

Reg. No: 2015/19/P/HS4/04103; Principal Investigator: dr Emmanouil Koukios

- What is this all about? It is about the future of our economies and societies. It is also about the new technologies that are going to change our life-styles and working conditions even deeper than what the info-tsunami has done already. It is finally about the possibility of a new Revolution, in the Neolithic or the Copernican sense –or both - where humankind will obtain unimaginable powers over nature and culture.
- Why should the public care? The public should pay attention to the prospects of such a huge socio-technical change, as far as health (ageing, abating cancer and other diseases), quality of life (novel food, diet, cosmetics), employment (new jobs, new skills), life conditions (mobility, new rural exodus), education (retraining, bio-elements in curricula), safety (new risks, bio-sensors), the environment (biosystems management, clean solutions).
- What is happening now? The new bio-tsunami is only partially felt in a few critical societal areas, characterized by extremely positive or negative demand profiles (e.g., fertility support, genetic manipulation of crops). At the same time the ongoing foresight exercises suffer from limited resources due to the financial crisis, and an even more limited focus to issues of superficial interest; to use a biological metaphor, we are actually missing the forest for the trees.
- Where is it going? What is the goal of our research? Our research attempts to address the above presented situation in two ways, i.e., (i) by the use of a forward-looking approach, specifically foresight, with the aim to map the future and be prepared for its main versions; and (ii) by the application of the concept of converging technologies, i.e., of the idea that technological changes, especially major ones, are never the effect of isolated techniques, but rather the successful agglomerates of various heterogeneous socio-technical elements.