



Areas of expertise:

- Sustainable Innovation
- Strategic Planning
- International Relations
- Organisational Change

Languages:

- Dutch
- English
- French
- German

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Freddy Colson specialises in innovative thought processes, defying the limits of people's creativity and supporting them in enlarging their world of opportunities through innovation.

His passion lies in seeking out non-traditional approaches to idea generation through collaborative questioning and encouraging individuals to adopt innovation as a personal attribute in order for truly sustainable innovation to occur within their organisations and institutions.

Freddy began his career as research assistant and assistant professor at the Catholic University Leuven, Belgium in statistics, research methodology and data processing.

He then moved to the fields of science and innovation, where he was involved in promoting science and innovation in the public and private sector for more than 25 years. As Managing Director for the Belgian National Science Policy Programming Service, he developed and implemented innovative approaches for the transfer of research to the non-profit sector and industry. Then, as Director General and later as Secretary General of the Flemish Science and Innovation Administration, he negotiated international research projects, assessed the viability of new research institutions and evaluated their performance. He was also instrumental in increasing science literacy of the general public through implementing innovative media approaches.

In 1982, Freddy played a key role in the successful creation of the Flemish Ministry, which entailed regrouping 4000 public servants from 17 different entities into one department. This department was later expanded to include an additional 8000 people, requiring another fundamental revision which he also helped to design and implement. In the 1990s, he participated in developing and introducing new processes and procedures in the Flemish public sector.

Freddy has participated in many international review panels and advisory committees and is co-founder of three internationally renowned research facilities in micro-electronics, biotechnology and marine sciences. He also developed and delivered workshops on strategic planning in science and innovation in Canada, Hungary and Romania.

In 2006, Freddy started up a new agency for international cooperation and within three years, achieved a 70% budget increase. He also implemented a number of innovative approaches, transferring siloed projects into integrated programmes, and adapting each programme to the needs of individuals and communities. His work took him to South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique and Colombia.

Freddy has a PhD in Social Sciences from the Catholic University Leuven plus a diploma in Professional Management.