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STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

by Stephen Davies, DG MARE, European Commission

FORESIGHT

*Inter-ACs meeting
17 November 2022*

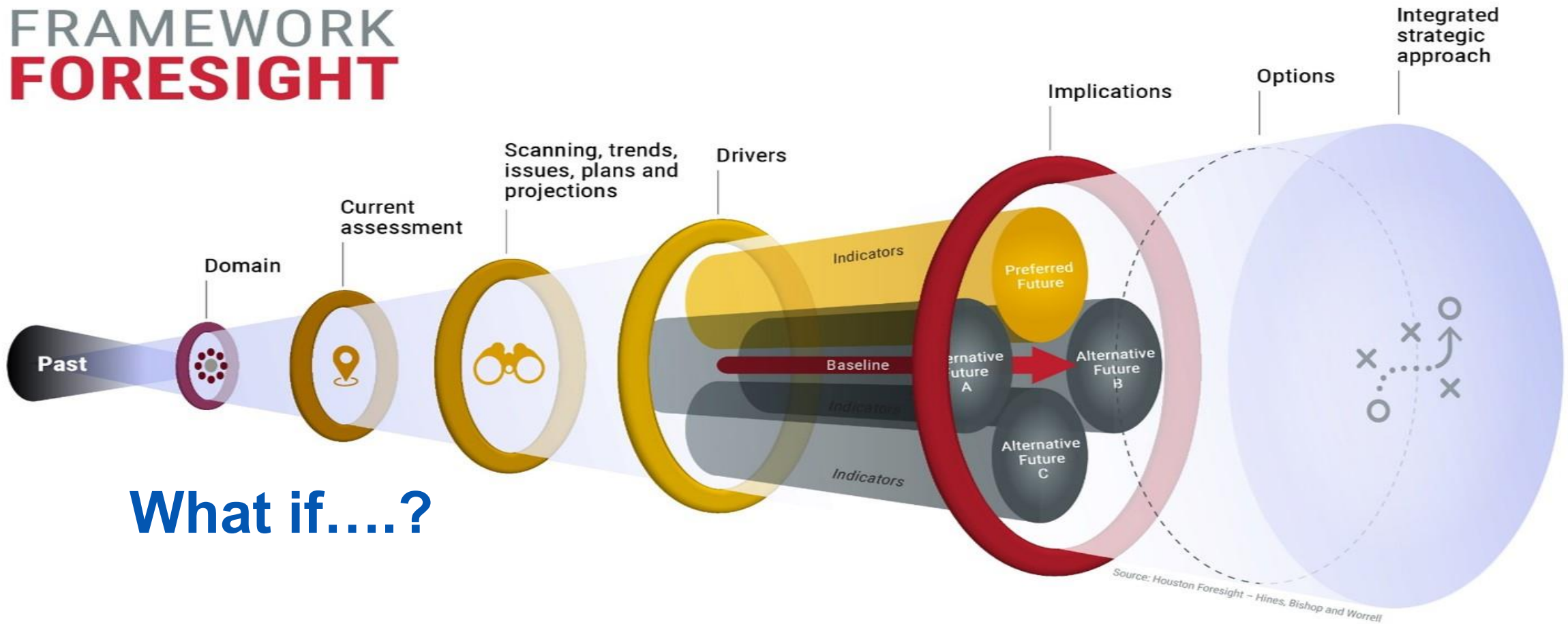
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What is Strategic Foresight?

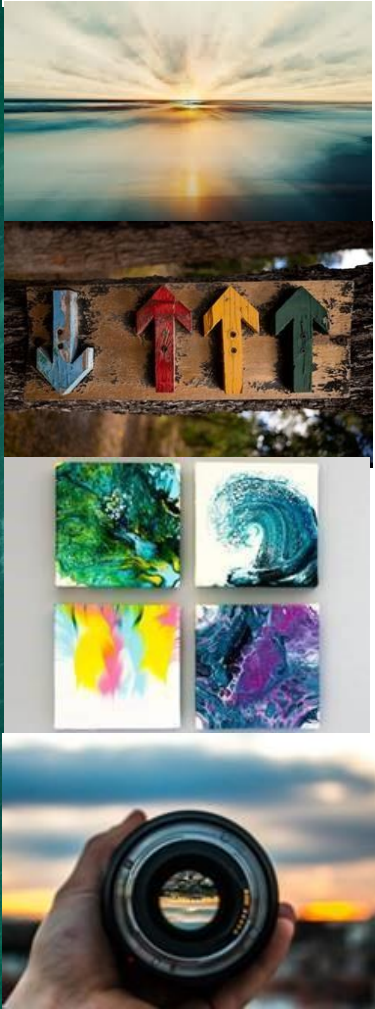
“Foresight helps you think more deeply about potential futures. When you think more expansively about these futures, you are able to make more strategic decisions in the present.”

Amanda Reeves, Foresight expert, @WabiSabiFutures

FRAMEWORK FORESIGHT



How?



Horizon scanning: a systematic scan and collection of events and trends, the output being a future-scape or visual mapping of new signals of change.

Megatrends analysis: analysis and discussion of pattern shifts and interacting trends, the output being a story of the future (singular) and a plan of action.

Scenario planning: interactive and iterative process, involving interviews, analysis and modelling, the output being a set of stories of plausible futures, whether we like them or not, and how these might come about.

Visioning: identification of a preferred direction, the output being a shared understanding and explicit description of the preferred future and a medium-term roadmap detailing specific actions for making progress towards the vision.



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Strategic Foresight in EU Policy

Embedding strategic foresight in EU policy-making enables us to:

- **build and use collective intelligence to anticipate developments and prepare for new opportunities and challenges;**
- **make it integral to Better Regulation toolbox, incl. impact assessments, plus REgulatory FITness and performance;**
- **inform the annual State of the Union address, Commission Work Programmes and multi-annual programming exercises;**
- **foster foresight cooperation and alliances with EU institutions and partners, Member States and other key stakeholders.**

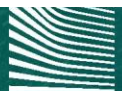


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EU Strategic Foresight in practice

- Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič is the **first-ever Commissioner** for strategic foresight.
- **Annual Strategic Foresight reports** inform on thematic main trends for policy:
 - ❖ 2022: Twinning the green and digital transitions in the new geopolitical context
 - ❖ 2021: The EU's capacity and freedom to act
 - ❖ 2020: Charting the course towards a more resilient Europe
- For 2023, focus will be strategic implications of **social and economic dimensions of sustainability**.
- **Other activities** include EU-wide Foresight network (incl. “Ministers of the Future”), Networking of EU institutions (ESPAS), Intra-DG Commission network; and MARE Foresight Hub.



MARE Foresight Hub: Horizon Scanning

Research for PECH Committee: Artificial Intelligence and the fisheries sector

Study – 20-05-2022

Article | Published: 07 July 2022

A global horizon scan of issues impacting marine and coastal biodiversity conservation

The information age is starting to transform fishing worldwide

Published: April 14, 2022 1.14pm BST

Environmental DNA (eDNA) as a tool for assessing fish biomass: A review of approaches and future considerations for resource surveys

Tracking ships at sea can help catch sanction-busters

Radio data, satellites and a high-tech game of cat and mouse

The role of digital technologies in supporting and improving fishery and aquaculture across the supply chain – Quo Vadis?

Fishoid

AI To Reduce Fish Fraud and Waste

MARE Foresight Hub: Fishers of the Future



BOX 2.5 Fishers of the future

The sustainability of fisheries and the future of fishers and fishing communities are key policy challenges in the context of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)⁹⁸. In line with this, DG MARE will launch its first strategic foresight project on *Fishers of the Future*. The aim of the project is to explore long-term trends that affect the job and the role of fishers.

Useful links

- **EU Strategic Foresight, incl. Annual Reports,** https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/strategic-planning/strategic-foresight_en.
- **Ministers of the Future,** https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/ministers-future_en
- **Horizon Scanning,** https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/foresight/topic/horizon-scanning_en
- **Megatrends Hub,** https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/foresight/tool/megatrends-hub_en
- **European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS),** incl. Conference, 17/18 Nov. '22 on "*Geopolitics is back: Charting a course for the EU in a world of shifts and shocks,*" <https://espas.eu/conference2022.html>

Thank you



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