Digital Futures

2050's visions inspiring 2020's policies

Global Forum 2012

Stockholm, November 2012

Afonso Ferreira

DG CONNECT

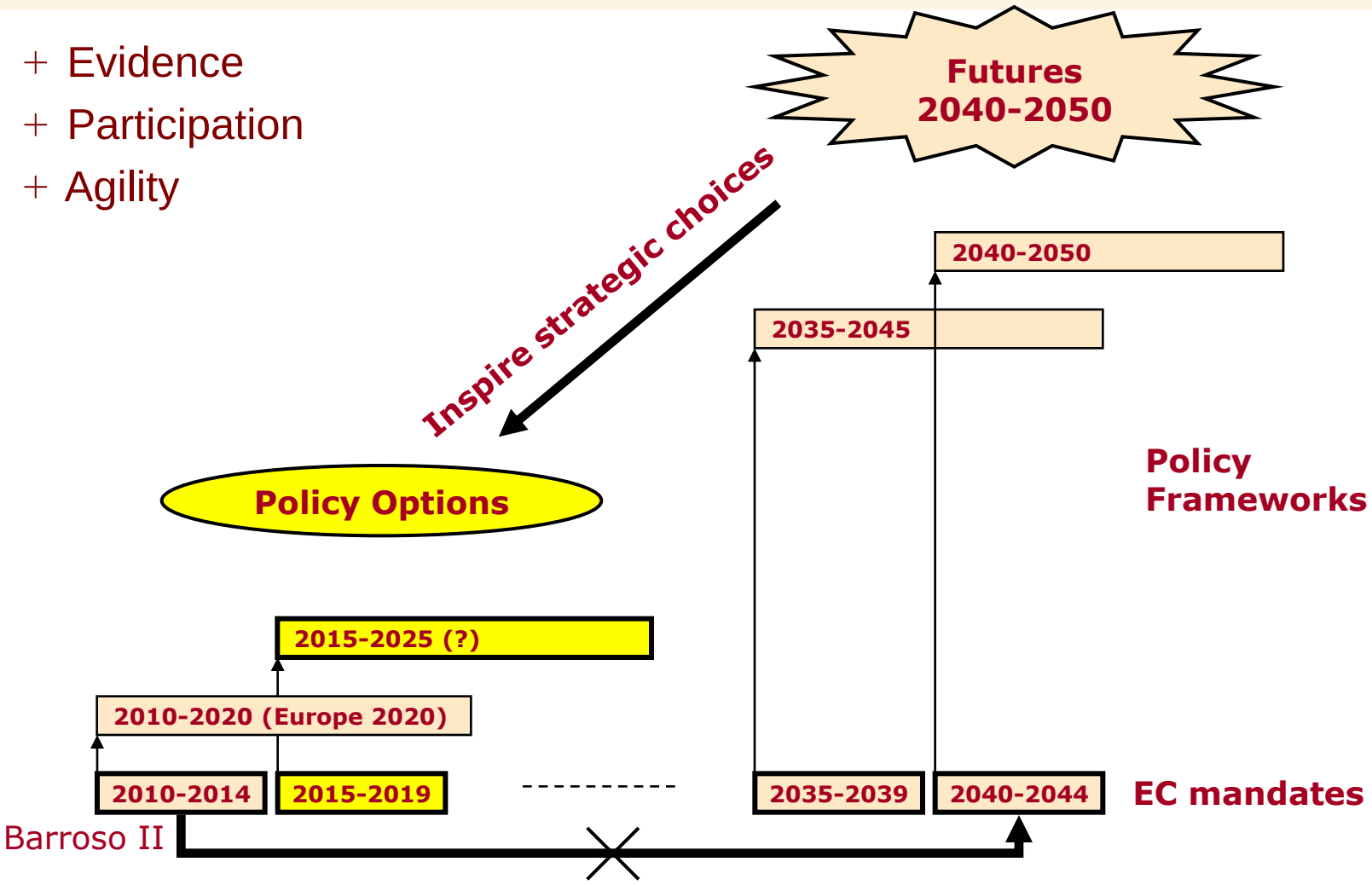
European Commission

CONNECT's science futures activities

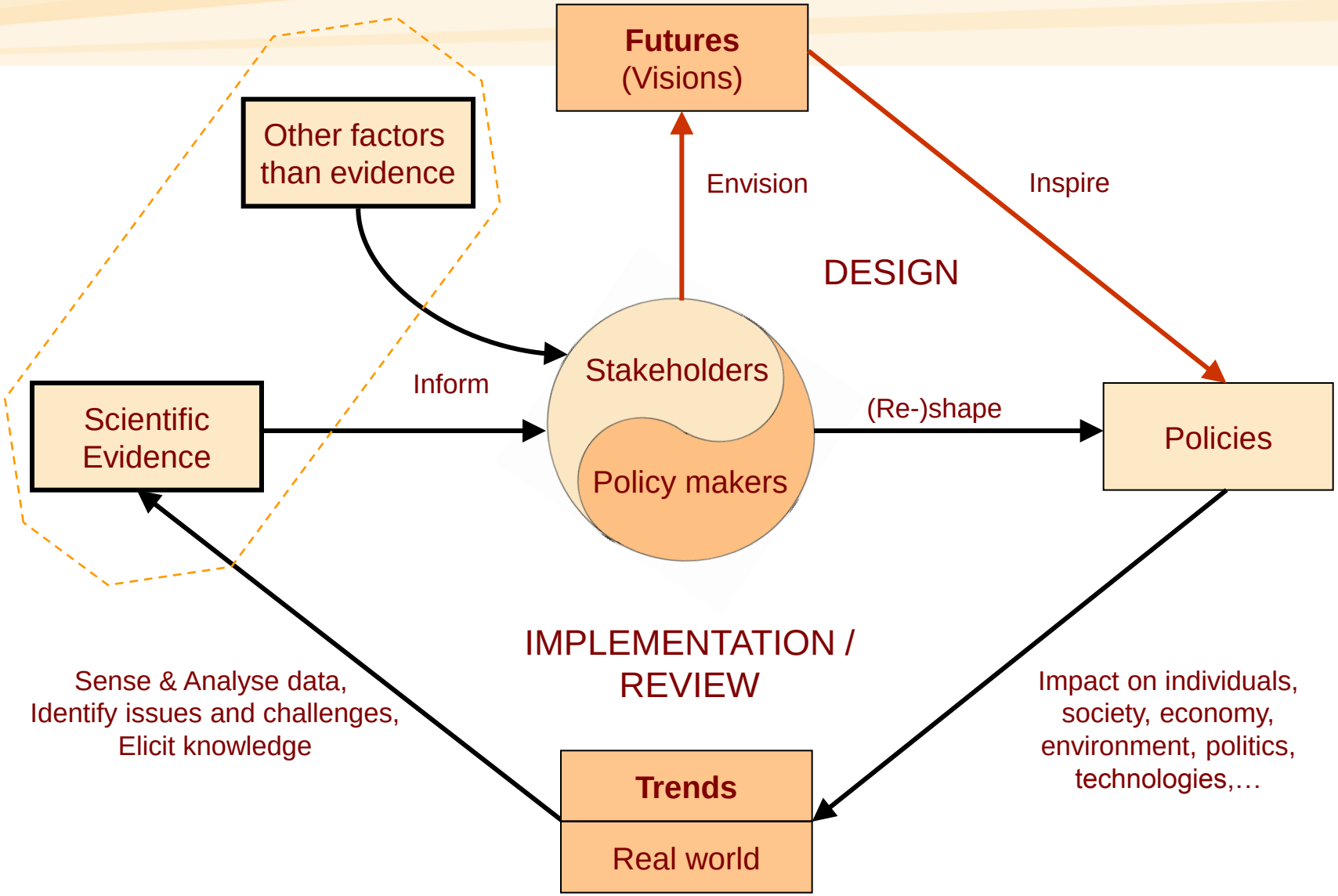
- Digital Futures
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- FET Flagships
- Future Internet innovation, including platform for collective awareness, FIRE,…
- Digital Science, including citizen science
- e-Infrastructures for eScience
- Social innovation
- Knowledge sharing, knowledge base , stakeholders, …
- …

Purpose: inform future strategic choices

+ Evidence
+ Participation
+ Agility

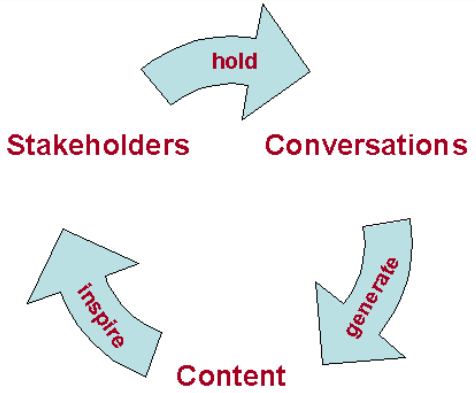


Build on scientific evidence & people's opinion to inform policy decisions



Engagement strategy

1) Host conversations/dialogues with stakeholders



- Standard format: participatory brainstorming
- Contributors: scientists, citizens, policy makers,…
- Virtual (webinar) & in-person meetings
- Going local: Member States, schools, conferences…
- Viral process: loosely coordinated, but with simple, shared rules

2) Capture content into an open, standard online platform (*futurium*)

- Based on a fixed meta-model (futures, policies,…) & workflow
- Enabling co-creation (wiki), voting, forecasting, back casting, mapping,…
- Automatic semantic annotation, data mining, correlation, fact-finding
- Agent-based gaming and simulation (early 2013)

⇨ emergent collective intelligence

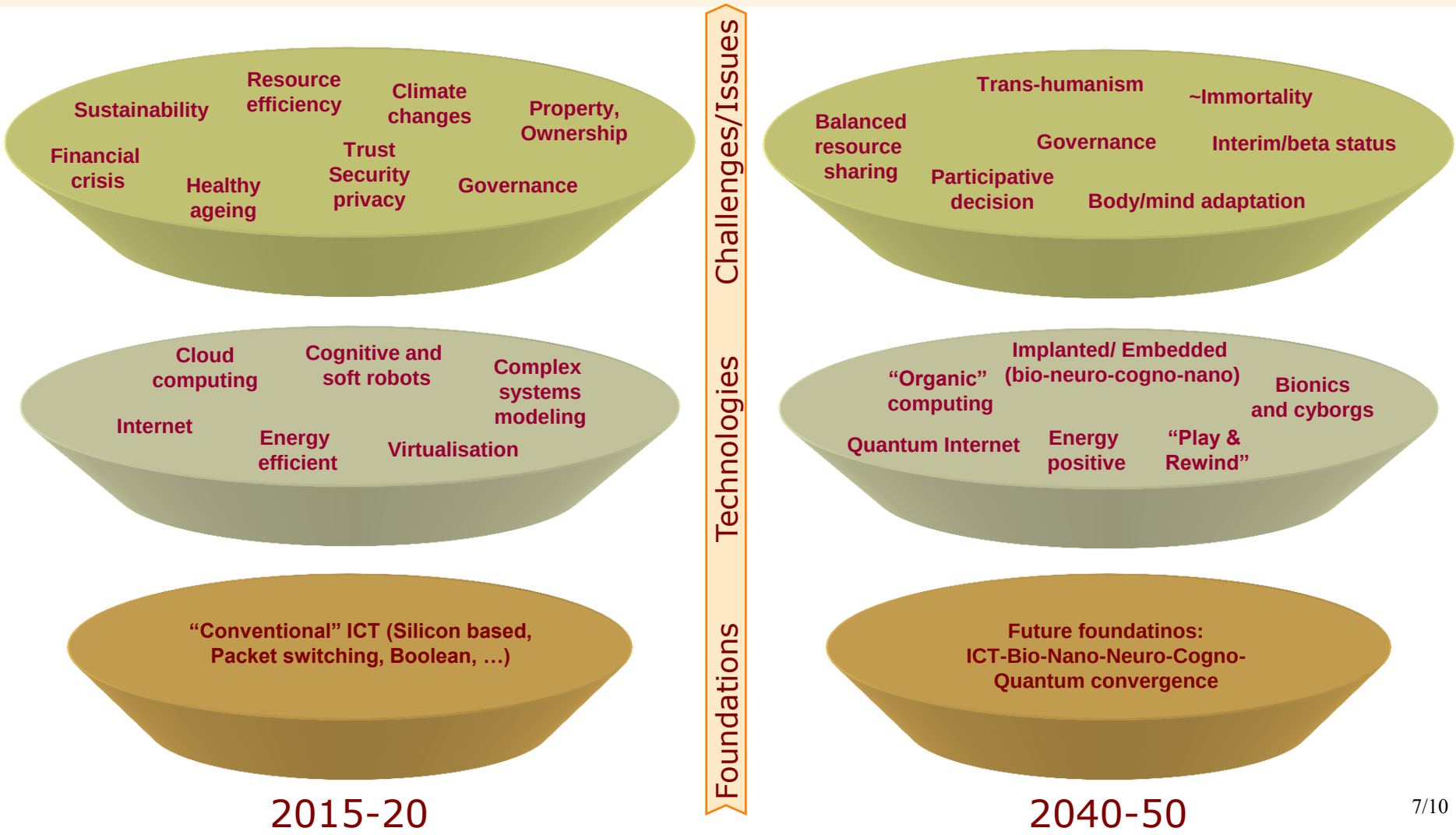
Digital Futures activities

- 70+ conversations in person/online , 20+ interviews
- 100+ mind maps, 16 draft trends, 8 draft visions…
- Engaging non usual partners (schools, youth associations, …)
- Meta-model and its experimental implementation
- Digital Future conversations in the pipeline:
  - EP event, 27 Nov 2012
  - Going local campaign, Sep-Dec 2012
  - Futures @ World Foresight Forum, April 2013
  - Final event, Nov 2013
  - …

Building on achievements and best practices (smart regulation,…)!

Technological futures & related challenges

(Examples)



More emerging trends and visions
(Sample)

Trends:

1. Urbanisation (including transportation)
2. Tension between representative and delegate democracy
3. Rise of digital natives
4. Behavioural transformation
5. Shifting power in geopolitics
6. Current model of capitalism is running out of steam
7. Cyber-physical convergence
8. Personalized manufacturing (3D printing and more)
9. Hyper-connectivity (e.g. internet, pervasiveness of ICT)
10. Global Warming
11. Depreciation of money (governmental monetary policies)
12. Globalisation and ethics
13. Exponential rate of technological change
14. Renaissance of space exploration
15. Instability through instrumentalisation of religion
16. Scarcity of natural resources (including energy)

Visions:

1. Environment, energy and space in 2050
2. Personal life in 2050
3. Economy in 2050
4. Robotics in 2050
5. Technology in 2050
6. Health in 2050
7. Social life in 2050
8. Politics in 2050

Work in progress @ https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/digital-futures

Thanks

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