



System Thinking and Learning Leadership in the Public Sector

Are you a leader in the public sector? Do you want to learn more about leading in complexity and uncertainty? Then join us for our full-day workshop.

Guided by John Mortimer, we will explore the following themes:

1. New Public Management – Why we think the way we do today and how the future of organizational leadership should be shaped.
2. A Case Study – Redesigning a public sector service.
3. The Blind Men & the Elephant – A reductionist vs. systemic way of perceiving.
4. Efficiency vs. Effectiveness – Understanding value creation.
5. Mission-Driven and Goal-Seeking – An outside-in perspective.
6. Principles of Change – Improvement vs. systemic transformation.
7. The Iceberg Model – Understanding deeper structures.
8. Reframing & Double-Loop Learning – Shifting perspectives.
Complexity and Its Consequences for Decision-Making.

What you take away

After the workshop, you will have a clear understanding of the difference between improvement and reform, along with practical strategies to implement each. You will be equipped to identify and overcome barriers that often prevent small initiatives from scaling into mainstream solutions. By learning effective methods for planning and executing reform, you will gain the skills to manage both transactional and complex services, recognizing their distinct challenges. Additionally, you will explore innovative approaches to measuring value and outcomes, as well as the differences between traditional and modern leadership and management styles. This workshop will also empower you to rethink and redesign how local government functions and how policy is formulated. Finally, you will gain insights into reducing costs in the public sector, ensuring more efficient and sustainable operations.





About John Mortimer

John have been involved in transforming organisations with systemic design for over 20 years. Starting in creative engineering, spent formative years with Hilton International and in manufacturing. After obtaining an MBA, then worked in ABB, where the complexity of the reality of efficient and effective rapid operations became all too clear. John become exposed to national and international management and change projects.

With Vanguard Consulting, the methodologies of systems thinking, lean and service design were learned. Especially being able to understand an organisation, together with its people and behaviours. Working with a multitude of different organisations, and very good consultants, gave me the experience and confidence to assess develop flexible approaches to the challenges that real organisations face.

Design Thinking, Systemic Design and Organisational Design are increasingly incorporating systems thinking and complexity to ensure its relevancy in modern organisations.

Do you want to create a learning retreat for your organisation or your team?

Contact us and we can design it together!



Location

Blivande, Frihamnen Stockholm

Date

22 maj 9-16

or

27 augusti 9-16

Price

2900kr for the day

*To register, contact Pia McAleenan
Welcome!*



Pia McAleenan
VD, Föryelselabbet

pia@foryelselabbet.se



About Föryelselabbet

Föryelselabbet is a national platform for Systemic Design, Learning, and Societal Transformation.

Since 2016, we have been working on collaborative projects tackling complex societal challenges such as integration, climate transition, and social sustainability — together with both local and national organizations.

Our strength lies in bringing together diverse actors and organizations, helping them build a shared understanding, direction, and learning around a pressing societal challenge they need to address.

To create a more sustainable society — for both people and the planet — we need bold leaps forward. But sometimes, we also need small spaces to practice. Föryelselabbet provides such a space, where we facilitate meetings, reflection, experimentation, and shared learning to discover new ways of acting and evolving together.

At Föryelselabbet, we believe in learning by doing, embedding learning structures, and fostering a safe and enjoyable environment — even when the challenges are complex and filled with tensions.

We believe in the power of the many who take action based on their passion, where governance, leadership, and policy serve as enablers. We are convinced that recognizing underlying relationships and structures is key to systemic renewal, and we trust in the potential and abilities of every individual — given the right conditions and a supportive community. Join us, and let's renew the future together!

