European Commission

EU POLICY LAB

a collaborative and
experimental space
for innovative policy-making

HOW CAN FORESIGHT AND HORIZON SCANNING BETTER INFORM POLICY AGENDAS?

2ND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR GOVERNMENT SCIENCE ADVICE CONFERENCE
SCIENCE AND POLICY MAKING: TOWARDS A NEW DIALOGUE
BRUSSELS, 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2016

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FORESIGHT FOR POLICY–MAKING : LOOKING BACK

In 2008 six possible functions were identified:

1. Informing policy

2. Facilitating policy implementation

3. Embedding participation in policy-making

4. Supporting policy definition

5. Reconfiguring the policy system

6. Symbolic function

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THE TRADITIONAL POLICY CYCLE AND COMPLEXITY

ANTICIPATION (FORESIGHT?) IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

➢ A diversified experience dominated by scientific and technological dimensions

➢ A tendency towards modelling and quantitative methods

➢ A growing consensus on the need to engage with global complexity and contingencies using a wider set of anticipation tools for more effective and resilient policies

2014 Better regulation toolkit: "*foresight and other forward looking tools complement quantitative modelling with a system thinking and long-term approach that is developed through qualitative and participatory methods involving all relevant stakeholders. They facilitate thinking out-of-the-box.*"

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FORESIGHT IN THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

➢ Long tradition (Institute for Prospective Technological studies, Future Oriented Technology Assessment Conferences)

➢ Focus on technology analysis and progressive shift towards quantitative modelling

➢ Recent revitalisation of foresight: addressing complexity through narratives
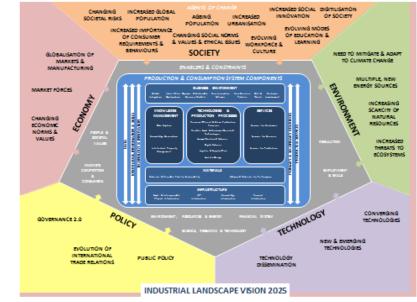
MORE THAN REPORTS: OPERATIONALISING FORESIGHT

- ➤ **SYNCHRONISATION:** align the timing of foresight projects with the European policy-making cycle
- ➤ **ENGAGEMENT:** ensure active participation of the right stakeholders
- ➤ **POLICY RELEVANCE:** co-design projects with policy DGs that can deliver insights to effectively support their specific policy initiatives
- ➤ **CROSS-POLICIES:** system thinking often requires working with more than one Commission service on a given project
- ➤ **DESIGN:** customise and combine methods and create new fit-for-purpose tools
- ➤ **CAPITALISE ON FORESIGHT KNOWLEDGE:** exploit the knowledge generated through foresight processes with policy makers and stakeholders through new tools and engagement processes
- ➤ **ANTICIPATORY CULTURE:** bring long-term non-linear thinking into the mindset of policy makers

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A new method for industrial policy at sectoral level

➢ Build on previously developed industrial landscape vision 2025 (ILV 2025)

➢ Platform for active engagement with industry (especially SMEs), European Industrial Associations, and other stakeholders

➢ Facilitation of a dialogue between the industrial sector and the European Commission (already implemented on two manufacturing sectors)

➢ Definition of an industrial policy agenda for the manufacturing sector

➢ Strong ownership from the sector on the vision

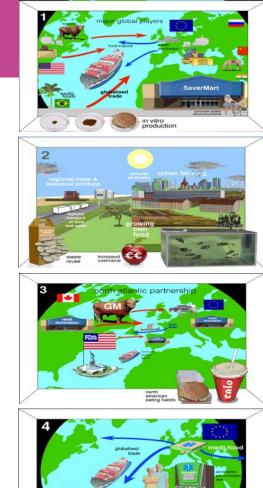➢ Identification of new highlights, partial reorganisation or different take on existing knowledge

INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE VISION 2025

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Future proofing the regulatory framework

➢ Identify possible future challenges for the EU food safety and nutrition

➢ Assess whether the current food policy and regulatory framework is able to deal with future challenges (contributing to REFIT - Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme)

➢ Identify research needs and develop policy recommendations on the basis of scenarios

The project is carried out together with DG SANTE.

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Bringing scenarios to life

➢ A board game that takes players through plausible alternative futures to make them think and discuss systemically

➢ Brings the future close to participants' realities

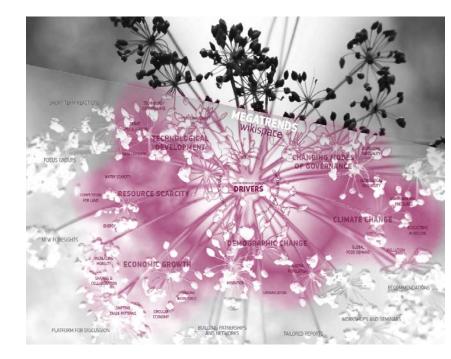➢ Already two editions of the game using scenarios from different foresight studies

Feedback

➢ Positive feedback from industry, NGOs and policy-makers

➢ 80% of players agree that the game helped them take a strategic and forward-looking perspective

➢ Strong elements of surprise and learning

➢ As in real life, the quality of the conversation depends on the type of participants

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NEW TOOLS 2: FORESIGHT KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TOOL

Towards quicker future-proofing

➢ Develop a repository of European relevant global trends that shape our society to foster systemic understanding and possible implications on policy issues

➢ Prototype and test new tools to support exploratory discussions engaging with European policy makers contributing to future-proof policies

➢ Strengthen the future literacy capacity across the Commission
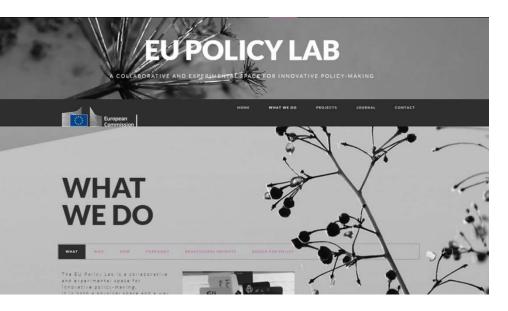

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NEW HORIZONS

- ➤ Horizon scanning: detecting, analyse weak signals and emerging issues and their possible implications

- ➤ Bridge quantitative and qualitative approaches

- ➤ Engage beyond the network of usual experts towards more participatory foresight

- ➤ Engage with Member States foresight capacities on EU policy related topics

- ➤ Revisit our relation with the foresight community after the FTA conference series

FORESIGHT, BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS & DESIGN FOR POLICY UNIT

We operate as the
EU Policy Lab

➤ **Collaborative** and **experimental** space

➤ Applying **foresight, behavioural insights** and **design thinking**

➤ Explore, connect and **find solutions for better policy-making**

➤ **Working directly for policy DGs**

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THANK YOU!

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