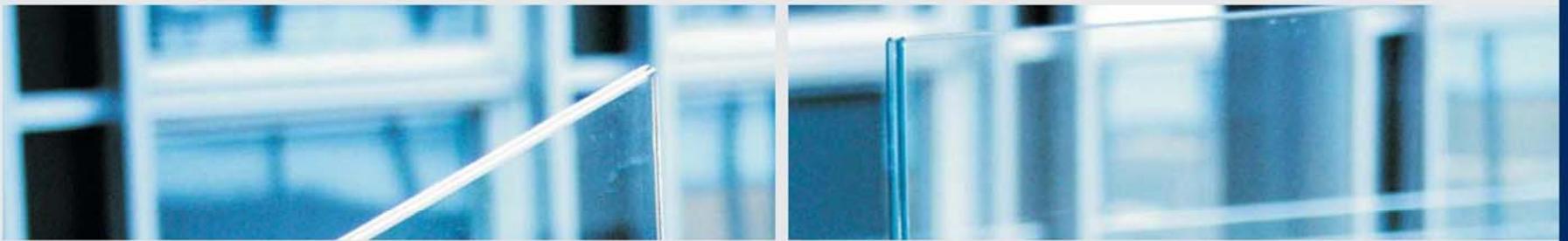


Foresight for Development



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The Global Challenges of eDevelopment (eDeve) project

The purpose of this research (2003 – 2005) was to discover how information and communication technology (ICT), content and e-services developed in Finland will work on the African continent – and vice versa.

1. The first stage was to identify potential best practice technologies, content and e-services in Finland.
2. The second stage was to identify the needs of the African continent and gain a better understanding of the unique characteristics of the African continent's Information Society development.
3. The third stage was to invite several Finnish and African partners to participate this project.
4. The fourth stage was to identify potential best practice technologies, content and services on the continent of Africa.
5. The fifth and final stage was to raise new questions for studies and development projects, which are needed in developing countries.

Finnish Information Society

- During the first phase of the information society the Finnish national economy made money with technology (with mobile phones, electronic machines, etc.).
- During the second phase, it is making money by using the technology (by content and services).
- During the third phase, the weight of development is moving away from the physical infrastructure towards social infrastructure. The products of the third phase include the concepts and formats of culture and well-being – education, innovation and health care systems and their management.

Five scenarios about Africa's future

1. Africa is approximately fifty years behind industrial countries in terms of infrastructure and industrial development. It will therefore take decades to bridge those current inequalities, or what is termed the 'digital divide'.
2. The new Global economy will grow faster than expected and industrial countries will invest heavily in Africa.
3. In Africa, there are so-called "Hot Spots of the Information Society" where huge technological, economic and political resources will make development of the information society more rapid than what is believed (e.g., in South Africa).
4. Africa's target is not necessarily the same as western targets: Africa could build its own information society and create its own well-being and use its own technologies and indicators.
5. Europe and Africa can create a new (third) stage of the information society together in which they both will develop new technologies and new services in cooperation.

Foresight for Development

- The main finding of the project was that Africa doesn't need Finnish technology or e-services, but it needs more skills and competence to create its own future.
- Therefore it was suggested that the best practice for future cooperation would be some form of innovation organisation – for instance *Futures Research Centre*, *The Committee for the Future with the Parliament*, *The Futures Academy* or *The Society for Futures Studies*. Such types of institutions are an important part of Finnish innovation and foresight system.

Foresight for Development

- The research identified two practical tools for developing this kind of social infrastructure (sc. Social Hi Tech) for globally sustainable development:
 1. Networking African and Finnish futures studies experts, and
 2. Developing multidisciplinary development research clusters between Finland and Africa.

Cooperation projects

- This paper presents two examples about this kind of cooperation in the field of foresight and futures research:
 1. COFISA project (Cooperation Framework on Innovation Systems between Finland and South Africa) developed and funded by the Governments of Finland and South Africa and
 2. the GAME-project (Foresight game) participated by the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University and the Finland Futures Research Centre (Turku School of Economics).

The African Catchment Game (ACG)

- At Rhodes University, there is a role play simulation game, *the African Catchment Game (ACG)*, which focuses on reinforcing societal sustainability. The game is related to national development objectives such as poverty alleviation, the creation of human capital, enhancement of quality of life, and creation of economic and social wealth.
- The ACG has been used in higher education, as a part the Rhodes University curricula.



Finnish-South-African FORESIGHT GAME

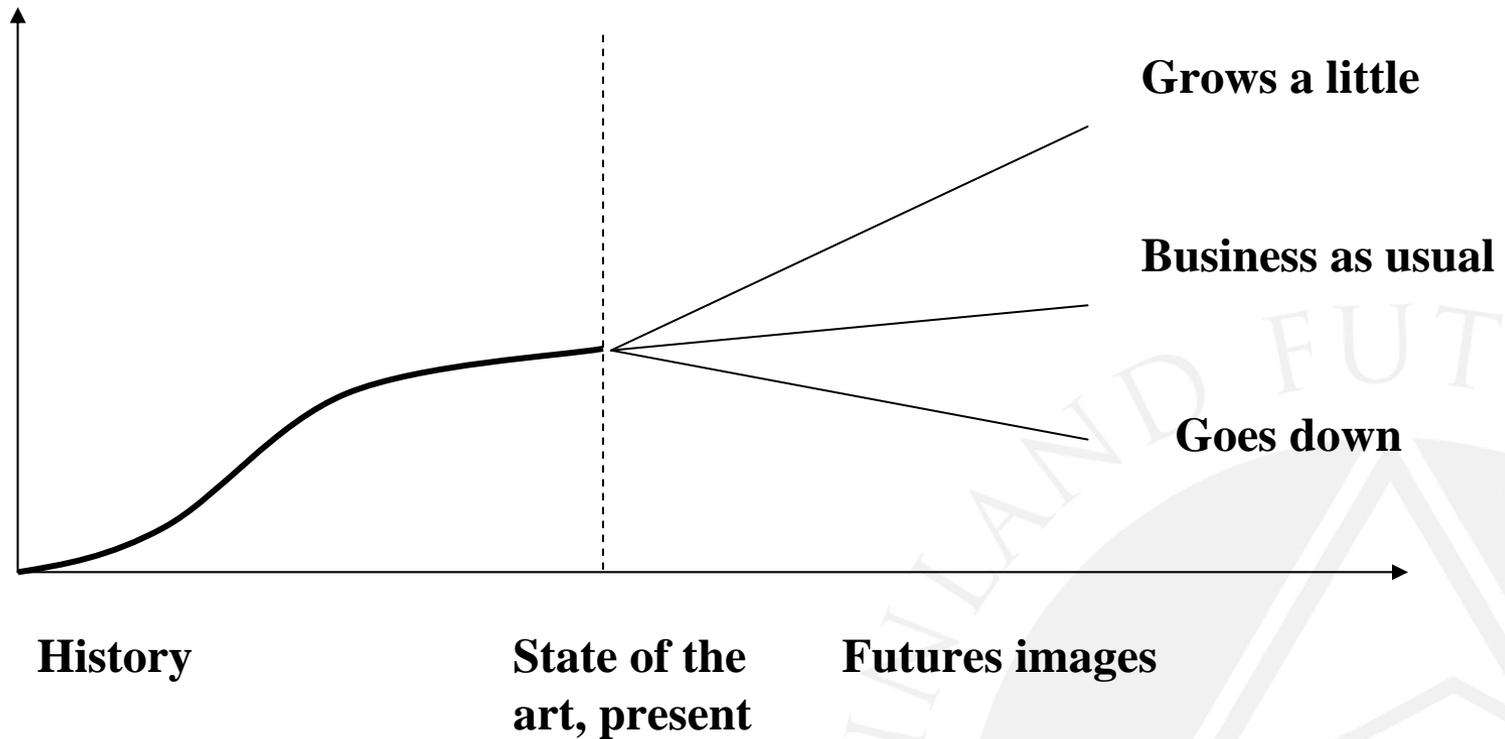
- In the GAME project, the ACG is being further re-modified towards an international Foresight Game with a more holistic futures approach.
- Playing the game offers a cross-cultural learning experience by generating multiform interaction and innovations.
- In order to create the Foresight Game and reach the targets of the GAME project, a pilot foresight (futures studies) network is being established between TSE (FFA), Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare.



Cooperation Framework on Innovation Systems Between Finland and South Africa (COFISA)

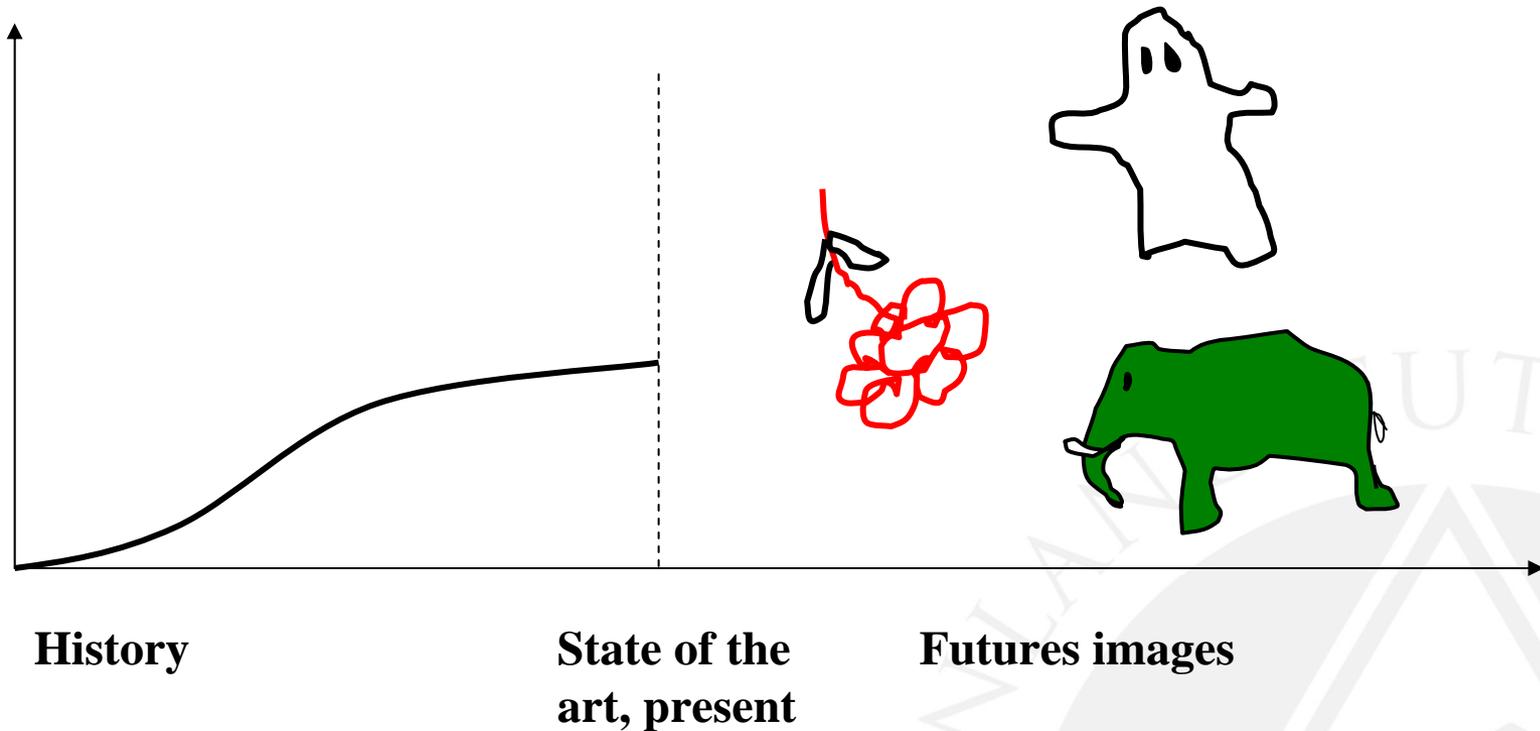
- COFISA is a cooperation framework with the overall objective of strengthening the South African National System of Innovation (SANSI) jointly launched in September 2006 by the Governments of South Africa (SA) through the Department of Science and Technology and by Finland through the Embassy of Finland in Pretoria.
- The COFISA programme will focus on capacity development of key stakeholders and knowledge transfer between the first and second economy. However, a critical focus of COFISA will be on provincial and local government level innovation challenges, particularly in Gauteng, Western Cape and Eastern Cape.
- There will be three COFISA future workshops in three Provinces (Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Gauteng) during November 2007 and February 2008 (in all nine work shops).
- During the first workshop, participants will discuss the main provincial challenges and possibilities. The result derived from the first workshop should be definitions of the provincial TOP TEN CHALLENGES and TOP THREE HOT SPOTS (in Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Gauteng).

Analytic trend extrapolation: Probable futures images



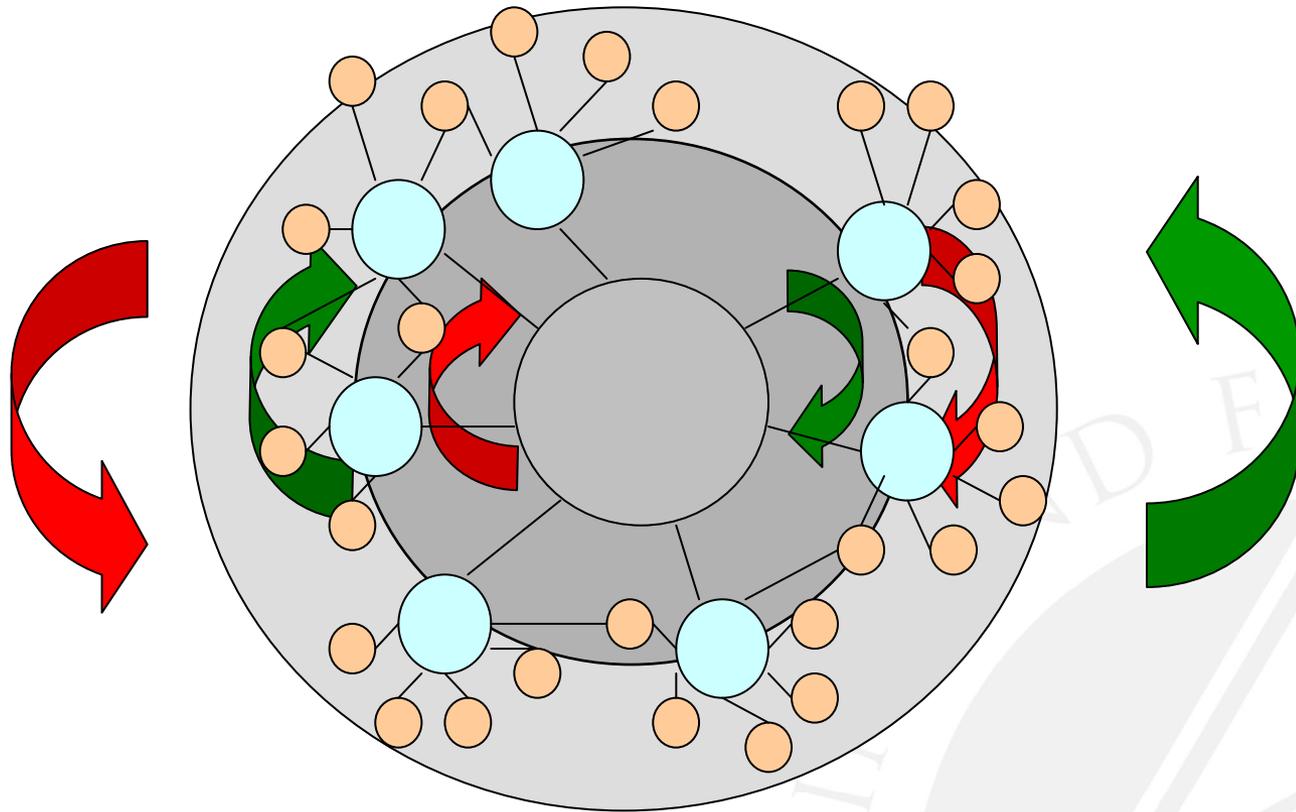
Indicators can be used to produce knowledge about past and current trends in order to build understanding about the most probable future trends.

Heuristic scenario building: proactive futures management



Indicators can also be used to produce futures-oriented and creative knowledge. In this case researchers are not interested in the probabilities or timeliness of data but in innovations and possibilities.

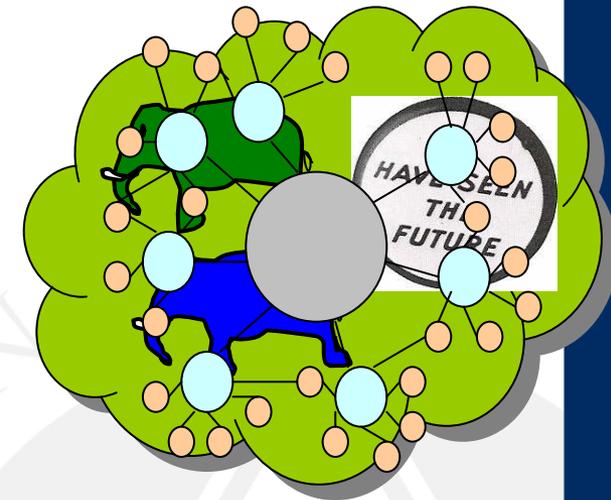
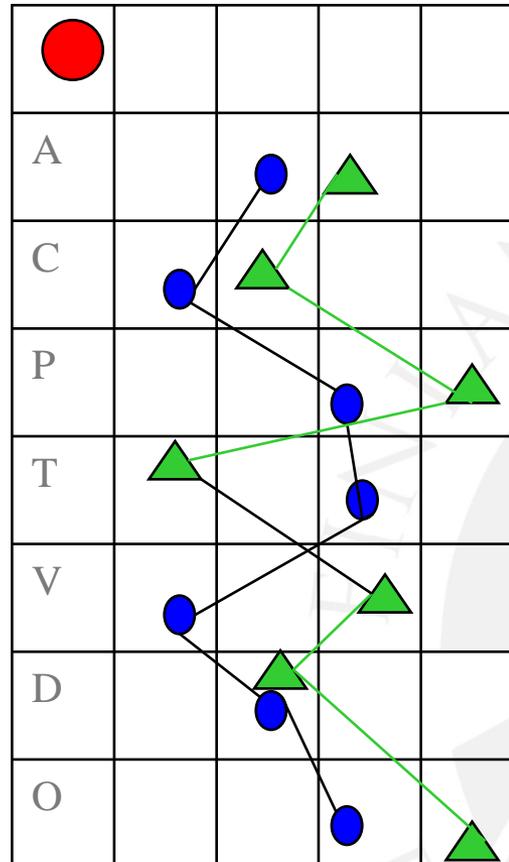
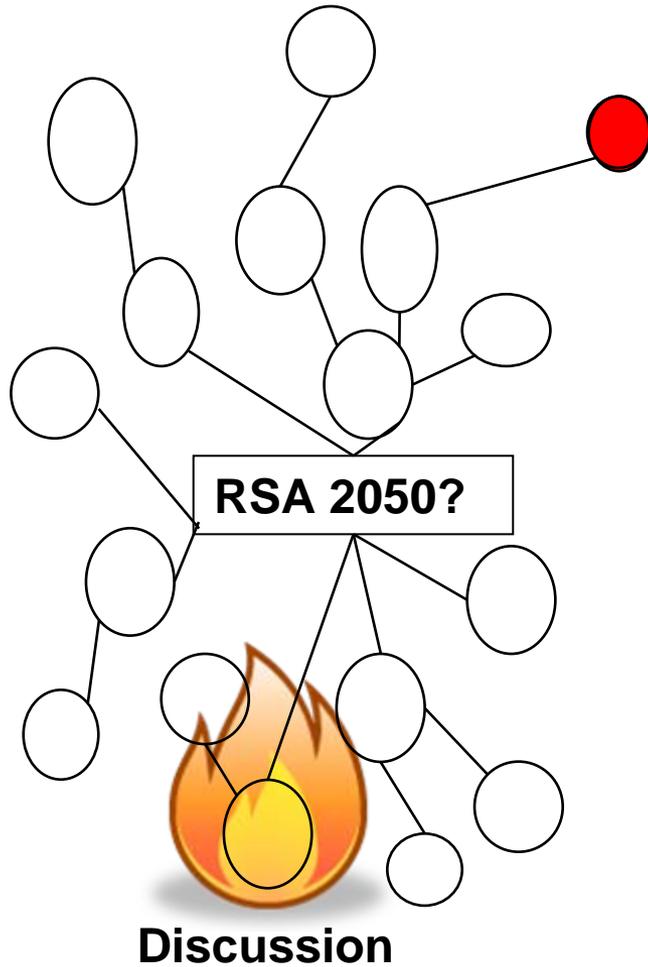
Soft system methodology



Attention is centred around positive and negative spheres of influence, and the mutual impacts of upper systems and lower, sub-systems. What factors contribute to the function of the system in question – and what act against?

Time Machine

ACTVOD Futures Process: futures workshop + futures wheel + futures table + Soft system methodology + delphi



Visionary stories about "green elephants" and next steps...