

Summary sheet

Method and Approach for Analysis of National Foresight Studies

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The task of Workpackage 1 is to construct an IST sector specific analysis for the enlarged Europe (EU 25) taking into account national Foresight exercises, and building upon existing general comparisons of foresight studies. Differences of foresight studies in different countries shall be explained, and conclusions should be drawn on IST developments and IST-foresight requirements at the European level. This should support other FISTERA activities.

The novelty of this effort lies in the fact that there has been no analysis and comparison of many of the more recent foresight studies, and the fact that no comparison has had its focus so far specifically on IST.

Carrying out the **Analysis of National Foresight Studies** in the first phase of FISTERA (PM1-PM6) implies some methodological and procedural steps: (1) Decide which Foresight Studies have to be covered, (2) decide which Foresight exercise should be analysed first, (3) develop a grid of items for analysis and comparison, (4) develop a common structure for the presentation of the case studies, and organize the review process of the draft, (5) structure and produce the first synthesis report.

1. Decide which Foresight Studies have to be covered

This decision can be based on definitions of Foresight. The one of the High Level Expert Group chaired by Luc Van Langenhove (STRATA-ETAN 2002) can be considered as one of the state of the art definitions:

*“Foresight can be defined as a systematic, **participatory**, future intelligence gathering and medium-to-long-term **vision-building** process aimed at present-day decisions and mobilising joint actions”*

This thoughtful definition is fine, but pragmatic considerations have to be added. FISTERA will take a look at **national studies** and at **recent studies**, i.e. 1995ff. It will include also national studies, which are declared Foresight studies, even if they don't match the definition of fully-fledged-Foresight (participation, vision building...) given by the HLEG, and it will include also critical technology and forecasting studies, provided they are based on broad participation, and provided they promise high IST-relevance. FISTERA will not look at "commercial" foresight studies.

2. Decide which Foresight exercise should be analysed first

Given the general criteria outlined above, the major criterion for the selection of the Foresight cases to start with was the **a broad spectrum of exercises**. **A good mix of different types** of exercises would allow to learn early about the difficulties of analysis and comparison.

- 2 x accession countries: Czech Republic, Hungary
- 2 x advanced Delphi: Austria, Spain
- 3 x “Third generation” Foresight: UK, Sweden, Germany
- 1 x advanced “critical technology” study: France

3. Develop a grid of items for analysis and comparison

The development of our grid is based on former comparative analysis. The work of IPTS and ESTO are especially important. To mention just three:

- *James P. Gavigan and Eamon Cahill*: Overview of recent European and non-european national Technology Foresight Studies. IPTS 1997
- *R. Barré (OST), P. Ormerod (CEST) (eds.)*: Monitoring Foresight Activities. Appendix: Screening the foresight exercises undertaken in 12 countries. ESTO 2001
- *Molas-Gallart, Jordi (SPRU, UK); Barré, Rémi (OST & CNAM, France); Zappacosta, Mario, Gavigan, James (JRC/IPTS, European Commission) (eds.)*: A Trans-National Analysis of Results and Implications of Industrially-oriented Technology Foresight Studies (France, Spain, Italy & Portugal). A joint JRC/IPTS-ESTO Study.

Main sections of the grid are:

- General (scope, duration, ...)
- Relevant context (R&D policy, prospective studies)
- Institutional design / organizational patterns
- Methods and methodology
- Type of FS Study: objectives and focus
- ICT-specific items
- European dimension (programmes, competition, cooperation...)
- Use, implementation, impact

4. Develop a common structure of the case studies and organize review process

The structure of the case study is in a way according to the grid used for data collection and analysis.

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| <i>Executive Summary</i> |
| Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic indicators of country • IST sector indicators • IST application and use indicators |
| Foresight history and research policy context in each country |
| General Description and Characterization of Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • goals, scope, focus • organisation, methodology • conclusions, results, recommendations |
| Findings on ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT • trends, visions, scenarios |
| Findings on ICT in other panels |
| Analysis and Discussion |
| <i>Literature and other sources</i> |
| <i>Appendix: Summary in form of a table</i> |

Legend: Common Structure of case studies (provisional)

The draft case studies are delivered first to FISTERA members for comments and amendments. The draft case studies will also be send to partners of the respective foresight exercises as a means to validate the content, and to get further contacts that help extending the FISTERA network. Updated versions will be available to anyone interested at the FISTERA website.

5. The first synthesis report

The first synthesis report of PM6 will contain presumably:

- the eight case studies in a smart and slim line format
- lessons on types of Foresight from comparison
- IST foresight comparison
- role of the European dimension

Like the case studies the draft synthesis report will be circulated first for comments.

6. Open questions and outlook

At the present state of analysis we would hold that desk research is not enough to get all the insights we want. Phone interviews and e-mail conversation might be appropriate to fill these gaps, and may turn out as an efficient support for FISTERA networking activities. This additional measure should be discussed.

During the course of the project information on the first sample of Foresight studies will be updated continuously, further case studies will be prepared continuously, and an overall synthesis report will be produced towards the end of the project.