What is Future Search (FS)?
It is a large group planning methodology pioneered by Marvin Weisbord and Sandra Janoff. FS design depends on sticking to a set of reliable conditions for success adopting four core principles:

- Getting the "whole system" in the room
- Exploring the global context for local action
- Focusing on common ground and desired future rather than problems and conflicts, and
- Empowering self-management and responsibility for action

When to Hold a Future Search
The major benefit of FS is transforming a system's capability for action with a desired purpose and outputs:

- To create a shared vision and action plan for an organization, network or community
- To enable all stakeholders to act on common ground and take responsibility for their own plans
- To help people implement an existing vision that they have not acted on together

How Does Future Search Work?
FS is one way to get everybody improving whole systems using: a Principle-based planning meeting; a Philosophy and theory of facilitation; and a Global strategy to make the world a more just and livable place one meeting at a time.

FS enables organizations and communities to learn more together than any one person can discover alone. Bringing the "whole system in the room" makes feasible a shared encounter with complexity and uncertainty leading to clarity, hope, and action.

The key is to involve everybody in improving systems by picking the right "business" opportunity: technology change, new market, crisis, change in leadership, uncertainty, need for coordinated effort, etc.

Who Needs to Participate in a Future Search?
A FS typically involves 60 – 100 people who share a common purpose.

The parties involved in a FS are: Sponsors, Planning Committee, Stakeholders, Funders and Facilitators (FS Consultants). The planning committee includes top management and key stakeholders with enough credibility and contacts to invite all the other participants.

What to expect from a Future Search?
Futures Search focuses on five activities of two to four hours each, 16-20 hours in total, spread over three days where people examine the entire system and all trends and interactions.

- Day 1: Review the past
- Day 2: Explore the present and the future
- Day 3: Everyone validates common ground and action planning employs both stakeholders and self-selected groups; and

Every task concludes with a whole-group dialogue.

FS participants bridge barriers of culture, class, age, gender, ethnicity, power, status, and hierarchy by working on tasks of mutual concern. The FS process interrupts the tendency to repeat old patterns and gives people a chance to express their highest ideals. Instead of a meeting requiring people to change their behaviour, FS changes the conditions under which people interact.