



# Foresight in EU Research & Innovation (R&I) policy

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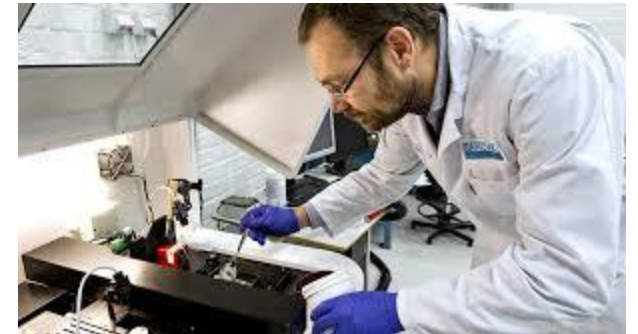
*EPSA workshop on Strategic Foresight Thursday, 22 September 2022*

# Foresight in EU R&I policy

1978-1994: FAST  
(Forecasting and Assessment  
in Science and Technology)



1994-2010: Grants for foresight research projects  
in the programme for socio-economic sciences



2010 – today: decentralised funding and emphasis in use and  
usefulness

# Do goldfish have foresight?



# Key concepts

## Foresight and the future

The future we have  
no influence on

### Forecasting



The future that we affect  
but do not control



The future that  
depends on us



## Benefits of foresight

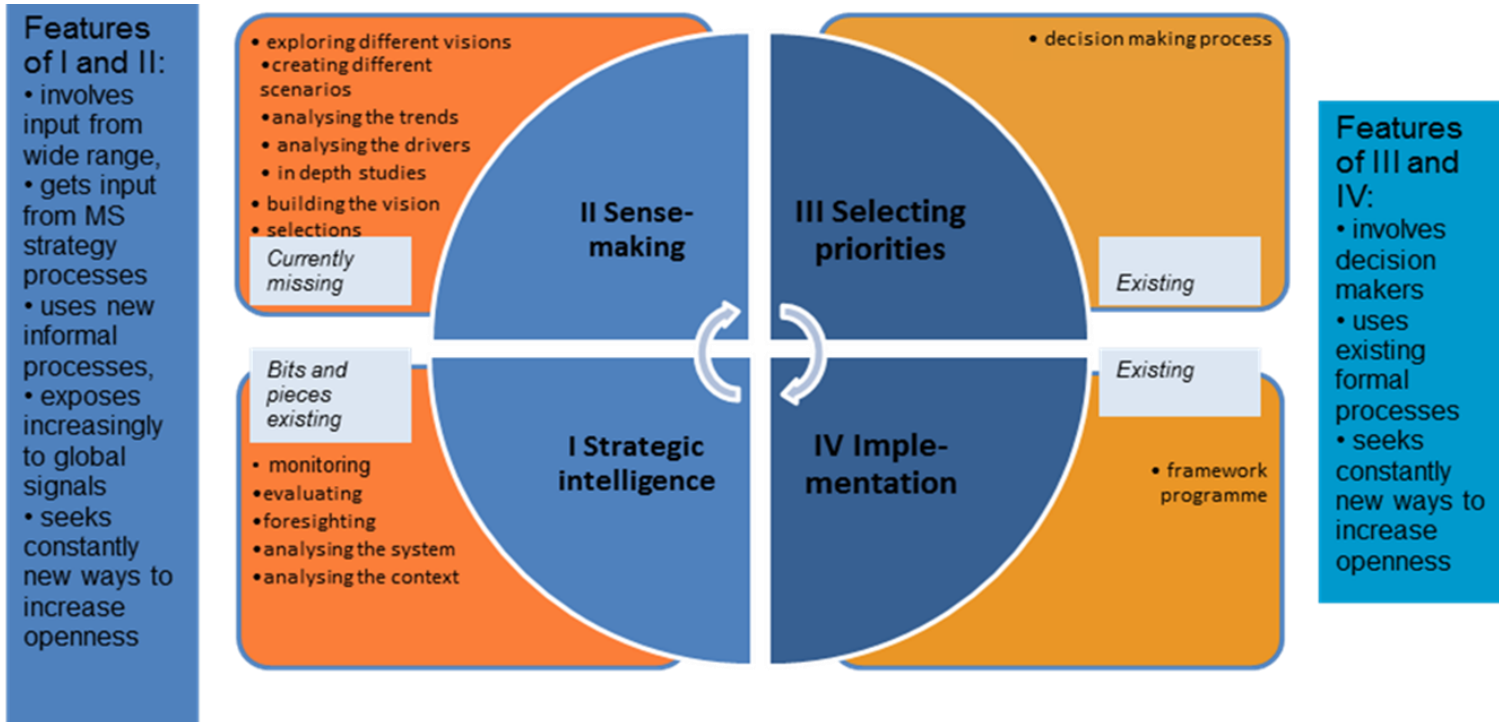


- Strategic perspective
- Shared visions
- Confidence / community building
- Forward looking intelligence

Empowering and enabling people  
to act NOW



# Using foresight into the R&I policy cycle

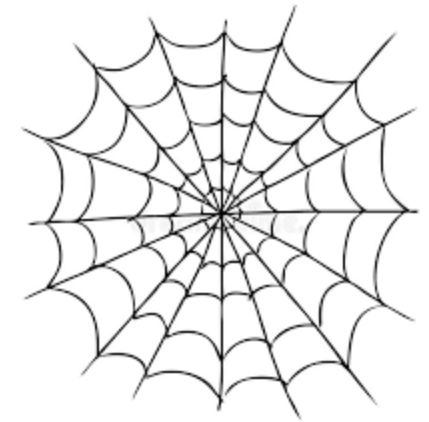


## Principles:

- Foresight is early and separate from the political priority setting process
- It is one input in a complex policy process
- Broadly engaging

# The Horizon Europe Foresight Network

- Coordinates the provisions of Horizon Europe Work-programmes for foresight
- Brings foresight in the strategic planning of Horizon Europe
- Promotes results of foresight projects in EU policies.



# Recent and ongoing HEFN studies

## 2050 Sustainable Europe in a sustainable world (relating to the Green Deal)

- “Stories from 2050” *a search for radical future sustainability imagery*
- “2050: S&T&I for ecosystem performance” *a search for accelerators for the green transition*

## Post COVID European futures

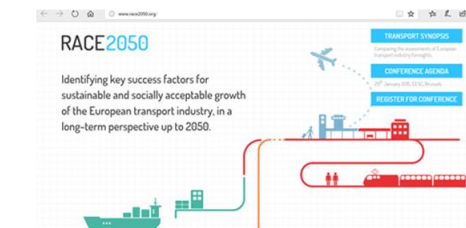
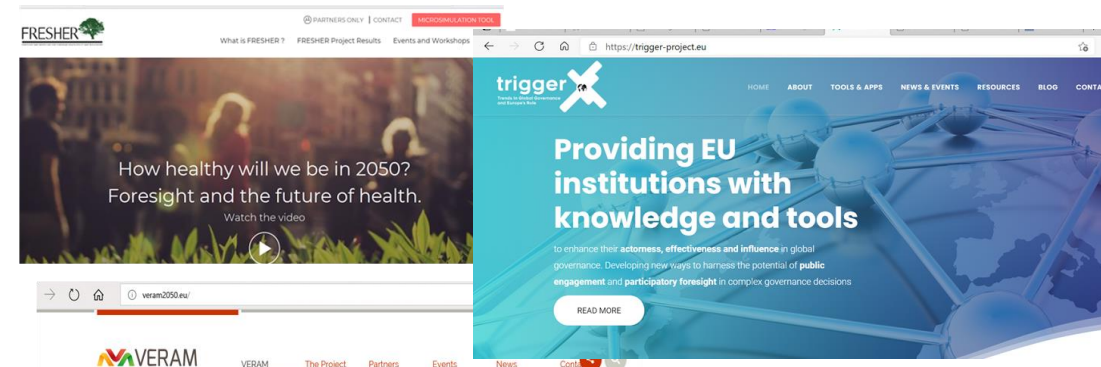
- “The scientific technological and social conditions of the exit from the COVID 19 crisis” scenarios for 2023
- Beyond the new normal: scenarios for the post COVID world Scenarios for Europe in 2040

## Support to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe

- .....

# Foresight in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SP of HE

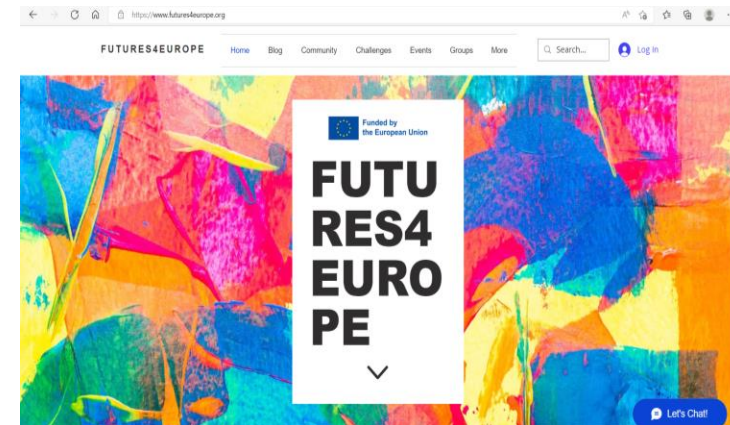
- Important foresight studies:  
JRC – SFRs; WEF; OECD; EU R&I projects ...
- Developing our shared foresight
  - Studies developed with the HEFN
  - Sharing with Member States
  - Engaging as broadly as possible with stakeholders and society





# Engagement

- A series of Member States EU Presidency Workshops: next 7 October CZ Presidency
- A network of foresight contacts in Member States and Associated Countries (through the Programme Committee of Horizon Europe)
- A platform: [Futures4europe.org](https://www.futures4europe.org)
- A series of expert scenario workshops in September
- A widely promoted synthesis workshop 27-28 October  
<https://www.futures4europe.eu/event-details/workshop-foresight-towards-the-2nd-strategic-plan-of-horizon-europe-towards-a-synthesis>
- Consultation on outcomes and reporting: November



# Topics in the 27-28 October workshop

## Deep dives

- Geopolitical turbulence: Ukraine war
- Transhumanism
- Climate change: geoengineering and social change
- Global commons
- Hydrogen economy

## Cross-cutting / rapid explorations

- General AI
- Social confrontations
- The interpenetration of legal and criminal economy
- Emerging health challenges

## STI 2050 Case studies

- Law for nature
- From Soil to Soul
- From Data to Representation
- Competition over land use
- Cleaning up the Micro-and Nano-cosmos
- From Waste management to regenerative economy

# Does foresight really change the agenda?

- Political purposes and uses of foresight:
  - To show (token) future awareness:
    - “the future is something we think about”
  - To dispel future ignorance or presumptuousness:
    - “we systematically think about alternative futures”
  - To bring new voices into the policy debate and enable broad and engaging policy deliberations:
    - “we deliberate the future in broad democratic engagement with purpose and responsibility”
- Our experience
  - New habits on how the agenda is formed are bringing in new frames and ideas
  - Organizational hierarchies and routines are slow to change

Thank you for your attention

[Foresight | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<https://www.futures4europe.eu/>