
Foreword

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There are already journals that focus on foresight and assessment studies and journals that address policy-making and, in particular, innovation policy-making. However, an international, refereed journal focusing explicitly on the role of foresight and assessment in innovation policy was still lacking. In public policy and corporate management the interest in and concern about policies for innovation rises. Decision makers are searching for effective innovation policy instruments which make a lasting impact on future welfare. Hence they seek also to learn about future challenges, needs and alternatives in science, technology, society and the economy as a guiding cognitive framework for the design and strategic orientation of innovation policies. The interest in robust foresight exercises has been continuously increasing since the late 20th century. At the same time practical, research-based and academic expertise both in innovation policy analysis and in foresight has been accumulated; today we see excellent experts in many countries worldwide, in universities, research institutes, governmental think-tanks and industry. Some experts concentrate on foresight concepts, some on innovation policy analysis, and some combine such expertise as strategic intelligence.

One year ago the idea was born to start a journal that would fill in this gap. We received an overwhelming response from leading scholars in the field to participate in this endeavour and to become members of the editorial board. It is because of this enthusiasm that we can now proudly present the first issue of the *International Journal of Foresight and Innovation Policy (IJFIP)*. The *IJFIP* provides a high-level platform for the exchange of advanced analysis and competence in foresight and innovation policy. *IJFIP* offers an ambitious international forum for strategic intelligence.

1 What the journal is all about

1.1 Focus

The *IJFIP*, was established in 2003 as a peer reviewed, international authoritative reference in the field. It publishes high level academic articles dealing with knowledge creation, diffusion and utilisation in innovation policy. The journal covers all types of Strategic Intelligence (SI). Examples of SI in the domain of innovation include Foresight, Forecasting, Delphi-studies, Technology Assessment, Benchmarking, R&D evaluation and Technology Road-mapping. SI is defined as the set of actions to search, process, diffuse and protect information to make it available to the right person at the right time in order to make an adequate decision. Special emphasis will

be put on the use (actual or potential) of the various types (and methods) of SI (-creation and diffusion) in the policy-making process.

Disciplinary background includes the domains of innovation studies, policy- and management sciences and research after the utilisation of knowledge in decision-making processes including recent insights in the domain of knowledge management.

1.2 Objectives

The IJFIP aims to develop further the insight into the role of SI in innovation policy and – practice by acting as a scientific forum and contribute to the interaction between researchers, policy makers and actors involved in innovation processes.

1.3 Readership

Scholars in the domains of innovation studies, (public) policy-making and management sciences, (innovation) policy makers and other actors involved in innovation processes from the public as well as from the private sector.

1.4 Content

The journal publishes original and review academic papers, case studies, conference reports and book reviews. Contribution may be by submission or invitation and suggestions for special issues and publications are welcome.

1.5 Topics

- empirical research after the role of SI in innovation policy-making
- methods to determine the impact of SI studies on policy-making
- methods to improve the quality and impact of SI studies
- specific case studies
- generation, diffusion and utilisation of SI
- context dependency and transferability of SI
- differences between types of SI
- types of and experiences with institutionalisation of SI function
- articulation of demand for SI
- international comparative research
- contribution of SI to the quality, democratic content and rationality of decision-making on innovation
- international cooperation, e.g. to stimulate international learning processes and realise economies of scale
- methodological and conceptual aspects of SI.

2 In this inaugural issue

We received an overwhelming response from leading academic and industrial researchers to our call for papers for the inaugural issue of *IJFIP*. Due to the constraints of space, we had to make a selection. In this first issue seven articles are included. They demonstrate the truly international character of *IJFIP*. We hope and think that you will find many interesting and useful insights.