

JRC SCENARIO EXPLORATION SYSTEM

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Scenario Exploration System?

The Scenario Exploration System is a tool to enable participants to simulate their possible paths towards the future in relation to an issue of their choice. It operates as a board game. It engages four participants to develop and take up roles to chart their own courses towards their long-term objectives. This is taking place under the judgement of a fifth person representing the public. In the course of a 3-hour session, participants do this journey twice, holding the same roles under contrasting scenarios. The Scenario Exploration System can be applied to any scenario, any issue and any role. This can be performed individually or in teams.

What is the purpose of the Scenario Exploration System?

The Scenario Exploration System was designed to help people benefit in just a few hours from the systemic collective reflection created by other people when building foresight scenarios in longer processes (typically weeks or months). It provides a platform that engages participants in future-oriented systemic thinking. Its main uses are:

- *Strategic simulation: exploring and testing different strategies to deal with a selected issue from the perspectives of several stakeholders simultaneously. This can be very useful to build preparedness or design a new strategy. This is best performed with participants in their own real life roles.*
- *Discovery of new perspectives: in contrast to strategic simulation, the purpose here is to make people experience someone else's role and discover why they might have a different perspective on the same issue as well as their own advantages and constraints.*
- *Stakeholder engagement: in the case of complex issues on which people might have clear cut black or white positions, a scenario exploration can broaden understanding and create communication channels between stakeholders on opposite sides of an agenda.*

The Scenario Exploration System has also been used to test road-maps.

How can the Scenario Exploration System be used?

The Scenario Exploration System is a very versatile tool that can be used under a wide range of circumstances. It was designed to engage with people physically present around a table and to create an immediate emotional engagement. It has been used in open fora such as in public exhibitions, as part of internal workshops, as self-standing experience and as a step in complex participatory processes. It has been used for small groups of people on a single table (5 participants and a moderator), in configurations with several tables in parallel, and in configurations in which

each role is taken by a team (2 or 3 people). The best results are achieved with one moderator per table.

Which audience can be reached with the Scenario Exploration System?

While the Scenario Exploration System was developed for EU policy makers, it has been used with people from age 12 to 68 from all walks of life, all professional backgrounds and numerous countries from several continents. We are confident that it can also work in your circumstances.

Is the Scenario Exploration System available online?

The Scenario Exploration System was designed to engage in real time with people physically present around a table. So far, it is not available for use online.

How can I get a copy of the Scenario Exploration System?

Simply by getting in touch with us at JRC-I2@ec.europa.eu. The Scenario Exploration System is available, registered under a [creative common licence attribution-share-alike](#)

Can I adapt the Scenario Exploration System or create a new version?

You can adapt and develop a new version. The Scenario Exploration System is registered under a [Creative Commons licence 'attribution-share-alike'](#). Therefore, you simply need to make the new version available under the same licence.