be space for walking around and placing 6 flip-charts.

Conduct workshop



5. introduce scope & canvas

6. form landscapes

7. get insights

8. find interventions

The facilitator communicates the social system to be developed and the associated boundaries. The VUCA canvas with the key capacities is introduced. Explain the 3-step workshop format in detail.

People in small teams (4-6) explore the current state of the social system. Each capacity is divided in four sub-capacities. Physical building blocks visualise the state of capacities and sub-capacities.

Each team dialogues about what they see in their landscape.
Complex realities will become visible by sharing perspectives.
The team formulates their Top-3 insights on a flip-chart and present to the other teams.

A plenary conversation about all (6x3) insights uncovers the patterns in the social system. A Top-3 of interventions emerge from a structured dialogue. Interventions which will change / shift patterns in the social system













Wrap-up workshop



9. share results

10. initiate interventions

Make pictures of all canvasses during the workshop step 'Form Landscape'. Picture the flip-overs from the steps 'Get Insights' and 'Find Interventions'. Summarise all material in a presentation format.

Start to intervene in the social system. Choose small fail-save steps to keep track on the emerging changes. Beware not to use traditional project management approaches. Embrace VUCA.