

Futures Coaching Programme 2012

Introduction to Futures, 1 March, London

Scenario Planning, 22 March, London

Applying Futures, 23 March, London

Every manager needs to prepare for the future. In the current world of unprecedented uncertainty, anyone involved in making decisions about strategy needs the skills to navigate the complex future their organisation may face. Understanding how to use strategic futures techniques is no longer the realm of the specialist – it is fast becoming an essential survival tool.

The Foresight Horizon Scanning Centre (www.foresight.gov.uk) offers training and coaching in futures tools that help people apply futures thinking in strategy and policy development. Through SAMI Consulting, it provides programmes covering a range of futures techniques at introductory and more advanced levels, backed up with online support and opportunities for further coaching. As a non-profit initiative, these programmes offer top quality training at a minimal cost.

All three one-day courses are designed for anyone wanting to use or commission futures analysis and will give participants a better understanding of how these tools can help them make better decisions in a period of particular uncertainty. The introduction to futures can be undertaken as a standalone course; but we recommend that participants on the applying futures course combine it with the scenario planning course.

Introduction to Futures: This course is for those new to futures work. It will give participants an overview of horizon scanning and futures techniques and how they connect. The focus will be on researching future trends through tools such as abstracts and the 7 questions method; identifying and exploring drivers of change; and how to anticipate future opportunities and challenges.



Scenario Planning course: This one-day scenario planning course is designed for those who want to develop the ability to generate scenarios and use them to develop robust policies and strategies. It will introduce scenario planning; work through the development of a set of scenarios; and consider the range of applications with appropriate case studies.

Applying Futures: Designed for those who have some experience of futures methods, this course focuses on how futures can help to manage the often conflicting requirements of stakeholders (stakeholder impact analysis); creating a vision of the futures and the associated aims (visioning); handle uncertainty, and create and test policy options (wind tunnelling). Case studies on strategic analysis and policy development will be used.

These courses offer opportunities to:

- **Learn** from senior managers with broad experience in applying futures thinking within government, private and third sectors;
- **Practice** applying strategic analysis in supporting strategy development, using recent examples and case studies;
- **Develop** this increasingly vital career skill, while improving the capacity to help your department or organisation navigate the uncertain times we are facing.

You can attend any course as a single session, or book on all the courses as a three-stage learning process. Attending any session is an excellent networking opportunity.

Costs

The cost of one course is £350 (plus VAT), £630 (plus VAT) for any two, or £910 (plus VAT) for all three courses taken together. There is a 20% discount for groups of 5 or more from one organisation.

Who will benefit from the course

Anyone responsible for carrying out analysis or making decisions that are resilient to future uncertainties. This includes: strategists, policy makers, planners, analysts and operational staff responsible for shaping or implementing strategy. Most participants come from the public sector, though people from private and third sectors have also found it extremely useful and we welcome the wider perspectives which they bring.

The facilitation team

The course leaders, from SAMI Consulting, are a team with wide experience of horizon scanning and futures analysis, with expertise in both the theory and practice of futures techniques and coaching. For over 20 years, they have used futures techniques in government to determine policy and strategy, as well as within private and third sector organisations.



Venues

All courses will run in Central London, Broadway House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NQ <http://www.eefvenues.co.uk> between 09.30 and 16.30 on each day.

Booking details and contact number for further information

To book a place on these courses, or to enquire further, please send an e-mail to training@samiconsulting.co.uk, or call our enquiry line on 01635 36971.

"A mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." – Oliver Wendell Holmes.