



# MEGASTRAT

**Making Megatrends Applicable For Individual  
Opportunity Forecasts And Strategic  
Development**

**Futures Wheel**



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## Futures Wheel

### Introduction to Futures Wheel

A Future Wheel is used to discover possible consequences of future scenarios, Drivers or Trends. In several rounds of structured brainstorming, a group develops different development paths that originate from an event or a trend. Participants first discuss the conceivable first-order effects of a certain driver before moving onto second and third order consequences.

### Description

#### What is this tool about

The method allows for an open, non-hierarchical discussion, even among people who have no specific expertise in the field in question. It can be used to get creativity flowing, to start fleshing out scenarios or to think of consequences of already finished scenarios and derive starting action points from it.

#### For which purposes is it used in LTOFS

The Future Wheel helps to think about the consequences of certain aspects of a future. It is helpful at showing what kind of reality certain drivers would depend on or produce. It can be used on its own, or as part of earlier steps in more elaborate Scenario Development Processes.

#### Limitations of the tool (if any)

none

### When and how to use this tool

Agree on a Starting point and clear up any confusion about it. Start putting down consequences. To Start, choose a starting point to put in the middle of the Wheel, a driver, Megatrend, Scenario, or a simpler aspect of a future Scenario. Then, the participants first discuss the conceivable first-order effects (orange in the example picture) in a free exchange. Areas to consider are your company, technological issues, law and regulations, daily life, customers, and consumers and more. At the end of this first round, second order (Green in Picture) and later third-order effects (Blue in Picture) are discussed. Impact lines illustrate the individual consequences from the initial scenario to the conceivable impacts. These can be positive or negative but should in any case be plausible. Contradictory effects are also conceivable here, or the presentation of interactions between the outlined consequences. Second or Third order effects may derive from the same, or multiple higher-order-effects. Sometimes combining effects make new ones appear!

A moderator should ensure that the participants discuss causalities and not topics. This simple method encourages non-linear thinking about multidimensional causal relationships. The group must therefore think broadly, must not get bogged down in one causal thread and must avoid a sprawling collection of results that cannot be developed further. The initial scenario must therefore be narrowly defined and detailed.

Here is an example made by [mindtools.com](https://www.mindtools.com) and shows possible effects a 20 Percent Budget Cut might have on a company.



## Material needed

To do the Future Wheel, you need an adequate surface or Space to create it on. This can be done with pen and paper, Sticky Notes or online on collaborative Platforms like Miro or others.

## Resources

### Links:

Helpful guide to the Future Wheel (german): <https://www.baks.bund.de/de/aktuelles/methoden-zur-strategischen-vorausschau-futures-wheel>

mindtools (Hrsg.). (2024). *The Futures Wheel: - Identifying Consequences of a Change*. <https://www.mindtools.com/a3w9aym/the-futures-wheel>

### Videos:

Video by the Istanbul foresight Institute on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuV5nN\\_Ks-A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuV5nN_Ks-A)