

# STRENGTHENING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FORESIGHT IN THE IRISH PUBLIC SERVICE

Project overview

4 April 2022



European  
Commission

# Project Objectives

The general objective of this project is to strengthen institutional and administrative capacity by improving the whole of system policy development and in particular strategic foresight.

**Impact:** A strengthened policy development framework, building on existing expertise with improved future readiness of the public service through strategic foresight and anticipation.

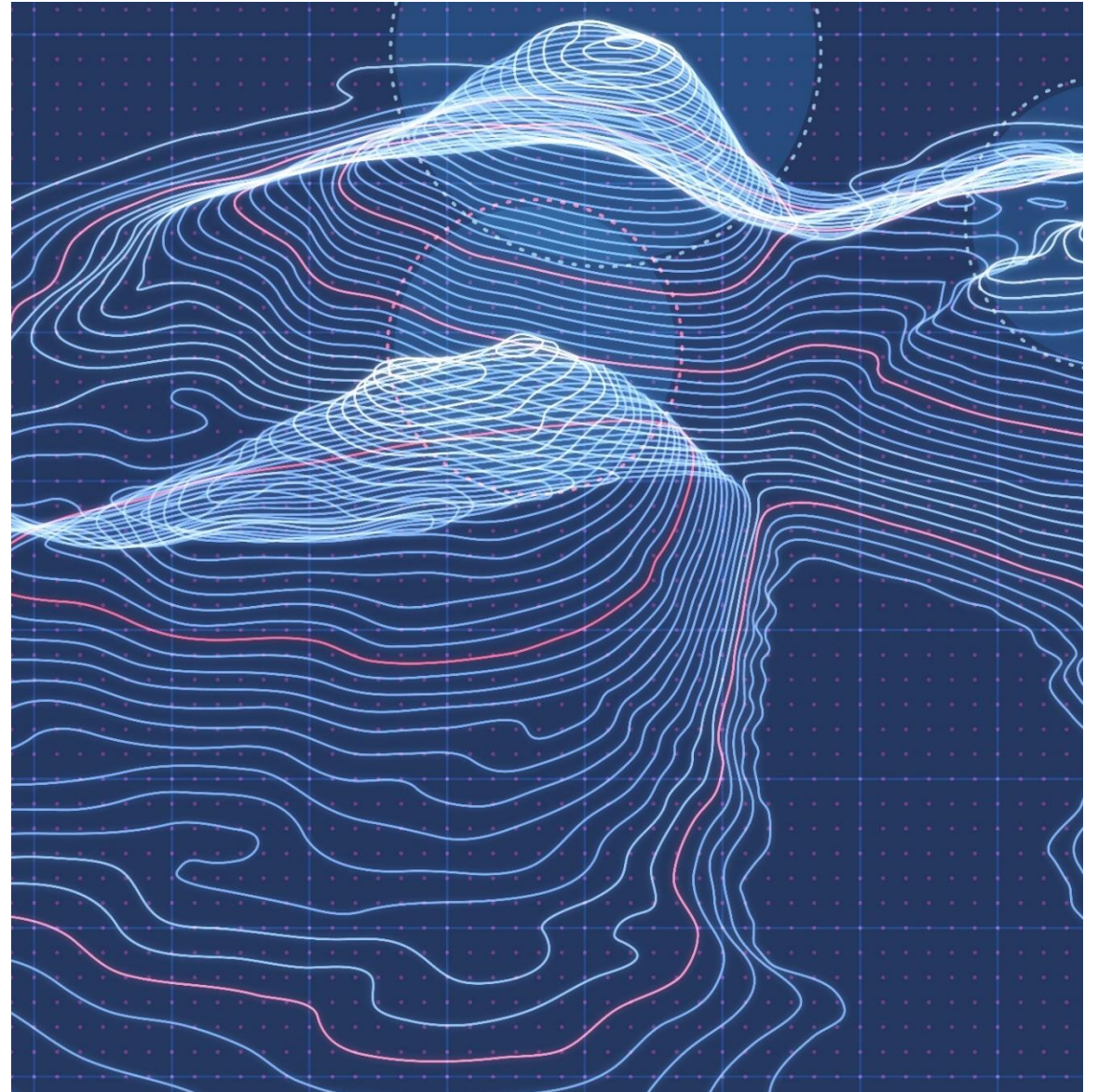
**Outcome:** Established policy development framework, which will strengthen the coordinated approach to policy-making, including strategic foresight.

# Steps to Overall Project Delivery

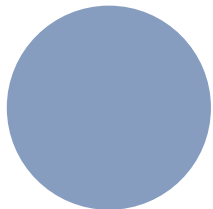
- **Assessment report** of the policy development framework across the government.
- **Integrated policy development framework** with a connected toolkit.
- **Communities of practice** for policy development and strategic foresight enabling peer to peer exchange.
- An **action plan** sequencing the implementation of the recommendations connected to building up a strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation system.
- **Cases** on strategic foresight and anticipation from Ireland.
- **Curricula** for capacity building program on strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation.
- **Capacity building** workshops on policy development and strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation.

# Policy Development

- ✓ Ensure public governance values are adopted, mainstreamed and integrated into the policy implementation process;
- ✓ Leverage governance tools: strategic planning, impact assessments, budget framework, civil servant skills, digital capacities, data capacities, to improve quality of policy formulation and design;
- ✓ Put learnings from COVID-19 response into practice: better coordinate from the Centre, broaden stakeholder involvement, update skillsets, further integrate long-term thinking.

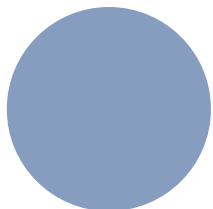


# Policy Development Deliverables



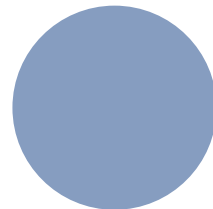
## **Policy Development Assessment**

Report assessing the current state of policy development activities and strategic foresight in Ireland outlining recommendations.



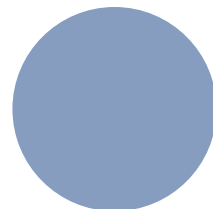
## **Policy Development Toolkit**

Help navigate, bring consistency to, and increase the effective use of existing tools and methods.



## **Policy Development Framework**






Report on strengthening a coordinated approach to policy development drawing on existing framework and international good practices and peers.



## **Community of Practice**

Mission document outlining the purpose, role and activities of a community of practice on policy development.

# Policy Development: Engagement

Early 2022		Take part in interviews
Spring 2022		Fill out survey
Spring 2022		Take part in assessment testing workshop
Summer 2022		Take part in toolkit design workshop
Autumn 2022		Contribute to Community of Practice



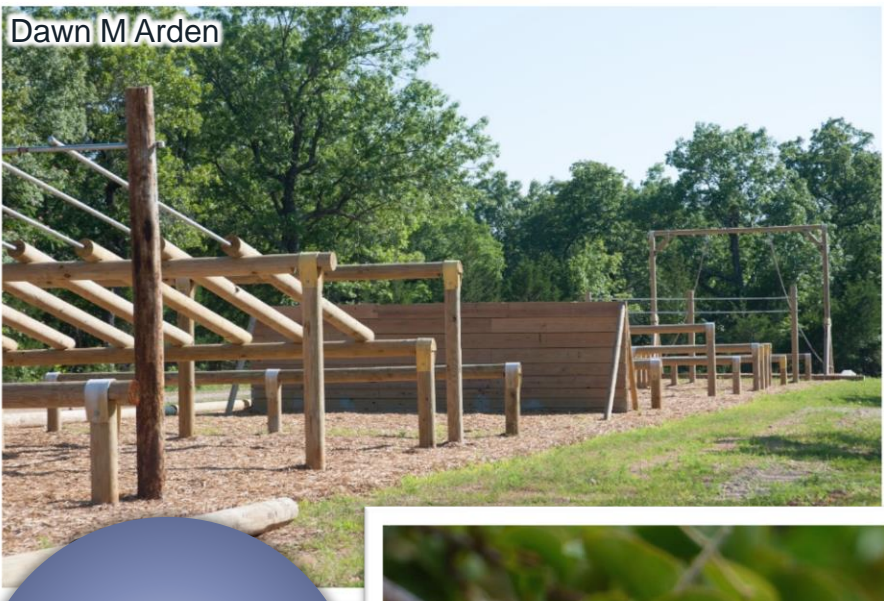
The ability to constantly  
perceive, make sense of,  
and act on the future today

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OPSI Strategic Foresight

# USES

Dawn M Arden



Purposeful futures



STRESS  
TESTING



Forest and Kim Starr

EARLY  
WARNING  
SYSTEMS

NEW  
SOLUTIONS

COMMON  
PURPOSE

# MYTHS

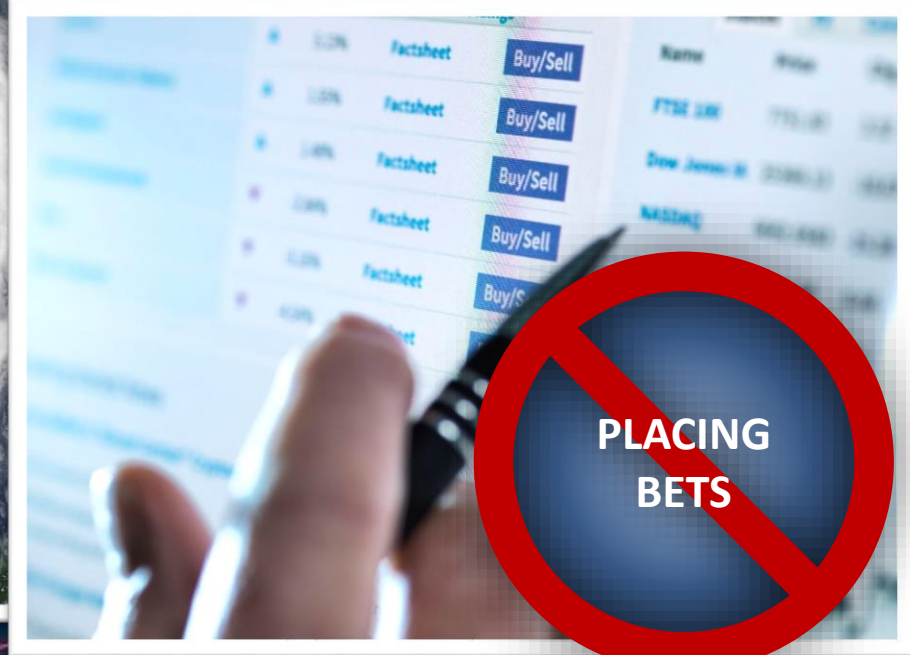
What foresight is not



**STRATEGIC  
PLANNING**



**RISK  
ASSESSMENT**



**PLACING  
BETS**

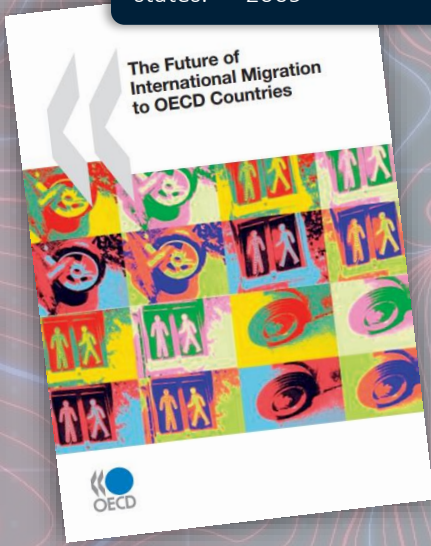


**CRYSTAL  
BALL  
GAZING**

# FORESIGHT PRACTICE

"High levels of immigration due to political instability could drive up **domestic tension** in OECD states."—2009

"In 2030, the process of **globalisation has stagnated** as opposing forces have gained the upper hand, including in the politics of many countries..."



"A **future pandemic** could be immensely disruptive [...] how would education systems balance the need to bring students and teachers together in spite of the possible risk of infection?"—2019



...Belief in the benefits of international cooperation and of an international market economy has gradually diminished. In many cases people [...] **no longer trust their "own" state**; in many countries as a result there is political and **social division** and unrest."—2010



"Welcome to the **metaverse** of 2035, an interconnected virtual platform where the majority of all human interaction, for business or leisure, now takes place."—early 2021

"The **global pandemic** of 2023 dramatically **reduced global travel** in an effort to contain the spread of the disease, contributing to the slowing of global trade and decreased productivity."—2017

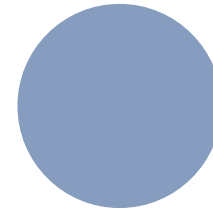


THE IMPACT GAP

# POLICY ACTION

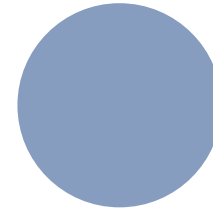
- Policies
- Strategies
- Regulations
- Partnerships
- Common standards
- Early warning systems
- Infrastructure
- Fiscal incentives
- Public consultations
- Research funding
- ...etc

# Policy Brief



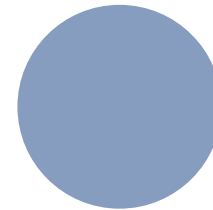
## **Importance of strategic foresight**

Cases and examples connecting strategic foresight to action



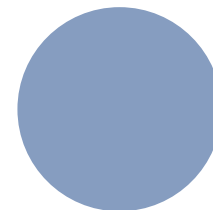
## **What does an anticipatory system contain?**

Institutional structures, capacity, tools and methods etc.



## **Current conditions in Ireland**

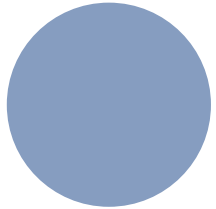
Findings from the focus groups and SF group meetings



## **Action points**

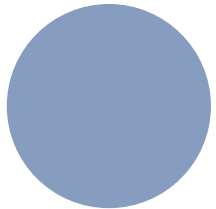
How to improve the strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation governance system in the public service of Ireland

# Strategic Foresight Deliverables



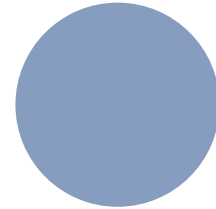
## **Action Plan**

Development of an action plan sequencing implementation of reconceptualized strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation system.



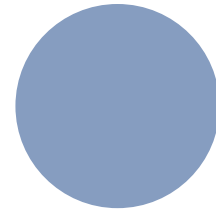
## **Workshops**

Capacity-building on strategic foresight and anticipatory innovation across three target groups: senior leaders, policymakers, and experts.



## **Curricula**

Curricula for capacity-building on foresight and anticipatory innovation across three target groups: senior leaders, policymakers, and experts.



## **Community of Practice**

Mission document outlining the purpose, role and activities of a community of practice on policy development.



# Survey

The survey aims at deepening the understanding of policy development and strategic foresight tools and methods currently in use and at identifying good practices

Your views and experience matter!  
The OECD invites policy practitioners at all levels and at all stages in their career to participate

Responses by **27 April 2022**