

Think Big! Think Now!

A simplified backcasting exercise

OVERVIEW:

Think Big, Think Now is a foresight framework developed by RPA to help organizations envision the desired future state, the context in which they operate, and the work they seek to advance.

Building on the practice of backcasting, it poses intentionally broad questions to spark expansive reflection and analysis, while remaining adaptable to each organization's specific goals and milestones. By bridging long-view visioning with sequenced action, it supports organizations in aligning strategy, programming, resources, capabilities, and partnerships to achieve preferred futures.

QUESTIONS:

THINK BIG

Welcome to your preferred future

- What is the state of the world in which the organization operates? How does it feel to live there?
- What positive developments have been made and to what degree has the organization contributed to this?
- What negative consequences have emerged and for whom?
- How will the organization continue to effect change and how will this affect its internal state?
- Does philanthropy exist in this future? Has it transformed and how?
- Does your sector and your organization exist (and in what form)?

THINK NOW

- What changes or actions are needed now, in the short term, for the organization to be positioned to start creating (or safeguarding) the imagined future?
- What resources or capabilities does the organization need in the near term to be able to act along this futures trajectory?
- What approaches, mindsets and tools must be abandoned by the organization (and/or by funders)? What must be adopted or strengthened?
- What skills, people, processes and structures need to be changed or adopted now.
- What is missing? What is an obstacle?

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THINK NOW

THINK BIG

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CHOSEN FUTURE YEAR: