



3rd European Technology Assessment Conference

MAY 17 TH - 19 TH 2017, CORK, IRELAND

CALL for POSTER/ PRESENTATION

Horizon Scanning

- an instrument for early detection of socio-technological challenges with relevance for policy-making.

Session Organizers:

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Session Duration: 90 plus 60 minutes

Keywords: horizon scanning, trends, emerging issues, policy making, foresight

Word Count Max. 400 words

While for some people recent political developments (Brexit, Election of Trump, etc.) are surprising wildcards others have described these developments as possible trends quite early. Experience show us that it is both a challenge and asset for political institutions in Europe being prepared for unexpected developments and events. Several societal, technical, political or economic trends and events are emerging at a dynamic rate and methods for systematically identifying and assessing these topics are needed in order to initiate adequate political actions. "Horizon scanning" is supposed to offer a set of different qualitative and quantitative approaches to search for, identify, describe and evaluate weak signals and emerging issues.

In various countries, horizon scanning has been implemented for years in order to anticipate changes, opportunities and risks at an early stage with the aim of strengthening the capacity of political actors to act accordingly. Amongst them are the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, Great Britain, New Zealand and Singapore. Furthermore, there are projects in Switzerland and Finland as well as on the EU level, e.g. the Horizon Scanning Report drafted by the Eco Innovation Observatory.

In this session we are planning to invite key actors from above mentioned countries to share their experiences and good practices with the horizon scanning as an instrument for early detection of political relevant societal challenges. Especially in the political arena, what are methodological good practice approaches? What are success factors? We would like to discuss with horizon scanning experts, policy makers and other stakeholders identified hot topics, resulting follow-up activities e.g.



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initiated by policy makers, as well as methodological and institutional requirements and best practices or lessons learnt.

In order to broaden the spectrum of experiences (success stories / stories of failure) we are inviting for a Poster session, where the contributors are invited to present their “tops and flops”.

Here we would like to ask for creative approaches for the presentation, either by a poster based “elevator pitch”- or using Pecha-Kucha presentations (see e.g. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PechaKucha>). Presentations/Posters should therefore address at least one of the following aspects: (1) Scan: Where can new and emerging issues be discovered? What are necessary and solid informational sources or source mixes? Which (software) tools have proven their value to support the scan? (2) Assessment: Which approaches are valuable to identify potential impacts (chances and risks) systematically? (3) Transfer: What are proven ways of transferring findings into policy making?

In total we are planning two different formats for the session. In the first 90 minutes we will have three 20 minutes invited presentations to introduce their horizon scanning work and experiences in a more detailed way. In the following 60 min we would like address up to 6 “lightening pitches” speakers being limited to a 4-6 minute (max.) “pitch” on horizon scanning experiences (esp. transfer and policy making) and to which extent horizon scanning may help to deal with societal and political challenges. The idea is that these mini-presentations will serve as provocations to the audience and a frame for the debates that will unfold over the following session.

Further information: Please send your proposal directly to the sessions' organizers.

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