

FORESIGHT EUROPE NETWORK, MEETING MINUTES



**Spring 2017 FEN meeting in Turku, following conference FUTURES OF A COMPLEX WORLD,
13-14 June 2017, Turku, Finland**

13 June 2017

Opening

Introduction to the Foresight Europe Network FEN activities was given by the President of Foresight Europe Network FEN, **Cornelia Daheim**. The President welcomed everyone and presented the agenda assuming at the same time that the meeting would be very productive. A short welcome was followed by roundtable presentation of the FEN members and new partners.

Then, Cornelia presented the short background of the Foresight Europe Network, emphasized 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 publications.

In the next step, **Anna Sacio-Szymańska**, the Vice President of the Foresight Europe Network introduced the main objective and activities of the beFORE project: ***Becoming Future-Oriented Entrepreneurs in universities and companies***, within which FEN is one of the associated partners. The project aims to develop an online Futures Literacy course for students, academics and entrepreneurs. It is co-funded by Erasmus + Knowledge Alliance scheme and is supposed to deliver all the results by the end of 2019. Apart from FEN as the associated partner, it involves 10 leading partners from Italy, Poland, Spain and Germany and 3 associated networks including ISPIM Innovation Society. Currently, the consortium has been engaged in building a list of competences, a future-oriented entrepreneur should possess. The process has consisted of the literature review, business case study analysis, formal and non-formal educational offer review, data mining and expert survey.

FEN meeting participants were asked to fill in the questionnaire to assess the thirty-nine competences indicated in this process. The results of the survey will help the project consortium to extract the key set of 10-15 competences, which will be then the core of the needs-analysis survey among the project target groups.

Afterwards, **Cornelia Daheim** presented current FEN principles. The President emphasized that organization is informal (no fees, no admin, no legal issues, open to membership without formal “barrier”) and focused on creating personal meetings and funded projects. The FEN meetings are held two times a year. The presidency is run according to Troika-leadership model which guarantees sustainability. When explaining the three party leadership model, Cornelia recalled the first president of the network (then then European Regional Foresight College): Ibon Zugasti and the second president Blaz Golob (at present the vice-president). The strategic thematic pillars of the FEN network are: The Future of Work, Foresight Capacity Building, Creating the Future with Younger Generation and the Future of Cities.

In the next step, **Cornelia Daheim** announced and facilitated the interactive session on strategic directions of the network through “Moving discussions in duos”. The underlying questions for the discussion were the following: 1) What benefits would you like to get from FEN?, 2) What can you contribute?, 3) What do you think is critical for FEN future directions? Then, the FEN members put the answers on the post-its, supplying a wealth of inputs and also possible activities and personal support for the network activities (see annex for details). Finally, **Cornelia Daheim** thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the first day of the meeting.

14 June 2017

Opening

Cornelia Daheim opened the second day of the meeting and presented the agenda, and new FEN meeting attendees, who were not present the previous day introduced themselves. The first part of the meeting was devoted to the following presentations:

- **Michal Pazour**, Technology Centre CAS: Activities in foresight capacity building in Czechia
- **Prof. Emmanuel Koukios**, NTUA, Greece: Using foresight knowledge and practice to assess the emergence of bioeconomy
- **Martha Montemayor**: Foresight in Mexico
- **Tuomo Kuosa**: A New IT-tool – the Futures Platform

Michal Pazour presented the activities in foresight capacity building in Czechia, the outcomes of foresight in the country and shared his experience related to offering foresight to public administration (through courses and workshops).

The second presenter, **Prof. Emmanuel Koukios** described the project titled “The new tsunami of socio-technical change: Foresight of agro/bio/chemo/eco/cogno/...convergence”, in short: *BIO-TSUNAMI*. The implementation of this project is financially supported by the *POLONEZ 1* program, which is one of the EU’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, coordinated by the Polish National Science Centre. The object of this project is to initiate a foresight exercise on the fast approaching second tsunami of socio-technical transformation, built by a much wider spectrum of converging powers, including biotechnology, new agriculture, novel foods, health, quality of life, environment, sustainability, education, knowledge management, design of smart applications, and more. A characteristic of this succession of technological tsunamis is that the new one – that we can call “bio-tsunami” - “absorbs” selective element from the previous one, thus multiplying its power and enhancing its applications range; an example is the use of bio-informatics, which can be seen as an application of the info-tsunami, and at the same time as a tool for the operation of the bio-tsunami.

The third presenter, **Martha Montemayor** presented the state of the art of the futures studies in Mexico. She described the existing published works on the topic in Mexico and emphasized that in the country, there are five universities teaching futures studies such as: 1. ITESM (Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey), UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), 3. ELAP (Escuela Latinoamericana de Prospectiva), Universidad Centro de la Ciudad de Mexico and COLTAM (Colegio de Tamaulipas). Regarding future cooperation with FEN, Marta Montemayour would gladly broaden information and documents about new methodologies and tools for future studies (Strategic Anticipation) developed in South America by Eduardo Balbi (Argentina) and Julian Meneses (Colombia), and which she believes represent a true breakthrough for the discipline.

Tuomo Kuosa presented Futures Platform tool and the possibility it gives for researchers. Futures Platform™ is a web-based tool that helps organisations build a holistic view of their own future and make winning choices in a changing world. Subscription to the tool provides access to a trends map with inspirational articles and videos curated by future foresight experts. Users can blend in their own insights, assess future changes together with their team, and make educated decisions to seize opportunities and mitigate risks. With Futures Platform™, organisations will have their future radar constantly switched on. The key message of the last presenter – Tuomo Kuosa was that one can freely add the foresight tool to any of his/her applications as a module. The pricing can be found at <http://www.futuresplatform.com/pricing> FP’s 2-3 hours Skype education, user PDF manual + fast user support are included in the price.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to FEN matters. First, **Ibon Zugasti** described the past activities of Millennium Project (many FEN members are also active in the MP), such as:

- organization of the Future of Cities Conference: “The big challenges” (San Sebastian, 16-18 March 2016) with the Iberoamerican Network of Cities (CIDEU)
- cooperation with the Finnish Node on ENCORE, Turku Urban Research Programme
- participation in the ECLAC (UN) Seminar on futures & SDG. Territorial foresight in Europe
- participation at the Ljubljana Forum 2016 – Future of Cities

In the next step, **Anna Sacio-Szymańska** presented a general overview of funding opportunities regarding the FEN topics of interest. The possible financial support could come up from the three sources:

- **Horizon 2020, Inclusive Economy Work Programme** covering the topics of:
 - **Socioeconomic and -cultural transformations** in the context of the fourth industrial revolution;
 - **Governance** for the future;
 - **Migration** strategies.
- **Horizon 2020, Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation Work Programme, Twinning Call**; which could cover any topic of interest of the applying consortium;
- **Erasmus + Knowledge Alliances and Strategic Partnerships calls**, which are especially suited for the topics of: Future of Work, Future of Education, Future of Futures Profession, Creating Futures with Young Generations etc.

The details of the above opportunities can be found in the .ppt “**FEN collaborative projects: now and future**”.

Three partners expressed strong support and willingness to contribute in this consortia/project building activities. These included:

- Burkhard Auffermann, FFRC, Finland
- Epaminondas Christofilopoulos, PRAXI network, Phenomoe Lab, Greece
- Joris Vauters, Digipolis, Belgium,

More commitments were expressed by some of the partners and they are all included in the annex.

Next, the partners were discussing 5 topics of interest for the whole network. These included:

- Future of Work (Cornelia)
- Future of Cities (Ibon)
- Foresight Capacity Building (Anna)
- Creating the Future with Younger Generations (Erica)
- RIBRI project (Osmo)

Cornelia Daheim introduced the strategic issue of “**The Future of Work**”, which lends itself to activities of FEN, as many members already work on the topic. This is also the current research project of the Millennium Project, and many members of FEN are also nodes of the Millennium Project and therefore working on the topic. FEN-activities have already started in this realm, for

example with an interview series run by Jef Dewegenare (intern at Future Impacts with Cornelia) with several FEN members, which might be made into a publication. Furthermore, at the FFRC conference, several FEN members (from Finland, Greece, Spain, Czech Republic and Germany) cooperated successfully to run a workshop on “Future of Work: Perspectives from Europe”. Future activities in this field could e.g. involve offering workshops in different countries showcasing perspectives from Europe (in a comparable format to the one at the FFRC conference), and creating a common publication on this topic.

Concerning “**Future of Cities**”, Ibon Zugast described C.I.T.I.E.S Network (International center for innovation and knowledge transfer on the social and solidarity economy): created during the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) by cities such as Montreal, Seoul, Barcelona, Bilbao and Mondragon Corporation (PROSPEKTIKER). In the ppt (FEN_TURKU_CITIES) prepared by Ibon he also refers to two other proposals of cooperation such as: H2020 URBAN COMMONS proposal: Call on demonstrating innovative nature-based solutions in cities. 32 partners including SMARTIS (Slovenia) and PROSPEKTIKER (Spain) and NATO proposal on “Smart cities in the age of terrorism”: With the participation of SMARTIS (Slovenia), 4CF (Poland), Yair Sharan (Israel) and Ted Gordon (US).

With regard to **Foresight Capacity Building**, Anna underlined (citing Andy Hines) that as the community we have far less influence over the future than we could. Foresight awareness-raising and educational activities could equip and empower the stakeholders to influence the future. Another side of the coin would be to initiate the activities aimed to promote the field, attract talented individuals who could join the field and build recognition for the profession. This is how this topic relates to the Future of Work theme of interest. A suitable instrument, which we could use to generate projects around these topics would be Erasmus + Programme with its Strategic Partnerships and Knowledge Alliances. Again, the details of this funding opportunities can be found in the .ppt “**FEN collaborative projects: now and future**”.

Erica Bol described the possibilities of creating the future with younger generation through **Teach the Future, Young Future Ideas and Young Futurists initiatives**. The main aims of the **Teach the Future** initiative are to bring futures thinking into the classroom and help children to become the entrepreneur of their own future and that of the world around them. The target audience of the initiative and end customers are young people between the age of 8 and 24. **Teach the Future** (Europe) is set-up to be a network of people that like to support the mission and will help bring it forward. Erica expressed her willingness to cooperation with FEN members to help bring future thinking into the classroom in their countries. The aim of the **Young Future Ideas** is to collect vision of the future from small children. An interesting example of a possible EU project (waiting to get funding approved) directed to youth in the EU and its future is Europe Alive set up by Dansk Kommunikation in Denmark in which Teach the Future is participating to help integrate the future aspect. **Europe Alive** is the name of an unprecedented and innovative technological teaching method for students in secondary education and youth organizations to learn about the European Union in a fun and engaging way. It combines traditional role-play with a web based computer model. The aim of the game is to let youth dive into the European union, learn about their past, the current situation to build the future of Europe together. The aim of the **Young Futurists** is to inspire youngsters for the foresight profession. Erica finds it important to make sure our profession and network keeps a young spirit. “We probably all feel young” she underlines, but it would be great to also see this in age. Erica’s speech concluded with two ideas: “ Every member brings in a protégée

they would like to introduce into the network” and “Every Millennium Node Chair / Country representative will look for 3 to 5 ‘young futurists’ they would like to introduce into the network”. Erica’s notes are also added in the annex of this document.

Osmo Kuusi described the opportunity to join **RIBRI project**, which aims to generate technological opportunities for the EU based on the Radical Technology Inquirer tool. The nature of the collaboration will be further specified by RIBRI consortium (Fraunhofer ISI, FFRC, Prospectiva), who is planning to carry out expert interviews with the representatives of 20 EU countries.

Finally, **Cornelia Daheim reminded of the next FEN meeting (7th and 8th of November, Florence)**, summarized the main points, thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the second day of the meeting.

All presentation shared are available from the FEN website: www.feneu.org

Annex: Documentation of outputs

What benefits do we see/expect?

1. PROJECTS AND NETWORKING

- Partners for projects
- Partners for collaborating
- Find a project partner easily
- New project initiatives
- Networking Meeting Foresight People
- Networking
- Networking; participation in projects; mobility
- Connections
- Tapping into local communities (e.g. in Greece)

2. ACCESS TO EXPERTISE AND GOOD PRACTICE SHARING

- Contacts and expertise
- Good contact + material support
- Access to expertise
- Access to practice
- Information exchange
- Sharing experiences
- Tap into other people's experiences
- Students knowledge about projects
- Exchange of ideas; know-how; best practices; methods
- Learning about inspiring projects or tweaked method
- Methodological Exchange (What works/not)
- Different paradigms + frameworks

What is important for Future Directions

1. WISELY CHOSEN JOINT COLLABORATION THEMES TURNED INTO PROJECTS

- FEN should develop joint substance/projects
- Tangible projects
- Projects → Founds; Target higher chance project areas: info, edu, strategic, local, regional
- Foresight for EU policy-making
- Topic of new entrepreneurship (within futures of work)
- Go for H2020 Projects
- Projects and some funding

2. EXPANDING THE NETWORK

- Joint actions or develop the network
- FEN Awards; Projects; Strategy → Vision; Promoting Campaign; CITY AFFILIATIONS
- Turn FEN into network of national networks of young people
- Reaching younger generations & diversity overall

3. ORGANISATIONAL FITNESS

- Bi-annual network meetings of FEN ... Need to be announced early
- Facebook page meeting with 2-3 people if they travel to same city
- Continuity
- Lack of network continuity might cause disruption

What can you contribute?

1. COORDINATE OR PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT

- Set up/ Identify/ Coordinate Project Proposal EU – Funds ([Hardi](#))
- Develop projects/cooperation ([Hardi](#))
- Project initiation ([Nondas](#))
- Partner Projects ([Peter DeSmedt](#))
- Be a member in project applications (I) ([Toni](#))
- Coordinate on project proposals → esp. Trends and forward-looking scenarios ([Nondas](#))
- Governance – 06-2018 → [Nondas to coordinate potential efforts](#)
- Non-EU partner in: Higher Education, National Security, Governance (I) ([Leon Young](#))

2. MENTORING AND STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT

- Volunteering; Inform colleagues; Exchange Young FEN Members (II) ([Leon Young](#))
- Mentoring; Web/Skype Tutorials; MobiCity – Exchange (Staff, Students); Prizes-Thematic ([Mature](#))
- Students: Communicate about FEN for other students (II) ([Toni](#))
- “Open innovation” to join for students in futures studies programs
- Need for Young (Millennials)

3. FACILITATE MEETINGS

- Organizing Conference ([Michal Pazour](#))
- Meeting informally “When in Ghent? “ ([Joris](#))

4. INCUBATE NEW IDEAS

- Ideas for conceptualizing
- Outside of Europe Perspective
- European Research Council (→ They can Connect?)

Notes on Future and Youth from Erica Bol

Ideas & Initiative

Teach the Future; bringing futures thinking into the classroom.

Vision: All young people applying *futures thinking* skills to actively shape their own lives, thriving and contributing to a better world.

Mission: To encourage, enable and support progressive educators and institutions to integrate *futures thinking* skills into the curricula, pedagogy and learning of young people.

Target audience: End customer: young people between the age of 8 and 24

Intermediate customer: progressive educators and institutions

Goal: Help children to become the entrepreneur of their own future and that of the world around them.

They help pave the way by creating:

Awareness; presentations, seminars, articles, dialogs

Interaction; classroom, sessions, workshops, camps

Tools; collecting, referring, developing, library

Curriculum; co-design, design, courses

Connection; swarm, co-create, share experiences

Research; future skills, thinking styles, pedagogical learning

Teach the Future (Europe) is set-up to be a network of people that like to support the mission and will help bring it forward. We would love to work together with all of you to help bring future thinking into the classroom in your country!

Young Future Ideas; collecting vision of the future from children all over

As we believe children have the future, we would like to know what and how they think about the future. We would like to connect with them and bring together their visions to start the dialogue and inspire them to co-create the future together.

A nice example of a possible EU project (waiting to get funding approved) directed to youth in the EU and its future is Europe Alive set up by Dansk Kommunikation in Denmark in which Teach the Future is participating to help integrate the future aspect.

Europe Alive is the name of a unprecedented and innovative technological teaching method for students in secondary education and youth organizations to learn about the European Union in a fun and engaging way. It combines traditional role-play with a web based computer model. The aim of the game is to let youth dive into the European union, learn about their past, the current situation to build the future of Europe together.

Young Futurists; inspire youngsters for the foresight profession

We find it important to make sure our profession and network keeps a young spirit. We probably all feel young, but it would be great to also see this in age. We like to inspire young people to join us in our futures mission.

Ideas:

- Every member brings in a protégée they would like to introduce into the network
- Every Millennium Node Chair / Country representative will look for 3 to 5 'young futurists' they would like to introduce into the network
- ...

We are looking for ways to do this, if you have ideas we would love to hear about it.

Contact Erica Bol (erica@teachthefuture.org) for ideas, suggestions, updates, etc. to support our Youth FEN