

The European Foresight Platform (EFP) and the European Forum on FLA (EFFLA)

PARADISO conference
Internet and Societies: New Innovation Paths

Expert panel “Looking at the future of our societies“

08 September 2011

Dirk Johann
Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)

- Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities – Part 8
 - CSA – co-funded by EC
 - Duration: 01/2010 – 12/2012 (36 months)

Consortium:



Predecessor projects:



+



The purpose of the EFP

- to give continuity and expand access to foresight information and knowledge
 - ... through the building on a network of foresight networks
 - ... as a central knowledge hub and repository on foresight related activities in Europe and worldwide
 - ... on projects, actors and practices
 - ... as a service to both practitioners and users



What we do



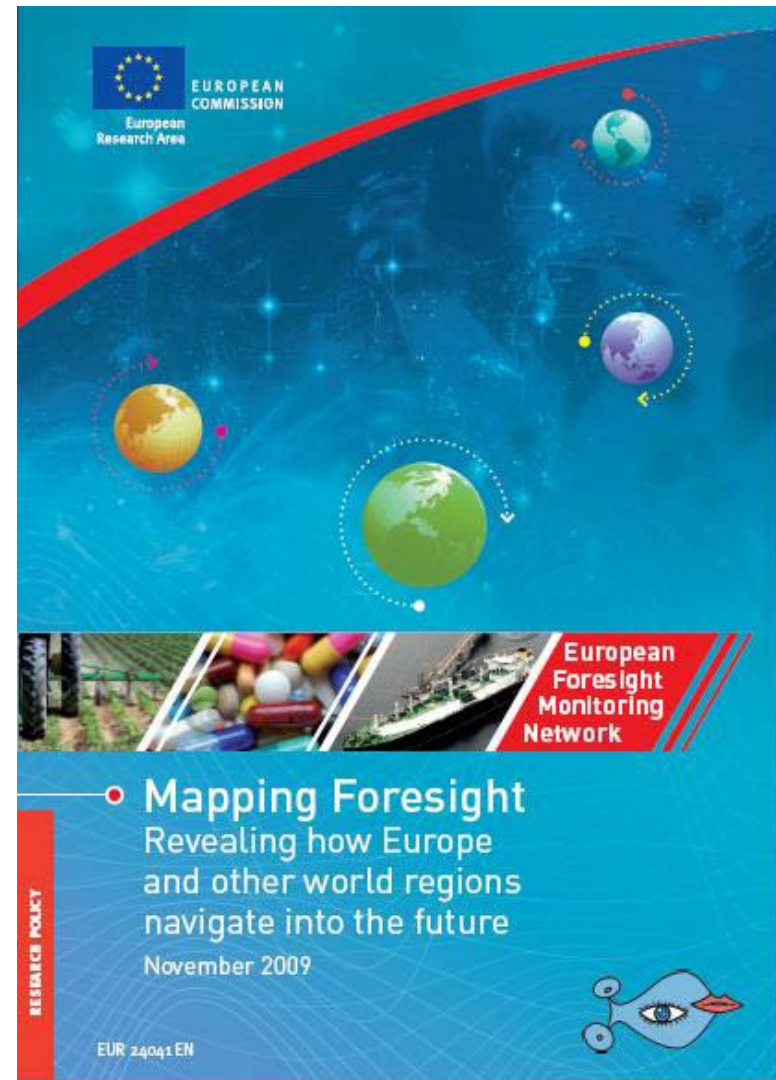
- Systematic mapping of foresight
- Foresight briefs
- Information on good practice
- Policy support
- EFP website
- Community building and website

The systematic mapping

Mapping of foresight

Creation of a comprehensive data set of foresight exercises in Europe and beyond for empirical analysis on various types of activities, methods, customers, experts, countries, clients, results, etc.

This database will be accessible for the EFP foresight community. We invite all practitioners to provide us with data on their activities.



Foresight briefs

The aim of the foresight briefs is to provide in a storyline an overview of the methodology, the results and the impacts of important foresight initiatives as well as the most important forward looking studies.

Overview Briefs summarise foresight activities on Grand Challenges

Follow-up Briefs assess the impact of past foresight activities



European Foresight Platform
 supporting forward looking decision making
www.foresight-platform.eu

Delphi-based Disruptive and Surprising Transformation Scenarios on the Future of Aviation

EFP Brief No. 192

Authors: Steffen Schuckmann Steffen.Schuckmann@ebs.edu
 Dr. Marco Linz Marco.Linz@ebs.edu
 Dr. Heiko von der Gracht Heiko.vonderGracht@ebs.edu
 Dr. Inga-Lena Darkow Inga-Lena.Darkow@ebs.edu

Sponsors: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research¹

Type: Single issue brief

Organizer: Center for Futures Studies, EBS Business School, Marco.Linz@ebs.edu

Duration: 06/10 – 05/13 Budget: 2.3m € Time Horizon: 2025 Date of Brief: June 2011

¹ Note: The content of this publication is based on the joint research project "Competitiveness Monitor", funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (project reference number: 01IC10L18 A). Project duration: 06/2010 – 05/2013. Responsibility for the content is with the author(s).

Purpose

Our study intends to present disruptive and challenging events, i.e. wildcard scenarios, with a significant impact on the aviation industry. We aim to assist decision and policy makers in preparing for the future and enrich decision making processes on possible courses of action by presenting a robust and reliable decision support system and creating awareness for opportunities in strategy and policy. We demonstrate how a Delphi survey (in our case a real-time variant) can be applied as a starting point to systematically develop wildcard scenarios by conducting a deductive wildcard analysis.

Combining Delphi with a Wild Card Approach

In an increasingly uncertain environment, planning uncertainties force policy and decision makers to foster strategic forecasting and technology planning processes, including future-oriented technology analyses (FTA). In spite of its growing importance, the recent expansion of FTA has paid little attention to conceptual development, research on improved methods, methodological choice or how best to merge empirical/analytical methods with stakeholder engagement processes. This is especially the case for Delphi surveys, which are one of the most commonly used tools in FTA. We address this issue by demonstrating how an innovative web-based real-time Delphi can ensure validity and reliability of foresight activities via taking relevant drivers of change into account, such as tech-

nology, socio-culture, politics, the economy and the environment. Our highly standardised scenario development process applies qualitative as well as quantitative measures and equips policy and decision makers with a robust and reliable decision support system.

We outline specifically how the Delphi method can be used to identify wildcard developments deductively and at an early point in time (Daneke, von der Gracht et al. 2010) while we also illustrate inductive wildcard analysis.

Furthermore, the results of our study and adjacent analyses allow to derive an 'opportunity radar', which depicts a range of opportunities and challenges for governments and companies (von der Gracht, Gnatzy et al. 2010). Our 'radar' is the product of several participatory future workshops in which the examined scenarios were discussed. It is designed to provide a pragmatic but also creative perspective on the future while displaying opportunities with different degrees of innovativeness.



European Foresight Platform
 supporting forward looking decision making
www.foresight-platform.eu

The website



www.foresight-platform.eu

The EFP website is a central tool to connect network partner to each other and to create the EFP community.

We invite foresight practitioners to become correspondents and to present their profile on the EFP website so that others can benefit from their expertise and publications.

Foresight Community News

The **European Foresight Platform (EFP)** is a network building program supported by the European Commission's (Framework Programme 7). It aims at building a global network of networks bringing together different communities and individual professionals to share their knowledge about foresight, forecasting and other future studies methods. For more information about EFP please click [here](#) or contact the project coordinator: Susanne.Giesecke@ait.ac.at.

On this homepage of the foresight platform, you find information about current and past foresight projects, conferences, workshops, press articles and other future studies information, e.g the successor of the wellknown forlearn foresight guide. Please consider to apply for registration [here](#), to get full access. The following public list provides a small selection of current news about the foresight community.

Is your Foresight exercise not represented as a Brief on the EFP website yet? Use the occasion and disseminate your interesting forward looking project to a widespread audience of practitioners, academics and other interested readers from the European Commission, the European Parliament, national ministries, universities and other research organisations, NGOs and international audiences such as the UNIDO. Readers of EFP Briefs come from all over the world and like to learn more about your experience. Please share your knowledge with us and send a Brief to Susanne.Giesecke@ait.ac.at. You can find the template for EFP Briefs [here](#). The new filter function will make it easy for the EFP Community to find the Briefs of their interests, e.g. by looking for a special topic or country.

[Urban Futures on PICNIC Festival 2011 – September, Amsterdam](#)

Upcoming Events

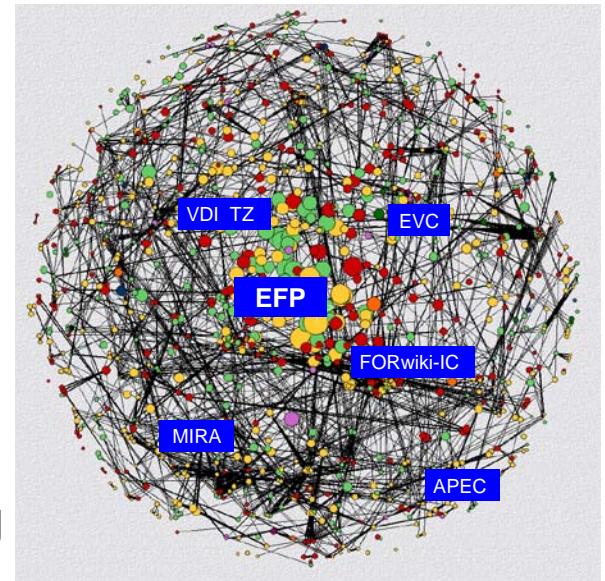
- PACITA Open House session**
September 7, 2011 to September 7, 2011
- Dissemination Conference of COST Strategic Workshop series 2010-2011**
September 12, 2011 to September 12, 2011
- Urban Futures on PICNIC Festival 2011 - September, Amsterdam**
September 14, 2011 to September 16, 2011

[View All Events](#)

Updates

- EFP Brief No. 192: Delphi-based Disruptive and Surprising Transformation Scenarios on the Future of Aviation
- EFP Brief No. 191: Transportation & Logistics 2030
- EFP Brief No. 190: Agriculture and the Challenges of Energy
- EFP Brief No. 189: Foresight for EU-Russia R&D and Innovation Cooperation
- EFP Brief No. 188: Improving Foresight through Methodological Innovation

- Setting up a network of correspondents worldwide
- Policy workshops
- Presentations at key foresight events around Europe and beyond



Lessons learnt for community building

- The purpose determines the organisational set-up
 - EFP as an ‘add-on’ to funded foresight work
- A visible ‘label’ is essential to make the community attractive
 - You must be proud to be a member or hub! The EFP as a quality label.
- Access and contributions to valuable information and knowledge
 - The information provided and the knowledge generated must have a clear added value for the members and contributors
 - Privileged access as an incentive?



Lessons learnt for community building

- Combination of physical and virtual interaction
 - Personal acquaintance and trust are extremely valuable
- Transition from EC-funded project towards a self-sustaining platform?
 - Longer-term EU funding of EFP is not assured, but might continue
 - Preparing for a different type of institutionalisation, e.g. offering services to ist members and external clients, organising events, trainings etc.

- The main ambitions for **EFFLA** are
 - Detect the *missing* Grand Challenges and Opportunities
 - Within the Grand Challenges the EC decides to work on: Detect the *missing* research challenges and opportunities
 - Advise the EC on how to better use FLAs in policy-making and embed FLAs in the research and innovation policy process
 - Have an impact on the European research and innovation policies

- Using **EFP** results for the purpose of the EFFLA
 - Diagnosis on how FLAs are organised and used within the EC, including deficits of embedding roles in the decision-making context
 - Review of gaps in FLAs and identification of missing levels of granularity
 - Advise on good practise how to best engage stakeholders in FLAs
 - Explore the needs for *Social Foresight*
 - Insights on relations between national and EU-level FLAs



Thank you for your attention !

Dirk Johann

(dirk.johann.fl@ait.ac.at)