

EU 2025 Strategic Foresight Report consultation

Background:

Imagine 2040: Building the Future with Backcasting outlines a forward-thinking approach to shaping Europe's future by considering multiple potential scenarios—ranging from inclusive prosperity to competitive fragmentation and reactive adaptation. The article uses backcasting as a strategic tool to outline the necessary steps and milestones, emphasising the importance of adapting to global megatrends and the need for innovative experimentation and inclusive policymaking to navigate evolving challenges effectively. The following recommendations emerge from this exploration.

Policy Recommendations

- **Providing meaningful citizen inclusion:** Policies should foster co-creation by actively engaging citizens in decision-making processes. To achieve this, it is essential to improve policy accessibility through more understandable and accessible communication and by expanding opportunities for public engagement.
- **Granting opportunities for risk-minimised experimentation:** Establish mechanisms to experiment with innovative policy approaches for alternative economic and social systems. By implementing controlled experiments—similar to 'regulatory sandboxes'—we can identify effective models that address disruptive global trends, and subsequently scale these models while minimising societal risk.
- **Promoting agile policy frameworks without compromising on democratic standards:** Develop adaptable policies that can respond rapidly to emerging challenges and changing circumstances. It is important to balance rapid policy responses with the need to uphold and continuously enhance democratic governance standards and processes.

These recommendations aim to ensure that Europe's future is not only resilient and adaptive but also inclusive and democratic.

Resources:

Imagine 2040: Building the Future with Backcasting. Polity Futures. 2025.
<https://polityfutures.substack.com/p/imagine-2040-building-the-future>

North Star for Europe's Future: Inclusive Prosperity. Polity Futures. 2025.
<https://polityfutures.substack.com/p/north-star-for-europes-future-inclusive>

