

Explore how to foster governance capacities
to adapt to and shape uncertain futures



Anticipatory Governance

New ways of sense-making and navigating for uncertainty...

Available online from:
1st November 2021
until **31st March 2022**

Why take this online course?

- Presented by experts in futures and foresight, resilience & complexity thinking.
- Discover tools for exploring, envisioning, and planning for uncertainty.
- Takes approximately 8 hours to complete.
- It's free and self-paced.



Enroll here: https://openlearning.unesco.org/courses/course-v1:RWP+01+2021_01/about

This course introduces the concept of “anticipatory governance”, defined as “governing in the present to adapt to or shape uncertain futures”. Anticipatory governance is an approach for exploring, envisioning, and planning for change and uncertainty. Using examples from Southern Africa, this course demonstrates diverse approaches for navigating in the face of complexity, uncertainty, and change; whether this change is slow and expected (e.g., climate change) or fast and abrupt (e.g., a tropical cyclone). This course will offer tools and practical techniques for fostering more resilient decision-making and governance capacities.

The course is comprised of four modules, which include short video lectures and discussions, case studies, key readings, discussion forums, and short assessments. The course is delivered by experts in anticipatory governance, futures literacy and foresight, resilience and complexity thinking, and social-ecological systems. The modules focus on diverse definitions and approaches to anticipatory governance, the differences between anticipatory governance and conventional policy-making and planning, diverse tools and methods for anticipation, how resilience relates to anticipatory governance, and case studies of how anticipatory governance has been applied in diverse contexts, with a focus on Southern Africa.

Learning Objectives

- To introduce diverse definitions of and approaches to anticipatory governance.
- To identify key participatory futures tools for envisioning and navigating towards sustainable and just futures.
- To explore case studies of how anticipatory governance has been applied in different ways across a variety of contexts, with a focus on examples from Southern Africa.

Work Load and Prerequisites

4 modules with a duration of 2 hours mins each. The course can be completed in a total of 8 hours. No prerequisites.

Content Facilitators and Guest Speakers

The online training is led and facilitated by researchers at the Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST) at Stellenbosch University, in partnership with the USAID Resilient Waters program in Southern Africa. Videos include guest speakers from the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg; the African Centre for Disaster Studies at North-West University; and the Wits School of Governance at Wits University.