

European Foresight Platform

in cooperation with the Vienna French Cultural Institute



Session 4

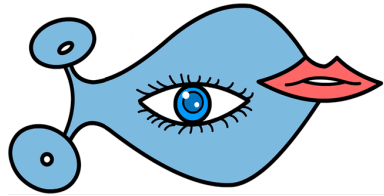
Foresight and forward looking activities in a global context – looking back at EFMN

Why global networking of Foresight?

If we want to understand developments in other regions, if we want to support foresight, we have to understand the idiosyncratic determinants.

This conference still has a European bias...colleagues from Thailand, Australia, Turkey could not come, some for political reasons

The European bias can also be witnessed in the Foresight activities we are discussing here



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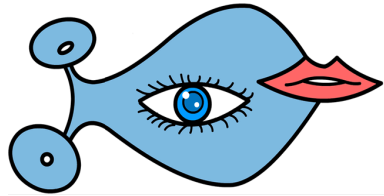
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**EFMN &
For-Learn:
Valuable
bases**

Regional scope of EFMN:

- International
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America
- Asia
- Oceania
- EFMN database took a rather Eurocentric view



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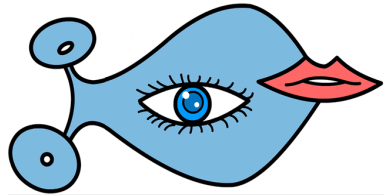
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Differences among global regions

Foresights covered by EFMN

- Some European countries where FS practice has been more influenced by technology foresight programmes and sustainable futures traditions (underlying: growth paradigm)
- International: EC, OECD, IPTS, UNIDO, APEC, FAO and others active promoters of foresight supporting training, certain methodological approaches, providing funding to set up FS programmes and cross-national projects (FP7- SSH)
- EU and UNIDO have influenced FS in Eastern Europe
- North America: dominance of industry-sector FS



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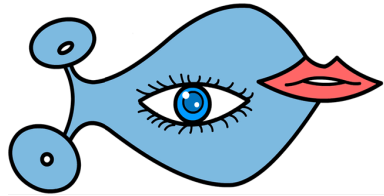
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Sponsors

Geographical Differences

- Europe and LA: government sponsorship in nearly all cases mapped
- Asia: influenced and partly funded by APEC
- North America and Oceania: high number of industrial sector studies
- Latin America and Asia: more non-state actors than in other regions (e.g. NGOs)->prominence of International Organisation sponsorship



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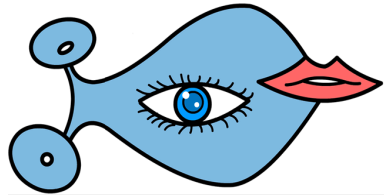
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Geographical Differences

Participation

- Differences in definition
- “top down”, not social movements
- Most FS have less than 50 participants
- Asia has the largest proportion of exercises with more than 500
 - Due to national and international Foresights mapped that tend to imply a larger number of people
 - Did we not find the regional FS due to language barriers?



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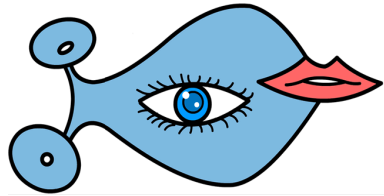
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Geographical Differences

Territorial Scale

- The state (still) matters
- But sub-national exercises are most frequently in Europe where regionalization is a long-term trend
- Possible reason: there was more intensive monitoring for regional activities in Europe



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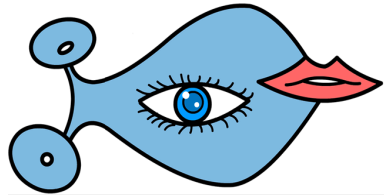
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Geographical Differences

Methods

- More methods for open discussion and uncertain outcomes like face-to-face workshops in more established democracies like Western European countries and North American countries.
- In countries with less tradition in open debate, Delphi is more prominent. This might also explain why in some Asian countries we see higher participation.



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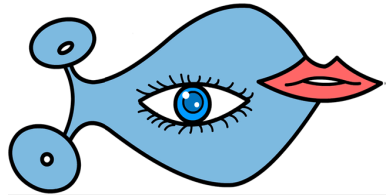
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Geographical Differences

Outputs

- Forecasts are most popular in Asia
- Key technologies are more prominent in Asian countries than in other regions
- Technology roadmaps were most frequently generated in North America



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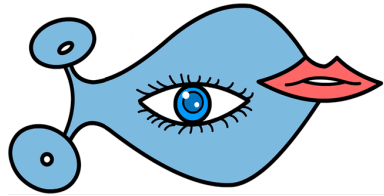
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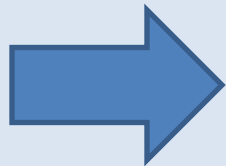
Geographical Differences

Research Areas

- We mapped mostly along the categories of the Frascati manual and showed a strong focus on S&T
- EFMN bias or due to government sponsorship?
- Lisbon goals
- more “soft” topics emerging
- “fashionable” and “glamorous” topics
- The majority built on the growth paradigm supported by the notion of industrial economism
- predominance of “Western” rather than global perspectives



Conclusion



- What are our ethical assumptions when we conduct and analyse foresight?
- Which values do we apply implicitly when we support foresight in our own country and in other regions?
- Are our (Western) categories appropriate to measure what is going on in other parts of the world?
- Improve network with foresight practitioners around the globe
- Get in personal contact with actors
- Unveil implicit assumptions
- Be conscious of own traditions and objectives