



Iterative decision-making Summary

Adaptive Management Crash Course



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Summary

Decision making: definition, steps, types and characteristics

We make decisions daily even without realizing it. When we decide if we will go by bus to work or by taxi. Vanilla or chocolate ice cream? Sugar or sweetener?

We go through a whole process to make those little decisions, even though they are simple and easy choices. So, we wonder how we ended up making much more complicated decisions.

At work, decisions are not as simple as choosing what you want to drink for breakfast. This is why it is so important to understand what the decision-making process is.

What is decision making?

The decision-making process is a method that consists of gathering information and evaluating alternatives and then, ultimately, making the final decision. It is crucial that we understand and identify the diverse steps to take in order to make the more informed and positive decisions based in clear and systematic approaches.

The next step in the process is intended for complicated decisions involving multiple stakeholders, but this process can also be used for something as simple as deciding what you want to have for breakfast.

Decision-making is not an instantaneous event, something that occurs only at the actual moment that the decision is being made. Rather, it sits within a process that includes the build-up to the decision, the decision itself, and then the impact of the decision itself. That process can be extremely quick (minutes, or even seconds), or take a few days, or weeks.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS...

- If you run any type of organization, you are constantly making decisions.
- The need to take action and decisions is often highlighted with the following reflection: "Doing nothing is already a decision in itself"
- Experience teaches that making decisions is not learned only by making decisions, so it is necessary to learn a decision-making system that makes us more effective, that is, that leads us in the best possible way to achieve the results that our small or big company/organization needs.
- One of the most important things you can do is make your decision-making process iterative: let each decision be informed by the previous ones, as data from the past allows you to shape your future. This should allow you to tend progressively more towards good decisions, as you learn both from your mistakes and your triumphs.

Making decisions is the key skill that running a business comes down to. Every day will begin with either new decisions to make; new challenges for your business to rise to or reviewing the consequences of decisions you've taken before – which may in turn, lead to more challenges and more decisions: it is an iterative process.

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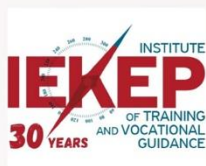
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Project n° 2021-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000032954



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