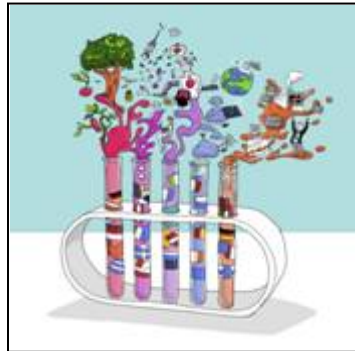


# OUR TODAY'S ASSUMPTIONS CHALLENGED

## - BY VERA SCENARIOS AND BEYOND

*Stefan KUHLMANN*  
*University of Twente*



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# VERA: Backcasting from 2030 to policy options 2015/20



# Excellence as dominant objective in 2030?



**Belief 2015: The promotion of excellence should be the natural overriding objective of research policy.**

- In fact, except for Scenario 1, the highly selective ethos of this approach was not present in any of the other scenarios.
- The concern with systemic effects and the application of research to address societal problems were the overriding concern in two of the scenarios.

**Policy challenge 2015/20: How can Europe *balance* excellence and relevance in research policy (EU, MS)?**

# “Universities” a spring of scientific excellence in 2030?



**Belief 2015: Universities should strive for excellence and improve research capacity and outputs.**

- The role of universities and the balance between universities and PROs varied across scenarios.
- This is a reflection of the increasingly different functions that universities play in our societies.
- Scenario 3 for instance focused on the local role of universities and their teaching function.

**Policy challenge 2015/20: How can Europe help *Higher Education and research* to find an proper *balance*?**

# “Science” is crucial for society in 2030?



## Belief 2015: “science” is crucial in buttressing the knowledge society.

- Yet societal attitudes towards science are far from homogenous, and scientific goals are often considered secondary to other social objectives (e.g. the reduced role of S/T investments in Scenario 3).
- “Academic science” is only one element among diversifying modes and actors of knowledge production and innovation (all scenarios)

**Policy challenge 2015/20: How can Europe help to *experiment* and establish flexible but robust *modes of distributed knowledge production*?**



# Europe is a central player in a globalised world of R&I?



**Belief: If Europe, the parent's house of modern science, makes strong enough efforts ...**

- Yet shrinking highly-skilled labour force in EU (demography)
- Strong R&I efforts in US, Asia, but also in late industrialising countries (Asia, Latin America)
- Very strong R&I efforts by globally active companies, e.g. Google, but also incumbents in ICT, chemistry, ...
- Major efforts by global philanthropic organisations (e.g. Gates), with no democratic control; civil society organisations

**Policy challenge 2015/20: Can Europe initiate major *strategic global R&I initiatives* between ERA and non-EU champions?**

# Need for integrated European research system in 2030?



**Belief 2015: An integrated European R&D system is a precondition for more efficient and effective research systems.**

- In several scenarios, however, integration is replaced by different forms of harmonization.
- Often emphasis is placed on fit with local conditions and in development of capacities to deal with broader social challenges.
- With e-science, interlinked fab-labs, global knowledge networking the frame of reference ranges between 'local' and 'global' (in several scenarios).

# Need for integrated European research system in 2030?

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Present ERA priorities are well chosen, but:

**Policy challenge 2015/20: How can Europe manage to become a major *hub in global knowledge networks*, as infrastructure, as source of innovation, and in terms of governance?**