



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

The role of National & Regional Foresight processes in the EU

ELIE FAROULT
30/05/2008

FORESIGHT UNIT



Covering

- **WHY FORESIGHT**
- **National foresight**
- **ERA and context**
- **CC Challenges and Opportunities**
- **Regional Foresight**
- **What DG RTD K-2 are doing**

Towards the knowledge-based economy

- **Vision: Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge society in the world by 2010!**
- **Sustainable development; quantitative & qualitative improvement in employment and labour market; greater social cohesion; better governance; life-long learning; people mobility**
- **“Open method of co-ordination” (benchmarking; continuous, mutual learning process)**
- **RTDI a top priority => ERA**
- **Also needs other policies to contribute - embedded knowledge, KISA widespread**

Why Foresight?

- **As policy makers have to have a more rational basis for decision making, a vision is needed**
- **As knowledge dynamics speed up, a framework is needed for emerging knowledge to be positioned**
- **As the world grows more complex, a concept of how the pieces will interact help plan to-day.**
- **Growth favours risk reduced environments, Foresight helps reduce risks**
- **Socially, groups that are motivated around a visions can contribute more effectively towards it**



The Role of National Foresight Processes

- **Vehicle for national debate on future prospects and policies to meet desired socio-economic goals**
- **Positions various public / semi-public initiatives relative to each other, policy relationships and systemic structures in positive context**
- **Translates science of to-day, technology of tomorrow into desired social aims like sustainability, quality of life etc day after tomorrow**
- **Helps business make strategic decisions**
- **Helps national policy in global and regional arenas**



Four Main Processes in National Foresight

- **Key Technologies - Technocratic, outside-in/top down, global**
- **DELPHI - wide poll, bottom up approach, replicable, methodological**
- **Scenarios/Visioning - Descriptive, all embracing, semantically pleasing,**
- **Expert Panels- Selective, sectoral, SWOT, bias, specific, flexible**

Some Typical Outcomes of National Foresight Processes

- **Process takes over from content, continuity**
- **New networks created, can generate momentum**
- **Incomplete picture from narrow scopes**
- **Information disseminated, public aroused**
- **Forward Thinking Culture, positivism**
- **Regions and sectors can feed from it**
- **Interdisciplinary approaches enabled**
- **Human capital policies improved**
- **POLICY FRAMEWORK GOING FORWARD**

TIP - UK and Futur are good web sites!

Some Typical Outcomes* of National Foresight Processes

- **Speeding up processes - IRL, S, F**
- **Reconfigure Process itself - UK2-3, J**
- **Go Regional - UK1-2, B**
- **Networks formation - H, NL-FSC, E, NZ**
- **Human Capital - IRL, NZ, Irl**
- **SWOT National Priorities UK1, A, S, Aus**
- **Critical technologies F, D, UK2, SF, US, Can**
- **Major Policy Impacts UK, NL, D, A, Irl, F, Aus, Jap**

* Based on Scapolo, Brasilia, IPTS-JRC, 2002

Some National Foresight in Europe*

- **Belgium Federal Foresight Study**
- **Denmark Technology Foresight**
- **Germany - FUTUR Research Dialogue**
 - Delphi 98
- **Finland - On the way to technology vision**
- **France - Technologies Clés - to 2005**
- **United Kingdom**
 - ITEC Technology Group
 - The Foresight Programme
 - PM's Implementation Unit
- **Ireland- Technology Foresight Ireland**
- **Italy- Technology Foresight in Italy**
 - Le priorta nazionali della ricerca industriale. Secondo rapporto
- **The Netherlands**
 - Foresight-Studien vom Nationalen Rat für Agrarforschung (NRLO)
 - Technologie-Radar, 1998
- **Norway- Norway 2030**
- **Austria**
 - Int Library Questions of the Future (IBZ) - Robert Jungk Foundation,
 - Technology Delphi
 - Society and Culture Delphi
- **Portugal**
 - Engenharia e Tecnologia (ET 2000)
 - Delphi survey 1998-99 (MARHE)
 - IS-Emp two-round Delphi (IS-Emp)
 - WORTIS
- **Sweden - Teknisk Framsyn**
- **Switzerland - St. Galler Zentrum für Zukunftsforschung AG (SGZZ),**
 - Prognos AG, Basel, Schweiz
- **Czech Republic - Analyses of international key technologies lists**
- **Hungary- Technology Foresight Programme (TEP)**

* ex those funded by EU

Some International Foresight Activities - Various stakeholders, varying motivation, variable quality!

- **United Nations (UN-ACNU) - The Millenium Project**
- **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**
- **OECD- International Futures Programme**
- **UN-IDO**
- **IIASA International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis**
- **GBN-GFF**
- **WFS and Professional Association**
- **Futures Consortium - Social Technologies**

ERA - The European Research Area

- **A new vision for European research**
 - ➔ Re-invent the European research landscape
 - ➔ Avoid 25+1 policy framework
- **Better use of scarce resources**
 - ➔ Reduce fragmentation;
 - ➔ Improve organisation of research

The regional dimension of the European Research Area

- **Regional dimension identified in all ERA related Communications as important**
 - ➔ Special Communication on the Regional Dimension adopted 03/10/01 (COM(2001)549)
- **“Territorialisation of RTDI policies”**
- **Exploiting the possibilities offered by the new EU RTDI and Regional Policies (for local & regional authorities)**
- **Involving Member States and Regions in a European Policy context**
- ➔ **Mobilise all R&D actors - private & public; European, National and Regional**

ERA: What roles for the regions?

- **Active role:**
 - ➔ supportive, pro-active, based on public-private partnerships, strengthening actors, providing infrastructure and means, bridging the gap between knowledge creators and knowledge users
- **Active tool - EU structural funds:**
 - ➔ from 'infrastructure-only' to 'innovation-enabling'
 - ➔ 12 Billion Euro allocated to Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) by Structural Funds in last decade
 - ➔ Room for foresight in Technical assistance & Mid-term Review

The Role of Foresight for Regional Policymaking

- **Background -**
 - ➔ Towards the knowledge-based economy
- **A new role for the regions**
- **The challenge of Perceptions of S&T**
- **What is Foresight and Why is it done**
- **The DG RTD “Foresight” unit - what we do**
- **Sources of information**

Foresight & Policymaking in the knowledge-based economy

- **Success in all policy areas**
 - ➔ the development, quality and exploitation of the S&T knowledge base and its scarce resources
 - ➔ quality and effectiveness of RTDI policies, input to other policies and visions
 - ➔ quality of preparation and basis for decision-making, relevant advice structures & mechanisms; readiness for change
- ➔ **World-wide increase of Foresight activities**
- ➔ **Ownership - Society actively shape their future**

(Science & Technology) Foresight

- **Thinking the future**

- ➔ Identifying today's RTDI priorities on the basis of scenarios of future developments in science and technology, society and economy.

- **Debating the future**

- ➔ A participative process involving many and different stakeholders (public authorities, industry, research organisations, non-governmental organisations, etc.)

- **Shaping the future**

- ➔ Identifying *possible* futures, imagining *desirable* futures, and defining strategies. Results are fed into public decision-making but also help participants themselves to develop or adjust their strategies.

Regional Foresight - why?

- **Foresight activities *provide guidance to policy-makers from both public and private sectors***
- **Regional foresight activities *supports the development of the ERA***
- **Links regional regional activities with national efforts (national foresights!) and European policy**
- **New Governance**
 - ➔ **democratising expertise**
 - ➔ **new roles for the actors**
 - ➔ **decentralisation / subsidiarity**

Regional Foresight - how?

It's LOCAL!

- **Building bridges - learning from others - consolidating experience & knowledge**
 - ➔ The same global trends affect most regions - but the impact differs
- ***Trans-regional collaboration in regional foresight accelerates mutual learning processes, and strengthens trans-regional centres of excellence***
- **Foresight activities *need to transcend horizontal AND vertical boundaries***

Regional Foresight – when?

- Activities that have direct impact on the region
- Actors that have direct impact on the region
- Autonomy / political influence required
- Focus on foresight for policy change
- If it cannot be tied to action =>

Like any Foresight!



FORESIGHT UNIT



Science and Technology Foresight; links with the IPTS (DG RTD unit K2)

- **Promote a European Area for Foresight**: Interconnect and support TF activities at European, national and regional level, in close co-operation with all related actors in Europe
- **Internal think tank activities**: Provide input to EU research and innovation (RTDI) policy development
- **Implement projects** in support of RTDI and foresight policies development (in FP5: STRATA; FP6: Foresight Knowledge Sharing Platform)

Foresight co-operation in support of the ERA

- **Lisbon: “Open coordination” of Member States policies**
 - ➔ European Research Area
 - ➔ Importance of Foresight for implementation of the ERA strategy underlined
- **Building on strength: Foresight is an asset for Europe.**

But:

- **Fragmented scene**
 - ➔ Interconnections, mutual learning, etc. needed = “open coordination”
 - ➔ Capitalise on successful use of foresight: Processes & Use of results.

What we are trying to promote

- **Develop strategic knowledge and capacity in Europe, and contribute to global institutional landscape**
- **Increase synergies: develop and use platforms and networks to disseminate and integrate results from different levels and sectors**
- **Develop technical tools and societal processes for an efficient use and improved policy impacts**
- **Create forward thinking culture in society as a whole, adapt education & training, improve awareness building**
- **Develop joint / complementary activities on common-interest topics**

Knowledge sharing platform

- **Monitoring & analysis of, and reporting on, (S&T) Foresight activities at regional, national and European levels**
- **Mobilising foresight knowledge around key EU-relevant issues**
- **Focus on shared use by policy-makers of results and knowledge produced by foresight initiatives at all levels**
 - ➔ promoting forward-looking and coherent research and innovation policy-making in Europe
 - ➔ exchange of good practice and methodological tools
- **Activities designed and implemented in close co-ordination with the direct actions of the JRC IPTS**

High Level Expert Groups (part under STRATA-ETAN)

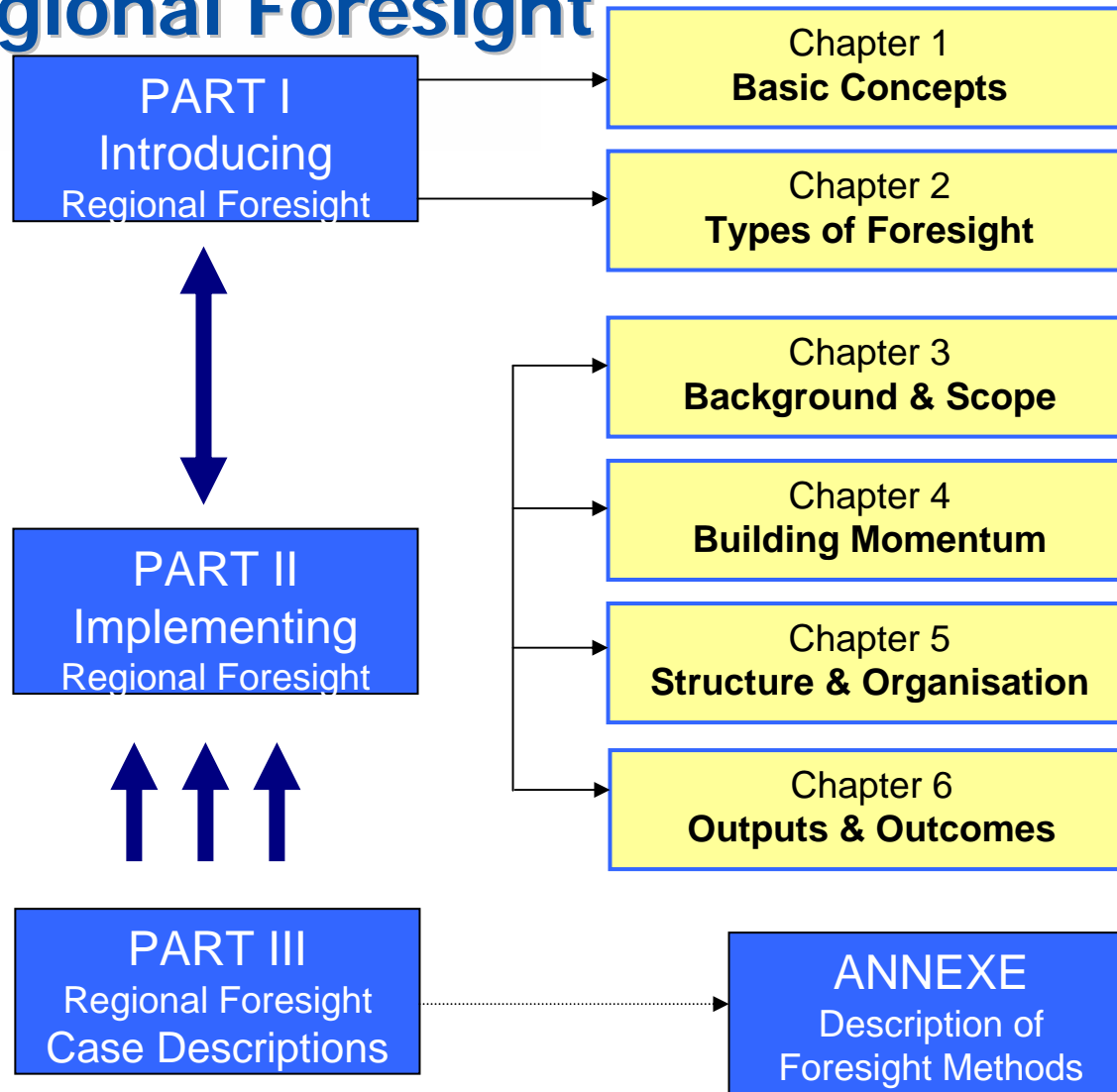
- **The European dimension of S&T foresight**
- **Mobilising Regional Foresight actors for an enlarged EU**
- **Higher Education**
- **The New Technology Wave**
- **Blueprints for Foresight Actions by the Regions**
- **Key technologies**
- **Key actors**

The guide to implementing regional foresight most important product!

Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions

- Support development of ERA and European Integration
 - Create learning partnerships
 - Develop concrete suggestions for actions of regional, trans-regional, or horizontal character
 - Build on regional foresight to improve policy design & implementation; enhance competitiveness and social cohesion; move towards knowledge based economies
- ➔ *Group members:* **Capacity to initiate actions and influence policymaking**

Country Specific Practical Guides to Regional Foresight



Useful links & sources of information

- http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/index_en.html (DG Research official home page)
- <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/nfp.html> (The 6th Framework Programme)
- <http://www.cordis.lu/foresight> EC Science and Technology Foresight
- <http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/era-developments/regions.htm> (EC Communications emphasising the regions on CORDIS / ERA website)
- <http://www.innovating-regions.org/> (Innovating Regions in Europe)
- http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/comm_en.htm (DG Regio policy documents)
- www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/foresight/home.html (Foresight unit, DG RTD K-2, opportunities in FP6)
- www.regional-foresight.de (Regional foresight actors for an enlarged EU)
- Proceedings - Thematic Network on Foresight in the Enlargement Countries, "Best practice in national foresight methodology and its practical application", Warsaw/Poland 2000, pdf-version