

Overview

Keynote The development of Delphi as a foresight technique. It will provide an overview on the origin and development of the Delphi method, as well as on its initial application in the field of science and technology forecasting and its rising popularity in Europe. The keynote will also elaborate on the significance of Delphi in policy making, especially in fields like Innovation, economic trends, health and education.

Module 1 Preparing a Delphi survey – Methodological foundations and concepts (lecture) This module will provide the theoretical background for preparing a Delphi survey and focus on the following aspects: When is a Delphi relevant? What are the benefits of Delphi results? How to achieve appraisal of expert views on a differentiated future issue? What are the conceptual and methodological foundations of the Delphi technique to reach a consensus among experts? How to interpret Delphi results?

Module 2 Preparing a Delphi survey – Significance of Stakeholders and Focus Groups (interactive) Delphi is essentially based on expert opinion. The experts involved need to be selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience so that they are able to give a competent assessment. This module will introduce aspects to consider when setting up expert panels or focus groups in an interactive fashion with the participants.

Module 3 Training session formulation of Delphi statements – learning from experience (interactive, groups) Delphi involves making judgments in the face of uncertainty. Delphi studies always tackle issues formulated in statements about which uncertain and incomplete knowledge exists. This is why pre-formulated statements need a lot of skill and experience. The pitfalls and success of a Delphi lie essentially in the formulated statements. The participants will get to train these skills drawing on the best and worst practice of past experience and new challenging topics.

Talk: The role of Delphi in foresight for sustainable industrial development – The UNIDO experience. Foresight has proved to be a highly successful approach when it comes to addressing complex scenarios with a multitude of stakeholders involved. UNIDO's Foresight Initiative since early 90ties introduces foresight as a tool for strategic decision-making to be used by governments in different areas, including industrial sectors. A number of sectoral multi-country (regional) foresight studies were conducted by UNIDO in Latin America and Asia, where Delphi was used as one of the foresight methodologies. This presentation will cover issues of introducing Delphi as a part of supply-chain based foresight exercise supporting industrial policies.

Dinner lecture: Delphi in context - from prediction the future to anticipation of alternative futures. The dinner lecture will provide an overview on the Delphi-Method in the context of changing governance models of science and technology, as well as its changing use and practises.

Module 4: Quality criteria for Delphi surveys (lecture). This module draws on profound experience with Delphi studies and presents the insights of an analysis of more than 30 real-time Delphi data sets conducted over the past two years. Based on the insights, this module illustrates post-hoc recommendations for future Delphi studies. More explicitly, quality criteria regarding the conception and execution of Delphi studies, and quantitative data interpretation are introduced. Furthermore, insights on behaviour patterns of participants and persistency of respondent participation are provided. This meta-analysis provides empirical evidence to devise guidelines to participants on 'how to' questions regarding the application of the Delphi technique.

Module 5: Conducting a Delphi Survey (interactive group work) In self-organised and facilitated group work, the participants will discuss and formulate questions regarding the statements formulated in Module 3 and consider the quality criteria of Module 4. The participants will carry out a small Instant Delphi in several rounds among each other using an electronic survey tool. They will discuss the results and reflect upon the methodological approach.

Speaker

Tatiana Chernyavskaya works as an Expert on Industrial Development and Foresight in the Competitiveness, Upgrading and Partnerships Unit of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Kerstin Cuhls has been working at the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI) in Karlsruhe since 1992 as a scientific project manager.

Susanne Giesecke has been a Senior Researcher at the Austrian Institute of Technology, Vienna, since 2005.

Attila Havas is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Economics, Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and regional editor of the International Journal of Foresight and Innovation Policy.

Petra Schaper-Rinkel has been a Senior Scientist at the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) since 2009, where she drives principally EU projects on science, technology and innovation policy and foresight.

Alexander Spickermann is a doctoral researcher at the Institute for Futures Studies and Knowledge Management (IFK) of the EBS Business School in Wiesbaden, Germany.

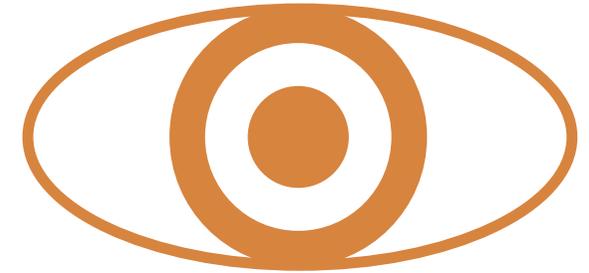
Matthias Weber has been Head of Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) Policy Unit at Austrian Institute of Technology AIT, Foresight & Policy Development Department since 2000.

More Information

The Vienna Foresight Training is organised by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH Foresight & Policy Development Department.

Please find more information about the program and speakers at our website: www.foresight-platform.eu. There is also a possibility for online registration.

Vienna Foresight Training



Using Delphi Effectively Methodological Foundations and Quality Criteria

September 29 -30, 2012
Vienna

Using Delphi Effectively – Methodological Foundations and Quality Criteria

Delphi surveys are becoming more and more frequent as part of Foresight studies and other prospective activities. The popularity of Delphi as a survey tool has risen in part due to the use of new information technologies and possibilities provided by the internet. However, a central challenge for the effective use of Delphi remains the development of a quality criteria framework to obtain outcome measures that effectively serve to develop meaningful scenarios for increasingly complex economic, social, and technological questions.

The success of a Delphi survey depends on such quality criteria and number of experts willing to commit their precious time to answering the survey questions. As the number of requests for participating in a Delphi survey increases, though, many experts feel that their time resources are limited. Especially if the quality of the Delphi is low, the content repetitive, and the survey itself too long, the Delphi is doomed to fail. One possibility to avoid failure is to improve the skills of the organizers by learning from good and bad practice

The training workshop is organized in such a way as to follow the typical work flow of a Delphi exercise, including an actual instant Delphi survey in several rounds. This workshop intends to upgrade the knowledge and practical skills of foresight planners and practitioners that have already some experience in organising a Delphi process and would like to learn more about possibilities offered to fine-tune the technique in specific contexts. The different modules provide an overview on the conceptual and methodological foundations of Delphi and the steps involved in setting up the process. The interactive training modules offered will consolidate the practical knowledge of the participants to build on the specific explorative, predictive and normative elements of the methodology.

The workshop is organised by the AIT Department of Foresight and Policy Development in collaboration with leading experts in the field. The number of participants will be limited to a maximum of 18.

Preliminary Program DAY 1

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

09:00 – 09:30	Registration with tea / coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome by AIT
10:00 – 10:45	Keynote address Kerstin Cuhls The development of the Delphi as a foresight technique
10:45 – 11:00	Tea / coffee break
11:00 – 11:45	Module 1 Attila Havas Preparing a Delphi survey – Methodological foundations and concepts (lecture)
11:45 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:45	Module 2 Attila Havas Preparing a Delphi survey – Significance of Stakeholders and Expert Panel (interactive group work)
13:45 – 15:15	Module 3 Attila Havas , Matthias Weber , Karl-Heinz Leitner , Susanne Giesecke Training session formulation of Delphi statements – learning from experience (interactive, groups)
15:15 – 15:30	Tea / coffee break
15:30 – 16:00	Module 3 (cont'd) Training session on Delphi statements (presentation of group work in plenum)
16:30 – 17:30	Talk Tatiana Chernyavskaya The role of Delphi in foresight for sustainable industrial development – The UNIDO experience
18:30	Walk to dinner location at Marina Hofbauer
19:00	Dinner and Dinner lecture Petra Schaper-Rinkel Delphi in context - from prediction the future to anticipation of alternative futures

Preliminary Program DAY 2

SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

09:00 – 10:15	Module 4 Alexander Spickermann Quality criteria for Delphi surveys (presentation)
10:15 – 11:00	Module 5 Attila Havas Conducting an “Instant Delphi Survey” (group work)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Module 5 (cont'd): Delphi Survey 2nd and 3rd round and aggregation of data (interactive group work)
13:00 – 13:45	Sandwiches and refreshments at AIT
13:45 – 14:30	Discussion of the results and reflection Alexander Spickermann , Attila Havas (interactive group work)
14:30 – 14:45	Delphi – and what's next? Closing and wrap-up Matthias Weber

Registration

AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Venue: Foresight & Policy Development Department
Tech Gate Vienna, Tower, 7th floor
Donau-City-Strasse 1, 1220 Vienna, Austria

Date: September 29 -30, 2012

Costs:
Participant fee: € 360 (VAT included)
Student discount: € 228 (VAT included)

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More information and registration under www.foresight-platform.eu