Backcasting as a pedagogical practice towards sustainable futures

The project

The aim and structure of the project is based on the belief that a radical change in our imagination is required in order to achieve the changes in the world needed for a sustainable present and future. The discussion of “where we want to go” as a society is often missing and that is one of the main purposes of this project.

In groups of 5-6 students, each group chose a city/town from a different continent and imagined how a sustainable future would look like in 2100 and what the steps are to get there. The project was divided into three parts with the focus on action and proposing solutions, rather than just analysing the problems, to provide an empowerment element through the project.

Creating a desirable future vision that includes various sectors of society is aimed to allow them to explore holistic and imaginative alternatives regardless of current limitations. The fictional historical narrative requires analytical skills to draw necessary steps to reach the vision. Finally, the recommendations to the current society was intended to give students the opportunity to reflect on the roles of different actors in order to face various challenges at regional and global scale.

Structure and Outcomes

Part I: Visions

- Guiding Values
- Happiness
  - Basic needs covered
  - Closeness to nature
- More Participation
- Green Economies

Part II: History and Transition

- How did we get there?

Part III: Recommendations

- What would you recommend to do today to get there?

### Ideas/Suggestions/Reactions

Take a post it and write new ideas, suggestions or reactions after reading or listening about the project ‘Back from the Future We Want’.

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