

Institutionalization of Foresight and Anticipatory Governance Across the World: Comparison and Lessons Learned

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Motivation is ...

- To explore the approaches to institutionalization of foresight capacities in selected OECD countries and international organizations
- To detect good practices in the context of foresight institutionalization and application of foresight approaches that could be applicable not only in the context of the Ministry of Environment, but also in public administration in general (mainly in Slovakia – but not only)
- The project was designed in collaboration with the OECD Strategic Foresight Unit

Research approach

Documentary analysis supplemented by the use of interviews

Selected countries represent a non-probative sample → the objective is to highlight and detect certain trends

Choice of the countries depends mainly on the availability of the interviewees; examples based on documentary analysis are used as well

Interviewees from the following countries shared / plan to share their insights and views through videoconference/e-mail:
Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Germany, United Kingdom, European Parliament, European Commission, European Environment Agency

Structure of the Analysis (in progress)

The analysis attempts to connect theoretical underpinnings with practitioners' views, experience and insights. Preliminary structure of the analysis is as follows:

- Foresight: Origins and Broader Context
- Foresight and Institutional Context
- The Challenges and the Demand for Establishing Foresight Capacities in the Central-European Region: Example of the Slovak Republic
- Models of Foresight Institutionalization and Factors Influencing its Nature (examples from the Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, Estonia, European Parliament)
- Leaving the Ivory Tower: Participatory Approaches in Foresight
- Lessons Learned

Preliminary Conclusions/ Lessons Learned

It is valuable to have mechanisms in place to ensure consistency and continuance of foresight work and to emphasize the value of foresight for decision-makers (e.g. foresight-based plan of the government, planning of foresight work along the election cycles, programs of relevant political parties etc.)

It is helpful to have dedicated foresight capacities insulated from the changes in the government and at the same time with a direct link to key decision-makers

Foresight should consider the complexity of future trends; in the context of outputs, balance needs to be struck between being comprehensive and concise

Interdisciplinary approach is a key imperative: both in the context of substantive foresight work and composition of foresight teams

“Hijacking“ of foresight and conservative vs. radical scenarios

Foresight culture and/or foresight as mandatory requirement