

#foresight4EU
**FUTURE
IN THE
MAKING**

FTA 2018
FUTURE-ORIENTED
TECHNOLOGY
ANALYSIS

Call for contributions

FTA¹2018 - Future in the Making Future-oriented Technology Analysis

- ✓ Are you developing new tools and frames to understand and experience the future?
- ✓ Are you working at the intersection of foresight and other policy oriented methodologies or approaches?
- ✓ Are you reflecting upon new ways to respond to the changing needs and challenges of policymaking and of policymakers?

If your answer is yes, then we seek your proposal for a contribution at the 2018 FTA 'Future in the Making' conference!

What is the FTA2018?

Since 2004 the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission has organised five editions of FTA - Future Oriented Technology Analysis - Conferences.

FTA2018 'Future in the Making' is an international conference bringing together practitioners, academics and policymakers that are interested in how future issues should be better reflected for more effective and long-term policies. The conference is addressing future-oriented technology analysis, i.e. (strategic) foresight, forecasting and technology assessment. It also looks to complementary fields of policy support, especially those bringing innovation to how policymaking is conceived and implemented. This includes design for policy (i.e. how design can be used to co-create and prototype and test more

¹ Future-oriented technology analysis includes (strategic) foresight, forecasting and technology assessment. Technology can be understood as involving both a body of artefacts and practice as well as a body of understanding, which co-evolve with each other over time.

effective policies), behavioural insights (i.e. how people behave and respond to different policy instruments), science and technology studies, STS, (i.e. reflecting on and anticipating societal impacts stemming from science and technology and how to embody these reflections in policies) or complexity approaches addressing multiple and recursive relations between dimensions, levels, actors, information, knowledge, etc.

The FTA2018 will continue expanding the international network of foresight academics and practitioners in business, civil society organisations and government, and it also aims at broadening its scope through interacting and cross-fertilising with other complementary, disciplines. It is a unique occasion for participants from all continents to meet, mutually enrich and enlarge their forward looking approaches.

FTA2018: Future in the Making

Policymaking is going through a paradigm change. The policymaking environment is increasingly characterised by complexity and lack of trust in policymakers and democracy. This is already leading to profound transformation with an increase in the number and variety of actors and new channels of involvement and influence. In addition, policymakers are confronted with an accelerating speed of change and emergence of novelty requiring not only rapid reaction but also creation of new meaning and sense.

The focus of the FTA2018 conference will be on the ability and flexibility of future-oriented frames and methods to respond to the new challenges policymaking is facing. In this context we want to explore how to combine forward looking approaches with elements of complementary disciplines. FTA2018 will also provide space to present and debate insights from recent future-oriented research and processes around a number of policy themes.

The objective of the conference is to contribute to transformation and innovation in policymaking by:

- presenting and debating insights from recent future-oriented work on specific policy relevant topics;
- sharing experiences of how foresight has been used in policymaking and how it has influenced policy processes and decisions;
- supporting the advancement of methods and practices, especially the combined use of complementary approaches, in response to changing policymaking needs;
- stimulating the uptake of these approaches and exchange between practitioners and policymakers.

Presentations and discussions will be framed around a set of horizontal themes linked to *People & Power*, *Policymaking & Practice* and *Perceptions & Potentials*. They will be organized in three strands: Challenging insights from recent (policy-oriented) foresights / future studies; Advances in theory and methodology supporting policymaking; Experience and explore.

The conference is open to practitioners, researchers, and decision makers from around the globe, and will feature a rich program of keynotes, papers, posters, workshops and hands-on sessions.

Horizontal themes

HT1 - People & Power

N e w a c t o r s , n e w c h a n n e l s o f i n f l u e n c e

People & Power is about the proliferation of actors involved in setting policy agendas and the appearance of new channels and platforms to engage and influence, possibly leading to a shift in the relative power of legislative assemblies.

The main hypotheses up for debate are:

- Loss of trust in government and democratic systems;
- A concentration of economic power but a proliferation of grass-roots alternatives such as local currencies;
- A stronger impact of an array of social and economic actors, including citizens, with different degrees of transparency;
- Policy being increasingly set implicitly through technology and its use; e.g., the use of artificial intelligence and automation generating machine-based decisions with ethical implications and unclear accountability;
- A multiplication of channels and platforms to test and build opinions and influence.

HT2 - Policymaking & Practice

S p e e d , c o m p l e x i t y , u r g e n c y

Policymaking & Practice deals with the question of how policymakers can navigate going from a heterogeneous landscape that can be planned to a reality where planning becomes increasingly a challenge.

The main hypotheses up for debate are:

- Increased importance of multi-layer governance and supra-national governance;
- Cities as platforms for citizen engagement and empowerment;
- Accelerating change and exposure to novelty, shorter feedback loops and decreasing relevance of the policy cycle;
- More crisis management and less long-term planning.

HT3 - Perceptions & Potentials

T r a n s i t i o n s , t r u s t

Perceptions & Potentials is about game-changing shifts in the way the world appears and functions. It relates to both, scientific breakthroughs and radical innovation as well as socio-cultural and value changes. These changes influence how reality is perceived, individually or collectively, and question assumptions and long-held beliefs.

The main hypotheses up for debate are:

- Innovation is happening in a regulatory uncertainty;
- Innovation is driven both by technology and societal developments;
- Shifts in perceptions and values have transformative effects on society and democracy.

Call for contributions – three strands

All contributions should explicitly address one or several of the above horizontal themes.

STRAND 1: Challenging insights from recent (policy-oriented) foresight and future-oriented processes

This strand aims at providing policymakers with insights generated by recent or on-going foresight and future-oriented processes that may challenge present assumptions and require reconsidering how and by whom policy is being set and implemented. Furthermore, how can foresight contribute to support policymakers in defining/revising legal or policy frameworks while dealing with difficult ethical issues?

We invite policy-oriented contributions for this strand addressing any of the three horizontal themes. Contributions could comprise:

- Contributions on insights from foresight or future-oriented processes addressing especially innovation in designing, shaping, and implementing policies;
- Contributions synthesising or consolidating multiple cases of foresight processes contributing to innovative or new policy setting and/ or policy formulation.

STRAND 2: Advances in theory and methodology supporting policymaking

This strand aims at advancing the array of methods and practices used in foresight and future-oriented processes contributing to policymaking. We invite both theory-oriented and practice-based contributions especially targeting the second horizontal theme (Policymaking & Practice). Contributions could comprise:

- Foresight and future-oriented approaches making use of combinations of quantitative and qualitative methods to develop new visions, explore ideas, acquire information and data, clarify situations and negotiate solutions;
- Approaches highlighting the co-designing and co-creating elements of the future-oriented processes aiming at policy definition and shaping, enlarging the set of stakeholders and/or policy areas;
- Foresight and future-oriented processes seeking to combine tools and methods stemming from complementary disciplines (e.g. design, behavioural insights STS) contributing and enriching the way foresight and future-oriented activities are designed, organised, managed and implemented;

- Foresight and future-oriented processes using data analytics, especially with regards to new data sources (including big data) and novel ways of using, presenting and visualising data.

STRAND 3: Experience and explore

For these hands-on, experiential and exploratory sessions, we are inviting contributions of tools and methods using multidisciplinary approaches, including serious games addressing the three horizontal themes. Contributions could comprise:

- Foresight and future-oriented novel approaches such as gaming, exploring different ways to participation and engagement in foresight and future-oriented processes.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals can be made for individual presentations, hands-on sessions and/or for posters.

- Proposals for individual presentations should be in the form of a **500-word abstract**. In addition to the abstract we encourage one-minute video presentations of the core ideas/findings. After acceptance, the submission of a paper is required for publication on the conference website and potentially for publication in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal. Accepted video presentations will be published on the conference website.
- Proposals for hands-on sessions for the strand 'Experience & Explore' should be in the form of a **750-word outline** of the concept of the method/game, the objective of the session, the session design and how participants are meant to be engaged. In addition to the written outline we strongly encourage a one-minute video presentation of the method/game to be experienced, its objective and what policy issue it will be applied to. If accepted the video will be published on the conference website. Hands-on sessions are planned to be 90 minutes and run in a workshop setting (some flexibility may be granted in well-motivated cases).
- Proposals for posters should be in the form of a **500-word abstract** for presentations of (i) a new method or tool responding to bridging the future with the present; (ii) an organisation dealing with future oriented policy support; or (iii) outcomes of a less than 6 months old project. Poster layouts will need to respect a predefined template.

Applicants should indicate which horizontal theme (People & Power, Policymaking & Practice and Perceptions & Potentials) their proposal is addressing.

All proposals should be submitted electronically via
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FTA2018contribution>.

Please note that only abstracts submitted directly through the online form will be considered. Abstracts should include a clear description of the contribution to the selected strand, the methodological approach, the results and/ or impacts generated.

Call for Proposals Deadline: extended to Sunday March 11th, 2018

Registration:

The Conference registration will open in **March 2018**. There is no conference fee charge for participants. The Conference will have a limited number of places.

Additional information

All persons identified in proposals will be notified by March 26th, 2018.

Selected presenters will have the opportunity to upload presentations on the conference website. Visuals and presentation should follow predefined templates which will be provided once participation has been confirmed.

The Steering Committee Members:

Cheryl Chung, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Lydia Garrido Luzardo, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Montevideo, Uruguay

Sirkka Heinonen, Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku, Finland

Riel Miller, UNESCO, Paris

Arthur Muliro, Society for International Development, Italy

Alan Porter, Technology Policy and Assessment Center at Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia, USA

Anne Stenros, Chief Design Officer of the City of Helsinki, Finland

Matthias Weber, Austrian Institute of Technology AIT, Vienna, Austria

Fabiana Scapolo, Anne-Katrin Bock, Christian Svanfeldt, European Commission Joint Research Centre (also organising committee)