

FORESIGHT SEMINAR

Technology Foresight as a Policy Tool for Sustainable Development in the Knowledge Society

The case of Greece 2001-2021

Tuesday, February 21, 2006; 4:00 - 5.30 pm

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ABSTRACT

Starting with Japan in the early 1970's, an increasing number of countries, regions and communities around the world have employed foresight and other exploring-the-future techniques within a policy-making context. These techniques have been focused on *scientific and technological policies*, where foresight products and processes have facilitated major technological, economic and social actors to identify major trends and challenges, and to develop broadly-shared scenarios, visions, and strategies to prepare them for the future.

The particular case to be examined in this Seminar is the recently completed National Technology Foresight project for Greece, targeting 2021, the Bicentennial of the Modern Greek State (<http://www.foresight-gsrt.gr/english> & <http://www.foresight-gsrt.gr/>). The relevance of this foresight exercise for other areas and regions stems from its (a) strongly *participatory* processes, utilizing a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches, including *scenario-making* as story-telling about the future; (b) identification and assessment of a number of key barriers and *strategic obstacles* explaining the lag in national innovation performance within the European Union; and (c) the emerging vision of *sustainability*, from across all 18 project panels and actions, with special reference to the implementation of a particular type of *Knowledge Economy and Society* (the "Greek Garden of Gnosis").

The presentation of methodologies and main findings relevant to innovation policy will be followed by a discussion of the major policy-related recommendations and follow-up actions addressed by the key Foresight actors; i.e., the "Manifesto of Delphi": A Call to Arms (March 2005), the "Delphi-21" Observatory, and the Santorini, Greece - June 2006 International Conference "Science, Society and Sustainability" (<http://laertis.chemeng.ntua.gr/santorini/>).

Introduction: *Nicholas A. Ashford*, Professor of Technology and Policy; Director, Technology and Law Program, CTPID, MIT; "Delphi-21" International Advisory Board.

Comments: Prof. *Philip J. Vergragt*, Visiting Scholar, CTPID, MIT; Senior Associate, Tellus Institute, Boston, MA.

