

March 2024

We are very proud to announce that after an extensive evaluation process, SAMI and its partners have won a place on the **EU Joint Research Centre's** "Foresight for Policy" Framework contract. The lead contractor is Kantar Public, based in Brussels, who will bring quantitative analysis and project management, and who have considerable experience of policy making in the EU. Other partners are PPMI – who bring expertise in public policy research, evaluations and impact assessments, AI and data analytics, stakeholder engagement and co-creation - and MRAG who focus on sustainable utilisation of natural resources. SAMI of course will bring the key foresight expertise that we are renowned for.

The bid proposal required a "case study" on how we would address a project on the future of oceans. In particular, we were asked to look at the "Blue Acceleration", the increasing extent of the Blue Economy – how activities in the oceans can help grow EU GDP.

We look forward to working on specific projects with our new partners over the coming years.

We ran another **Cohort** session for our "post-graduate" group. This was based on inputs from Garry Honey from his book "Navigating Uncertainty" and led to a lively discussion.

Patricia Lustig and Gill Ringland published an article in the latest edition of the APF journal [Compass \(p55\)](#) entitled "Fractured backbones lead to collapse". This is an extract from their upcoming book, out this year from Triarchy Press.

We are welcoming **Olfa Meliani** back into the SAMI Network. Olfa has impressive contacts in Chatham House and elsewhere and will initially be developing a new proposition around geo-politics. We are also pleased to note a closer relationship with [Tanja Schindler](#), President of the Association of Professional Futurists.

Executive Education

We will be running our online course "**Understanding the Future**" again on 5th and 6th June. The course fee is £490 + VAT - discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. Take a look at our [training brochure](#) for more details. We also organise bespoke courses to suit specific clients' needs.

Having completed the refresh of the **GO-Science Futures Toolkit**, we are looking to build that expertise into a new version of our course. If you have specific issues you would like to see covered in our courses please do get in touch – training@samiconsulting.co.uk.

SAMI Principal Garry Honey offers a course on "**Navigating Uncertainty**" aimed at governing boards & senior leadership teams. Check our current blog series to get an idea of his thinking and approaches.

For more information, please email training@samiconsulting.co.uk.

Futures Issues

Progress with self-driving cars is mixed: [Apple](#) are said to have cancelled their “iCar” project; but [Waymo](#) (from the Google stable) is expanding its robo-taxis to a fourth city, Austin Texas.

[Electric batteries](#) in cars like Tesla don’t work well in sub-zero temperatures. A new solvent might overcome the problem.

[Generative AI](#) uses four to five times the energy of a conventional web search. Within years, large AI systems are likely to need as much energy as entire nations. They also need enormous amounts of fresh water to cool their processors and generate electricity.

The [Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation \(AMOC\)](#) is on the path towards collapse. If it does it could bring about an ice age in Europe and sea-level rise in cities such as Boston and New York, as well as more potent storms and hurricanes along the East Coast.

Several new “food” stories this month: reducing costs of “[cellular agriculture](#)”; a six-course [lab menu](#) including foie gras; flour made from [crickets](#) approved in Italy.

A median of 31% people across 24 nations are supportive of “[authoritarian systems](#)” - where a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts, or where the military rules the country. As many as 85% in India and even 37% in the UK share this view.

Our Blogs

Our recent blogs have looked at a variety of topics:

- Firstly we explored the recent [World Economic Forum Global Risks Report](#)
- We then examined [how timescales affect how we think about the future](#)
- Latterly we considered some of the [technology trends discussed in the recent Future Today Institute’s report](#)