



FINLAND FUTURES
RESEARCH CENTRE

FORESIGHT IN FINLAND

ERA.Net RUS Foresight Workshop

Impact assessment of foresight exercises in the EU and Russia

Moscow, 30 January 2014

Juha Kaskinen

Dr., Director

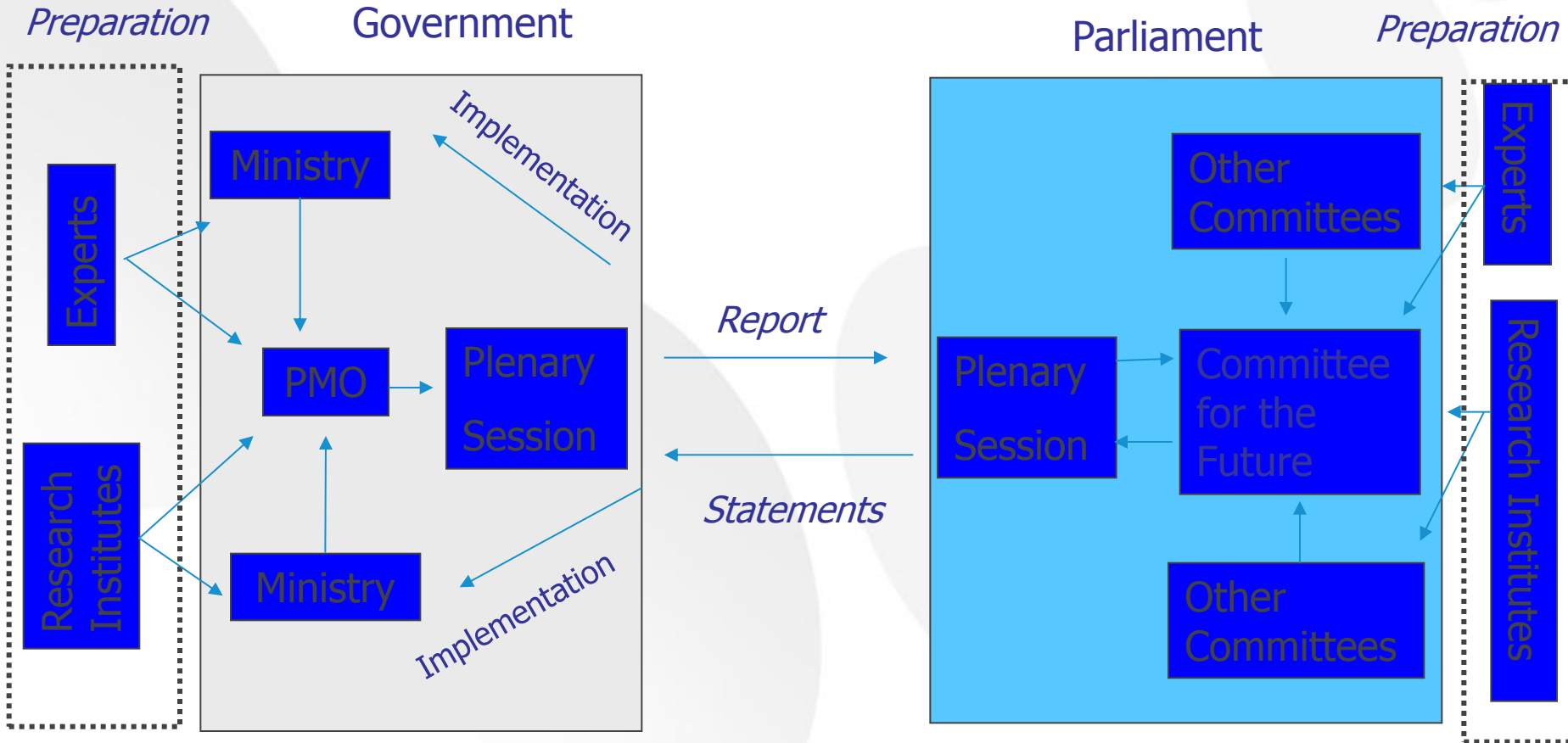
Finland Futures Research Centre

University of Turku, Finland

Content

- Foresight in Finnish Parliament
- Government
- Regional foresight
- Local level
- Foresight education

Dialogue on the future: Government - Parliament Future Reports



Regional/Open Future Forums: participation, collaboration, empowerment and crowdsourcing



The Committee for the Future's strategy and operational plan for 2011-15

In autumn 2011 the Committee preliminarily chose seven areas of study for itself during the 2011-15 parliamentary term:

- Sustainable Growth,
- An Inspired Society,
- Acquiring New Knowledge,
- Can the Welfare Society Endure?
- Black Swans,
- Crowdsourcing, and
- Radical Technologies

The themes are chosen from the Committee's interests, but also to create a readiness to respond to the Government's report on the future. These reports facilitate a long-term general analysis for Finland and prepare a futures map/roadmap for use in a global, unpredictably changing world that contains new and multidimensional uncertainties.



The Committee for the Future's vision, strategy and operational plan for 2011-15

- The Committee for the Future heard the views of experts from various sub-sectors of society in autumn 2011. 47 experts from 22 different organisations were consulted at hearings or other meetings.
- Eight of these organisations were universities and research institutions, three ministries and three companies. Four lobby organisations representing various interest groups were consulted, in addition to public funding and development bodies. Discussions also took place with various groups within the Parliament itself.
- An operational plan for the term of the present Government was drafted on the basis of these hearings. The Committee also decided on a strategy for 2011-15 to support and strengthen these measures. This totality was complemented with a vision in spring 2012.

Government's Futures Report 2030 (2013)

- New process: a separate foresight-insight work stage was included in the preparation of the foresight report
- Combination of methods and wide range of stakeholders: workshops, questionnaires, public debate (social media), expert groups, desk research etc.
- <http://www.2030.fi/en>
- <http://tuse.2030.fi/en/>

Regional foresight

- Main actors: Regional Councils and Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
- Guiding law: Law on regional development
- Obligatory themes of regional foresight: Business and industry, the labor force, competence and skills,
- Voluntary themes: (in practice included in foresight): demographics, environment, traffic and transport
- Regions define themselves the modes of foresight practices - most common are foresight forums, regional foresight groups, webpages with foresight data
- Still lacks participation of companies and common citizens

Cities and municipalities

- All major cities do foresight as part of strategic planning in one way or another
- Situation varies a lot in small and medium size municipalities,
- Take part on regional foresight and apply its results: regional general plan, regional development program

Foresight education

- Finland Futures Academy: Futures and foresight study modules (25 ECTS credits) for university students in nine Finnish Universities, Open University Courses for secondary level students coordinated by FFRC
- International Master Program of Futures Studies and Doctoral Program in University of Turku in Turku School of Economics by FFRC
- Future orientated EMBA- programs in Turku School of Economics and Lappeenranta University of Technology
- In house training and education services by FFRC and private consultants

Impact assessment of foresight

- Relatively easy assessment task: How the processes and projects are carried out?
- Really difficult assessment tasks: Have the results of foresight affected on decision-making, planning, is the organizational behavior changed, are the mindsets or attitudes of people involved changed etc.
- Foresight as ‘business as usual’ as a planning tool in decision making, so it might lose its power as seed of change
 - This happened to e.g. EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)

Many thanks for your attention!

- Juha Kaskinen (Dr. Soc. Sc.) Director
- Finland Futures Research Centre
- FI-20014 University of Turku
- Tel. +358 2 4814 528; +358 40 5439 645
- Email juha.kaskinen@utu.fi
- <http://www.utu.fi/ffrc>