FINLAND: EXPERIENCE IN FORESIGHT

- Importance of Forward-Looking Public Policy

La Prospectiva y las políticas Públicas. La experiencia de Finlandia.

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SEMINARIO INTERNACIONAL PROSPECTIVA Y ESTRATEGIA PARA EL DESARROLLO DEL CHILE DEL 2030
26 de octubre Santiago, Chile

Structure of Presentation

1. Finland as a Country of Futures
2. Futures Research and Foresight
3. National Foresight System
4. Prime Minister’s Office
5. Committee for the Future
1. FINLAND As A Futures-Oriented Country

**CHILE**
- Land area: 756,093 km²
- Population: 18,006,407
- Population density: 24/km²

**FINLAND**
- Land area: 338,424 km²
- Population: 5,507,543
- Population density: 16/km²

CHILE AND FINLAND

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FINLAND FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Independence</th>
<th>GDP Total</th>
<th>GDP Per Capita</th>
<th>HDI</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHILE</td>
<td>Santiago de Chile (6.1 mill)</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Roman Catholic 55%, None 25%, Protestant 13%, Other 7%</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>1818</td>
<td>$457,534 billion</td>
<td>$16,573</td>
<td>0.832 (42nd)</td>
<td>6.3% (2015)</td>
<td>Copper, silver, gold, lithium, molybdenum, cellulose, salmon, wine</td>
<td>2.1 (2015)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINLAND</td>
<td>Helsinki (1 million)</td>
<td>Finnish (89%), Swedish 5%</td>
<td>Lutheran (Protestant) 73%, Orthodox 1% None 24.3%</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>1917 (autonomy 1809)</td>
<td>$234,578 billion</td>
<td>$41,690</td>
<td>0.883 (24th)</td>
<td>9.4% (2015)</td>
<td>Metals, metal products, electronics, machinery, scientific instruments shipbuilding, pulp and paper, food, chemicals</td>
<td>0.5% (2015)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know this about Finland?

- 2016 World’s most liveable cities: 9. (Helsinki)
- Best country in the world for being a mother (2016)
- Second best country for being a girl (2016)
- First country to give women full political rights (1906)
- Best education system 2012; (5th. in 2015)
EDUCATION – TECHNOLOGY – NATURE

people -> brain  innovations -> muscle  quality -> heart
2. FUTURES RESEARCH AND FORESIGHT

PIONEERS

- Academy of Finland 1980s
- Finnish Society for Futures Studies 1980 (NGO + scientific assoc.)
- Finland Futures Research Centre FFRC 1992 (academic university dept.) + Finland Futures Academy FFA
- Committee for the Future 1993 (Parliament)
- Prime Minister’s Office Government Foresight Report within each electorate
Futures research = systematic, holistic, multidisciplinary and critical long-term analysis of futures topics and alternative developments

Foresight = structured participatory debate about the future of complex issues

THREE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF FUTURES RESEARCH

1. The future cannot be predicted
2. The future is not pre-determined
3. The future can be affected

Roy Amara (1981)
Natural resources and renewable energy as an opportunity for emerging countries

What is the preferred future?
- Political will needed!
- Consensus?
THE RAPID CHANGE EMPHASIZES THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF FORESIGHT

- Change is not only rapid but also continuous, increasingly difficult to foresee in our complex world
- We are living the age of globalization, urbanization, digitalization and resource scarcity
- These megatrends are making a significant impact on nations and on people’s lives

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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FUTURES STRATEGY

Foresight that provides strategic insights on complex future issues – e.g. on natural resources and energy and supports decision-making
Foresight provides a fruitful basis for generating innovations

- Technological
- Social & Cultural
- Institutional/Political
- Economic
- Sustainable

PRODUCTS – SERVICES – PRACTICES – POLICIES

- Without natural resources/energy -> no life
- Population growth, urbanization and rising standards of living -> increased need for energy and natural resources
- What type of energy we produce and consume – and how – are increasingly important issues
- The future use of natural resources and energy is also affected by socio-cultural aspects such as changes in people's lifestyles and value systems - equally important as techno-economic and geopolitic factors.
Neo-Carbon Energy Project
2014-2017

Christian Breyer, LUT,
How to reach a 100% renewable energy system?
- Horizon scanning
- Futures Cliniques
- Transformational scenarios on Neo-Carbon Energy Futures 2050

Millennium Project
José Cordeiro, Singularity University; Sirkka Heinonen,
Finland Futures Research Centre, Future of Energy Innovations

How to reach a 100% renewable energy system?

REFLECTIONS FOR POLICY-MAKERS:
WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR FOUR NEO-CARBON TRANSFORMATIVE SCENARIOS?
Radically transformative energy scenarios 2050 are a way to explore the future society and its renewable energy system

International Survey: China, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Australia, Argentina, Chile?

How could a future Chile society look like if it was neo-carbon powered?
What opportunities for Chile?

Energy is not only a technological issue, it is a societal issue, driven by values and lifestyles
3. NATIONAL FORESIGHT SYSTEM

Long traditions in foresight in the private and public sector

Fragmented field & not enough cooperation

A lot of different actors, projects and processes which lack follow up and impact

Identified the need for cooperation and a continuous approach

2013 the Prime Minister’s Office launched a project for a National Foresight Approach based on the previous Government Report on the Future

Miika Laurila, Planning officer, Prime Minister’s Office
ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL FORESIGHT APPROACH

- Coordination (PMO and Sitra)
- Foresight Steering Group (Multidisciplinary foresight experts)
- Foresight network (Open network, lead by PMO ja Sitra)

National Foresight Network e.g. FinnSight Forums, Foresight Fridays, Images of the Future

NATIONAL FORESIGHT PROCESS IN FINLAND

- Foresight coordination (PMO, Sitra)
- National Foresight Prime Minister’s Office & Ministries
- Regional Foresight 19 regions
- Municipal Foresight 317 municipalities
- Research organisations, private & third sector actors, citizen participation

- Government of Finland: FORESIGHT WORK e.g. Government Report on the Future Ministries’ sectoral Future Reviews and their horizontal analysis
- Parliament of Finland: The Committee for the Future

- FORESIGHT KNOWLEDGE AND NEEDS
NATIONAL FORESIGHT NETWORK

- Open to all that work with and are interested in foresight
- Formed by members who have signed-in at Yammer digital platform (now ca. 475 members)
- Monthly Foresight Fridays
- Foresight training, together with Finland Futures Research Centre FFRC
- The aim is to improve the use of foresight data in the public administration and promoting discussion
- Provides a path to decision making and links to key processes in the public administration

THE FORESIGHT STEERING GROUP

- Appointed in the beginning of 2015 by the Prime Minister’s Office
- Increases the awareness of foresight work in the Finnish society
- Promotes the foresight views to become choices in decision-making
- Facilitates the integration of the national foresight to key decision-making processes
- Supports co-creation with stakeholders to increase use of foresight
The aim is to continuously develop the expertise of Finnish foresight actors.

Six open webinars in 2015/2016 by Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC)

- Case examples of past projects & different methods
- Topics:
  - Hybrid methods in foresight,
  - Future energy solutions,
  - Resilience in organisations,
  - Simulations/games in learning

www.foresight.fi

4. PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE
Government’s Future Work
National Foresight Process in Finland

**National Foresight Network**
- e.g. FinnSight Forums, Foresight Fridays, Images of the Future

**Government of Finland**
- Government Report on the Future
  - Ministries’ sectoral Future Reviews and their horizontal analysis

**Parliament of Finland**
- The Committee for the Future

**Prime Minister’s Office & Ministries**
- Regional Foresight
  - 19 regions
- Municipal Foresight
  - 317 municipalities
- Research organisations, private & third sector actors, citizen participation

Government’s Future Work

**The Government Report on the Future in two parts**
- Theme: the transformation and the future of work
- Part 1, 2017: A shared understanding of what does the work and working life look like in 2036
- Part 2, 2018: Capacity building for the systemic change of work and for its impacts in the Finnish society

**Continuous and cooperative foresight**
- Strengthening and developing joint foresight processes in the government and the administration
- Ministries’ sectoral Future Reviews and a joint description of the Common Operating Environment
Government Report on the Future

- Once during each electoral period, the Government issues a report on long-term future prospects and the Government’s targets.
- The report is prepared in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), adopted at a Government plenary session, and submitted to the Parliament.
- The Parliamentary Committee for the Future prepares Parliament’s response. Finland has had this tradition more than 20 years.
- The current Government has started their work: Government Report on the Future of Work

Themes of the Government Reports

- **Finland’s Future Options** (1993)
- **Finland and the Future of Europe** (Part I 1996)
  Skill and fair play – An active and responsible Finland (Part II 1997)
- **Finland 2015: Balanced development** (2001); focus on regional development
- **Finland for people of all ages** (2004); focus on Finland’s population policy and preparations for changes in the age structure
- **Now on-going: The transformation and the future of work** (>2018)
Government’s Last Report on the Future: Well-being through Sustainable Growth

Published as an interactive web-based report in 2013.

As digital only!

Organising the Government’s Future Work

- **Prime Minister** is responsible for the process
  - The political preparation is done in the government’s strategy sessions
- The process relies on the national foresight model, on existing networks and structure and on the foresight cooperation between ministries
  - The foresight steering group supports the work and provides methodological and scientific guidance
  - Ministries’ foresight group carries out continuous foresight within the government
  - Operational preparation is conducted by the Policy Analysis Unit in the PMO
- Participatory and networked process
  - Open dialogue (events, seminars, social media, the National Foresight Network)
Ministerial Future Reviews

- Ministries produce sectoral future reviews (ca. 10-year outlooks) in the run-up to every end of term of government as input for election campaigns and the new government.

4. COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE
Committee for the Future
A Parliamentary Unit

- one of the 16 permanent committees that reflect the relative strengths of the parliamentary groups.

TASKS:

- Evaluate and reply to the Government’s Future reports
- Issue statements to other committees, which e.g. handle Government bills and legislative initiatives
- Organize and coordinate Technology Assessment (TA) functions of the Parliament
- Follow up the results of research and development work in the field of future’s studies and foresight

Own projects: research, studies -- now
- Develop futures policy dialogue with the Government and with society at large

COUNTERPART= PRIME MINISTER’s office

https://www.eduskunta.fi/EN/lakiensaataminen/vaaliokunnat/tulevaisuusvaliokunta/Pages/default.aspx

Background

- Traditionally, there has been a futures studies approach by ministries, regional councils, research institutes or private organizations

- Starting point 1: a major economic crisis in the early 1990s

- Starting point 2: an initiative by Parliament in 1992 calling on the Government to present strategies for Finland’s future

- Since 1993, the Government has - once during its term of office - issued a report on long-term future prospects and the Government’ targets and submitted it to Parliament

- Committee for the Future first established as a temporary unit with a task of preparing Parliament’s reports (replies) to be discussed in the plenary session, and – further on – in Government

- Now, fully-fledged tasks include discussing a range of Parliament documents such as the state budget, annual report, strategy documents (EU and others), government proposals, pending issues etc

17 MPs FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES
Current state

- The tradition of issuing Government’s Future reports continues and Committee for the Future -> a permanent parliamentary unit in 2001
- Every four-years term of office (electoral term) there is a Government’s Future report (=proposal) and a respective Parliament’s Future report (=answer)
- Until now there are 7 Government’s Future reports and 7 Parliament’s Future reports
- Parliament’s Future reports include motions, which are legally binding initiatives or opinions
- This means that parliamentary democracy is applied to long-term future perspectives of Finland and there is continuous discussion about Finland’s future between Government and Parliament

PROMOTING LONG-TERM FUTURE ORIENTATION OF NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS</th>
<th>PARLIAMENT’S ANSWERS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013  Well-being through sustainable growth</td>
<td>An Enabling State – Experimenting Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009  Climate and energy</td>
<td>2010 Courage Policy - a lot of work, low emission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005  Finland’s demographic trends, population policy and preparation for changes in the age structure</td>
<td>2014 Committee's response to a Government report on demographic development, demographic policy and making provision for a change in the age structure – “A good society for people of all ages”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001  Regional development</td>
<td>2002 Committee’s response to the Government report “A Finland of balanced development 2015”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997  Finland’s economy</td>
<td>1998 Committee’s response to the Government report, part 2, “Honest and courageous – a Finland of responsibility and competence”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996  The future of Finland and Europe</td>
<td>1997 Committee’s response to the Government report, part 1, “Finland and the future of Europe”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993  Finland and its relationship to changes in its operating environment</td>
<td>1994 Committee’s response to a Government report on the long-term future</td>
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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (TA)

- One task of the Committee for the Future is to function as a parliamentary body for assessing technological development and its impacts on society.

- TA in a parliamentary context means appraisal of the effects on society of using the results of scientific research and technology.

- TA generally encompasses broader sectors of science and technology, such as biotechnology, mass communications, transport, energy, etc.
Technology Assessment and International Networks

Widely shared view of the need for foresight

Considerable acceptance within various levels of the government and broad engagement of stakeholders

Widely involving citizens, civil society, business and other actors

Generates dialogue on strategic issues, cross-cutting various themes and becoming part of a transcending national system

May result in immediate policy action or strategic orientation within the government

The outcomes are available for informing a wider public debate, electoral campaigns and act as references for policy development

http://www.eptanetwork.org/
https://www.youtube.com/user/EKTuV/

Finland Futures Research Centre has permanent representation in the Committee through a special adviser/Sari Söderlund, and the present Councillor is former development manager from FFRC Olli Hietanen
...is important in order to generate innovations – both in Latin America and elsewhere – for benefiting the quality of the environment, sustainable economy, welfare of society and citizens.

Futures studies based methods for strategic foresight help create thriving futures for nations and companies in concrete terms.

Thank You!

Professor Sirkka Heinonen
Finnish Futures Research Centre (FFRC), University of Turku

Futures of a Complex World, 12-13 June 2017, Turku www.futuresconference.fi/2017