



FINLAND FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE

**EFP Final Event: “Forward Looking
Activities Governing Grand Challenges”**

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Challenges

- Paradox of futures: globalization, increasing speed of change, connectivity and complexity: Why do foresight if the uncertainties are only certain thing in the future?
 - Question: When world changes should futures change also and how? Or should it be "in the frontline of (r)evolution?"
 - Observation: Problem of probabilities: Usually non-probable events cause biggest and most influential changes.
 - Observation: We need new ways to think about uncertainties
- Social expectations towards futures are still like this:
"Tell us what the future will be?"

Challenges

- We (futures community) need to develop academic futures studies and education in order to be a true social stakeholder and futures studies reliable as a science.
- Fear: futures will degenerate as planning tool interested only in methods; we overemphasize applicability; though without basic research applications are hard to develop.
 - For example EU's framework programs, forthcoming Horizon 2020 seem to emphasize
 - Who's future we are building? At the moment the hegemonic discourse of growth economy dominates also futures and foresight. It is really hard to bring alternatives into discussion.

Futures education

- We need futures education to nourish futures consciousness.
- We need futures education to give people ways and tools to think future alternatives.
- We need futures education to break way to multidisciplinary thinking in universities, government and private sector.

Many thanks for your attention!

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