

# Locating Foresight

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# **Future-oriented Activities**

**(Prophecy)**

**Visionary thinking (e.g. consultancy services)**

**Forecast (extrapolation, prediction; for various purposes)**

**Futures studies (for academic purposes)**

**Strategic planning (various levels)**

**Scenario planning (firm level, Godet)**

**Indicative national planning (Japan, France)**

**Central planning**

**Prospective analyses (for academic or business purposes)**

**Critical/ key technologies**

**Foresight (individual) vs. Foresight programmes**

**??**

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# Differentiating Foresight

**Action-oriented [vs. 'contemplative' (passive)]**

**Participatory [vs. non-participatory]**

(see next slide)

**Alternative futures [vs. a single future state]**

# Participatory Programmes

Meet *all* the 3 criteria below:

- a) **involve participants from at least two different stakeholder groups (e.g. researchers and business people; experts and policy-makers; experts and laymen)**
- b) **disseminate their results (e.g. analyses, conclusions, policy proposals) in a wider circle of the population, which is going to be affected by the programme/ project**
- c) **seek feedback from this wider circle**



# Further Distinctions

**Foresight processes can assist decision-makers**

**⇒ F is a decision-preparatory tool (for public policies or business strategies, etc.)**

**NOT** an academic research project

**Foresight does NOT produce decisions (“only” recommendations)**

**Thanks!**

**Questions, comments?**

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