

Technology Foresight and roadmapping; priority setting -

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What is Foresight?

A Foresight study is a participative process between actors from academia, business, government and other societal non governmental organizations with the aim to identify and assess potential future developments in science, technology, business and society.

- ➤ Long term focus
 - ▼Time horizon between 10 and 30 years
 - Time horizon differ according to topic discussed
- ➤ Open and interdisciplinary discussion and communication
 - Exchange between actors from policy administration, industry, science and society
 - Interplay assessment between science, technology, economy, culture and social impacts is crucial
 - Network strengthening to implement results later
- ➤ Systemic approach
 - integrative approaches with different instruments and methods
 - Match of diverging interests and aims
- > consensus:
 - Get all parties on board
- > Commitment:
 - Clear responsibilities for studies and result implementation





Results and impact of national Foresight studies

Positive effects of Foresight studies

Networking of participants

- experts /stakeholders brought together and working together towards a common goal
- the study brought private sector representatives and academicians around the same table to form R&D vision
- Interaction between human sciences and natural sciences
- Bring together stakeholders from different fields
- Met warmly by high-level scientists and company CEO's

Influence on policy / innovation

- Positive impulse for innovation
- New governance
- Influence on public investments and trajectory development
- Direct contribution to policy making
- Increase of democracy in decision making

Stimulation of dialogue

- Open discussion & some changes in way of thinking
- Promote long-term thinking
- Stimulate future orientation
- Global Perspective independent of organization
- Enthusiasm of involved parties to think and conceptualize about the future

Varied

- Costs corresponded to the benefits gained
- Useful results
- Steep learning curve, teaching programme at university



Results and impact of national Foresight studies

But there were also negative experiences Networking of participants

- Difficult to bring together all sorts of people and experts who are both specialist and generalists and are capable of being really objective and forward-looking, not focusing on their own interests
- Difficult to select expert panels representing all stakeholder groups
- Tricky to provoke the participant to extend their mind set over 10 years and longer
- Difficult to reach a common framework of communication between different scientific fields
- Aggressive position of some stakeholders seeking to dominate and influence the experts and working group

Influence on policy

- Delay in using foresight results for new policy
- Insufficient integration of results and analyses
- Policy makers does not necessarily adopt what experts suggest
- Secret political opposition by some senior members of government
- Decision-makers only superficially involved in actual foresight work
- Negative attitudes in government and academia

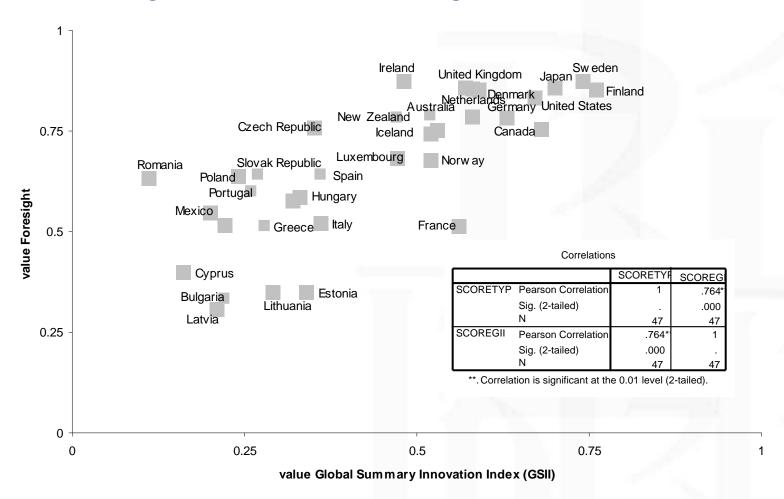
Varied

- Over budget and over time
- Too high expectation of echo in NIS
- Too many projects at one time
- Impacts necessarily indirect, not acknowledged
- Lack of methodology competence
- Lack of continuity in the funding to conduct a refinement of the results
- Lack of ability to market the results to industry
- Lack of adequate external consultants support
- Foresight culture needs time to develop. People are not familiar with this sort of thinking and methods
- General negative attitude because only accurate and precise predictions were acceptable for Science

and Technology Studies

Results and impact of national Foresight studies

Significant strong correlation between Foresight and GSII





Foresight studies – strategic responses (ctd)

Response level	Fields / themes affected	Possible measures
Regional policy	FDI attractionJob creationSpillover commercialization	 Framework conditions adjustment – tax credits, subsidies Targeted education policy All in one migration measures
National policy	 STI governance Future planning – one step ahead of other nations Multilateral RTOs – others than large scale facilities International framework condition agreements – IP, fiscal policy, labor law / codes 	 New dimension of priority setting Strategic identification of future niches External / foreign science marketing Stimulate regional competition in country Monitoring of competing countries



Foresight studies – strategic responses

Response level	Fields / themes affected	Possible measures
Corporate	 Research / innovation strategy External relations / PR Product strategy Corporate organization 	 Partnering strategies Sourcing (in-/out) Interface management departments Focus on IP framework as top priority Need for global IP regulation – no standalone national solutions
Institution (RTO/PRO/HEI)	 Institution strategy Funding structure and sources Performance measurement Global competition Internationalization of institution 	 Equipment sharing Changes in labor regulations – 24h operations Foreign subsidiaries Contract research / nucleus approach Virtual networks



Foresight studies – strategic responses (ctd)

Response level	Fields / themes affected	Possible measures
Intermediary bodies	 IP commercialization Invention disclosure management Contract management / legal and financial issues Service orientation 	 IP Portfolio building – cross institution portfolio establishment (national IP funds) Increased focus on litigation rather than filing IP etc. Coupled technical and management competences Streamlined services Active trend and progress monitoring





Thank you for your attention!

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