"Variations of the 6-Hat-Thinking-Model (E. De Bono) as part of the solutionfocused (advisory-) work"

About the 6 hat thinking model:

It is a managment tool / method invented by Edward de Bono. The premise of the method is that the human brain thinks in a number of distinct ways. In standard discussions the partecipants often mix the different directions: facts, feelings, questions and so on came out indistincted.

There, the 6 hat tool can be helpful: Changing the coloured hats makes it easier to identify the thinking state and to change the thinking modus and this opens and facilitates the explicit change of perspectives. In reunions, project- and other meetings the tool can represent a framework, a structure that allows to work with multiple change of perspectives and so to look at an idea, a project, a problem, a concern from different positions.
(* more: see at the bottom end of side 2)

Output considerations:
Why and how connect and match de Bonos method with SF?

In any setting in the solution- or possibility oriented consulting/work the **change of perspective** is an important element:
Already the question "What is different if ...." causes basically a kind of change of perspective. The same applies to the miracle- question or the questions for "exceptions" and successful acts in the past (> resources).

Whether working with single persons or with several people: Not all clients can equally act or respond well to the miracle-question or describe exceptions - at least not just in the imagination. Due to constructivist premises, knowledge about learning (-types), different context etc. this is not surprising. Sometimes, by doing "more of the same" (questions) by the consultant, the verbal cataloguing / or a process can even be blocked or at least aggravated.

Whatever the reasons are: by *"doing-something-else-and-helpful"*, the blockades may be dissolved or circumvented and thus a further step can be possible.
The „Something-Else" can come intuitively out of the own fantasy and / or by using tools from "related" thinking models or elements/parts of management-tools, which can complement and vary the standard process of a solutionfocused advisory and work.

The 6-Hat-Thinking-Model is one of this tools.

It's possible to use the methode in a SF manner, changing some questions but it's especially interesting to use it in a creative way. Working with playful variations within the solutionfocused work and advisory, we can facilitate and strengthen **all the steps that are based in the different changing perspectives**

The "basic" / main point of how connecting, matching and variating the deBono model with SF

1) The variated method –or parts of it– can be used prevently or in special situations (see process scheme below)

2) We use the **central principle of the modell**: **explicit changing of thinking modes and the explicit changing of positions and perspectives**
3) We use new variations, playing with and modifying the tool more ore less, adapting it to the situation and the needs of the clients (this had to be the focus of our "intents") and –not at least– to the own "preferences", "taste" „fancy", the own way, to work:

- We use rather **less colours/positions** than in the original,

Feelings	Exceptions	Future (perfect) Miracle	Control, Considerations

- **We use adapted questions and especially other formulation and adapted „expressions" for the denotation of the position / the thinking direction**

- **We offer other possibilities for changing position** (instead of hats we can use different **pillows, carpets, cups, ribbons**........,). The Benefit of this: the clients take **phisicaly an other perspective,** what gives more power to the intent: facilitates and strengthen the act.

For more informations *about the original* Six Hat Thinking Model and further rules for its use go to

http://members.optusnet.com.au/~charles57/Creative/Techniques/sixhats.htm or

http://www.valuebasedmanagement.net/methods_bono_six_thinking_hats.html

http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTED_07.htm

Example of a process scheme

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                    │
                    ▼
        ┌────────────────────┐                ┌─────────────────┐              ┌──────────────────────────┐
        │ A change to the    │      No        │ Do something    │              │ P.e: Let the client sit  │
        │ solution-talk is   │───────────────▶│ else:           │─────────────▶│ on the chair             │
        │ possible?          │                │                 │              │ „What would be  *        │
        └────────────────────┘                └─────────────────┘              │ different, when...?"     │
                    │                                                          └──────────────────────────┘
               Yes  │                                                                       │
                    ▼                                                                        ▼
        ┌────────────────────┐              Yes                              ┌──────────────────────┐
        │ Going further with │◀────────────────────────────────────────────│ Does it work?        │
        │ ‚standardprocesss' │                                              └──────────────────────┘
        └────────────────────┘                                                          │
                    │                                                                    ▼
                    ▼
........................................................................................................

                    │
                    ▼
        ┌────────────────────┐                ┌─────────────────┐              ┌──────────────────────────┐
        │ C. can tell about  │      No        │ Do something    │              │ P.e: Let the client sit  │
        │ exceptions         │───────────────▶│ else:           │─────────────▶│ on the chair  "suc-      │
        │                    │                │                 │              │ cessfull moments" *      │
        └────────────────────┘                └─────────────────┘              └──────────────────────────┘
                    │                                                                       │
               Yes  │                                                                        ▼
                    ▼                            Yes                              ┌──────────────────────┐
        ┌────────────────────┐◀────────────────────────────────────────────────│ Does it work?        │
        │ Going further with │                                                  └──────────────────────┘
        │ ‚standardprocesss' │                                                         No   │
        └────────────────────┘                                                             ▼
                    │                                                          ┌──────────────────────────┐
                    ▼                                                          │ p.e. Use Time Line       │
                                                                              │                          │
                                                                              └──────────────────────────┘
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