

## UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene

### Method mosaic

<b>Title:</b>	Backcasting
<b>Target audience:</b>	Secondary Level I, Secondary Level II, Tertiary Level, Further Education
<b>Time:</b>	Up to 3 hours
<b>Objective:</b>	Envisioning sustainable futures (GreenComp 4.3)
<b>Topic:</b>	Any topic possible
<b>Materials:</b>	Technical clarifications and background information on the chosen topic

### Brief Description:

Backcasting is a teaching method in which a desirable future goal is first defined, for example the preservation of a coral reef in its current form. Learners then retrospectively identify the steps necessary to achieve this goal. This allows them to bypass existing assumptions and limitations of the present – the coral reef cannot be saved! – and focus on what is necessary to realize the long-term goals – the coral reef was saved, but what steps were necessary?

Backcasting is therefore particularly suitable for complex and systemic problems where small changes are not enough to achieve significant improvements. A key advantage of backcasting is that it not only aims to anticipate future problems, but actively shapes a desirable future while identifying the steps that need to be taken from today's situation to achieve this goal.

In the classroom, learners need specialist background information about the chosen topic in order to successfully implement backcasting; otherwise, the amount of preparation required is rather low. In the example given, knowledge about the structure of coral reefs and possible threats would be necessary.

### Citation Suggestion:

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