

Insights into the application of Strategic Foresight for innovation in policy making

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Joint Research Centre – European Commission

Webinar

Strategic and Participatory Foresight

21 May 2024



The image shows several European Union flags flying on tall, silver flagpoles. The flags are blue with a circle of twelve gold stars. In the background, a modern building with a grid of windows is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Why strategic foresight?

- To strengthen the culture of future-oriented and evidence-based policymaking
- Increased speed and magnitude of change challenging traditional assumptions in policymaking
- Increasing uncertainty and complexity - COVID-19, Russian invasion, AI...
- To ensure policies build the future we want and not solve the problems of the past!

European Commission's Annual Strategic Foresight Reports



2020



2021



2022

Commission
Communication

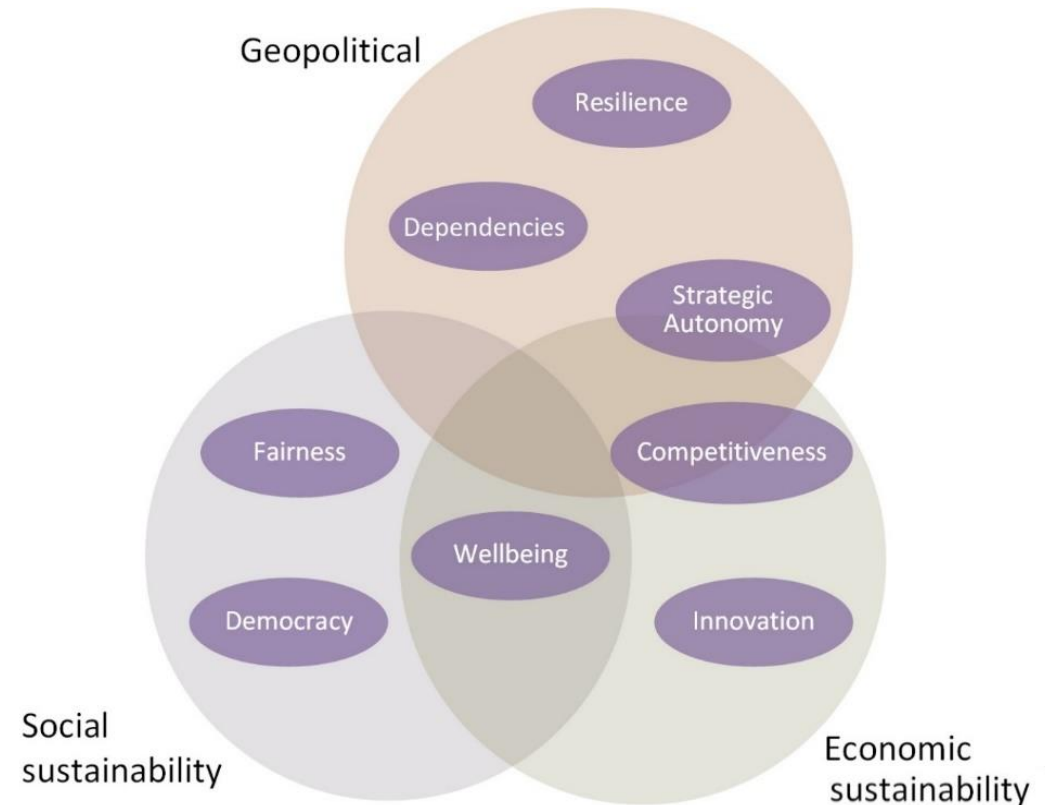
Science for
Policy Report



2023

Guiding question for the foresight process

“What strategic decisions need to be made in the next decades to ensure a socially and economically sustainable Europe with stronger role in the world?”

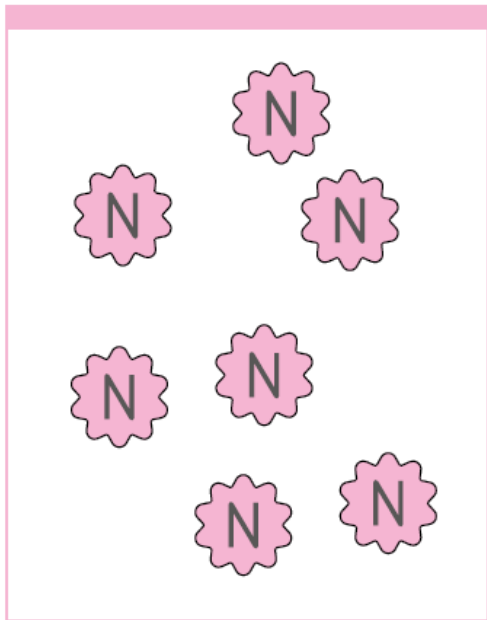


Co-created scenarios and transition pathways

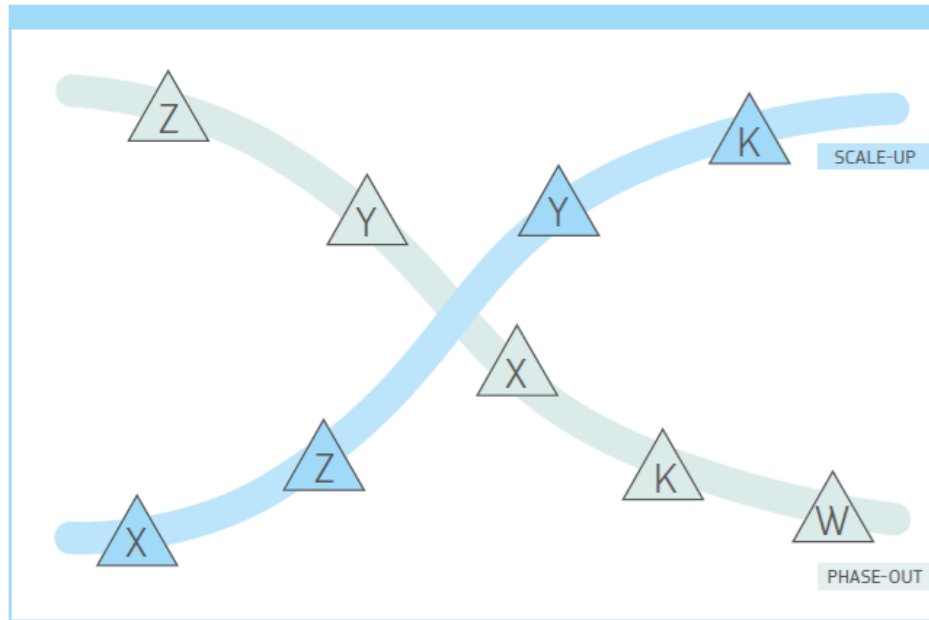
PRESENT

2050

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS



TRANSITION PATHWAYS



SCENARIO



How did the EU end up in each 2050 scenario?

- Basis for systemic analysis
- → main patterns of change
- → Understand leverage points for policy

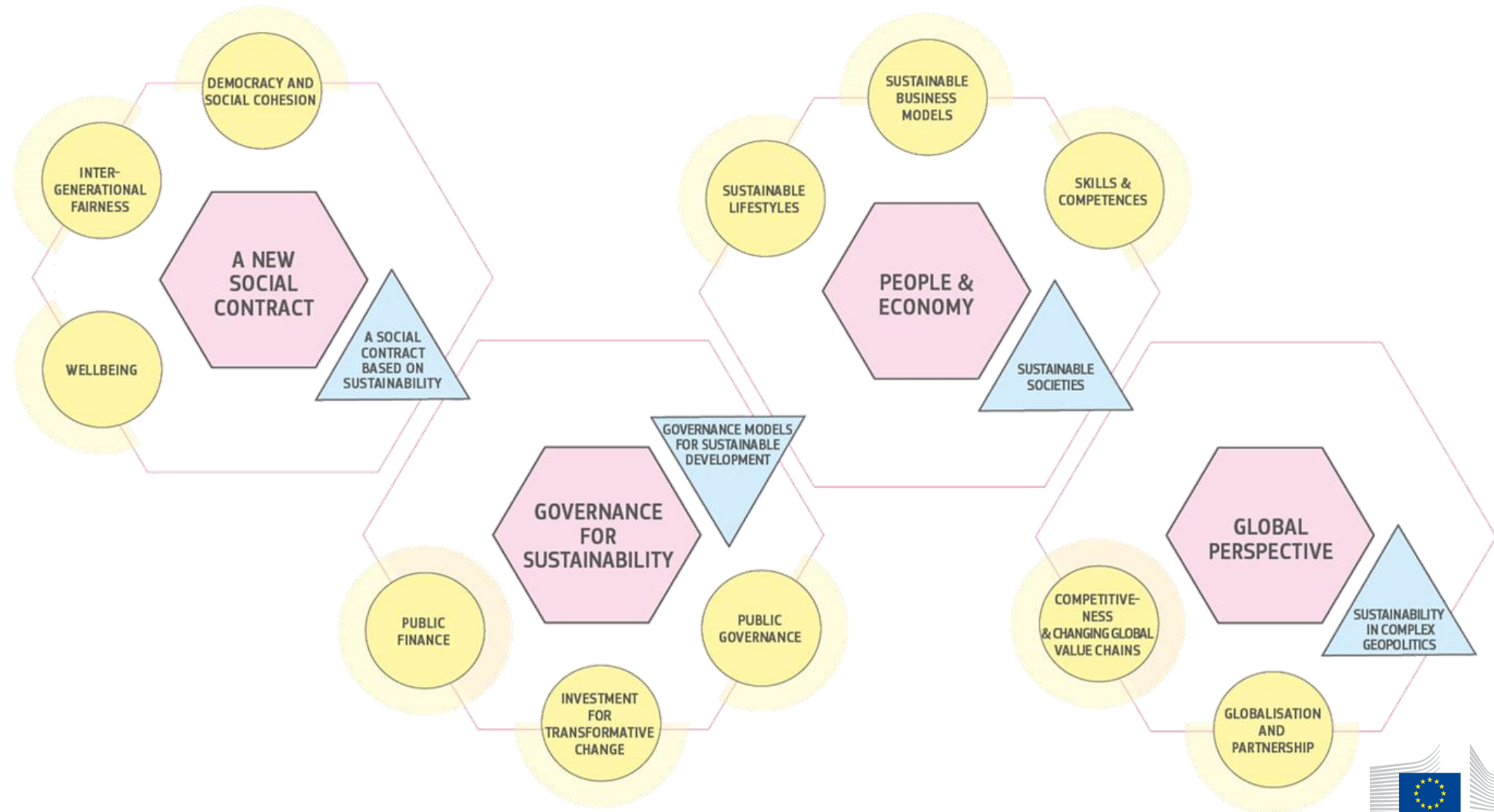
SIGN OF NEW

CHANGE

PATTERNS OF CHANGE

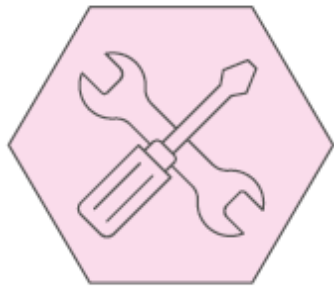
CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

Strategic areas of intervention



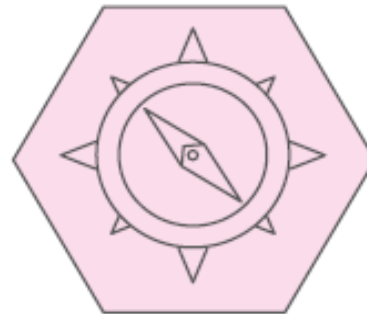
Building capacity to act of EU actors in sustainability transitions

Shaping



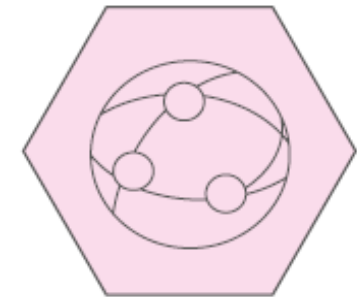
Change through systemic policy mixes

Navigating



Uncertainty and complexity

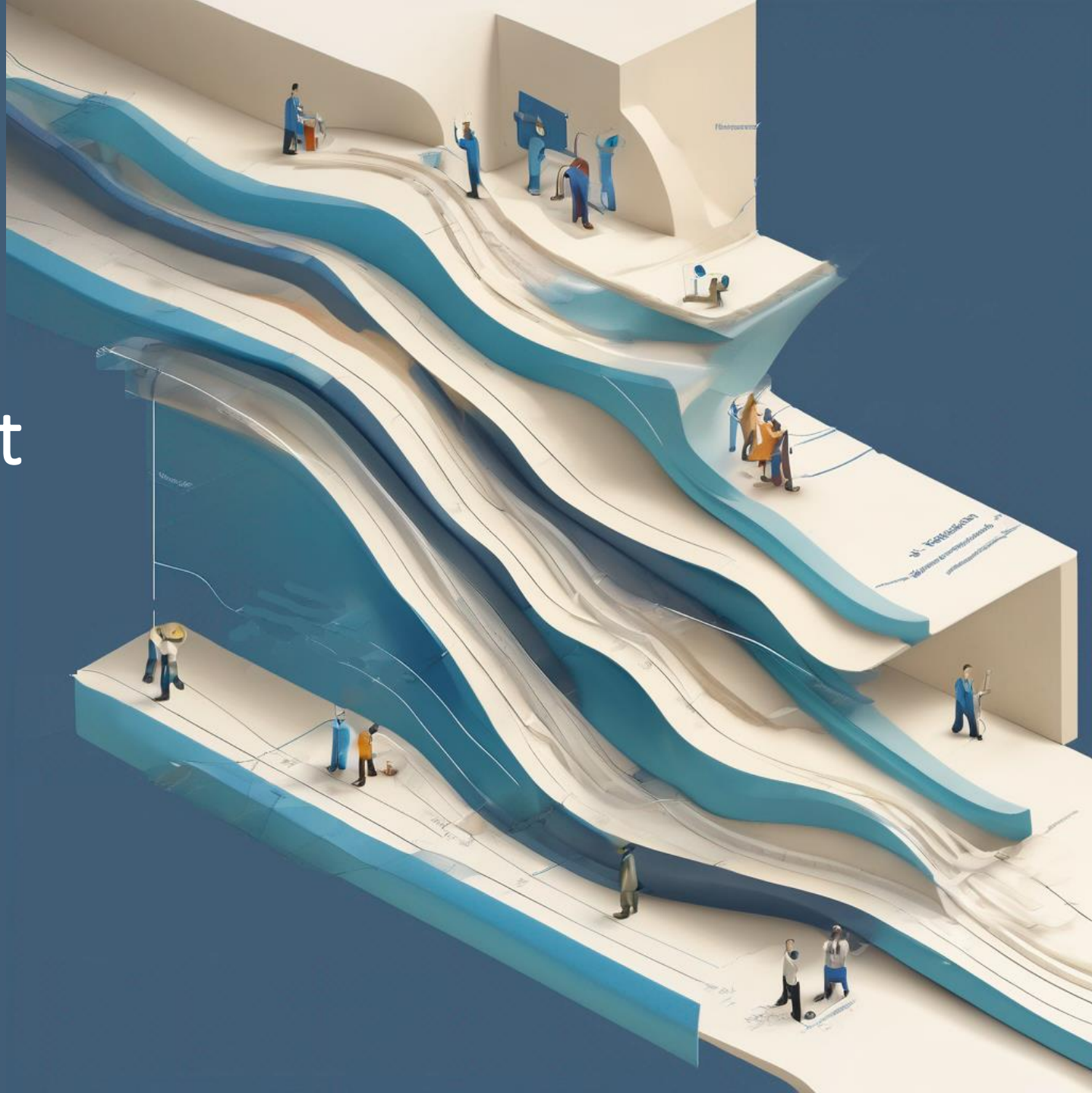
Orchestrating



Processes and relations

Making strategic foresight actionable for policymaking

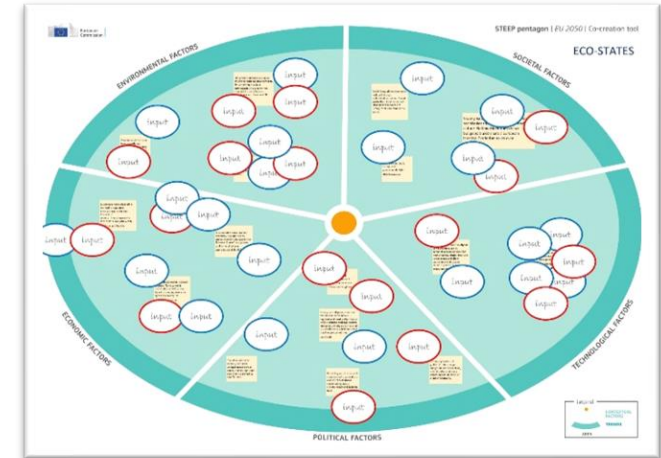
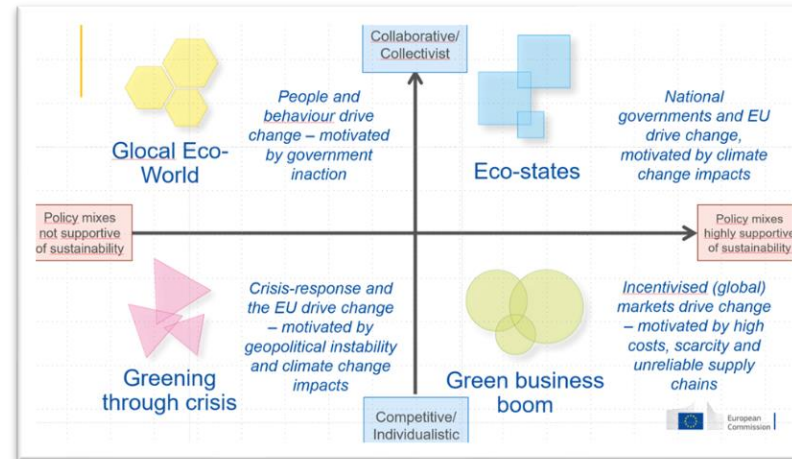
Examples



Making strategic foresight actionable for policymaking

Example 1. The regional perspective

- *Sense-making session - Foresight Scenarios with project officers of EU Regional Development Agencies*
- *Framing element. Innovation activities from Partnership for Regional Innovation (PRI) approach*



Processes	Activities
Engaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of stakeholders for given societal goals Continuous dialogue with stakeholders Governance of government Inclusive governance Legitimation
Envisioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical and anticipatory diagnosis Participatory foresight Transition pathways / Roadmaps Setting milestones and targets
Orchestrating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda setting and sharing Multi-level cooperation Collaboration across different departments Inter-territorial collaboration
Designing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy formulation Policy and action mix formulation Resource mobilisation Ecosystem support Local mission
Implementing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of strategy Coordination of policy and action mix Funds prioritisation Experimentation and demonstration Scaling and mainstreaming
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous monitoring and evaluation Learning and unlearning Capacity to anticipate, learn and adapt Collecting evidence



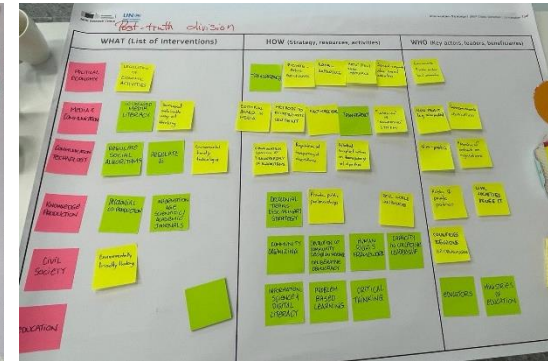
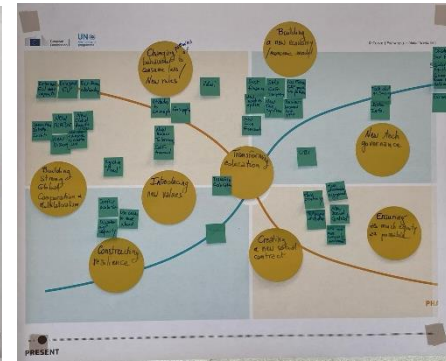
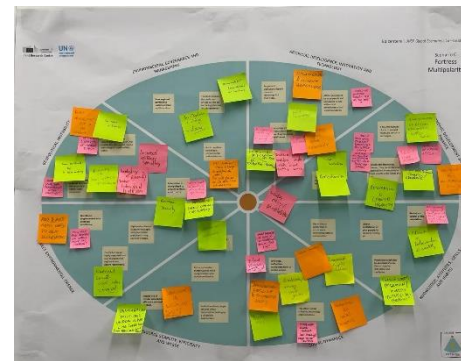
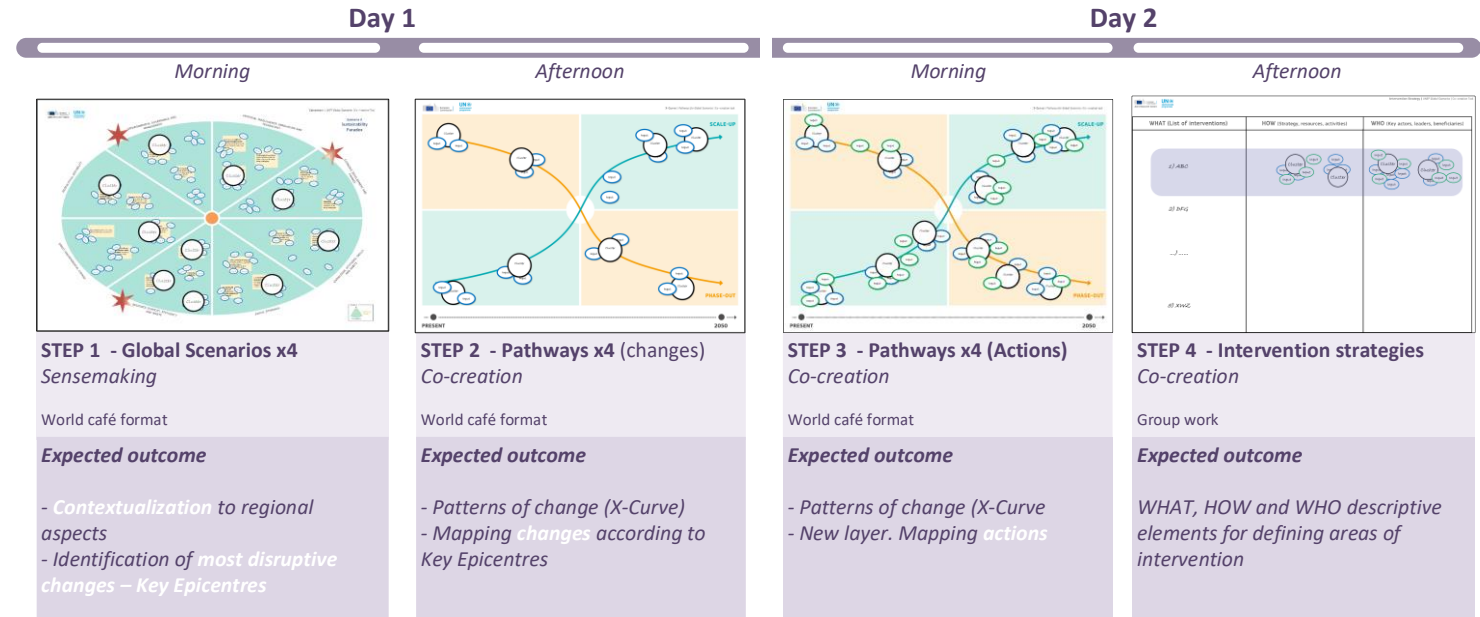
Making strategic foresight actionable for policymaking

Example 2. The Global perspective UNEP

Scenarios + Transitions Pathways + Interventions (3 STEPS)

Six Regional workshops:

- Europe
- Africa
- North America
- West Asia
- LATAM
- Asia-Pacific



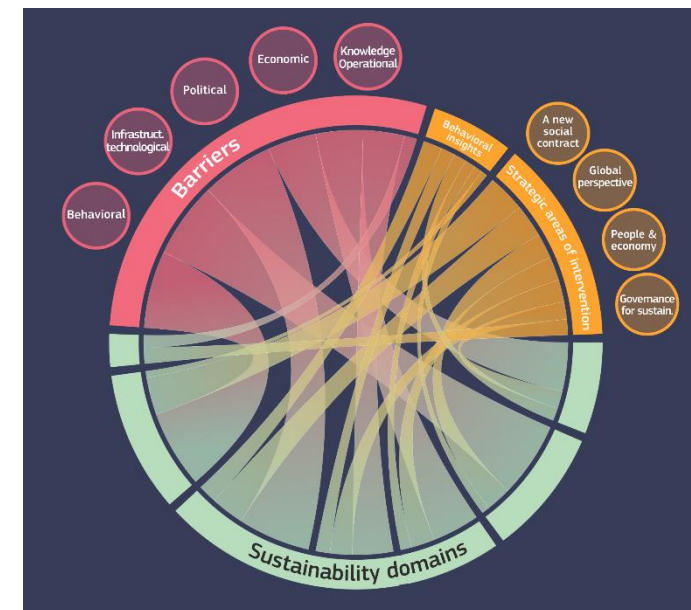
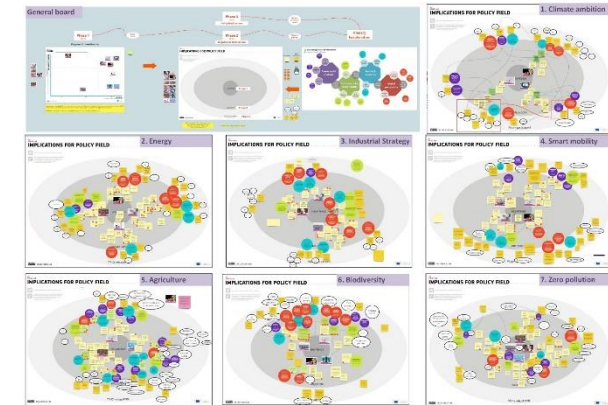
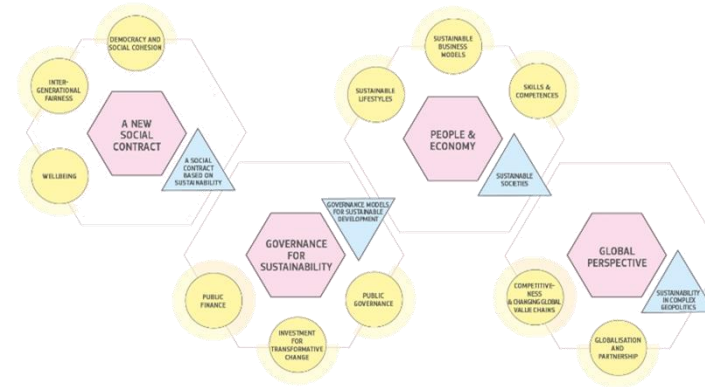
Making strategic foresight actionable for policymaking

Example 4. EU Green Deal Gap Analysis

Enrich the narrative of each Green Deal (thematic) area with relevant implications for the future

Introduce a systemic perspective on the green deal gap analysis

- > 600 inputs gathered
- 12 High relevance megatrends linked to EGD
- Barriers identified through Behavioral insights



Strategic Foresight

Insights on impact and institutionalisation

- Establishing **new framings as key policy concepts**: resilience, sustainability transitions, strategic autonomy
- Define global **challenges and principles for in-depth studies** in strategic areas
- Supporting the development of **new measurements, monitoring frameworks and tools** such as dashboards and roadmaps
- Contributing to the design of **new policy packages** (policy formulation) and provide critical insights for the design of **new initiatives and programs** (policy implementation)
- Support in deciding on **investments in strategic areas and capabilities** at different levels
- Enable **collaboration** within EC domains and global partners through **science diplomacy**

Thank you



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