Strategic Foresight for Policy Planning

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Growing complexity = challenge for policy-making
#1 To better understand complex systems, their features and behaviour.
#2 To respond rapidly, flexibly and in a systemic way
#3 To consider different partners, their views and needs in policy design
#4 To strengthen collective intelligence through collaboration, partnership and networks
Traditional and new ways of policy-making

**Today**
- Based on current trends
- Exploratory
- Reactive
- Incremental changes
- Policy-makers centred

**Tomorrow**
- Based on future opportunities
- Normative
- Proactive
- New visions
- Participatory

ESDN Conference 2017, Prague, 23 June 2017
Policy-making models

Today’s model of policy-making

Future model of policy-making


ESDN Conference 2017, Prague, 23 June 2017
Positioning the challenges in the decision-making process

Policy options → Decision-making → Policy implementation → Strategic intelligence (analyses, evaluations, projections) → Sense making (insight, collective intelligence and visions) → Policy options
Strategic foresight helps leaders and their organisations to better prepare for disruptive changes and realise new opportunities to create their future.
FORECAST = anticipating the future

Source: http://www.accuweather.com
What is and what is not strategic foresight

**FORESIGHT** = exploring the future
Key attributes of foresight process

Source: JRC-IPTS
Strategic foresight framework

**Framing**
- Scope and context

**Scanning**
- Collecting information

**Foresighting**
- Baseline and alternative futures

**Visioning**
- Preferred future

**Planning**
- Strategy and plan

**Acting**
- Implementation

**Evaluating**
- Learning process
Role of foresight in policy-making

Foresight for policy information
- Introduces longer-term perspective in policy-making
- Identifies new challenges for the future
- Extends perspectives for policy-making

Foresight as advocacy for policy implementation
- Highlights new challenges
- Wins support over the new policy challenges (common vision)

Foresight for social network
- Creates a new frame for participatory policy-making
- Builds new networks and communities

Rational and effective policy
Commitment and acceptance
Involvement and reflection
How to make foresight successful

Authority
- Explicit endorsement by high-level representatives of decision-making

Legitimacy
- Involvement of all relevant stakeholders
- Avoiding unjustified influence

Credibility
- Use of rigorous and transparent methods
- Informative, well-founded and ...
... clearly communicated

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Strategic foresight in sustainable development policy

Complexity is in the very hearth of sustainable development agenda

Long-term – Integrative – Participative – Reflexive

Foresight is a perfect tool for dealing with the COMPLEXITY
„The best way to predict the future is to create it“

Abraham Lincoln
Thank you

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