

FEN MEETING MINUTES

Autumn 2017 FEN meeting in Florence following BeFORE Knowledge Alliance meeting,
9 November 2017, Florence, Italy



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Opening

Cornelia Daheim the President of Foresight Europe Network FEN welcomed participants and presented the agenda assuming at the same time that the meeting would be both: fruitful and enjoyable.

A short welcome was followed by the greeting address from **Alessandro Guadagni** of ValueDo – the host institution, which manages the coworking space of 91C (the meeting venue) and provides consultancy and support to enterprises, to local authorities and regions, research centers and universities, toward access to EU direct funding.

Next, the FEN members and the representatives of organisations interested to join the network introduced themselves and their professional interests. Potential new FEN members included a.o.: Economic University in Bratislava; Mondragon University; Errequadro; ValueDo, Pisa University; Padua University.

10.30 Inspiration & Inputs

The meeting started with the keynote presentation *“The methods adopted by the Tuscany Region for the development of the smart specialization strategy”* delivered by **Dr. Emanuele Fabbri**, from the Office of Tuscany Region.

Dr Fabbri referred to the regional foresight, which was carried out in Tuscany in 2013. When managing the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process the region has been encountering some key challenges, which include: (1) capability to combine creativity and strategic planning and (2) ability to merge the need for monitoring and evaluation with successful change management. In his take away message Dr Fabbri underlined the importance to link foresight with innovation policy roadmap of the region, which needs to consider such topics as: Industry 4.0 and Future of Work.

11.45 FEN-Matters

After Q&A session and discussion, **Cornelia Daheim** presented the short background of the Foresight Europe Network, and referred to the aim of the network, which is to advance foresight in Europe through:

- enabling connections between practitioners in two meetings per year,
- furthering and creating projects between the members,
- activities showcasing foresight at conferences and events, and joint publications.

She emphasized that organization is informal (no fees, no admin, no legal issues) and focused on creating funded projects. FEN meetings are held two times a year. The presidency is run in “trio”-leadership which guarantees sustainability. The strategic pillars of the FEN network are: The Future of Work, Foresight Capacity Building, Creating the Future with Younger Generation and the Future of Cities, and Global Challenges – Global Governance from a European Perspective.

Furthermore, Cornelia presented the overview of FEN recent activities referring to the Futures Conference in Turku (June 2017), with which FEN associates with. She also introduced latest trends in the foresight practitioners’ field, which concerns experiential foresight. She finalised her speech by inviting the participants to come forward to volunteer and support the network activities (PR, projects. Communication, ...).

The next presentation delivered by **Anna Sacio-Szymańska** (Institute for Sustainable Technologies NRI and FEN-vice-president) concerned the [“Becoming Future-ORiented Entrepreneurs in universities and companies”](#) – beFORE project, a Knowledge Alliance funded by EACEA. BeFORE is a European project which aims to promote proactive attitudes and futures thinking skills in the context of:

- Future career paths among higher education students;
- Future research paths among higher education teachers,
- Future business opportunities among entrepreneurs.

Since FEN is the associated partner of the project, it promotes the project activities and encourages FEN members to support ongoing research and practical tasks. Currently, the project is carrying out a [survey on the competences of the future](#). All FEN-members are kindly requested to circulate the survey among the students; researchers and business representatives who are not foresight practitioners, but who might be interested in increasing their awareness of their impact on the future even in the face of uncertainty and change. The survey links: <http://www.futurecompetences.itee.radom.pl> and <https://nri.checkboxonline.com/nri.aspx> are active until 17 December 2017.

The next speaker was **Ibon Zugasti** (Prospektiker), who gave a thorough account of the latest Millennium Project activities & Future of Work 2050 workshops update. More info on recent activities of the Project (in which many FEN-members are also active) can be found at <http://www.millennium-project.org>, also on the recently published “State of the Future 19.1” report <http://www.millennium-project.org/publications-2-3/>.

Then **Simone di Zio** of Pescara University invited participants to take part in a Delphi Survey for developing 2040 future scenarios based on the Gender Equality Index. These scenarios are implemented on both quantitative statistical models and subjective based approaches, which consist of the construction of possible/plausible developments of a number of key factors. The key factors are the six core domains of the Gender Equality Index (work, money, knowledge, time, power and health), and the future trends of the same is a key point for the scenario development.

14:00 Working & Discussion Sessions: „Deep Dives“ on FEN strategic pillars

After the session of Q&A and discussion, participants split in three groups to discuss FEN strategic pillars, which were: **Future of Cities & Regions** (chaired by Martine Delannoy from Digipolis); **Foresight Capacity-Building** (chaired by Anna Sacio-Szymańska, ITeE-PIB) and **Global Challenges, Global Governance** (chaired Norbert Kołos, 4CF).

The groups worked hard to come forward with the potential project ideas related to the abovementioned topics.

Below are the summaries of the discussions carried out within each of the group, which were presented in the closing phase of the meeting.

Results from the Working Session Foresight for and by Cities and Regions

The session was chaired by Martine Delannoy (Digipolis, Gent) and opened with her presentation on the futures activities in Gent, reaching from Futures Scripting to co-creative city-making (the presentation is available for download on the city website). The working session participants discussed

their views and experience of / with foresight in cities and regions, highlighting e.g. the relevance of connecting to and considering rural regions, a new participation push, alternative modes of interaction e.g. from experiential foresight approaches such as in gaming, or inclusion in foresight. The group agreed on these concrete **next steps**:

- Martine interested to lead an **overall workstream of activities within FEN on city / regional foresight**
- Martine will involve individual FEN members for a possible **contribution to their conference in April in Gent**
- Cornelia will share materials with Martine on previous FEN regional / city foresight activities and connect her with other members active in the field
- **Option to host a FEN-workshop on city / regional foresight at next FFRC conference**
 - o Re-use principle of last FFRC-conference on “The Future of Work – perspectives from across Europe”, with contributions from FEN-members from different countries and a very interactive format (Cornelia to share respective materials with Martine and enable re-using this principle)
 - o Topic needs to be adapted to conference call
 - Ideas: “Imagining Sustainable City Futures – Perspectives from across Europe”
 - E.g. feature focus on citizens, alternative scenarios in city planning, inclusion, marginalized citizens
 - o Deadline for handing in formal abstract is early December
- Option of a European research project of several FEN members in this field: Nondas should be approached about finding funding options for respective projects of FEN members – but probably best to first form a group of FEN members interested in the topic and a clearer idea of the type and topic of such a project.

Results from the Working Session Global Challenges, Global Governance

This working group, chaired by Norbert Kołos (4CF) focused on the specific Horizon 2020 call and aimed to brainstorm the outline of the expertise and main steps required for the pursuing of a joint project proposal.

The call name is: **GOVERNANCE-06-2018: Trends and forward-looking scenarios in global governance.**

The partner who agreed to manage the preparation of the proposal is Dr. Burkhard Auffermann; Senior Research Fellow at Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC), University of Turku. In his view: *“the proposal needs not only competent partners in the field of Futures Studies, but first of all proven expertise and professional competence in foreign policy analysis, International Relations, Development Studies, sustainability studies, (international) governance, etc.”*

The expected impact from the project should equip relevant EU actors and partners with knowledge and tools for navigating and influencing effectively the emerging and future shifts in global and transnational governance, thereby increasing their readiness, resilience and capacities for developing globally coordinated strategies.

There has been already follow-up online collaboration regarding this topic among the partners who expressed their interest to work on the proposal. For more information, please contact ASAP: (venla.kinnune()utu.fi and burkhard.auffermann()utu.fi)

You are more than welcome to provide the following information:

1. Name (of the person in charge) and link to a CV or other source for information about your experiences/competences related to the topic)

2. Name(s) and similar info about other people involved
3. Name of your institution (private company? Size?/Research Institute/university etc.)
4. Relevant addresses, homepages, e-mails etc.
5. Contact person (e-mail, in case differing from 1. or 2.)
6. General field(s) of competences in your institution
7. Your specific interest in the project/specific idea about what you could contribute
8. Other, additional relevant ideas in the context of the proposal. (For example good ideas for additional partners with specific competences needed?)

Results from the Working Session Foresight Capacity Building

This working group, chaired by Anna Sacio-Szymańska (ITeE-PIB) focused on the project idea that originates from the emerging strategic foresight team based in the international business and finance department of the National Technical University "[Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute](#)" (NTU "KhPI", Ukraine).

The team is highly interested to combine foresight with the topics of: high technology entrepreneurship, local/regional development scenarios design and policy recommendations.

The team aims to pave the way for the integration of foresight into the strategic planning processes at the partner universities. The initial idea (draft title: *Foresight as a Strategic Planning Tool for Higher Education*) involves three working phases:

1. Study/evaluation of existing models and forms of foresight integration into the university strategic planning;
2. Creation of foresight groups in partner universities;
3. Pilot initiatives in foresight implementation.

The scope of the above project opportunity aroused great interest among the participants and resulted in an animated discussion, and good practice sharing. The main messages are noted below:

- The project should convey positive message that will work in this outstanding cultural and regional context; such as: *"Foresight for Community creation"*; *"Foresight for hope"*;
- The starting point should be the specific needs of the local territory and stakeholders *"problems and challenges they identified themselves and are passionate about"*; framed in the broader EU/European context: *"Foresight as Social Innovation"*;
- The triad of project sub-topics would be: Global challenges – Foresight – Entrepreneurship;
- It is important to underline that the project is not merely about developing the methodology but that the nurturing of foresight-mindset is equally important;
- Within a project, a model/dedicated foresight approach could be co-developed and implemented in practice *"learning-by-doing experience"*; i.e. pilot foresight curriculum development and testing.

The main questions that the project could try to answer are the following:

- How to foster future-thinking attitude among university research staff/ departments?
- How can we expand the imagination of students towards the future?
- How to make a bigger and sustainable impact?

The environmental challenges that the project may face include:

- In general, participatory, bottom-up approaches are not well developed, widely used and accepted as a form of societal dialogue; therefore it might be difficult to implement them in the region;
- Consequently, a string of awareness-building seminars with leading researchers & practitioners from the field would be needed (“*can we involve (ex-ante) the local media?*”);
- The project toolbox could include experiential learning methods to let the stakeholders understand (experience) what participation means;
- These activities would result in (1) forming micro-communities (among academic community) and in (2) eliciting the issues the community in question finds the most important to be acted upon with the use of foresight.

Some related case-studies for consideration were brought into discussion, such as:

- Socio-economic observatory (Palestine);
- ENRICH project (Hungary, Corvinus Univ);
- Fostering team-entrepreneurship among unemployed people (Spain, Mondragon Univ);
- International Summer School recognized by prime minister’s office in Iceland (Italy-Iceland-Finland).

At the moment the suggested **funding scheme** include: (1) ERASMUS KA2 Capacity Building projects, Category 2 - Improving Management and Operation of Higher Education Institutions; priority thematic area: strategic planning and management of HEIs. We are checking other funding options as well.

The key contacts for this project idea are: Anna Sacio-Szymańska (anna.sacio@itee.radom.pl); prof. Taras Danko (tarasdanko2010@gmail.com) and assoc. prof. Natalia Shyriaieva (natalia.shyriaieva@gmail.com).

Among the interested partners there are: Free University Berlin, Institut Futur; Future-Impacts (Germany); Mondragon University (Spain); Corvinus University (Hungary), Palacky University Olomunc (Czechia), Pescara University, University of Bologna, ValueDo (Italy); ITeE-PIB (Poland).

Closing and Next meeting

Cornelia Daheim thanked everyone for their attendance and active participation and closed the meeting informing about the **next FEN event**.

The date of the next FEN-meeting will be the day before or the day after the FFRC Futures conference 2018 in Tampere (the conference is on 13th and 14th of June 2018), see <https://futuresconference2018.wordpress.com> .

* Presentations from the meeting will be uploaded on the FEN website as shared.