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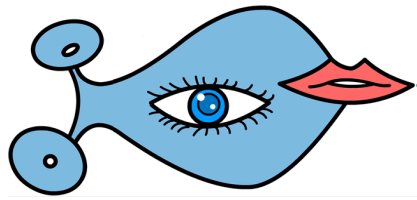


Recapitulating Day 1: Results of the Foresight Café “The Future of Foresight”

Vicente Carabias, Cristiano Cagnin

European Foresight: <http://foresight.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



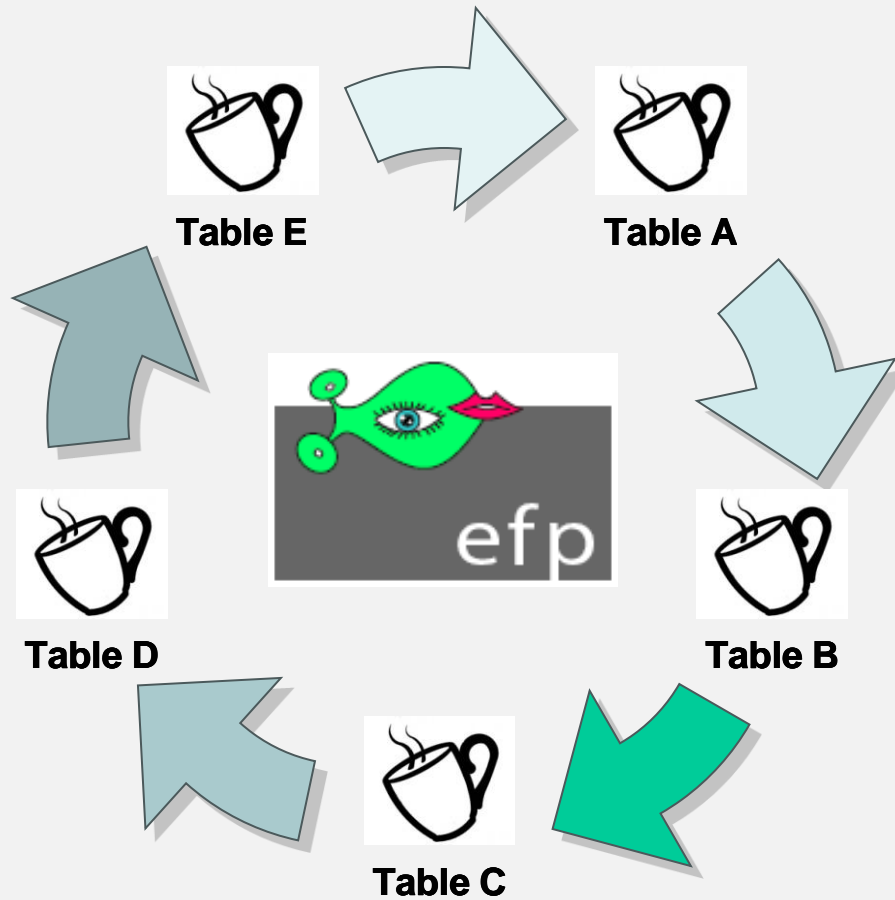


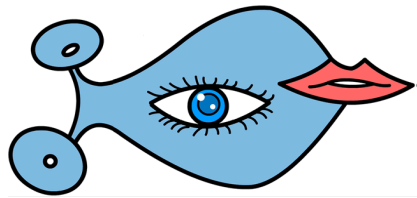
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Foresight Café





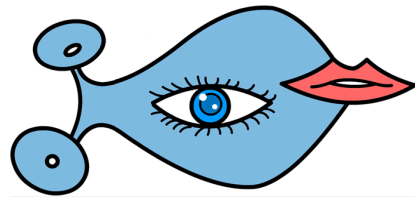
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Foresight Café Table Topics

- How should foresight evolve to better respond to policy making needs? (Vicente Carabias, JRC-IPTS)
- How could quantitative and qualitative methods be combined to support forward looking decision making? (Fabiana Scapolo, JRC)
- How to ensure continuity and future value of the EFP to support policy making? (Miriam Leis, TNO)
- How to use surprising and bewildering events to support foresight, horizon scanning and forward looking policy making? (Rafael Popper, Univ Manchester)
- How can we bring foresight into media and media to foresight? (Karl-Heinz Leitner, AIT)



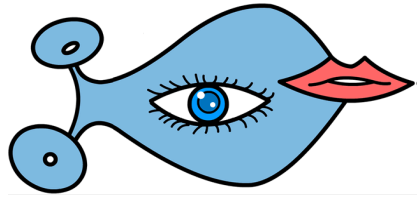
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Links to
previous
sessions

- Communicate benefits & limits of foresight
- EFP: mapping, foresight briefs, online information, policy workshops, website, partner networks
- Foresight useful, where future is complex, high prob. of significant change, trends may not be favorable, long term time horizon
- Redefine foresight as policy support instrument, create synergies, avoid democracy deficit
- Understand relationship between strategic foresight and action, distinguish anticipatory dim. and contexts



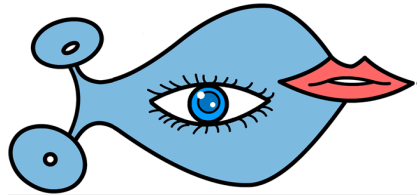
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Links to
previous
sessions

- Foresight requires careful configuration being contextualised, credible, diversified, systematic and far-sighted (to keep creative element for future orient.)
- Provide evidence of foresight impacts: evaluation
- EFP embracing regional, national, European and global forward looking activities
- Fruitful collaboration between foresight and modelling communities envisaged



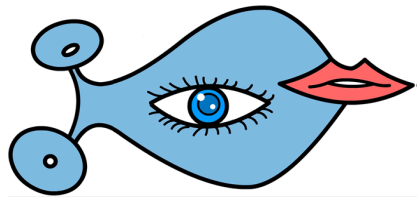
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Results of the Foresight Café presented by the Hosts of the Tables





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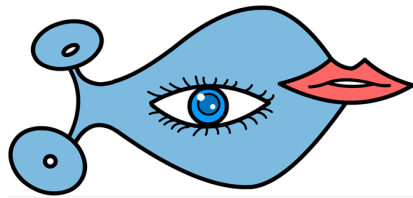
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Results

Table A on “How should foresight evolve to better respond to policy making needs?”
(Vicente Carabias)

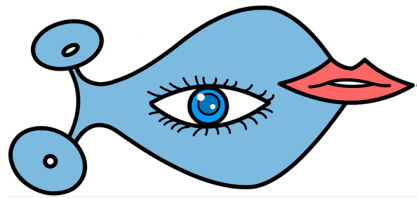
- Important to understand policy process (urgency), educate policy makers about concept of foresight
- Ambition to create impact , upstream consultation (problem def. & objectives) and downstream activities
- Adaptive, flexible foresight
- Participatory foresight: build policy communities to involve today decision makers of tomorrow
- Connect academic world stronger to advance policy is.



Results

Table B on “How could quantitative and qualitative methods be combined to support forward looking decision making?” (Fabiana Scapolo)

- General agreement that the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods would make many exercises more robust, but depending on the objectives (sometimes would not be necessary)
- Different culture between the qualitative and quantitative practitioners. It is necessary to establish a common language
- Establish the motives, for the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. They can be used iteratively during the process
- Transparency is the big issue for modelling. The processing of data once the data runs is not fully transparent.
- Gaming is another quantitative method that can be used



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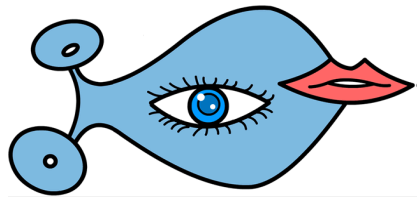
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Results

Table C on “How to ensure continuity and future value of the EFP to support policy making?” (Miriam Leis)

- Relation between foresight and policy (dependent or independent)
- Differentiated communication: stakeholders should be addressed in “their language” (e.g. communication in schools, universities)
- Road mapping, alternative futures and weak signals as possible future workshop topics



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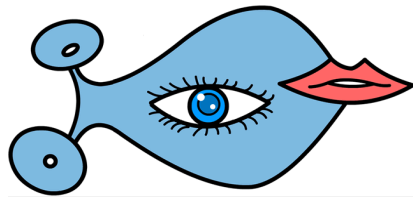
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Results

Table C on “How to ensure continuity and future value of the EFP to support policy making?” (Miriam Leis)

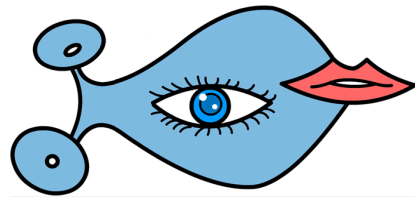
- How can the EFP remain to be useful: community based on the attendees of this workshop, bring in people of businesses and associations, list of people participating in foresight exercises across Europe
- Gathered information from former projects and the EFP (Briefs) should be made accessible in a functional way (search function, possibilities to consult database according to specific interests)



Results

Table D on “How to use surprising and bewildering events to support foresight, horizon scanning and forward looking policy making?” (Rafael Popper)

- Behavioural changes are crucial, to generate momentum, to turn weak signals into strong developments
- Early warning system: Who would be using or have access to an early warning system? Avoid creating crisis!
 - We need a smart wild cards and weak signals management system (interactive database), possibly including analyses/lessons of past wild cards.
- How to distinguish the relevant from the less relevant WS?
(Rumours vs. wildcards...)
- Instrumental use and abuse of weak signals to generate a wild card situation



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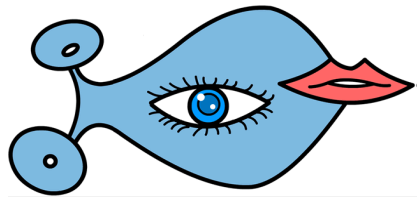
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Results

Table D on “How to use surprising and bewildering events to support foresight, horizon scanning and forward looking policy making?”
(Rafael Popper)

- Ask for basic assumptions and then for the exact opposite of those safe assumptions to trigger „out of the box“ thinking
- Negative weak signals more likely to be taken up by policy, at least in Europe, not in North America where the attitude is different
- To identify positive signals, as well, by:
 - Possibly using new media, artists, creative industries, writers, young people who can bring new ideas, social networks (e.g. Twitter)
 - Drawing on science fiction, utopian and dystopian literature



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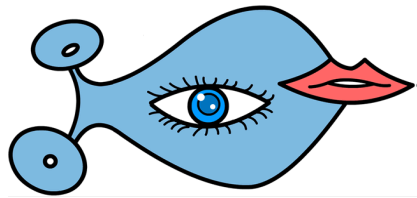
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Results

Table D on “How to use surprising and bewildering events to support foresight, horizon scanning and forward looking policy making?”
(Rafael Popper)

- Use cautiously wild cards in your scenarios (i.e. not to make them dependent on the wild cards occurrence) to check robustness but avoiding to wreck your credibility of your scenarios
- To think about potential “wild card” solutions to (grand) challenges
- To identify weak signals that hints that a pending wild card may turn into a Grand Challenge



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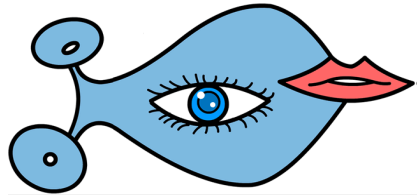
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Results

Table E on “How can we bring foresight into media and media to foresight?” (Karl-Heinz Leitner)

- Opportunities (enabler, scenarios, awareness, etc.) versus risks of using media (results trivialised, etc.)
- Barriers for not using media: not in the interests of sponsors, lose control
- Alignment between communication aim and type of media (internet for participation, gaming, press, etc.)
- We need a differentiated use of media (strategy, resources, skills, creative industries, etc.)



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2011 FTA Conference

12-13 May

Call for papers soon after summer!

<http://foresight.jrc.ec.europa.eu/fta/>