

Designing Technology Foresight within the Science – Society Dialogue The Romanian Case Study

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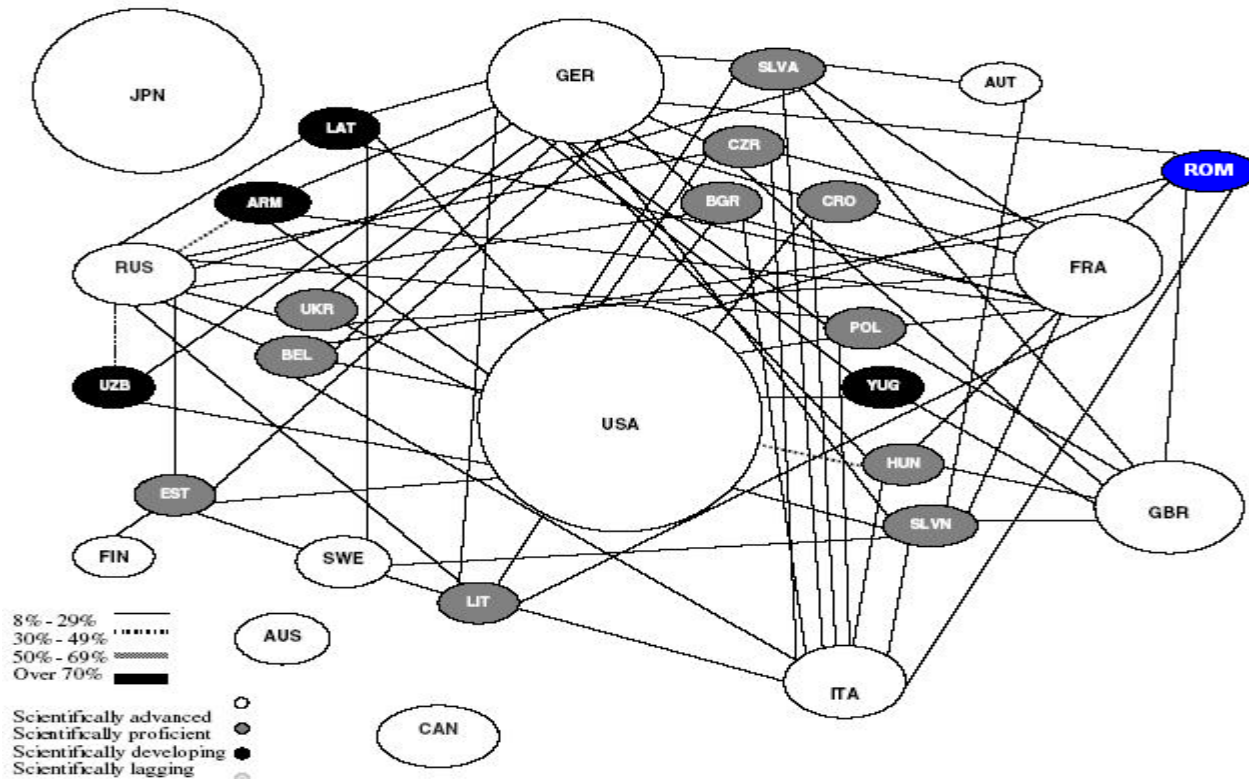
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Bridging the scientific divide

- ◆ The Specific Programme “Capacities” implementing the 7th Framework Programme ... science in society ...
- ◆ The scientific divide separates those who do not have the capacity to influence policy-making in research from those who do have this capacity.

Patterns of Co-authorship - CIS and Balkan region



Romanian Flavor in Foresight

- ◆ Emphasis on the decision-making process
- ◆ Sponsor's requirement to produce two political documents:
 - The National R&D Strategy
 - The National R&D Plan 2007-2013
- ◆ Guiding principle: “Everything should be made as simple as possible ...
... but not simpler!” Albert Einstein



Foresight



- ◆ Visioning process
- ◆ Participatory process
- ◆ Decision-support process
- ◆ Self-recursive process

Functions of Shared Visions

- ◆ A theory of visioning is a *theory of change*
- ◆ The role of a vision is to *focus the future*
- ◆ The vision is not an answer to the problem of transforming the system, but the *reference point for an incremental model*



Meta-strategies of Change

- ◆ Values-driven strategies
- ◆ Information-driven strategies
- ◆ Authority-driven strategies
- ◆ Relationship-driven strategies

Social Representations of the Future

- ◆ Collections of structured concepts, values and practices about the future, guiding behavior and answers to stimuli
- ◆ Structural approach emphasizes on consensus building and the existence of a central node
- ◆ Implicit vs. Explicit

Self-fulfilling Prophecies

- ◆ The impact of a self-fulfilling prophecy last for about six years (Smith, 1999)
- ◆ The major risk of developing self-fulfilling prophecies, theory-perseverance bias, should be considered during the design of interactions!

Shared visions

- ◆ Collections of *idealized objectives*, placed beyond the planning horizon
- ◆ founded on sets of *priorities for scientific research and innovation* that answer socio-economic needs (the ideational component)
- ◆ and sets of *priorities for action* within the research system (the transformational component)

Following a Vision

- ◆ The visioning process provided a route to define goals and desired outcomes
- ◆ Normative forecasting scenarios can be built around getting there and probable consequences
- ◆ But the pathways remain asymptotic, while the vision keeps its nature of ideal social representation

**VISIONARY
TARGETS**

OBJECTIVES

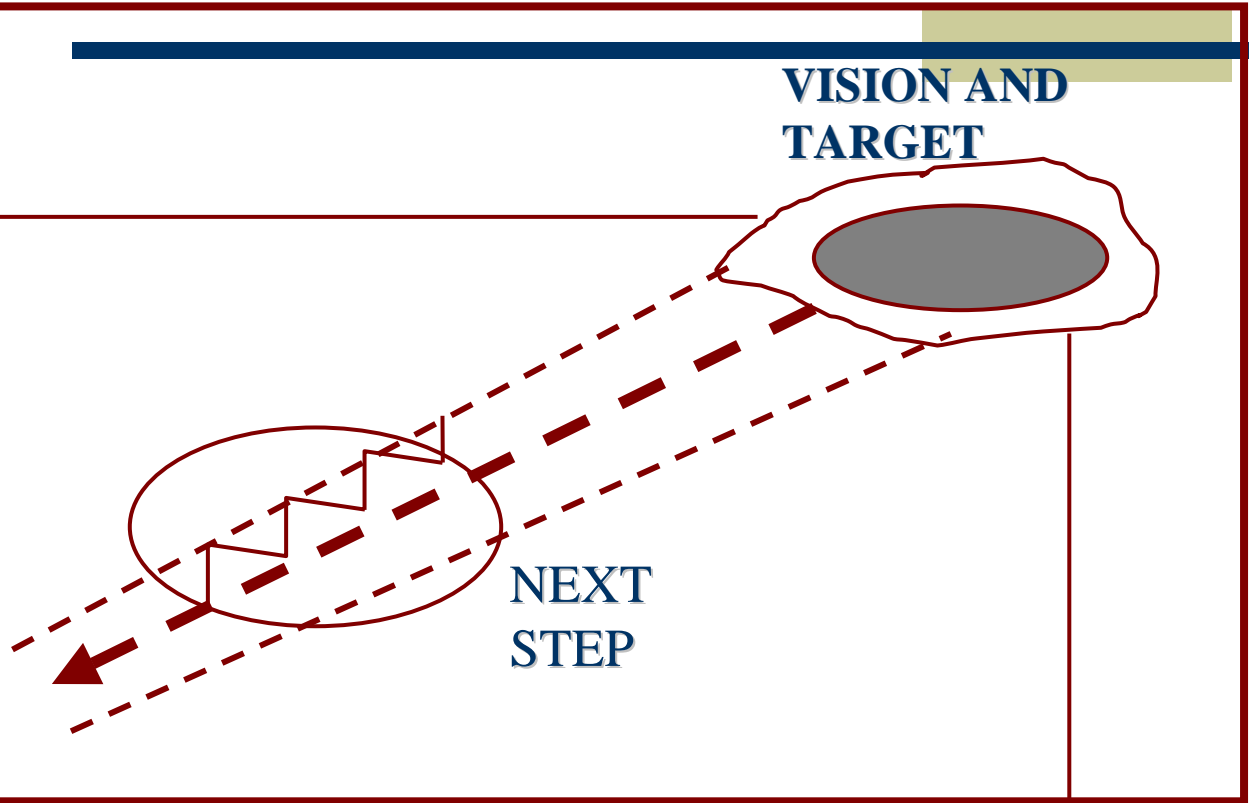
**CURRENT
STATE**

X

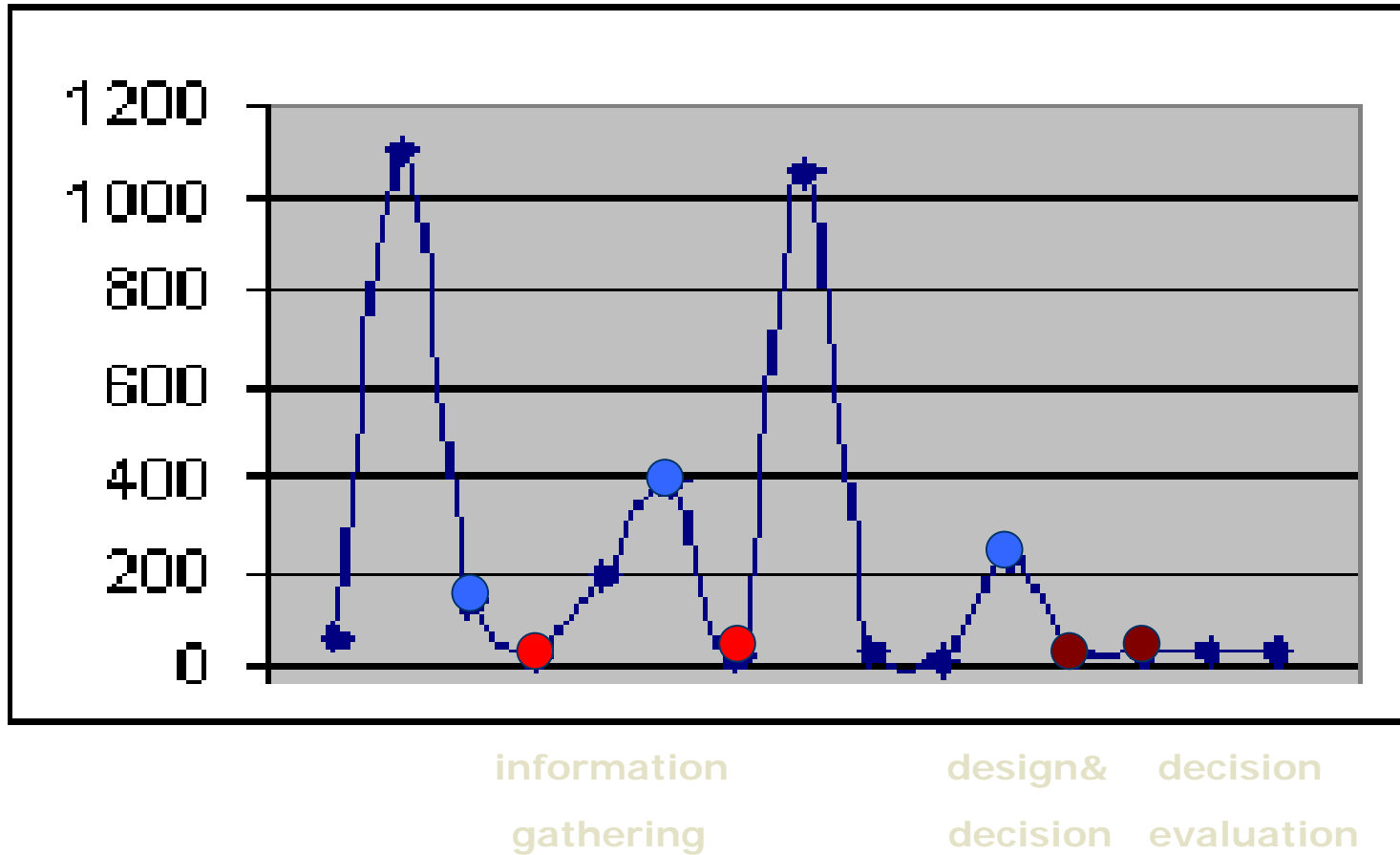
**VISION AND
TARGET**

**NEXT
STEP**

**VISIONARY
DEVELOPMENT**



Participation





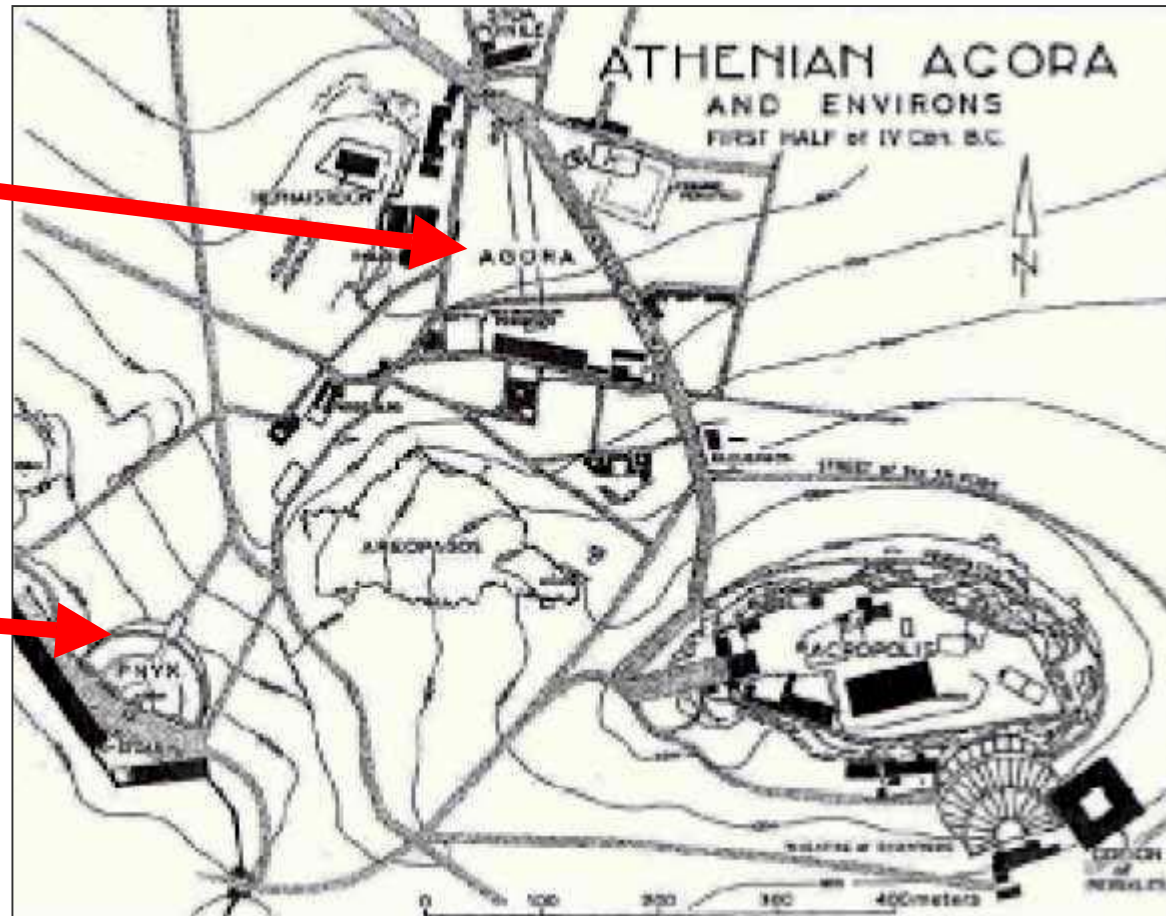
Convergence issues

- ◆ Spots of convergence appear where heterogeneous networks are emerging
- ◆ Still, stability depends on the impossibility of returning to a situation in which the current form was only one possible option

Athenian Agoras

Agora (*ageiro* = to gather; *agoreuo* = to deliver a speech in public) open central place, with boundries, where debates took place

Ekklesia = the gathering where decisions were being made and which took place Pnyx



Source: Davenport, Leitch (2005)

Negotiation workshops

- ◆ Stakeholder consultation in the pre-negotiation stage
- ◆ Conceptual model of negotiation based on the principle of *dialectic interrogation*
 - Multilateral negotiations of “science”, “s&t management”, “administration”, “business/industry”, “civil society”
 - The formula is based upon gradual building of the solution in the form of “packages”
- ◆ Followed-up by further filtering through on-line voting procedures

Shortcomings

- ◆ Low level of ~~participation in the decision~~ making process itself, resulting in a phony feeling of inclusiveness
- ◆ The phenomenon of “fatigue”
- ◆ Low level of interaction during the on-line consultation
 - should be replaced with more inclusive forms of decision-making, including cyber-agoras

Romanian Strategic Visions

- ◆ Information Society Technologies
- ◆ Competitive through Innovation
- ◆ Quality of Life
- ◆ Social and Cultural Dynamics
- ◆ Sustainable Development
- ◆ Institutional Building of the Research System in the Knowledge Society

Structure of the Vision

- ◆ Goal beyond the planning horizon
- ◆ Research priorities beyond the planning horizon
- ◆ Impact
- ◆ Scenarios for the 2007-2013 period
 - Specific objectives
 - Research priorities obtained through selection, particularization, prioritization
 - Actions that need to be taken here and now (financing strategies, human resources, organization, infrastructure, alignment to European priorities, ...)



Conclusions



- ◆ Analysis of participation results in proper strategies for the implementation of change
- ◆ The transformational component of the vision should include “foresight about foresight”
- ◆ Anticipative learning rather than adaptation

THANK YOU !

