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# **What Foresight Can (and Cannot) Do: Approaches, Cases, Examples, and Resources**

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***Foresight as a  
crystal ball...***

***(yes, it's cracked ...  
this is on purpose!)***



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***If we move beyond the crystal ball,  
what other modes and modalities of  
foresight can and might appear?***

***How might we use them?***



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## ***Foresight as a horoscope...***

*Attempting to forecast \*the\* future, providing us with (often) a (false) sense of security and certainty, providing, however, an opportunity for reflection and learning, as with other forms of divination.*



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## ***Foresight as a telescope...***

*Looking out to the horizon, seeking and scanning for weak and strong signals of novelty, continuity, and change...*





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## ***Foresight as a kaleidoscope...***

*Imagining and immersing oneself, one's community, and/or an organization into alternative futures, each with a unique set of conditions and parameters...*



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## ***Foresight as a microscope...***

*Magnifying challenges, opportunities, and uncertainties, employing various lenses to experiment and test ideas, innovations, plans, policies, and strategies...*



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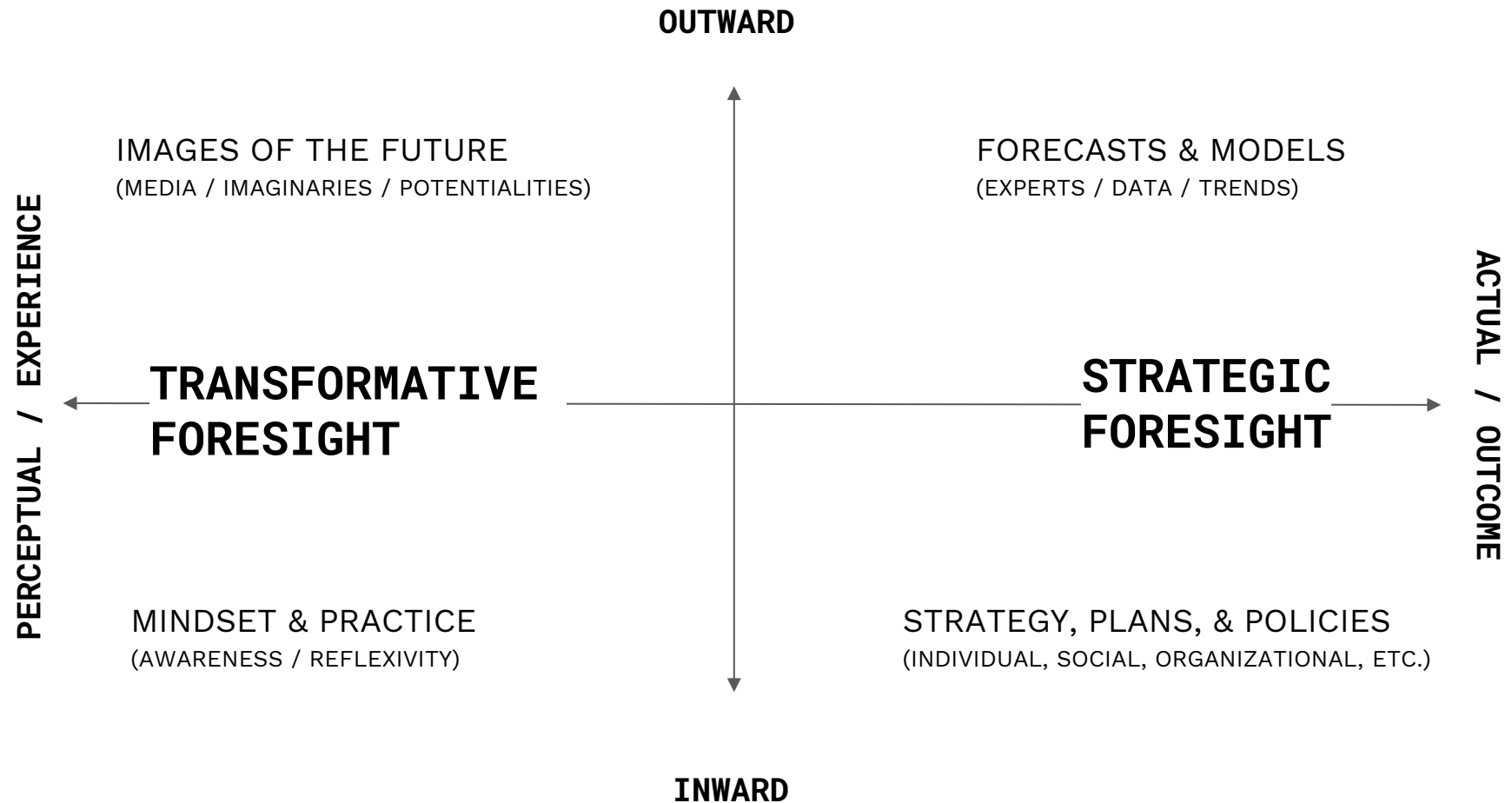
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## ***Foresight as a gyroscope...***

*Identifying orientation and creating directionality and alignment through visions and playbooks (please no more road maps)...*

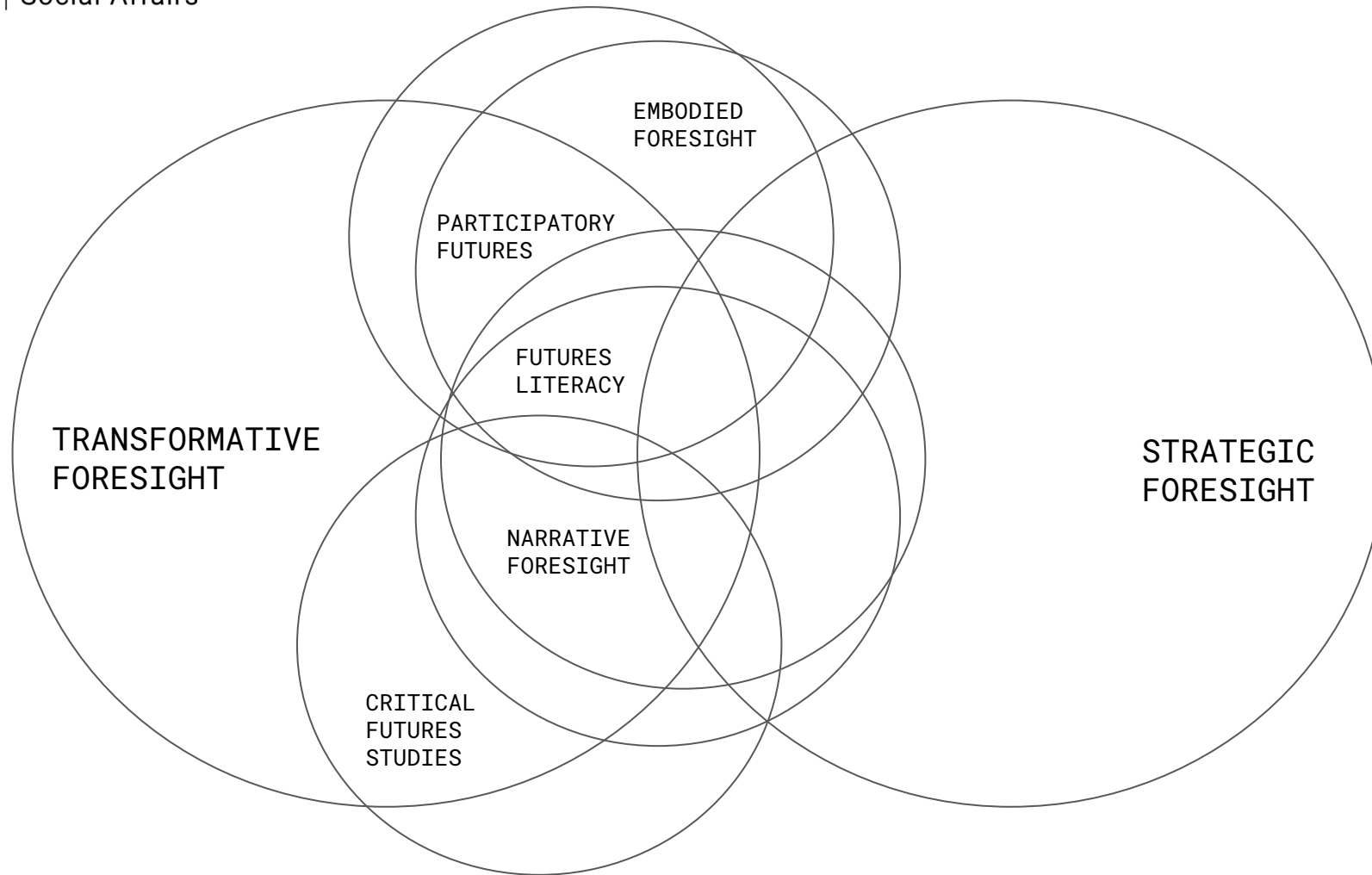






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# Cases & Examples







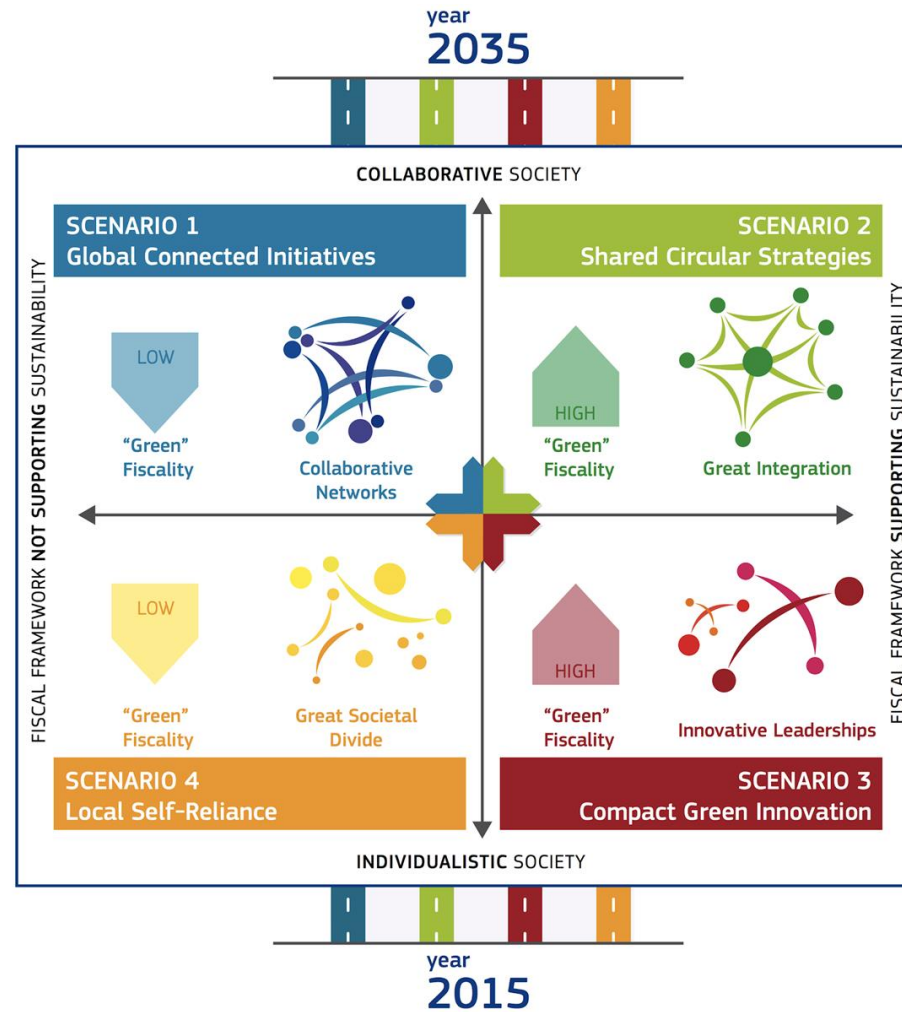
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**“This foresight study aimed at developing long-term visions for eco-industries (Horizon 2035), identifying relevant trends and drivers, highlighting implications for EU policies and describing realistic and desirable possible futures.”**

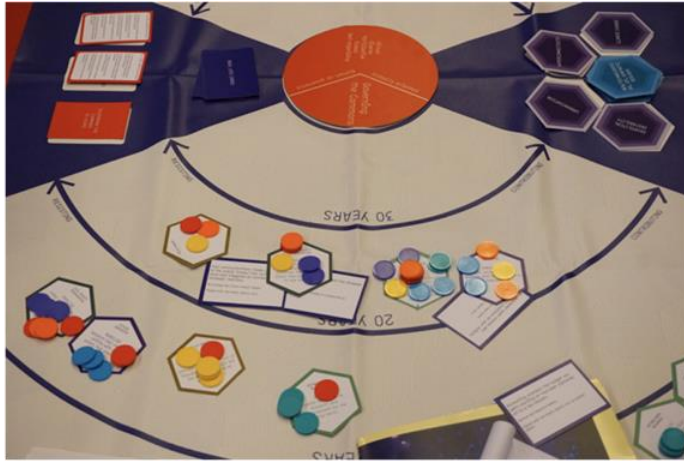






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<https://blogs.ec.europa.eu/eupolicylab>



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## **JRC SES**

- + Utilized across other projects**
- + Contributed towards a culture of experimentation and play (within the EC)**
- + Fostered an alternative means to explore and expand scenarios**





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*Participants got a chance to breathe the air of the UAE in 2030!*



*Stress testing energy scenarios through an interactive simulation*



*Beyond excel spreadsheets: Energy Lab participants get to experience different scenarios*

<https://superflux.in/index.php/work/futureenergylab/#>





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# Dubai Future Energy Lab

- + **Contributed to the passage of the national energy strategy**
- + **Created a space for a range of stakeholders (including unusual suspects) to participate**
- + **Normalized play-based and experiential approaches**



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# IFRC's What Futures

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION

Team 330

Bulgarian Red Cross



New diseases spreading around the world due to climate change? A health innovation developed by a Red Cross and Red Crescent startup is saving millions.



Team Future Now

Australian Red Cross



Oceania regions go underwater and affected communities can't rely on internet-based communications. Since Australian Red Cross went through different futures masterclass sessions in 2017, they were prepared for this scenario.



Now Team Alpha

Kenya Red Cross



A meteorological unmanned vehicle crashes into a building, can we blame machines for this incident?

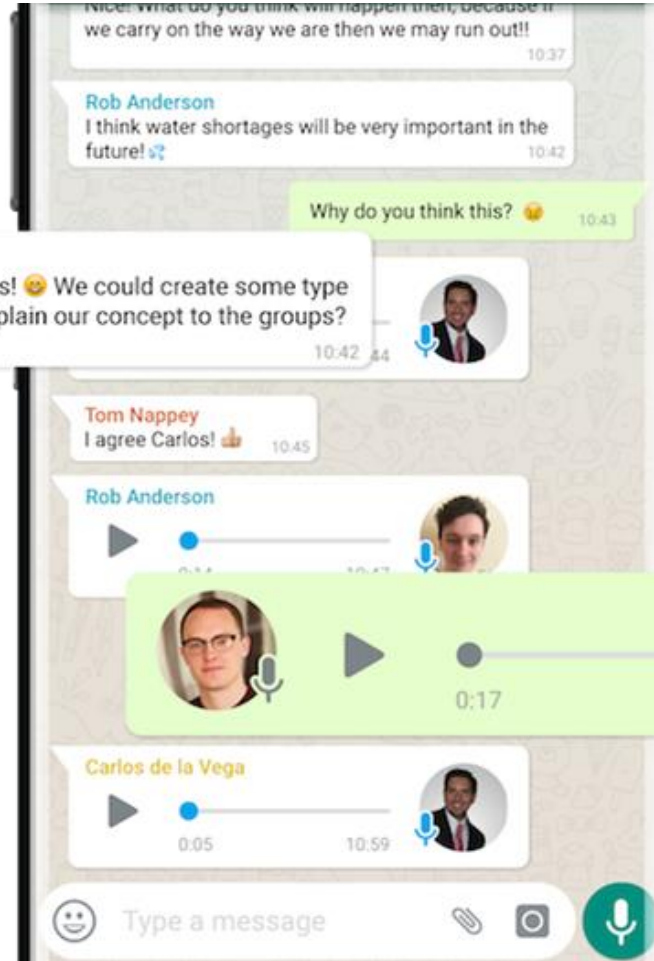


Team Chuhal

Bulgarian Red Cross



20 highly trained Red Cross and Red Crescent teams are spreading 2,000 drones for a massive rescue operation.





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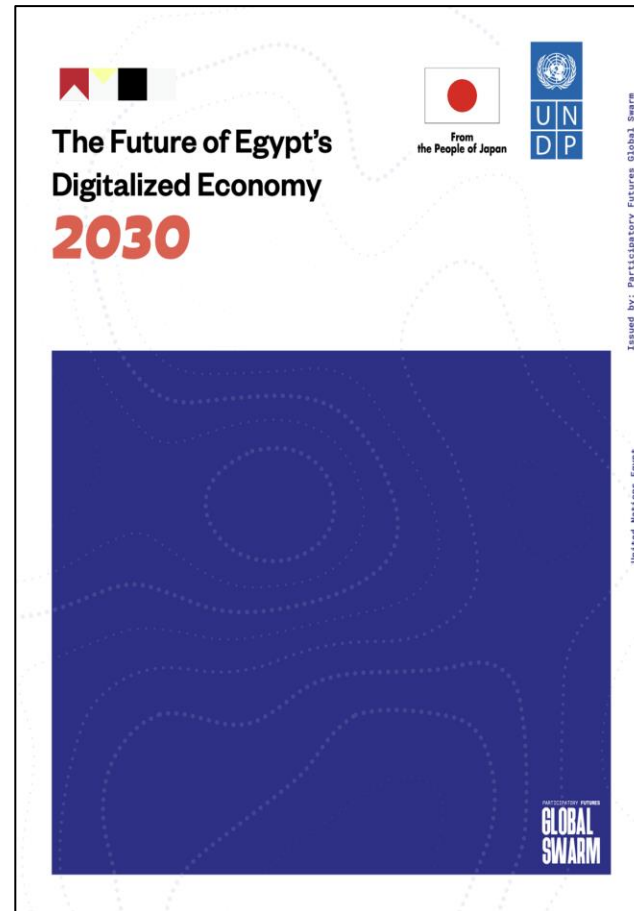
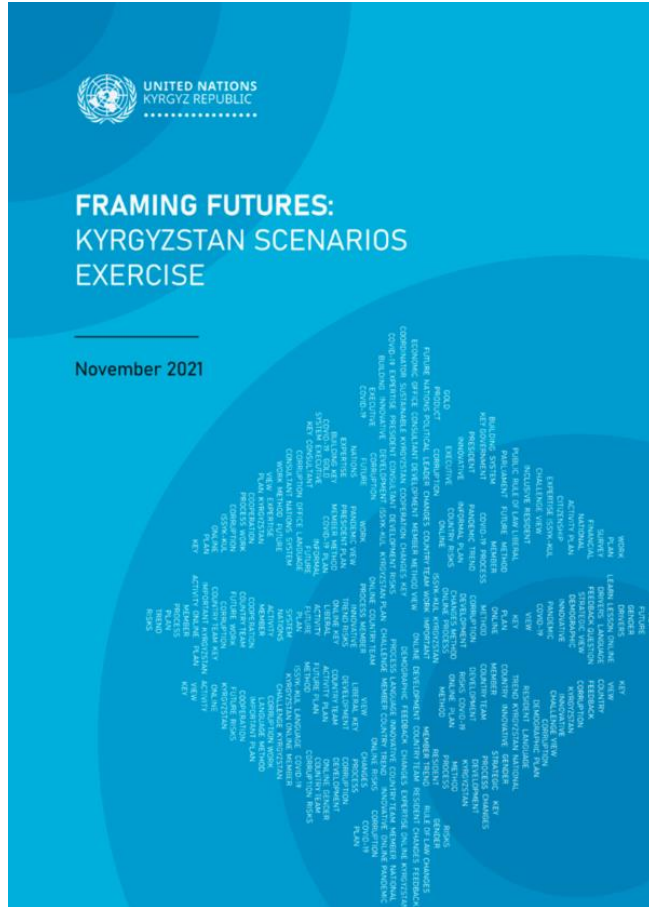
## **IFRC's What Futures**

- + Enhanced participation in the 10-yr strategy development process: 4000+ players in 120 countries using 6 languages**
- + Identified and sharpened the strategy's priority areas**
- + Challenged the organization's risk metabolism**



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# Thank you!

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