

Improving Strategic Foresight in Public Policymaking

Mgr. Jan Kleňha

Dissertation thesis, 2024

Institute of International Studies, Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Abstract

This research investigates the role of participation in national strategic foresight and the potential benefits of integrating forecasting tournaments with traditional expert-based methods. A multi-step case study finds that forecasting tournaments can enhance participation and potentially improve foresight results. According to the ex-post evaluation, widely participatory methods were found to be of a comparable quality to those of the expert Delphi, indicating the viability of participation for strategic foresight. The research posits that broader participation could improve the quality of foresight outcomes, thereby strengthening the basis for national policymaking. Additionally, the study suggests that forecasting tournaments can serve as a stand-alone method even for long-term foresight, presenting a potentially cost-effective alternative to expert-based methods. The research concludes with the analysis of the most important design elements for conducting forecasting tournaments, designing foresight studies and improving the institutionalization of foresight in public policy.