

# Foresight: how to use it for a sustainable transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

13 June 2024



# Agenda

- 01** Welcome and introductory remarks
- 02** Session 1: What is a sustainability transition?
- 03** Session 2: Foresight - context and role
- 04** Session 3: Challenges and barriers



***Session 1:  
What is a sustainability  
transition?***



# The concept of sustainability transitions



*Saša Solujić, Project Manager, SEI*



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Mentimeter

# Aocijacija na održive tranzicije/One word that associates with sust. trans.

31 responses



The emergence of this new policy discourse points to growing recognition that sustainability objectives cannot be achieved with technical fixes alone but necessitates a more fundamental transformation of societal systems (Steward, 2012).

Systemic change in unsustainable systems of production and consumptions is needed. This requires a fundamental transformation of large socio-technical systems, including changes in technologies, infrastructure, legislation, markets, behaviours (EEA).



# Socio-technical transitions

Disruptive  
economical

Technological, organizational, institutional, political, socio-  
economical

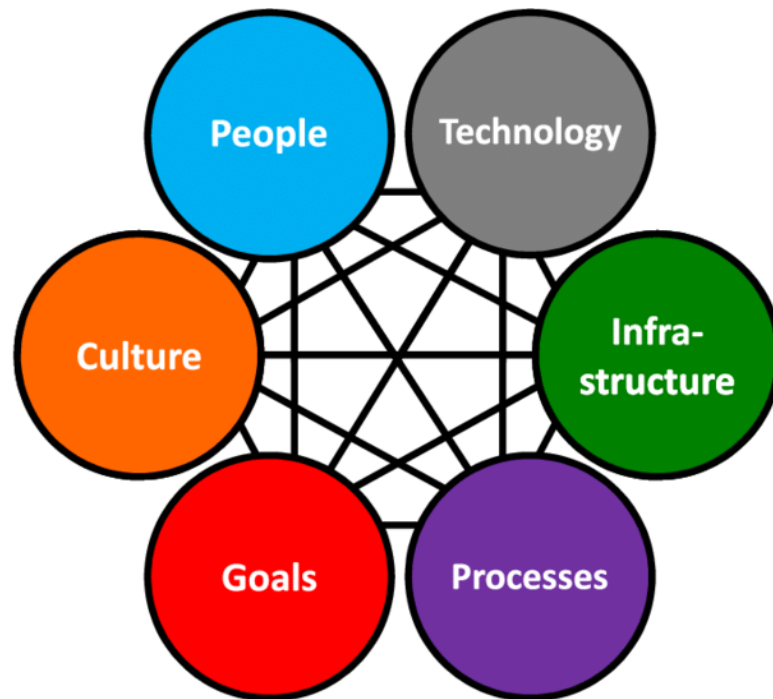
30-50 years

Fundamental **multi-dimensional**  
**long-term** changes of the socio-  
technological systems

Transport, energy, food systems, water



# Socio-technological systems





# Sustainability transitions

- Socio-technological
- Connected to sustainability target
- Key role of public policies
- Powers and politics are central (winners and losers, coalitions and alliances)
- Complex, long term, uncertain
- Context dependant, different pathways, sectors and places
- Multi-dimensional system interaction



In the absence of a prescribed path, we must make our own way through the world.

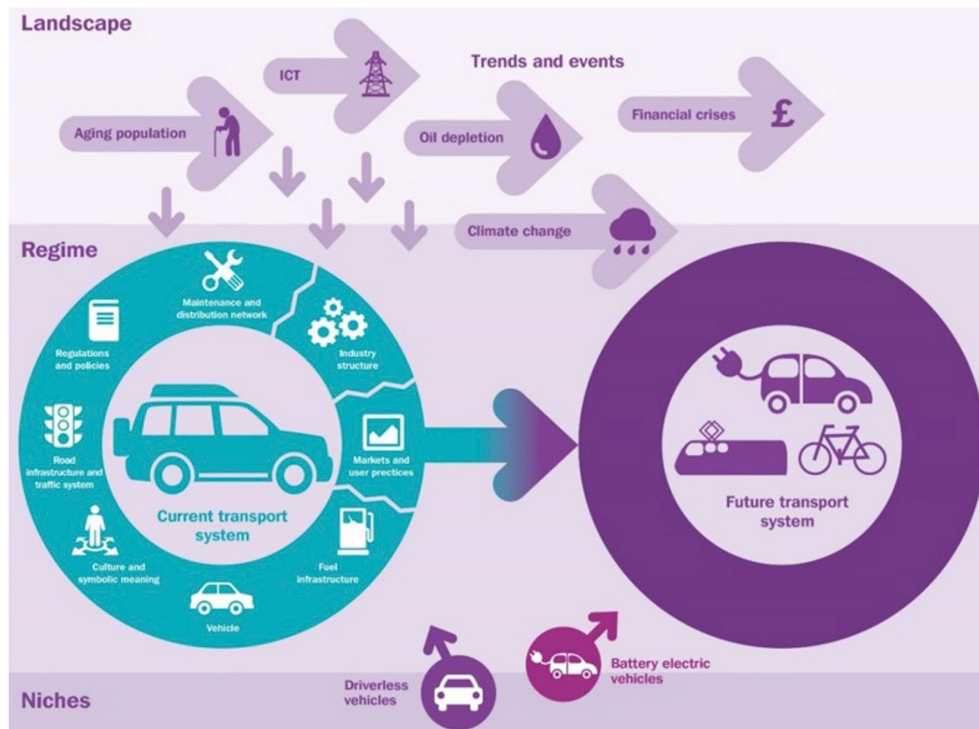


# Different transition phases

1. Clean technologies, innovations, developing solutions for certain problems
2. Whole system, acceleration and decline (energy and coal)
3. System interaction, sector coupling; new lock-ins, dead end pathways



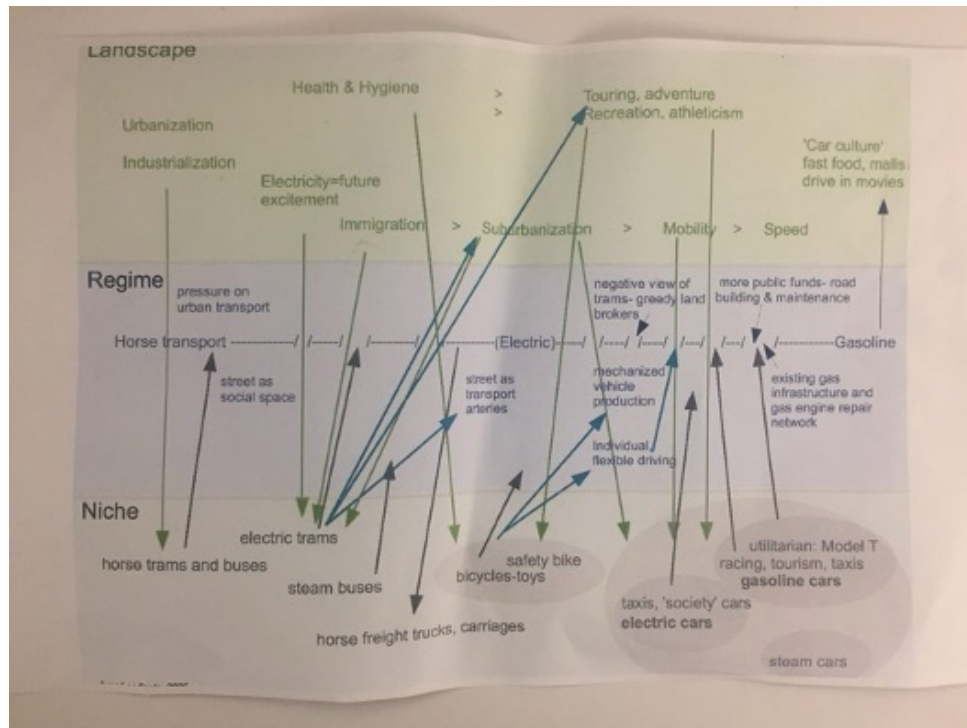
## Example: The Socio-Technical Dynamics of Low-Carbon Transitions



Frank W. Geels, Benjamin K. Sovacool, Tim Schwanen, Steve Sorrell,  
The Socio-Technical Dynamics of Low-Carbon Transitions,  
Joule, Volume 1, Issue 3, 2017



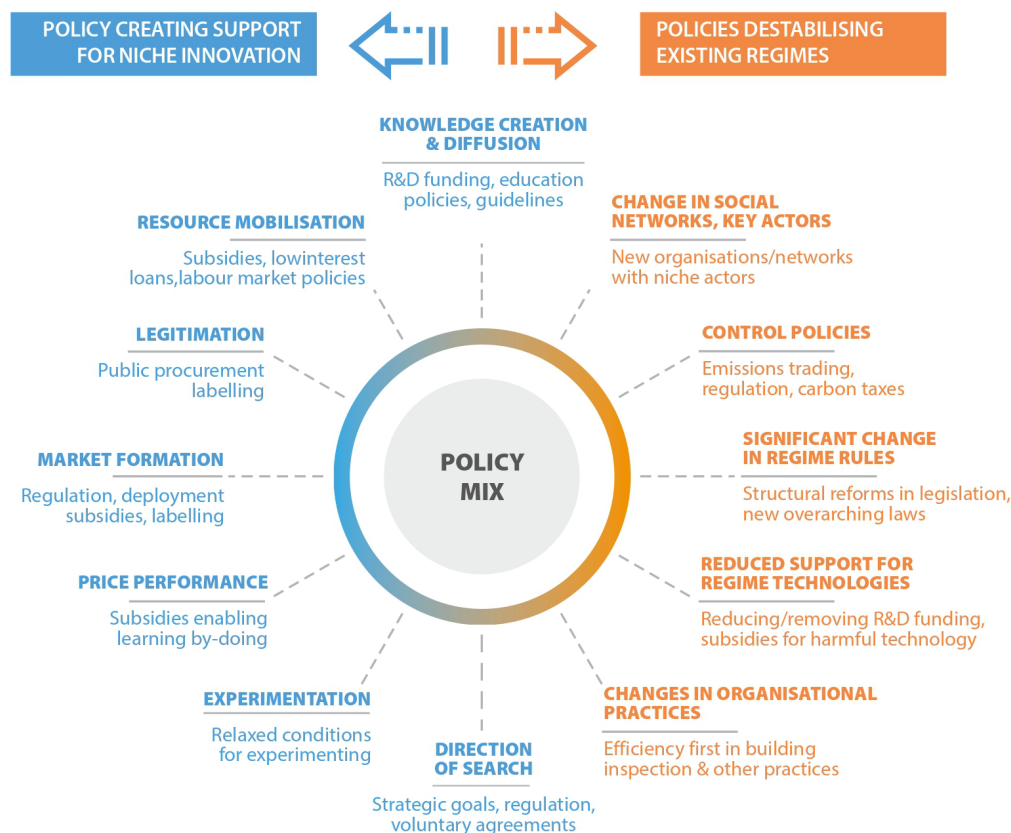
# Did we have transitions before?



Geels, F.W. 2005. *The Dynamics of Transitions in Socio-Technical Systems: A Multi-Level Analysis of the Transition Pathway from Horse-Drawn Carriages to Automobiles (1860–1930)*



# Policies for sustainable transition



Kivimaa, P. (2019). Building sustainability transitions. In OECD seminar series: Managing Environmental and Energy Transitions for Regions and Cities. Seminar 1: Managing the Transition to a Climate-Neutral Economy. 17 May 2019, Paris.

# Challenges

- Are we opening the new problems with scaling up?
- Do we focus too much on a single sustainability issue?
- Trade-offs
- Bigger changes and macro perspective



# Wrap-up

- Strategies – policies are important
- Multi-level governance
- Supporting innovations
- Deployment and phase out
- Context specific
- Just transition





# How do we change the system?



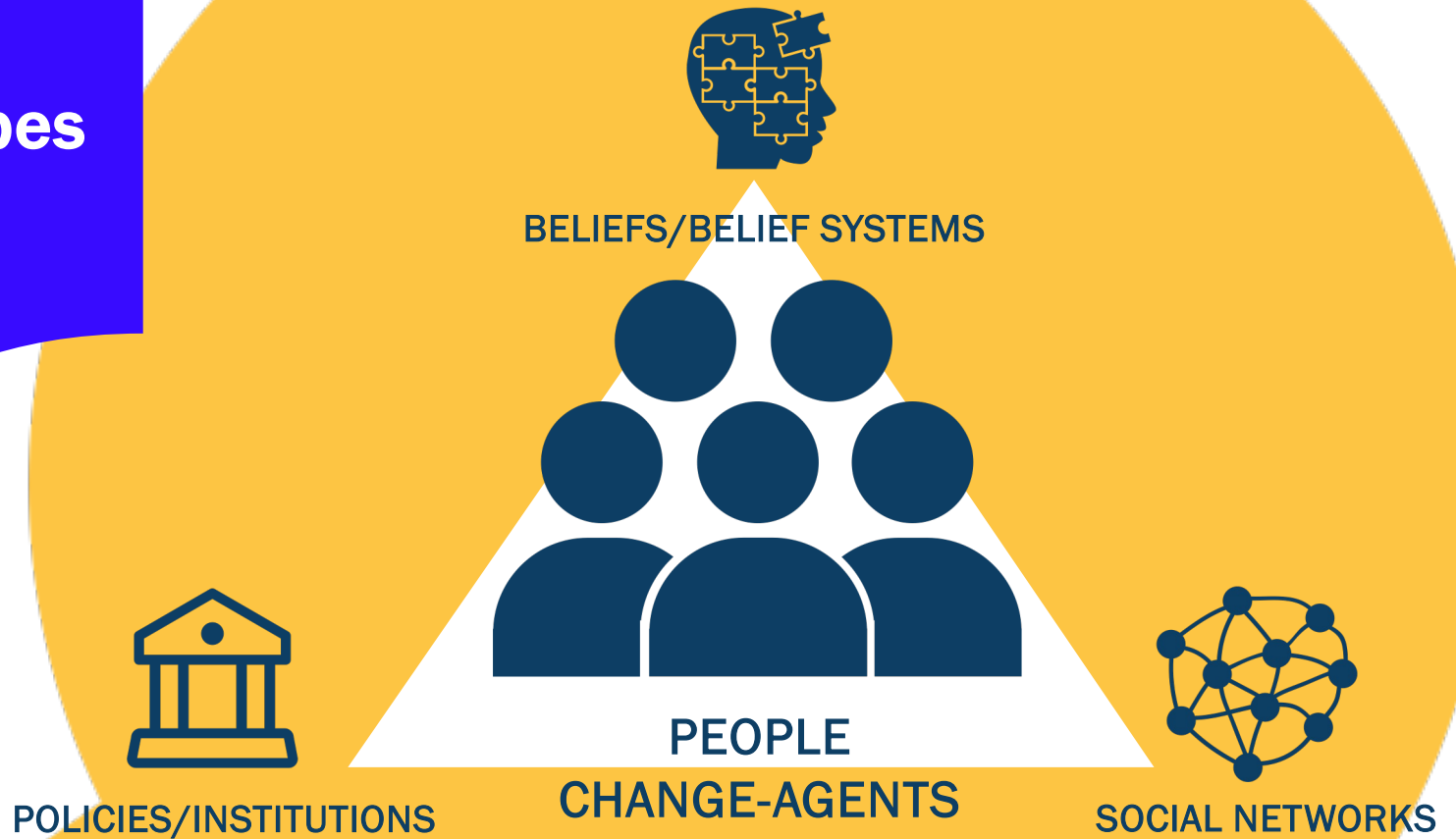
*Dr. Marcus Carson,  
Senior Research Fellow, SEI*



# Steering change is more like playing chess... than following a roadmap



**“Structural change” involves different types of structure**



# Social structure varies across scale/levels



# ***Session 2: Foresight - context***



# Foresight - context and role



*Sara Talebian, Research Fellow, SEI*



# What is foresight?

Foresight is the discipline of exploring future possibilities in a structured and systemic way. Its purpose is to help build and use collective intelligence to anticipate developments and shape the future we want (*European Commission, 2020*).

Foresight studies ideas about, images of the future and future uncertainties. These images serve as the basis for actions in the present” (*Dator, 2019*).

Foresight is a systematic, participatory, future-intelligence-gathering and medium-to-long-term vision-building process aimed at enabling present-day decisions and mobilizing joint actions for transition (*OECD, 2020*).



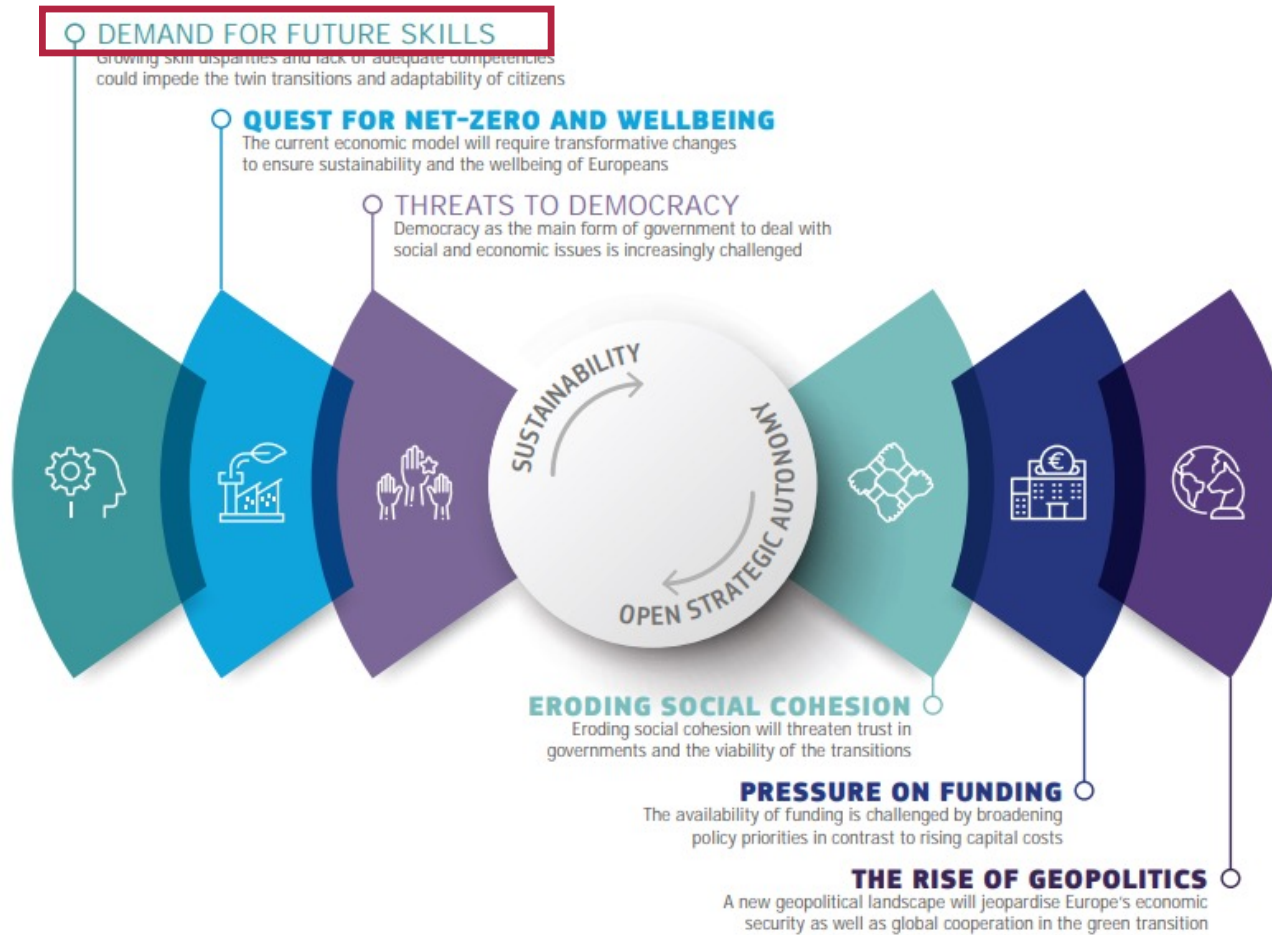
## Foresight is...

- About both exploring and shaping the future,
- A systematic approach that involves structured processes and methods,
- Participatory and collaborative in nature,
- A toolbox for enabling long-term transitional decision making and policy processes at the present time.



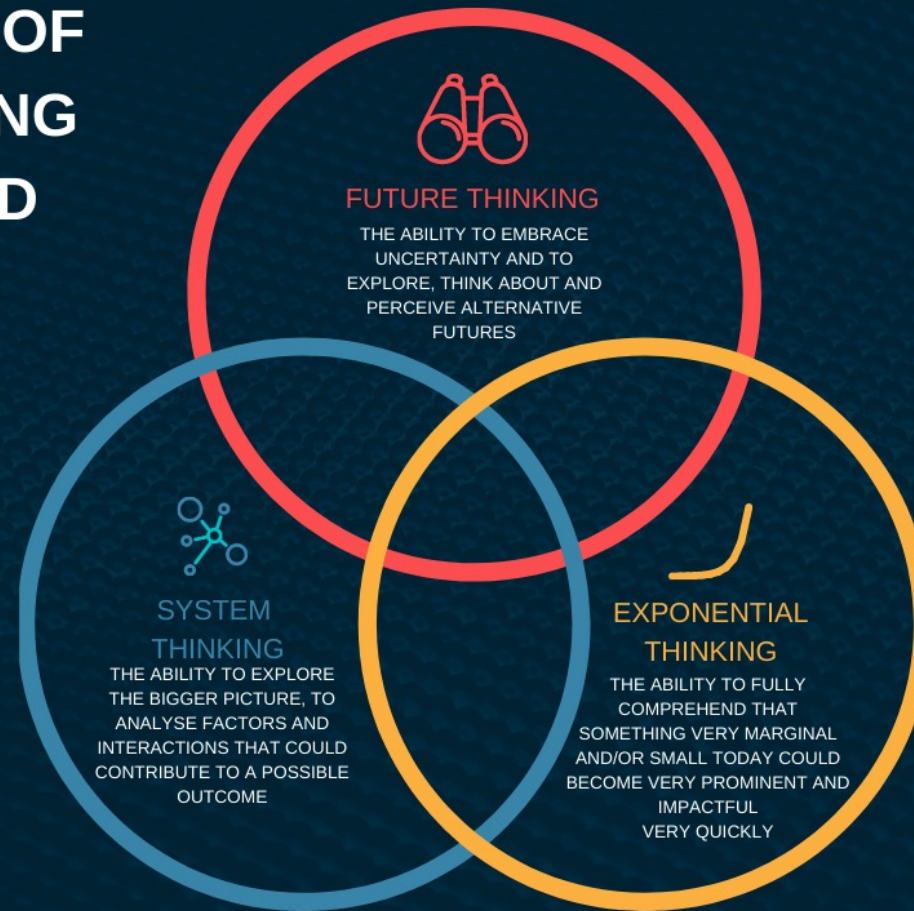


## KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE EU'S SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

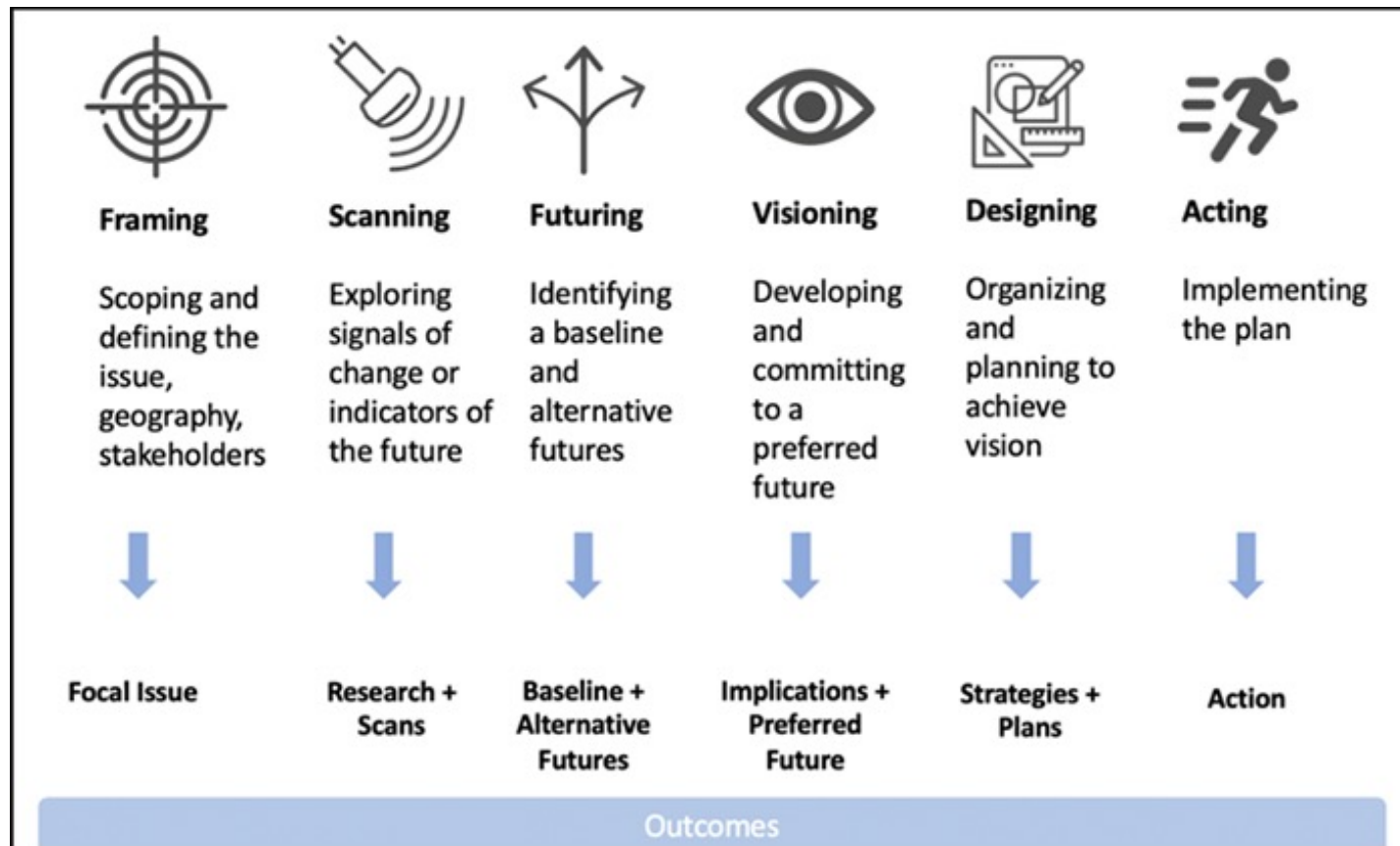


(European Commission, 2023)

# TYPES OF THINKING NEEDED



# Foresight for navigating complex challenges



# Foresight toolbox



## **Horizon scanning**

Monitoring the external environment to identify emerging issues, trends, and uncertainties.

## **Trend analysis**

Analyze existing data to identify significant trends and patterns that could impact the problem (e.g., megatrends)

## **Scenario planning**

Creating and evaluating different possible future scenarios to understand potential outcomes and challenges.

## **Vision building**

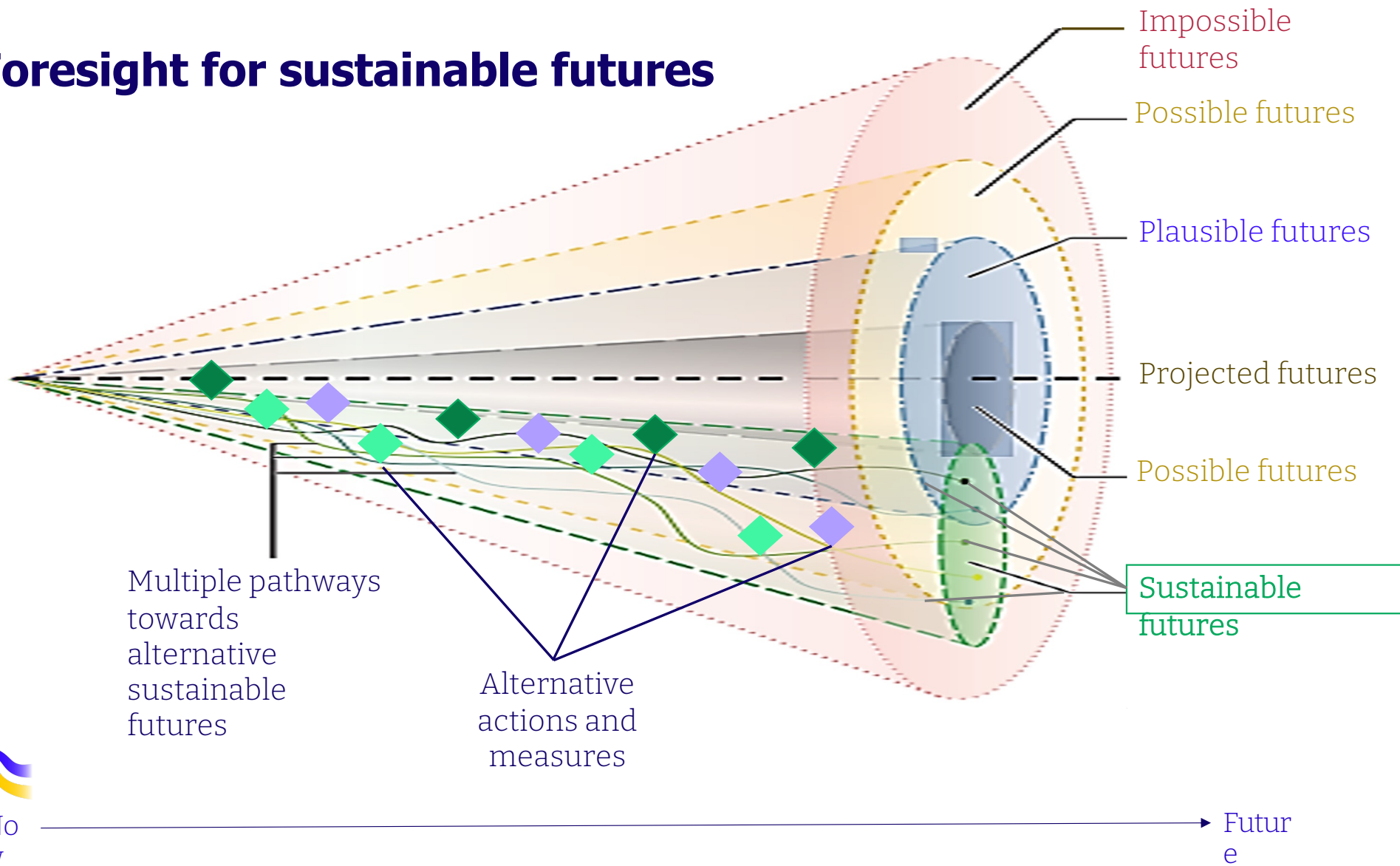
Developing shared visions of desired future states and the goals, targets, and steps needed to achieve it.

## **Transformational planning**

Formulating and implementing just and resilient strategies for system-wide change and long-term goals.



# Foresight for sustainable futures



Now

Future

# Foresight for sustainable transition



**What are the sustainable futures?**



**What are the preferred pathways to achieve them?**



**What targets, actions and measures must be implemented?**





## **What are the sustainable futures?**

A sustainable future, in general, is one where the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

However, there can be more than one vision of a sustainable future. These visions can vary based on:

- Different geographical and environmental contexts,
- Different cultural, economic, and social backgrounds,
- Different perceptions of stakeholders and actors,
- Different priorities and challenges of different social groups, communities, and individuals.

Foresight helps navigating a wide range of [possible and plausible] sustainable futures and implications, challenges and opportunities of these imaginaries for different sectors, social groups, and communities.



Achieving a sustainable future can be approached through a variety of pathways and roadmaps, each tailored to different contexts, priorities, and resources.



**What are the preferred pathways to achieve them?**

These pathways can be influenced by:

- Technological advancements,
- Socio-economic conditions,
- Cultural values,
- Policy frameworks,
- Governance capacities.

Foresight provides a toolbox for policy makers to set out context-specific and adaptive sustainability goals, targets, and milestones, and formulate alternative pathways for just transitions and achieving sustainable development.





Responses to global challenges, policies, and proactive actions and measures can vary significantly across different pathways to a sustainable future.



**What targets, actions and measures must be implemented?**

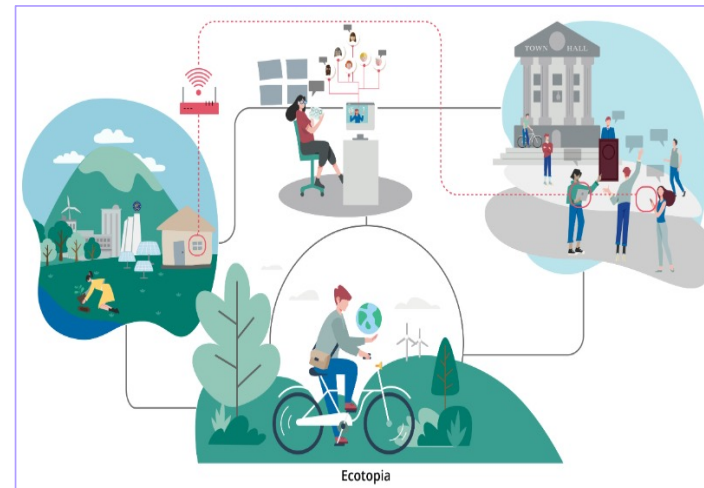
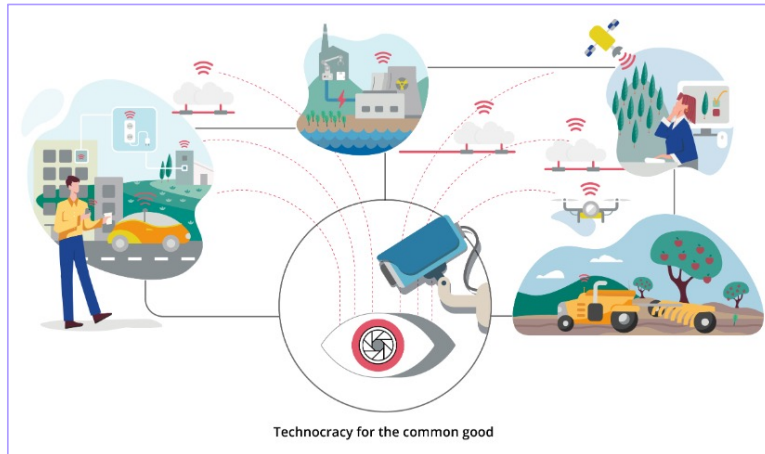
Each pathway prioritizes different approaches and strategies based on its focus, for example,

- Technological innovation,
- Policy-driven initiatives,
- Community engagement,
- Economic transformation,
- Orr cultural and behavioral change.

Foresight helps systematically exploring alternative futures and pathways, anticipating potential challenges and opportunities, and designing and implementing robust actions and measures that operationalize sustainable transition pathways.



# Example: A sustainable Europe in 2050



The 'Scenarios for a sustainable Europe in 2050' project  
(*European Environment*)



# ***Session 3:*** ***Challenges and barriers***





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**Sanjin Avdić**

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Coordinator, SEI





**Q&A**

# Recommendations;

## How can we use foresight to facilitate sustainable transition in BiH?

- Establish a foresight framework, improve future thinking across policy domain, and integrate future-oriented approaches to high-level policies
- Use foresight toolbox to explore and understand alternative imaginaries of sustainable futures for BiH
- Use foresight methods and processes to design sustainable transition pathways, and goals, actions and measures
- Arrange processes for inclusive stakeholder engagement, participatory and co-production practices, and engage with vulnerable communities to ensure just transitions and future prosperity and sustainability for all.





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