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# Screening of Urban Foresight activities with a time horizon of 30+ years

What can we learn for a Joint Programming Initiative  
Urban Europe 2050+

2nd European Foresight Platform Policy Workshop  
Brussels, 28 April 2011



## Background

- FLAs and EIPs
- Urban Europe JPI

### Screening of Urban Foresights

- Results of foresight screening

### Brainstorming on key drivers and challenges

- Comprehensive picture

### Clustering

- Potential foresight themes

### Identifying candidate foresight themes

- Focus on gaps

### Specifying foresight themes

- Going into detail



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# Foresight and Urban Europe

## A brief introduction

Matthias Weber (AIT)

# Why do we need Foresight for policy ?

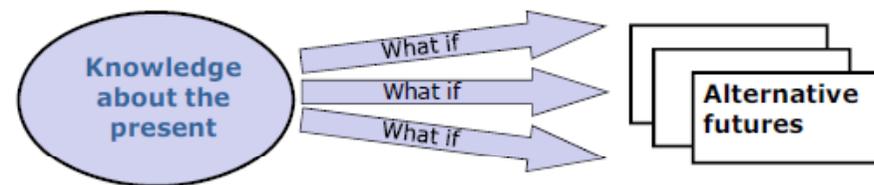
- **Strategic orientation of policy**
  - Growing complexity and uncertainty give rise to a broad spectrum of possible future development paths, for which we need to get prepared.
  - At the same time, limited resources require defining priorities, based on a widely shared perception of future challenges to be addressed in a joint or coordinated effort
  - A better understanding of future developments and impact chains are a pre-condition for informed strategy and policy formulation
- **Involvement, mobilisation and coordination of actors and stakeholders**
  - Centralised steering is bound to fail in the face of complex tasks; they can only be tackled by means of harmonised strategies and measures of a range of actors and stakeholders
  - A shared understanding of the problems and challenges ahead facilitates the definition of common strategies and their implementation.

## The five „C’s“

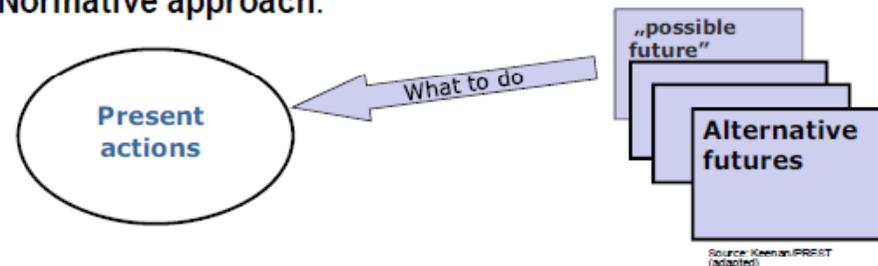
- **Concentration on the future - Exploration of multiple S&T developments and socio-economic needs**
  - „...systematic attempt to look into the future of science, technology, economy and society“
  - „... not focused on the very one, most probable future, but on several scenarios“
- **Communication – Participatory approach**
  - „... widening of the participants‘ horizons and learning in developing results through active involvement of participants“
- **Consensus and conflict – Shared understanding of future challenges and priorities**
  - „... systemic, participatory, future intelligence gathering and medium-to-long term vision-building process“
  - „... identify areas of strategic research and the emergence of generic technologies likely to yield the greatest economic and social benefits“
- **Commitment – Mobilising actors and stakeholders**
  - „... mobilising joint actions“
- **Coordination – Enabling harmonised action**
  - „... aimed at coordinating present-day decisions“

## The basic principles of exploratory and normative foresight

**Exploratory approach:**



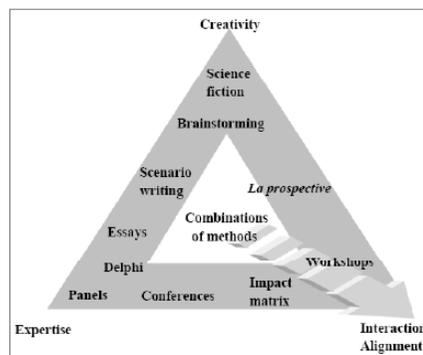
**Normative approach:**



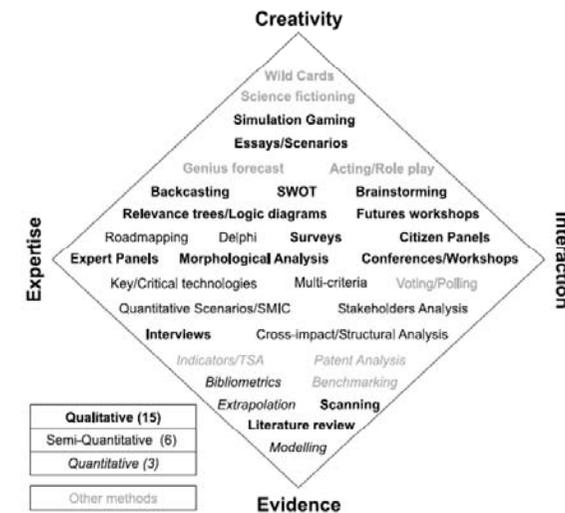
Source: Keenan/PREST (adapted)

- In practice, combinations of exploratory and normative elements are often applied !

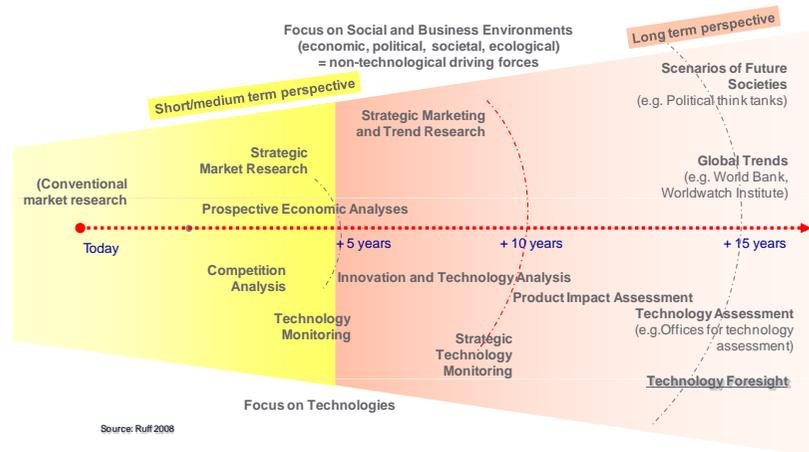
# A variety of qualitative and quantitative methods...



Source: D. Loveridge 1996



Source: Adapted from Popper (2008)



Source: Ruff 2008

Depending on the purpose of the activity...

## Foresight and Urban Europe

- For UE-JPI, the purpose of foresight is twofold:
  - Foresight as an instrument to help clarify long-term visions (> 2050) that point to research needs and opportunities to be addressed and prioritised in the Urban Europe Strategic Research Agenda (normative)
  - Foresight as an exploratory research item on the Urban Europe research agenda, as an attempt to close gaps in our understanding of emerging long-term issues (exploratory)