

A European research centre for regional development, The Destree Institute, founded in 1938, is a pluralist, non-governmental non-profit body. The Institute threw itself into the foresight field in the early 1980s by launching a cycle of exercises called *Wallonia to the future*, concentrating at first on issues related to civil society.

1. Wallonia to the future

Between 1985 and 2004, The Destree Institute engaged in six foresight exercises of which it was both the partner and the operator. The proceedings of these initiatives were published under the following titles:

- Wallonia to the Future, Towards a new Paradigm, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 1989.
- Wallonia to the Future, The Challenge of Education, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 1992.
- Wallonia to the Future, The Challenge of Education, Consensus-Conference, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 1994.
- Wallonia to the Future, Which strategies for Employment ?, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 1996.
- Wallonia to the Future, Leaving the 20th Century : Evaluation, Innovation, Foresight, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 1999.
- Wallonia 2020, A Citizen Foresight Thinking about the Future of Wallonia, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 2005.

Most of these publications are now out of print but may be consulted on line:
http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/wallonie-publications/Wallonie-Futur_Index-Congres.htm

Since November 2004, these studies on *Wallonia to the Future* have been replaced by a Regional Foresight College, consisting of thirty personalities who meet on a regular basis and concentrate their efforts on implementing a system of regional change, springing from a foresight analysis that relies on a diagnostic of the values, beliefs, perceptions and behaviour of the Wallonia stakeholders.

2. Foresight initiatives on behalf of the Government of Wallonia

Between 1999 and 2007, The Destree Institute set up three important foresight work sites on behalf of the Government of Wallonia and its Administration.

2.1. The Foresight Mission Wallonia 21

This exercise was conducted between 1999 and 2004 for the Government of Wallonia, with the task of encouraging the study and production on a regional scale of foresight views and action programmes in the framework of Wallonia's Contract for the Future. Three reports were circulated:

Philippe DESTATTE, ed., *Foresight Mission Wallonia Wallonie 21, Wallonia tuned in to Foresight, First Report to the Ministre-President of the Government of Wallonia*, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, August 2002.

Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN, ed., *Territorial Foresight as a tool of Governance*, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 2003.

Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN, ed., *Foresight Mission Wallonia 21, Foresight tuned into Wallonia*, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, May 2004.

Most of these reports are available on line:

http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/Mission-Prospective_Wallonie-21.htm

2.2. Foresight for enterprises in Wallonia

This exercise was conducted in 2002 and 2003 at the request of the Minister for Economic Affairs of the Wallonia Government, within a global dynamic called *4X4 for Entrepreneurship*. The aim was to help the Cabinet of the Minister and the Department for Economic Affairs and Employment of the Walloon Region to redefine its regional support policies for companies, by taking into account the stakes and challenges on the horizon of 2020. The task went ahead mainly in conjunction with company directors, the Walloon Union of Enterprises and experts from business circles; it produced a report which was presented to the Ministers Serge Kubla and Jean-Claude Marcourt, and distributed to the forty people who had taken part in the exercise.

Details of this report edited by Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN: *Réflexion prospective sur les politiques d'entreprises en Wallonie, Rapport final*, Namur, Direction générale de l'Economie et de l'Emploi du Ministère de la région wallonne (Direction des Politiques économiques) - Institut Destrée, December 2003, 50 p.

This exercise and the accompanying report were presented by Florence HENNART and Philippe DESTATTE to the Seminar on Foresight-Info organised by DATAR in Paris on 24 March 2005.

<http://www.institut-destree.eu/Reseaux/DIACT.htm>

2.3. Wallonia territorial Intelligence Platform

At the request of the minister in charge of Town and Country Planning in the Wallonia Government André Antoine and the Services for Town and Country Planning, Housing and Patrimony (Department of Urban Development) of the Ministry of the Wallonia Region, The Destree Institute constructed an information platform dedicated to foresight projects in Wallonia with the idea of launching the project for Regional Environmental Planning, in order to provide informations on regional foresight initiatives conducted in the field of communal and supracommunal cooperation. This platform has been up and running since 2005 and the products of its quarterly seminars can be found on the website <http://www.intelliterwal.net/>

Several exercises, — to some of which The Destree Institute gave methodological support — are described there, and include *Luxembourg 2010, Herve au futur, Charleroi 2020, Prospect 15, Liège 2020*.

In addition to organising four seminars, the Destree Institute surveyed the communes in Wallonia to identify the foresight and strategic instruments they use.

3. Foresight on behalf of Europe

3.1. The Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions

After participating in the FOREN experience (*Foresight for Regional Development Network*) from 2000 to 2002, The Destree Institute was asked to join the High Level Expert Group set up by the Foresight Unit of the European Commission DG Research to prepare the main methodological themes and the frameworks of the foresight exercises that could be applied to various territorial situations. This work site, conducted in 2003 and 2004 on the theme of *Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions*, led to the elaboration and publication of five blueprints. Considering its involvement in several transborder exercises, in particular in the Large Region (Saarland, Lorraine, Luxembourg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Wallonia), The Destree Institute was in charge of the foresight blueprint for the transborder regions. Three seminars took place, respectively in Brussels, Timisoara (Romania) and Luxembourg and the report was published by the Commission:

Philippe DESTATTE and Pascale VAN DOREN, *Transvision, Bridging neighbouring Regions belonging to different Jurisdictions, i.e., historically and culturally close Regions divided by national Borders, Blueprints for Foresight Actions in the Regions*, Brussels, European Commission, DG Research, September 2004.

The report is available on The Destree Institute portal:

http://www.institut-destree.eu/Documents/Reseaux/Blueprint_Transvision_en.pdf

3.2. The Mutual Learning Platform

Since 2005, The Destree Institute has contributed to the work of the Board of the Mutual Learning Platform

a joint initiative of three Directorate General Research, Regional Policy, Enterprise & Industry, as well as the Committee of the Regions, which seeks to build on concrete foundations the application frameworks of foresight development methods, of benchmarking and regional profiling. At the Commission's request, Philippe Destatte coaches on issues to do with territorial foresight and, in this connection, two two-day workshops were organised in October 2005 and March 2006, respectively in Brussels (Committee of the Regions) and in Stuttgart (*Haus des Wirtschaft*), in collaboration with the Seville Institute for Technological Foresight Studies (IPTS) and the project *Knowledge Region 2 REGSTRAT* (Steinbeis Europa Zentrum). A report and a guide on regional foresight were published in 2006:

Günter CLAR & Philippe DESTATTE, *Regional Foresight, Boosting Regional Potential*, Mutual Learning Platform, Regional Foresight Report, Brussels, European Commission & Committee of the Regions, October 2006.

3.3. The European Foresight College

The European Foresight College was founded on 1 April 2004 on the initiative of DATAR (Delegation for Planning and Regional Action of the French Republic), now called DIACT (Interministerial Delegation for Planning and Territorial Competitiveness) since 2 January 2006. The College was a project submitted by Philippe Destatte, as a member of the DATAR Scientific Advisory Committee, a duty he still fills in DIACT since September 2003.

The general aims of the European Foresight College are:

- to create a community of competencies, concepts, methods and practices in regional foresight ;
- to organise a European network in order to monitor and to discuss the foresight practices and developments in European regions;
- to contribute to the collective learning of all regional actors through the development of foresight competencies, by supplying all the partners with information about high-level European foresight experiences.

The College's first pluriannual programme (2004-2006) was planned around four pivotal tasks:

- the compilation of a foresight glossary;
- the making of a documentary database on foresight fundamentals;
- the identification and exchange of competences between the European research centres;
- the annual organisation, alone or in partnership, of a European foresight event.

Three or four one-day seminars were organised each year in 2004, 2005 and 2006, as well as two two-day residential seminars in Etioilles (Ile de France). The European Foresight College initiated, and has since been involved in, the running of the University Summer Schools on territorial foresight in Europe (Lille 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007).

The College is elaborating an ongoing data base of foresight methods and contents with the aim of bringing out a multilingual glossary to be edited and circulated in 2007. The College has also analysed the networks in which its different members are engaged, and has assembled a bibliography on fundamental foresight studies. The College comprises some forty effective members and correspondents, under the chairmanship of Philippe Destatte who holds the post of Scientific Director associated with DIACT, the College rapporteur being Philippe Durance, associate researcher with the CNAM.

3.4. The Destree Institute at European level

The Institute has already undertaken missions for DG Enterprise and Industry (Evaluation of projects for setting up innovative regional systems - INNOV 4 - RIS 2004) and the DG Regional Policy for which in 2005 Philippe Destatte was one of the experts in charge of writing the Guidelines for the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013, and of helping the Commission with dossiers on Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Moreover, the Institute was invited to take part in several RTD seminars to prepare the Seventh Framework Research Programme and, in particular, to help decide the space that will be allotted to foresight:



- Philippe DESTATTE, *Regional Dimension of Future Research Activities in the European Union*, Intervention in the FP7 Informal Stakeholders' Consultation Workshop, Brussels, EC DG Research, May 14, 2005.
- Philippe DESTATTE, *Brainstorming Workshop, Shaping the European Dimension of Foresight*, Intervention in the Final Round Table Discussion, Brussels, EC DG Research, March 1, 2005.

In 2005, The Destree Institute carried out an evaluation of the FORLEARN programme designed to develop foresight in education and produced by the IPTS in Seville on behalf of DG Research.

The Destree Institute also participated in two projects within the pilot action *Regions of Knowledge*, from 2003 to 2005:

- SPIDER: (Increasing regional competitiveness through futures research methods). This was a programme designed to form a network of university teams to study the future competitiveness of the regions and infer its implications in terms of regional and European policies,
<http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/Regions-Connaissance/SPIDER-Project.htm>
- METAFORESIGHT: the advancement of "intelligence" within the EU regions, by fostering a dynamic of collective apprenticeship at interregional and regional levels and optimising the five target fields for the promotion of knowledge: foresight, benchmarking (comparison), R&D, monitoring of markets and technological skills,
<http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/Regions-Connaissance/MetaForesight.htm>

Lastly, The Destree Institute is involved in the project Interreg IIIc cofinanced by the European Commission and the Government of Wallonia (Decision of the Government of Wallonia of 25 October 2005), on the theme of regional foresight:

FUTURREG : an initiative for interregional cooperation bringing together seven partners with the goal of improving the competitiveness of the European regions by relying on foresight strategies and tools constructed and applied in a joint frame of work and the exchange of experiences.

<http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/Futurreg/index.htm>

4. The Destree Institute, European focus point of the Millennium Project

Since July 2000 and on the advice of Hugues de Jouvenel (Futuribles, Paris), The Destree Institute has been involved in foresight initiatives at world level, more especially in the World Future Society that holds an annual convention in the USA (Houston, 2000; Minneapolis, 2001; San Francisco, 2003; Washington, 2004; Chicago, 2005). It is on this occasion that, since the Houston Convention, contacts have been established with the Millennium Project team.

The Millennium Project is a think-tank networking global foresight experts in order to develop participatory research that links up universities and public and private research centres. The Millennium Project is housed by the American Council for the United Nations University, an NGO based in Washington, and will now work under the umbrella of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). Every year, the Millennium Project publishes the *State of the Future*, an analysis of global evolution from a long-term perspective; it examines the development of global trends and identifies the challenges and stakes involved. The Millennium Project also publishes a compendium of foresight methods called *Futures Research Methodology*.



Structured in successive networks, the Millennium Project connects local and global horizons through the regional Nodes consisting of persons and institutions. Today, more than 25 such nodes exist: Beijing, Brisbane, Brussels Area, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Calgary, Caracas, Berlin, Helsinki, Istanbul, Koweit, London, New Delhi, Hawaii, Mexico, Moscow, Paris, Prague, Pretoria, Rome, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Silicon Valley, Teheran and Tokyo. The Millennium Project is run by a Planning Committee on which all these nodes are represented and which meets twice a year, usually in the United States.

Since 2001, The Destree Institute has taken part in the Millennium Project research programmes, thus giving the Project the opportunity of joining forces from time to time with the Wallonia Region (DGTRE) and the DG Research of the European Commission. In fact, The Destree Institute was instrumental in putting the Millennium Project and the European Commission in touch with one another and, as a consequence, Philippe Busquin, Research Commissioner, prefaced the 2002 edition of the *State of the Future*.

During the Planning Committee meeting of July 2003 in San Francisco, The Destree Institute was asked to set up the Brussels Area Node and establish a permanent European liaison with the Millennium Project. Jointly with the European nodes on the spot (Berlin, Helsinki, London, Prague, and Moscow too), a text with the title *European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative* (EuMPI) was drafted and was later approved by the Nodes in Paris and Rome.

The European initiative of the Millennium Project Nodes of 18 July 2003 enhances the specificities of foresight as it is practised in Europe within the dynamic of the Millennium Project, but it also condemns the absence of European sites conducive to foresight exchanges and capitalisation, just when the European Commission is making every effort to link up networks and develop European policies and visions.

In parallel, The Destree Institute has formed the *Brussels-Area Node* in an interregional and transborder manner by associating the following regional partners: Flanders (ViwTa in the Flemish Parliament), Lorraine (MCM Council), Nord-Pas-de-Calais (Department of Planning, Evaluation and Foresight of the Regional Council), the Saarland (Chancellery), the Dutch Limbourg (Mac Luhan Institute) and chaired by the Destree Institute in Wallonia.

The meeting to get the network up and going was held on 23 November 2003 in the European Parliament in Brussels on the initiative of The Destree Institute. The second meeting under German chairmanship took place at the German Office of Scientific Organisations in Brussels on 16 April 2004. Lastly, the third meeting under Czech chairmanship was organised in Prague on 18 September 2004 .

These contacts led to the implementation of the San Francisco programme in three major ways:

- the European SPIDER programme, steered by the Finnish partner, jointly with the German partner Z_Punkt and The Destree Institute;
- the EuMPI conference *The Futures of Europeans in the Global Knowledge Society*, organised in collaboration with DG Research and foresight experts from all over the world, in the Aula Magna Louvain-la-Neuve on 13 and 14 April 2005 http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/2005_EuMPI/index.htm ;
- the Millennium Project Planning Committee met for the first time outside the American continent at the Mercure Hotel, Louvain-la-Neuve, on 15 and 16 April 2005.

The Destree Institute also publish the French translation of the WFUNA Millennium Project "State of the Future" :

- *L'état du futur 2006*, par Jerome C. GLENN et Theodore J. GORDON, *2006 State of the future*, traduction et publication par l'Institut Destrée de la version française, sous la direction de Marie-Anne DELAHAUT,
<http://www.institut-destree.eu/Reseaux/Millennium-Project.htm>
<http://www.millennium-project.org/millennium/sof2006-french.html>
- *L'état du futur 2005*, par Jerome C. GLENN et Theodore J. GORDON, *2005 State of the future*, traduction et publication par l'Institut Destrée de la version française, sous la direction de Marie-Anne DELAHAUT,
http://www.institut-destree.eu/Publications/MP_L-etat-du-futur_2005.htm

5. Participation of the Information Society Unit in the Foresight issues

5.1. Foresight and governance of the Internet

The Information Unit of The Destree Institute has, for its part, conducted high-level international research into Internet Foresight and Governance, in collaboration with the Internet Society and DG Information Society and the Media.

In response to an appeal launched by Kofi Annan, then Secretary General of the United Nations, at the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS), The Destree Institute organised a study group culminating in an international seminar on the theme of Foresight of the Internet. Exploration of the subject "numerical networks as tools for structuring the territories of knowledge" highlighted three issues: technological questions (the European project, the future of domain names, the management of shared resources, shift from the concept of security to that of trust); the appropriation of Communications Technology by human beings (strategy of Lisbon, cultural and linguistic diversity, assisted life-long training, alternative thought systems); and internet governance (self-regulation, the collaborative tool, players joined in intelligent networks, interoperability, balanced governance shared between the multistakeholders).

The United Nations, the European Commission and the stakeholders took part in these in-depth considerations. Thanks to the great variety of contributions, it was possible to conceptualise the innovative elements that were put forward at the second WSIS session in Tunis in 2005 and at several international meetings (ISOC France, EGENI (European Global Event on domain Names and Internet), the scientific program Vox Internet Programme supported by the French Ministry for Research).

A bilingual French-English DVD book with a 40-page booklet helps the user to understand the global stakes and challenges of the future and of internet governance. The studies mentioned above have been published, prefaced by the European Commissioner Viviane Reding, and Markus Kummer, Executive Coordinator appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, for the working party and the Forum for Internet Governance:

- Marie-Anne DELAHAUT, published under the direction of, *Prospective de l'internet, Foresight of the Internet*, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 2005.

- Marie-Anne Delahaut, *Internet Governance and WSIS: Accessibility, transparency, democracy, multilateralism and legitimacy*, in *Foresight & Governance of the Internet*, DVD-book, The Destree Institute - ISI-ingénium, 2006.
http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/2005_Pro prospective-Internet/index.htm

The Information Society Unit of The Destree Institute still participates in the process of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF, Geneva and Athens 2006, Rio 2007) and of the World Summit on the information society, to be updated until 2015.

5.2. The process of Millennia 2015, "Women as actors of development for the global challenges"

In that context, the Information Society Unit of The Destree Institute has initiated the process of Millennia 2015, "Women as actors of development for the global challenges". A first international conference will be organized in Liège (Wallonia) by The Destree Institute and its partners, on the 7th and 8th March 2008, introduced by the European Commissioner Viviane Reding and the World Federation of United Nations Associations Secretary-General Pera Wells.

Millennia - a feminine version of the Latin word "Millennium" - will take place one century after the first massive actions women organized for their human rights, on the 8th of March 1908. The conference will be an opportunity for commemorating the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

Millennia 2015 will work with foresight as a method and the information society as a tool to build a positive vision of women's futures. The conference will deal with issues such as gender digital divide and digital solidarity, technological innovation, emerging environmental issues, equal opportunities and sustainable development, women's empowerment in public policy and company management. The aim of the process is to unite women from all over the world in a global discussion to present a memorandum to decision makers. Millennia will work as a network until 2015 and already plans a second session in 2011 in Paris, Unesco, and a third one in 2015 in New York, United Nations.

Millennia 2015 is in line with the mission of The Destree Institute, a European research centre based in Wallonia and working as a think tank with its international partners. The Scientific Committee of Millennia, composed of experts coming from Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia, Australia, Europe and Middle East, is presented on the website <http://www.millennia2015.org/>.

An exhibition and several poster sessions will give an opportunity to the international participants to valorize their achievements and their networks. A book and a DVD-book will be published, both in English and in French, to finalize Millennia's work. The website of Millennia will be developed as a long-term collaborative tool that will generate a knowledge database about gender issues.

The Information Society Unit has initiated a new project linked to foresight: the international conference Millennia 2015, organised in Liège on the 8th of March 2008, intends to connect the crucial issues for women's future at the horizon 2015 with the scientific challenges of the new century, in order to build, through a foresight approach, some answers to the divides linked to gender.
(<http://www.millennia2015.org/>).

6. The World Research Centre on Societal Paradigms Shifts

The conclusions of the seminar *Innovation, know-how and performance, An economic history of Wallonia* organised in the Castel of Namur on 25 March 2003, backed by DGTRE (Department Technology and Research of the Wallonia Region) incited The Destree Institute Board, on 28 March 2003, to set up an interdisciplinary research centre, called the *World Research Center on Societal Paradigms Shifts*, a new study centre that constitutes a cross-cutting initiative and research programme at the crossroads of the Research and Foresight Poles of the Institute.

Mindful of the shift to the Knowledge Society identified by many political, scientific, and cultural circles and proclaimed by both the European Union at the Lisbon Summit and the Government of Wallonia in its Contract for the Future, The Destree Institute researchers have stressed the importance of the "shift hypothesis" as an ongoing societal paradigm. This, they believe, would build itself on the lines of the Industrial Revolution that ushered many regions into the industrial era of the 19th century. As a consequence, the purpose of the new research centre would be to find out whether we are witnessing a transformation of the same order as that which began at the start of the Industrial Society,.

Through this initiative, The Destree Institute is organising the mutual reinforcement of its two analytical pathways — retrospective on the one hand and foresight on the other. The Centre's comparative advantage lies therefore in using methodological steps to the best advantage, by associating the two approaches that complement one another remarkably well and can enable it to enter the networks of innovative skills worldwide.

Innovation, know-how, performance, Towards an economic History of Wallonia, Charleroi, The Destree Institute, 2005.

7. Advisory, training and teaching missions

It is also worth mentioning that since 2001, the Destree Institute's Foresight Unit has carried out numerous advisory missions, alone or in partnership, in the fields of infra-regional foresight (Herve Country to the Future), Luxembourg 2010, Charleroi 2020, Wallonia/Picardy 2025, and so on); transborder exercises (*Vision - Zukunftsbild 2020 Large Region*, Interreg IIIc Wallonia - Lorraine - Luxembourg, etc.), supports for Administrations of Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels, or again for the Dunkirk Urban Community. The Destree Institute also lends a helping hand to bodies undertaking normative foresight exercises, for example the Rural Foundation of Wallonia and the Confederation of Christian Labour Unions

Every year since 2005, The Destree Institute has organised an introduction to the methods of foresight in the form of a one-day seminar. Prepared in conjunction with the Futuribles Group, The Destree Institute introductory sessions pave the way for the more substantive seminars held in Paris by Futuribles itself.

Moreover, since 2002, Philippe Destatte has lectured on foresight at the University of Auvergne (CERDI) in Clermont-Ferrand. Since 2004, he is in charge of the course on foresight for the Masters Pro Economics at the University of Paris Diderot - Paris 7 and since 2007, he is in charge of the course about the methods of Foresight at the University of Reims.