

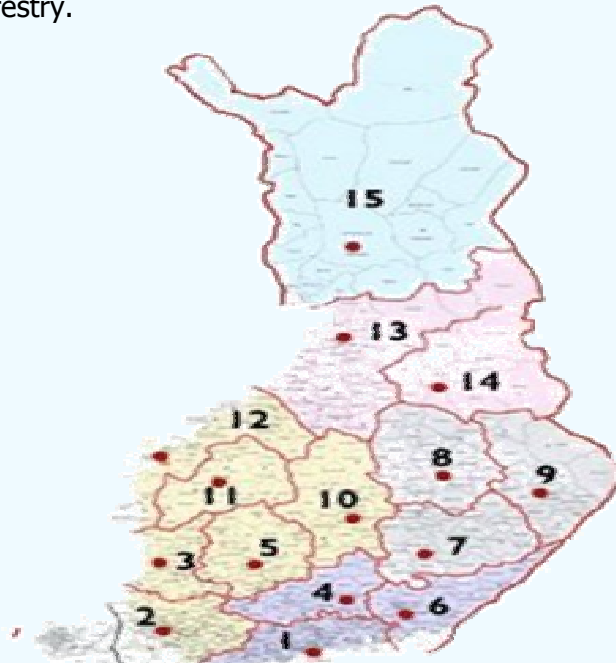
The Role of Employment and Economic Development Centres (TE-Centres) in the Finnish Regional Foresight System

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REGIONAL FORESIGHT PROJECT

at the Employment and Economic Development Centres in Finland

Employment and Economic Development Centres (TE-Centres) were established in 1997. TE-Centres are joint regional service centres of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, labour districts of the Ministry of Labour and the agricultural, forestry and fishery districts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Tasks of the TE-Centres

- to support and advise SMEs at the various stages of their life cycles
- to promote technological development in enterprises and assist in matters associated with export activities and internationalisation
- to implement regional labour policies
- to plan and organise adult training within the official labour policy framework
- to promote and develop farming and rural enterprise activities
- to develop fisheries
- to influence and participate in regional development in general

Support and Co-ordination project of TE-foresight

- The project was launched 1998
- Managed by Ministry of Labour, Finland Futures Research Centre, and MTI
- Financed by European Social Fund (ESF), Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
- Targets of the project:
 - ▶ to develop a regional foresight system for the TE-Centres
 - ▶ to launch foresight activities in the TE-Centres
 - ▶ to integrate foresight into strategic planning and management systems of TE-ministries and TE-Centres (management by targets, EFQM, Balanced ScoreCard, Executive Information System)
 - ▶ to train experts of foresight in every TE-Centre
 - ▶ to develop foresight on a local and regional level in a way that makes it possible to utilise that information in the planning of national labour market- and economic development policy

Launching Plans of Foresight of the Centres

- mapping the foresight knowledge needs
- vision of the foresight system in the TE-Centres; focus, activities, recourses...
- how to connect foresight into planning, decision making, and service processes
- describing the co-operation and networking of local and regional actors
- training the personnel for foresight and future thinking

The Concept of Foresight

1. Why to do foresight?
2. What is the focus of foresight?
3. How to do foresight?
4. When to do foresight?
5. Who will do foresight?
6. How to manage the foresight data, information and knowledge?
7. What is the role of TE-Centres in regional and local foresight system?

The Conception of TE-foresight (1)

- * To produce systematically data, information and knowledge about future developments of the environment of TE-Centres; trends, weak signals, possibilities, threats
- * In foresight it is essential to make clear what the visions concerning the future signify in **terms of current decisions and actions** of TE-Centres.
- * To recognize new potential business possibilities and changes in technology, working life, qualifications and social issues

The Conception of TE-foresight (2)

- * With foresight the aim is **to make the future**, not simply study it. For this reason it is important in foresight to **bring together the key actors** and to build **networks** between the actors. Methods that promote interaction and participation occupy a key role in foresight
- * Ultimately foresight is used to support the development of the region as a whole, to strengthen regional innovation system and to promote the competitiveness and economic growth in a region

The Vision of TE-foresight for 2010

Ministry of Trade and Industry; 'Integrating Foresight into the TE-Centres' Activities – a Vision for 2010 and Development strategy'

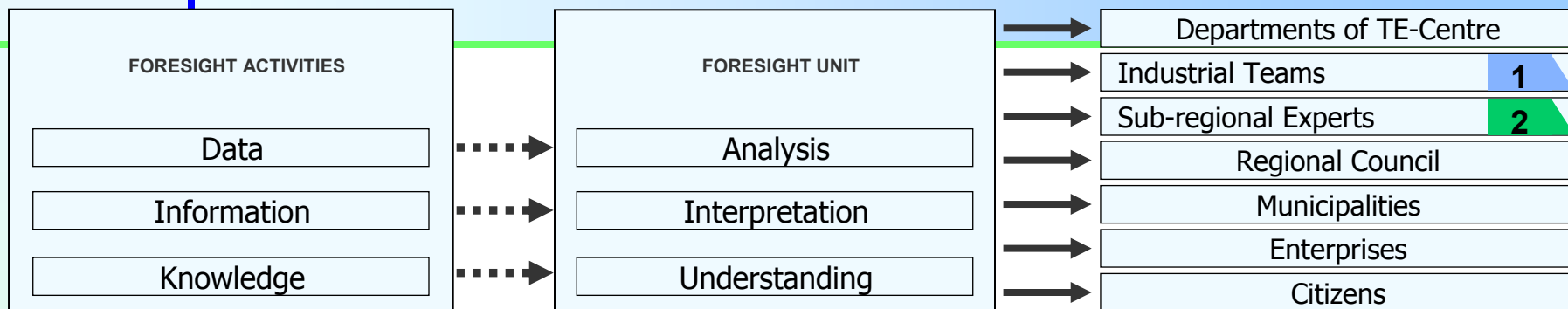
The Finnish regional foresight system will be flexible and will meet the challenges and needs of the time. FS will be internationally esteemed and of a high standard. Foresight has become a core function of TE-Centres on which their planning, decision making and service processes are based

The foresight activities have been developed as products of high quality (EFQM)

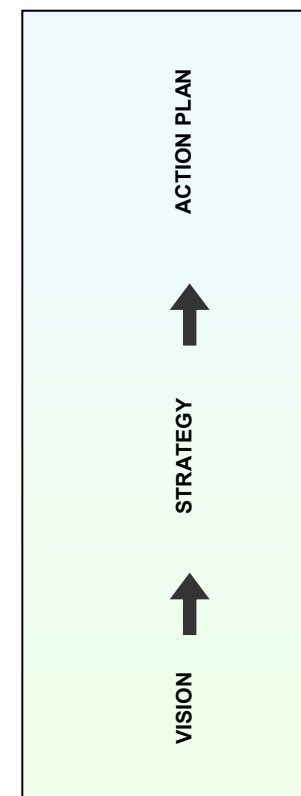
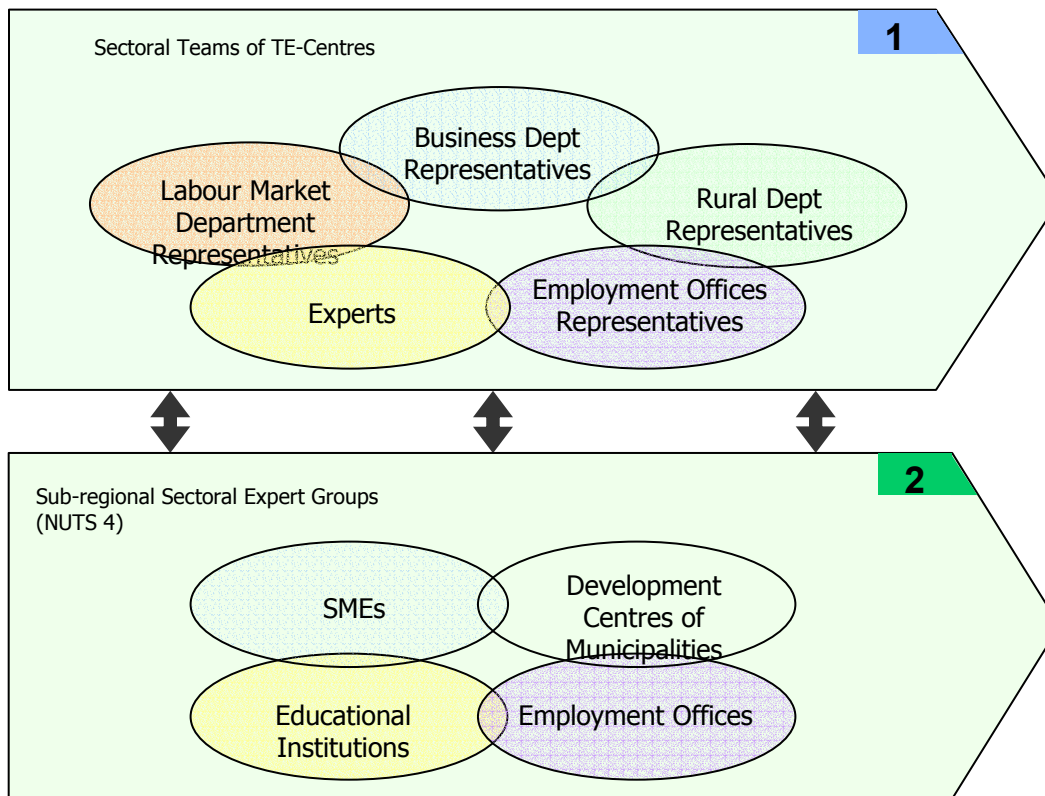


REGIONAL FORESIGHT UNIT

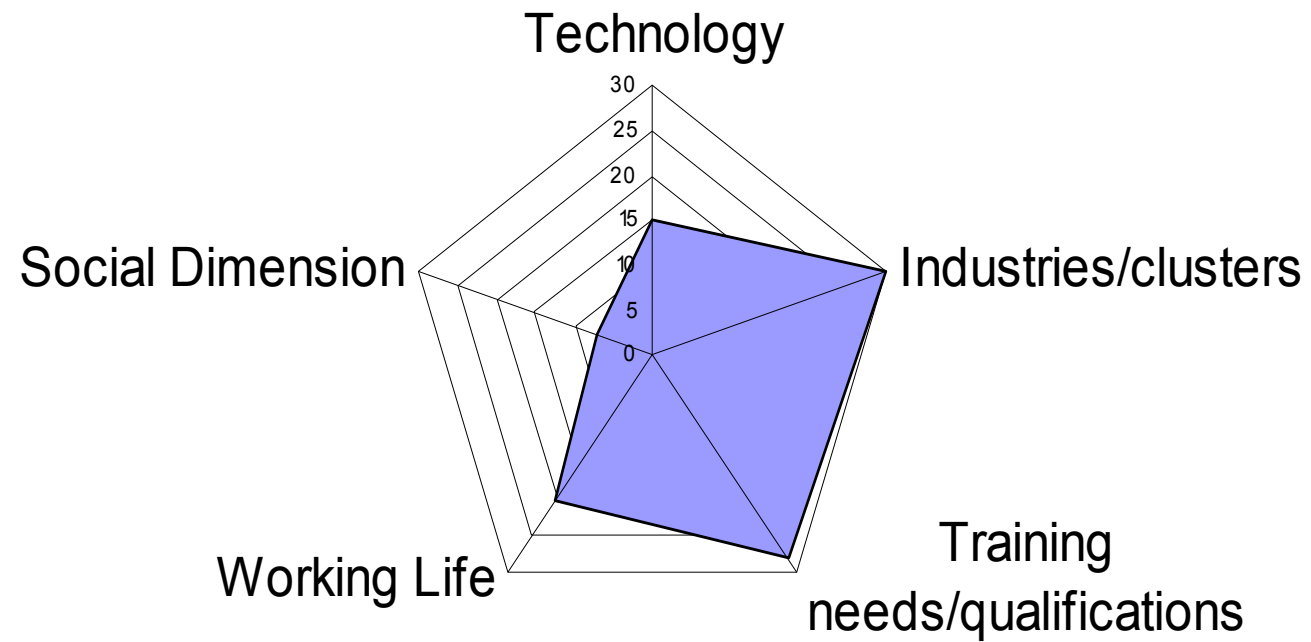
and Regional Levels of Foresight in the Region of Varsinais-Suomi



- Barometers and forecasts
- Cluster analyses
- Technology programmes
- Industrial reports of MTI
- Megatrends
- Regional barometers
- Regional forecasts
- Interviews of SMEs



The dimensions of TE-foresight, autumn 2002



The Role of TE-Centres in Regional Foresight

1. Co-ordination of local and regional foresight activities (Sectoral teams, expert groups, local employment strategies)
2. Promotion of networking
3. Production of new future knowledge, knowledge management (portals,databases), open knowledge sharing (foresight service)
4. Development of new foresight activities
5. Promotion on future thinking and training of foresight activities
6. Financing of foresight activities

Thank you for your attention !

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