Future Trends Series - GR:EEN Project

Title of the report

Envisioning Digital Europe 2030: Scenarios for ICT in Future Governance and Policy Modelling

Area

Science and Technology

Reporter

European Commission Joint Research Centre Institute for Prospective Technological Studies

Type of the Reporter

International Organisation

Periodically updated?

No

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Latest update

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Official website

http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

Language available

English

Short summary

In this report, four scenarios are presented outlining how governance and policy modelling could develop by 2030 in order to identify the research needs and policy challenges that need to be addressed.

Key trends

Open Governance (high openness and transparency and high integration in policy intelligence)
• Unprecedented access to information and knowledge
• Online engagement of citizens and various stakeholders will increase
• Citizens, business and researchers will have direct access to data they need and this will create new opportunities for people to interact with and influence governance and policy-making processes and make progress in solving societal problems

Leviathan Governance (low openness and transparency and high integration in policy intelligence)
• An 'enlightened oligarchy' will emerge that uses high-tech tolls and systems to collect and manage public information and services
• In this context, citizens will trust the government and will be willing to delegate their right to initiative
• Citizens will be passive recipients of decisions taken by information systems; choice will be restricted by predefined and pre-calculated algorithms that optimize people's performance throughout their lives

Privatised Governance (low openness and transparency and low integration in policy intelligence)
• Society will be shaped by decisions taken by corporate business representatives
• There will be opportunities for high innovation and development due to the pressure of completion on a free market in areas such as telework and telemedicine, early warning systems to avoid global pandemics and disaster management assisted by real-time decision support systems
• Society will become increasingly fragmented where social welfare services will not be guaranteed to all, thus exasperating possible social tensions and conflicts

Self-Service Governance (high openness and transparency and low integration in policy intelligence)
• Citizens will be empowered to play the role of policy makers
• The ICT-enabled, self-organized society will be able to address emerging problems faster than traditional government could
• The diversity of options between discrete communities may result in the deepening of existing divides and a lack of social cohesion

Suggestions

• Early adopters will need to prove that tools and applications support innovative business models and create public value.
• Government regulators and industry groups should strengthen data privacy and security, particularly for uses that touch on sensitive data belonging to citizens and government.
• Governments and industries, with the support of risk analysts, should devise legal liability frameworks for eventual wrongs generated by automated systems.
• The cost of such applications must fall to a level that sparks widespread adoption. Networking technologies and the standards supporting them must evolve to the point where data can flow freely and with minimum friction among real and virtual environments.

Methodology

Modelling

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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