

Foresight Security Scenarios: Mapping Research to a Comprehensive Approach to Exogenous EU Roles

FOCUS will help shape European security research to enable the EU to effectively respond to tomorrow's challenges stemming from the globalization of risks, threats and vulnerabilities. Work will be based on scenario foresight and use of IT-based facilitation, including the development of an IT Platform to support the planning of future security research.

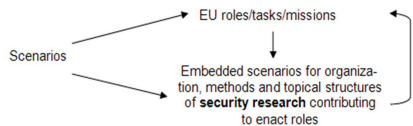
FOCUS Objectives

FOCUS will identify and assess alternative sets of future tracks for security research in FP7 and subsequent programmes that will support the EU to adopt new roles in dealing with external threats, risks and vulnerabilities. The main contribution of the FOCUS project is the development of an effective long-term prediction and assessment tool at the EU level that is populated with analyses done in the project.

FOCUS Method

FOCUS undertakes pluralistic, inclusive foresight by involving a variety of experts, stakeholders and interested parties from within and beyond the EU. FOCUS works with various scenario methods to achieve its results. FOCUS concentrates on alternative future EU roles to prevent or respond to incidents situated on the "borderline" between the internal and external dimensions of the security affecting the Union and its citizens. It does so by elaborating multiple scenarios in its so-called "Five Big Themes", listed below. These multiple scenarios will be based on threat integration and a comprehensive approach to future security missions of the EU.

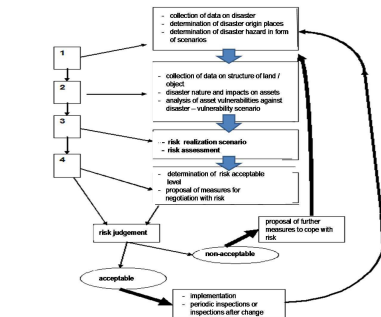
FOCUS will make maximum use of IT support in order to integrate multiple stakeholders, experts from a broad range of fields and interested public in variably mixed Future Groups, composed to address security in relation to other societal as well as to ethical values. This is especially important in the context of scenario planning in order to ensure that the selected policies and security technologies are responsive to the needs of citizens and that they create security approaches rooted in acceptance.



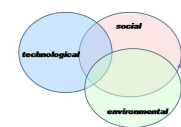
FOCUS goes beyond the threat-specific approach by concentrating on cross-cutting issues and key drivers. FOCUS applies an "embedded scenario" method to develop scenarios for security research (alternative futures) within scenarios for EU roles to respond to transversal challenges (context scenarios).

FOCUS' Five Big Themes

1. Different tracks regarding the future of the comprehensive approach as followed by European institutions, Member States and international strategic actors – including links between the internal and external dimension of security.
2. Natural disasters and environment-related hazards, with an emphasis on comprehensive risk reduction, civil protection and reconstruction.
3. Critical infrastructure and supply chain protection, centred on preventing, mitigating and responding to exogenous threats that could have a significant impact on EU citizens.
4. The EU as a global actor, building on EU-level and Member States instruments and capability processes as well as on effective multilateralism.



Consistency of several systems is necessary for protection of critical infrastructure, environment etc. and the human system because they are SoS (system of systems, systems system = several overlapping systems)



Four different ideal-typical futures to which the EU might aspire and initial assessment based on what capacities the EU currently has in place. Based on: Stephenson & Rhoads: Managing Trans-boundary Crises: What Role for the European Union?, International Studies Review (2008).

Ideal-Typical Future	EU Rationale of Action	Possible Implications of Scenario
"Supranational Future"	The EU could do more as a trans-boundary crisis manager and calls attention to the demonstrated benefits of EU institutions in solving common problems.	Centralization of EU crisis management responsibilities; in a semi-autonomous and flexible agency.
"Subsidiarity Future"	The consequences of adversity should be addressed at the local level where the consequences are most acutely felt. This alternative does not deny a role for the EU. It prescribes a facilitating role for the EU.	The EU enhances the trans-boundary management capacity of member states and enables cooperation between national organizations. The subsidiarity scenario prescribes a complementary but distinct division of labor between national and supranational crisis management.
"Alternative Organization" Future	Trans-boundary threats may require transnational coping capacity, but the EU is not where that capacity should be developed. Crisis and security responsibilities are better placed in other international organizations better suited for such a role. NATO might be a likely candidate for this role.	An active role in enhancing capacity and working with a lead organization, but in this scenario the EU retains from developing its own coping capacity; does not rule out cooperation between NATO and EU, especially when it comes to certain types of threat, for example, attacks with nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons.
"EU-Skepticism" Future	Denies the necessity of a centralized, EU-level response structure and points to the unintended consequences to accompany such a development.	Views collaboration on crisis management matters between nation-states as important but not necessarily a task for European Union institutions.

5. The evolution of the EU's internal framework and prerequisites for delivering a comprehensive approach, including strategies for engagement with other international actors as well as ethical acceptability and public acceptance of future security roles of our Union.

Example of indicative scenario space for EU roles

The EU's role in the world has already changed a great deal since 1945. It has a unique position in the world, and it is important to think about the future of the EU's role in the world. The EU's role in the world is not just about the EU's role in the world, but also about the EU's role in the world's future. The EU's role in the world is not just about the EU's role in the world, but also about the EU's role in the world's future.

Common Threats and Challenges	EU's Common Internal Security Policy	European Security Model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism in any form • Cyber and digital crime • Organized crime • Climate change (incl. sea level rise) • Migration (incl. irregular migration) • Resilience to natural disasters • Counter-terrorism and security threats • Big health challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual trust, offering security • Mutual respect and rule of law • Shared and shared values (democracy, human rights, rule of law) • Three pillars: justice and fundamental rights, freedom, security and justice • Resilience to natural disasters • Resilience to natural disasters • Resilience to natural disasters • Resilience to natural disasters • Resilience to natural disasters • Resilience to natural disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting rights and freedoms • Promoting cooperation and stability • Promoting security • Promoting prevention and protection • Promoting resilience to natural disasters • Promoting resilience to natural disasters • Promoting resilience to natural disasters • Promoting resilience to natural disasters • Promoting resilience to natural disasters • Promoting resilience to natural disasters

Selected FOCUS First Results

Using an initial stakeholder/expert questionnaire, FOCUS (among other things) conducted a first round of expert assessments of possible key drivers in our "five-theme world", with some interesting results. These include the following:

Use of scenarios – What do stakeholders expect from FOCUS' IT Platform?

- Identify and reduce vulnerabilities
- Prepare to counter hazards and threats
- Prevent harm to the Union and its citizens

Which most likely threats did the experts foresee in our five-theme future world?

- Nature sustainability
- Abuse of cloud computing
- Radicalization in the EU neighbourhood

Which most likely operational challenges for the EU as a comprehensive security provider to its citizens did the experts foresee in our five-theme future world?

- Integrated situational picture
- Comprehensive model for information exchange

Expected Main Output

- IT Platform with tools and infrastructure for designing, applying, evaluating and managing scenarios for research planning.
- This platform will make available material and tools for scenario planning of security research to knowledge communities on a wide scale and allow stakeholders as well as the interested public to take part in the assessment of alternative futures for security research in the context of new roles for the EU.
- Scenarios and analyses along the 5 big themes, populating the IT Platform.
- Roadmap with new tracks for security research beyond FP7.

FOCUS Consortium

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