

The emergence of new innovation patterns such as open innovation, user innovation and community innovations with new actors, different roles and new modes of interaction implies re-configurations in European innovation systems with diverse implications for European S&T in the long run.

While a few radical visions have been taking up these signals and are predicting disruptive change for economy and society there is little systematic exploration of possible future innovation landscapes and their implications for economy and society...

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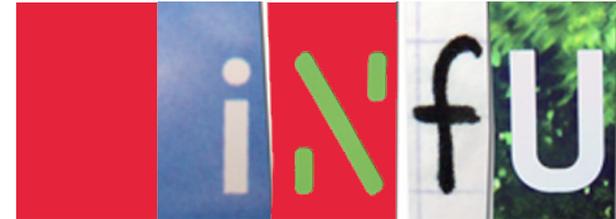
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INNOVATION FUTURES IN EUROPE:

A Foresight Exercise on emerging
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Typical questions which will be addressed are:

What is the role of current innovation agents (companies, researchers, engineers, designers, architects... the so called "creative class"...) within new innovation patterns?

How important are peoples' attitudes towards innovation activities and their dependence on cultural context (e.g. Innovation fatigue and passive consumer mentality versus individualisation and experience economy) for the emergence of new innovation patterns?

What business models enable new innovation schemes?

For what type of products, industrial sector, cultural context, etc. different innovation patterns will likely gain popularity?

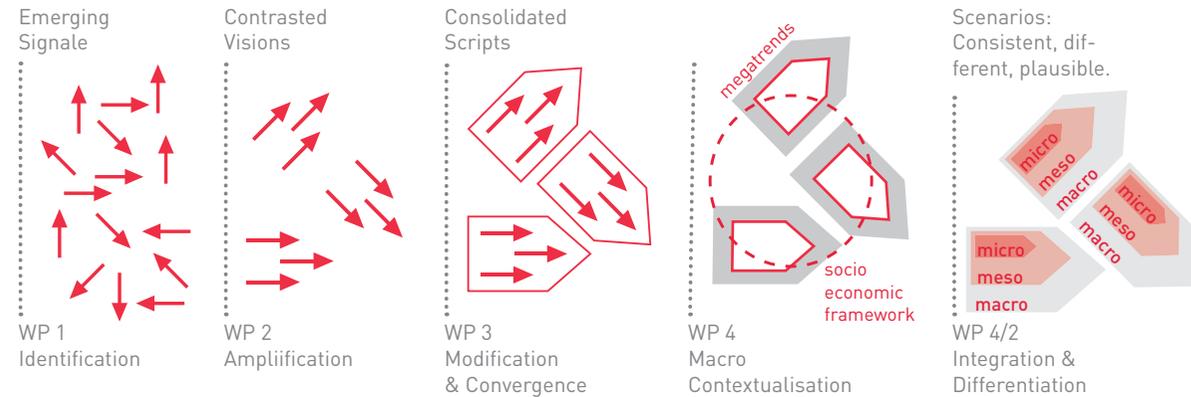
How are new innovation patterns related to well-known global mega-trends such as demographic change, environmental threats, urbanisation ...?

What are implications of new innovation schemes for production patterns (distribution and location of production)?

What is the environmental impact of new innovation patterns and in particular of user innovations?

What are implications of new innovation forms for regulatory framework conditions (both enabling and controlling these innovations)?

Exploration and integration process: from signals of change (WP1) to Innovation Future Scenarios (WP 4)



In order to answer these questions, the INFU Foresight project will develop plausible and relevant long-term scenarios of future innovation landscapes in order to orient long-term strategy building for policy and other innovation actors.

The project employs various methods such as scanning weak signals, organising expert panels and workshops, scenario development and visualisation in order to support policy and strategy making.

INFU implements a progressive explorative dialogue with key stakeholders and experts using advanced creativity methods to foster thinking beyond established pathways and up-to-date prospective methods to structure the debate and ensure rigour of analysis. Particular emphasis is placed on optimising the knowledge flow through tailored and vivid formatting of outcomes for audiences in and outside the project.

The INFU futures dialogue departs from an identification of emerging signals of change in current innovation patterns and progresses with increasing integration of diverse perspectives and knowledge sources towards consolidated innovation futures scripts. These bottom-up visions are then confronted with different possible socio-economic

framework conditions and global megatrends to finally synthesise consistent scenarios that are integrating micro, meso and macro elements of possible innovation futures with particular emphasis on the changes in nature and content of research. The scenarios will outline how future actors may collaborate in new configurations and with new approaches to transform knowledge into products and services within different socio-economic frameworks. Finally, options for policy strategies to prepare for the identified changes in innovation patterns are derived together with key policy actors. The INFU consortium comprises strong complementary competencies in Foresight, strategic support to policy and industry and academic innovation research.

The INFU project started in June and currently scans weak signals using various sources to identify potential new innovation patterns.