

You have before you the final report of the COS Horizon Scan Project 2007. Taking a long term perspective, the scan provides a vision of the problems and opportunity-filled developments that lie on the horizon. Within this context, short term strategic policy and knowledge questions are posed that promise to contribute to the development of a sustainable policy and a knowledge agenda that is directed toward the long term. The report does not offer solutions but is meant to stimulate broadly future-oriented thinking. Its approach transcends domains and disciplines.

It examines all signals, including weak ones, which can significantly influence the future. Possible interactions between various factors are also described.

Extra attention is given in the report to one exemplary area, Robotics. The described developments in this field can have an impact on every aspect of our functioning and well-being. Prosperity will be strongly dependent on the (policy) choices we make in the Netherlands to prepare ourselves for the future.

Horizon Scanning should be an integral part of any government's policy cycle.

Horizon Scan Report 2007 Towards a Future Oriented Policy and Knowledge Agenda

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