



INFU: Innovation Futures in Europe: A Foresight Exercise on Emerging Patterns of Innovation

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Partners

- Austrian Research Centers (ARC)
 - Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovations Research (ISI)
 - Strategic Design Scenarios (SDS)
 - Z_punkt The Foresight Company (z_punkt)
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- Duration: 32 Month, start: 1st June 2009

Objectives

- Systematic exploration of relevant and plausible future innovation landscapes through participative scenario building
- Scanning of weak signals for changing innovation patterns with a potentially disruptive impact for European S&T in the long run
- Initiation of wide boundary-spanning stakeholder and expert debate on new innovation patterns
- Deriving strategic options and guidelines for European research policy

Methods

- Use of the following methods:
 1. Identification of weak signals
 2. Amplification of weak signals
 3. Development of story scripts
 4. Scenario building
 5. Scenario assessment
 6. Formulation of policy options
- Supported by (participation)
 - Web platforms, interviews, mini-panels and expert workshops
- Strong attention to visualisation (e.g. interactive web tools, videos)
- Principles:
 - Integration
 - Generalisation
 - Contextualisation
 - Long term orientation

Impact for the identification of societal challenges

- We deal with...
 - implications of new innovation schemes for production patterns (distribution and location of production)
 - environmental impact of new innovation patterns (e.g. user innovation)
 - the role of current innovation agents (companies, researchers, engineers, designers, architects, "creative class" ...) within new innovation patterns
 - peoples' attitudes towards innovation activities and their dependence on cultural context (e.g. Innovation fatigue and passive consumer mentality versus individualisation and experience economy)
 - the relevance of the various emerging innovation concepts for different types of products, industrial sector, cultural context