

Europe and the World in 2030

AUGUR is an international research project being conducted by the FP7 (Seventh Framework Programme) of the European Union, which is the EU's chief instrument for funding research over the period 2007 to 2013.

Abstract:

Our challenge is:

- to capture, within a set of scenarios, the characteristics and implications of a variety of patterns that may occur in 2030 in all fields, be it political, economic, social, environmental or technological in both Europe and in rest of the world;
- to take stock of long term trends identified in demography, environmental changes as well as to feature some of the effects of likely changes in technology and behaviours;
- to take into account the important institutional transformations that could come out of the major crisis that the world economy is currently confronted with.

Three Types of Approaches:

To reach this ambitious objective, in a comprehensive and consistent way, we plan to combine three types of approaches in a systematic way:

1. Use of Macro Models

The use of macro models will ensure that the main interdependencies are taken into account. Since one macro model cannot cover all the fields under view, the macro models we use are made to interact in ways which are facilitated, if not intermediated by the other two approaches.

2. An Institutional Perspective

The second approach takes an institutional perspective whereby the main mechanisms of coordination, setting not only the rules of behaviour but also the means to create new modes of coordination, are investigated and the various interests at stake accounted for. This political economy of institutions and institutional changes applies to both national and international levels. The present crisis, that burst in the most developed economies and affects all economies throughout the world, leads us to put a specific emphasis on forthcoming and potential institutional changes.

3. Foresight Studies

The third approach stems from the long experience of foresight studies which proceed by asserting visions, based on specific thorough transformations impacting all fields. This qualitative approach is informed and framed by the two other approaches.

AUGUR consortium:



Contact: augurproject@gmail.com
 +33 (0)1 49 40 39 05

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