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University**



The Millennium Project

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Work Report of Brussels Area Node of The Millennium Project Period : July 2004 - July 2005

1. European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative (EuMPI)

A large part of the activities of the Node has been dedicated to the preparation of two events organized in Louvain-la-Neuve University (Wallonia) in April 2005: the EuMPI Conference *The Futures of the European in the Global Knowledge Society* (13-14), and the Millennium Project Planning Committee (15-16). The organization of this conference had been decided during the launching of the European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative, in the San Francisco Millennium Project Planning Committee, July 18, 2003.

200 people have participated to the conference, most of them coming from universities and research centers, some from companies and administrations. Most of the participants traveled from outside of Wallonia or Belgium. We identified futurists representing more than thirty different nationalities.

Some outputs of the Conference :

- good opportunity to build new cooperation and partnerships around the Millennium Project, particularly with EC representatives (esp. DG Research), European Investment Bank, French institutions such as the DATAR and some private companies (Electrabel, Biologicals GlaxoSmithkline, etc.)
- development of a common methodological ground and platform, with fruitful exchanges between high level Worldwide and European Futurists not usually involved in the Millennium Project meetings;
- broadening of the EuMPI expert basis, at the European level, by exchanges between the usual members of the nodes but also with futurists coming from other circles;
- dissemination of the MP contents, methods and spirit;
- etc.

Proceedings

The Destree Institute is working on the proceedings for publishing them at the beginning of 2006. The option is a paperback + a DVD.

Other business of the EuMPI

We can also notice our participation to the first Prague Workshop on Futures Studies Methodologies⁽¹⁾ with a EuMPI meeting in Prague in September 2004.

(1) Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN, *Foresight as a Tool to stimulate Societal Paradigm Shift, European and Regional Experiences*, in Martin POTUCEK, Pavel NOVACEK and Barbora SLINTAKOVA, *The First Prague Workshop on Futures Studies Methodology*, p. 91-105, Praha, CESES, 2004.

2. Involvement in the foresight works of the European Commission

The Destree Institute has been involved in some developments of foresight at the initiative of the European Commission.

2.1. With the Directorate General of Research

2.1.1. Blueprint for Foresight Action in the Regions

DG Research (Directorate K, Social Sciences and Humanities, Foresight) commissioned a High Level Expert Group in the end of 2003 to develop "blueprints" about how to effectively initiate foresight processes in regions facing different types of challenges. Five blueprints aimed at foresight practitioners as well as a synthesis report summarizing the blueprints and providing a contextual framework have been produced by the group.

The work of the Blueprints High Level Expert Group has contributed to the development of a European foresight knowledge-base. Blueprints for foresight processes have been developed addressing five different regional contexts :

- the FOR-RIS Blueprint outlines how to combine the more short term regional innovation strategies (RIS/RITTS) initiatives with the more long-term time perspective of foresight initiatives;
- the UPGRADE Blueprint concerns regions formerly dominated by traditional heavy industries that need - and often have begun - to re-position their economies;
- the TECHTRANS Blueprint is focused on improving technology transfer in general and on methodologies about how to raise awareness for intensified trans-regional technology transfer in particular. It is directed at regions characterized by strong science and technology bases as well as professional regional innovation systems;
- the TRANSVISION Blueprint provides a practical framework designed to build cross-regional strategic visions and to guide decision making in neighbouring regions separated by national borders;
- the AGRIBLUE Blueprint focuses on the radical changes underway in Europe's rural regions and their further escalation in response to EU Enlargement and the reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Destree Institute coached the Transvision Blueprint ⁽²⁾.

A dissemination conference *Building the Future on Knowledge, Foresight and the Transition to Regional Knowledge-Based Economy* has been organized in Brussels on September 23, 2004.

2.1.2. Research Framework Programme 7 Brainstorming

The Destree Institute participated in the discussion about options to strengthen the foresight dimension in future EU research activities, in particular in view of the seventh Framework Programme. A workshop called *Shaping the European Dimension of*

(2) Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN dir., *The Transvision Blueprint, Bridging neighbouring regions belonging to different jurisdictions, i.e., historically and culturally close regions divided by national borders*, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research, 2004.

Foresight was organized by DG Research Directorate K and held on February 28 and March 1st, 2005 in Brussels ⁽³⁾.

One of the inputs that we carried in that workshop was that we need both working with futurists at the EU scale and with multilevel cooperation. The global "European" work also implies and needs confrontation and "coopetition", – to compare and to compete – with futurists working outside Europe.

2.1.3. Regions of Knowledge Pilot Action

The Destree Institute is involved in two projects : Spider and Metaforesight

The aim of the SPIDER project (Increasing Regional Competitiveness through Futures Research Methods) is mainly a better understanding and a perceptive study of the regions' competitiveness in the long term, by developing the field of foresight as an instrument for the analysis of regional potentialities and the elaboration of vision and guide-lines helpful for public decision-making and action. Three regions are involved in the SPIDER project: Southwest Finland (Finland Future Academy), Düsseldorf Region (Z_Punkt) and Wallonia (The Destree Institute). The project has started in January 2004 and will end in January 2006.

The Destree Institute has welcomed in Brussels a SPIDER expert workshop about *Implications of Knowledge Society in European Regions, Developing the Regional Innovation System*, on January 27, 2005 ⁽⁴⁾.

The META-FORESSIGHT project aims to produce an integrated system fostering regional knowledge-based capacities and policies, as well as regional business intelligence. This tool integrates five fields of collective/regional intelligence : regional foresight, R&D database results, benchmarking of regional companies, regional innovation potential and development policies, technology and market watch, technological skills. METAFORESIGHT is basically a new concept of the regional intelligence system: a localized network of separate information systems, using human and artificial intelligence in the collection, processing, and dissemination of information, communicating via the Internet (web-based platform), integrated so effectively that its components become indistinguishable to the user. Five regions take part in META-FORESSIGHT : Central Macedonia, Extremadura, Wales; the Basque Country and the Wallonia Region. The project has started in March 2004 and it will end in November 2006.

An international Conference will be organized in Caceres (Extremadura) on the 6th and 7th October 2005 untitled *Integrating Regional Intelligence*.

(3) Philippe DESTATTE, *Brainstorming Workshop, Shaping the European Dimension of Foresight, Final Round Table Discussion*, Brussels, EC DG Research, March 1, 2005.

(4) Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN, *Wallonia in 2020 : Future Issues, Future Citizens*, Expert Workshop, Spider Project, Increasing Regional Competitiveness through Futures Research Methods, Brussels, Mercure Grand Hotel Royal Crown, January 27, 2005. – Philippe DESTATTE, *Report of the Expert Working Group about the Development of the Regional Innovation System*, Expert Workshop in the Context of the Spider Project Knowledge Regions, Mercure Grand Hotel Royal Crown, January 27, 2005.

2.2. With the Directorate General Regional Policy

Community Strategic Guidelines for the Cohesion Policy

The Destree Institute has been selected to work in the expert group in order to contribute to the examination of the major themes of the cohesion policy which will be used as framework to construct the policies of the new generation of European programmes. Seeking the means by which the regional and cohesion policies may contribute to the Lisbon agenda on competitiveness is a key element of this new strategic approach. It is a question of highlighting the basic political priorities of transnational cooperation with regard to the three objectives as defined in the Commission Draft Regulation *Convergence, Regional competitiveness and Employment, European Territorial Cooperation*, in order to identify a set of flagship initiatives that may be undertaken in the framework of the programmes for each of the objectives defined.

One of the challenge of that work is to introduce the futures studies and especially the foresight methods in the Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion Policy. The mission has began in May and will end in October 2005.

FUTURREG

The Destree Institute has build an Interreg project in partnership with six European Regional partners : the Cardiff University (UK, as leader), the Aristote University of Thessaloniki (GR), the Economic Development Agency of La Rioja (ES), Malta Council for Science and Technology, FFA Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly (IE). This project has been selected in June 2005. FUTURREG is designed to have significant long-term impacts for regional development policies, especially by ensuring that policies – and regional development organizations – are kept informed by high-quality futures tools and participatory processes, including Environmental Scanning, Trend Analysis, Scenarios, Visionary Management and Delphi. The FUTURREG inter-regional value comes from bringing the knowledge and proven successes of the partners together – to produce a regional futures toolkit that can also be applied to other EU regions. The project will not construct a new set of tools but will bring together the approaches used successfully by the partners within their regions in one toolkit. The partners will collaborate to address common regional development problems - with the main goal of achieving sustainability - using proven futures methods. The FUTURREG inter-regional value comes from bringing the knowledge and proven successes of the partners together, to produce a regional futures

The outputs will include 14 applications of the toolkit for the regions, two inter-regional workshops involving 30 regional futures champions and dissemination tools (website and brochures). The results of the operation will include inter-regional networks of experts and public authorities, intra-regional networks of experts and public authorities, which will sustain and embed the futures tools in regional development policies.

2.3. With the Directorate General RTD, Regional Policy and Enterprises & Industry

Mutual Learning Platform

On 9 March 2005, a *Mutual Learning Platform* (MLP) has been launched at the initiative of the *Network of Innovating Regions in Europe* (IRE) and under the chairmanship of DG Enterprises. A working team is associated with the DG RTD, Regional Policy and RTD, along with the Committee of the Regions, to strengthen the impact on the regions of the research and innovation investments in the framework of the Lisbon process. This tool aims to enabling all regions to benefit from increased investment in research and innovation. The MLP is defined as a mechanism for interactive “learning” by regional authorities, interested public and private organizations in European Regions.

The MLP on Investing in Research and Innovation in European Regions includes a central core structure that will ensure high quality agenda settings coupled and supported by specific workshops, publications as well as an interactive website. The MLP will focus initially on three topics in the context of the 3% Research investment objective and the relevant policy priorities of the Commission in terms of R&D and Innovation investment at regional level : Regional Benchmarking, Regional Profiles and Regional Foresight. The Launch event has been organized in the Committee of Regions April 18, 2005. A meeting was organized in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in June in the Framework of the Innovative Regions in Europe Conference ⁽⁵⁾.

Two workshops will be held at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on October 19 and 20, 2005. They will focus on concrete issues and challenges faced by a limited number of regions, and draw lessons from advanced regions. The first MLP workshop will focus on general aspects of regional foresight as well as on taking stock of the mutual learning activities prepared as a result of the Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions group. The second workshop based on the FOR-LEARN outputs will focus on the issue related to the impact of the foresight exercises in the regions.

The Destree Institute participates to the Board of the MLP and has the mission to coach the Foresight activities of the MLP. We are working with the DG RTD (Directorate K) to organize the two days workshop next October.

3. European Regional Foresight College

The European Regional Foresight College was founded on April, 1st 2004, as an initiative of the Land Planning and Regional Action Delegation of the French Republic (DATAR) to deal with the openings towards Europe and the strengthening of the regional foresight competencies of the DATAR and of its partners.

The general objectives of the European Regional Foresight College are :

- to create a community of competencies, concepts, methods and practices in regional foresight ;
- to organise a European network in order to monitor and to discuss the foresight practices and developments in European regions;

(5) Philippe DESTATTE, *The Foresight Mission Wallonia 21, A Blueprint to involve Regions in the Knowledge Society*, Mutual Learning Platform Launch Event, Brussels, Committee of the Regions, April 18, 2005. – Philippe DESTATTE, *Foresight Activities in the Mutual Learning Platform for 2005*, European Commission, Ljubljana, June 6, 2005.

- to contribute to the collective learning of all regional actors through the development of foresight competencies, by supplying all the partners with information about high-level European foresight experiences.

The mission of the first multi-annual programme (2004-2005) is to draw up a foresight glossary, to create a documentary basis about the principles of foresight, to identify and to exchange competencies between European research centres, members of the College and their partners, and to organise an annual European foresight event. The launching conference took place on September 8, 2004 in Lille in the framework of the Summer University of Regional Foresight in Europe organised by the DATAR ⁽⁶⁾.

The 2005 Summer University will also be organized in Lille, on September 7 and 8, about *Knowledge and Territories*.

4. Two particular foresight activities of The Destree Institute

4.1. Wallonia Regional College of Foresight

In the following of its three last foresight exercises *Wallonia 2020*, *Foresight Mission Wallonia 2020* and *ProspEnWal* (Foresight for Companies Policy in Wallonia), The Destree Institute has launched a Regional College of Foresight. The thirty people who make up this College are equally coming from companies, public sphere of governance and NGO's. The aim of the College is to build a common understanding of foresight at the Regional level and to initiate a dynamic of anticipation and change in the Region, in order to help it become a Knowledge Region. Some people are coming from the borders countries : Nord - Pas-de-Calais, Flanders, Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz and also from the European Commission. The College is chaired by the former Commissioner on Research, Philippe Busquin ⁽⁷⁾.

The College will achieve the first part of his work in 2006 with a large dissemination event.

4.2. Foresight of the Internet

In line with its mission, the Destree Institute (Information Unit) also participates in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), whose innovating concept relies on the participation of multi-stakeholders in sessions organized by the United Nations (UN). With regard to Internet governance, the WSIS acts as a catalyst for a process that should be achieved, at international level, during the second phase which will take place in Tunis in November 2005, on the basis of the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva in December 2003.

That is why the Destree Institute has organized an international conference on the *Foresight of the Internet*, in the Castle of Namur (Wallonia), on March 4th, 2005. The conference has been structured in three key issues : Technologies for the information society, Human resources towards the Knowledge-based Society; Transversal issues of the Internet governance. The conference was addressed at experts and decision makers in the ICT field, involved in research (universities, research centers), working for companies and institutions (the Wallonia Region, the French Community Wallonia -

(6) Philippe DESTATTE, *Le Collège européen de Prospective territoriale : une oeuvre collective, fondée sur des principes communs*, Intervention à l'Université d'été de la Prospective territoriale en Europe, Lille, Nouveau Siècle, 8 septembre 2004.

(7) Philippe DESTATTE et Pascale VAN DOREN, *La prospective comme outil de stimulation du changement de paradigme*, Exposé au Collège régional de Prospective, Namur, Cercle de Wallonie, 19 février 2005.

Brussels, the European Commission and partner regions) and from civil society. The conference's proceedings are proposed online. A book with more complete documents will be published by the Destree Institute early in September in order to be proposed to the WSIS PrepCom-3 in Geneva and a DVD of the conference, coupled with a booklet about history, foresight and governance of the Internet will be presented during the WSIS's second phase in November 2005 in Tunis ⁽⁸⁾. The Destree Institute has received the support of the Commissioner on Information Society Viviane Reding, who signs the preface, and of Markus Kummer, Executive Coordinator of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) created by the United Nations Secretary-General, who signs the Postface of the book.

5. Objectives and plans for the future

Six targets have been chosen for the next year :

- 5.1. Publication of the proceedings of the Louvain-la-Neuve Conference;
- 5.2. French Translation and dissemination of the *State of the Future* 2005;
- 5.3. Development of the Node and better follow up of the MP collective work;
- 5.4. Strengthening of the links with EU institutions (for example, we felt linking Haiti project with Commissioner Louis Michel),
- 5.5. Help to a new development of the EuMPI, especially in positioning the network in FP 7.

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(8) Marie-Anne DELAHAUT, dir, *Foresight of the Internet, Digital networks as structuring tools for the Knowledge Regions*, Preface by Viviane REDING, Postface by Markus KUMMER, Namur, The Destree Institute, 2005 - www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/2005_Prospective-Internet/index.htm.