

Progress & Achievements of the **ForSociety**

The ForSociety ERA-Net Project is almost in its second half and most of its objectives are fully consistent with the scheduled activities foreseen. More specifically, the following major achievements took place during the first one and a half year of the Project's lifetime.

To begin with, a benchmarking exercise (**Task 1.4 Benchmarking of national programmes**) has taken place, in order to identify commonalities, differences and scope for collaboration. This exercise highlights features such as the origin, purpose, structure and impact of the national foresight programmes, together with their place in the relevant national system of foresights.

Work completed throughout the first year of the Project involved analyses, studies and evaluations as background work to prepare the partners for joint activities on a European level. It consisted of four tasks, **Task 2.1- European issues in national programmes**, **Task 2.2- Enablers of science-society dialogue**, **Task 2.3- Future research topics**, and **Task 2.4- Methodological competencies and complementarities**. These have the aim to review the national programmes, with emphasis on different aspects, to aggregate the available information and to explore possible future synergies.

In order to contribute to the spirit of the ERA and to have a structured effect, the ForSociety Project is continuously monitoring other potential partners' programmes (like FKSP, EMFN, FOR-LEARN etc) and is looking for ways to expand its activities beyond the partners. For this purpose, several contacts were initiated and **Task 1.5 (Expansion of ERA-Net activities beyond the partners)** will continue to further develop relations with other programmes in this domain from partner and non-partner countries in Europe. The type of relations with them will involve information flow and dissemination, or in some cases may result in formally expanding the ForSociety ERA-Net consortium. The partners are also scheduled to play the role of intermediate agencies so that - in the range of possibility - other relevant actors from additional countries join the present consortium.

Moreover, one major policy dialogue (**Task 1.7 Policy dialogue between high-level decision-makers**) between high-level decision-makers of national governments and/or agencies has taken place in the Netherlands, where relevant policy issues were discussed and an input to the agenda for trans-national activities was provided. Following the results of the first conference, National Foresight programme managers should be able to influence their national decision-makers to invest in trans-national programmes.

With the next Policy Dialogue Conference scheduled for May 2006 in Prague and the first future dialogue workshops under preparation, there is a great optimism about more fruitful and outward oriented outcomes, as far as the second half of the project is concerned.

Specifically, in the second half of the programme (18-month period) several future dialogue workshops will set the scene for trans-national exercises while several legal, administrative and financial barriers that hinder trans-national cooperation will be identified. Other important issues for the immediate future are **Task 3.3** which will carry out a **multinational Delphi survey**, a pilot exercise with the aim to get first-hand experience in implementing multinational Delphi and **Task 3.4** which aims to provide some facilities to practitioners of foresight and policy makers, by developing a systematic and thought-provoking **tool-kit** to provide guidelines.

The ambition of the Project for the end of the second year is that some or all of the ForSociety partners will be ready to design concrete trans-national schemes. Therefore, **Task 3.5** is scheduled to prepare a number of partner clusters for initiating trans-national programmes funded by the national governments themselves. At the end of the third year period, activities of ForSociety ERA-Net will eventually culminate in a **Joint Action Plan (Task 3.6)**, which will define how the established network will continue with partial or even without EC funding.





Increasing Interest in ForSociety

Four new organisations participated as observers to the ForSociety network meeting (Copenhagen 18 December 2005). The observers attended the various Task group meetings and presented their foresight activities and related plans.

Ms Maria Lepeta, Main Specialist of the Ministry of Education and Science / Poland, informed the meeting of a pilot foresight project in the health and life research area that was carried out in Poland during 2003 and 2005. More info on the Polish exercise can be found at http://mniien.mnii.gov.pl/_gAllery_en/29/62/2962.pdf

Mr Throvald Finnbjörnsson, Head of Section from the Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), informed that in Iceland there is a number of activities that contain elements of foresight such as the University of Iceland's participation to the Nordic Hydrogen society foresight, and Iceland's participation in the Nordic Foresight Forum.

Mr Kristo Reinsalu, Executive Officer of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications/ Estonia, presented an overview of the two pilot foresight carried out in Estonia in the fields of information and communication technologies and biotechnology. Mr Reinsalu emphasized that small countries like Estonia need foresight even more than larger countries, because, by definition, the need to think of strategies for future is greater for small than for larger countries.

Mr Timo Hämäläinen, director at The National Fund for Research and Development (Sitra)/ Finland, presented a national foresight network and annual future forums to be organized. Sitra aims at acting as a catalyst and facilitator of foresight and a "shaker" of traditional mental models and

perspectives of the Finnish society. The Future of well-being, of daily life, of work, of the public sector, of multicultural Finland and of environment, will be promoted. The first high level future forum will be organised in the fall of 2006.

Overall, the observers considered ForSociety's work of true interest: As foresight is still relatively new for them, experience can be gained from countries with more established foresight culture and practices.

Forms of co-operation of the observers with the ForSociety, include participation in the Task group work and in various events, networking, access to the project's web-site, exchange of information, joint workshops, seminars on specific themes etc.

Especially through free access to the ForSociety web-site, the observers may follow the progress of the work and take advantage of the contacts and information produced in the network. Possibilities to integrate the observers more formally to the activities of the ForSociety will be studied and clarified during the next few months.

In the future, the ForSociety will continue to stay open to discuss co-operation with all organisations fulfilling the general ERA-net requirements. So, please don't hesitate to contact us directly...

Contact:

Mr. Seppo Kangaspunta
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Finland
tel. +358-9-16063747
e-mail: seppo.kangaspunta@ktm.fi

Pervasive Healthcare in the Danish Healthcare Services

The potentials of integrating Pervasive Healthcare in Danish healthcare services are promising because of the technology's ability to transcend time and place. Therefore an interdisciplinary working group appointed by the Danish Board of Technology in September 2005 carries out a project on the subject.

In the coming years, the Danish Healthcare Services will face challenges such as ageing population, more chronically ill people, new images of diseases that increase the need for preventive measures, changes in diseases related to life style, and the appearance of new treatments. Pervasive Healthcare can potentially comply with such changes that are expected to increase the demand for health performances in the future.

Pervasive Healthcare can be described as a health intervention based on IT. The term pervasive refers to the integration and the omnipresence of computer technology in the area of healthcare. Examples of Pervasive Healthcare include sensors placed in clothes measuring the condition of the patient and intelligent hospital beds, but this is just a fragment of the possibilities that Pervasive Healthcare might comprise.

Purpose of the project

The project aims to create a general overview of the potentials and perspectives of Pervasive Healthcare. Furthermore, the project will consider possible consequences and problems following an implementation of Pervasive Healthcare in the Danish health sector. Based on an overview of advantages and disadvantages the project will assess how Pervasive Healthcare can contribute to meet the future healthcare demands.

Methodology

The interdisciplinary working group is responsible for generating the overview of the potentials and perspectives of Pervasive Healthcare. The working group is challenged to outline the perspectives that will be the result of an implementation of Pervasive Healthcare by drawing on cases based on existing or possible use of Pervasive Healthcare.

The course of the project will also include a workshop, where interested parties of the healthcare sector gets an opportunity to contribute to the discussion, and focus group interviews with patients, doctors and nurses. The results of the workshop and the interviews will together with the discussions of the working group conclude in a report assessing Pervasive Healthcare in general. The report will include recommendations about how, and under what circumstances, Pervasive Healthcare can be implemented within the Danish Health Services.

Contacts

Mr. Anders Jacobi, project manager, e-mail: aj@tekno.dk
Ms. Berit Aadal, project assistant, e-mail: baa@tekno.dk
Mr. Anders Hoff, project assistant, e-mail: ah@tekno.dk

Enabling the Dialogue between Science & Society

Within the context of the ForSociety project, a task of utmost interest is the one for "Enablers of Science-Society Dialogue. This task will identify, based on a predefined typology, science-society dialogue contents and the way they are handled in the partners' programmes. The report that will be produced will be utilized as a proposal, on how to improve the science-society dialogue within the wider ERA-Net context.

At this stage, the relevant task group of the ForSociety project is in the process of producing a "Position paper on Science/Society dialogue in Foresight. The purpose of the paper is to give recommendations on the improvement of science-society dialogues in future foresight programmes.

The position paper will be based on the overview of current foresight activities gathered in a working paper in which activities in the field of science-society dialogue in the programmes of ForSociety are reviewed. The working paper, which is still in the making - will review 16 national benchmark cases written during spring 2005 as part of ForSociety Task on "Benchmarking of National Programmes". The task team responsible for the working paper consists of the Danish Board of Technology, the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Finland, the Research Council of Norway and the Romania Academy, while the working group responsible for the position paper include ForSociety members from Malta, UK, France, Greece and Germany.

The recommendations in the Position Paper should be understood as an encouragement. It is imperative to recognise the importance of science-society dialogues for many reasons. Not least, involvement, participation and dialogue are means to achieve a democratic legitimate process and a higher success rate with regards to acceptance of the results. But also, broader involvement is an effective communication tool, which distributes ownership and understanding of the foresight process and its results, and communicates knowledge and values into the foresight process. Accordingly, the recommendations in this Position Paper will all point at conceptions and approaches, which could lead to an increased science/society dialogue with the aim to improve the overall standard of science-society dialogue.

The final report of the task "Enablers of Science-Society Dialogue, will be published in June 2007 on the ForSociety web-site <http://www.eranet-forsociety.net>. The working paper will be published early 2006 and the position paper will be presented at the 2nd Policy Conference in Prague in May 2006 and subsequently published.

OST Horizon Scanning Centre

In its Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014, the UK Government committed to establishing a Centre of Excellence in Horizon Scanning, to be based in the Foresight directorate of the Office of Science and Technology. Work on establishing the Centre started in November 2004. Its output will feed directly into cross-government priority-setting and strategy formation. The work of the Centre will be strongly informed by the science base and by the best of existing work in Government, the private sector and elsewhere.

Aim and Scope:

The Centre's aims are:

- To inform departmental and cross-departmental decision-making
- To support horizon scanning carried out by others inside government
- To spot the implications of emerging science and technology and enable others to act on them

The three work-streams of the Centre are:

- Regular cross-Government strategy horizon scans, to underpin existing horizon scanning and inform cross-Government priorities
- Project work with stakeholders: demand-led opportunities for joint working on specific issues with stakeholders (departments or groups of departments)
- Provision of tools and support to spread good practice in departmental horizon scanning, including coaching, providing advice, brokering agreements and creating synergies that make the best use of resources and facilitate capacity-building.

In addition to offering best practice and support, the Centre has conducted two major strategic scanning projects in 2004, the "Sigma Scan" and the "Science & Technology Scan". Dr Rupert Lewis, head of the Horizon Scanning Centre, explains: "Much excellent horizon scanning work has already been carried out by government, non-government organisations (NGOs) and the private sector. Our projects will build on this, at the same time commissioning new and original gap-filling research, analysis and visions of the future. Our goal is to provide government departments and other stakeholders with an accessible and authoritative set of evidence of future trends and issues, to encourage consistent priority setting and strategy formation."

Source:

http://www.foresight.gov.uk/HORIZON_SCANNING_CENTRE/index.html

ForSociety Future Dialogues: The Greek Proposal - Electronic Infrastructures: from ICT to collaborative networks

Transnational future dialogues are pilot exercises on the way towards future "joint, cross-border technology foresight programs". They comprise different widely used tools in national foresight programs, aiming at bringing together experts from different sectors related to a specific issue or technology field in order to combine their work and expertise. Future dialogues offer a platform for transnational exchange on issues which are relevant for the respective national processes.

In the context of a Future Dialogue, **GRNET** (Greek Research and Technology Network, www.grnet.gr) has proposed collaboration between ForSociety and e-IRG (e-Infrastructures Reflection Group <http://www.e-irg.org>), a high-level policy body on e-Infrastructures preparing long term roadmaps. During the last meeting of the e-IRG on 13 December 2005, in London, a presentation on the cooperation between e-IRG and the ForSociety project was given by the Greek e-IRG delegate, proposing cooperation between the two groups. The ICT-related Foresights on e-Infrastructures should aim at stimulating synergies between national authorities into transnational programmes, while as stated the e-IRG roadmaps focus on consulting the EC for their long term strategic planning.

The Future Dialogue about "*Electronic Infrastructures: from ICT to collaborative networks*" will be bringing feedback to member states policy makers necessary to make them work together in smaller regional clusters addressing issues of common interests identified by the experts. This is complementary to the e-IRG which is more of a consulting-like body to the European Commission. Fabrizio Gagliardi from Microsoft, Manuel Delfino from PIC and Claus Jacobs from UNISG have replied positively about participating in this future dialogue, which will be kicking off around April 2006 next year and is expected to finish in Fall 2006. Ian Miles from PREST Manchester has already volunteered for the moderator position. So far ForSociety partners from Hungary, Romania, Malta and Germany have expressed a strong interest to participate.

If you are interested in more details (dates, issues to be discussed etc) please visit the ForSociety homepage <http://www.eranet-forsociety.net/futuredialogues>

Contacts

Katerina Papakonstantinou, GRNET
e-mail: papak@grnet.gr

National Initiatives

Activities of the Malta Council for Science and Technology



The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) is made up of a small core permanent team of young researchers under the direction of a high level Board appointed by the Prime Minister. Its scope is to provide strategic advice to the Government on science, technology and innovation policy. In 2005, MCST's role has been further strengthened through its new location within the Office of the Prime Minister, where it can play a more strategic coordinating role in scientific research and technological innovation. MCST is currently working on a major priority-setting exercise based on a wide consultation process, for targeting government investments in the National RDIST Plan to be launched mid-2006.

Apart from the ForSociety Project, MCST is currently participating in two new foresight projects:

- The **FUTURREG project**, which is a new INTERREG project, lead by Cardiff Business School. FUTURREG is designed to have significant long-term impacts for regional development policies through the use of high-quality futures tools and participatory processes. The project will not construct a new set of tools but will bring together the approaches used successfully by the partners within their regions in one toolkit:
<http://www.observ.cf.ac.uk/Projects/Current%20projects/futurreg/About%20futurreg/futurreg.html>
- The project **INFORMED** (Innovation Foresight for MEDA Partners in the European Research Area), which is a EU Fp6 INCO-E Project, and aims at increasing the use of participative foresight approaches in support of joint efforts of the European Union and Mediterranean Partners. This two-year project will strengthen RTD and Innovation (RTDI) policy development processes in the non-EU MEDA partners through the use of foresight for the integration of national RTDI systems with the ERA. The project is to be carried out in cooperation with teams based in four countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt), while ensuring that learning benefits are disseminated to the whole group.

Contact:

Jennifer Cassingena Harper
Director, Policy Unit
e-mail: Jennifer.harper@mcst.org.mt

National Foresight Programme for Identifying Research Priorities for Bulgaria



In 2005 the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science announced a call for proposals for a National Foresight Programme for Research Priorities as a tool for implementing the National Strategy on R&D. Contractors were the Applied Research and Communications Fund, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the University of National and World Economy and the Technical University of Sofia.

The **objective** of the National Foresight Programme (NFP) is to identify R&D priorities for enhancing the development of prospective research areas in the Bulgarian science that have the potential to improve the industrial competitiveness and the quality of life. This will be the basis for optimizing investments in strategically important research areas for a period of 10-15 years and it will be implemented through two stages:

- **First stage:** Fine-tuning of the foresight methodology, identification of research directions in two thematic areas within the NSRD - “**New materials and technologies**” and “**Biological research and technologies in agriculture and health care**”.
- **Second stage:** Foresight study in the two remaining NSRD thematic areas as well as in unexamined research directions within “New materials and technologies” and “Biological research and technologies in agriculture and health care”. The exploration of horizontal and social issues will be in the focus of this stage as well.

The **proposed methodology**, among others, will include: Expert panels, STEEPV and SWOT analyses of research directions, generation of proposals for research priorities, adaptation of the CSIRO methodology for prioritization, wider consultancies and online voting for identification of research priorities. Also, international consultants will support the work of the partners and the expert panels.

Contact:

Lora Pavlova,
Senior expert, Ministry of Education and Science
Tel: +359 2 9217545
Fax: +359 2 981 1404
e-mail: l.pavlova@minedu.government.bg



The Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic in cooperation with Technology Centre AS CR organize within the ForSociety ERA-NET project:

Second Policy Conference: A Dialogue Between Policy-Makers and Foresight Practitioners

“Ways to European Future”

Prague, Czech Republic May 11-12, 2006 (Provisional)

Day 1 (Thursday)

9:00 Registration

Greetings

9:30 - 10:00 The (Deputy) Minister of Education, Czech Republic
A member of the Research and Development Council, Czech Republic
Theodius Lennon, DG Research, European Commission Directorate K - Social sciences and humanities; Foresight

Keynote topics

Chairman: to be decided
Presentations: 20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion

10:00 - 10:30 ForSociety ERA-NET: Towards Transnational Foresight Initiatives
Nick Constantopoulos, GSRT, Greece (Project Coordinator)

10:30 - 11:00 What is the future of the European RTD Policy
Gustavo Fahrenkrog/Patrice Laget, IPTS, European Commission

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:00 What is the future of foresight exercises in policy-making
Luke Georghiou, PREST, UK

12:00 - 12:30 Foresight to policy, policy to foresight
Mr. Robby Berloznik, viWTA - Flemish Parliament, Belgium

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

Experiences from the ForSociety Project

Chairman: to be decided
Presentations: 20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion

13:30 - 14:00 Benchmarking of National Programmes
Ferenc Kovats, Hungary

14:00 - 14:30 Enablers of Science - Society Dialogue
Lars Klüver, Denmark

14:30 - 15:00 Competencies and complementarities in ForSociety exercises / *Mikko Syrjänen, Finland*

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break
15:30 - 16:00 Prospects for transnational research exercises / *Pierre-Yves Mauguen, France*

16:00 - 16:30 European issues in national foresight programmes - transborder issues and national foresight / *Victor Van Rij, Netherlands*

Day 2 (Friday)

Foresight as a Policy Tool

Chairman: to be decided
Presentations: 20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion

9:30 - 10:00 Foresight in Policy-Making in the Czech Republic / *Karel Klusacek, Technology Centre AS CR, Czech Republic*

10:00 - 10:30 Outcomes of European foresight projects (1)
FISTERA - Ian Miles, PREST, UK

10:30 - 11:00 Outcomes of European foresight projects (2)
MAN-VIS - Dr. Heidi Armbruster, Petra Jung-Erceg, Fraunhofer ISI, Germany

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:00 Ambitions of new foresight projects
Dan Grosu, National University Research Council, Romania

12:00 - 12:30 Frictions and lubricants in shaping Ways to European Future - Foresight as a permanent policy tool
Werner Wobbe, European Commission, DG Research - Directorate K, Unit "Science and Technology Foresight; links with the IPTS

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

Panel Discussion:

Chairman: to be decided

13:30 - 16:30 Policy makers shaping the future using foresight as a tool
The panelists will be asked to prepare short "initiating words" on their topics - to initiate the dialogue with the audience.

Suggested topics:

- * How Foresight has been used to think about various alternatives in structuring research and innovation for the future (*Remi Barré, Professor, CNAM, France - initiating words to be prepared by Pierre-Yves Mauguen, Ministry of Research and New Technologies France*)
- * Policy Makers use of Foresight: reflections from within the UK Programme (*Karl Cunion, DTI / OST, UK*)
- * Foresight in Support to Building the European Research Area (*Gustavo Fahrenkrog/Patrice Laget, IPTS, European Commission*)
- * Enlarged Europe: Problems and Challenges (*Lajos Nyiri, former Director of OMF, National Office for Technical Development in Hungary*)
- * Politicians in the Process, experience in shaping policies using foresight (*Lars Klüver, Director of Danish Board of Technology*)

16:30 Concluding Remarks and Closing the Conference

Information and Registration: Ms Kr. Kadlecikova, TC CZ,
e-mail: kadlecikova@tc.cz, UREL [www.eranet-forsociety.net/policy conference](http://www.eranet-forsociety.net/policy%20conference)



A coordinated action,
supported under the 6th
Framework Programme

Publisher: Coordination Office, GSRT,
14-18 Messogeion Ave., Athens 115 10 Greece, Editor: Ms Virginia Alizioti

