

FOCUS

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

The FOCUS (Foresight Security Scenarios: Mapping Research to a Comprehensive Approach to Exogenous EU Roles. Proposal no. 261633, topic SEC-2010.6.3-2) will allow designing European security research to effectively cope with future EU roles responding to tomorrow's challenges resulting from the globalization of risks, threats and vulnerabilities. It will do so through the elaboration of multiple scenarios based on IT-supported foresight in the form of alternative futures that are plausibility-probed and not just threat scenarios. The main contribution of the FOCUS project is the development of effective long-term prediction and assessment tool at an EU level based on in-depth analyses done in the project. Moreover, it will deliver tangible products (as an IT platform) and contents (as a roadmap) for planning of research and deciding on priorities. The project will achieve the following six objectives, building upon each other:

1. Identify alternative sets of future tracks for security research in FP7 and subsequent programmes, supporting EU roles to deal with exogenous threats, risks and vulnerabilities.
2. Elaborate on the transversal concept in assessing evolving needs for research across traditional disciplines, defined mission areas and throughout the security continuum. In the course of this, investigate interfaces and transformational mechanisms by which external events directly confront the security of the EU, its Member States and its citizens; elaborate how they nevertheless impact them differently and how this should be reflected in the planning of future tracks of security research.
3. Design and apply a specific scenario approach of possible future developments.
4. Produce an IT information infrastructure (by adapting existing information technologies) that will make data and tools for scenario planning of security research available to knowledge communities.
5. Enhance transparency, improve understanding and increase preparedness for the emerging challenges of the "external dimension" and the "external-internal continuum" of security and the evolution of security research. Contribute to assuring compliance between security research and EU roles and facilitate research coordination and structuring across pillars and levels. Offer guidance for security research coordination and structuring, including decisions about research priorities and closing of gaps (e.g. between cultural factors and values guiding the perception of security).
6. Contribute to the planning of security research beyond ESRAB and ESRIF domains, based on foreseen EU roles rather than on pre-defined missions.