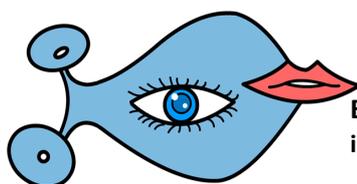


*Concept of the Interactive Foresight Café*

Conference	<b>Foresight and Forward Looking Activities - Exploring New European Perspectives</b>
Date	14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of June 2010
<b>The Interactive Foresight Café</b>	<p>In the interactive Foresight Café event the participants explore “the future of foresight”. Members of the EFP consortium have developed questions that concern the development of approaches to exploring and shaping the future to be discussed at tables of the Foresight Café. The chairperson of each table will give a brief introduction to the topic of that table and will take notes of the brainstorming and following discussion phases (e.g. by using mind-mapping). However, the discussion at each table will be led by a voluntary member of the participants. In a coffee break similar ambience, ideas will be exchanged among the participants at each table and they will all get the chance to write down their key ideas regarding the topic on their tablecloths. After approx. thirty minutes, the participants will move to a next table, where they will get another introduction to the new table topic. After some comments in the brainstorming phase the chair will then reveal what were considered as the important issues in the previous group discussion. By reflecting on the comparison of the outcomes – <i>is there anything radically different?</i> – new ideas can emerge and further develop the table topic. The change of table will offer the participants a chance to engage in various topics at stake and to meet colleagues from different areas and with different backgrounds.</p> <p>In order for participants to prepare themselves for the various table topics of this session, short descriptions of them are provided below. The overarching theme of the discussion is the future of foresight, bringing closer together the forecasting and foresight communities by linking quantitative and qualitative approaches, questions of methods for future requirements using, for instance, online tools, the grand challenges or other topics such as embedded foresight, horizon scanning, wild cards and issues related to policy support, and the role of the media.</p>
<b>Time for the Foresight Café</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2010, 15:45 - 18:00
<b>Introduction</b>	15:45
<b>Round 1</b>	16:00
<b>Round 2</b>	16:35
<b>Round 3</b>	17:10
<b>Plenum</b>	17:45
<b>End</b>	18:00

**Foresight Café “The Future of Foresight”: Topics**

In the interactive Foresight Café event the participants explore the topic of “foresight of foresight”. Members of the EFP consortium will develop and choose questions that matter in regard to the future of exploring and shaping the future.



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**Table A:**  
**Vicente Carabias,**  
**JRC-IPTS**

**How should foresight evolve to better respond to policy making needs?**

The discussion at this table will centre on the increasing attention given to grand challenges, uncertainties and complexities, and the need for foresight and other forward looking approaches to respond more quickly to the needs of policy makers.

Are the common fully-fledged foresight projects, usually limited in time, sufficient to support policy making? Or is there a need for the provision of future-oriented knowledge for decision making on a more continuous basis and embedded in the policy and decision making cycle? For instance, horizon scanning centres have been established at national and regional levels to identify not only major long-term trends and drivers but also possible disruptive events or developments that may radically influence our future. Such institutionalised activities at least provide continuity and permit the accumulation of knowledge and know-how.

In this context, the key questions will be:

- how foresight is contributing to a better understanding of grand challenges and in shaping responses to them?,
- how to improve embedded foresight and horizon scanning to better support policy and decision making?,
- how to deepen the institutionalisation of foresight activities?,
- with which approaches or combination of approaches?,
- how to establish the infrastructure needed to support embedded foresight?

**Table B:**  
**Fabiana Scapolo, JRC**

**How could quantitative and qualitative methods be combined to support forward looking decision making?**

Policy makers continuously ask for robust evidence on which to base their decisions to take. Usually they need fast responses for policy making. In this sense, the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods promises to provide more robust results and information offering, therefore, policy and decision makers grounded information, or even clear sets of options, on which they can better base their strategies and decisions.

This table discussion aims to explore this promise and how value can be added by combining quantitative and qualitative methods and tools for tailoring the foresight process to particular requirements of various policy and strategy contexts.

In this context, the key questions will be:

- what is the feasibility of combining quantitative and qualitative methods?,
- which are the required circumstances to support or allow such a combination?,
- are we aware of the requirements of this combination?,
- how can modelling and simulation be used in combination with participatory approaches?,
- and what are their likely implications?,
- which tools help to mine the wide availability of data, including human judgment, and transform these into information useful to support policy making?,
- which combination of methods suit best which types of studies and impacts?

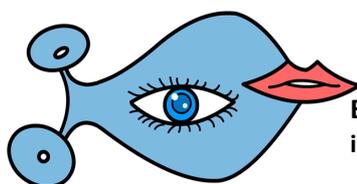
**Table C:**  
**Miriam Leis, TNO**

**How to ensure continuity and future value of the EFP to support policy making?**

European and national policy workshops will be organised to support policy-makers in addressing key future challenges and in learning how to benefit from the EFP platform and its related expert network.

The EFP platform shall consolidate the existing knowledge base on foresight and forward looking activities to support policy and decision making. With this aim it will be developed around a wide variety of existing and new case studies (which are being currently mapped), inputs from the mentioned European and national policy workshops, and the underlying methodology connecting these two elements.

The policy workshops will focus on a core policy issue (e.g. selection of priorities for FP8), for which a comprehensive foresight activity could be launched. The findings of the workshops will feed back into the further development of EFP. As a result, EFP should provide important inputs in the early phases of foresight activities as well as support to European and national level policy in preparing strategic



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action on the major challenges for Europe.

At this table, the participants will brainstorm on EFP supporting policy making:

- how can the EFP be useful beyond the project's duration with its interrelationships between the foresight and forward looking cases, the inputs stemming from the policy workshops as well as the underpinning methodology base?,
- how could the policy workshops be designed to maximise its benefits for policy making in the long run (as well as for the further development of EFP)?,
- what are the major topics and who are likely the key stakeholders to be involved in the policy workshop discussions?

**Table D:**  
**Rafael Popper,**  
**University of**  
**Manchester**

### **How to use surprising and bewildering events to support foresight, horizon scanning and forward looking policy making?**

Wild Cards represent the occurrence of surprising (unexpected, often historically original) and high impact events. Wild cards not only impact in quantitative terms the absolute level of a pre-existing trend or situation thus altering its development, but they also are likely to transform the qualitative attributes of a phenomenon and its context, possibly setting new directions for future evolution.

The experienced volcanic eruption this spring has shown that situations/events with perceived low probability of occurrence can have a high impact when they occur. This table discussion aims to advance knowledge and tools related to the identification of unexpected events and developments (e.g. wild cards and weak signals) potentially shaping and shaking the future of science, technology and innovation (STI).

The key questions will be:

- how to deal with the methodological problems of uncertain or surprising events?,
- how to systematically interconnect knowledge about issues shaping or shaking the future of science, technology and innovation (STI)?
- how to use horizon scanning to identify wild cards and weak signals?,
- how to use foresight in wild cards and weak signals analysis and vice versa?,
- how can wild cards and weak signals analysis be used for RTD policy formulation and other stages of the policy cycle (i.e. policy realisation and policy learning)?,
- how to use wild cards and weak signals analysis to deal with grand challenges and identify potentially emerging and/or interdisciplinary research agendas?

**Table E:**  
**Karl-Heinz Leitner,**  
**AIT**

### **How can we bring foresight into media and media to foresight?**

This table discussion aims to create ideas on how to bring foresight into media and to interest media in foresight.

The key questions will be:

- what tools would enable us to communicate foresight and forward looking activities to a wide range of different media?,
- how can the foresight community attract the attention of media?,
- what kind of approaches can be used to improve the 'public understanding of foresight' or to advance the 'public engagement in foresight and forward looking activities'?

**All chairpersons will on the 15<sup>th</sup> June in the morning report back to the plenum the results (at least 3 key messages) of their interactive Foresight Café table discussions.**

**World Café Method**

As a conversational process, this interactive Foresight Café is based on the World Café being an innovative yet simple methodology for hosting conversations about questions that matter. These conversations link and build on each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions or issues that are most important in their community. As a process, the World Café can evoke and make visible the collective intelligence of any group, thus increasing people's capacity for effective action in pursuit of common aims (<http://www.theworldcafe.com/what.htm>).