



Millennia2015 International
seminar 2011
*Séminaire international 2011 de
Millennia2015*

*Foresight analysis of the 37
variables of Millennia2015 +
Session Women and eHealth
Analyse prospective des 37
variables de Millennia2015 +
Session Femmes et eSanté*

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Salle Vendôme, Ecole des Mines - Paris

Processus de
recherche
prospective et
conférences
internationales

Liège 2008
Paris 2012
New York 2015

**Françoise Massit-Folléa, chair of Millennia2015 steering
committee – Overall conclusions of the seminar**

As usual, it is not easy for me to sum up the so diverse and fruitful experiences, testimonies and requirements we heard all along this day.

Marie-Anne is confident I'm able to, so I'll try to achieve, with a short speech based on 4 points.

The first point is about the **scope** of Millennia2015 works.

In the major part of your contributions, we may recognize the motto of worldwide non-governmental activists: "Think globally, Act locally". Faced to global challenges as those of Women, ICT and Development and their relationship, we were informed about several ways of improving women's empowerment in a changing and unequal world. We learnt a lot about your analyses, your courage and the strength of your wills.

Compared to other NGOs, Millennia2015 however is facing a complex challenge. The one of dealing with daily-life as much as with dramatic events, of inventing a path from to-day till to-morrow, of considering foresight under both risks and opportunities.

Our primary success lies in the power of networking we already concretized, online and offline.

This leads to my second point: Millennia2015's **goals**.

We don't need to "reinvent the wheel": putting at the forefront former and current initiatives is the way we support and comfort women's struggles. It is not our aim (nor our capacity) to be directly involved on the field: as many of us are members or leaders of grounded projects and others are more devoted to a theoretical approach, we all interconnect in a comprehensive effort of mutual reflexivity.

We try to be a force of MEDIATION, through the Millennia2015's portal, but we don't stop here: building scenarios for the future, based on the competencies of the Destrée Institute, is the heart of what has to be accomplished and the specificity of our work.

The question is "How?" and I come to my third point: **methodology**.

We got a very good example with the presentation of the well-engaged first specialized working-group: Women & e-Health. The different phases of its work were clearly exposed.

I'd like to make some remarks that could be useful for the WG to come. Information itself is not the equivalent of knowledge, it constitutes its base. On one side, there is the motivation of a team, the sense of organization and dedicated efforts of a coordinator. On the other side, there is the search, through the collective input, for critical information: it is not enough to collect them, it is necessary to validate and analyse their growing number, i.e we must assume to select their pertinence for the foresight exercise.

Certainly we need more training on foresight methodology: one hour explanation, though enriching their views, cannot make all participants perfectly aware of this way of thinking. I am sure that Marie-Anne will help us progressing.

In a few words, going on into Millennia2015 objectives means

- creating new working-groups;
- structuring the knowledge base;
- thinking further towards scenarios-building.

These steps are the pre-requisite for establishing **an Action Plan** as the necessary outcome of Millennia2015.

We, indeed, in Millennia2015, aim at going beyond Advocacy. And here is my last point: in order to be as close as possible to our commitments, we can identify 4 levels for action, 4 pillars for our research-action: Technology, Uses, Market Policies and Public Policies.

Let us consider the Technology level. Claiming for more infrastructures or for low-cost (or no cost) access is one thing. We can also, as one participant proposed, look for helping to create more intuitive interfaces on the devices we use. And we can estimate that very simple communication tools (like rural community radios, or mobile phones, to-day used by billions people) are often more efficient than sophisticated ones, for they are grounded in existing skills and habits.

This is because the Users' context is a very strong incentive – as well as a source of material or intellectual constraints. Social sciences applied to ICT studies teach us that new technologies come into hybridation (and no substitution) with the elder. Another lesson is that there is a kind of a mirage in conceiving a lonely person facing a complex centralized technical arrangement (in all e-activities). For instance, receiving online material for e-education is far from building a proper knowledge: knowledge needs a context for appropriation, generally through personal and collective contacts. Another requirement is the respect of cultural and linguistic diversity.

If I mentioned the Market place, the reason is that, on one side, companies are the providers of technical facilities and can be sponsors in many projects; and on the other side, we had to-day some examples of the Ethics of responsibility expressed in dealing with specific women's capacities – which they can invest in networks of e-solidarity.



Last but not least, Public Policies are highly relevant to several key elements that were mentioned in our debates: more efforts towards citizen's awareness; strong commitments to girls' and women's education (from elementary schools to higher education and long-life learning); better coordination between Ministries and Agencies responsible for the threefold challenge of Women, ICT and Development.

To conclude this partial synthesis, I would like to thank again all the participants. We trust you, we encourage each other. There is a lot of work still to do, we will go on!

