VISION SCENARIOS

A Step-by-step guide

Exercise	Content
1. Values as a basis	Selecting the values for your vision scenario: 1. Answer the following question individually: — Which value is essential for you when you think about x futures (for example digital futures)? 2. Share your value with a partner and interview each other. Ask each other the following question at least twice: — Why is this value important to you?
	3. In pairs (or more), select one or two values on which to base your scenario. 4. Discuss the meaning of the values by providing examples: — Can you think of organizations, communities, or solutions where these values have been important or implemented?
2. Vision Scenarios	Building your vision scenario: 1. Choose a year at least 15 years into the future as the setting for your scenario. 2. To begin outlining your scenario, consider the following question: — What does a future in the year x look like, where your values are a lived reality?

	3. Depending on the focus of your scenario (technology, politics, economics, law, environment, etc.), please describe what the future will look like in your specific focus area. Rather than providing a general description, try to elaborate on a specific example in detail, for instance: — What does a social media network with the value of care at its foundation look like? How do users interact in such a network? What does the design look like? What content is shared? Who owns such a network? What happens to the data shared? Etc. 4. Develop a title for your scenario that captures its central idea.
3. Backcasting	Drafting strategic steps from your vision scenario to the present: Backcasting is all about working backwards FROM your scenario TO the present. 1. Define the number of points in time between your scenario and the present that you want to examine in detail. Depending on your overall time frame, the period between each point is typically between 5 and 10 years. 2. Work yourself <u>backwards</u> from the year of your scenario: — For each step, consider the following question: What conditions or requirements need to be in place for your vision scenario to become reality? These are your prerequisites. — Focus on one or more prerequisites per step. — If helpful, you can group your prerequisites into political, economic, social, technical, legal, and environmental categories.
4. News from the Future	Adding some storytelling to your vision scenario: 1. To combine backcasting and scenario in one narrative, envision composing a news article for your favourite news outlet in the year of your scenario: — Look back at past events, using the information from your backcasting and potential fictional challenges that might have arisen. — Describe the present status quo and what has changed. — Choose a telling headline. — Sketch an image/cover for your article.