



REPORTING TEMPLATE

Bologna & the Erasmus+ charter: from policy to practice

Title of the session: ECHE in the 2030s

Speaker: Dr. Albert Postma, professor of Applied Sciences, expert on strategic foresight and scenario planning, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences

Presentations: yes

Moderator: Anne Klaas Schilder, Dutch Bologna expert

Reporter: Kynthia Orfanidou

Main ideas of the presentations:

Aim of both workshops is to sketch future scenarios in regards to HEI's that have committed to ECHE. In the 1st part of the workshop session the scenario planning process was explained.

Session 1

We live in period of transitions. Transitions driven by forces such as technology. Economic conjuncture is related to those technological transition waves. For example the transition of singularity - mix of humane and machines. So related to the strategy for ECHE: we neglect these developments. Better we don't miss the opportunity. Some key elements and questions are:

- Future lies in the external forces driving transitions. Like future events, future uncertainties, trends, power shift of actors, etcetera. So our society is and will get more and more hyperconnected, complex and interdependent through exponential developments, external forces and wild cards – game changers.
- A way to characterise the contemporary world: VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous).
- How about us? We are driven by bounded rationality, dominant thinking and lack of creativity. It is a challenge to deal with the VUCA characteristics and to anticipate future changes.
- Strategy: navigating the VUCA world in order to become resilient (resist the forces around you) and future proof. Preparation / anticipating is key.
- Conventional approach is forecasting: the trends from the past are leading for making future plans. Driven by experts. Linear thinking. Product orientated. Trend analyses and trend extrapolations.
- Contemporary approach is strategic foresight: does not take the past but the future as a starting point! Driven by stakeholders instead of experts. Non-linear thinking. Process orientated. Analysis of force field and future uncertainties. Future scenarios. Foresight integrates new ways of thinking. About society : sustainability. About knowledge

development (from expert driven to quadruple helix which includes academia / government / business / community. About policy making and strategy development → Outside/IN.

- EC definition of foresight: Thinking / Debating / Shaping the future. By means of open, participatory and action oriented process.
- Scenarios: inspiration point. You need to update the scenarios to stay ahead of time.

Session 2

During the 2nd part of the workshop session the participants actually built scenarios according to the method of the scenario planning process, from the perspective of HEI's who committed themselves to ECHE.

Starting point - start with a scenario question:

"How can HEI address internationalisation during the next decade in line with the ECHE principles?"

Step 1 : Environmental scan.

Step 2 : List external developments on separate post-its.

Step 3: Cluster the external developments into coherent storylines and give the clusters a title that represents the driving forces behind.

- Accessibility (internet / blockchaining / etc.)
- Societal changes/ interface with humans
- Technical and artificial development

Step 4: Define the limits of the possible per driving force

- For example oil depletion can lead to hydrogen economy or to solar and wind economy.

Step 5: Rank the driving forces according to impact and uncertainty.

Step 6: Identify the critical uncertainties with their limits of the possible to frame four scenarios.

CONTACT
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