



Sharing Visions

Towards a European Area for Foresight



Sharing Visions

Towards a European Area for Foresight

- Europe's knowledge base : key challenges
- The move towards a European Research Area (ERA)
- ERA and the role of foresight co-operation

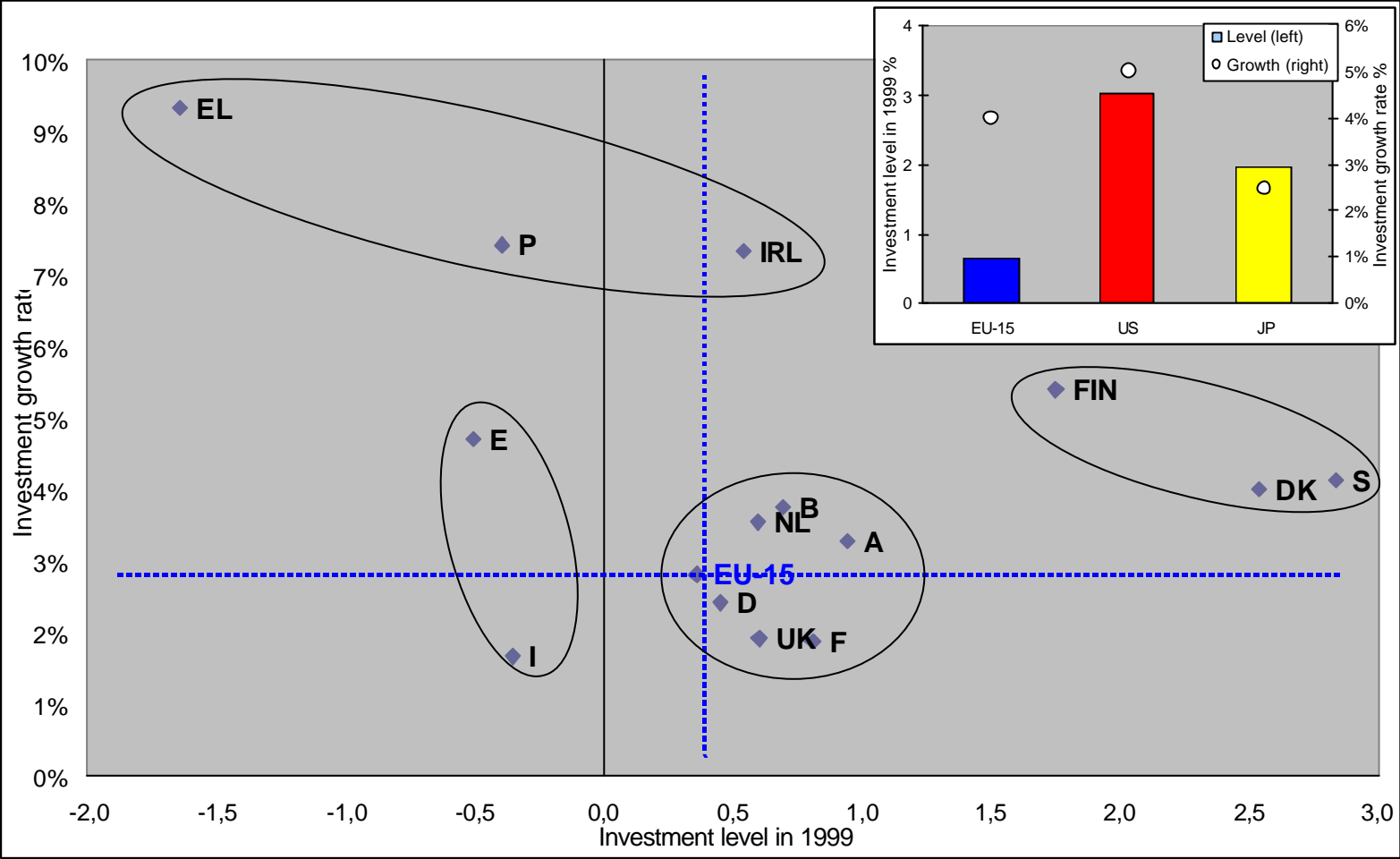


Europe's knowledge base: Key challenges

- Europe is world leader in science (more than 30% of world publications) but Europe's position is deteriorating in patents and high tech trade and the EU is slower than the US in entering into the “information society” (development and use of ICTs)
- Europe is in the forefront in areas such as medical research and chemistry, in sectors such as chemicals, machines, aerospace, transport and telecommunications
- Weaknesses in private R&D investment but strengths in education and mobile information systems and services

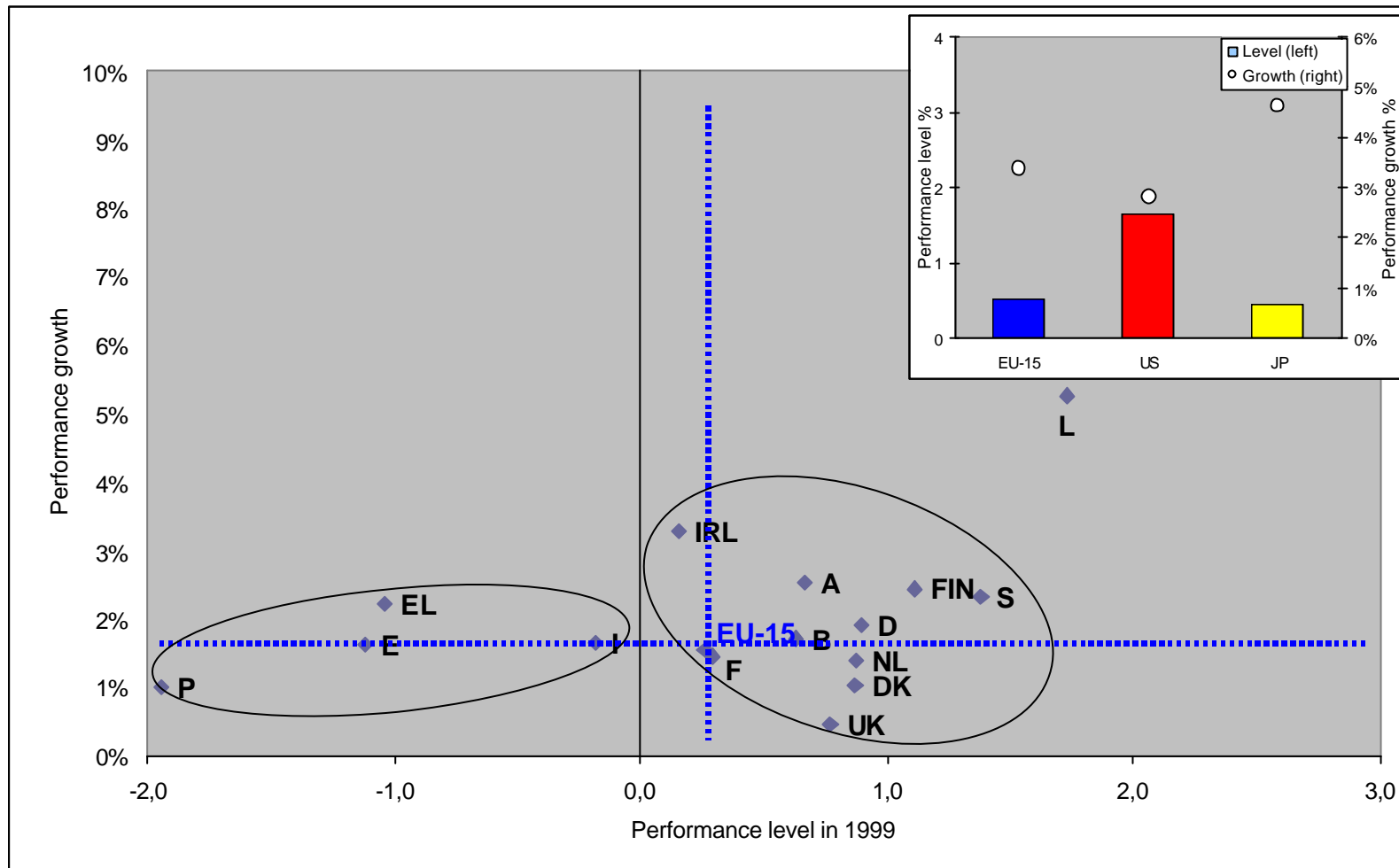


Composite indicator of investment in the knowledge-based economy





Composite indicator of performance in the knowledge-based economy



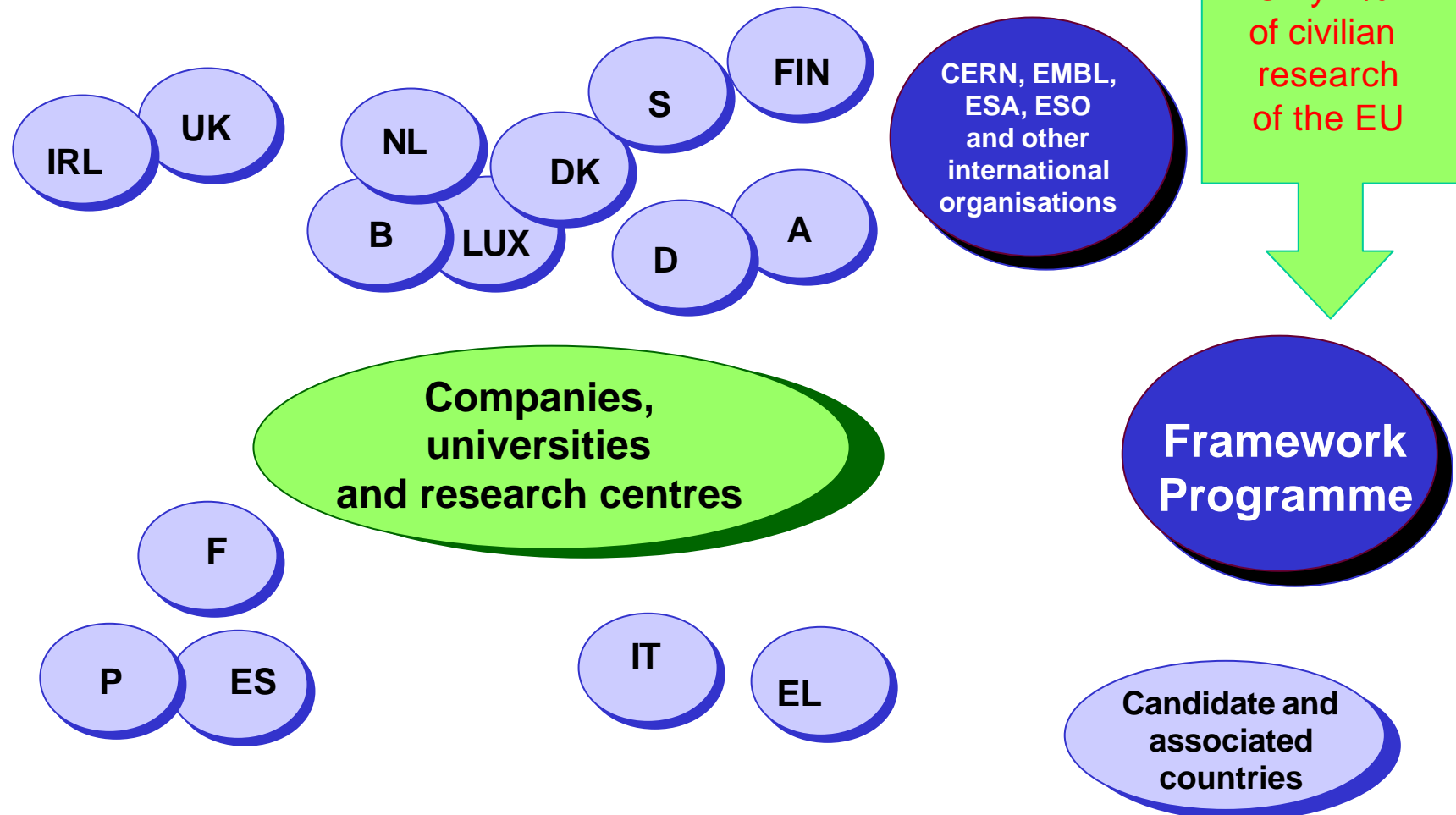
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Tokyo, 26-02-03



European Research - a fragmented landscape -



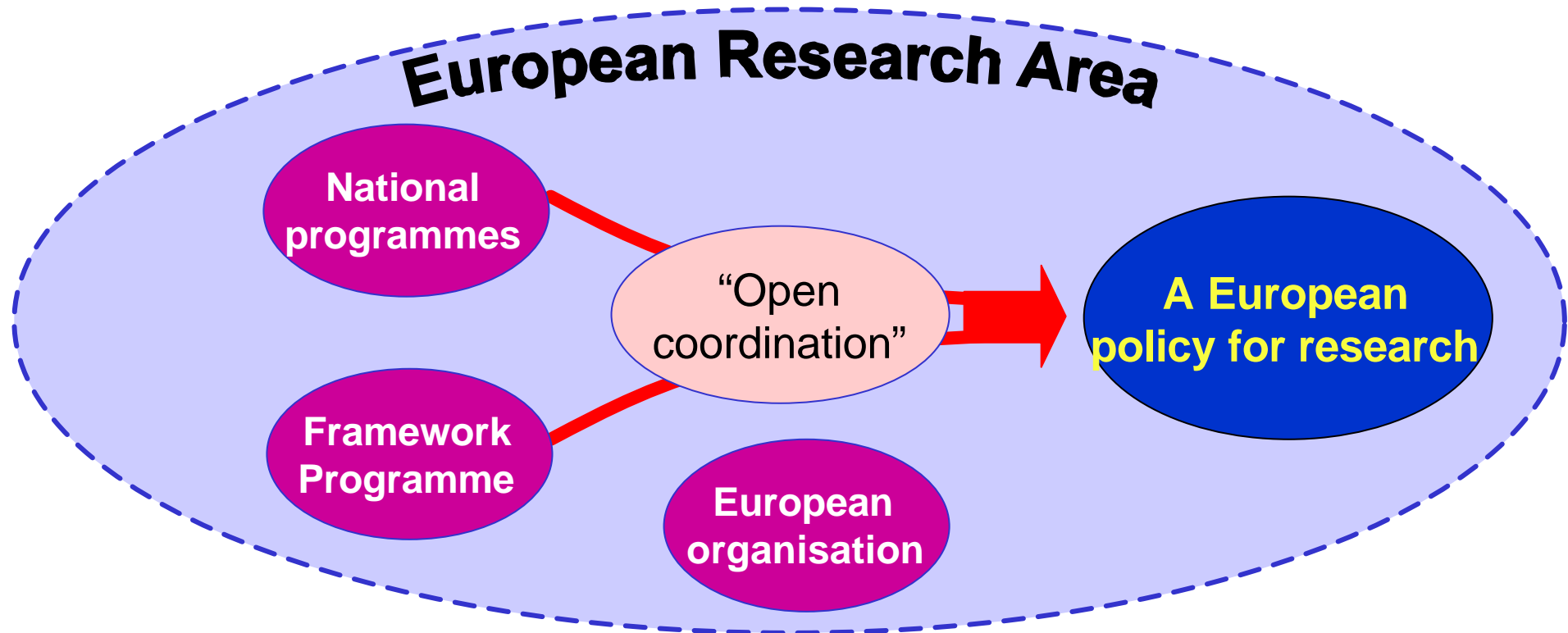


The EU response

- *Economic and Monetary Union will favour knowledge investments*
- *The Lisbon Strategy focuses on the EU as a leading sustainable knowledge society*
- *The promotion of a European Research Area aims at institutional renewal and innovation through Integration, Concentration and “Open Co-ordination” of National S&T policies*
- *The Barcelona European Council set a common target: GERD should reach 3% of GDP by 2010*

European Research Area

- Proposal January 2000, endorsed Lisbon march 2000
- Broad support in political, scientific and industrial circles
- Implementation ongoing: Open co-ordination supported by the 6th FP





The EU response:

The 6th EU FP 2002-2006 supports the concentration and integration of EU research around 7 major priorities:

- 1. life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health (2 255 M€);
- 2. information society technologies (3 625 M€);
- 3. nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials, and new production processes and devices (1 300 M€);
- 4. aeronautics and space (1 075 M€);
- 5. food quality and safety (685 M€);
- 6. sustainable development, global change and ecosystems (2 120 M€);
- 7. citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society (225 M€).



The EU response:

The 6th FP 2002-2006 supports a structural approach to EU research and innovation policy:

- New instruments to integrate national research efforts*
- Activities focusing on Research-Innovation and Science-Society Interfaces and on Researchers' Mobility*
- Promotion of “Open Co-ordination” of national research and innovation policies through Benchmarking, Mapping of Excellence, Co-operation in Foresight & Indicators and Opening up of national programmes*



European Research Area

Three inter-related dimensions:

- **Resources (objective: GERD= 3% of GDP by 2010)**
- **System optimisation (integration, co-ordination)**
- **Differentiation**



National and sub-national foresight initiatives: Europe is experimenting new policy methods

- **In Europe, Foresight activities emerged first at the national level. Germany, France, the UK and the Netherlands have been undertaking a range of ‘futures research’ activities since the early 1990s. Austria, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and the Czech Republic recently finished Foresight exercises. Greece and Turkey have just initiated one as well as Malta, Cyprus and Estonia with pilot projects.**
- **At the European level, Foresight and supporting activities have been developed principally by *The European Parliament and The European Parliamentary Technology Assessment Network, the European Commission (IPTS/JRC, DG Research), the European Foundation for the improvement of Living and Working conditions, the European Science Foundation,...***



National and sub-national foresight initiatives: Europe is experimenting new policy methods (2)

- **But many initiatives have been launched at sub-national level too:**
- **It is at the sub-national level that the final translation of knowledge into economically relevant activities takes place. It is also at this level that ‘learning’ capacities can be best organised through networks and public-private partnerships.**
- **For more information: see <http://www.regional-foresight.de/>**



The European Research Area and the role of foresight co-operation (Why?)

- Leadership: Foresight is an asset for Europe. Europe is leading in the new generation of Foresight activities.
Fragmentation: Foresight programmes, initiatives and institutions might be better interconnected (mutual learning) and, when necessary, geared towards common problems and issues, at transnational, inter-regional or European level through “open coordination”.
- Process & Use of results: How to capitalise on successful use of foresight results in decision-making?



A systems approach to support co-operative Foresight activities in Europe

- **A Foresight dimension for the development of the ERA strategy:**
 - **Foresight for identifying resources' needs**
 - **Foresight for structural optimisation**
 - **Foresight for differentiation**



The European Research Area and the role of foresight co-operation (What?)

- **In order to inform the development of national and EU research and innovation policies, as well as “open coordination”, there is a need for:**
 - *sharing Foresight knowledge between Member States, the Commission and involving accession States*
 - *informing the developments of the “post-Lisbon” and ERA strategy*
 - *organising a more efficient contribution of a shared Foresight knowledge base to the preparation of national and EU research activities in the near future*



A systems approach to support co-operative Foresight activities in Europe

- **Awareness raising, information, guidance for sponsors, practitioners, users** (High Level Expert Groups, Conferences, support to networking, guidance documents,...)
- **A Foresight dimension throughout the whole EU Research Framework Programme (FP6)**
- **Stimulation of foresight activities in “thematic priorities” and structural support activities**
- **ERA-nets for linking national programmes?**
- **Creation of a Knowledge Sharing Platform**
- **Direct actions of the JRC-IPTS (scientific support)**



Knowledge Sharing Platform

- ***Monitoring and Analysis of Science and Technology Foresight and Indicators Activities***
- The activities will be designed and implemented in close co-ordination with the direct actions of the Joint Research Centre
- The focus here will be on the shared use by policy-makers of the results and knowledge produced by foresight initiatives at all levels, in view of informing a forward-looking and coherent research and innovation policy-making in Europe.
 - **Reporting on EU, national and regional foresight**
 - **Exchange of good practice and methodological tools**
 - **Mobilising foresight knowledge around key EU-relevant issues**



If you need more information

ERA, 6th Framework Programme:

www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/home.html

www.europe.eu.int/comm/research/nfp.html

***Foresight unit, DG RTD K-2,
opportunities in FP6***

www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/foresight/home.html