Future Investment Possibilities

The use of this tool should result in a description of the future capabilities of the IS function to initiate new projects and to maintain high quality in the provided services (Salmela & Spil, 2003).

Therefore, it is important to collect some **information** first. We need to know what the current situation is and also what will be important in future. Further, **alternatives** must be generated, for example by using one of the methods suggested in table 1. In the end these possibilities must be **prioritized** to be able to make a well thought decision. After the last step, the process starts again by the collection of information.

	Information Collection	**Seeking Alternatives**	**Prioritization of Possibilities**
Goal	Understand the current situation and potential future changes. How does the business strategy match with current IS systems?	Find reasonable potential alternatives	Ranking of the potential alternatives based on an analysis of benefits, resources and risks
Methods	Use already available information and for example a SWOT analysis	Questionnaires Methods stimulating the generation of creative ideas, e.g. brainstorming	Different methods are available
Participants	Functional business management, IS management and users. Sometimes also senior management and consultants.	Functional business management, IS management and users	Functional business management, IS management and users. Sometimes also senior management and users.
Result	Information about the current IS/IT recourses Trends in the industry	Proposals of IS projects that can solve the existing needs and contribute to the sustaining development of the business	A list of prioritized proposals

Table 1: Investigating future investment possibilities

Bibliography

Salmela, H. & Spil, A.A.M., (2003). Dynamic and emergent information systems strategy formulation and implementation. *International Journal of Information Management* 22, p453