# FOR LEARN

*Support to mutual learning between foresight managers, practitioners, users and stakeholders of policy-making organisations in Europe*

## Rationale

Foresight is a systematic, participatory, future-intelligence-gathering and medium-to-long-term vision-building process aimed at present-day decisions and mobilising joint actions. Research and innovation policies are based on (implicit or explicit) visions of the future of science, technology and society.

Therefore, to underpin the establishment of the European Research Area (ERA) there is a need for open coordination of these visions, making cooperation on Foresight necessary.

One of the main activities on Foresight carried out by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme aims to establish a European Foresight Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP). The KSP aims at better interconnecting and supporting foresight programmes, initiatives and institutions in close co-operation with all relevant actors in Europe and, when necessary, orienting them towards common issues, at inter-regional, trans-national or European level.

The KSP is today a major operation of the European Union implemented by DG Research. One of its core activities is to support mutual learning among foresight managers, practitioners, users and stakeholders in Europe (FOR-LEARN). The FOR-LEARN project is carried out by DG JRC-IPTS on a mandate by the European Commission DG RTD. It covers the entire range of activities related to the promotion and the structuring of a European science and technology foresight area. The three main functions of the KSP are:

## The Knowledge Sharing Platform

The three main functions of the KSP are:

1. To mobilise foresight as intelligence for EU policy, mainly research and innovation policy;

2. To foster exchanges of experiences between Member States and regions; and

3. To consolidate and better structure the foresight knowledge base.

The FOR-LEARN activity is carried out in the context of the KSP.

The FOR-LEARN activity takes on a more concrete form through practical steps towards the development of the KSP. The activities of FOR-LEARN are specifically supporting the mutual learning between Foresight Managers, practitioners, users and stakeholders of policy-making organisations in Europe. The project is aiming to contribute to the codification, assessment and dissemination of the existing Foresight knowledge and know-how. It will make practical knowledge on how to carry out Foresight more accessible.

The following lines of action serve to reach these objectives:

- As a first step we have been analysing the existing literature on Foresight to identify critical points within a Foresight exercise.

- We have been interviewing experienced Foresight practitioners and academics to get their opinion about gaps in current Foresight knowledge

- We are collecting queries from Foresight practitioners via an interactive online information system to get a clearer picture of current needs for information especially among Foresight novices

- On the base of the results of our analysis we are developing an Online Foresight Guide together with a group of Foresight experts from the ESTO network. This guide aims to inform Foresight practitioners as well as users about various issues related to Foresight.

- In a next step we will organise a series of mutual learning workshops. Within these workshops we will address the issues where a special need to improve the knowledge has been identified.