

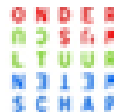


FarHorizon

Use of foresight to align research with longer term
policy needs in the European Commission

EFP kick-off conference
Vienna, 14/15 June 2010

Matthias Weber, AIT



Goals and Objectives

- The aim of this project is to pilot the use of foresight to align research with longer-term policy needs in Europe. It seeks to advance knowledge on:
 - Differences across policy domains in the European Research and Innovation Ecosystem (also further articulating this concept) in terms of the role and the integration of research agendas in long-term policies and vice-versa; and
 - Appropriate foresight designs needed to get engagement and secure follow-up across policy domains/areas.
- The project seeks to produce immediately useful results by selecting areas and participants with a view to stimulating action.
- Bring together key stakeholders to explore the longer term challenges which face their sector (or which cut across sectors) and to build a shared vision that could guide the development of the relevant European research agenda

Focus

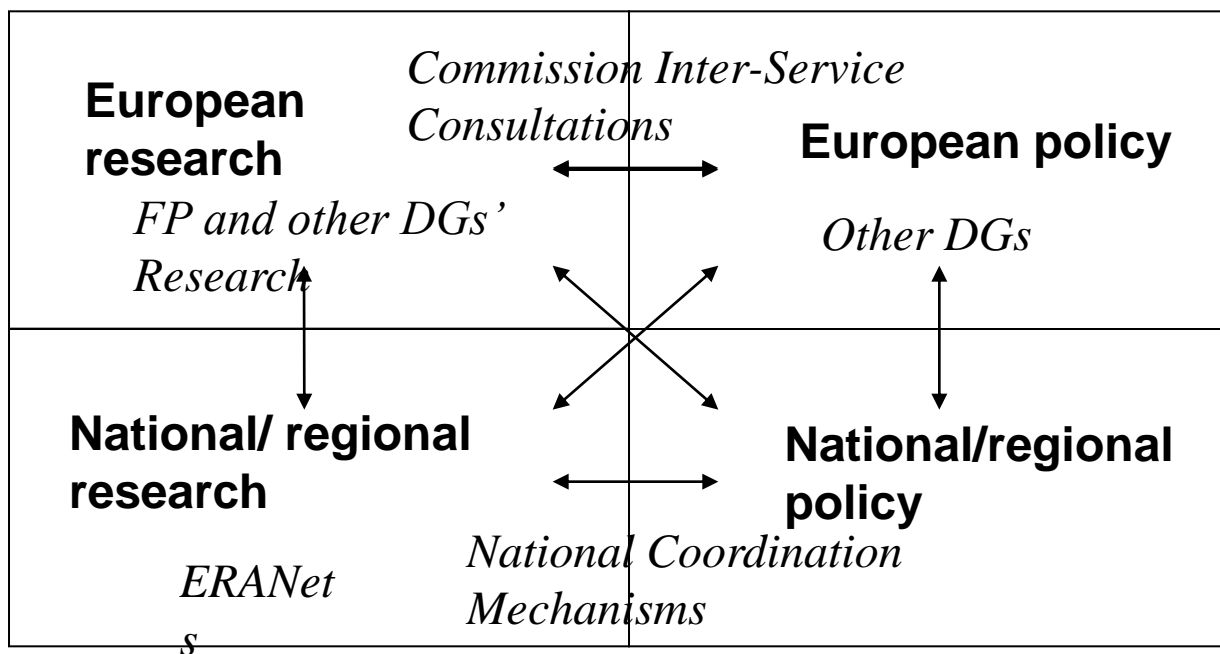
- Four areas with different sectoral characteristics have been selected with the advice of an independent panel to ensure that the pilot covers a range of different circumstances
 - Application of Breakthrough Technologies to Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture
 - Dynamising innovation policy: giving innovation a central role in European policy
 - Tackling the future challenges of education in Europe: Policy coordination
 - Nanotechnology applications to energy issues (?)

Rationale: Societal Challenges and Research

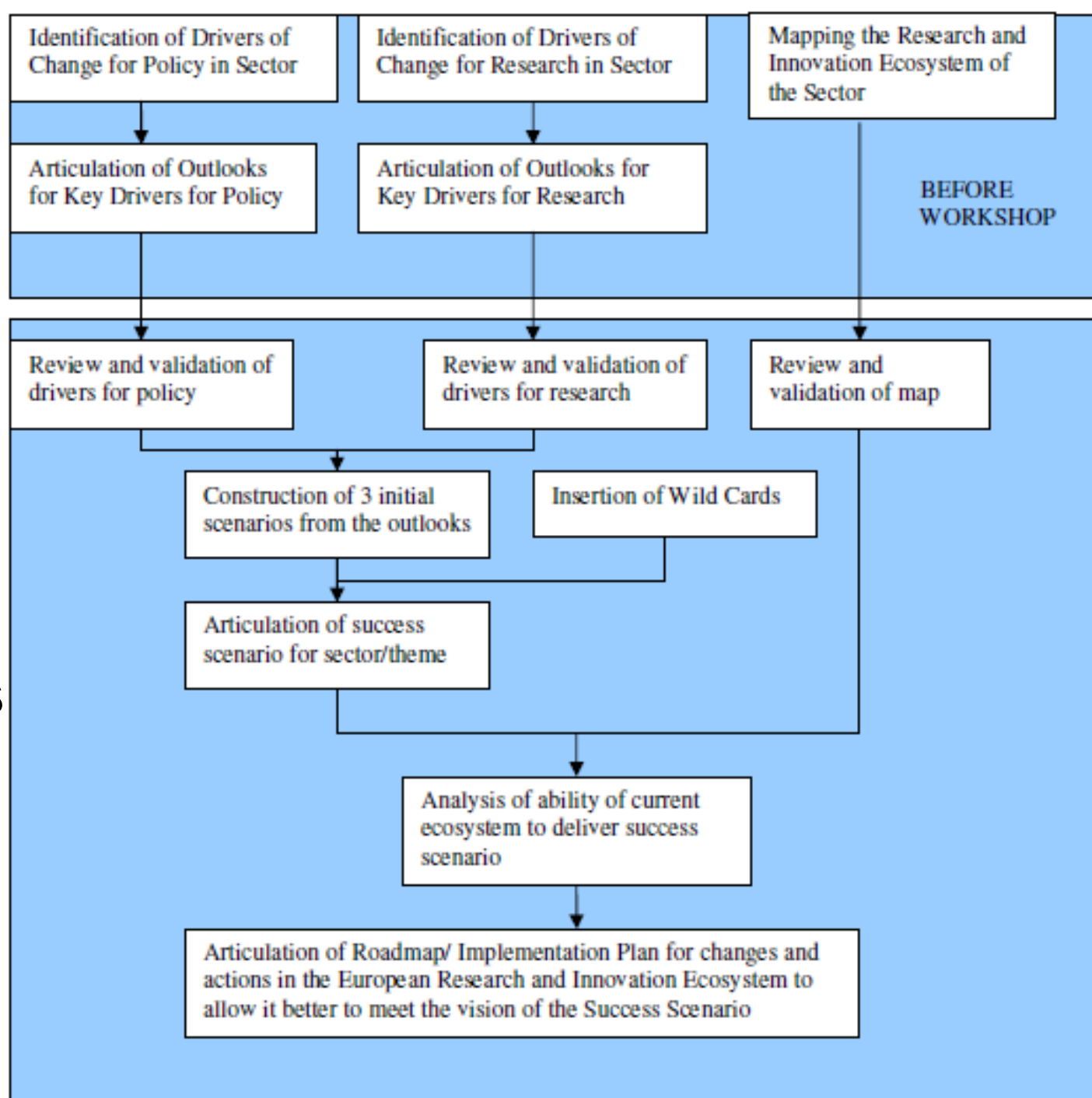
- 1) Research at European level needs to be better aligned with the range of policy and regulatory competences that Members of the European Union have agreed should be at European level
 - could be complemented by strategic targeting of priority sectors
- 2) Approach is to regard research in Europe as a part of a wider ecosystem embracing innovation and other policy domains and the actors within them
 - integration, coordination and resources envisaged in the ERA concept is only likely to be achieved via engagement in Grand Challenges and other mission-oriented Joint Programming
- 4) Essential prerequisite is formation of a common vision among key actors
 - based upon shared understanding of emerging trends and drivers of the sector, the mutual benefits of cooperation/coordination in policy approaches, resulting in a single commitment to joint implementation through the sharing of roles and responsibilities
- 5) Foresight approaches may be used to build such a vision and to help the process of translation from broadly desirable socio-economic goals to concrete proposals for action, including recommendation on realignment of the research system

Policy areas for support

- Thematic
 - environment, energy, information society and media, agriculture, industry and public health
- Cross-cutting
 - enterprise and innovation policy, internal market policy



Approach combines R&I Ecosystem mapping with Success Scenario methodology



New views on innovation

- Growing understanding of importance of demand side and user innovation
- Recognition that innovation not necessarily R&D based but can come from new configurations of existing technologies and from service, social and organisational innovation
- Absorption of open innovation idea into wider concept of innovation ecosystem

European innovation policy – some provocative elements of a success scenario

- 1) Innovation policy in the conventional sense will not be sufficient for tackling the grand challenges ahead
- 2) Three roles for European level innovation policy
 - Visioning and leadership, based on strong „narratives“ regarding the necessity to put emphasis on innovation
 - Challenges-oriented innovation policy, diversified and embedded in sectoral policies
 - „Classical“ innovation policy addressing cross-cutting barriers to innovation
- 3) Demand-side levers of innovation can be mobilized if innovation is embedded tightly into sectoral policies
- 4) Making innovation a shared responsibility
 - Enable more risk-taking in administration and public policy entrepreneurship
- 5) Measuring the success of innovation policy
 - The ultimate test is whether innovation policy has contributed to overcoming the challenge they have been designed to address