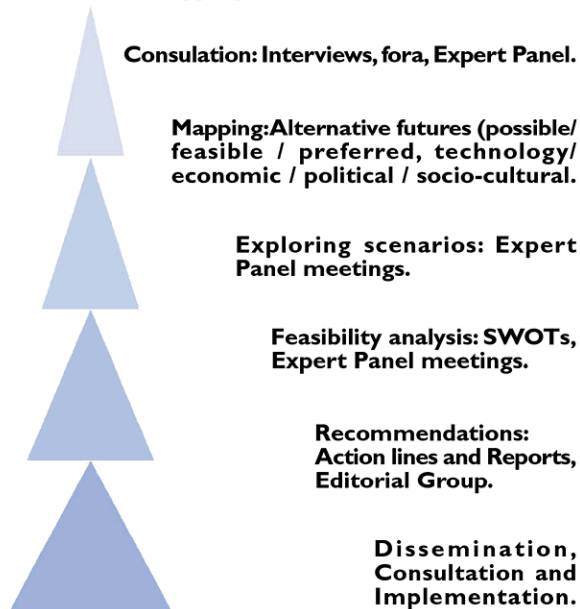


eFORESEE Malta: Exploring Knowledge Futures in Information and Communications Technologies and Education in 2020

Stakeholder Mapping.



Core Objectives:

To elaborate a vision for Malta 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 Mediterranean base.

Further objectives:

- Guide the decision-making of MCST's input into the National Development plan 2003-2006.
- Mobilise public-private sector partnerships to take action on business opportunities.
- Revitalise old networks (NSIT) and stimulate the formation of new networks (cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral, involving new kinds of players such as management and HR consultants, researchers and educators).
- To explore foresight methodology and approaches and record the process.

The Vision

**<http://Go.Malta.Go> - Malta in 2010:
Living in a Knowledge Community
Key features**

- ♦ Highly-networked, knowledge-driven community where the knowledge residing in individuals and organizations, is mapped on an ongoing basis, and made available in real-time via the National Knowledge Platform to the community for discussion, analysis and learning. Organisational, sectoral and socio-cultural boundaries are thereby lowered, allowing for strong community dynamics in favour of fast track learning.
- ♦ Highly innovative product niches created, with ideas and individuals produced through a national applied research center, and supported by a startup fund to enable the exploitation of emerging new ideas.
- ♦ Local knowledge strengths in cultural heritage, commerce, crafts, fisheries, education, lifelong learning, creativity, health, diplomacy, the Maltese diaspora, are fully but sustainably exploited using latest developments in science, technology and innovation.
- ♦ The highly developed ICT and KM infrastructure, the excellent location and facilities for conferencing and research, as well as Malta's small size make it an ideal testbed for a synergy of innovative eCommunity, eGovernance and eCommerce ventures.
- ♦ The ageing population in Europe allows Malta to exploit specialized niche markets in tourism catering for a range of concerns and interests including a secure environment, health, knowledge services especially for persons with special needs, lifelong learning, cultural heritage, required by the more well-off, mature tourist.

A Selection of Recommended Action Lines

STRATEGIC	Setting up of a Ministry for ICT and KM
	Foresight Culture in Governance Initiative (Malta and the Mediterranean)
	Setting Up of a National Knowledge Platform
	Setting up of a startup fund for innovative projects
EDUCATION	eCentre for Lifelong Learning and Creativity Community
	Knowledge Education Network linking public and private schools and higher education institutes
	Foresight in Design and Technology courses
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH	National RTDI Programme – proposed funding priorities: Critical Systems; Open Source Software; Security; 3G Mobile systems; eLearning; eHealth; ebanking and in response to specific Knowledge Community needs
	Strategic Partnership between MCST, MITTS and eMalta Commission to exploit research and innovation opportunities in ICT and KM
	Setting up of an Applied Research Centre for Industry oriented ICT R&D
INNOVATION	Mobility Programme for young researchers and practitioners to encourage public-private sector synergies
SOCIO-CULTURAL	Open eLearning University specializing in new economy themes catering for the Mediterranean region
	Futurefest and Futurechild Initiatives (Malta, Estonia and Cyprus)
LEGISLATIVE	The Knowledge Community Legal Research Network (upgrading of IP and Business Promotion framework; strategic advice on business niches)
SECURITY AND STANDARDS	Malta as a Mediterranean Testbed for Security Research and Policy

Disseminating a Foresight Culture

The eForesee ICT and Education Pilot was the first application of Foresight in Malta. This led to an emphasis on the dissemination of a Foresight culture within the participants in the various parties consulted in the process. Foresight proved to be an incredibly popular tool, and was taken up by a number of people, leading to various Foresight exercises in widely differing disciplines.

Futurechild: This project was aimed at encouraging children to think about what will be the shape of their future and to learn how to use creative tools to influence that future. It was run with children (age 5 - 12) in two primary state schools in Malta between February and April 2003, with the first exercise being a project entitled "What will my village look like in the Year 2020 ?"

Theatre 2020: A foresight exercise about theatre in Malta in the year 2020.

Tourism Foresight: This was organised by the Malta Tourism Society and the Malta Tourism Authority, concentrating on the industry upon which the Maltese economy heavily depends. Will Malta still be reliant on tourism in twenty years time? What if the local tourism industry faces recession and would require major structural changes that alter the shape of tourism's future? Shall tourist profiles change drastically, so as to necessitate the need for completely different facilities, with interrelated land use pressures?



**Malta Council
for Science and Technology**

The FP5 STRATA program promoted dialogue between researchers, policy-makers and other societal actors on general science, technology and innovation (STI) policy issues of European relevance. It supported the establishment of networks and expert groups to improve the European STI policy development process at regional, national and international level, as well as interactions with other policy fields. An important part of this work was support for a series of foresight related actions including - FOREN, FOMOFO, FORETECH, eForesee and a project entitled 'Integrating Technology and Social Aspects of Foresight in Europe'. These and other STRATA project can be found at <http://www.cordis.lu/improving/strata/selected.htm>.