

VERA VISIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA FLA FOR GOVERNING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

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Philine Warnke, Fraunhofer ISI



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Vera Consortium

Participant no.*	Participant organisation name	Part. Short Name	Country
1 (coordinator)	Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI	FHG-ISI	Germany
2	Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii	UEFISCDI	Romania
3	University of Twente	UTwente	Netherlands
4	L'Institut Francilien Recherche Innovation et Société	IFRIS	France
5	Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	AIT	Austria
6	Manchester Institute of Innovation Research	UNIMAN	United Kingdom
7	VTT-Technical Research Centre of Finland	VTT	Finland
8	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas	CSIC	Spain
9	EU Joint Research Centre Institute for Prospective Technological Studies	JRC-IPTS	EC
10	Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria

VERA Objectives

- **complement the EU foresight activities** funded by the FP7 (Social Sciences and Humanities) including the EFP – European Foresight Platform
- provide relevant **strategic knowledge** for the governance and priority-setting of the research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI) system in Europe
 - for better adapting science, technology and innovation policy to the shifting global environment and upcoming socio-economic challenges.
- setting up a **strategic conversation** across the ERA's levels and domains in order to establish shared learning platforms and distributed anticipatory intelligence
- and thereby ultimately to

Strengthen the capability of the European RTDI system to respond to evolving requirements in a reflexive and forward looking manner

Background: Our Foresight understanding

Structured futures dialogue among key stakeholders



Twofold Foresight benefit for Governing responses to societal challenges

Product benefits – Better understanding

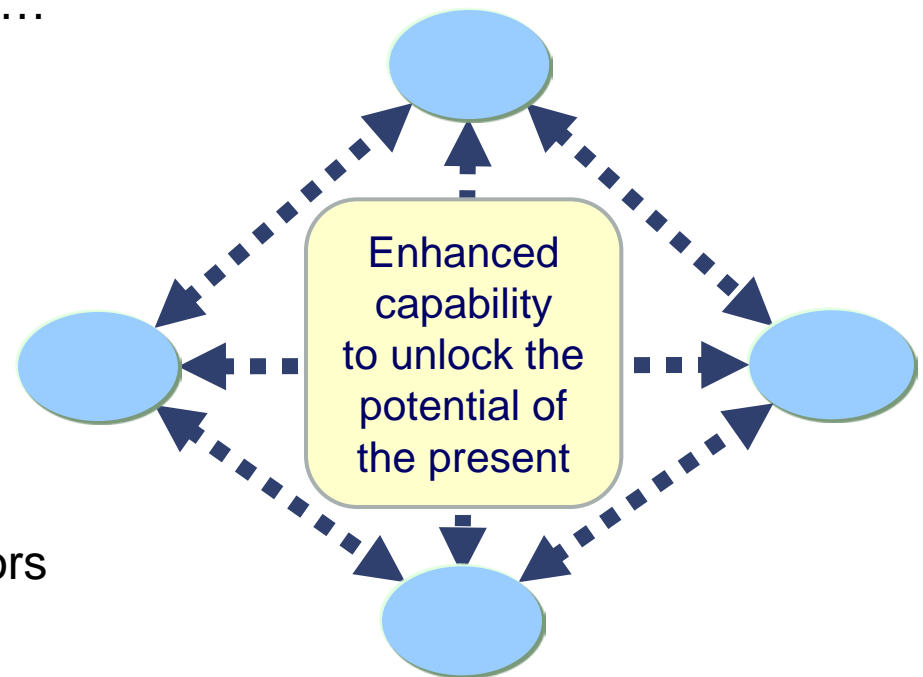
Distributed anticipatory intelligence on ...

- dynamics of change
- upcoming challenges and opportunities
- strategic options

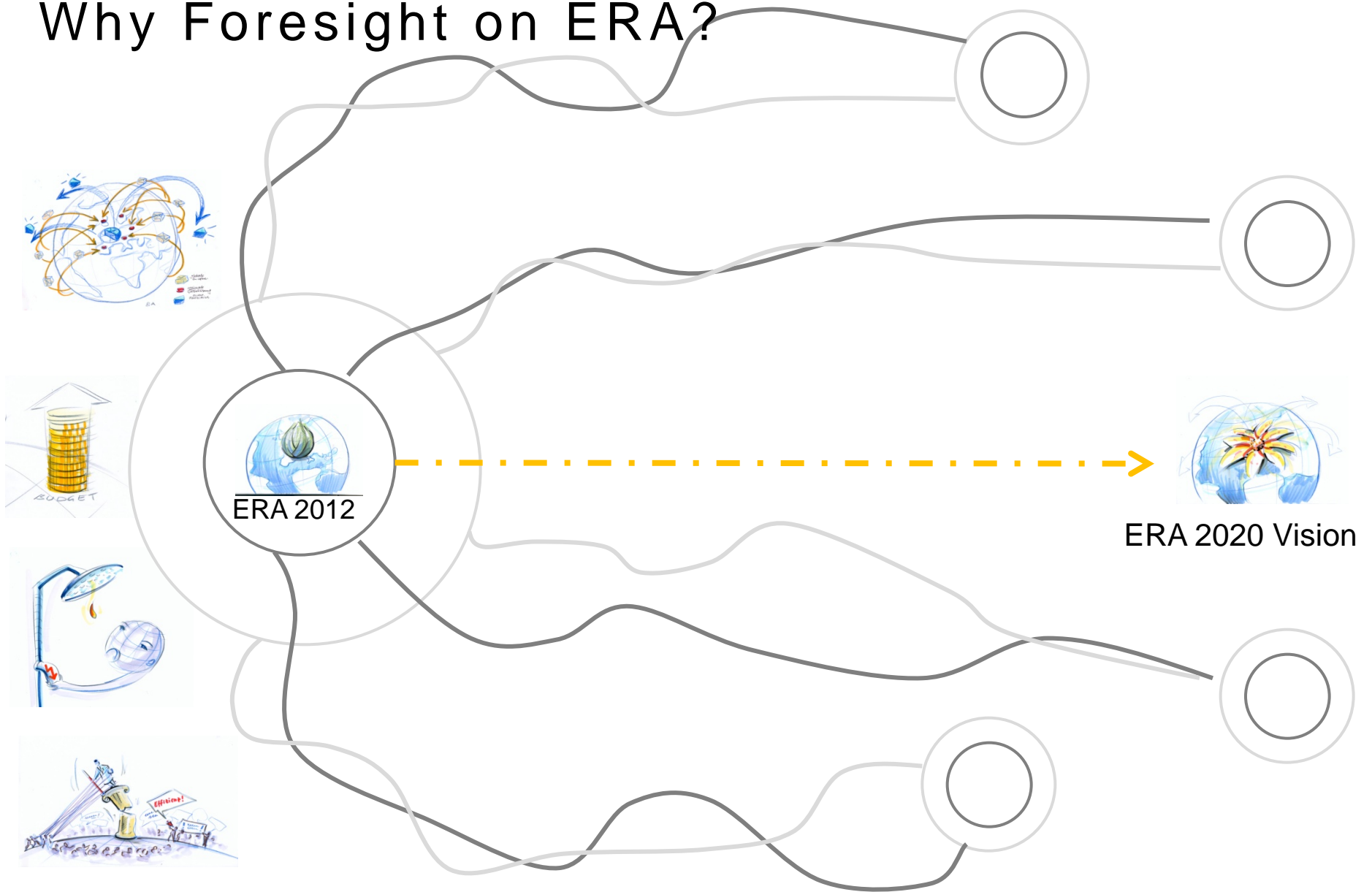
Process benefits – Better systems

Enhanced system learning capability

- common ground among key actors
- shared learning platforms
- new linkages of diverse elements
- future oriented attitudes



Why Foresight on ERA?



To explore different ways ERA may co-evolve with its context ...

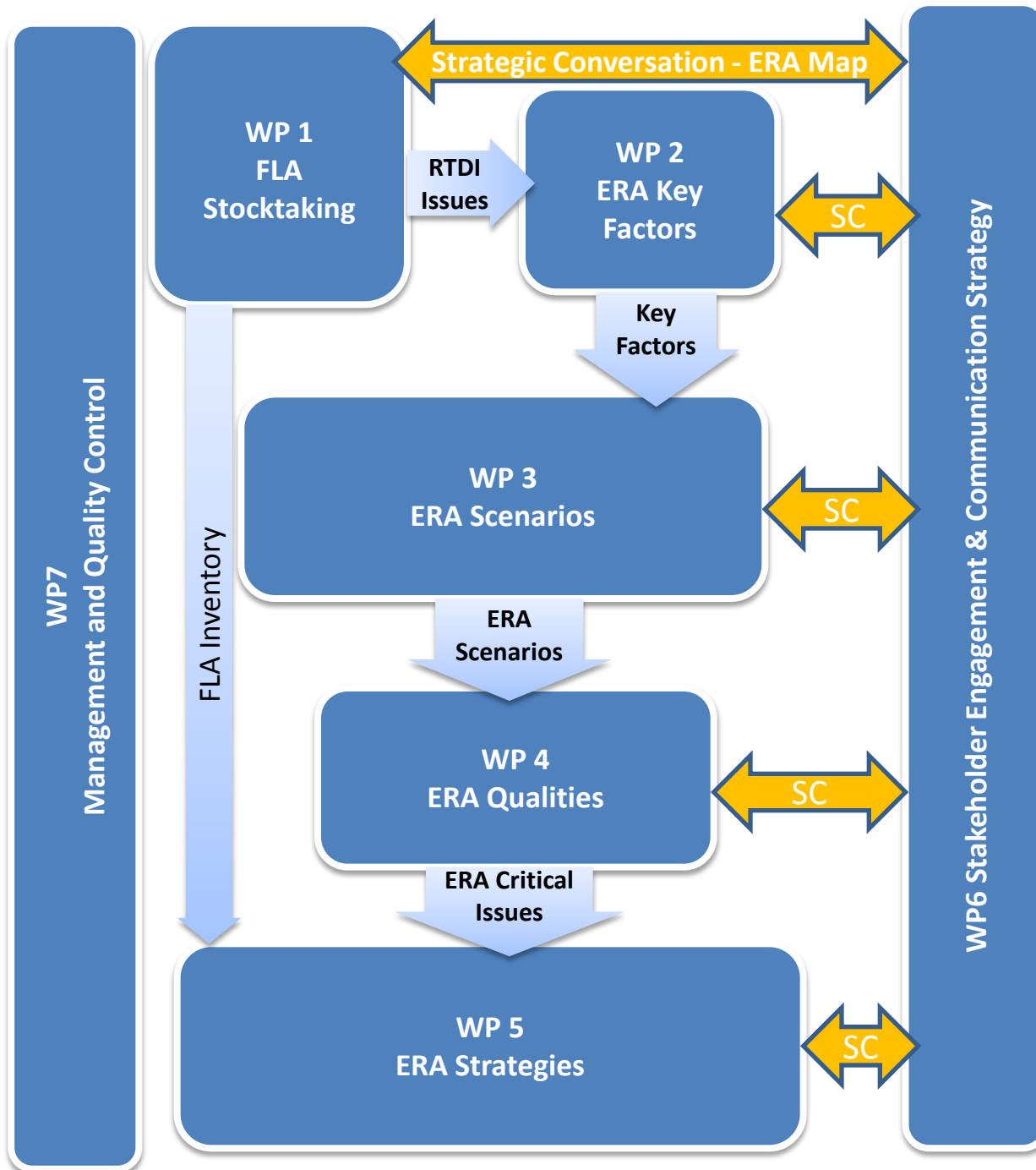
VERA Approach: A Multi-level Multi Actor Strategic Conversation on ERA Perspectives

- Mapping of the **of the European Research Area** (WP6)
- Setting up a strategic conversation among core ERA stakeholders as a **nucleus for a community of actors** with a set of shared long-term visions (WP6 and all work packages)
- **Stocktaking** of current GC related forward looking activities in Europe and internationally (WP1)
- Deriving relevant internal and external **trends, drivers** and emerging issues influencing the governance of RTDI in Europe and the ERA construction respectively (WP2).

VERA Approach: A Multi-level Multi Actor Strategic Conversation on ERA Perspectives

- Development of **scenarios** describing possible trajectories of the ERA's evolution towards 2020 and beyond, taking into account both gradual and systemic changes (WP3).
- Assessment of the **scenario implications** with respect to the Europe2020 policy objectives and in particular the ability to address the socio-economic challenges of our times and to foster a high level of innovation and creativity (WP4).
- Deriving strategic options for research and innovation policy at an EU level and supporting the exploitation of strategic intelligence for specific **strategy building** for a wide range of ERA actors, in particular joint programming initiatives (WP5)

VERA Workplan



VERA Products

ERA Fabric Map capturing current elements and stakeholders (1st version) and possible evolutions (updates) [available for download](#)

ERA Stakeholder Communication platform www.eravisions.eu

ERA Forward-Looking Inventory (D1.1) provides an overview of forward-looking activities relevant for research and innovation priority-setting and indications of their potential contributions to policy- and decision-making processes in Europe [coming soon](#)

ERA Key Factor Report documents the most relevant trends and drivers of change for RTDI governance in Europe (Dec 2012)

ERA Scenario Report (D3): documents a set of relevant scenarios of possible evolution of ERA governance and coordination mechanisms. (August 2013)

ERA Critical Issues Discussion Paper (D4) discusses the characteristics of a “successful” European research and innovation system on the base of the scenarios (Januar 2014)

ERA Policy Recommendations (D5.3) for multi-level RTD and Innovation policy underpinning a well resourced and efficient RTDI governance system (Month 29) based on the ERA Strategies map (May 2014).

Sum up: VERA Contributions to Governing Grand Challenges ...

- exploring different perspectives on, and types of GCs
 - developing possible trajectories of ERA governance
 - setting up structured stakeholder debate on different possible configurations
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- Opening the arena for „collective experimentation“ around socio-technical transitions for responding to the Grand Challenges

Thank You!

Contact:

Philine.Warnke@ait.ac.at

Stephanie.Daimer@isi.fraunhofer.de

European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

Perla.Srour-Gandon@ec.europa.eu

Domenico.Rossetti-di-Valdalbero@ec.europa.eu

More Information: www.eravisions.eu