

Press Release

Vienna, 22 May 2024

AIT advises European Commission on future issues

Extension of the successful "Foresight on Demand" consultancy contract for a further four years

Under the leadership of the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, the Foresight-on-Demand (FOD) consortium is advising the European Commission and fourteen other EU organisations on science and technology programming for a further period. The extension of the successful cooperation in the Foresight-on-Demand framework agreement enables the European Commission to promptly call up required future knowledge and build up anticipatory capacities in its own organisations. Knowledge is developed in participatory processes to orientate and underpin Europe's investment plans for science, research, technology and innovation. Results from previous Foresight on Demand projects have, for example, helped to shape the EU Commission's "Horizon Europe 2nd Strategic plan 2025-2027". "I am particularly pleased that the European Commission has placed its trust in the renowned FOD consortium led by AIT to support European policy with forward-looking knowledge and expertise for another four years," emphasises Brigitte Bach, spokesperson for the AIT management.

Strategic support directly for the European Commission

Previous Foresight-on-Demand projects have already aimed to provide the necessary future-oriented knowledge for the preparation of key strategic programmes such as Horizon Europe. "We supported various EU organisations in addressing long-term challenges such as climate change, digitalisation and globalisation proactively and with foresight in their strategies," says Matthias Weber, Foresight-on-Demand Coordinator and Head of AIT Center for Innovation Systems & Policy. Customers of Foresight-on-Demand projects in the past have included various Directorates-General of the European Commission (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Justice and Consumers, Research and Innovation), as well as agencies and bodies of the European Union (European Environment Agency, Mission Boards).

Shaping the future with foresight

The foresight projects carried out as part of Foresight on Demand provide science-based, systemic and participatory approaches to forward-looking knowledge generation aimed at guiding and supporting political decision-making processes in the present. For example, the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture commissioned a foresight study on the future of school education in the EU (see [Scenarios for the future of school education in the EU](#)), while the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation developed scenarios for a post-Covid-19 world (see [After the new normal: Scenarios for Europe in the post Covid-19 world](#)).

long-term orientation of European research and innovation activities. In addition to concrete results, such as scenarios, visions of the future and recommendations for action, which are disseminated in the form of reports, blogs and newsletters, foresight processes also have indirect effects. In participatory settings, such as workshops, discussion and information events (panels, webinars), but also by means of Delphi surveys or interviews, foresight processes have a positive effect on the reorganisation and consolidation of stakeholder networks, which are the basis for long-term, coordinated and transformative policy-making. The futures4europe.eu platform serves as a central information hub and exchange platform for the European foresight community.

Evidence-based European RTI policy

The inclusion of concrete results and recommendations for action from Foresight on Demand projects in the political agendas of the European Commission is particularly pleasing (see e.g. [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Analysis](#)). The international attention paid to the geopolitical scenarios from Foresight on Demand is also remarkable. This emphasises the potential of foresight processes to make the knowledge base for policy-making robust for the future and to strengthen the anticipatory skills and capacities of political decision-makers .

Expansion of the consortium through competent European partners

The Foresight on Demand consortium has also expanded in line with the extensions to the framework agreement. Fifteen core partners - renowned research and technology organisations as well as specialised foresight partners - will handle future assignments together with five associated partner organisations and a global network of foresight experts. Equipped with in-depth foresight expertise and experience from four years of working with European clients, the Foresight on Demand consortium is ready for new, exciting tasks and projects that will contribute to the resilience and transparency of European policymaking. The Foresight on Demand framework contract runs from April 2024 to March 2028.

[Link](#)

Press contact:

Beatrice Fröhlich-Rath, MA
Marketing and Communications
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology
Centre for Innovation Systems & Policy
T +43 (0)50550-4508
beatrice.froehlich-rath@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at

Daniel Pepl, MAS MBA
Corporate and Marketing Communications



AIT Austrian Institute of Technology
T +43 (0)50550-4040
daniel.pepl@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at