

**ONLINE INFORMAL WORKSHOP  
ON FORESIGHT IN R&I**

**STRENGTHENING OF THE R&I  
FORESIGHT COMMUNITY**

**10 December 2021**

**10.00 – 13.00 CET**



## WELCOME AND CONCEPT NOTE

The Slovenian Presidency is pleased to host the third Member State / Associated Country / Commission (MS/AC/COM) workshop on R&I foresight.

The workshop builds on the German Presidency workshop (25<sup>th</sup> November 2020) and Portuguese Presidency workshop (22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021).<sup>1</sup> The German Presidency workshop focused on the state of art of R&I related foresight activities on national levels, and the Portuguese Presidency workshop deepened the process of identifying and analysing global uncertainties from the EU and the Member States perspective. The Slovenian Presidency will now move the focus to implementation and invite the workshop participants to consider ways to strengthen Europe' s R&I foresight community as a strong force in European Strategic Foresight and as a complement to the "Ministries' of the Future" network of the European Union.

With this workshop, the Slovenian Presidency aims for an ever better interaction of national and European level foresight communities, for the strategic planning of Horizon Europe and future Framework Programmes.as well as for the benefit of national R&I policies across Europe.

Therefore, this workshop has two main goals:

- Inform on progress in the current COM foresight project to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe (in which many of the workshop attendees are national contact persons), and to identify interesting national foresight work and players in this respect; and
- Discuss needs and ideas to strengthen the R&I foresight community through working on topics/issues of common interest, mutual learning and sharing of resources.

The workshop agenda can be found on page 5. As per the agenda, we will begin with speaker contributions on the role of foresight and exemplary projects. The workshop will then progress to facilitated discussions, which will take place in two parallel groups, which will focus on **how to strengthen the R&I foresight community**.

In preparation of the workshop, in order to have informed discussions and take advantage of the diversity of foresight capacities, approaches and experiences across Europe we would like to encourage participants to think about following questions:

- *What can my country contribute to the European R&I foresight community, e.g. in terms of institutions, activities, experiences, themes, etc.?*
- *What benefits are there for my country and for Europe in a reinforced network of R&I foresight actors?*
- *What are the best ways to promote and support a strong European R&I foresight community?*

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<sup>1</sup> Workshop reports can be provided on request.

Please note that we welcome your participation in your personal capacity and ask for your individual opinion, and not for statements on behalf of your country or organization.

The parallel sessions will address two different aspects:

### ***1. Mutual learning processes and sharing resources***

Discussion in the first parallel session will focus on “the mechanics” of strengthening Europe’s R&I foresight community: needs and opportunities for mutual learning, sharing experiences, developing shared resources and building further collaboration between users, producers and other stakeholders in R&I foresight. We need to integrate different areas of foresight capacities, explore common views and build a knowledge-based society supported by the results of excellent foresight. To be able to do so, we need to discuss strengths, opportunities, threats and weaknesses, map the overall R&I foresight capacity of Europe and the potentials for mutual learning to ensure a European community of foresight experts and users in the field of R&I policy with clear leadership and governance.

### ***2. Possible foresight topics of common interest***

Discussion in the second parallel session will focus on identifying themes about the future that address needs of R&I policy across different European countries and can be the subjects of future common foresight work. It will build on the Portuguese Presidency workshop, and in particular on the survey on perceptions of global uncertainties of high potential impact which identified the following uncertainties<sup>2</sup>: ecosystems collapsing; level of R&I collaboration in Europe; cooperation vs battle over Artificial Intelligence; critical raw materials; (r)evolution in the labor market and the need for reskilling and upskilling; EU as world leader in pursuit of Climate Change and Circular Economy; the dependency ratio vs maintaining the Welfare State. Discussion will address whether and how these global uncertainties could relate to foresight topics of common interest, how they are linked to R&I policy needs at national and EU level, and whether there can be different approaches to identifying needs and topics of common interest as well as proposals for potential topics of common interest that are not included in the above mentioned list.

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<sup>2</sup> Global uncertainties, unlike mega-trends that are defined as irrevocable certainties and developments already underway and nearly impossible to change over the coming decade, are driving forces that point to alternative and contrasting evolutions (definition in the PT PRES survey).

## **REGISTRATION AND TECHNICAL DETAILS**

The workshop will be held virtually, through the Zoom platform.

Please register your presence for the virtual workshop **by the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (inclusive)** via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/informal-workshop-on-foresight-in-research-and-innovation-tickets-212500383367>.

During registration, you are invited to select the parallel breakout session you would like to participate in under agenda item “Towards a European R&I Foresight community”. Please note, allocation to groups is done on a first-come basis and if a session is over-subscribed you may be allocated to the other session.

A practical information note (PIN) detailing technical instructions for the workshop will be sent to registered participants before the event.

If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact [science-pseu.mizs@gov.si](mailto:science-pseu.mizs@gov.si).

We are looking forward to your participation in the workshop.

Official channels of the Slovenian Presidency (as of 1 July 2021)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SLOtoEU>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eu2021si>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eu2021si>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/eu2021si>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/VladaRepublikeSlovenije>

<b>AGENDA</b>	
Part I.	Moderator: Peter Volasko, Director, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia
10.00	<p><b>Welcome addresses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Tomaž Boh</u>, Director-General, Science Directorate, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia</li> <li>• <u>Joanna Drake</u>, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
10.15	<p><b>The rising importance of foresight in R&amp;I policy &amp; Horizon Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Peter Wostner</u>, Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Slovenia</li> <li>• <u>Delilah Al Khudhairy</u>, Director, Joint Research Centre, European Commission</li> </ul>
Part II.	Moderator: Nikolaos Kastrinos, Policy Officer, European Commission
10.45	<p><b>Foresight for the 2nd Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe</b></p> <p><u>European Commission project update -</u></p> <p>Foresight to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe: Matthias Weber and Tanja Schindler</p> <p><u>Q&amp;A</u></p> <p><u>National foresight project presentations -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of FR project: Grégoire Postel-Vinay, Ministry of economy, finance and employment</li> <li>• Presentation of CZ project: Tomáš Holinka, Ministry of Industry and Trade</li> </ul> <p><u>Q&amp;A</u></p>
11.30	Virtual coffee break 15 min
Part III.	Moderator: Peter Volasko
11.45	<p><b>Towards a European R&amp;I Foresight community</b></p> <p><u>Presentation of the results of the OECD survey:</u> Michael Keenan, Senior Analyst, OECD</p> <p><u>2 Parallel sessions on foresight substance and mutual learning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to structure mutual learning processes</li> <li>• Possible foresight topics of common interests</li> </ul> <p>Facilitators of parallel sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Casingena Harper, PhD, Council for Science and Technology, Malta</li> <li>• Marc Bovenschulte, Director, Institute for Innovation and Technology, Germany</li> </ul> <p><u>Reporting to plenary and discussion</u></p>
12.50	<p><b>Closing remarks and the <u>way forward</u></b></p> <p>Nikolaos Kastrinos (EC), Peter Volasko (SI) and Christophe Bonte (FR)</p>
13.00	<b>Conclusion of the online workshop</b>



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