STRATEGIC FORESIGHT FOR BETTER POLICIES

Eionet NRC FLIS Annual Meeting

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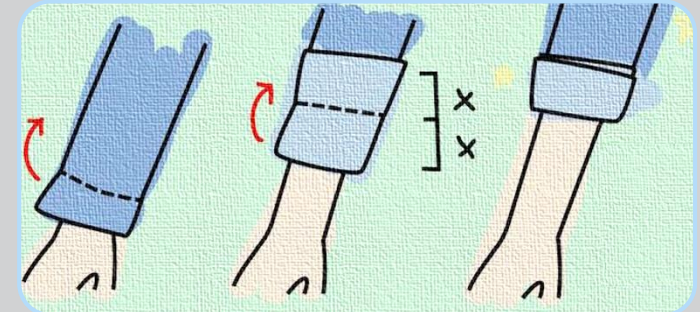
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OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Outline

Strategic Foresight at the OECD

- Navigating uncertainty
- Supporting better policy

OECD Horizontal Project

- Building Climate and Economic Resilience in the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Foresight Project Proposal

- Toolkit and Pilots
- Collaboration
- Feedback

The OECD

- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- "Better Policies for Better Lives"
- International organisation
- 38 member countries and a global reach

www.oecd.org
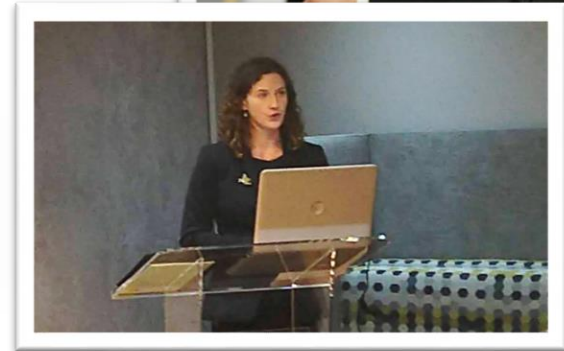
Strategic Foresight at the OECD

OECD ANALYSIS

GOVERNMENTS

GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Strategic Foresight

- ✓ An approach to think systematically about the future to inform decision making

- ✗ Not predictions or forecasts

- ✓ Exploring and preparing for alternative plausible futures

Why foresight?

- 'Future-proofing' policies and strategies

- Identify new opportunities and challenges

- Spur innovative thinking on solutions

Why now?

- *In times of deep uncertainty, responsible policy-making requires strategic foresight*

- Foresight is due-diligence, not a luxury

- Involves:
  - engaging proactively with the future,
  - imagining and preparing for the unexpected, and
  - designing adaptive forward-looking strategies for action

OECD Horizontal Project: Building Climate and Economic Resilience in the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy

Background

- Climate change challenges the economic, social and environmental resilience of societies

- Several potential tipping points could be exceeded even between 1 and 2 °C of warming (runaway loss of ice sheets, permafrost releasing CO2, disabling of the ocean circulation system)

- These tipping points can form a cascade

- Risks to economic resilience, threats to macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability

- So far very limited analysis of the interaction between the two areas

Objective: help policymakers better understand climate emergencies, the inter-linkages with economic and financial systems and the policy toolkit to increase climate and economic resilience

Main Outputs

The project will consist of four parts:

1. **Framing the climate challenge after COVID-19** through developing a framework for the low carbon transition and climate resilience, including assessing the economic consequences if one or more tipping points are reached

2. **Accelerating the transition to low-emission economies** through analysis of mitigation action and tipping points

3. **Building systemic resilience to climate impacts** by identifying local, national, regional, and global policy frameworks and multi-level governance approaches

4. **Stakeholder engagement and outreach** including workshops, a flagship report and an international conference

Why does environment need foresight?

- **Critical need**: overcome <u>barriers to action</u> in the face of future environmental hazards, and a lack of...

  - *understanding* of environmental analyses and scenarios
    - And interactions with broader contextual futures
  - future *visions* the public understands and supports
  - coherent *strategies* linking scenarios to current action
  - *engagement processes* for decision makers to appropriate and own environmental scenarios, visions and strategies

OECD Strategic Foresight and Environment Proposal

- **Deliverables**: a *foresight toolkit* to assist decision makers in building climate and economic resilience
  - Global scenarios
  - Engagement guides (scenarios, visions, strategies)
  - Case studies

- **Process**: 24 months, embedded and in support of OECD horizontal project. Three phases:
  - Creating
  - Piloting
  - Disseminating

Deliverables: foresight for environmental emergencies

Develop environmental emergency *scenarios*

Fostering appreciation of the range of futures that could arise from:

- environmental emergencies
- interactions with the economy and society

Timespan: 10-25 years

Co-create realistic and positive *visions*

Guiding multiple stakeholders toward common aspirations for societal futures under different environmental scenarios

Design effective *strategies*

Exploring how to achieve positive environmental visions in the context of

- rapid change
- continuing uncertainty

Process overview

Stage	Summary	Components
1. Creating	Activities: defining scope, narrative structure and presentation of environmental emergency scenarios and guides for policy-makers Outcomes: draft scenarios and guides	• Literature reviews • Key informant interviews • Workshops with stakeholders on scenario content and presentation
2. Piloting	Activities: test toolkit with experts, young leaders and senior policy makers from pilot government consortium; toolkit revision Outcomes: customised scenarios and strategic orientations for participants; pilot country case studies	• Scenario workshops • Visioning workshops • Strategy workshops • Report writing for participating governments • Solicitation of participant feedback
3. Disseminating	Activities: publicize foresight toolkit along with others produced as part of the main OECD horizontal project Outcome: packaged toolkit	• Launch and institutional presentations • Interactive session at OECD conference • Ongoing OECD support for governments

Summary

The need

Understanding and ownership by decision makers of future scenarios, visions, and strategies

Deliverables

A foresight toolkit for engaging decision makers.

Contents:

1. Global scenarios
2. Engagement guides for:
    1. Adapting scenarios
    2. Developing visions
    3. Designing strategy
3. Case studies and lessons learned

Process

Two year foresight project in three stages:

1. Creating
2. Piloting
3. Disseminating

Partnership

- OECD: ENV, SF and HP team
- 3-5 pilot jurisdictions
- Foundations and others

Questions for discussion

- What is needed from strategic foresight in order to strengthen policies and action on the environment?
- Feedback and suggestions on the proposed project?
- Possibilities for collaboration?

Our work

Towards 2035
STRATEGIC FORESIGHT
Making Migration and Integration Policies Future Ready

Making Migration and Integration Policies Future Ready
Ministerial and Forum on Migration

GOVERNMENT FORESIGHT COMMUNITY
ANNUAL MEETING
PARIS, OCTOBER 2019

Strategic Foresight   OECD   October 2019

Strategic Foresight for Better Policies

preparing for the unexpected. The purpose of this document is to provide senior officials from centres of government with a brief guide to strengthening the foresight capacity of their governments through a better use of strategic foresight in policymaking.

www.oecd.org/strategic-foresight

Collaborating with OECD Strategic Foresight

- Foresight workshops in your organisation to develop policy thinking and/or to future-proof organisational strategy

- Guidance on designing foresight processes and building foresight capacity

- Partner with OECD SF Unit and Directorate/Committee to conduct futures study on a priority issue

- Bring futures issue to high-level discussion

- Engage public/members on futures issues

THANK YOU!

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