



VTT

Regional Technology Foresight

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Foresight and Data Economy,
Future-Proof Societies

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Context

- The need to identify new sources of industrial growth is a pressing policy issue, especially in less developed regions.
- Renewed interest in the potential of industrial policy to advance regional agendas of economic development and innovation.
- Place-based industrial policies, such as EU smart specialisation strategies, aim to help regions identify niches and sectors with growth potential.

Direction of recent policy thinking

- Identifying regional technological capabilities; related avenues for diversification; possibility of path creation from unrelated diversification;
- Need for a holistic, place-based approach to solving societal challenges;
- Challenge/ opportunity of re-arranging of the priorities and the logic of regional development strategies.

Practices involved in the process of defining value

- Deep appreciation of productive structure, problems, values, social assets places as a potential source of entrepreneurial opportunity and innovation
- Foresight as a structured approach helping regions how to frame, select and justify the issues to be prioritised as well as how local societal needs and problems can be turned into market opportunities

The role of regional technology foresight

- Participatory prioritisation and design methods such as foresight approaches operate as platforms for the co-discovery and co-production of priorities for industrial policy;
- Shaping problem-framing and network-building in market formation (requires clear problem orientation);
- Shaping cluster, platform and ecosystem.

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Contributes to alleviating rigidities of innovation agents and bridging the fragmentation between them.

Stimulating interlocking systemic capacities:

- Scanning of the socio-technical environment for the identification of technological opportunities;
- Creation of new social structures and linkages for the circulation of information on those opportunities;
- Exploration of future opportunities with a view to setting up priorities for investment in science and technology and re-orienting the regional and national innovation system.

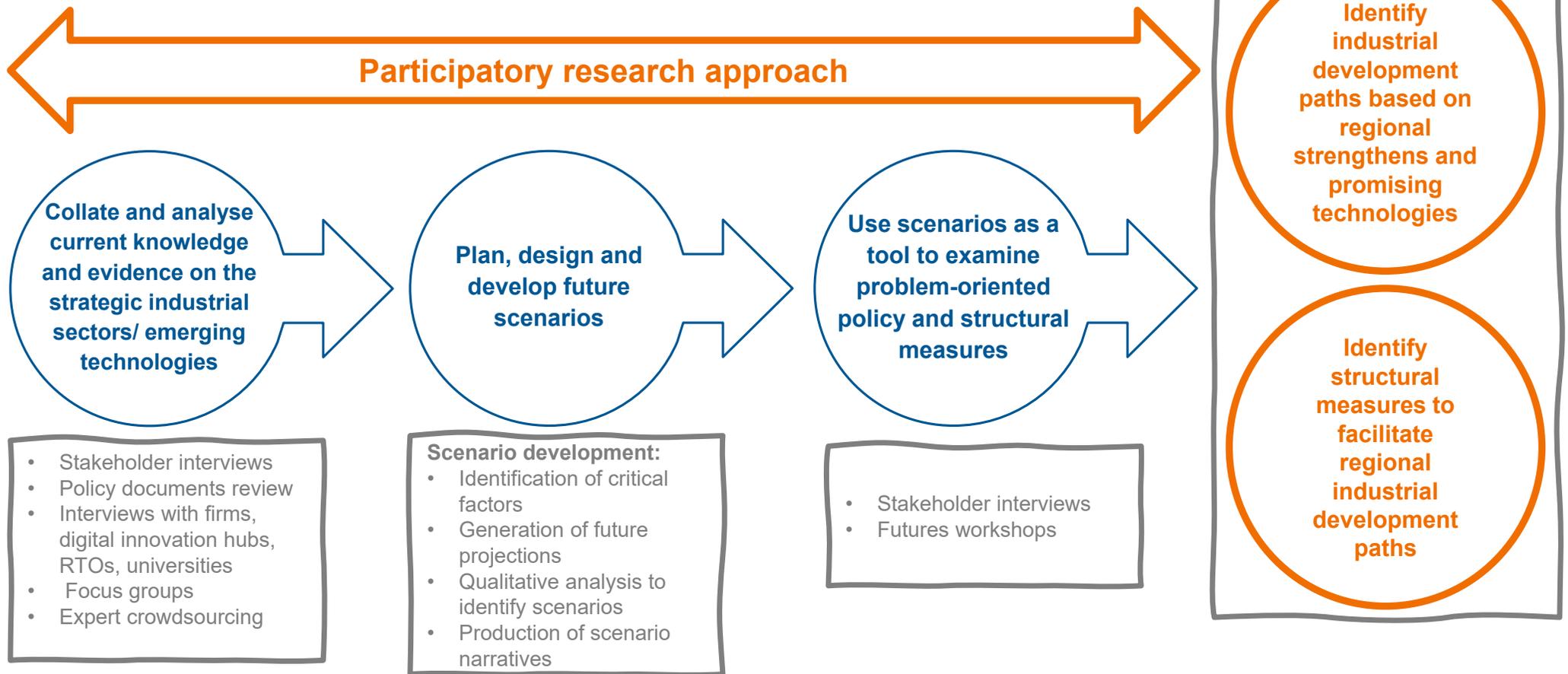
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Broad range of actors are brought into the strategy debate and ultimately shape science and innovation policy;

Regional Technology Foresight performs three main high-impact functions of informing, offering strategic counselling and facilitating:

- provides policy advice by emphasising a long-term perspective on transformative technologies;
- builds advocacy coalitions and an interaction space where the stakeholder community (firms, regional authorities; industrial technologists and industrial policy experts) co-develop a common vision;
- provides a social forum for strategic reflection, widening change capacities through enabling the transposition of foresight results towards policies and firms' exploitation of novel industrial technologies.

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