
Western Balkan Futures 2020 Foresight Project

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Overall objectives of WEB Foresight 2020

- Developing a Knowledge Based Society in the region while speeding up the integration process to the EU
- Identifying priority areas for social and economic development in the Western Balkan region and financing those areas through development support funds
- Opening opportunities for sectoral development and thus increasing the role of the region in the global economy

Knowledge Based Society

KBS involves intersection of development of:

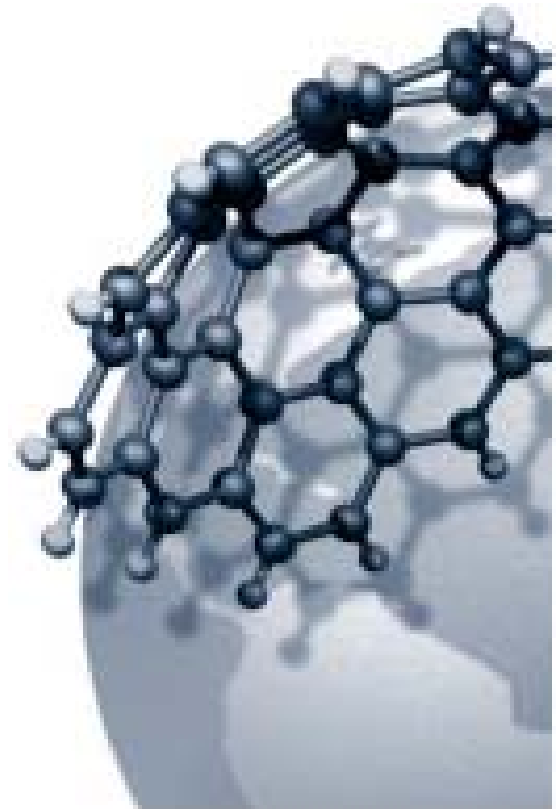
- Information Society based on new ICTs
- Innovation
- Service economies
- Knowledge management
- Support of Knowledge Based competitiveness in the context of Globalization, Demographic structures, Cultural practices & Environmental affairs

Benefits

- Bottom up identification of long term priorities
- Enforcement of good governance
- Contribution to the future development of the European Union during the Western Balkan accession to the EU

Methodology: Foresight

- “the application of
 - *‘systematic’*,
 - *‘participatory’*,
 - *‘future-intelligence-gathering and medium-to-long-term vision building process’* to
 - *‘informing present-day decisions and mobilising joint actions’*”



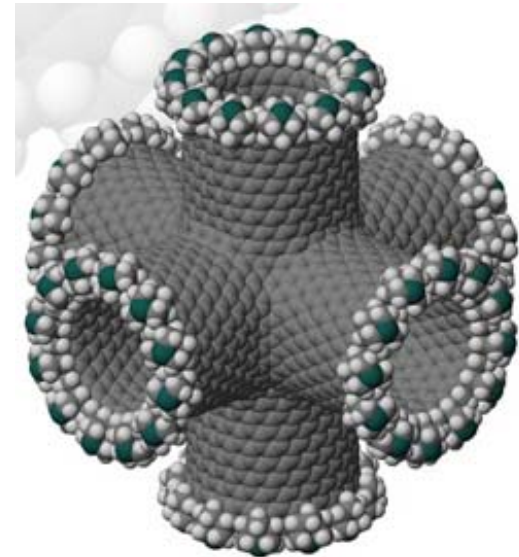
The uses of Foresight

Products

- Build visions of the future
- Provide anticipatory intelligence to system actors
- Set general research directions
- Inform policy and public debates
- Inform funding and investment priorities

Process

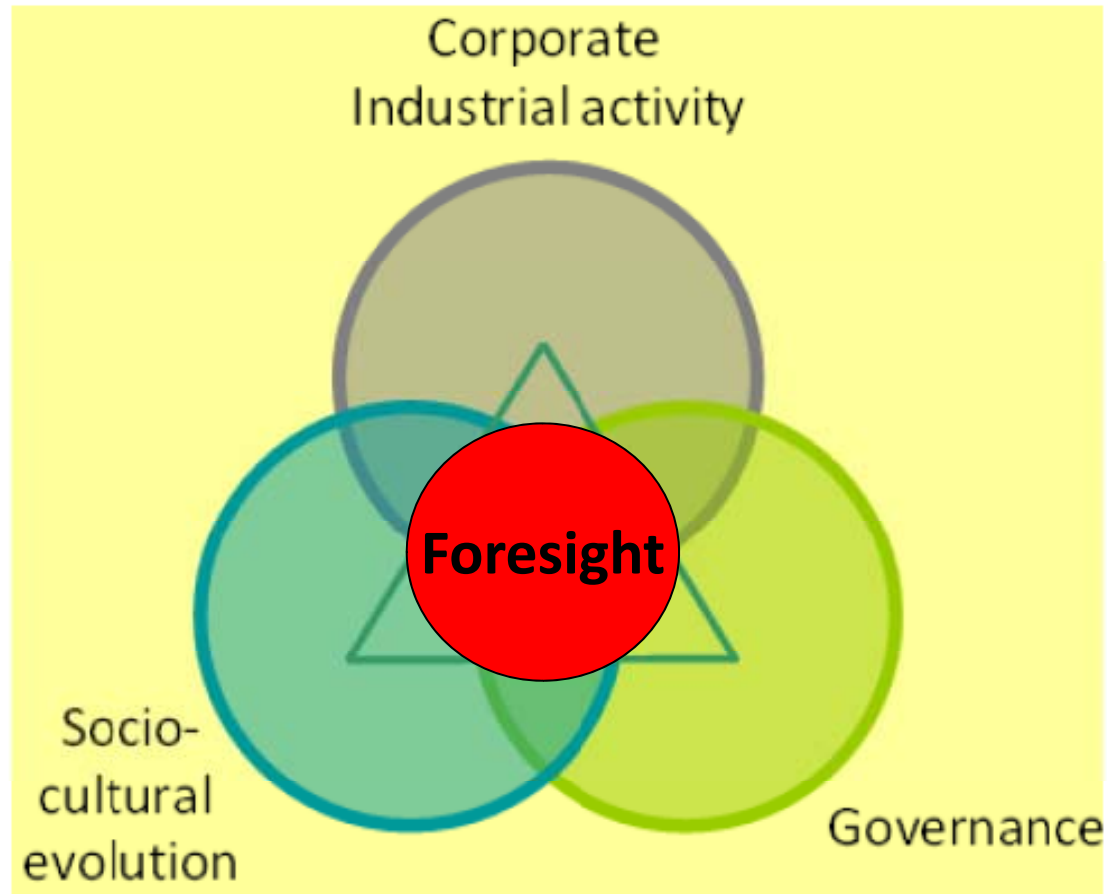
- Increase involvement of system actors in decision making
- Increase understanding and change mindsets
- Build trust between participants
- Aid collaboration and highlight interdisciplinary opportunities
- Build networks and strengthen communities



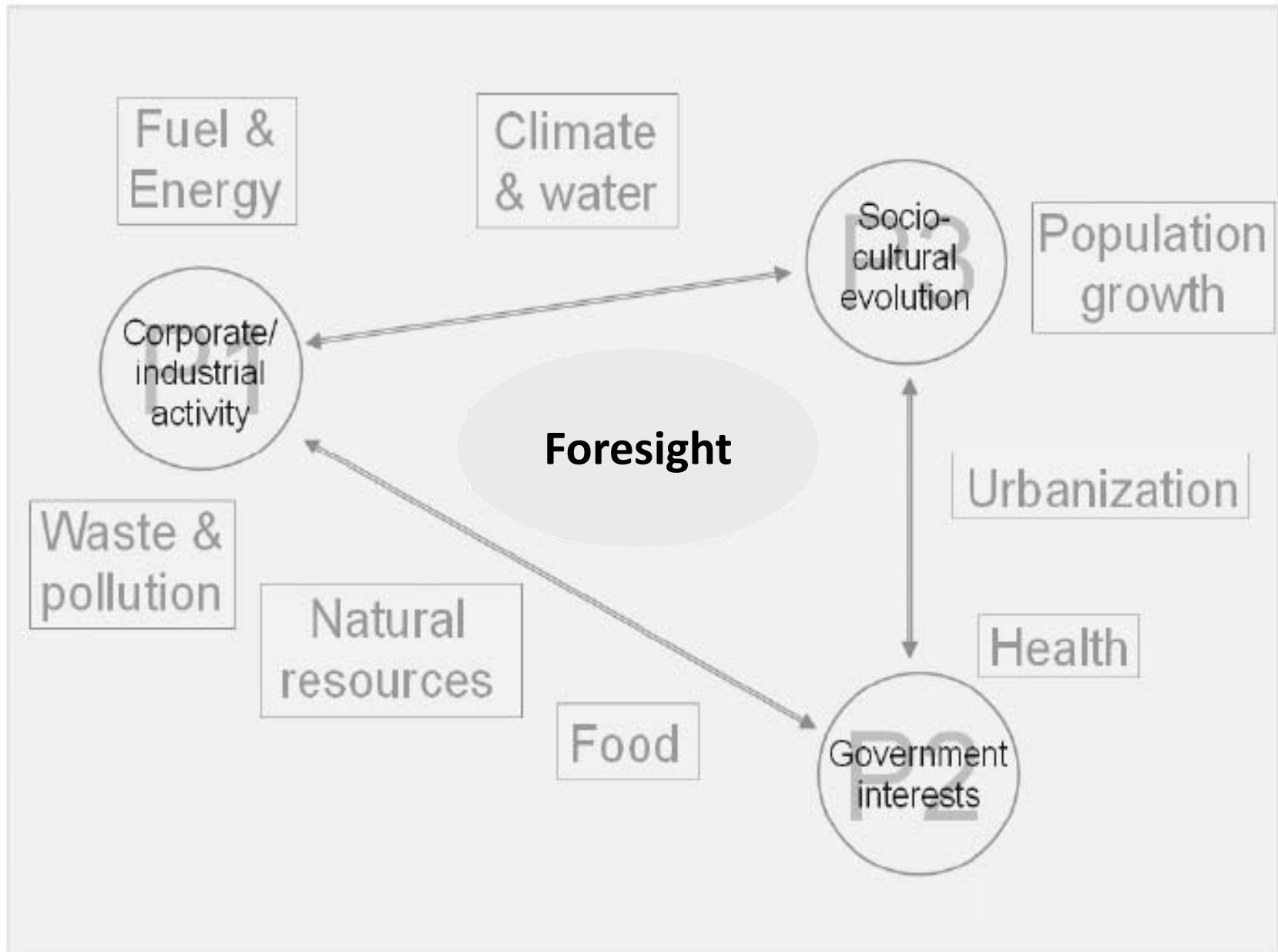
Foresight - 2000s

- Change in the S&T dominated appearance with increasing concerns on social aspects due to:
 - **The increasing importance of innovation** (both technological and organisational)
 - **The development of service economies.** Considerable portions of economic activity, employment and output have started taking place in service sectors of the economy
 - **Other developments** including globalisation, changes in demographic structures and in cultural practices, and environmental affairs
 - **Recognition of the close relationship between S&T and society**

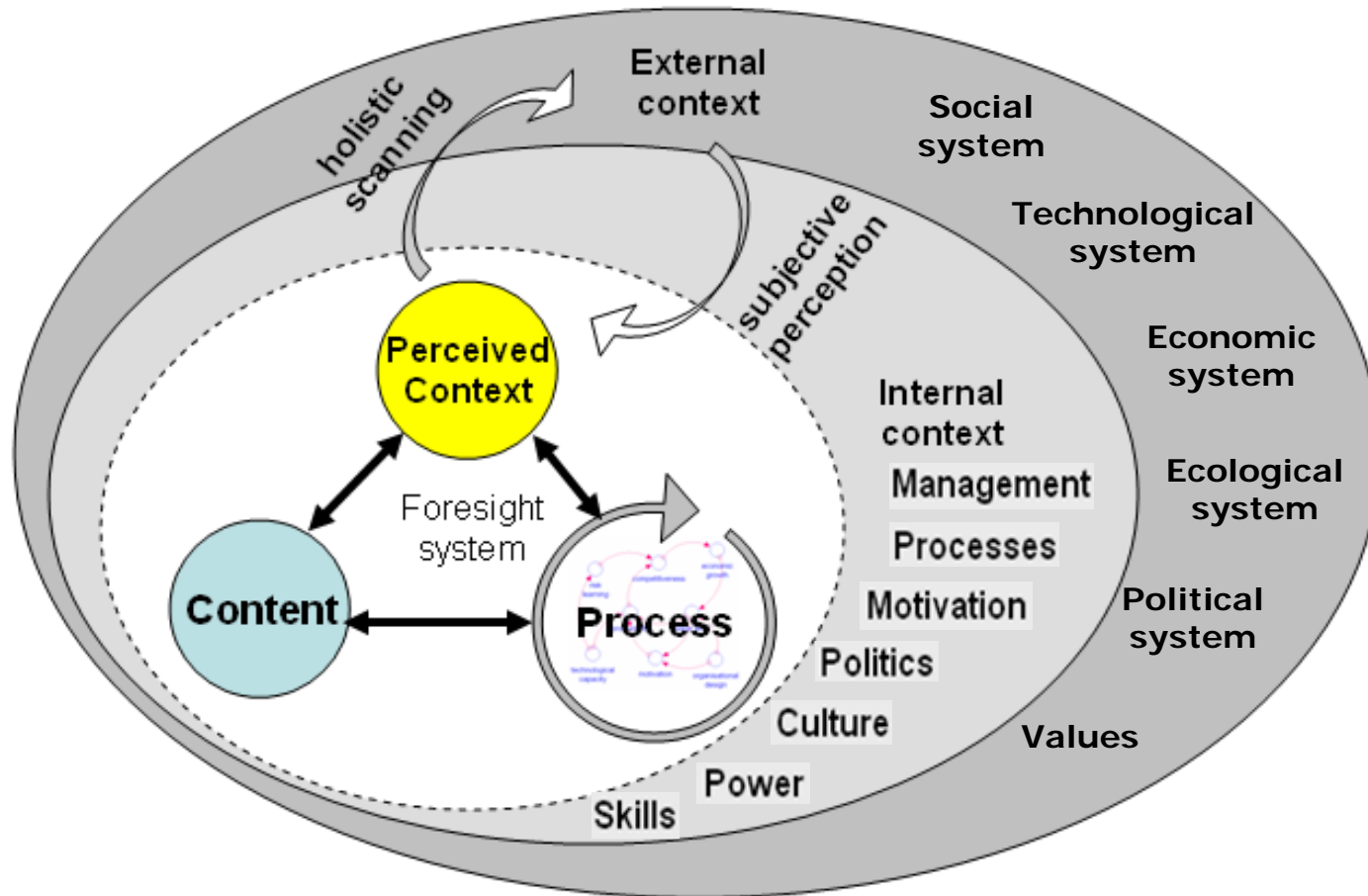
New Foresight landscape



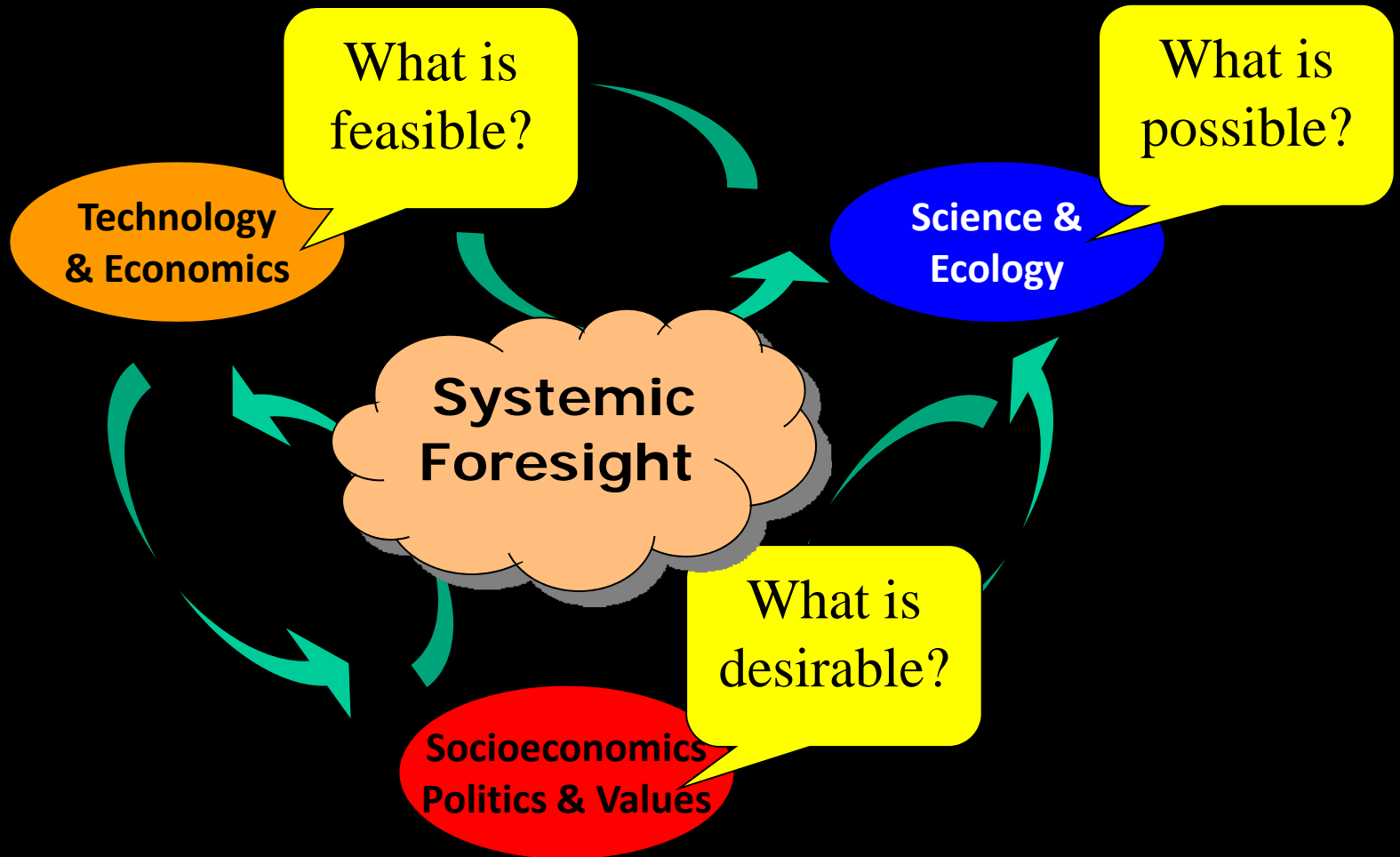
Western Balkan Futures - WEB 2020 Foresight



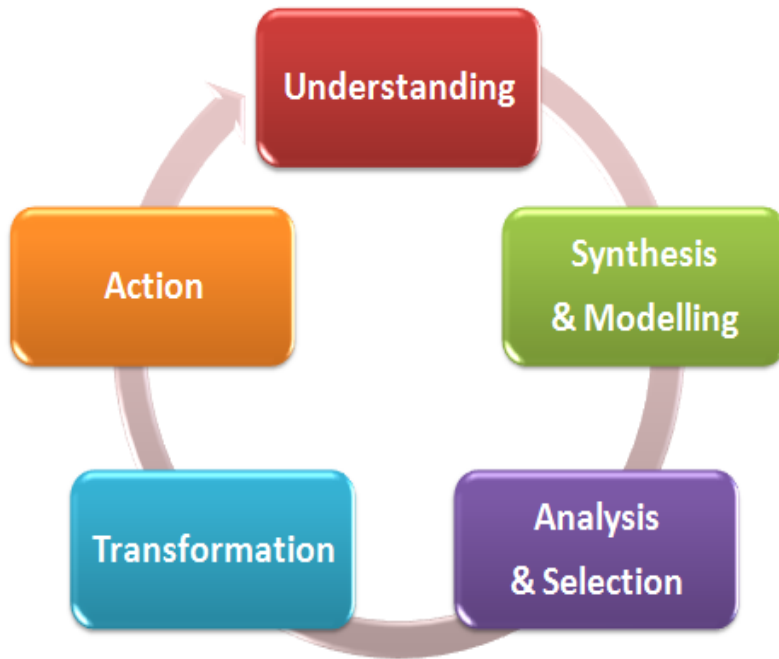
Understanding context, content & process of Foresight



Questions for SFM

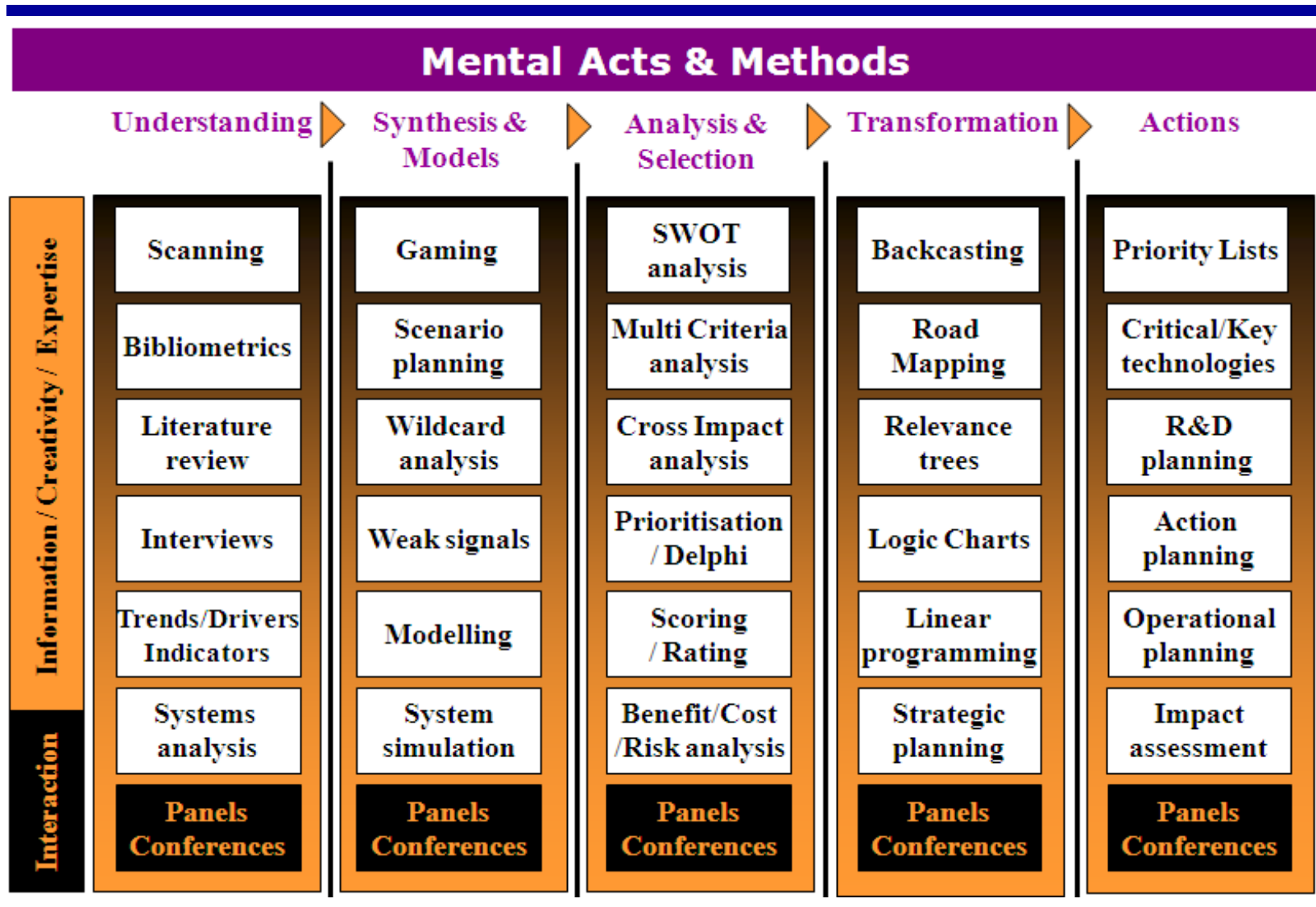


Thought experiments



Systemic Foresight Methodology

- ***Systemic understanding***
 - Creates shared understanding and mutual appreciation of issues at hand
- ***Systems synthesis and modelling***
 - The input from scanning is synthesised into conceptual models of the situations involved in the real world
- ***Systemic analysis and Selection***
 - Analyses the alternative models of the future and ‘prioritises’ them, through intensive negotiations among system actors and stakeholders, to create an agreed model of the future
- ***System transformation***
 - Establishes the relationship between the future and the present for a successful change programme
- ***Systemic action***
 - Creates plans to inform present day decisions for immediate change to provide structural and behavioural transformations



WEB 2020 Preparatory workshop agenda

DAY 1

- Introduction to foresight methodologies

Jerome C. Glenn

- Presentation of IPTS foresight work and approaches
- Presentation of EC / Enlargement Futures project (2001 for 2010)

Blaž Golob

- First Brainstorming regarding thematic priorities of Western Balkans Futures project initiative and clustering of interests/groups

All

WEB 2020 Preparatory workshop agenda

DAY 2

- Foresight methodology & Commonly used methods

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- How to choose the right Foresight methodologies for the planned West Balkans Futures Project

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- Brainstorming on the scoping of the exercise (Participants' views on the "Western Balkans Futures: Foresight 2020 Project" development)

All

Three thematic areas for WEB Foresight 2020

- Western Balkan in the Global context
- Western Balkan priority areas for economic and social development
- Western Balkan Knowledge Based Society

Western Balkan in the Global context

- Topics and Objectives
 - Integration and transformation of thinking the global context
 - Human resources, infrastructure, government, environment and sustainable development

- Potential participants
 - Scientific diasporas, private sector and industry, general public, higher education institutions

- Expected outputs and impacts
 - Process benefits: Role model for participatory policy making, strengthening the innovation capacities in the region, building a shared vision in a creative process, towards a more socially responsible economy
 - Product benefits: Priority areas in social and economic development

Western Balkan priority areas for economic and social development

- Topics and Objectives
 - To achieve a sustainable social and economical development of Western Balkan Region by 2020.
 - Successful finalization of the process of European Integrations of the whole Balkan Region inline with Copenhagen Criteria.
 - To decrease a time gap of Region compare to the EU27 – increase competitiveness of the Region
 - Reconciliation, Borders, Role of law, fight against crime and corruption, human rights improvement
- Potential participants
 - Civil society, business, regional governments, media and NGOs
- Expected outputs and impacts
 - Joint investments plan, Joint financial schemas, Consistent policies establishment, Regional learning platform

Western Balkan Knowledge Based Society

- Topics and Objectives
 - Collaboration in Higher Education (e.g. mutual recognition of academic degrees), Life Long Learning
 - Developing the interaction between governments and academia
 - Enabling innovation in the region

- Potential participants
 - Civil Society including Academia, Teachers, Lawyers and Parental groups, NGOs, Local and national governments and industry

- Expected outputs and impacts
 - Improved legal framework, changing public perception, increased innovation and improved services

Potential sponsors for WEB 2020

- IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance programme, which offers assistance to countries aspiring to join the EU
- COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology
- RCC – Regional Cooperation Council to promote mutual cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe
- FP7 programme
- Others...

End of presentation

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