

Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

1st Panel:
Cooperation on Research and Innovation at
Regional Level: Creating Synergies

“Regional Approach in RTDI Agenda Setting
Case study: a Regional Foresight Exercise”

Dr. Despina ANASTASIADOU
University of Patras, Greece



Regional ICT Foresight exercise for SEE countries

Introducing myself: Despina ANASTASIADOU

▶ My capacities

- ▶ ICT policy development and research activities focused on integrating technological innovation in diverse domains of economic activity, such as the environment, energy, transport, health and culture
- ▶ Coordinator of the FORSEE project on behalf of the University of Patras, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Greece

▶ My academic studies

- ▶ Diploma and Ph.D. degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering

▶ My professional experience

- ▶ 2011: co-founded Innovation Academy, an advisory organisation specialised in ICT Policy & Innovation management
- ▶ 2006-2010: General Director of the South-eastern Europe Telecommunications & Informatics Research Institute (INA)
- ▶ 2004-2006: Head of Research and Analysis Unit at INA
- ▶ 1999-2004: Research engineer at the Research Academic Computer Technology Institute
- ▶ 2005 -2012 : Lecturer at CITY College, the Intl Department of the Univ. of Sheffield, UK
- ▶ technical reviewer for International Scientific Journals and Conferences (IEEE, ACM, etc)
- ▶ expert reviewer for the European Commission in FP6 and FP7 programmes

- ▶ ~~ICT technical consultant for SEE Regional Initiatives (incl. Stability Pact, SEE Centre for eGovernance, etc.) and for the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)~~

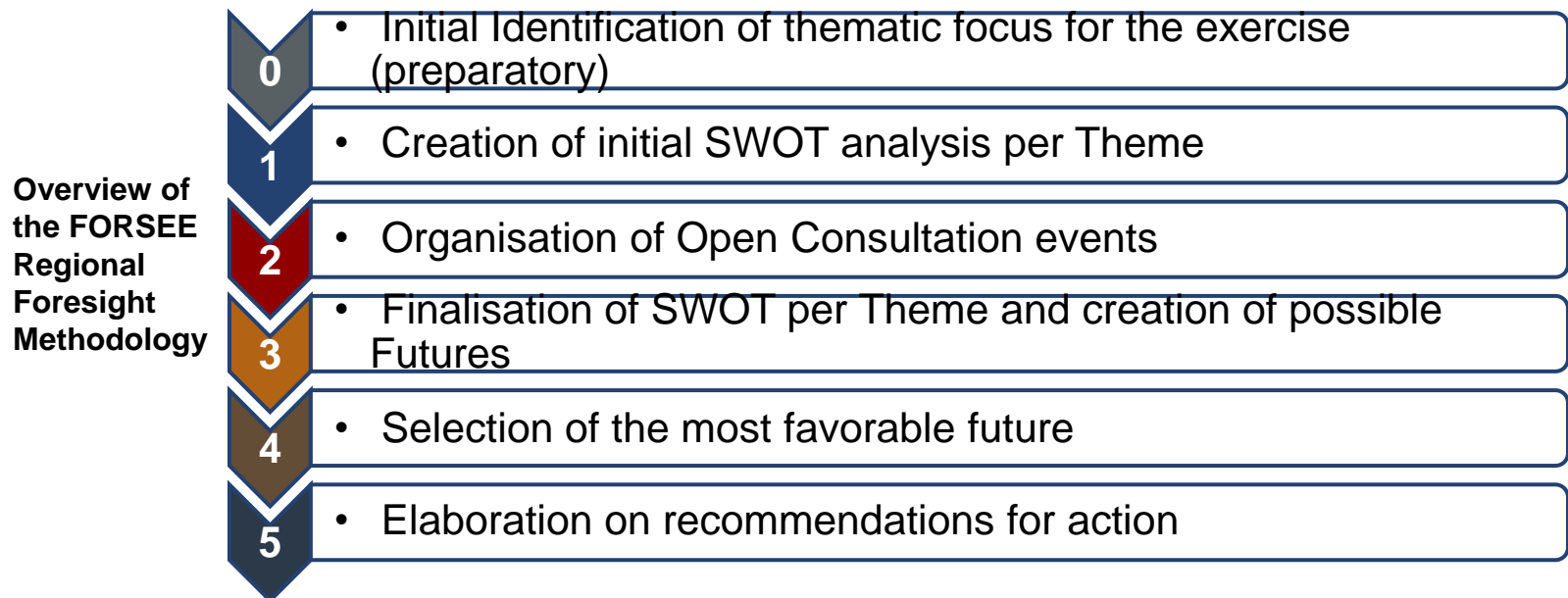
Why do we need a regional approach in RTDI agenda setting?

- ▶ The SEE needs to meet several challenges to achieve socio-economic growth
 - ▶ Increase competitiveness in the global networked economy
 - ▶ Participate on equal footing in the EU Research Area
 - ▶ Become an inspiring place to live, work and excel
- ▶ Addressing these challenges requires a change in mentality
 - ▶ Realize that 'size does count'! SEE is fragmented into small economies (mostly) that can't compete with global market 'giants'
 - ▶ View the SEE region as a geographic area of common interests & needs and recognise the market potential
 - ▶ Collaborate with neighbours to build common visions and joint action plans
 - ▶ Invest in innovation and SEE competitive advantages
 - ▶ Join forces to avoid wasting limited resources and eliminate unnecessary duplication
 - ▶ Embed forward looking exercises in the regular policy review process



Building on this understanding, FORSEE proposes Regional Foresight to inform decision making

- ▶ FORSEE RFM: a uniquely designed **Regional Foresight Methodology**
 - ▶ **Modular** : some tasks performed by all, some by groups/teams
 - ▶ **Generic**: allows local customizations
 - ▶ **Replicable**: can be used for any Theme/field, any level (regional/ national/ local)
 - ▶ **Regional** : Activities performed at regional level synthesizing input from countries (experts & stakeholders) - NO parallel national complete sub-exercises
 - ▶ **Participatory**: Stakeholder view synthesis at all stages



FORSEE implemented a pilot Regional Foresight Exercise as ‘proof of concept’ with 8 SEE countries

- ▶ Focus: **ICT RTDI policy agenda setting**
 - ▶ Theme of the pilot RFE: **Digital Content**
 - ▶ Addressee: **SEE national authorities for ICT RTDI policy**
 - ▶ Achievements:
 - ▶ Broad involvement of SEE stakeholders & experts
 - ▶ **Received approx. 1000 responses** at various stages of the pilot RFE
 - ▶ **8 National Consultations and 1 Regional Consultation event (> 350 participants)**
 - ▶ **3 Regional expert Foresight Workshops (>75 participants)**
 - ▶ ‘Futures’ WS, ‘Choices’ WS & ‘Policy Recommendations’ WS
 - ▶ **4 plausible & feasible images of the future for the SEE DC domain by 2025**
 - ▶ **1 vision for the region based on the preferred DC future, featuring:**
 - ▶ DC Openness, regional collaboration for content aggregation, civil society digital empowerment, harmonized regulations, strong SEE players presence in the market
- ▶ 5 ▶ **14 concrete Policy Recommendations that lead to materialization of this vision**



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Thank You For Your Attention!

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