

Forsight and forward looking activities – Exploring new European Perspectives
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Looking back on Forward looking

some personal thoughts



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Outline

- What we do (in PTA)?
- What we did (in STRATA)
- Changed context
- Challenges

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<http://www.samenlevingentechnologie.be>

By way of introduction

Parliamentary Technology Assessment

- Specific policy context: informing & advising parliaments
 - Parliament as '*chambre de réflexion*'
- Specific research context
 - Problem-driven multidisciplinary research
- Specific approach: strongly participative
- Practical attitude

By way of introduction

Some guiding principles in PTA

- Client-oriented
- Problem-driven vs technology-driven
- Constructive vs acceptance logic
- Prospective
- Evaluation ex ante

Why Foresight?

Useful in particular where

- the future is complex
- a high probability of significant change
- the dominant trends may not be favorable
- the time horizon is relatively long

The road to ANOROSO

The Flemish energy system 2050

- A vision of the **Flemish energy system 2050** was developed in an interaction between citizens and experts
 - **Experts**: their knowledge
 - **Informed citizens** their open and broad perspectives, their values and preferences
 - complementary producers of useful knowledge for policy makers
- Definition phase
- Three future scenarios – one selected
- Backcasting with experts => policy recommendations on timeline

Parliamentary workshop 13 December 2008





Meeting of Minds

European Citizens' Deliberation on Brain Science

Meeting of Minds - European Citizens' Deliberation on Brain Science

Unique exercise involving the general public in a discussion on cutting-edge science.

Citizens from nine European countries suggested what they think should be done with our new-found knowledge of the brain.



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Publications : Working papers

One of the missions of the *Science and Technology Foresight Unit* of DG RTD is to exploit foresight knowledge produced in Europe and elsewhere in order to inform European research policy developments. This series of *Foresight Working Papers*, reflecting the think-tank activity of the Unit, is aiming to stimulate discussion among policy-makers at all levels and the foresight research community at large.

"Deliberating Foresight-Knowledge for Policy and Foresight - Knowledge Assessment"

By *René Von Schomberg, Ângela Guimarães Pereira and Silvio Funtowicz, October 2005*

PDF - 331 KB

This working paper gives an overview of the way foresight knowledge concerning scientific and technological developments is deliberated in policy. It offers also an approach to assess the quality of foresight-knowledge. The paper makes a case for deliberative procedures in the science policy interface in order to ensure an adequately balanced knowledge input.

"Future of Creative Industries - Implications for Research Policy"

By *Carmen Marcus, April 2005.*

PDF - 520 KB

Lying at the crossroads between the arts, business and technology, the creative industries sector comprises a large variety of creative fields, from those heavily industrialized such as advertising and marketing, broadcasting, film industries, Internet and mobile content industry, etc. to those less industrialized, like the traditional fields of visual and performing arts. The sector is increasingly important from the economic point of view representing already a leading area of the economy in the OECD countries, with significant values of annual growth rates. This Working Paper identifies possible research needs for the sector based on current policy challenges.

"Scenarios for the Future of European Research and Innovation Policy - Proceedings of a STRATA/Foresight Workshop, 9-10 December 2003"

September 2004

PDF - 880 KB

Experts who participated in STRATA projects under the 5th FP were invited to discuss four scenarios on the prospective agenda of European Research and Innovation policy. An introductory lecture from Ruud Smits set the scene for the workshop discussions. The collaborative outcome of this workshop is meant to contribute to further discussion on the science-policy interface concerning European Research and Innovation policy.

Klaar

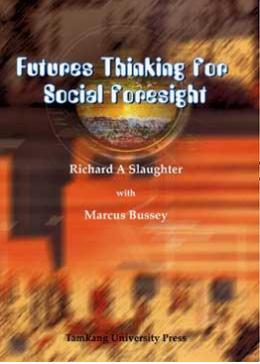


Recommendations of the STRATA High Level Expert Group to the European Commission Foresight activities at a European level (2002)

1. Two kinds of foresight activities on European-wide issues:
 - development of open **co-operation between Foresight activities** implemented at the various levels in Europe.
 - targeted **projects**, based on issues
 - that are inherently **transborder**
 - and/or particularly complex.
 - Involve key stakeholders in an **open and interactive** process.
2. A **Knowledge Sharing Platform** should be developed as an intellectual infrastructure for experience-sharing and discussions. It could allow actors to benefit from the diversity of their activities and should provide services to support the development of a European-wide foresight community.
3. **Evaluation instruments** for assessing the quality of foresights in Europe need to be developed.

Three challenges (2003)

- The *participative element* in science and technology policy:
 - democratic deficit gaps between citizens and decision-makers and between experts and laypeople.
 - expertise built up by the TA community needs to be exported to the field of Science and Technology Foresight.
- *Societal developments*:
 - unique **social welfare systems** organised at a national level.
 - what social welfare at European level we want in the future
 - European integration and the globalisation putting severe stress on us and we will have to think about
- Foresight *both at a European and a global level*:
 - *the downward scaling of Science and Technology Foresight* from national levels to regional levels is to be applauded, but there is also
 - upward scaling necessary: need for global and European Science and Technology Foresight



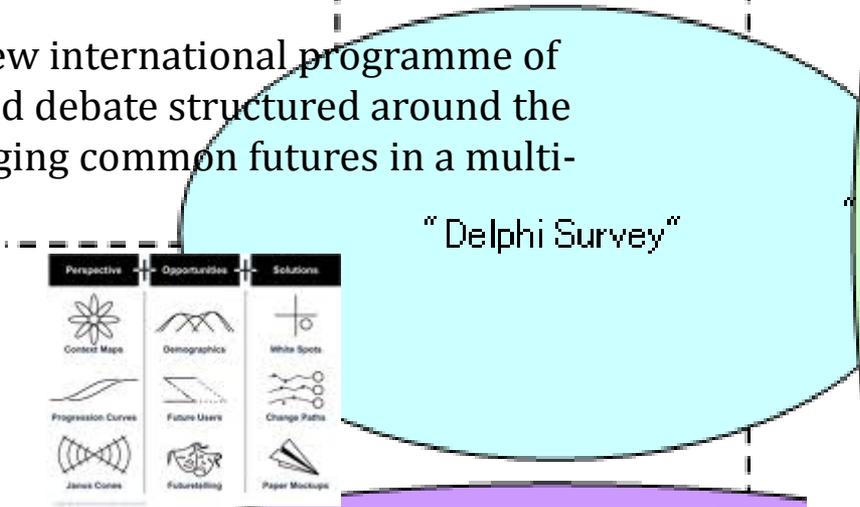
Objective
 speculative

"Study on Rapidly
 Developing



FORESIGHT
 forging common futures in a multi-polar world

- Foresight is a new international programme of investigation and debate structured around the challenge of forging common futures in a multi-polar world.



THE FORESIGHT INSTITUTE



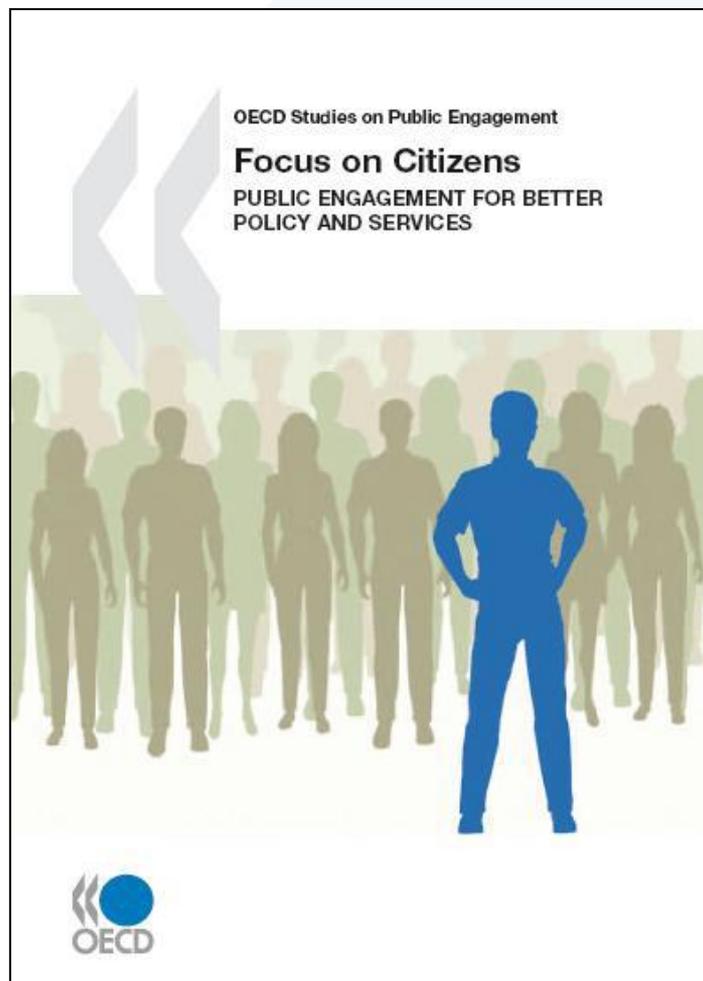
(basic research) (application)

Society
 (impact)



IST

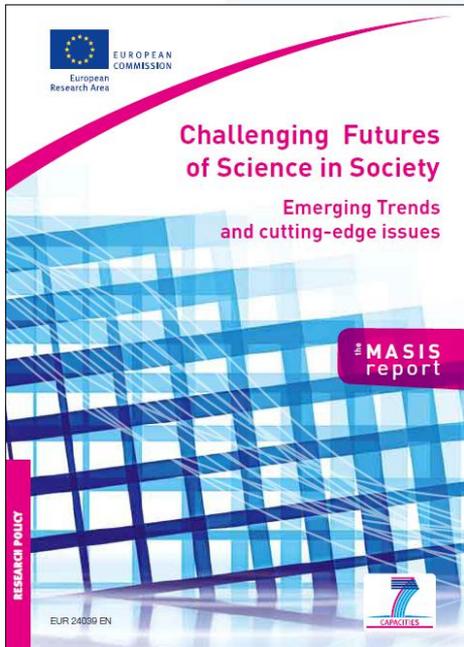
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- The value of open and inclusive policy making is now widely accepted
- Governments now need to:
 - Mainstream public engagement to improve policy performance.
 - Develop effective evaluation tools.
 - Leverage technology and the participative web.
 - Adopt sound principles to support practice.

(OECD 2009)

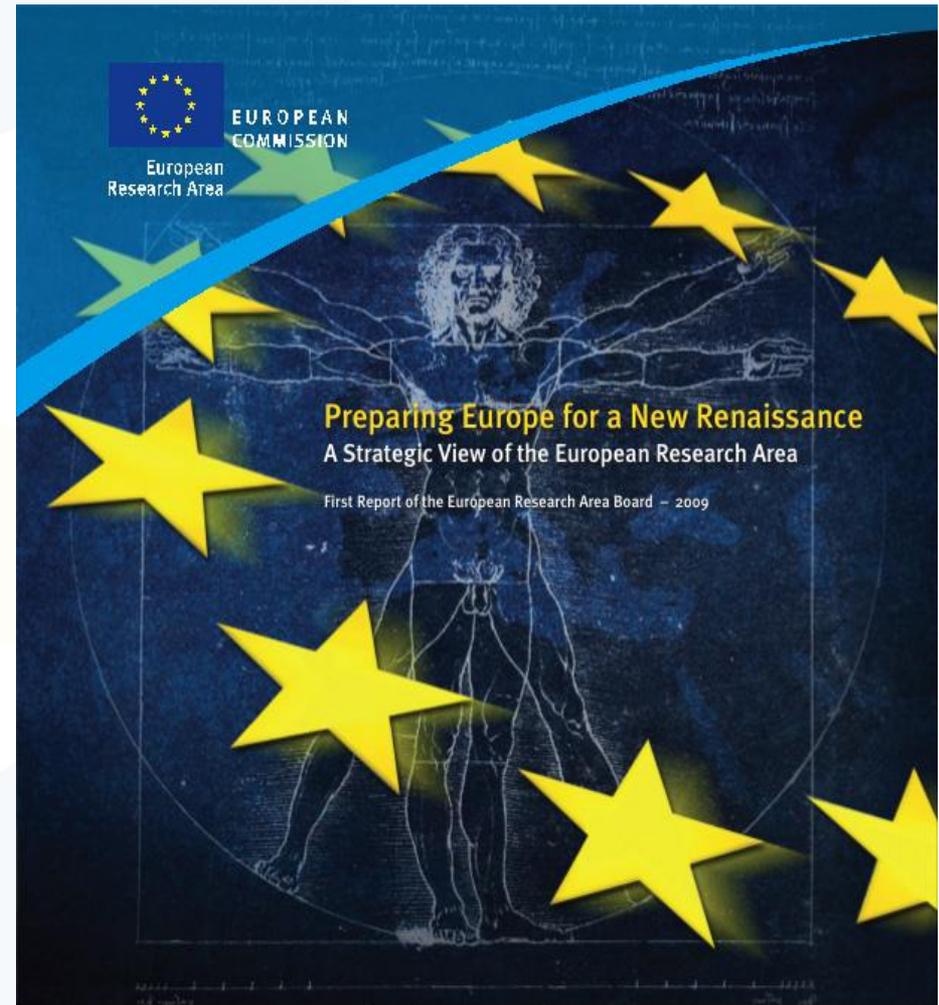
The Masis Report



- *European model for the role of science in society?*
- *'EUROPEAN VALUES'*
 - proportionality and subsidiarity,
 - and fundamental rights,
 - such as dignity, freedoms, equality, solidarity, justice
- European Research Area.
- public engagement - *Public consultation (PTA)*

1st ERAB Report

An ERA based on a shared responsibility between science, policy and society



European Foresight Platform

Foresight and Forward Looking Activities - Exploring New European Perspectives

- Forward-looking approaches aim at building shared visions of the future European challenges and evaluating the impacts of alternative policies.
- Foresight combines qualitative and participatory methods with quantitative and operational methods such as Forecast
- to support better long-term policies - such as those in regard to the European research and innovation policies.

Challenges for EC

1. Redefine 'foresight' – save it from the present conceptual confusion
2. Recontextualise 'foresight' as a policy support instrument
 - learn from ERA-SIS (objectives)
 - and increased importance of 'social innovation'
3. Reorganize knowledge sharing by creating synergy
 - Between (involved) actors/stakeholders
 - Between practitioners
4. Involve citizens – avoid democratic deficit
 - Develop quality/evaluation criteria
5. Support transborder projects on European issues

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In sum, effective and meaningful public involvement is seen as essential to:

- enable high quality and democratic governance
- strengthen civil capacity
- develop and deliver programmes effectively and efficiently
- build public confidence and trust in decisions
- generate a greater understanding of public issues, concerns, priorities and solutions
- build broader support for programmes and initiatives
- increase mutual learning through the sharing of information, data and experiences
- ensure that decisions and policies incorporate knowledge and expertise that otherwise might be overlooked
- reflect a wider range of public concerns and values in decision-making
- rapidly identify possible controversial aspects of an issue and help bring together different points of view to
- achieve consensus in a collaborative manner.

When is a participatory approach appropriate?

- A participatory approach is particularly appropriate for addressing:
- themes that require ethical, social or cultural study and may call for a choice between fundamental values
- and principles
- policy issues that call for a combination of public awareness, learning, a search for solutions and emotional
- or moral acceptance of the eventual decision
- public policy choices that will rely on the precautionary principle or the weight of evidence
- underlying values and principles that must be clarified before detailed proposals or risk management options
- are brought forward
- a clearly defined set of options or proposals that support the search for consensus or innovative solutions.