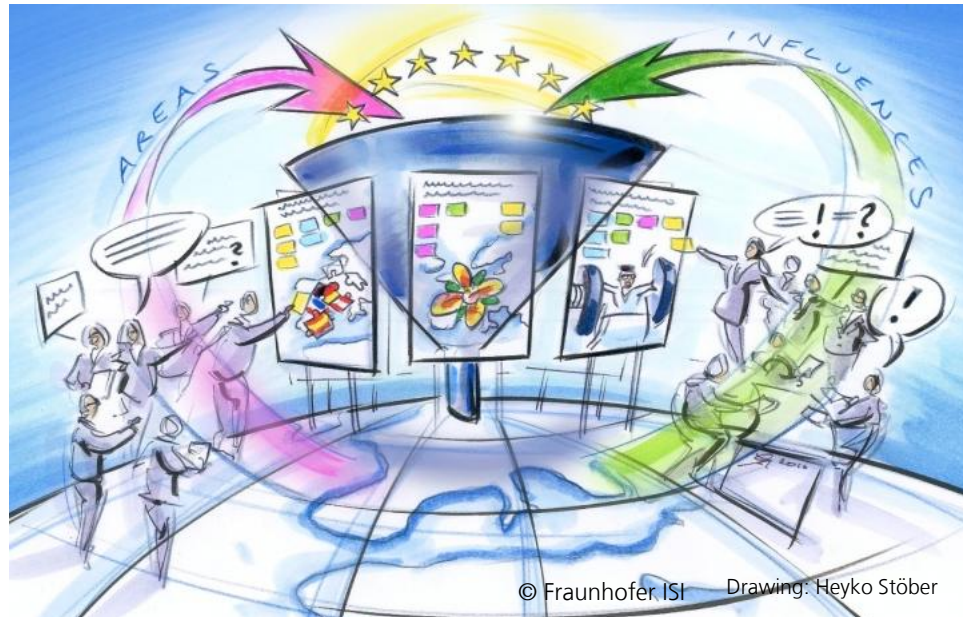# OF SCENARIOS AND VISIONS: DIFFERENT STRATEGIES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF FUTURES IN POLICY MAKING

Philine Warnke, VERA Final Conference, Brussels, 22.1.2015

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Foresight

Structured futures dialogue

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Foresight – Twofold Benefits

Product benefits – Better strategies

Anticipatory intelligence on dynamics of change and strategic options
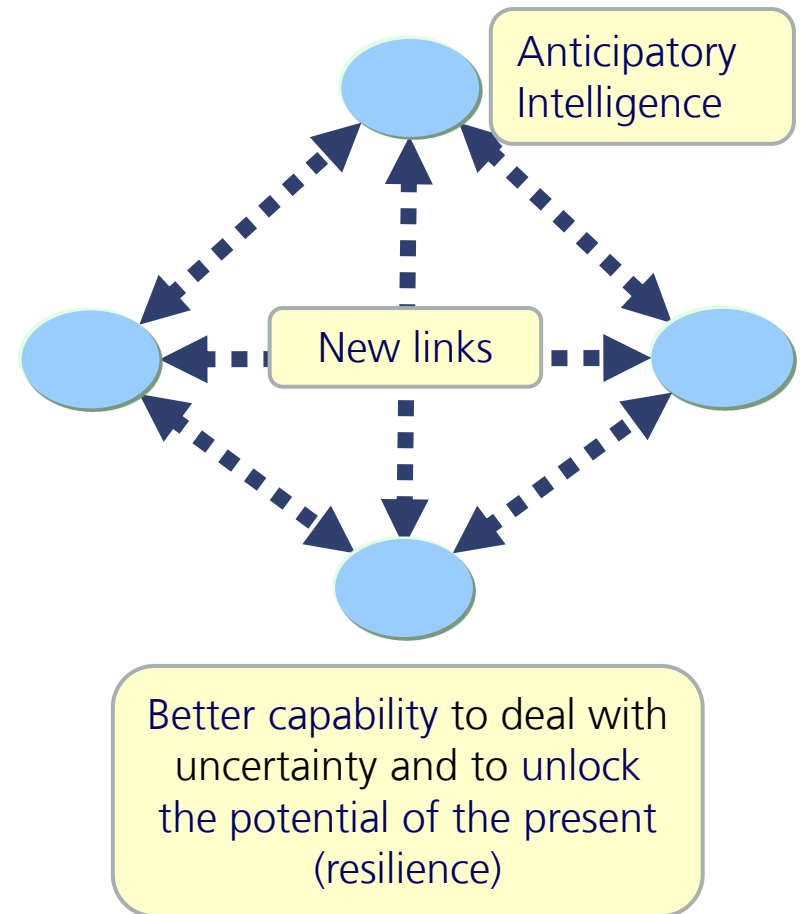
Policy informing

Process benefits – Better systems

Enhanced learning capability

- common ground
- mutual recognition
- new diverse linkages
- futures attitudes
- widened perception filters
- reviewed anticipatory assumptions

Policy facilitating

Anticipatory Intelligence

New links

Better capability to deal with uncertainty and to unlock the potential of the present (resilience)

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the future entails manifold questions …

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Different foresight methods structure different types of futures dialogues and provide different contributions to the system.

➡️ Key question for any foresight endeavor:

Which dialogue with whom, about what will yield the expected intelligence requirements and system benefits?

➡️ For policy/decision making:
Different contributions for different phases of the policy cycle

Example: Scenario building vs. visioning

Visioning

Roadmapping

Horizon Scanning

CLA

SWOT

Delphi

Signal Scouting

What are our values?

What are our dreams?

What kind of future will move us?

Where do we want to go?

What may be ahead?

What are our possibilities and choices? Threats and opportunities?

Scenario Building

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Visioning and Scenario Building

Vision
Future of the heart

Where do we want to go?

Focus on values, dreams, hopes

Compelling and inspiring ("hot")

Substantially different from status quo

Key actors required

One Vision/preferred future

About us

Raise aspirations, create group spirit

Move us

Scenarios
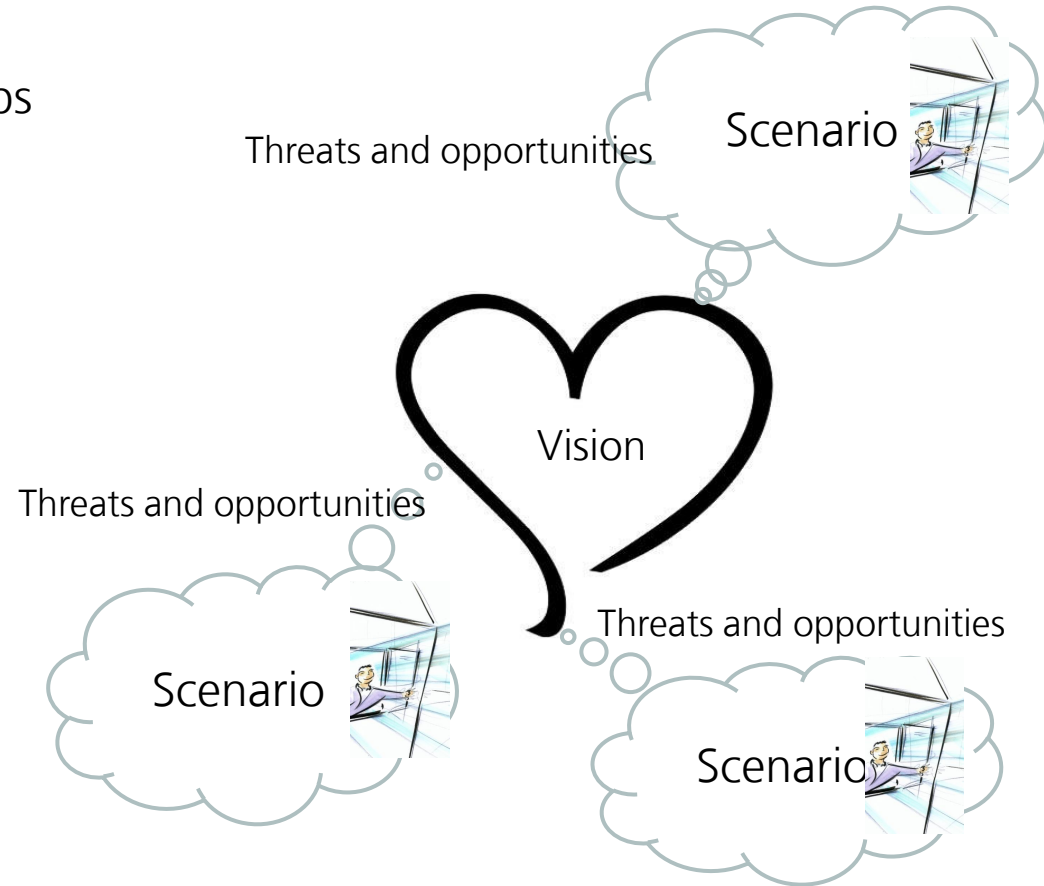**Futures of the head**

What may happen around us?

Focus on assumptions

Plausible and rational ("cool")

Emerge from today's dynamics

Expertise on relevant factors required

Several scenarios/alternative futures

About the world(s) out there

Question anticipatory assumptions

Inform us, stretch our imagination

Vision and Scenarios - complementary

Recognizing different scenarios helps to build robust visions with high outreach

Threats and opportunities

Scenario

Threats and opportunities

Vision

Scenario

Threats and opportunities

Scenario

From VERA Scenarios & Community to ERA Vision?

ERA 2015

ERA 2030

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Thank You!

Discussion