

DESTINATION 8: PISGA > BEER SHEVA > ISRAEL



■ **Vision** The PISGA Teaching Staff Development Center has redefined itself as a Future Center for the educational system of the southern part of Israel. The center has two interlinked missions:

- To develop teachers who are educational explorers and entrepreneurs – and provide them with the skills that 'future teachers' require.
- To revolutionize selected educational domains and the way they are taught at schools. The mission is to create 'Future Images' for this field – to translate these images into prototypes for educational initiatives – and test them in the local educational field.

■ **Services** In addition to providing regular teaching-staff development activities (e.g. courses) the center provides the following services, all organized as projects called 'Pilots' (that normally run for one or two years):

- Fore-sighting and creating breakthrough vision for a specific educational domain ('Future Image').
- Translating the vision into an applicable educational initiative, e.g. an innovative training course.
- Identifying the uniqueness of education institutions – and working with the school to turn their unique identity into an applied program.

Customers: head teachers; national and local supervisors of a wide range of educational domains; teachers, and instructors of teachers; teaching students, and heads of special teaching staff development programs

■ **Spaces & Senses** the main space was recently redesigned – abandoning the appearance of a conventional educational institution for a more light, modern colourful look and feel. Extensive use of large-scale illustrations (e.g. a 8 X 4 meter illustration covering the facade).

A gallery of future images provides constant exposure of future trends and of the outcomes of the center projects.

Before each 'community conversation', the space is re-designed according to the subject (e.g. for a science conversation' the place is equipped with many scientific demos and toys.





■ **Methods** The center continuously upgrades and enhances its methods toolkit. Tools used:

- 'Community conversation' workshop (collecting diverse perspectives)
- 'creating a future image' process to developing concrete initiatives in the 'Innovation Lab'
- 'The learning space' where initiatives are prototyped and tested.
- Creating 'Future Images'
- 360 degrees community conversations (5 alternative processes already prototyped)
- Open Space and Knowledge Cafes
- A 'Typical Week' workshop – planning how a typical week in an advanced educational domain will look like in the year 2020.
- Mini-Exploration tours – the entire project-team visits another location for one day (e.g. a desert alpaca ranch, an ecological farm etc.).

■ **History** In 2003, the center head decided to upgrade it and turn it into a 'Future Center'. The plan was submitted to the Education Ministry, and was recognized as one of the multiple official educational experiments run by the ministry.

Over 2004-2005, the concept was developed and first initiatives (called 'pilots') started.

Over 2005-2006, the span of activity was increased and several tools and methods were developed and prototyped. Six future images were created in diverse educational fields.

Throughout 2006-2008 the center focused on new projects as well as on translating the 'future images' into practical educational initiatives at the 'Innovation Lab'. The center is continuously approaching new educational domains and is currently refining its operational concept.

In the course of 2008-2009, the center will operate as a 'distribution center' – disseminating its concept, methodologies, and tools to other educational institutions.

■ **The Team** The team consists of: Head of the center, Coordinator of the experiment, Innovation lab specialist, Community Conversations specialist, Future Images specialist, Education Intelligence specialist, Learning Center coordinator, Artistic Support specialist, and an admin person.

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