EC/DG RTD support to *Regional Foresight* - strengthening the strategic basis for development

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Regional Foresight in a European Perspective

- **Background - towards the knowledge-based economy**
- **A new role for the regions**
- **Foresight - What? Why?**
- **Regions of knowledge - KnowREG**
- **The DG RTD "Foresight" unit - what we do**
- **"Blueprints" expert group**
- **Sources of information**

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Towards the knowledge-based economy

- **Vision: Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge society in the world by 2010!**

  Sustainable development; quantitative & qualitative improvement in employment and labour market; greater social cohesion; better governance; life-long learning; people mobility

➔ **ERA: The European Research Area**

➔ **RTDI a top priority = 3% target**

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The regional dimension of the European Research Area

- *Regional dimension* **identified in all ERA related Communications as important**
- **Devolution of public policy**
  - → Territorialisation of RTDI policies
  - → New governance closer to citizens & economic actors
- **Exploiting possibilities offered by the linkage of EU RTDI and Regional Policies (for local & regional authorities)**
- **Involving Member States and Regions in a European Policy context**
- → **Mobilise ALL R&D actors - private & public; European, National *AND Regional***

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(Science & Technology) Foresight

- **Thinking the future**
  - ➔ Identifying today's RTDI priorities on the basis of scenarios of future developments in science and technology, society and economy.

- **Debating the future**
  - ➔ A participative process involving many and different stakeholders (public authorities, industry, research organisations, NGOs, etc.)

- **Shaping the future**
  - ➔ Identifying *possible* futures, imagining *desirable* futures, and defining strategies. Results are fed into public decision-making but also help participants themselves to develop or adjust their strategies.

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Regional Foresight - why?

Regions an important political arena

- **New role for the regions:**
  - → **ERA; enlargement; new neighbour states / regions; etc**
  - → **the global economy manifest itself at the regional level**
- **New Governance**
  - → **democratising expertise; decentralisation / subsidiarity**

Regional foresight activities

- **Provide guidance to public & private policy-makers & stakeholders Support the development of the ERA**
- **Link regional activities with national & European policy**
- **Strengthen the regional identity - both inwards & outwards – provides a communication tool**
- **Create readiness for change & adaptability**

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Regional Foresight - how?

- **Activities need to transcend horizontal & vertical boundaries**
- **Be part of a wider policy context**
- **Focus on questions that foresight can influence**
- **Mobilisation – be "sold in" to key stakeholders**
- **Balanced participation (public, private, NGO, citizens, …)**
- **Not in isolation => linked to other initiatives at regional / national / European level**
- **Concrete & tangible results**
- **Built in evaluation**
- **Continuity**

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Regional Foresight – when?

- **Activities that have direct impact on the region**
- **Actors that have direct impact on the region**
- **Autonomy / political influence required**
- **Focus on foresight for policy change**

- **If it cannot be tied to action =>**

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The Commission supports the use of regional foresight

- **Different actions**

- **Different DGs (RTD, Regio, Enterprise, …)**

- **The 3% action plan**

  "Establish a mutual learning platform to help regions in the further development of their research strategies, taking into account their specific situation and needs. Building on existing activities, the platform will be supported notably by the development of a typology of regions, a methodology for the comparative assessment of regional performance, <u>and specific actions to promote the use of science and technology foresight at regional level"</u>

  ["Investing in research: an action plan for Europe" Communication from the Commission (COM(2003) 226, 30.4.2003)].

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Regions of Knowledge – KnowREG

"Demonstrate the central role of knowledge in driving regional development and how regional actors' can effectively participate in formulating their regions' future"

- **Strengthens regions' involvement and commitment in the creation of ERA and in reaching the Lisbon goals and the Barcelona objective**

by

- **catalysing collaboration on a transnational/transregional basis, enabling learning between European regions**

and

- **identification of models and activities implementable in other regions**

leading to

- **blueprints and models for further activities (not necessarily funded by the EU).**

Run by DG Research, Unit M3 "Competition aspects and structural policies"; Sector "Regional Aspects of Research Policy" responsible for the implementation

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Areas supported under KnowREG

Integrated regional technology initiatives (IRTI)

→ focusing on integrated actions at regional level

→ cooperation between local actors affected by creation, uptake or diffusion of knowledge

→ structured around institutions (public or private) identified as knowledge creators or knowledge users, working in partnership

- *Technology audits and regional foresight (TARF)*

  → analysis of regional economies and technology fabrics and identification of scenarios for future development based on the knowledge based society and economy

- *University driven actions for regional development (UDARD)*

  → demonstrating the roles of universities (and similar institutions) in local and regional economies

- *Mentoring initiatives (MI)*

  → networking between technologically advanced and less favoured regions (Objective 1 regions) with learning partnerships and mentoring initiatives

Supporting activities

- **Workshops, conferences, other awareness raising initiatives**

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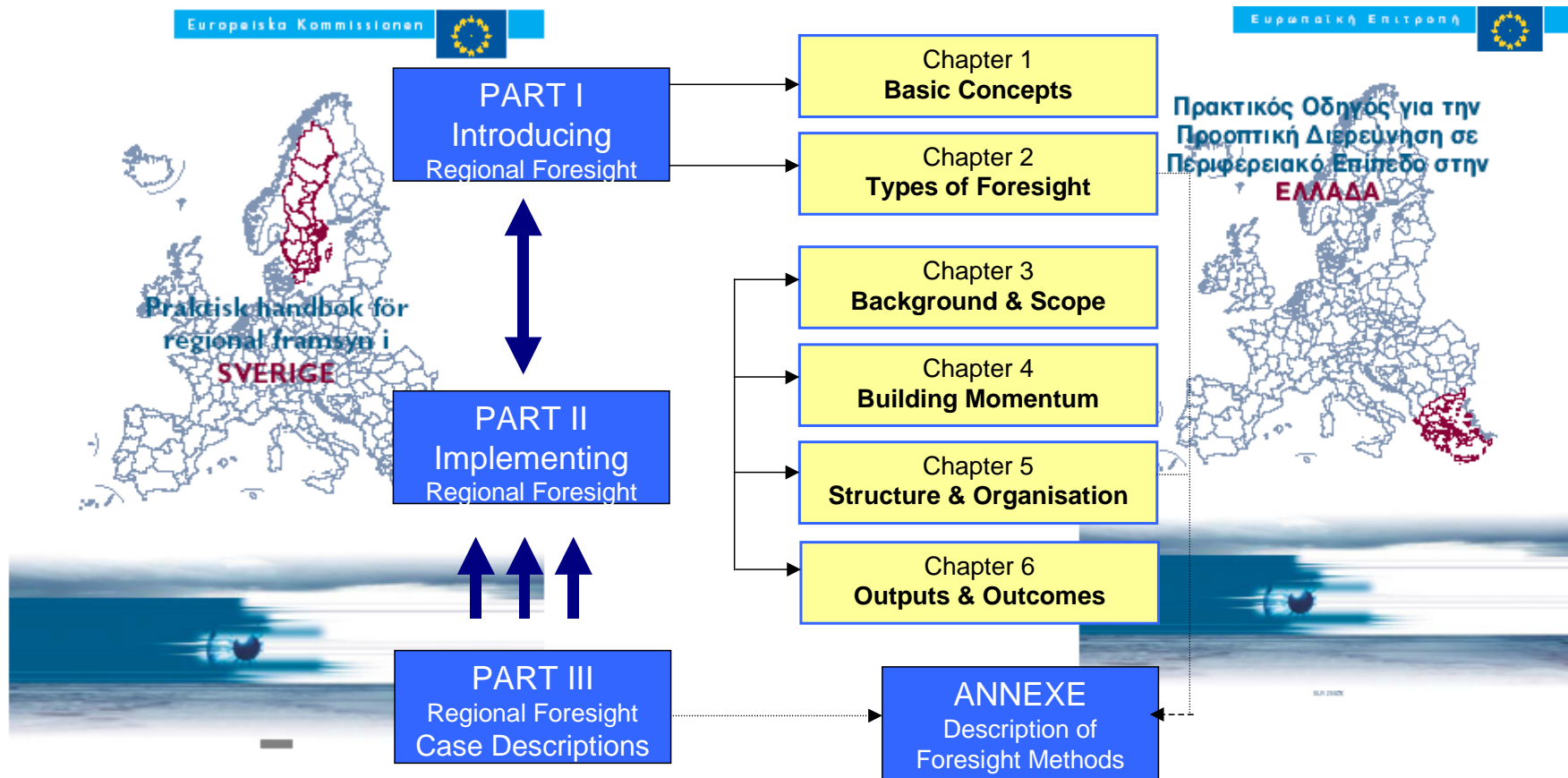# DG RTD unit K2 - "Science and Technology Foresight"

- **Promote a European Area for Foresight**
  - ➔ Interconnect and support TF activities at European, national and regional level, in close co-operation with all related actors in Europe
- **Internal think tank activities**
  - ➔ Provide input to EU research and innovation (RTDI) policy development
- **Implement projects in support of RTDI policy & foresight development**
  - ➔ *in FP5:* **STRATA**; *in FP6:* **Foresight Knowledge Sharing Platform**

- ➔ *Promote foresight co-operation in support of the ERA*

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What we are trying to promote

- **Develop strategic knowledge and capacity in Europe, and contribute to global institutional landscape**

- **Increase synergies: develop and use platforms and networks to disseminate and integrate results from different levels and sectors**

- **Develop technical tools and societal processes for an efficient use and improved policy impacts**

- **Create forward thinking culture in society as a whole, adapt education & training, improve awareness building**

- **Develop joint / complementary activities on common-interest topics**

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Country Specific Practical Guides to Regional Foresight

PART I Introducing Regional Foresight
- Chapter 1 **Basic Concepts**
- Chapter 2 **Types of Foresight**

PART II Implementing Regional Foresight
- Chapter 3 **Background & Scope**
- Chapter 4 **Building Momentum**
- Chapter 5 **Structure & Organisation**
- Chapter 6 **Outputs & Outcomes**

PART III Regional Foresight Case Descriptions

ANNEXE Description of Foresight Methods

Dr C Svanfeldt; DG RTD K2; February 12, 2004

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European Foresight Knowledge Sharing platform (FP6)

- **Monitoring & analysis of, & reporting on, (S&T) Foresight activities at regional, national & European level**
- **Mobilising foresight knowledge around key EU-relevant issues**
- **Focus on shared use of results & knowledge produced by foresight initiatives at all levels**
  - ➔ supporting forward-looking & coherent RTDI policy-making in Europe
  - ➔ exchange of good practice & methodological tools
- **Activities designed and implemented in close co-ordination with the direct actions of the JRC IPTS** *(Joint Research Centres' Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Sevilla, Spain)*

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Foresight related (High Level) Expert Groups

- **The European dimension of S&T foresight** *(ended 2002)*

- **Mobilising regional Foresight actors for an enlarged EU** *(ended 2002)*

- **The Future of Higher Education / research relations** *(first group delivered report in 2002, second group report about to be published)*

- **The Next Technology Wave - Converging Technologies** *(commenced end 2003)*

- **Blueprints for foresight actions in the regions** *(commenced end 2003)*

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HLEG: Mobilising regional foresight actors for an enlarged EU

- **Networking of capabilities across Europe essential to ensure systematic use of strategic knowledge to inform policy-makers**
- **Building bridges - learning from others - consolidating experience & knowledge**
    - → **Same global trends – different impact**
    - → **Trans-regional collaboration accelerates mutual learning processes, & strengthens trans-regional centres of excellence**
    - → **Trans-regional foresight exercises help regions to better exploit European Union support**
- **Conference:** *Europe's regions shaping the future – the role of foresight*
    - → **Expressed need for concrete support – tools, methods, etc.**
    - → **Regional foresight association (ortwin.renn@ta-akademie.de)**

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Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions expert group

- **Why?**
  - → **Supports development of ERA and European Integration**
  - → **Builds on regional foresight to improve policy design & implementation; enhance competitiveness and social cohesion; move towards knowledge based economies**

- **How?**
  - → **Creates learning partnerships**
  - → **Develops concrete suggestions for actions of regional, trans-regional, or horizontal character**

- **Whom?**
  - → *Core group* **experts on foresight processes**
  - → *Regional partners* **with capacity to initiate actions & influence policymaking**

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What is a blueprint?

***A PRACTICAL GUIDE** to ask valid questions, make valid considerations, take steps in right direction*

- A manual or roadmap to **SET UP** a foresight activity
- <u>**NOT**</u> a foresight exercise in itself
- Generic but built on **REAL** problems in **REAL** regions
- Makes explicit why and how choices are being made
- Focus on **SPECIFIC** regional challenges
- Builds on stakeholder **INVOLVEMENT**
- <u>**NOT**</u> prescriptive

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Main components of the Blueprints

- **The regional context**
  - → **Framework conditions of the region(s) involved?**
- **Rationale of the regional foresight process**
  - → **What is the policy context**
  - → **Which issues would benefit from a foresight process?**
- **Stakeholder mobilisation**
  - → **Who are the stakeholders?**
  - → **How can the stakeholders be mobilised?**
- **How to plan a regional foresight process**
  - → **foresight process design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation?**
- **How to plan for successful implementation**
  - → **Implementation, follow-up and evaluation of outcomes?**
  - → **continuity?**
- **Lessons learnt from elaboration of blueprint**
- **Contacts of regional foresight practitioners/experts**

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5 working groups = 5 specific blueprints

1. **FOR-RIS Foresight in the context of RIS/RITTS (building on their results OR starting in parallel)**

2. **UPGRADE Towards more knowledge based regional economies: reconversion of regional production systems in decline**

3. **TECHTRANS Trans-regional integration and harmonisation of technology support mechanisms – a multi-regional response to multi-national firms**

4. **TRANSVISION Bridging culturally close neighbouring regions separated by national borders**

5. **AGRIBLUE Foresight for sustainable territorial development**

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FOR-RIS

- **Building foresight on the results of a RIS/RITTS** exercise

OR

- **Planning for RIS/RITTS and foresight in parallel** profiting from direct synergy effects
- **Pushing the time horizon further forward for strategic actions in the regions.**
- **Exploit the mobilisation of business made through RIS/RITTS in foresight**
- **Build on public/private partnerships**

- *Regions involved:*   *Limburg (NL), Prague City Region (CZ), Mantova (I), Lower Austria (A), Latvia, Slovenia, South-West region of Bulgaria*
- *Core group coaches:*   *Karel Klusacek, Marja Toivonen*
- *Secretary:*   *Irma Priedl (Lower Austria)*

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UPGRADE

- *Towards more knowledge based regional economies:* **strategic up-grading of regions dominated by traditional industrial sectors in decline**
- **Focusing on regions facing ecological degradation, industrial decline or military withdrawal**
- **Aims to *upgrade* skill and technological level and encourage the transition to sustainable, eco-efficient knowledge consuming economies**
- **"Renovation" of public RTDI policy, restructuring of the RTDI support system, integration of regional policy and RTDI policy**
- **Devolution of power and territorialisation of RTDI policy**

- *Regions involved:* *Silesia (PL), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D), Bergslagen (S), North Rhine Westphalia (D), MER (Romania)*
- *Core group coach:* *Gordon Ollivere*

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TRANSTECH

- Open method of co-ordination (OMC) put in practice - structural foresight aiming at building the regional base of the European Research and Innovation Area

- Trans-regional integration and harmonisation of technology support mechanisms

- Technology/innovation process oriented, independent of geographical closeness

- "Multi-regional" response to multi-national enterprises

- *Regions involved:* **Baden-Wuerttemberg (D), Catalonia (E), Greece, Lombardia (I), Wales (UK), Valencia Region (E)**

- *Core group coaches:* **Henning Banthien, Rafael Muguerza**

- *Secretary:* **Anthony Armitage (Wales)**

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- **Neighbouring**,historically and culturally close, **regions** divided by national borders **building common visions of the future**
- **Geographical orientation (as opposed to sector/system orientation in TECHTRANS)**
- **Devolution of power and territorialisation of RTD policies**
- **Harmonisation and integration of regional support measures and RTDI infrastructure**
- **Building on the "Zukunftsbild – Vision d'Avenir 2020" SaarLorLux**

- *Regions involved:* **SEEForesighT Area:** *Szeged (HU), Novi Sad (Serbia) and the Timisoara region (RU);*

  The Large Region: *Luxembourg, Saarland (D), Rheinland-Pfalz (D), Lorraine (F), Wallonie (B)*
- *Core group coach:* *Philippe Destatte*
- *Secretary:* *Pascale Van Doren (Wallonie)*

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AGRIBLUE

- Foresight for sustainable territorial development
- Addresses negative impacts of the abandonment of (agricultural) land
- Linking territorial agricultural policy with RTDI policy
- A "rural UPGRADE": skills upgrading but focus on rural economy and (alternative) land use

BUT ALSO

- Use of new technologies in traditional sectors

- *Regions involved:*   *BMW (IRL); South Savo (FIN); Scotland (UK), Brittany (F), Bulgaria, Hungary*
- *Core group coach:*   *Patrick Crehan*

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- **Blueprints should be useful tools for regions not actively participating in the expert group but facing the same challenges**

- **The working groups should as far as possible be open to outside participation**

- **Redundancies between working groups to be expected = horizontal issues**

- **Commitment and transparency vital**

- **Direct contacts encouraged between ALL members of the group**

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Time frame and outputs

2003

- **December:** *Work started*

2004

- **April:** *Intermediary reporting*
- **Summer:** *Working group Blueprints*
- **September:** *Expert group horizontal report*
- **September 24:** *Dissemination conference*

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Useful links & sources of information

- **http://www.cordis.lu/foresight/ (Foresight unit, DG RTD K-2, opportunities in FP6)**

- **http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/ (DG Research official home page)**

- **http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/ (The 6th Framework Programme)**

- **http://www.cordis.lu/era/home.html(News on the European Research Area and the FP)**

- **http://www.innovating-regions.org/ (Innovating Regions in Europe)**

- **http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/comm_en.htm**
        (DG Regio policy documents)

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