

Foresight in the Candidate Countries

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My presentation will cover:

1. The ForeTech project – Technology and Innovation Foresight for Bulgaria and Romania
2. Future regional foresight initiatives stemming from the ForeTech project

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ForeTech Partners

1. Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund), Bulgaria - Coordinator
2. The Romanian Centre for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises - CRIMM Foundation, Romania
3. Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas, Greece
4. School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), University College London, UK
5. PREST (Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology), the Victoria University of Manchester, UK
6. Technology Centre AS CR, the Czech Republic
7. Ministry of Education, Hungary

ForeTech Mission

- to introduce foresight activities in Bulgaria and Romania, building upon the experience and know-how gained by projects and initiatives already supported by the European Commission
- to build up capacity and competence on foresight through transfer of experience and know-how from the consortium partners from the UK, Hungary and the Czech Republic
- to run pilot foresight initiatives in Bulgaria and Romania
- to contribute to the pool of knowledge on foresight in Europe through reviewing and analysing the foresight exercises in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic
- to elaborate recommendations to the European Commission and policy-makers at other governance levels for specific measures to support STI policies in the candidate countries and new member states

ForeTech Concept

- learning-by-doing
- running foresight pilots in both Bulgaria and Romania
- providing basis for comparative analysis of the foresight pilots implementation in both countries



Unique features of ForeTech

- initiated by ARC Fund, Bulgaria, which is a private NGO
- taken up by CRIMM Foundation in Romania, a private NGO
- running for two countries – Bulgaria and Romania, where foresight practice is only now being introduced
- implemented in parallel for identical sector to ensure comparability of results
- strong consortium with broad expertise in foresight methodology, implementation and analysis
- strong public-private partnership during the implementation in Bulgaria and Romania
- various bridging functions – IRC and IRE Networks, FISTERA, the Foresight Bridge

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ForeTech website

<http://foretech.online.bg>

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Regional foresight initiatives

- Country specific practical guides to regional foresight for Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania
- Combination of RIS + Foresight in the next RIS call in the first quarter of 2004 for the South West region of Bulgaria with main city Sofia
- The CRIMM Foundation is currently looking for financial support to implement two foresight regional exercises for Cluj-Napoca and Calarasi



Regional foresight initiatives

- Combination of RIS + Foresight in the next RIS call in the first quarter of 2004 for the South West region of Bulgaria with main city Sofia – following the initiative of DG Research “Blueprints for foresight actions in the regions”
- “Pink-pong” approach between RIS and foresight
- Target – to achieve a knowledge-based economic development of the region
- RIS would be SME-oriented, while Foresight would result in alternative scenarios for the innovative development of the region



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