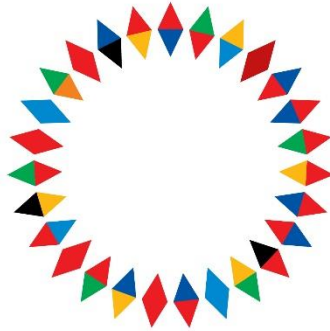


## Foresight in Research and Innovation

### Inclusive foresight and public engagement



EU2022.CZ

**Date:** Friday, October 07, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (CET)

**Venue:** On-line (via Zoom) – link will be provided to registered participants

**Organizer:** Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences

**Participants:** RDI policy-makers, foresight practitioners, technology assessment practitioners

#### Context

A series of international workshops on foresight in research and innovation was launched during the German Presidency (25 November 2020) and continues through the Portuguese Presidency (22 June 2021) and the Slovenian Presidency (10 December 2021). The aim of these workshops, organised in cooperation with the European Commission, is primarily to strengthen the role of foresight in European and national research and innovation policies and to create a well-working European platform for the exchange of experiences and information on the implementation of foresight in research and innovation.

The Czech Presidency workshop focuses on the *Inclusive foresight and public engagement*, linked to a stronger involvement of citizens in structured discussions on the future direction of research, technological development and innovation.

Over the last decade, processes of public engagement – in which members of diverse publics express their views, concerns and recommendations – have become increasingly common features of R&I policy. There are multiple rationales for public engagement in R&I policy. First, public engagement can broaden the knowledge base on which to make R&I policy decisions, enhancing the quality and

relevance of the knowledge produced and helping to steer science and innovation toward socially desirable objectives. Second, engaging the public upfront on questions of controversial technology policy may stave off a public outcry and enhance trust between scientists and the lay public. Third, from the perspective of democratic governance, public engagement can enhance the meaningful participation of citizens in decisions that affect them deeply. But public engagement can also help improve the relations of science and society by building a more scientifically literate, supportive and engaged citizenry.

Public engagement in R&I policy often involves a wide range of instruments, from less deliberative forms of public communication (e.g. notice or surveys) to more dialogic mechanisms (e.g. constructive technology assessments or citizens' juries). It is important to note that these tools are often employed together rather than in a stand-alone approach. Such efforts consider publics not as passive recipients of expert knowledge, but as actors shaping technologies and their trajectories (OECD STI Outlook, 2016).

The general development of society has always been deeply linked with technological development. New technologies tend to not only change the means and organization of production but also influence the way society's organized; thus, having an impact on dominant values in society. The effect of technology can be distinguished on both micro- and macro-levels. At a micro-level, new technologies affect the behaviour of users and social roles and relations that users build in relation to others. At a macro-level, technological products and systems stimulate the development of certain types of material infrastructure or social organization. Technology assessment and foresight both use a broad spectrum of approaches and methods involving citizens in science and technology and the related policies.

## Goals

- Discuss topics, tools, and processes for increased public involvement in R&I policy-making
- Strengthen cooperation between foresight and technology assessment communities in Europe

## Preliminary agenda

10.00 – 10.20	<b>Welcome and setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marek HAVRDA (Deputy Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic)</li><li>• Alexandr HOBZA (Head of Unit, Common R&amp;I Strategy &amp; Foresight Service, DG RTD)</li></ul>
10.20 – 11.00	<b>Public engagement in policy-making processes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public engagement in foresight (Matthias WEBER, AIT and Tanja SCHINDLER, 4strat)</li><li>• Public engagement in technology assessment (Tore TENNØE, Norwegian Board of Technology)</li><li>• Q&amp;A</li></ul>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Towards effective involvement of society in R&amp;I decision-making</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mutual Learning Exercise on R&amp;I Foresight (DG RTD)</li><li>• Introduction to the discussion (TC CAS)</li></ul> <b>Parallel sessions discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Challenges for R&amp;I policy that need to be addressed through greater involvement of citizens</li><li>• How to involve marginalised groups in decision-making processes</li><li>• Policy mechanisms for implementing TA and foresight in decision-making processes</li></ul>
12:00 – 12:15	Break and preparation of summaries from discussions
12:15 – 12:45	<b>Reporting back to plenary</b>
12:45 – 13:00	<b>Closing remarks and the way forward</b>