



# **How and why the European Commission uses and supports Foresight**

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# Policy making in knowledge-based economies

- ***Success and quality of policy making in all policy fields*** is increasingly influenced by:
  - ***the quality of the scientific-technological basis and S&T progress***; this depends strongly on:
  - ***the quality and effectiveness of RTDI policies***; which, in turn, is closely related to:
  - ***the quality of the decision basis & preparation, and the relevant advice structures & mechanisms***
- **World-wide increase of Foresight type activities (TF/TA/TF) to enable societal actors to take an active role in shaping the future**



***ENLARGED  
EU***

***CHALLENGES for  
policy makers in Europe***

***S&T impact  
on all  
policy fields,  
European  
Research  
Area (ERA)***

***Lisbon Strategy***

***Regional  
dimension,  
internationalisation  
structuring/  
integrating***

***New RTDI Policy***

***Democratising  
expertise,  
new roles,  
decentralisation***

***New Governance***

***knowledge based economies***

***Global access to knowledge for individuals and companies -  
but equipped and trained to cope with it?***





# Supporting Structured Forward Thinking in the EU:

*Improve thinking, debating, and shaping the future in the context of:*

- **Knowledge based economies** embedded in globalised markets (S&T impact on ALL policy fields, interlinking all governance levels)
- **EU Enlargement**, and reform of European Governance (new societal discourse, empowering regional and local actors)
- The **Lisbon Strategy**
- **ERA and new RTDI policies** (FP6, New Innovative Actions, etc.): address international AND regional dimension by actions of more structuring character

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# Organisation of Foresight Support via DG Research (DG RTD)

Responsibility of Unit ***K2 - "Science & Technology  
Foresight; links with the IPTS"***

- Think tank for DG RTD and other EC services: Provide input to EU research & innovation (RTDI) policies (i.a. FP6), and the policy fields influenced by them;
- Promote a European Area for TA/TF: Interconnect and support respective activities at European, national and regional level, in co-operation with other related actors
- Support developing institutions and methodologies, promote dissemination & use of results
- Implement projects in support of the development and implementation of RTDI policies

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High level expert group to **strengthen European dimension** (TA/TF practitioners and "customers" from policy, business, stakeholder organisations)

- Tasks:** design options to support TA/TF activities, and for efficient use of European, national, regional resources, to
- improve communication and co-operation between actors from different sectors of society, and different policy levels
  - network existing and emerging organisations more permanently, "fill the gaps" to develop a coherent "institutional landscape" in Europe, thoroughly integrated in the international scene,
  - create a shared knowledge pool, and mechanisms / support for broad dissemination and regular events

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# High level expert group *Mobilising regional Foresight potential for an enlarged EU* - a structural contribution to European Integration

## Objectives

- contribute to quick results in creating a European-wide knowledge pool combining the regional assets of European innovation potentials
- enlarge and network the institutional TF/TA landscape in Europe to improve the innovation climate within the ERA
- ensure that all over Europe strategic knowledge can systematically be used to improve decision making at all governance levels
- establish a convincing example for the envisioned European area of research and innovation by systematically linking regional potentials and S&T development in regional structures

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Conference *Europe's regions shaping the future - the role of Foresight* (Brussels, September 24-25)  
(<http://www.regional-foresight.de>)

Broad representation of both 'demand' and 'supply' side

- 1st day: putting RF in a broader context; presenting concrete results achieved in different European regions
- 2nd day: engaging, on the one hand, promoters and sponsors of RF (national and regional authorities, Commission Services, other supporters), and, on the other, practitioners and stakeholders (public and private domain): **to develop ideas and first concrete steps for new activities to harness the potential of RF to contribute to the Lisbon goals**

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# *HLEG Development of Higher Education/ Research relations in the ERA perspective*

## Objectives

- prepare a report on options for supporting a broad spectrum of Foresight for Higher Education related activities contributing to the implementation of
- the European Research area (ERA)
- the Lisbon strategy
- the Bologna Declaration

complementing and strengthening related national and regional activities,

that could be implemented in the course of the next Research Framework Programme and beyond.

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## Projects to network users and practitioners

- **FORMAKIN**:... as tool for knowledge management & innov
- **EUROPTA**: Participatory methods in Technology Assessment (TA) and technology decision making
- **TAMI**: TA in Europe - between method and impact
- **ITSAFE**: Integrating techn. / social aspects of F. in Europe
- **ASTPP**: Advanced S&T policy planning (distribut. intellig.)
- **EUROPOLIST**: Scenarios for evolution of Eur S&T policies
- **FOREN**: Foresight for regional development (22 regions)
- **FOMOFO**: Foresight in the “4 motors for Europe” regions
- **eFORESEE**: ... small Enlargement Countries
- **FORETECH**: ... large Enlargement Countries + MS





## Improved co-operation in Foresight - what could we, need we, and want we to do?

- **Develop capacity in Europe and contribute to global institutional landscape**
- **Increase synergies: develop and use platforms and networks to disseminate results, and to integrate results from different levels and sectors**
- **Develop technical tools and societal processes for an efficient use by all involved or affected**
- **Create forward thinking culture in society as a whole, adapt educat. & training, improve awareness building**
- **Develop joint / complementary activities on common-interest topics**

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**Supporting FS activities in FP6, as strategic contributions to sustainable economic growth**  
(open also to researchers & policy makers from outside the EU)

**A systems approach to support Technology Foresight and Assessment activities throughout the whole EU Research Framework Programme (FP6):**

***“ ... consideration of ... socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight will where relevant form a part of the activities ”***

**(introductory text to the priority thematic areas)**

**Following focus lies on indirect actions (various DG).  
Foresight via direct actions implemented by JRC/IPTS)**

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# FP 6 (17,5 bn EUR) - overall structure

<b>Focusing and Integrating Community research</b> (ca 13,3)							
<i>Thematic priorities</i> (ca. 12,0*)							<i>"Wider field"</i> (ca. 1,3*)
life sciences/genomics	I S T	nanotech / -sciences	aeronautics / space	food quality /safety	sust dev / glob change	citizens / governance	supporting policies/ anticipating S/T needs
							SMEs
							internat. co-operation
							JRC

**Structuring the ERA** (ca. 2,6\*) R&I, HR, Sci&Soc, Infrastruct.

**Strengthening the foundations of the ERA** (ca 0,32\*)  
co-ordination of activities, coherent development of policies)

\* Billion EUR





# Tools & organising principles for ERA and FP6

**Aim: integrate and develop S&T excellence;  
connect central and peripheral competence hubs;  
increase spillovers to local economies**

- **Networks of Excellence (NoE) / virtual laboratories**
- **Integrated Projects (IP): results oriented interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships**
- **joint implementation of national programmes**
- **a European approach to research infrastructures**
- **improving researchers' mobility, and attraction of Europe for non-European researchers**





## FP6 opportunities for co-operation in Foresight type activities: **Thematic FS**

Support for FS practitioners and potential users of  
FS results **focusing on a specific S&T area**

The first six thematic priorities demand research contributions to improve European competitiveness, and to solve current or prospective problems, where S&T may have a substantial impact on society.

**FS activities can be developed at the level of**

- a priority thematic area or one of the sub-priorities, e.g. in the form of specific support actions or co-ordination actions
- a specific theme, e.g. in a multidisciplinary NoE or IP





# **FP6 opportunities for FS type activities: Socio-Economic FS, methodological research**

**Support for FS practitioners and researchers, and  
for capacity building and awareness-raising**

**Under priority 7 (Citizens and Governance in a  
Knowledge-based Society), input from social sciences  
and the humanities, and the active involvement of  
stakeholders, can foster progress in this field**

- **NoE, IP, specific targeted research projects, and co-ordination actions dealing with prospective strategic policy issues**
- **Foresight forming a (substantial) part of consortia**





# FP6 opportunities for FS type activities in "Structuring the ERA"

- "research and innovation"
- "addressing science-society questions"

for FS practitioners, supporters and sponsors, and  
users wishing to co-operate with other initiatives

Specific support actions, co-ordination actions, specific  
targeted research projects for

- encouraging and validating local & regional initiatives
- encouraging trans-regional co-operation (incl. Candidate Countries; cf. IRE, PAXIS, ...)
- testing new tools and approaches (incl. economic & technol. intelligence, information services, ...)

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# FP6 opportunities for FS type activities in "Strengthening the foundations of ERA", 1/2

for FS practitioners, supporters and sponsors

## The ERA-NET scheme:

- support for the co-ordination of activities to support RTDI work, the development of RTDI capabilities, and the promotion of innovation
  - co-ordination of independent activities including their mutual opening
  - preparation and management of joint activities



# **FP6 opportunities for FS type activities in "Strengthening the foundations of ERA", 2/2**

**for FS practitioners, sponsors, and users of results**  
**Specific support actions, co-ordination actions, specific  
targeted research projects for**

- **early identification of challenges and areas of common interest**
- **providing regional & national policy makers with knowledge and tools for decision-making that help them envision, formulate and implement their policies**



# **FP6 opportunities for FS type activities in "Specific activities covering a wider field of research"**

**for FS practitioners and researchers, sponsors, and  
users of results**

**In the broad variety of different actions possible in this  
part of FP6, FS can be the focus, or a part of (in the  
form of mostly all instruments):**

- supporting policies & anticipating S&T needs**
- specific activities for SMEs**
- international co-operation**
- activities of the Joint Research Centre**

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Interested in getting more information and participating in upcoming activities?

- *ERA, 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme:*  
[www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/home.html](http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/home.html)  
[www.europe.eu.int/comm/research/nfp.html](http://www.europe.eu.int/comm/research/nfp.html)
- *Foresight and unit DG RTD K-1:*  
[www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/foresight/home.html](http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/foresight/home.html)
- *Conference "Europe's regions shaping the future - the role of Foresight":*  
[www.regional-foresight.de](http://www.regional-foresight.de)

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