

# Using foresight techniques in the implementation of innovation policies

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# The regional dimension of the European Research Area

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- *Regional dimension* identified in all ERA related Communications as important
  
- Devolution of public policy
  - Territorialisation of RTDI policies
  - New governance closer to citizens & economic actors

# The regional dimension of the European Research Area

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- Exploiting possibilities offered by the linkage of EU RTDI and Regional Policies (for local & regional authorities)
- Involving Member States and Regions in a European Policy context
- Mobilise ALL R&D actors - private & public; European, National *AND Regional*

# Why foresight in innovation policy?

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- ❑ **We are facing some new challenges**
- ❑ **habitual ways of responding might not work**
- ❑ **Foresight is a mechanism for identifying new issues**
- ❑ **challenging presuppositions, formulating questions**
- ❑ **and setting out to find some answers**

# Route map

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- ❑ **Who am I?**
- ❑ **What is foresight?**
- ❑ **Who is doing it?**
- ❑ **Why would innovation policy people want to do it?**
- ❑ **What would they be likely to get out of it?**
- ❑ **How can you do it?**
- ❑ **An example, what might work!**

# A common definition of foresight

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**“the process involved in systematically attempting to look into the longer-term future of science, technology, the economy and society with the aim of identifying the areas of strategic research and the emerging generic technologies likely to yield the greatest economic and social benefits”**

Ben Martin, SPRU, 1995

## If it sounds like....

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- **Planning – it is not, although closely related**
- **Neither is it forecasting, although uses same tools**
- **It *is***
  - **exploration of different possible futures**
  - **giving them life enough to evaluate options**
  - **and make ‘reasoned’ choices between them**
  - **and inform today’s decision making**
  - **to take us where we want/need to go**

# So, similar to RIS, RITTS

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- **The objectives of which are:**
  - 1. To improve the capacity to develop policies**
  - 2. Provide framework to optimise future investments in R&D&I**



# In fact, they are complementary

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- ❑ **Inclusive, 'bottom up', 'culture change' projects**
- ❑ **Depend on right sponsors and participants**
- ❑ **Must be part of policy cycle, aiming to 'embed'**
- ❑ **Rigorous and systematic**
- ❑ **Must be good 'projects' – perhaps this is the key!**
- ❑ **In fact, perhaps, 75% of *labour* is common**
- ❑ **Would be an excellent 'follow-on' or refocusing**

# But foresight *is* a bit different

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**Because it tries to listen/look 'over the horizon' for the unforeseen, the new, the currently marginal shifting from incremental policy development (and consequent incremental view of innovation) to detecting breakthroughs, anticipating discontinuity to try to make us ready for things we don't know**

# Everybody's doing it, regions too

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- ❑ **National, sub-national, even European level**
- ❑ **But why should regions be interested in general?**
- ❑ **Key 'meso level' to mediate global trends**
- ❑ **and implement national and EU policy**
- ❑ **where knowledge makes money or social impact**
- ❑ **where detailed problems can be tackled**

# & innovation people in particular?

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- **Are some new policy challenges in regions**
  - scarce resources – must prioritise, but are best choices?
  - we can't do everything – must specialise, but where?
  - more players in the game – where we going to be competitive?
  - choices about S&T and innovation very complex now
  - national level perhaps less effective in responding
  - accepted that regional clusters are key economic drivers
  - regions need innovation management skills to optimise

# Regional Foresight - why?

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## Regional foresight activities

- Provide guidance to public & private policy-makers & stakeholders Support the development of the ERA
- Link regional activities with national & European policy
- Strengthen the regional identity - both inwards & outwards – provides a communication tool
- Create readiness for change & adaptability

# Regional Foresight – objectives!

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- ❑ Elaborate a vision for region as an advanced knowledge economy in 2020 whose main resource is its ability to develop human capital in new economy skills all round the world from a Balkan base.
- ❑ Guide the decision-making of regional input into the National Development Plan
- ❑ Mobilise public-private sector partnerships to take action on business opportunities
- ❑ Revitalise old networks and stimulate the formation of new networks
- ❑ Explore foresight methodology and approaches and record the process.

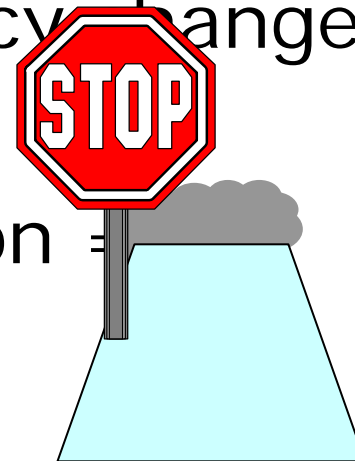
# Regional Foresight - how?

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- ❑ Activities need to transcend horizontal & vertical boundaries
- ❑ Be part of a wider policy context
- ❑ Focus on questions that foresight can influence
- ❑ Mobilisation – be “sold in” to key stakeholders
- ❑ Balanced participation (public, private, NGO, citizens, ...)
- ❑ Not in isolation => linked to other initiatives at regional / national / European level
- ❑ Concrete & tangible results
- ❑ Built in evaluation
- ❑ Continuity

# Regional Foresight – when?

- Activities that have direct impact on the region
- Actors that have direct impact on the region
- Autonomy / political influence required
- Focus on foresight for policy change
- If it cannot be tied to action





# European Foresight Knowledge Sharing platform

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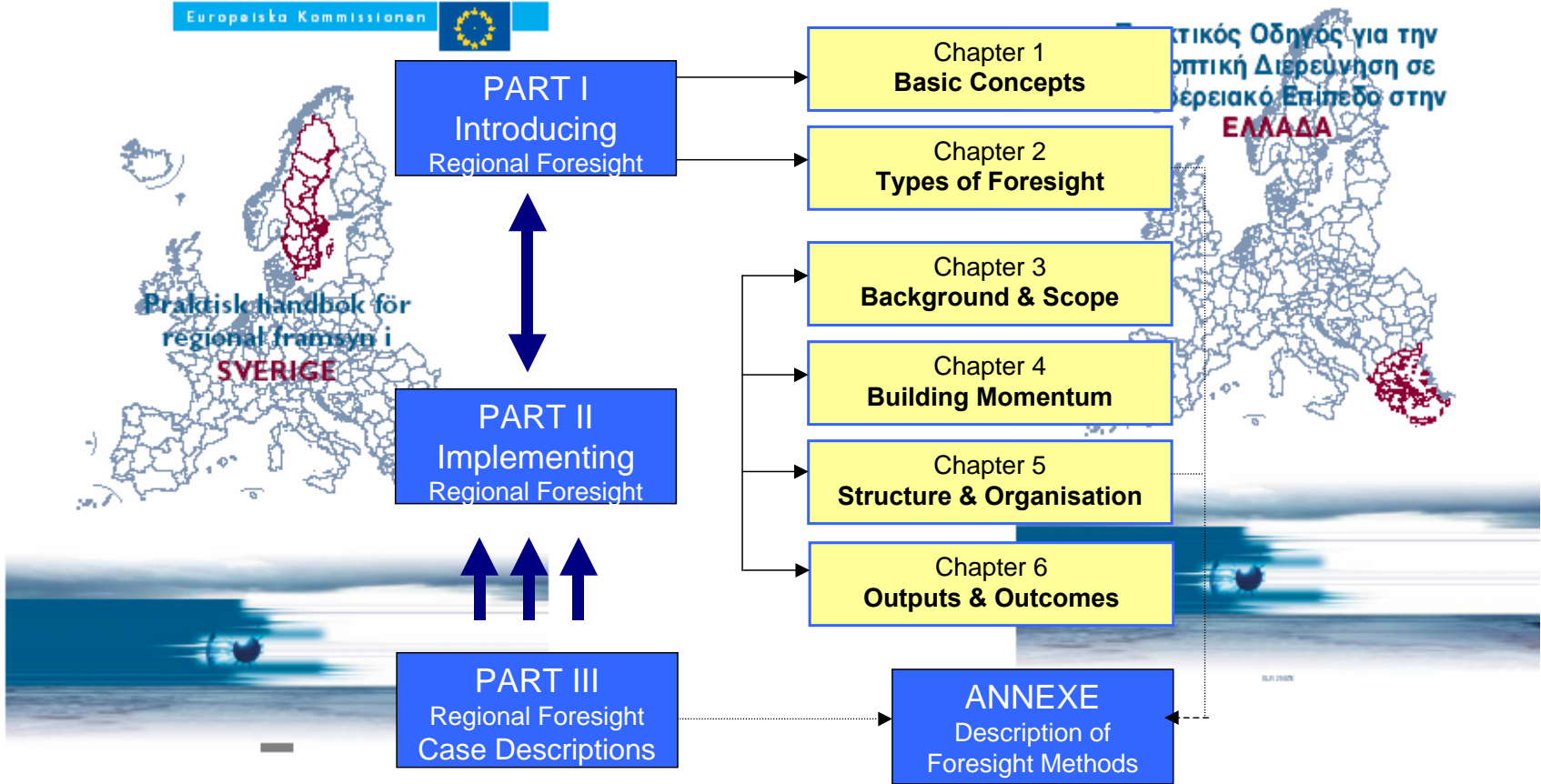
- Monitoring & analysis of, & reporting on, (S&T) Foresight activities at regional, national & European level
- Mobilising foresight knowledge around key EU-relevant issues
- Focus on shared use of results & knowledge produced by foresight initiatives at all levels
  - supporting forward-looking & coherent RTDI policy-making in Europe
  - exchange of good practice & methodological tools
- Activities designed and implemented in close co-ordination with the direct actions of the JRC IPTS (***Joint Research Centres' Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Sevilla, Spain***)

# What is EU trying to promote using Regional Foresight

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- ❑ Develop strategic knowledge and capacity in Europe, and contribute to global institutional landscape
- ❑ Increase synergies: develop and use platforms and networks to disseminate and integrate results from different levels and sectors
- ❑ Develop technical tools and societal processes for an efficient use and improved policy impacts
- ❑ Create forward thinking culture in society as a whole, adapt education & training, improve awareness building
- ❑ Develop joint / complementary activities on common-interest topics

# EU Publications: Country Specific Practical Guides to Regional Foresight



# What is a blueprint?

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*A **PRACTICAL GUIDE** to ask valid questions, make valid considerations, take steps in right direction*

- ❑ A manual or roadmap to **SET UP** a foresight activity
- ❑ **NOT** a foresight exercise in itself
- ❑ Generic but built on **REAL** problems in **REAL** regions
- ❑ Makes explicit why and how choices are being made
- ❑ Focus on **SPECIFIC** regional challenges
- ❑ Builds on stakeholder **INVOLVEMENT**
- ❑ **NOT** prescriptive

# Main components of the Blueprints

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- The regional context
  - **Framework conditions of the region(s) involved?**
- Rationale of the regional foresight process
  - **What is the policy context**
  - **Which issues would benefit from a foresight process?**
- Stakeholder mobilisation
  - **Who are the stakeholders?**
  - **How can the stakeholders be mobilised?**
- How to plan a regional foresight process
  - **foresight process design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation?**
- How to plan for successful implementation
  - **Implementation, follow-up and evaluation of outcomes?**
  - **continuity?**
- Lessons learnt from elaboration of blueprint
- Contacts of regional foresight practitioners/experts

# Useful links & sources of information

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- ❑ <http://www.cordis.lu/foresight/> (Foresight unit, DG RTD K-2, opportunities in FP6)
- ❑ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/> (DG Research official home page)
- ❑ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/> (The 6th Framework Programme)
- ❑ <http://www.cordis.lu/era/home.html> (News on the European Research Area and the FP)
- ❑ <http://www.innovating-regions.org/> (Innovating Regions in Europe)
- ❑ [http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/comm\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/comm_en.htm) (DG Regio policy documents)

# www.cordis.lu/foresight

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**CORDIS** Development of research/innovation policies  
**Science and Technology Foresight**

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## Welcome to the Science and Technology Foresight

### Highlights

- **NEW: three prospective reports are now available online**
  - Outlook report "Europe in the global research landscape" (EUR 22956)**

The report presents an economic and prospective analysis on the consequences for Europe of an intensified globalisation of knowledge production and R&D.  
Please see the report under: <http://cordis.europa.eu/foresight/reports.htm>
  - "The future of Key Research Actors in the European Research Area": Synthesis paper (EUR 21961) and working papers (EUR 21962)**

Both reports are the result of the work of an expert group set up in 2005 on "The future of key research actors in the ERA". The mandate of the group was to undertake an exploratory prospective analysis, looking to 2020, of the role and importance of various actors in the production of knowledge.  
Please see the reports under: <http://cordis.europa.eu/foresight/reports.htm>
- **Under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), Foresight activities are part of the Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities theme of the Cooperation specific programme. To implement the Foresight activities, 3 calls for tender were launched:**

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# http://europa.eu.int/comm/research

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**Facilitating international collaboration**

The launch of the EUR 15.3 million research fund between Norway and Poland in September signals the advent of funding support for projects focused primarily on environmental and health issues, and a strengthening of research ties between the two countries.

**European stars sparkle and shine**

A forerunner in astronomy, Europe has

**A Black Sea voyage**

Sixteen scientists from the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) have embarked

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**Who's who in Research?**

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# <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp7>

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## Framework Programme

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**FP7: the future of European Union research policy**

**FP7 is underway!**

[Interview](#) with Janez Potočnik, European Science and Research Commissioner (PDF 57 kB)

**First calls for proposals published, 22 December 2006**

The first calls for proposals were published on 22 December 2006. You can find all the information about them and how to apply on the [CORDIS](#) web site.

**FP7 specific programmes adopted**

Following the adoption of the Seventh Framework Programme on 18 December, the Specific Programmes were also adopted by the Council on

**Related sites**

- [FAQs](#) about FP7
- The [CORDIS guide](#) to FP7 (mainly for participants)
- [European Research Council](#)
- [Technology Platforms site](#)

For an easy-to-read introduction to FP7 in 21 languages, see the brochure, "FP7 - tomorrow's answers start today", on [Understanding the Seventh Framework Programme](#)

http://ec.europa.eu/index\_en.htm

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## European Research Area

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- Mapping of excellence
- Mobility
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- ERA-NET
- IPR
- Electronic networks for research
- ERA-LINK
- INCO
- Regional dimension
- Bonus Scheme
- Science and society
- S&T Foresight
- S&T Indicators
- FP6
- Security Research
- FP7

**Taking ERA further**

- Towards 3% GDP
- The role of universities

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**Highlights**

- [Consultation on ERA](#) (from 1st May to 31 August 2007)
- [Visit the ERAWATCH website](#)
- [EU and Chile renew cooperation agreement](#)
- [China-EU Science & Technology Year](#)

**FP7 call for proposals: International Cooperation programme**

[Date: 2007-10-02]


The European Commission has issued a call for proposals for 'International Cooperation' activities under the Capacities programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The activity area covered by this call is 'Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T [science and technology] cooperation'...

[Read more](#)

**Euroscience on ERA: Member States must do more**

[Date: 2007-10-02]

Euroscience has welcomed the European Commission's Green Paper on the European Research Area, but notes that more action is needed from the Member States if the ERA is to become a reality. 'So far, the main impediment to progress in implementing the ERA has been the Member States themselves, who jealously and anachronistically guard their positions not...



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# http://www.innovating-regions.org

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*Strengthening the global competitiveness of European regions by promoting innovation policies, and providing a unique platform for regions to cooperate and learn from each other.*



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### Latest News

- PRESENTATIONS FROM FOCUS GROUP ON INNOVATION FINANCING**  
[The presentations from the RIS Focus Group meeting on innovation financing are available.](#)
- TRANS-REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND BENCHMARKING CONGRESS**  
[The impact assessment and benchmarking projects OMEN and ARISE are organising a joint congress on 12 October.](#)
- BENCHMARKING STUDY OF IPR SERVICES TO SMES PUBLISHED**  
[A study of national and regional support related to Intellectual Property Rights has been published.](#)

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### Highlighted Article

#### Knowledge transfer and exploitation of research – learning from the US experience

The innovation lag that exists between the US and the EU is something that concerns many policy makers and academics alike. As Europe increases efforts to develop a knowledge-based economy and foster innovation, policymakers are looking across the Atlantic to see what exactly gives the US innovation system its competitive edge.



http://www.innovating-regions.org/network/whoswho/new\_map\_search.cfm

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 **Commission thematic Communications**

This section contains Communications presented by the Commission to improve regional development and cohesion in the EU. You will find full texts of these Communications for downloading in PDF.

- Communication from the Commission : Strategy for the Outermost Regions: Achievements and Future Prospects - COM(2007) 507 final : [de](#) [en](#) [fr](#) - annexe [en](#) [es](#)  
[fr](#) [pt](#)
- Regions for Economic Change COM(2006) 675 [cs](#) [da](#) [de](#) [el](#) [en](#) [es](#) [et](#) [fi](#) [fr](#) [hu](#) [it](#) [it](#) [lv](#) [mt](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [sk](#) [sl](#) [sv](#) - Annex "Themes" SEC(2006) 1432 [en](#) [fr](#)  
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- The respective responsibilities of the Member States and the Commission in the shared management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund COM(2004) 580  
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- A stronger partnership for the outermost regions  
COM(2004) 343 [de](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [es](#) [pt](#) [da](#) [it](#) [sv](#) [fi](#) [nl](#) [el](#)  
Annex: [de](#) [en](#) [fr](#)
- Reinforcing the Civil Protection Capacity of the European Union  
COM(2004) 200 final - [Eur-lex](#) Year 2004 - Number 200
- Dialogue with associations of regional and local authorities on the formulation of European Union policy - COM/2003/0811 final - [Eur-lex](#) Year 2003 - Number 811  
(Other translations to be published soon)
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council  
On the implementation of commitments undertaken by the acceding countries in the context of accession negotiations on chapter 21 - Regional Policy and coordination of structural instruments (July 16, 2003)  
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- [Paving the way for a New Neighbourhood Instrument](#) (July 2003) [da](#) [de](#) [el](#) [en](#) [es](#) [fi](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [nl](#) [pt](#) [sv](#)
- [Communication on the simplification, clarification, coordination and flexible management of the structural policies 2000-06 \(April 2003\)](#)  
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- [Progress report - The impact of enlargement on regions bordering candidate countries](#) (November 2002)  
[da](#) [de](#) [el](#) [en](#) [es](#) [fi](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [nl](#) [pt](#) [sv](#) (~ 250 KB)
- [The European Community response to the flooding in Austria, Germany and several applicant countries](#) (September 2002)  
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- [The programming of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 : an initial assessment of the Urban Initiative \(June 2002\)](#)

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## But, having said all that....

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- **Now is a great time to do it, never better**
- **plenty of now well-organised expertise to draw on**
- **nationally and at EU level**
- **plenty of excellent printed material e.g. The Guide**

- **lots of other people are trying it too**

# How do you do it, then?

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## □ Expert knowledge based methods

- Delphi method
- Expert panels
- Brainstorming
- Mindmapping
- Scenarios

## □ Quantitative methods

- Bibliometrics, patent analysis, text mining
- Trend extrapolation
- Simulation modelling
- Cross impact analysis
- System dynamics

# Thank You for your attention

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