



European Union Research in Foresight



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European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Contact: Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, PhD
E-mail: Domenico.Rossetti-di-Valdalbero@ec.europa.eu

European Union research in foresight

Seventh EU research framework programme (2007–13)

Socio-economic sciences and humanities

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Introduction

Foresight may be defined as a ‘sensitive exercise — using quantitative and/or qualitative methods — oriented towards the future at the junction of dream and reality aimed at shaping a more sustainable world’ ⁽¹⁾.

In Europe, foresight is used for the inspiration, preparation, formulation and assessment of EU policies. It represents a standard practice in the European Commission and underpins good European governance.

Qualitative foresight is useful for the elaboration of long-term visions having a broad sociopolitical scope such as medium- to long-term policy strategies. Quantitative modelling is used for the impact assessment of techno-economic questions such as energy and environment targets in Europe.

Methods such as scenario-building, horizon scanning, forecasting, roadmapping, back-casting, technology assessment, Delphi surveys and social platforms can also help to identify risks and opportunities, trends and tensions, orientations and transitions. All these methods are well represented in the EU foresight research mapped in this publication ⁽²⁾.

EU foresight research involve a large set of disciplines from mathematics to philosophy passing by engineering, economics and political sciences. Some of them are expert based, while others are more participatory and involve policymakers, stakeholders and citizens.

Foresight in the broad sense — often called **prospective** or **forward-looking activities** — aims to shed light on different options for the future that may encompass different pathways of social and/or technological developments.

Foresight plays a genuine role in inspiring new European policies, providing fresh insights and identifying major future societal challenges. In order to achieve such goals, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation financed more than 30 research foresight projects and expert groups between 2007 and 2013. These initiatives were supported by the seventh research framework programme (FP7) under the ‘socio-economic sciences and humanities’ theme (SSH).

⁽¹⁾ <http://www2.academieroyale.be/academie/documents/CB2011docpostlimROSSETTI10362.pdf>

⁽²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/forward-looking_en.html

These foresight exercises can be grouped around four main subjects:

- the future of globalisation in Europe and the neighbouring countries;
- visions and trends concerning the European Research Area (ERA), science, technology and innovation;
- modelling, new accounting frameworks and forward-looking policies;
- transitions towards a responsible socio-ecological Europe.

In the first part of FP7 (2007–10), the foresight research projects were relatively small and almost purely composed of foresighters. In the second half of FP7 (2010–13), the idea was to ‘integrate foresight’ in large and different parts of the socio-economic sciences and humanities programme.

Most of the EU research foresight initiatives have been the result of an intensive collaboration among EU policymakers (DG Research and Innovation, the Bureau of European Policy advisers (BEPA) and several other DGs), academia, industry and civil society organisations ⁽³⁾.

Analysing the past and projecting the future in order to shape a better present is the main purpose of European foresight research. We hope that these EU research initiatives have contributed to and will achieve this ambitious but realistic target.

⁽³⁾ <http://espas-europa.eu/orbis>

The future of globalisation in Europe and the neighbouring countries



The world and Europe up to 2030/2050 — EU policies and research priorities

Global Europe 2050

<p>European Commission contribution: EUR 500 000</p> <p>Starting date: 1.3.2010</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: expert group</p>	<p>Expert group coordinator:</p> <p>European Commission, DG Research and Innovation</p> <p>Contact: Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO Domenico.Rossetti-di-Valdalbero@ec.europa.eu</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/global-europe-2050-report_en.pdf</p>
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The objective of this expert group is to assess and measure the past, present and expected future changes in Europe and the rest of the world from a political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technological perspective up to 2050.

Its purpose is to conduct both quantitative and qualitative analyses in terms of well-grounded connections between challenges and visions and options for action on which policies can be built in the years to come. This is to be done through the elaboration and exploration of the main drivers that may affect or impact the world and Europe by 2030/2050, thus integrating the long-term dimension within policy preparation.

The tasks of the group are the following:

1. to review and build on existing European and international forward-looking exercises recently carried out relating to main changes and challenges that Europe and the rest of the world will have to face in the next decades; this work should include the sectorial and technological European forward-looking exercises (cf. ERA NETs, European technology platforms and EU projects);
2. to evaluate qualitatively and quantitatively the underlying trends and tensions for the world and Europe up to 2030/2050 on the basis of a set of specific hypotheses covering political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technological developments in order to establish a 'business as usual' scenario; the 'World in 2025' identifies several grand challenges that should be taken into consideration;
3. to generate three 'alternative scenarios' (storylines) for the world up to 2050 with intermediary steps in 2020, 2030 and 2040 focusing on Europe and identifying the major potential transitions and the potential disruptive factors;
4. to highlight future European research priorities and research governance (at EU and Member State level) that answer to the identified transitions and that would allow EU to remain at the same time competitive and sustainable in the globalised environment.

List of experts

Effie AMANATIDOU

Daniele ARCHIBUGI

Dragana AVRAMOV

Henri BOGAERT

Anette BRAUN

Maciej BUKOWSKI

Joao CARACA

Ged DAVIS

Jaap de ZWAAN

Lionel FONTAGNE

Nicole GNESOTTO

Joyeeta GUPTA

Helena HELVE

Niek KLAZINGA

Heli KOSKI

Ana MORATO

Geoff MULGAN

Andrea RICCI

Tomas RIES

Ingo ROLLWAGEN

Luc SOETE

Karlheinz STEINMÜLLER

Leopold SUMMERER

Bruno VAN POTTELSBERGHE

Álvaro de VASCONCELOS

Philine WARNKE

European Commission staff involved in all the expert meetings

Jean-Michel BAER, Pierre VALETTE, Paraskevas CARACOSTAS, Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO, Perla SROUR-GANDON and Vasco CAL

Observer

Pascal PETIT

Forward-looking analysis of grand societal challenges and innovative policies

FLAGSHIP

<p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 496 656</p> <p>Starting date: 1. 1.2013</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: ISTITUTO DI STUDI PER L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI SISTEMI (ISIS) Italy — Rome</p> <p>Contact: Andrea RICCI aricci@isis-it.com http://www.flagship-project.eu</p>
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The objectives of the Flagship project are:

1. understanding and assessing the state of the art of forward-looking methodologies — in particular by appraising to what extent and how existing methods are used to assess grand societal challenges and past and current responses to them — and developing state-of-the-art tools and modelling frameworks;
2. applying an enhanced set of forward-looking methods and tools to support EU policies, notably by analysing reference and alternative scenarios of long-term demographic, legal, economic, social and political evolutions in Europe, such as the innovation union, in a world context and assessing potential progress in technological and social innovation;
3. driving change: producing a set of EU-relevant policy recommendations on the potential of the EU for transition and change as a result of the forward-looking exercise.

In relation to the first objective, the project will take stock of the existing forward-looking studies and applications addressing the major societal challenges for the EU in the world context. The state-of-the-art foresight studies will be summarised to show the current appraisal of grand societal challenges related to: financial and economic development, technology and innovation; demographics and society; energy and environment; and global and territorial governance. For each field, a review will be carried out of the central questions, key trends, critical uncertainties and scenario frameworks used to forecast the future.

In relation to the second objective, the project will apply and combine enhanced qualitative and quantitative methods owned/mastered by the project partners in a coherent framework, producing first qualitative scenarios of different responses to grand societal challenges, in the context of possible global paradigm shifts and geopolitical changes, by means of a scenario thinking exercise involving consortium experts and a community of stakeholders. These qualitative storylines will be integrated with a metamodelling of trends and indicators associated with the different scenario options, and with deeper modelling and quantitative forecasting exercises, producing quantitative

scenarios whose outcomes will also be validated engaging the community of stakeholders. The whole analysis will aim to assess economic, demographic, energy, environment and technological trends, governance and legal trends, and the potential progress in technological and social innovation in Europe in a world context.

In relation to the third objective, the project will focus further on emerging issues and transition challenges (including weak signals, disruptive factors and wild cards that may radically change the EU innovation union targets), EU policy responses and the role of Europe in shaping global governance, and that of multi-level governance mechanisms in shaping new territorial dynamics within Europe, with the aim of assessing EU policy responses, scenarios and impacts and delivering policy recommendations to support the formulation and execution of strategic EU policy agendas. Targeted foresight studies of territorial dynamics will be considered, to highlight regional vulnerabilities to trends and tensions provoked by globalisation, international competition, climate change, energy, an ageing population and migration fluxes.

Institutions/partners/country/town

OESTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN
Dimiter PHILIPPOV
Austria — Vienna

BC3 BASQUE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
Anil MARKANDYA
Spain — Bilbao

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES
Noriko FUJIWARA
Belgium — Brussels

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY
Ruslan STEFANOV
Bulgaria — Sofia

HAGUE INSTITUTE FOR THE
INTERNATIONALISATION OF LAW
David RAIC
Netherlands — The Hague

INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS SOCIAIS DA
UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA
Olivia BINA
Portugal — Lisbon

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE
VAN WETENSCHAPPEN
Joop DE BEER
Netherlands — Amsterdam

MCRIT
Andreu ULIED SEGUÍ
Spain — Barcelona

NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST
NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK
Olaga IVANOVA
Netherlands — Delft

OBSERVATOIRE MEDITERRANEEN DE L'ENERGIE
Houda ALLAL
France — Nanterre

SIGMA ORIONIS
Roger TORRENTI
France — Valbonne

SEURECO SOCIETE EUROPEENNE D'ECONOMIE
Paul ZAGAME
France — Paris

SPATIAL FORESIGHT GMBH
Kai BÖHME
Luxembourg — Heisdorf

ESTONIAN INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, SEI
Tea NÖMMANN
Estonia — Tallinn

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Anna ROGUT
Poland — Łódź

Challenges for Europe in the world of 2030

AUGUR

Grant agreement: 244565

European Commission contribution:
EUR 2 580 600

Starting date: 1.10.2009

Duration: 36 months

Funding scheme: collaborative project
(small and medium-scale focused research project)

Project coordinator:

**CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS)**
France — Paris

Contact: Pascal PETIT
pascal.petit@ens.fr

<http://www.augurproject.eu>

The AUGUR challenge is to capture, within a set of scenarios, the characteristics and implications of a variety of patterns that may occur in 2025/2030 in all domains, be they political, economic, social, environmental or technological, in Europe and the rest of the world.

The project wants to take stock of long-term trends identified in demography and environmental changes as well as to feature some of the effects of likely changes in technology and behaviours. It also wants to take into account the important institutional transformations that could come out of the major crisis with which the world economy is confronted.

To reach this ambitious objective, in a comprehensive and consistent way, AUGUR combines in a systematic way three types of approaches. One approach is to use macro models, ensuring that the main interdependencies are taken into account. As one macro model cannot cover all the domains under review, macro models are made to interact in ways which are facilitated, if not intermediated, by the other two approaches.

The second approach takes an institutional perspective whereby the main mechanisms of coordination, setting both the rules of behaviours and also the means to create new modes of coordination, are investigated and the various interests at stake accounted for. This political economy of institutions and institutional changes applies at both national and international levels. With the present crisis, which erupted in the most developed economies and is affecting all economies throughout the world, a specific emphasis is put on forthcoming and potential institutional changes. The third approach stems from the by now long experience of foresight studies which proceed by asserting visions, based on specific thorough transformations impacting on all domains. This qualitative approach is informed and framed by the two other approaches.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
John Leonard EATWELL
United Kingdom — Cambridge

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
School of Oriental and African Studies
Terry McKINLEY
United Kingdom — London

ISMERI EUROPA
Istituto di Ricerca Interdisciplinare
Enrico WOLLEB
Italy — Rome

AKADEMIA LEONA KOZMINSKIEGO
Jacek TOMKIEWICZ
Poland — Warsaw

WIENER INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE
WIRTSCHAFTSVERGLEICHE
Michael LANDESMANN
Austria — Vienna

SOCIETE DE MATHEMATIQUES APPLIQUEES ET
DE SCIENCES HUMAINES
Jean-Charles HOURCADE
France — Paris

The world in 2025

<p>European Commission contribution: EUR 500 000</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2008</p> <p>Duration: 22 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: expert group</p>	<p>Expert group coordinator:</p> <p>European Commission, DG Research and Innovation</p> <p>Contacts: Elie FAROULT and Domenico ROSSETTI Domenico.Rossetti-di-Valdalbero@ec.europa.eu</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/the-world-in-2025-report_en.pdf</p>
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The objectives of this group are firstly to assess global trends over recent decades, distinguishing the different major economies and regions, including the European Union, and the main economic, geopolitical, environmental and societal relationships and interconnections, to serve as a basis for projections.

Secondly, the group generates and analyses alternative (even disruptive) scenarios of world trends up to 2025, based on specified assumptions about economic, political, social, environmental and technological developments, in order to assess their consequences for the EU and to examine which policy responses could be appropriate.

Finally, these discussions have paved the way for a broad debate at European and world levels.

‘The world in 2025’ includes expertise on global challenges and developments, as well as on foresight in specific countries or regions. Each expert produces an individual contribution to the discussions and, collectively, they generate a set of indicative scenarios for the world in 2025.

The experts look at a wide range of issues, including demography, migration, urbanisation, cohesion, macroeconomics and trade, employment, services, environment and climate change, energy, access to resources, education, research, technology, innovation, economic governance, defence, security and intercultural dialogue.

The key messages concern the main challenges to be faced in the next 15 years, the main drivers that could have an impact on the future, the main strengths and weaknesses of Europe by 2025 and finally the wild cards that may radically change the different situations that are foreseen.

List of experts

Marc ABELES

Gijs BEETS

João CARAÇA

Lionel FONTAGNE

Thierry GAUDIN

Nicole GNESSOTO

Josephine GREEN

Giovanni GREVI

Irina KUKLINA

Geoff MULGAN

Richard PORTES

Mu RONGPING

Luc SOETE

Uno SVEDIN

Jacques THEYS

Loukas TSOUKALIS

European Commission staff involved in all the expert meetings

Jean-Michel BAER, Pierre VALETTE, Paraskevas CARACOSTAS, Elie FAROULT, Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO and Vasco CAL

Global reordering: Evolution through European networks

GREEN

<p>Grant agreement: 266809</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 7 944 718</p> <p>Starting date: 1.3.2011</p> <p>Duration: 48 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (large-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK United Kingdom — Warwick</p> <p>Contact: Shaun BRESLIN Shaun.Breslin@warwick.ac.uk</p> <p>http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/csgr/green/</p>
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GREEN studies the current and future role of the EU in an emerging multipolar world through a programme of stock-taking, multidisciplinary research and complementary activities. It aims at a better understanding of the prospective directions of the emerging global governance structures and Europe's place in them.

Analysis will focus on the extant actors from the 20th century, the rising powers of the 21st century, the increasingly influential non-state actors (from both civil and non-civil society) and the new transnational regulatory networks of public and private policymakers and regional agencies. While multi-polarity, with Europe as a pole, is a possibility, alternative scenarios are also plausible. A shift from a trans-Atlantic to trans-Pacific locus of power, or the 'depolarisation' and fragmentation of authority, are such alternatives; both could marginalise Europe's influence. But they are questions to be researched and not assertions to be made.

The project has five components:

1. conceptual analyses of an emerging multipolar world and the theory and practice of international organisation and networks in that world;
2. evolving EU policy and practice;
3. the effects of regional leadership from Africa, the Asia–Pacific region and the Americas;
4. projects on the EU and multipolarity within the fields of human rights and security, energy, resources and environment, trade and finance;
5. foresight study detailing scenarios for EU policy towards the emerging world order.

The research will be theoretical, policy-oriented and with an interactive dissemination strategy to assure feedback from its target publics.

The work will be undertaken by a manageable consortium of partners (from Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom) with a strong track-record

of collaboration on these issues accompanied by leading institutes from Argentina, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and the United States to act as hub and spokes for their regions.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM
Jonathan ZEITLIN
Netherlands — Amsterdam

UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES
Mario TELO
Belgium — Brussels

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
Leonard SEABROOKE
Denmark — Copenhagen

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
Eva VAS
Hungary — Budapest

FUNDACION PARA LAS RELACIONES INTER
NACIONALES Y EL DIALOGO EXTERIOR
Richard YOUNGS
Spain — Madrid

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA
INTERNATIONALE
Antonino VILLAFRANCA
Italy — Milan

NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS
Jan-Morten TORRISSEN
Norway — Oslo

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (Comparative
Regional Integration Studies)

Luk VAN LANGENHOVE
Belgium — Bruges

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Vivien SCHMIDT
United States — Boston

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
Mills SOKO
South Africa — Cape Town

FACULTAD LATINOAMERICANA DE CIENCIAS
SOCIALES
Diana TUSSIE
Argentina — Buenos Aires

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY —
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Seow Lian SNG
Singapore — Singapore

PEKING UNIVERSITY
Yong WANG
China — Beijing

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Mark BEESON
Australia — Crawley

WASEDA UNIVERSITY
Shujiro URATA
Japan — Tokyo

Sustainable urbanisation in China: Historical and comparative perspectives, mega-trends towards 2025

URBACHINA

<p>Grant agreement: 266941</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 697 060</p> <p>Starting date: 1.3.2011</p> <p>Duration: 48 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small or medium-scale focused research projects)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS) France — Paris</p> <p>Contact: François GIPOULOUX gipouloux@ehess.fr http://www.urbachina.eu/index.php/en/</p>
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The Urbachina project combines the knowledge and expertise from a number of different disciplines to provide new and innovative insights and scenarios that can be used to guide urbanisation in China over the next 40 years.

A key strength of the proposal is the use of ‘thematic pairs’ of European and Chinese researchers who will lead and deliver the research and dissemination associated with work packages organised around a set of key themes. Each work package team comprises leading experts who will use state-of-the-art knowledge, methods and techniques from economic geography, anthropology and history to test a suite of hypotheses founded on historical and comparative perspectives on urbanisation trends and process in the EU and China.

While each of the four core research teams will deliver significant added value through the work packages, there is also provision in the proposal for extensive cross-project collaboration based on four defined topics:

1. the institutional foundations and policies for urbanisation;
2. the issue of land property in urbanisation and the development of real estate markets in cities;
3. the need for environmental infrastructures delivering connectivity and services for the urban population;
4. the relationships between urban development, traditions and modern lifestyles in cities.

These four topics are treated as different layers within a comprehensive analysis of a single process —urbanisation in China — that links historical experiences, comparative dimensions and possible future scenarios. This framework provides a firm foundation for multifaceted interactions between scholars, officials and business in Europe and China. It will also provide the basis for extensive dissemination of URBACHINA outputs using a variety of media designed to engage policymakers and ordinary citizens.

Institutions/partners/country/town

EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY — Department of Urban and regional Economics
Debin DU
China — Shanghai

DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER OF THE STATE COUNCIL — Research Department of Development Strategy and Regional Economy
Li SHANTONG
China — Beijing

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Services and Enterprise Research Unit
Peter DANIELS
United Kingdom — Birmingham

CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES — Institute of Finance and Trade Economics
Pengfei NI
China — Beijing

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
Athar HUSSAIN
United Kingdom — London

CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES — Institute of Geographical Science and Natural Resources Research
Weidong LIU
China — Beijing

ISTITUTO DI STUDI PER L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI SISTEMI
Andrea RICCI
Italy — Rome

INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS SOCIAIS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA
Claudia BINA
Portugal — Lisbon

RENMIN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA — School of Environmental and Natural Resources
Zhong MA
China — Beijing

ANHUI ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
Xie XIANZHEN
China — Hefei

Prospective analysis for the Mediterranean region

MEDPRO

<p>Grant agreement: 244578</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 647 330</p> <p>Starting date: 1.3.2010</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES Belgium — Brussels</p> <p>Contact: Rym AYADI rym.ayadi@ceps.eu</p> <p>http://www.medpro-foresight.eu</p>
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The Medpro project undertakes a deep foresight analysis of the development issues in 11 countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean participating in the Barcelona process and in the Union for the Mediterranean.

The project undertakes an analysis of the current state and prospective development in main areas of socio-economic development, namely:

1. geopolitics and governance;
2. demography, ageing, migration, health and gender issues;
3. sustainable development, management of resources and adaptation to global warming; energy and climate change mitigation;
4. economic development, trade and investment; financial services and capital markets and human capital, education and development of skills.

Medpro brings the partial foresight analyses in these areas into a broader framework of quantitative general equilibrium modelling, and will be complemented with qualitative scenarios for regional and broader integration within the region and with the EU and policy conclusions for the EU approach.

Given the broad scope of the research to be undertaken, the consortium has been composed with the aim of ensuring three equally important qualities: scientific excellence, multidisciplinary structure and deep insight into Mediterranean affairs.

The coordinating institute is therefore collaborating closely with three other institutes with deep insight into Mediterranean affairs and European neighbourhood policy.

Whereas the main objective is to provide targeted scientific support to the future development of the relations between the EU and the Mediterranean region, the impact of this project is underpinned by an exceptional dissemination effort in both the EU and the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.

Institutions/partners/country/town

ISTITUTO DI STUDI PER L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI SISTEMI
Andrea RICCI
Italy — Rome

FORUM EUROMEDITERRANEEN D'INSTITUTS DE SCIENCES ECONOMIQUES
Frédéric BLANC
France — Marseille

CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH
Sebastien LECLEF
Poland — Warsaw

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS
Eugenia TSAMPANAKI
Greece — Athens

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN
Vanessa HAGE
Netherlands — Amsterdam

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG
Bettina VON HAGENS
Germany — Mannheim

CYPRUS CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Kyriakos Evdoras GEORGIOU
Cyprus — Nicosia

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI
Rossella CAZZATO
Italy — Rome

UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID
Gonzalo LEÓN
Spain — Madrid

FONDAZIONE ENI ENRICO MATTEI
Mariaester CASSINELLI
Italy — Milan

CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI
Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari
Saverio DE SANTIS
Italy — Valenzano

INSTITUT MAROCAIN DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES
Jawad KERDOUDI
Morocco — Casablanca

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES
Sara NADA
Egypt — Giza

PALESTINE ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Samar SAWALHI
Palestine — Ramallah

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
Josep FERRE
Spain — Barcelona

INSTITUT TUNISIEN DE LA COMPETITIVITE ET DES ETUDES QUANTITATIVES
Saloua BEN ZAGHOU
Tunisia — Tunis

Forward-looking on the long-term challenges for the Mediterranean area

Euromed-2030

<p>European Commission contribution: EUR 500 000</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2010</p> <p>Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: expert group</p>	<p>Expert group coordinator:</p> <p>European Commission, DG Research and Innovation,</p> <p>Contact: Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO Domenico.Rossetti-di-Valdalbero@ec.europa.eu</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/euromed-2030-rapport-annex1_en.pdf</p>
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The objective of the expert group is to elaborate and explore the main drivers that may affect or impact the Mediterranean area in the next 20 years, thus integrating the long-term dimension within policy preparation.

This forward-looking analysis should help to understand, anticipate, and better shape future developments.

The expert group has three main tasks: to identify the main trends, tensions and transitions in the area.

The ‘trends’ addressed concern demography and macroeconomics, water and environment, energy and climate change, education and science, values and religion, and geopolitics and governance.

The main ‘tensions’ are among socio-economic groups, and between competing visions of the state and competing visions of reform. In addition, there are tensions arising from hostility between states and between different expectations of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

The four identified ‘transitions’ concern:

1. managing conflicts;
2. win-win solutions;
3. deeper Euromed integration
4. towards a Euromed community.

The expert group — composed of 20 experts from around the Mediterranean — will ultimately give recommendations and suggest potential measures concerning the different issues, and especially on EuroMed cooperation in the fields of education, science, research and innovation.

List of experts

Sébastien ABIS

Amine AIT-CHAALAL

Roberto ALIBONI

Houda ALLAL

Andrea AMATO

Joaquin ARANGO

Nouria BENGHABRIT-REMAOUN

Thierry FABRE

Cilja HARDERS

Bahgat KORANY

Nigel LUCAS

Mireia MONTANE

Baruch RAZ

Rafael RODRIGUEZ-CLEMENTE

Ibrahim SAIF

Abdel Rahman TAMIMI

Mohamed TOZY

Nada TRUNK SIRCA

Bahari YILMAZ

Saloua ZERHOUNI

European Commission staff involved in all the expert meetings

Jean-Michel BAER, Pierre VALETTE, Paraskevas CARACOSTAS, Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO, Perla SROUR-GANDON, Callum SEARLE and Claudio BOGLIOTTI

Observers

Cécile JOLLY and Macarena NUNO

Visions and trends
concerning the ERA,
science, technology
and innovation



Forward visions on the European research area

VERA

Grant agreement: 290705	Project coordinator:
European Commission contribution: EUR 1 459 370	FRAUNHOFER-ISI Germany — Munich
Starting date: 1.2.2012	Contact: Stephanie DAIMER Stephanie.Daimer@isi.fraunhofer.de
Duration: 30 months	http://www.era-visions.eu/
Funding scheme: coordination and support action	

The VERA project aims to provide relevant strategic intelligence for the future governance and priority-setting of the research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI) system in Europe and for better adapting science, technology and innovation policy to the shifting global environment and upcoming socio-economic challenges.

For this purpose VERA carries out an in-depth stocktaking of RTDI related forward-looking activities in Europe and internationally and a thorough review of trends and drivers of long-term change of European RTDI governance.

On the base of these insights VERA develops scenarios on the evolution of the European research area, assesses the critical issues for the ERA's future capabilities emerging from these scenarios, explores subsequent strategic options and ultimately generates a set of policy recommendations for responsive and future oriented multilevel, multidomain RTDI policy strategies.

VERA is conceptualised as a continuously progressing two-way communication process among ERA actor groups from society, industry, academia and policy across domains, levels and regions. It is setting up a strategic conversation between these stakeholders that evolves through several carefully tailored stages in order to jointly discover shared visions and strategic options around the ERA's future perspectives towards 2020 and far beyond. VERA is exploring gradual evolution following from current patterns of change — but is also explicitly embracing transformative and disruptive developments with a long-term horizon.

The VERA project is led by a consortium of 10 internationally renowned institutes from nine EU countries involving a team of more than 20 researchers with outstanding expertise both in terms of relevant knowledge and forward-looking methodology and excellent contacts with RTDI stakeholders in Europe and the world.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNITATEA EXECUTIVA PENTRU FINANTAREA
INVATAMANTULUI SUPERIOR, A CERCETARII,
DEZVOLTARII SI INOVARII
Adrian CURAJ
Romania — Bucharest

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE
Stefan KUHLMANN
Netherlands — Enschede

UNIVERSITÉ DE MARNE LA VALLÉE
Philippe LAREDO
France — Marne la Vallée

AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Susanne GIESECKE
Austria — Vienna

Rafael POPPER
United Kingdom — Manchester

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
TEKNOLOGIAN TUTKIMUSKESKUS
Torsti LOIKKANEN
Finland — Espoo

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES
SCIENTIFICAS
Jordi MOLLAS GALLART
Spain — Madrid

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE — EUROPEAN
COMMISSION (IPT5)
Mark BODEN
Belgium — Brussels

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION
Alexander DEGELSEGGER
Austria — Vienna

European Foresight Platform — Supporting forward-looking decision-making

EFP

Grant agreement: 244895	Project coordinator:
European Commission contribution: EUR 720 000	AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT) Austria — Vienna
Starting date: 1.10.2009	Contact: Susanne GIESECKE susanne.giesecke@ait.ac.at
Duration: 36 months	http://www.foresight-platform.eu
Funding scheme: coordination and support action	

The coordination and support action ‘EFP European Foresight Platform — Supporting forward-looking decision-making’ aims at consolidating the information and knowledge base on foresight in Europe and internationally.

It reinforces foresight actions initiated under the sixth framework programme, in particular the European Firesight Monitoring Network (EFMN) and ForLearn.

By building on and integrating these two lines of activities, and by expanding their scope to cover also currently ongoing forward-looking actions of the seventh framework programme, as well as at national and international levels, a unique knowledge hub for foresight-related information will be created to facilitate European foresight and forward-looking exercises.

The ultimate purpose of EFP is to better exploit foresight as a resource to support policymaking. The knowledge hub will be used in a series of national and European policy workshops, geared towards major future challenges for Europe.

Institutions/partners/country/town

NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST
NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK
Mark DE STERKE
Netherlands — Delft

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Rafael POPPER
United Kingdom — Manchester

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE — EUROPEAN
COMMISSION
Asunción RUBIRALTA-CASAS
Belgium — Brussels

Use of foresight to align research with longer-term policy needs in Europe

FARHORIZON

Grant agreement: 225662

European Commission contribution: EUR 224 331

Starting date: 1.9.2008

Duration: 30 months

Funding scheme: collaborative project
(small and medium-scale focused research project)

Project coordinator:

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Manchester Institute of Innovation Research
United Kingdom — Manchester

Contact: Luke GEORGHIOU
luke.georghiou@manchester.ac.uk

<http://farhorizon.portals.mbs.ac.uk>

The aim of this project is to pilot the use of foresight to align strategic and applied research with longer-term policy needs in Europe.

It addresses a perceived gap in alignment under present arrangements and also argues that to develop, the European system needs a more content-oriented approach. It seeks to advance knowledge on:

1. differences across policy domains in the European research and innovation ecosystem (also further articulating this concept) in terms of the role and the integration of research agendas in long-term policies and vice versa;
2. appropriate foresight designs needed to get engagement and secure follow-up across policy domains/areas.

The project seeks to produce immediately useful results by selecting areas and participants with a view to stimulating action.

Four areas with different sectoral characteristics are selected with the advice of an independent panel to ensure that the pilot covers a range of circumstances.

Success scenario workshops are used to engage policymakers and those responsible for research.

The methodology involves consideration of key drivers and wildcards to produce a vision of success.

This is compared with the ability of the research and innovation ecosystem in the area to deliver and a roadmap for change is produced.

A policy conference is expected to take place to consider the outcomes and to disseminate the approach to other policy domains.

Institutions/partners/country/town

AUSTRIAN RESEARCH CENTER
Matthias WEBER
Austria — Vienna

COMMISSIE OVERLEG SECTORRADEN
ONDERZOEK EN ONTWIKKELING/ MINISTERIE
ONDERWIJS CULTUUR
Victor VAN RIJ
Netherlands — The Hague

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Jennifer Cassingena HARPER
Malta — Kalkara

Citizen visions on science, technology and innovation

CIVISTI

<p>Grant agreement: 225165</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 714 292</p> <p>Starting date: 1.9.2008</p> <p>Duration: 30 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>TEKNOLOGIRAADET — THE DANISH BOARD OF TECHNOLOGY Denmark — Copenhagen</p> <p>Contact: Lars KLÜVER lk@tekno.dk http://www.civisti.org/</p>
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The Civisti project identifies new emerging issues for European science and technology by uncovering European citizens' visions of the future and transform these into relevant long-term science, technology and innovation issues, which are of relevance for European science and technology policies and for the development of the eighth framework programme.

The Civisti project does this by:

1. consulting national citizen panels through an informed deliberation process, focusing on long-term visions, needs and concerns of the citizens;
2. developing an analytical model for transformation of the visions into relevant issues for future science and technology;
3. using the analytical model, through stakeholder and expert participation processes, analysing the citizen visions and transforming them into possible priorities for research programmes;
4. validating the priorities through a second round of citizen consultation.

The project develops a novel citizen participation process with the aim of making cost-effective citizen participation possible in foresight processes.

Civisti includes new European actors in the foresight processes in order to expand the experience and capacity of foresight among the Member States, institutions and researchers.

Institutions/partners/country/town

KULUTTAJATUTKIMUSKESKUS — NATIONAL CONSUMER RESEARCH CENTRE
Päivi TIMONEN
Finland — Helsinki

FLEMISH INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
Robby BERLOZNIK
Belgium — Brussels

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Jennifer CASSINGENA HARPER
Malta — Kalkara

APPLIED RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS FUND
Zoya DAMIANOVA
Bulgaria — Sofia

MEDIÁN OPINION AND MARKET RESEARCH LTD.
Eszter BAKONYI
Hungary — Budapest

ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
Mahshid SOTOUDEH
Austria — Vienna

Scanning for emerging science and technology issues

SESTI

Grant agreement: 225369	Project coordinator:
European Commission contribution: EUR 633 331	NETHERLANDS ORGANISATION FOR APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Starting date: 1.10.2008	Netherlands — Delft
Duration: 30 months	Contact: Mauritius BUTTER
Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and mediu- scale focused research project)	maurits.butter@tno.nl
	http://www.sesti.info

Today's societal developments are often influenced by improbable events with a high impact.

Recent examples are the 'cartoon quarrel' and developments impacting energy security.

These events are preceded by 'weak signals' which are only partially discussed in policy, if at all, and rarely acted upon.

The increasing complexity and uncertainty is reflected in the growing demand for tools for anticipatory intelligence, such as scenario analyses, Delphis and modelling and simulation tools.

Several countries, including Finland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, have initiated horizon scanning projects to identify disruptive events that are not on the radar of policy yet.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the development of an effective system for the early identification of weak signals of emerging issues.

For this, a weak signals pool, integrating several scanning tools in a wiki to collect and disseminate the information, is established.

In addition to its European focus, potential links with national actors and platforms are planned, making use of existing networks such as ForSociety (several of the project members are ForSociety members), to feed the project outputs into European and national policy processes.

Underneath this overriding goal is the desire to initiate movement at national and European levels to proactively address emerging issues.

As well as its practical goals, this project aims at developing and improving tools and methods for weak signals of emerging issues to improve detection and the operationalisation of methods using a case-oriented approach to contribute to the overall blue sky call issues.

To exploit resources most effectively, the project builds on existing structures and competencies in foresight and horizon scanning in place at national level (see examples above), and intends to add

value by improving existing resources, providing new strategic information and creating synergies exploiting complementarities between initiatives.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Luke GEORGHIU
United Kingdom — Manchester

AUSTRIAN RESEARCH CENTER
Matthias WEBER
Austria — Vienna

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE — EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Peter KIND
Belgium — Brussels

COMMISSIE OVERLEG SECTORRADEN ONDERZOEK EN ONTWIKKELING/ MINISTERIE ONDERWIJS CULTUUR
Victor VAN RIJ
Netherlands — The Hague

MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Jennifer CASSINGENA HARPER
Malta — Kalkara

Interconnecting knowledge for the early identification of issues, events and developments (e.g. ‘wild cards’ and associated weak signals) shaping and shaking the future of science, technology and innovation in the ERA

IKNOW

Grant agreement: 225695

European Commission contribution: EUR 839 861

Starting date: 1.11.2008

Duration: 30 months

Funding scheme: collaborative project
(small and medium-scale focused research project)

Project coordinator:

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Manchester Institute of Innovation Research
United Kingdom — Manchester

Contact: Rafael POPPER
rafael.popper@manchester.ac.uk

<http://www.iknowfutures.eu>

In recent years, foresight has emerged as a key instrument for the development and implementation of research and innovation policies with long-term perspectives.

Much futures work and many foresight exercises are little more than extrapolations. Some activities show an interesting mix of approaches combining three types of elements: prospective studies of long-term opportunities and alternatives, participatory networking and policy orientation.

However, far too little attention has been paid to the identification and analysis of ‘wild cards’ and weak signals (WI-WE).

But two things are widely agreed upon in discussions of high-impact but low-probability events. First, it is vital to examine such events.

Some of them are almost bound to happen, even if we cannot say what these are.

Many organisational crises relate to failure to spot surprising developments sufficiently far in advance.

The weak signals that might warn of an impending wild card have been ignored.

Second, our methods for identifying and detecting WI-WE are woefully underdeveloped.

The reason that most futurists use examples of ‘wild cards’ to wake up their audiences, but do not then follow through on this, is that there is relatively little that is formalised and reproducible in WI-WE analysis.

The proposed study provides answers to these questions, by mounting a sustained and multi-method effort to explore approaches to conceptualisation of WI-WE that can inform practice, establish tools for WI-WE analysis and additionally validate these in specific application areas.

The application area in question is the European research area.

‘Wild cards’ and weak signals relevant to the future of the ERA are the substantive focus of the study: there are conceptual and methodological contributions on the one hand, and substantive results, on the other.

The study generates, systematises, and makes available policy-relevant WI-WE with heavy relevance for the ERA.

Institutions/partners/country/town

TURKU SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Finland Futures Research Centre
Jari KAIVO-OJA
Finland — Turku

Z PUNKT THE FORESIGHT COMPANY
Gereon UERZ
Germany — Essen

RTC NORTH LTD
Sarah HART
United Kingdom — Sunderland

TECHNOLOGY CENTRE OF THE ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES
Martin FATUN
Czech Republic — Prague

INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY
ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING
Yair SHARAN
Israel — Tel Aviv

MEDIATUOTANTO MINDCOM OY
Juha LÄNG
Finland — Kuopio

CYBER FOX, S.R.O.
Jan KLUSACEK
Czech Republic — Prague

Innovation futures in Europe: a foresight exercise on emerging patterns of innovation — Visions, scenarios and implications for policy and practice

INFU

Grant agreement: 225229	Project coordinator:
European Commission contribution: EUR 484 056	AUSTRIAN RESEARCH CENTRE
Starting date: 1.6.2009	Systems Research
Duration: 32 months	Austria — Vienna
Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)	Contact: Karl Heinz LEITNER karl-heinz.leitner@arcs.ac.at
	http://www.innovation-futures.org/

The INFU foresight project develops plausible and relevant long-term scenarios of future innovation landscapes in order to orient long-term strategy building for policy and other innovation actors.

The scenarios outline how future actors may collaborate in new configurations and with new approaches to transform knowledge into products and services within different socio-economic frameworks.

To generate this anticipatory intelligence, INFU is implementing a progressive explorative dialogue with key stakeholders and experts using advanced creativity methods to foster thinking beyond established pathways and up-to-date prospective methods to structure the debate and ensure rigour of analysis.

Particular emphasis is placed on optimising the knowledge flow through tailored and vivid formatting of outcomes for audiences inside and outside the project.

The INFU futures dialogue departs from an identification of emerging signals of change in current innovation patterns and progresses with increasing integration of diverse perspectives and knowledge sources towards consolidated innovation futures scripts.

These bottom-up visions are then confronted with different possible socio-economic framework conditions and global megatrends to finally synthesise consistent scenarios that are integrating micro, meso and macro elements of possible innovation futures with particular emphasis on the changes in the nature and content of research.

The explorative analysis is complemented with value-related debate on the desirability of different innovation futures based on an assessment of the scenario implications for key societal challenges such as sustainability.

Options for policy strategies to prepare for the identified changes in innovation patterns are derived together with key policy actors.

The INFU consortium comprises strong complementary competencies in foresight, strategic support to policy and industry and academic innovation research.

Institutions/partners/country/town

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG
DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG
Elna SCHIRRMEISTER
Germany — Munich

STRATEGIC DESIGN SCENARIOS
François JÉGOU
Belgium — Brussels

Z PUNKT THE FORESIGHT COMPANY
Gereon UERZ
Germany — Essen

The future impact of security and defence policies on the European research area

SANDERA

<p>Grant agreement: 225544</p> <p>European Union contribution: EUR 700 868</p> <p>Starting date: 1.6.2009</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER Manchester Institute of Innovation Research United Kingdom — Manchester</p> <p>Contact: Andrew JAMES deborah.cox@manchester.ac.uk http://sander portals.mbs.ac.uk</p>
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Sandera focuses on the future relationship between two critical European policy domains: namely, the EU strategy since Lisbon to move towards the European research area and those EU policies focused on the security of the European citizen in the world.

Sandera uses exploratory scenarios to 2020 to examine how future developments in European security and defence policies combined with technological change and the evolution of European science and technology policy could interact in intended and unintended ways to affect the pace and character of the move towards the ERA as well as priorities for the eighth framework programme.

Bringing together a multidisciplinary team that crosses the boundaries between security policy and science and technology policy, Sandera addresses an issue of potentially great importance that has, until now, been at the margins of academic and policy agendas.

The main expected impacts of Sandera are:

1. an improved understanding amongst policymakers and other stakeholders of the potential implications for the ERA and the eighth framework programme of future developments at the interface between security policy and science and technology policy;
2. the stimulation of dialogue between stakeholders and the facilitation of new policy networks;
3. the strengthening of the strategic policy intelligence capacity in Europe through the development of an indicator monitoring framework and a policy analysis toolkit;
4. useful inputs for the preparation of the eighth framework programme through the identification of new research areas and research capacity requirements;
5. the attraction of more researchers into the foresight field, not least researchers from the security policy field.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITY OF LUND
Rikard STANKIEWICZ
Sweden — Lund

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS
Jordi Molas GALLART
Spain — Valencia

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK
Joachim ROHDE
Germany — Berlin

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI
Giovanni GASPARINI
Italy — Rome

ASSOCIATION POUR LA RECHERCHE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES METHODES ET PROCESSUS
INDUSTRIELS
Philippe LAREDO
France — Paris

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
Susana BORRÁS
Denmark — Frederiksberg

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS — HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Attila HAVAS
Hungary — Budapest

Modelling, new accounting frameworks and forward-looking policies



Social impact policy analysis of technological innovation challenges

SIMPATIC

<p>Grant agreement: 290597</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 696 560</p> <p>Starting date: 1.3.2012</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>BRUEGEL Belgium — Brussels</p> <p>Contact: Reinhilde VEUGELERS reinhilde.veugelers@bruegel.org http://simpatic.eu/</p>
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The objective of Simpatic is to provide policymakers with a comprehensive and operational tool box allowing for a better assessment of the impact of research and innovation policies in Europe.

Simpatic represents a unique bottom-up project, bringing together micro and macro researchers with expertise in evidence-based policy analysis and impact assessment of research and innovation policies, thus allowing EU innovation policymakers to better address 'Europe 2020' challenges.

Insights from microanalysis and micro evidence, including Simpatic's own frontier-pushing *ex post* policy impact analysis of research and development (R & D) subsidies and tax credits, will be used as input in Simpatic's sectoral EU macro models, Nemesis and GEM-G3.

These models have already regularly served in the assessment of innovation and environmental policies in Europe, and have thus proven their strength as support tools for *ex ante* and *ex post* assessments of EU policies.

With the Simpatic project, these models will be upgraded to include the latest insights from micro models in order to better respond to the new, grand challenges of RTD policies, including the environment and social inclusion.

Simpatic will thus develop and use the best possible evidence and methodologies to simulate the impact of a number of research and innovation policy alternatives, providing new insights into their potential impact and thus contributing to advancing impact assessment and evidence-based innovation policy design in Europe.

Institutions/partners/country/town

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN
Otto TOIVANEN
Belgium — Leuven

UNIVERSITEIT MAASTRICHT
Luc SOETE
Netherlands — Maastricht

SEURECO SOCIETE EUROPEENNE D'ECONOMIE
Paul ZAGAME
France — Paris

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER
SYSTEMS
Pantelis CAPROS
Greece — Athens

UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID
Elena HUERGO
Spain — Madrid

BUREAU FÉDÉRAL DU PLAN
Francis BOSSIER
Belgium — Brussels

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND MEDICINE
Ralf MARTIN
United Kingdom — London

INSTITUT ZA EKONOMSKA RAZISKOVANJA
Joze DAMIJAN
Slovenia — Ljubljana

Impacts quantification of global changes

GLOBAL-IQ

<p>Grant agreement: 266992</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 698 155</p> <p>Starting date: 1.8.2011</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: FONDATION JEAN-JACQUES LAFFONT (TSE) France — Toulouse</p> <p>Contact: Jean-Pierre AMIGUES celine.claustre@univ-tlse1.fr http://www.global-iq.eu/</p>
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World societies are today experiencing large transformation processes in their social, economic and environmental dimensions. These transformations are usually described under the heading of 'global change', to emphasise the increasing interactions between them.

The objective of the proposal is three-fold:

1. to provide significant advances in the estimation of the socio-economic impacts of global challenges — on the global, European and regional levels;
2. to identify optimal adaptation strategies;
3. to evaluate total costs and the optimal mix of adaptation and mitigation against global changes.

Work Package (WP) 1 will examine the sources, interactions and characteristics of global changes, including the emergence of fast-growing economies, environmental degradation, competition over the use of exhaustible resources and international competitiveness issues. A primary objective of the proposal is to estimate the socio-economic impacts arising from global changes by using economic models. The consortium is endowed with a large set of state-of-the-art, internationally renowned modelling tools. Models will be further expanded and enriched in WP 3.

Key areas of research will be: agriculture, forestry, land use, energy, EU competitiveness, labour and international trade. The socio-economic impact of these challenges on key sectors/areas will be examined with the enhanced set of models in WP 4 and WP 5. While the impacts of global challenges will be studied assuming limited adaptive capacity in WP 4, optimal adaptation strategies will be examined in WP 5.

WP 5 will also provide information on the total costs of global challenges and on the optimal mix of mitigation and adaptation. WP 2 will develop empirical and theoretical insights on key issues which will have a value per se and will also be used to enhance models in WP 3. WP 6 will complement the analysis of WP 4 and WP 5, developing theoretical innovations concerning discounting, risk and ambiguity and testing them numerically with models.

Institutions/partners/country/town

FONDAZIONE ENI ENRICO MATTEI
Emanuele MASSETTI
Italy — Milan

INTERNATIONALES INSTITUT FUER ANGEWANDTE
SYSTEMANALYSE
Sabine FUSS
Austria — Laxenburg

POTSDAM INSTITUT FUER
KLIMAFOLGENFORSCHUNG
Alexander POPP
Germany — Potsdam

GOETEBORGS UNIVERSITET
Magnus HENNLOCK
Sweden — Gothenburg

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Milan SCASNY
Czech Republic — Prague

ISTITUTO DI STUDI PER L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI
SISTEMI
Carlo SESSA
Italy — Rome

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL
SCIENCE
Simon DIETZ
United Kingdom — London

FONDATION POUR L'ETUDE DES RELATIONS
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT
Richard BALDWIN
Switzerland — Geneva

WIENER INSTITUT FUR INTERNTIONALE
WIRTSCHAFTSVERGLEICHE
Michael LANDESMANN
Austria — Vienna

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH
François JOSEPH
United Kingdom — London

Development of methods and tools for evaluation of research

DEMETER

<p>Grant agreement: 217397</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 1 484 669</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2009</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>CENTRALE RECHERCHE SA Laboratoire Erasme France — Paris</p> <p>Contact: Paul ZAGAME danielle.schirmann-duclos@ecp.fr http://www.demeter-project.eu</p>
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The Lisbon agenda of increasing the competitiveness of European countries through developing ‘knowledge’ has focused attention on research and technical development (RTD) and education policies.

State-of-the-art evaluation of such policies is very difficult. If quantifications of RTD increasing economic performance at a company or sectoral level already exist, the assessment of such a performance in respect of a whole community or a group of countries is less frequent.

The link between RTD and economic performance has, during the last decades, changed considerably, raising doubts about the former estimations: for instance, the knowledge spillovers between countries linked to RTD have increased, as have the services activities linked to RTD, and the significance of the measurement of RTD has also changed.

The importance of other forms of intangible capital (human, ICT, organisational capita, etc.) has modified the link between RTD and innovation.

The overall objective of this project is to build a system of tools based on applied modelling that can be used for the *ex ante* evaluation of research and innovation policies at sectoral and European levels.

The method of the project is a wide scope one. It is based on micro, meso and macroeconomics, in order to give deep insight on the RTD incentives and the RTD performance. It is grounded on scientific and technical innovation (STI) indicators and new databases that take into account all the activities related to RTD (and not only RTD expenses), the knowledge spillovers between activities and countries, and other forms of intangible capital.

These insights are used to modify the production block and demand of the two large-scale detailed economic coverage models that have a good track record — Nemesis, for econometrics, and GEM-E3, for general equilibrium — and that produce macro and detailed indicators in order to assess RTD and innovation policies in terms of STI indicators, competitiveness, growth, employment, budget deficits, welfare, the environment and sustainable development.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITEIT MAASTRICHT
Luc SOETE
Netherlands — Maastricht

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER
SYSTEMS
Pantelis CAPROS
Greece — Athens

FEDERAL PLANNING BUREAU
Francis BOSSIER
Belgium — Brussels

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN
Center
Denise VAN REGEMORTER
Belgium — Leuven

European framework for measuring progress

E-FRAME

<p>Grant agreement: 290520</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 1 495 065</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2012</p> <p>Duration: 30 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: coordination and support action (coordination action)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: ISTAT Italy — Roma</p> <p>Contact: Marina SIGNORE signore@istat.it</p> <p>http://www.eframeproject.eu/</p>
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The E-FRAME coordination action ‘European framework for measuring progress’ contributes to the latest political agenda of the European Commission in the area of ‘Beyond GDP’ and therefore to the priorities identified in the Europe 2020 strategy.

The coordination action will focus on the following general objectives:

1. stocktaking of available results and of ongoing research activities on progress measurement;
2. fostering a European debate over the measurement issues;
3. proposing guidelines for the use of existing indicators;
4. proposing a coherent way of ‘delivering’ information, including advanced ICT tools;
5. identifying new research topics for future investigation;
6. proposing ways to harmonise the initiatives of national statistical institutes (NSIs) in the progress measurement area.

E-FRAME will thus ensure coordination of ‘Beyond GDP’ activities, putting the national statisticians at the centre of the action so as to lead to improved statistics and measurement, including stocktaking of past, recent and ongoing research in the framework programme and ESSnet projects.

As the final target of activities is the use of indicators within EU policies, and in particular within the Europe 2020 strategy, guidelines and recommendations will be proposed for future activities within the European research area and the European Statistical System. The project will take the lead in identifying relevant indicators of the measurement of progress that need to be disseminated to different stakeholders and future research needs in proposing guidelines and, in particular the publication of a handbook on the use of progress indicators.

The 19 partner-consortium is composed of major European NSIs as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), together with universities, research centres and civil society. Collaboration with Eurostat is foreseen.

Institutions/partners/country/town

CENTRAAL BUREAU VOOR DE STATISTIEK
Jan Pieter SMITS
Netherlands — The Hague

UK OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS
Stephen HICKS
United Kingdom — Newport

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA STATISTIQUE ET DES
ETUDES ECONOMIQUES
Claire PLATEAU
France — Paris

ROMANIAN ACADEMY NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
ECONOMIC RESEARCH
Emil DINGA
Romania — Bucharest

FONDAZIONE ENI ENRICO MATTEI
Francesco BOSELLO
Italy — Milan

GESIS — LEIBNIZ INSTITUT FÜR
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN
Heinz-Herbert NOLL
Germany — Mannheim

FONDATION NATIONALE DES SCIENCES POLITIQUES
Danielle SCHWEISGUTH
France — Paris

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT
Marco MIRA D'ERCOLE
France — Paris

NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION
Charles SEAFORD
United Kingdom — London

THE YOUNG FOUNDATION
Nicola BACON
United Kingdom — London

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA
Achille LEMMI
Italy — Siena

UNIVERSITÀ POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE
Mauro GALLEGATI
Italy — Ancona

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Mary O'MAHONY
United Kingdom — Birmingham

RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN
Marcel TIMMER
Netherlands — Groningen

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE
WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG
Marcus KAPPLER
Germany — Mannheim

UNIVERSITÄT TRIER
Ralf MÜNNICH
Germany — Trier

UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA
Monica PRATESI
Italy — Pisa

UNIVERSITEIT MAASTRICHT
Hans SCHMEETS
Netherlands — Maastricht

Employment 2025: How will multiple transitions affect the European labour market?

NEUJOBS

<p>Grant agreement: 266833</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 7 902 328</p> <p>Starting date: 1.2.2011</p> <p>Duration: 48 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (large-scale integrated research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS) Belgium — Brussels</p> <p>Contact: Miroslav BEBLAVÝ mailto:Miroslav.Beblavy@ext.ceps.eu http://www.neujobs.eu/</p>
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NEUJOBS' objective is to analyse likely future developments in the European labour market(s), in view of four major transitions that will have an impact on employment and European societies.

The first is the socioecological transition — a comprehensive change in the patterns of social organisation and culture, production and consumption that will drive humanity beyond the current industrial model towards a more sustainable future. The second is the societal transition produced by the combination of population ageing, low fertility rates, changing family structures, urbanisation and growing female employment. The third transition concerns new territorial dynamics and the balance between agglomeration and dispersion forces. The fourth is a skills (upgrading) transition and the project is interested in its likely consequences for employment and (in)equality.

By the end of the project, Neujobs seeks answers to questions such as the following:

- What will European labour market(s) look like in 2025? What are the possible scenarios for employment in the next decade?
- Which sectors in the economy will be the drivers for employment growth and which groups in society will be mostly affected?
- How will the socioecological transition influence employment destruction and creation? What is the role of policymakers, especially at EU level, in shaping and accompanying the transitions?
- How can the development of skills be guided to meet the challenges of a socioecological transition?
- How can innovation be stimulated to contribute both to economic growth and to a more sustainable production system?
- How can a work–life balance be attained while remaining competitive and innovative?

NEUJOBS organised its research in six groups.

Group 1 provides a conceptualisation of the socioecological transition that constitutes the basis for the other work packages.

Group 2 considers in detail the main drivers for change and the resulting relevant policies. Regarding the drivers, the project analyses the discourse on job quality, educational needs and changes in the organisation of production and in the employment structure. Regarding relevant policies, research in this group assesses the impact of changes in family composition, the effect of labour relations and the issue of financing transition in an era of budget constraints. The regional dimension is taken into account, also in relation to migration flows.

Group 3 models economic and employment development on the basis of the inputs provided in the previous work packages.

Group 4 examines possible employment trends in key sectors of the economy in the light of the transition processes: energy, healthcare and goods/services for the ageing population, care services, housing and transport.

Group 5 focuses on impact groups, namely those vital for employment growth in the EU: women, the elderly, immigrants and Roma.

Group 6 is composed of transversal work packages: implications of neujobs findings for EU policymaking, dissemination of project results, project management and coordination.

Regarding its methodology, the project combines EU-wide studies based on existing datasets with national comparative research dealing with one country from each welfare typology. The output is based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis and foresight activities. Special attention is given to policymaking, welfare state developments and labour relations; a transversal task force will focus on the EU policy dimension. The quality of the project's output is ensured via a peer review mechanism.

Institutions/partners/country/town

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
John DOLING
United Kingdom — Birmingham

CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
RESEARCH — CASE
Sebastien LECLERF
Poland — Warsaw

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
Viola ZENTAI
Hungary — Budapest

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT
Marja Geessiena ELSINGA
Netherlands — Delft

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LABOUR
Hilmar SCHNEIDER
Germany — Bonn

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY
Ferry KOSTER
Netherlands — Leiden

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL
SCIENCE
Iain BEGG
United Kingdom — London

LUISS UNIVERSITY
Stefano MANZOCCHI
Italy — Rome

GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH
Erika SCHULZ
Germany — Berlin

SOCIÉTÉ EUROPÉENNE D'ÉCONOMIE
Paul ZAGAME
France — Paris

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Iulia SIEDSCHLAG
Ireland — Dublin

INSTITUT SYNDICAL EUROPÉEN
Maria JEPSEN
Belgium — Brussels

EUROPRISM RESEARCH CENTRE
Leonor COUTINHO
Cyprus — Lefkosia

INSTITUTE FOR STRUCTURAL RESEARCH
Agnieszka CHŁON-DOMINCZAK
Poland — Poland

UNIVERSITY OF KLAGENFURT
Marina FISCHER-KOWALSKI
Austria — Klagenfurt

INSTITUT FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
Liliana MATEEVA
Austria — Vienna

INSTITUT FOR HUMAN SCIENCES
János Mátyás KOVÁCS
Austria — Vienna

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Anton HEMERIJCK
Netherlands — Amsterdam

MANNHEIM UNIVERSITY
Jan DRAHOKOUPIL
Germany — Mannheim

MASARYK UNIVERSITY
Tomáš SIROVÁTKA
Czech Republic — Brno Stred

NETHERLANDS INTERDISCIPLINARY
DEMOGRAPHIC
Joop DE BEER
Netherlands — Amsterdam

ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY
Bent GREVE
Denmark — Roskilde

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH
Viliam PÁLENÍK
Slovakia — Bratislava

SLOVAK GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE
Ctibor KOŠTÁL
Slovakia — Bratislava

THE CONFERENCE BOARD EUROPE
Bart VAN ARK
United States — New York

TRANSPORT & MOBILITY
Christophe HEYNDRIKX
Belgium — Leuven

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND
Martin MYANT
United Kingdom — Paisley

OBSERVATOIRE SOCIAL EUROPEEN
David NATALI
Belgium — Brussels

Exploring the future of global food and nutrition security

FOODSECURE

<p>Grant agreement: 290693</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 7 998 000</p> <p>Starting date: 1.3.2012</p> <p>Duration: 60 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (large-scale integrated research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY Netherlands — Wageningen</p> <p>Contact: Hans VAN MEIJL hans.vanmeijl@wur.nl http://www.foodsecure.eu/</p>
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Long-term visions on global food and nutrition security and knowledge-based policies are required to face one of the biggest challenges for mankind: the widespread prevalence of hunger and food insecurity.

Expanding consumption and volatility in global food prices over the past years have fuelled concerns about global food and nutrition security (FNS). The development of societal and technological solutions will require time and strong efforts.

The Foodsecure project aims to design effective and sustainable strategies for assessing and notably addressing the short- and long-term challenges of food and nutrition security. The project will provide a variety of analytical tools to experiment, analyse and coordinate short- and medium-term policies. In doing so, the research will inform decision-making by a range of stakeholders in the EU and developing countries on consistent, coherent, long-term strategies to improve global FNS.

Foodsecure seeks to revisit and advance theory, recast and test evidence, in combination with rigorous analyses and stakeholder participation:

1. to better understand the determinants and different levels of causality underpinning global food and nutrition security;
2. to improve the ability of decision-makers to foresee and respond to future food and nutrition security crises;
3. to provide guidance to stakeholders on critical pathways for technological and institutional change and policies, and on the integration of a diversity of visions in a common framework.

The project considers the diversity of FNS challenges in countries and regions as well as the need for greater global and regional coordination to improve global FNS. The food system is analysed in relation to the ecosystem, energy markets and financial markets, all of which are potential sources of shocks that can disrupt the food system. In addition, FNS is examined in light of fundamental societal trends and changing attitudes towards food consumption and production.

The EU is one of the major players in food agricultural markets and one of the most significant of development assistance. The common agricultural policy plays an important role in ensuring sustainable production of food. Improving the knowledge base on the food and nutritional situation in the world will clearly provide added value, both for Member States and EU external action. Better-informed decisionmaking will help to prevent policy and market failures in this complex domain.

Several EU policies are addressed: development aid, climate change, trade, the common agricultural policy, renewable energies and sustainability criteria. The project helps in identifying and designing policy actions in these areas to best avoid short- and long-term risks and take advantage of opportunities.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITY OF BONN

Center for Development Research

Joachim VON BRAUN

Germany — Bonn

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH

INSTITUTE

David LABORDE

United States — Washington

FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH

Sebastien JEAN

France — Paris

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN

Johan SWINNEN

Belgium — Leuven

CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy

Jikun HUANG

China — Beijing

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Cecilia ALEXANDRI

Romania — Bucharest

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Timothy SWANSON

Switzerland — Geneva

NETHERLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AGENCY

Elke STEHFEST

Netherlands — The Hague

PROSPEX

Marc GRAMBERGER

Belgium — Keerbergen

SLOVAK AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Jan POKRIVCAK

Slovakia — Nitra

UNIVERSITY OF ROMA TRE

Luca SALVATICI

Italy — Rome

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Sébastien TREYER

France — Paris

ETHIOPIAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION — Ethiopian
Economic Policy Research Institute

Bekele HUNDIE

Ethiopia — Addis Ababa

BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
CORPORATION

Roberto Daniel SAINZ GONZALEZ

Brazil — Brasilia

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SYSTEMS
ANALYSIS
Michael OBERSTEINER
Austria — Laxenburg

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE — EUROPEAN
COMMISSION (IPTS)
Robert M'BAREK
Belgium — Brussels

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT
Nicolas BRICAS
France — Paris

Policy for natural resources

POLINARES

<p>Grant agreement: 244516</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 678 646</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2010</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE United Kingdom — Dundee</p> <p>Contact: Philip ANDREWS-SPEED c.p.andrewsspeed@dundee.ac.uk</p> <p>http://www.polinares.eu/</p>
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Polinares concentrates on the global challenges faced with respect to access to oil, gas and mineral resources over the next 20 years and proposes solutions for the various policy actors, including the EU.

Combined theoretical and empirical analyses will use expertise from a wide range of disciplines including political science, economics, geology, engineering, technology, law and security studies.

The initial aim will be to understand the causes of past and current conflict and tension relating to access to these resources and to identify emergent sources of future conflict and tension.

New frameworks for analysis will be developed using historical experience and political and economic theories.

Future availability and demands for energy and other selected minerals will be assessed to provide the basis for evaluation of potential future sources of tension and conflict.

Technical and economic data for critical resources will be analysed for key factors determining recent and future supply and demand, and to develop scenarios for the future.

Current and recent practices and strategies of key actors will be examined to understand, refine and calibrate theoretical models developed.

Building on scenarios developed to identify and assess the major future risks for tension and conflict, Polinares will integrate assessments of future supply and demand with the understanding of the behaviour of actors and their interactions and interdependencies.

Later, the project will be devoted to identifying future policy approaches. Polinares will establish a new set of criteria for evaluating past, current and future policy approaches, and will develop new understanding from how experience in other natural resource sectors of different approaches have been and can be used.

A novel set of policy approaches will be established aimed at mitigating anticipated tensions and conflicts, and will identify clearly the roles which the EU can play in promoting such policy approaches and options.

Institutions/partners/country/town

CLINGENDAEL INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
PROGRAMME
Lucia VAN GEUNS
Netherlands — The Hague

BUNDESANSTALT FÜR GEOWISSENSCHAFTEN UND
ROHSTOFFE
Bernhard CRAMER
Germany — Hannover

CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE
Patrick CRIQUI
France — Paris

ENERDATA SA
Alban KITOUS
France — Grenoble

RAW MATERIALS GROUP
Per STORM
Sweden — Solna

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER
Roland DANNREUTHER
United Kingdom — London

FONAZIONE ENI ENRICO MATTEI
Daniele BENINTENDI
Italy — Milan

GULF RESEARCH CENTER FOUNDATION
Giacomo LUCIANI
Switzerland — Geneva

DEN HAAG CENTRUM VOOR STRATEGISCHE
STUDIES
Michel RADEMAKER
Netherlands — The Hague

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG
DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG
Frank MARSCHIEDER-WEIDEMANN
Germany — Munich

OSRODEK STUDIOW WSCHODNICH IM. MARKA
KARPIA
Agata LOSKOT-STRACHOTA
Poland — Warsaw

Multidimensional impact of the low-carbon European strategy on energy security, and socio-economic dimension up to 2050

MILESECURE-2050

<p>Grant agreement: 320169</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 447 719</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2013</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: POLITECNICO DI TORINO Italy — Turin</p> <p>Contact: Patrizia LOMBARDI patrizia.lombardi@polito.it http://www.milesecure2050.eu/</p>
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The main objective of MILESECURE is to explore, identify, analyse and evaluate the multidimensional impact of the European low-carbon strategy on energy security and the socio-economic dimension up to 2050.

Energy transition towards a low-carbon economy and society has to be considered as a natural process that is not only the mere result of intentional actions but the product of the interaction of multiple intended and unintended elements, partly attributable to operational level, but also directly attributable to the cognitive and pre-cognitive levels (representations, stereotypes, emotions, etc.), i.e. a 'societal process'.

Energy transition materially affects the lives of all individuals, since we all need to keep warm, use electrical appliances, travel, produce waste and live in a house.

Moreover, energy transition concerns individuals at several levels simultaneously: as bearers of specific lifestyles; as users of public services (such as energy); as consumers of goods and products; in public life, as citizens concerned with collective energy choices; and even in the workplace, as employers, retailers or large-scale energy consumers.

Finally, energy transition affects the entire spectrum of organisations in an area, since all consume energy, produce waste or have mobility needs. This means that anyone who promotes initiatives to accelerate energy transition must, if they want to avoid failure, be ready to deal with a considerable number of factors, whether obstacles or enablers, covering almost the entire range of human experience, from political practices to the most intimate aspects of the lives of families and individuals.

Institutions/partners/country/town

INSTYTUT ENERGETYKI (IEN)

Andrzej SLAWINSKI

Poland — Warsaw

BADANIA SYSTEMOWE ENERGYSYS SPZOO (EnergSys)

Boleslaw JANKOWSKI

Poland — Warsaw

AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE
TECNOLOGIE, L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO
ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE (ENEA)

Oscar AMERIGHI

Italy — Rome

LABORATORIO DI SCIENZE DELLA CITTADINANZA
(LSC)

Gabriele QUINTI

Italy — Rome

UNIVERSITEIT MAASTRICHT

Wiebe BIJKER

Netherlands — Maastricht

THE UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

Erik BICHARD

United Kingdom — Salford

PARIS-LODRON-UNIVERSITÄT SALZBURG

Stefan LANG

Austria — Salzburg

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (EUROPEAN
COMMISSION)

Ricardo BOLADO LAVIN

Belgium — Brussels

ECOLOGIC INSTITUT GmbH

Max GRUENIG

Germany — Berlin

SOCIETE DE MATHEMATIQUES APPLIQUEES ET DE
SCIENCES HUMAINES (SMASH)

Jean-Charles HOURCADE

France — Paris

Transitions towards a responsible socio-ecological Europe



Welfare, wealth and work for Europe

WWWforEurope

Grant agreement: 290647

European Commission contribution:
EUR 7 999 858

Starting date: 1.4.2012

Duration: 48 months

Funding scheme: collaborative project (large-scale integrated research project)

Project coordinator:

**ÖSTERREICHISCHES INSTITUT FÜR
WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (WIFO)**
Austria — Vienna

Contact: Karl AIGINGER
Karl.Aiginger@wifo.ac.at

<http://www.foreurope.eu>

The objective of this 4-year project is to provide the analytical basis for a socioecological transition in Europe: the change to a new growth path that is smart, sustainable and inclusive as envisaged in the EU 2020 strategy.

In order to support the transition, we analyse the need, the feasibility and the best practice for change, specifying the institutional changes needed at all policy levels to implement these options. The old and new challenges Europe is facing define the starting point: globalisation, new technologies and post industrialisation, demographic change and ecology in the context of welfare systems that have come under stress due to high public deficits.

The vision is that Europe will become a role model for a 'high road growth path' which actively incorporates social and ecological goals, employment, gender and cultural aspects in an ambitious, forward-looking way while continuing to be competitive in a globalised world.

To achieve these objectives, the consortium will carry out and synthesise robust research in the areas covering the challenges to the welfare system, the biophysical dimension of socio-economic development, the identification of drivers towards socioecological transition, the role of governance and institutions on the European as well as the regional level.

The consortium will benefit from ongoing dialogue with international experts in the form of expert panels and sounding boards, taking into account their views on the direction and feasibility for this new growth path. The project will be carried out by a consortium of 33 partners from universities and research institutes with international and interdisciplinary expertise. It represents 12 Member States. High-level scientific and policy boards will monitor the analysis and the policy conclusions to guarantee the impact and dissemination of the results.

Institutions/partners/country/town

BUDAPEST SZAKPOLITIKAI ELEMZO INTEZET
KORLATOLTFELELOSSEGU TARSASAG (Budapest
Institute Hungary)
Ágota SCHARLE
Hungary — Budapest

UNIVERSITÉ DE NICE — SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS
Jacqueline KRAFFT
France — Nice

ECOLOGIC
Anneke von RAGGAMBY
Germany — Berlin

FACHHOCHSCHULE JENA
Thomas SAUER
Germany — Jena

LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO
Susanne ELSÉN
Italy — Bolzano

GEFRA
Gerhard UNTIEDT
Germany — Münster

JOHANN WOLFGANG GOETHE UNIVERSITÄT
FRANKFURT AM MAIN
Alexander EBNER
Germany — Frankfurt

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Stefan KUHN
Germany — Freiburg

EKONOMICKY USTAV SLOVENSKEJ AKADEMIE VIED
Ivana ŠIKULOVÁ
Slovakia — Bratislava

INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT (IFW)
Rolf J. LANGHAMMER
Germany — Kiel

INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ECONOMICS OF THE
HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IWE)
Andrea SZALAVETZ
Hungary — Budapest

MENDELOVA UNIVERZITA V BRNE (MUAF)
Petr ROZMAHEL
Czech Republic — Brno

ÖSTERREICHISCHES INSTITUT FÜR
RAUMPLANUNG (OIR)
Barabara SARINGER-BORY
Austria — Vienna

POLICY NETWORK
Olaf CRAMME
United Kingdom — London

RATIO
Rolf HÖIJER
Sweden — Stockholm

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
Tim JACKSON
United Kingdom — Guildford

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Alexia FÜRNKRANZ-PRSKAWETZ
Austria — Vienna

UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA (UAB)
Jeroen VAN DEN BERGH
Spain — Cerdanyola del Valles

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
Alexander NUETZENADEL
Germany — Berlin

UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN BRATISLAVA (UEB)
Mikulas LUPTACIK
Slovakia — Bratislava

UNIVERSITEIT HASSELT
Leo DELCROIX
Belgium — Diepenbeek

UNIVERSITÄT KLAGENFURT
Marina FISCHER-KOWALSKI
Austria — Klagenfurt

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN (KUL)
Reinhilde VEUGELERS
Belgium — Leuven

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Lisa DE PROPRIS
United Kingdom — Birmingham

PANNON EGYETEM
Ádám TÖRÖK
Hungary — Veszprem

UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT
Janneke PLANTENGA
Netherlands — Utrecht

WIRTSCHAFTSUNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Sigrid STAGL
Austria — Vienna

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE
Catia MONTAGNA
United Kingdom — Dundee

UNIVERSITÀ POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE
Franco SOTTE
Italy — Ancona

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE
WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (ZEW)
Georg LICHT
Germany — Mannheim

COVENTRY UNIVERSITY
David BAILEY
United Kingdom — Coventry

IVORY TOWER
Christian KETELS
Sweden — Stockholm

Sustainable lifestyles 2.0: End user integration, innovation and entrepreneurship

EU-INNOVATE

<p>Grant agreement: 613194</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 4 770 306</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2014</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (large-scale integrated research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET MUENCHEN (TUM) Germany — Munich/Freising</p> <p>Contact: Frank-Martin BELZ Frank.Belz@tum.de http://www.euinnovate.com</p>
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Typically, end users or ‘consumers’ are perceived as adopters of sustainable products and services, developed by companies. Thus, a lot of attention is paid to the (non-) diffusion of sustainable products and services. From this perspective end users are seen as — more or less — passive recipients of sustainable products and services.

We propose to investigate the active roles of end users in shaping sustainable lifestyles and the transition to a green economy in Europe. More specifically, we suggest exploring, explaining and enhancing the role of end users in (co-) innovating novel sustainable products, services, and systems (‘Sustainable Lifestyles 2.0’).

Generally, there are two options:

First, end users are integrated in the process of sustainability innovations driven by companies (‘user integration’); Second, end users innovative for themselves, and eventually form enterprises to capture value from their sustainability innovations (‘user innovation and entrepreneurship’).

We argue that end user integration, innovation and entrepreneurship offer great potentials for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the upcoming years, which is largely untapped and unexplored.

While acknowledging the value of company-driven sustainability innovations, we want to investigate pathways towards a sustainable society, which is more user-centred and user-driven. We aim to gain a better and broadened understanding of the active roles of end users in sustainability innovation processes with a special emphasis on four domains:

1. food;
2. living;
3. mobility;
4. energy.

These domains are responsible for the highest life cycle environmental impacts related to the final consumption, and — put together — shape sustainable lifestyles in Europe.

Institutions/partners/country/town

AALTO-KORK E AKOUL US A A ΠO
Minna HALME
Finland — Aalto

AARHUS UNIVERSITET
John THOGERSEN
Denmark — Aarhus

AKADEMIA LEONA KOŹMIŃSKIEGO
Boleslaw ROK
Poland — Warsaw

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
Lucia REISCH
Denmark — Frederiksberg

CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY
Hugh WILSON
United Kingdom — Cranfield, Bedfordshire

ABIS — THE ACADEMY OF BUSINESS IN SOCIETY
Simon PICKARD
Belgium — Brussels

THE FORUM FOR THE FUTURE LBG
James GOODMAN
United Kingdom — London

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INGOLSTADT
Andre HABISCH
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TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT EINDHOVEN,
Johan SCHOT
Netherlands — Eindhoven

ESADE
Jonathan WAREHAM
Spain — Barcelona

UNIVERSITA CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE
Mario MOLTENI
Italy — Milan

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM
Sebastian KORTMANN
Netherlands — Amsterdam

Green lifestyles, alternative models and upscaling regional sustainability

GLAMURS

<p>Grant agreement: 613420</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 4 995 836</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2014</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (large-scale integrated research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator: UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUNA Spain — La Coruña</p> <p>Contact: Ricardo GARCIA MIRA ricardo.garcia.mira@udc.es http://www.glamurs.eu</p>
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The overall aim of Glamurs (Green lifestyles, alternative models and upscaling regional sustainability) is to develop a theoretically based and empirically grounded understanding of the main obstacles and prospects for transitions to sustainable lifestyles and a green economy in Europe, as well as of the most effective means to support and speed them up.

The call states explicitly that for transitions to be possible there is a need to address the demand side, reevaluate growth models and find appropriate ways to produce lifestyle changes and economic paradigm shifts. The result will be the development, testing and assessing of several integrated pathways for transitions to a low-carbon Europe.

Glamurs will develop theory, models and evidence on obstacles and prospects for the transformation to green economies and lifestyles in Europe. It will do this through multi-scale, multi-region integrated research involving psychologists, economists and policy experts studying individual and societal levels, combined with environmental impact modelling of the effects of scenarios and policy interventions on lifestyle and economic transitions.

The research will engage policymakers and stakeholders at the European and regional levels, studying citizens' everyday lives in the present and emerging initiatives: 'early adopters' of more sustainable lifestyle practices and behaviours.

It will provide recommendations on the best governance designs and policy mixes for achieving a sufficiently fast paced transition in Europe in line with the objectives established in the Europe 2020 strategy and the resource efficiency flagship initiative.

It will also evaluate the context the project creates to understand how citizens, researchers, stakeholder organisations and policymakers come to know what it is they need to do to bring about individually, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable living, disseminating its work through diverse media.

Institutions/partners/country/town

UNIVERSITY OF BATH
Michael FINUS
United Kingdom — Bath

NORGES TÊKNISK-NATURVITENSKAPELIGE
UNIVERSITET (NTNU)
Edgard HERTWICH
Norway — Trondheim

HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FUER UMWELTFORSCHUNG
GMBH
Felix RAUSCHMAYER
Germany — Leipzig

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT
Jaco QUIST
Netherlands — Delft

OTTO VON GUERICKE UNIVERSITAET MAGDEBURG
Ellen MATTHIES
Germany — Magdeburg

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI ROMA TRE
Giuseppe CARRUS
Italy — Rome

THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE
Gary POLHILL
United Kingdom — Dundee

STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT BRABANT
UNIVERSITEIT VAN TILBURG
Sjak SMULDERS
Netherlands — Tilburg

UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST DIN TIMIȘOARA
Adina DUMITRU
Romania — Timisoara

SERI — NACHHALTIGKEITSFORSCHUNGS
UND -KOMMUNIKATIONS
Ines OMANN
Austria — Vienna

Post-carbon cities of tomorrow — foresight for sustainable pathways towards liveable, affordable and prospering cities in a world context

POCACITO

<p>Grant agreement: 613286</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 494 914</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2014</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>ECOLOGIC Germany — Berlin</p> <p>Contact: Max GRÜNING max.gruenig@ecologic.eu</p> <p>http://pocacito.eu/</p>
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The project ‘Post-carbon cities of tomorrow — foresight for sustainable pathways towards liveable, affordable and prospering cities in a world context’ (Pocacito) will develop an evidence-based 2050 roadmap for EU post-carbon cities.

Pocacito facilitates the transition of EU cities to a forecasted sustainable or ‘post-carbon’ economic model. The project focuses on towns, cities, megacities, metropolitan areas and urban clusters larger than 1 million people as well as small and medium-sized cities. Pocacito’s approach uses participatory scenario development as a mutual learning and living lab environment strategy.

The project recognises that post-carbon city transitions should improve urban resilience to fluctuating environmental and socio-economic pressure. Pressure in this context includes long-term changes in urban resident demographics, city and rural migration patterns, and potential city health concerns.

Furthermore, Pocacito develops innovative long-term outlooks for European post-carbon cities to address climate adaptation and urban environmental metabolism concerns by using a participatory city case study approach. Case study cities include Barcelona, Copenhagen/Malmö, Istanbul, Lisbon, Litomerice, Milan/Turin, Offenburg and Zagreb.

These cities will develop qualitative post-carbon visions with local stakeholders. Visions will be chosen based on selected best-practice measures and preliminary city assessments. Accompanying studies will yield a typology of post-carbon cities and a post-carbon city index.

A ‘marketplace of ideas’ will spread best practices from other EU cities and global cities in global emerging nations, allowing an international exchange of urban best practices.

Related research will produce case study city roadmaps and an evidence-based 2050 roadmap for post-carbon EU cities within a global context. The project’s research supports the sustainable development objective of the Europe 2020 strategy and the innovation union flagship initiative.

Institutions/partners/country/town

FONDAZIONE ENI ENRICO MATTEI
Margaretha BREIL
Italy — Milan

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
Patrizia LOMBARDI
Italy — Turin

INTELIGENCIA EM INOVACAO,CENTRO DE INOVACAO
(INTELI)
Catarina SELADA
Portugal — Moreira da Maia

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)
Noriko FUJIWARA
Belgium — Brussels

JOANNEUM RESEARCH
FORSCHUNGSGESELLSCHAFT
Andreas TUERK
Austria — Graz

IVL SVENSKA MILJÖINSTITUTET
Elin ERIKSSON
Sweden — Stockholm

LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FÜR REGIONALENTWICKLUNG
UND STRUKTURPLANUNG
Kristine KERN
Germany — Erkner

AARHUS UNIVERSITET
Anne JENSEN
Denmark — Aarhus

ENERGY CITIES
Stephane DUPAS
France — Besançon

ISTANBUL TEKNİK UNIVERSİTESİ
Tüzin BAYCAN
Turkey — Istanbul

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Robert PASICKO
Croatia — Zagreb

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Milan SCASNÝ
Czech Republic — Prague

Pathways for carbon transitions

PACT

<p>Grant agreement: 225503</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 1 375 000</p> <p>Starting date: 1.10.2008</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research projectz)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>ENERDATA France — Gières</p> <p>Contact: Bertrand CHATEAU bertrand.chateau@enerdata.fr</p> <p>http://www.pact-carbon-transition.org/</p>
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Most 'business-as-usual scenarios' built up till now have shown that hydrocarbon resources scarcity and the growing release of greenhouse gases will bring the world far away from sustainability over the next decades. Then, deep changes in behaviours away from 'business as usual' are unavoidable long before the turn of the century in a move towards a post-carbon society.

Urbanisation and mobility are probably the domains where these changes might be the most important and they will be necessarily driven and limited by socio-economic and cultural forces that will dominate the century. They will induce further deep changes in behaviours of consumers and producers and are likely to have a great effect on the use and production of bulk materials, large energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters.

To address these challenges, key milestones have been defined by the EU: a 20 % reduction (minimum) of CO₂ emissions by 2020 (compared to 1990) in Europe; and a reduction of the greenhouse emissions by 2050 and after, so as to limit the increase of the temperature due to climatic change to within 2 °C.

Within this framework, the PACT project objective is to provide strategic decision-support information to decision-makers to achieve these milestones. It will focus on three themes.

1. what shapes the energy demand, and how this should evolve towards a post-carbon concept, from the infrastructures viewpoint, in relation to urbanisation and land-use schemes, and that of lifestyles and behaviours, in relation to the available technologies;
2. the question of urbanisation and land use from the renewable energy perspective, including that of the systems;
3. the role of social forces, actors and stakeholders in the transition process.

PACT will address these issues in two phases: firstly by developing the necessary analytical and conceptual framework and then secondly by attempting to quantify scenarios of post-carbon societies at EU and world levels by 2050 and beyond, using enhanced versions of the VLEEM and POLES models.

Institutions/partners/country/town

ARCELOR MITTAL MAIZIÈRES RESEARCH
Sustainability Department
Jean-Pierre BIRAT
France — Maizières les Metz

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG
DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG
Wolfgang SCHADE
Germany — Munich

MAX-PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN
Institut für Plasmaphysik
Thomas HAMACHER
Germany — Munich

ISTITUTO DI STUDI PER L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI
SISTEMI
Andrea RICCI
Italy — Rome

UNIVERSITE PIERRE MENDES FRANCE
Odile BLANCHARD
France — Grenoble

LABORATORIO DI SCIENZE DELLA CITTADINANZA
Andrea DECLICH
Italy — Rome

METALLURGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Process Metallurgy Department
Christer RYMAN
Sweden — Lulea

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA
Dipartimento di Sociologia
Silvio SCANAGATTA
Italy — Padua

TURKU SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Finland Futures Research Centre
Jyrki LUUKKANEN
Finland — Turku

ENERGY AGENCY OF VYSOCINA
Zbyněk BOUDA
Czech Republic — Vysocina

CORVINUS UNIVERSITY
Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research
Michael LABELLE
Hungary — Budapest

Paradigm shifts modelling and innovative approaches

PASHMINA

<p>Grant agreement: 244766</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 607 193</p> <p>Starting date: 1.11.2009</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>ISTITUTO DI STUDI PER L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI SISTEMI (ISIS) Italy — Rome</p> <p>Contact: Andrea RICCI aricci@isis-it.com http://www.pashmina-project.eu</p>
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Pashmina aims to better address global changes in a long-term time perspective (2030–50), making a first development of tools — new generations of models and indicators — with enhanced capabilities to take into account the interaction between the economy and the environment, paradigm shifts in the energy–transport–environment nexus and the land-use and territorial functions. The objectives of Pashmina will include:

1. production of exploratory scenarios (qualitative storylines) of future global change options up to 2030 and 2050, complemented by a quantitative analysis of key development indicators (GDP, well-being, etc.) undertaken by means of global long-term meta-models;
2. analysis of the consequences of the paradigm shifts in the energy–transport–environment nexus related to urban functions such as housing, mobility and recreation;
3. analysis of the possible paradigm shifts in the land use and territorial functions related to agriculture, forestry and more general ecosystem services, such as biofuels, biodiversity and ecosystems metabolism;
4. initial development of a new generation of global indicators and models, starting from already existing sustainability accounting and general equilibrium modelling frameworks and adapting these to make them (more) sensitive to paradigm shifts with a the long-term perspective;
5. pilot assessment of possible adaptation and mitigation strategies to tackle different paradigm shifts, evaluating their trade-offs;
6. production of a comparative evaluation of the advancements in modelling tools achieved by Pashmina, dissemination of these in the scientific and stakeholder communities by means of innovative dissemination tools (virtual libraries, wiki–web tools, webGIS applications) and other dissemination activities.

Institutions/partners/country/town

ÖSTERREICHISCHES INSTITUT FÜR
WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG
Claudia KETTNER
Austria — Vienna

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE
Charles University Environment Center
Markéta SYCHROVSKÁ
Czech Republic — Prague

AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE
INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS
Carlos Manuel ABAD RUIZ
Spain — Madrid

ENERDATA SA
Bertrand CHATEAU
France — Grenoble

FONDAZIONE ENI ENRICO MATTEI
Monica EBERLE
Italy — Milan

INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT
Ralf KOPISCHKE
Germany — Kiel

INTERNATIONALES INSTITUT FÜR ANGEWANDTE
SYSTEMANALYSE
Susan RILEY
Austria — Laxenburg

MCRIT
Ulised Seguí ANDREU
Spain — Barcelona

SOCIETE DE MATHEMATIQUES APPLIQUEES ET DE
SCIENCES HUMAINES
Jean-Pierre MAILLES
France — Paris

AARHUS UNIVERSITET
Karina LARSEN
Denmark — Aarhus

Microsimulation for prospective sustainable cities in Europe

SUSTAINCITY

<p>Grant agreement: 244557</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 2 695 652</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2010</p> <p>Duration: 36 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: collaborative project (small and medium-scale focused research project)</p>	<p>Project coordinator:</p> <p>EIDGENÖSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZÜRICH Switzerland — Zurich</p> <p>Contact: Kay Axhausen axhausen@ivt.baug.ethz.ch http://www.sustaincity.org</p>
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Increasing concerns about sustainable development and the growth of urban areas have brought forth in recent years a renewed enthusiasm and need for the use of quantitative models in the field of transportation and spatial planning.

This project proposes to improve urban simulation models and their interaction with transport models. Unified operational models that favour a microscopic approach, such as UrbanSim and ILUTE (Integrated land use, transportation, and environment modelling system) have recently attracted a lot of interest in both the land use and transport communities.

Nevertheless, in their current forms, these models still require further development to support a comprehensive analysis of the main environmental and socio-economic questions of the sustainability of urban growth and the relevant public policies.

The goal of this project is to address the modelling and computational issues of integrating modern mobility simulations with the latest micro-simulation land use models.

The project intends to advance the state of the art in the field of the micro-simulation of prospective integrated models of land use and transport (LUTI).

On the modelling side, the main challenges are to integrate a demographic evolution module, to add an environmental module, to improve the overall consistency and, last but not least, to deal with the multi-scale aspects of the problem: several time horizons and spatial resolutions are involved.

Institutions/partners/country/town

ECOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE DE CACHAN

Agnès TANG TONG HI

France — Cachan

INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ETUDES DEMOGRAPHIQUES

Elisabeth MORAND

France — Paris

UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

Francisco SANTANA FERRA

Belgium — Louvain-la-Neuve

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

Maria VEREEKEN

Belgium — Leuven

STRATEC

Sylvie GAYDA

Belgium — Brussels

NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

Georgia MERTZELOU

Greece — Athens

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Simone LUDWIG

Denmark — Berlin

ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FEDERALE DE LAUSANNE

Michel BIERLAIRE

Switzerland — Lausanne

UNIVERSITÀ COMMERCIALE LUIGI BOCCONI

Luigi PELLEGRINO

Italy — Milan

UNIVERSITÉ DE CERGY-PONTOISE

Marie-Hélène SOTO

France — Cergy-Pontoise

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

Viviane HER

United States — Berkeley

Social platform on sustainable lifestyles

SPREAD

<p>Grant agreement: 263962</p> <p>European Commission contribution: EUR 1 423 082</p> <p>Starting date: 1.1.2011</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p> <p>Funding scheme: coordination and support action</p>	<p>Project coordinator: UNEP/WUPPERTAL INSTITUTE (CSCP) Germany — Wuppertal</p> <p>Contact: Cheryl HICKS cheryl.hicks@scp-centre.org http://www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu</p>
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The concept of sustainable lifestyles refers to patterns of behaviour shaped by personal and social interactions and conditioned by environmental and socio-economic contexts that aim at improving the well-being and health of present and future generations.

Sustainable lifestyles embrace economic, social, technical, cultural, legal and environmental aspects at individual, local, national, EU and international levels.

Sustainable lifestyles are a relatively new idea in the sustainable consumption and production domain and a comprehensive research agenda and policy strategy for promoting it in the EU is missing.

The Spread project aims to fill this gap by consolidating the existing body of knowledge from research projects and experiences of stakeholder networks, comprising researchers, health and education experts, industry, services and civil society representatives.

It aims to create scenarios for sustainable lifestyles in 2050 through a social platform, focusing on sustainable living, moving, consuming and healthy living, and by setting up a people's forum and an online platform hosting an ongoing dialogue open to public.

By using the back-casting approach a roadmap with a timeline on how to achieve sustainable lifestyles will be developed. The project will also develop a research agenda for the future to support European policymakers in their work on sustainable lifestyles.

Institutions/partners/country/town

ASHOKA FRANCE
Arnaud MOUROT
France — Paris

DEMOS HELSINKI
Aleksi NEUVONEN
Finland — Helsinki

ECOINSTITUT BARCELONA
Bettina SCHAEFER
Spain — Barcelona

EUROHEALTHNET
Caroline COSTONGS
Belgium — Brussels

ENERGY RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE NETHERLANDS
Maaïke BROUWER
Netherlands — Petten

POLITECNICO MILANO
Anna Rita ANCORA
Italy — Milan

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CEE
COUNTRIES
Zoltan Szabolcs ERDÉLYI
Hungary — Szentendre

LUND UNIVERSITY — THE INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL
ECONOMICS
Jenny LIEDHOLM
Sweden — Lund

THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY
Leida RIJNHOUT
Belgium — Brussels

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Foresight is necessary to have a better European governance. It sheds light on the future trends, challenges, tensions and transitions that Europe could face in demographic, economic, social and technological developments.

Foresight research encompasses both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative approaches are most often participatory and allow definition of long-term policy strategies. Modelling helps to quantify technoeconomic issues dealing with food supply, energy security and environmental targets.

The foresight research promoted by the European Commission under the seventh framework programme (socio-economic sciences and humanities - SSH) includes scenarios, horizon scanning, forecasting, roadmapping, back-casting and technology assessment as well as new indicators, models, Delphi surveys and participatory workshops.

EU research into foresight can be grouped around four main subjects:

- the future of globalisation in Europe and the neighbouring countries;
- visions and trends concerning the ERA, science, technology and innovation;
- modelling, new accounting frameworks and forward-looking policies;
- transitions towards a responsible socio-ecological Europe.

Project information

