



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

European
Research Area

How can Forward Looking Activities support the European Research Area?

European Commission

Research Directorate-General

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European Research Area

How can Forward Looking Activities support the European Research Area?

- What have we achieved in this area under FP6 and FP7?
- What is going on at national level?
- What is going on at European level?
- Which are the main problems/gaps?
- How can Foresight under SSH in FP7 contribute?
- Purpose and Structure of this Seminar

What are we talking about?

- **Definition(s) of Foresight:**
« Forward-Looking Activities » is broader;
it also includes Horizon Scanning, Forecasting,
Vision-Building, Participative Technology
Assessment, etc.

What have we achieved in this area under FP6?

- **Years 2001-2006: small Foresight action under « Coherent development », networking, support to capacity in new Member States, strategic studies and Expert Groups**
- **‘Thematic’ Foresight on ICTs (FISTERA), Manufacturing Technologies (MANVIS), Agricultural Research (SCAR)**
- **In addition: Modelling & Forecasting projects e.g. in Environment or Energy Research, European Technology Platforms and their vision-building exercises**

What is going on at national level?

- Since mid-1990s Foresight is used by many government for defining research priorities
- UK has gone through many phases
- More recently Swedish Foresight, French Futuris, AGORA 2020 and France 2025, FinnSight 2015 and TEKES « People, Economy, Environment » 2008, Danish Research 2015, German BMBF Foresight Process ending June 2009
- *(In Japan the National Institute for Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) is regularly carrying out Delphi processes and studies to support national S&T policy.)*

What is going on at European level?

- Starting now, new FP7 activities
- ESF Forward Looks: very useful, there are rather state of the art exercises than true foresight
- European Technology Platforms and vision-building processes (e.g. MANUFUTURE, Hydrogen, Plants, etc), Social Platforms
- Foresight embedded in ERA-nets (e.g. WoodWisdom-Net)
- COST on Foresight Methodologies
- STOA/EPTA technology assessment
- *(UNIDO is supporting Foresight in Eastern Europe/CIS (+Asia and Latin America))*

Which are the main problems/gaps?

- **Fragmentation, heterogeneous timing and character and national focus of most national initiatives**
- **Complexity of the EU decision-shaping and decision making processes (FPs, Joint programming)**

How can Foresight under SSH in FP7 contribute?

Six projects linked to ERA have been selected and are now starting and we wish:

- **To develop exchanges and complementarities between them**
- **To develop exchanges between them and the new policy processes related to the ERA**

Purpose of this Seminar

- To discuss the current status and experiences concerning forward-looking activities in the context of EU research policy so far
- and to see how a **continuous process of forward-looking and horizon scanning activities addressing the needs of the European Research Area** - and in particular joint programming, the development of EU Framework Programmes and international science and technology cooperation - could be organised now and in the future.

Structure of the Seminar

- **Quick Presentation of the first six FP7 Foresight projects**
- **Presentation of ERA-related policy needs by the Commission**
- **Discussion session 1: How can Forward-Looking Activities contribute to define great societal challenges for ERA?**
- **Discussion session 2: How can Forward-Looking Activities be used to underpin the development of a vision and a strategic research agenda for a theme selected for joint programming?**

Structure of the Seminar (2)

- **Each discussion session will start with a limited number of presentations to be followed by a debate introduced by discussants.**
- **Conclusions will be drawn at the end of the Seminar by Anneli Pauli, Deputy Director General of DG Research.**