

First Meeting of the OPSI National Contact Point Working Group on Anticipatory Innovation Governance

6th September 2023 | Virtual

The first AIG working group meeting on 6th September generated valuable discussion around the two aims of the group: (1) prepare draft good practice principles of anticipatory governance for the Public Governance Committee with the future purpose of developing an OECD recommendation; (2) to explore the possibility for an anticipatory intelligence monitoring tool of the recommendations to evaluate the progress in this field across countries and identify key signals of change in emerging policy areas.

A timeline and goals for the group were proposed by the Secretariat and feedback was sought from members. Alongside a more open discussion, members were invited to identify areas in which the anticipatory governance principles should concentrate using a Padlet board: [In which areas should the anticipatory governance principles concentrate on? \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com/In-which-areas-should-the-anticipatory-governance-principles-concentrate-on?).

Key messages

- There was widespread agreement in the group that a strong message from the OECD on good practice principles and recommendations for anticipatory governance would be valuable to build legitimacy and ensure more resources are devoted to the institutionalisation of strategic foresight
- Mandates, guidelines and recommendations were noted as necessary to connect the principles to practical implementation
- Members of the group highlighted the need to connect anticipatory governance to other approaches, such as risk management
- It was noted that the common application of strategic foresight to develop and work towards normative visions of the future is sub-optimal, and that principles and a tool for collecting and analysing signals of change could help to address this
- Members of the group stressed the role that politicians must play in the promoting the effective use of strategic foresight, identifying them as a key audience for the principles
- Leveraging anticipatory governance as a vehicle for cross-sectoral collaboration and systemic approaches was recommended
- Themes from the interactive Padlet included: promoting skills development among civil servants, how anticipatory tools could be used to address crosscutting issues, improving stakeholder engagement, using foresight to explore alternative futures, building resilience.

Next steps for Working Group members

- Inform Secretariat of interest to co-chair the working group
- Respond to Doodle poll to find a date for the next session
- Respond to invitation to launch event for Portugal's work on 28th September

Next steps for the OECD Secretariat

- Share proposed dates for the next session and invitations to relevant events
- Prepare an overview of existing approaches to identify signals of change