



# European Foresight Platform

supporting forward looking decision making

December 28, 2011

Newsletter 05 2011

This is the xmas edition of the EFP newsletter distributed via the European Foresight Platform to registered users. In the fifth issue of the EFP newsletter we inform you on

1. [Report on foresight conference in Astana \(Kazakhstan\), 5-6 December 2011](#)
2. [Report on FESTOS conference](#)
3. [Latest Foresight Briefs](#)
4. [Results from the EFP Policy Workshop on "Screening Urban Foresight" published](#)

The EFP team wishes you a merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

Please send an e-mail to [Joachim Klerx](#) or [Dana Wasserbacher](#), if you want to unsubscribe from the newsletter.

## **1. Report on iKnow conference in Brussels, 27-28 October 2011: "Towards a Strategic Issue Management System for Science, Technology and Innovation"**

During the 27th and 28th of October, the iKnow project organized its final conference in Brussels under the theme "Towards a Strategic Issue Management System for Science, Technology and Innovation". During the conference, new methods and tools developed by iKnow to support foresight, horizon scanning and forward-looking activities (FLAs) were presented to a mixed audience of stakeholders from different academic and practitioner communities. The main objective of the conference was to launch the key recommendations and outcomes from the project that have wider applications to the European Research Area and many related future-oriented activities. The activities from a half-dozen workshops, over 60 interviews, large scale-Delphi surveys, systematic horizon scanning of over 1,000 ERA-relevant issues, the Practical Guide on Wild Cards and Weak Signals as well as the ERA toolkit were presented to a targeted audience that included supranational, national and sub-national actors involved in research and innovation policy shaping, risk analysis and strategic planning.

To view the full report, please visit the Event Reports section on the [EFP website](#).

## 2. Report on foresight conference in Astana (Kazakhstan), 5-6 December 2011: “Foresight a Way to View the Future”

A conference under the theme of “Foresight a Way to View the Future” was organized in Astana as part of the Innovation Forum devoted to the 20th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Innovation Forum, which was opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Karim Masimov had the main objective to summarise the industrial and innovative development of Kazakhstan throughout the 20 years of its independence and to provide a platform for dialogue on prospective directions of innovative development of the country in the long run. The Forum brought together representatives of government agencies, international agencies, Kazakhstani business, international partners, as well as existing and potential foreign partners for future collaborations. Several events were hosted in the framework of the Innovation Forum: The first meeting of the Presidential Innovations Club, which was opened by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H. E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Lean Technologies Conference, a Commercialisation Conference, the Foresight Conference, an Innovative Projects Exhibition and a Youth Debate Tournament on Innovations.

To view the full report, please visit the Event Reports section on the [EFP website](#).

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## 3. Report on FESTOS conference

On the 8th of December the final conference of the FP7 FESTOS project (Forsight of Evolving Security threats Posed by Emerging Technologies) took place in Brussels. (More information about the FESTOS project can be found on the project homepage: <http://www.festos.org/>.) As mentioned in the project description, in FESTOS it was planned to identify and assess evolving security threats posed by the abuse or inadequate use of emerging technologies and new scientific knowledge, which basically means to do research on the dark side of technology. At the conference some nice weak signals for upcoming possible threats, caused by emerging technologies were presented. Sorted by the time of sufficient maturity, the mentioned weak signals are from the technology fields:

- Smartphone Technologie Mash-ups
- Cloud Computing
- Internet of Things
- Synthetic Biology
- Cyborg Insects
- Molecular Manufacturing
- Swarm Robotics
- Programmable Matter
- Self-replicating Nano-assemblers
- Nanotechnology-enabled Brain Implants

More on the weak signals and about the conference in the conference report. To view the full report, please visit the Event Reports section on the [EFP website](#).

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## 4. Latest Foresight Briefs

Since the 200th EFP Brief was uploaded, four new Briefs have been added to the Brief database. Alexander Degelsegger summarized the SEA-EU-NET foresight process, aimed at opening up and structuring the discussion on the potential future cooperation(s) between the EU and Southeast Asia in the field of S&T, in [Brief No. 201](#). The purpose of the foresight exercise described in [Brief No. 202](#) is the generation of future visions and an accompanying agenda for the future with respect to transportation of people and goods in the Netherlands of 2040. Heiko van der Gracht explains the Competitiveness Monitor, which is an integrated Foresight Platform for the German Leading-edge Cluster in Logistics, in [Brief No. 203](#). The latest [Brief No. 204](#) submitted by Brian Warrington highlights lay participation through developing and piloting a cost-effective mechanism for involving citizens in the formulation of European science, technology and research policy.

To download the latest briefs and to browse through the EFP brief database please visit the [EFP website](#).

## 5. Results from the EFP Policy Workshop on “Screening Urban Foresight” published

Find now the new report on „Screening Urban Foresights and Studies supporting Forward Looking Activities – What can we learn for a JPI-Urban Europe 2050+ Foresight?” with new inputs and results from the EFP Policy Workshop on “Screening Urban Foresight” on our website. The latest national EFP workshop took place in Vienna, November 7, with local and international experts.

“Urban Europe” addresses the grand challenges for urban development by **exploring trans-national R&D programmes and research activities in Europe**. In this context forward looking activities play a major role for providing substantial new insights into urban requirements and developments, developing urban scenarios and contributing to a long-term research agenda with a time horizon of 2050+. Within the frame of its Strategic Research Agenda, the Joint Programme Initiative-Urban Europe therefore strives to take utmost advantage of existing results and identify needs for additional forward looking activities. The EFP Policy workshop helped creating the basis for **major foresight activities**, which will be conducted by the JPI-Urban Europe in 2011 and 2012 in order **to prepare its final strategic research agenda**.

To view the full report, please visit the Event Reports section on the [EFP website](#).