



WP11: Communicating population projections

**Work Session on Demographic
Projections
Belgrade, 25-27 November 2019**

**Diana Ivan
Diana-Monica.Ivan@ec.europa.eu**

Joint communication

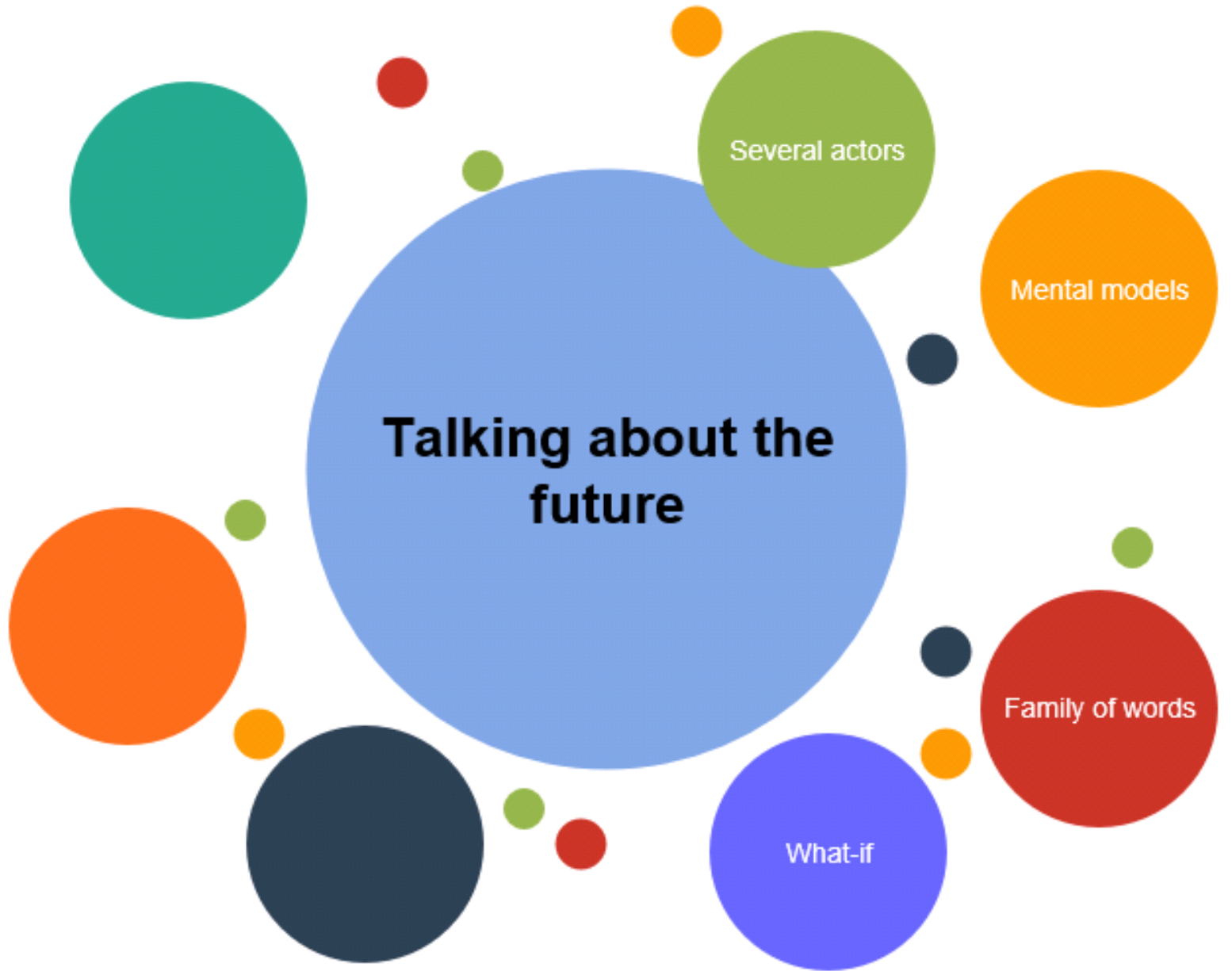
- On the difference between
 - **projections**
 - **forecasts**
 - **predictions**
- 'What-if' scenarios



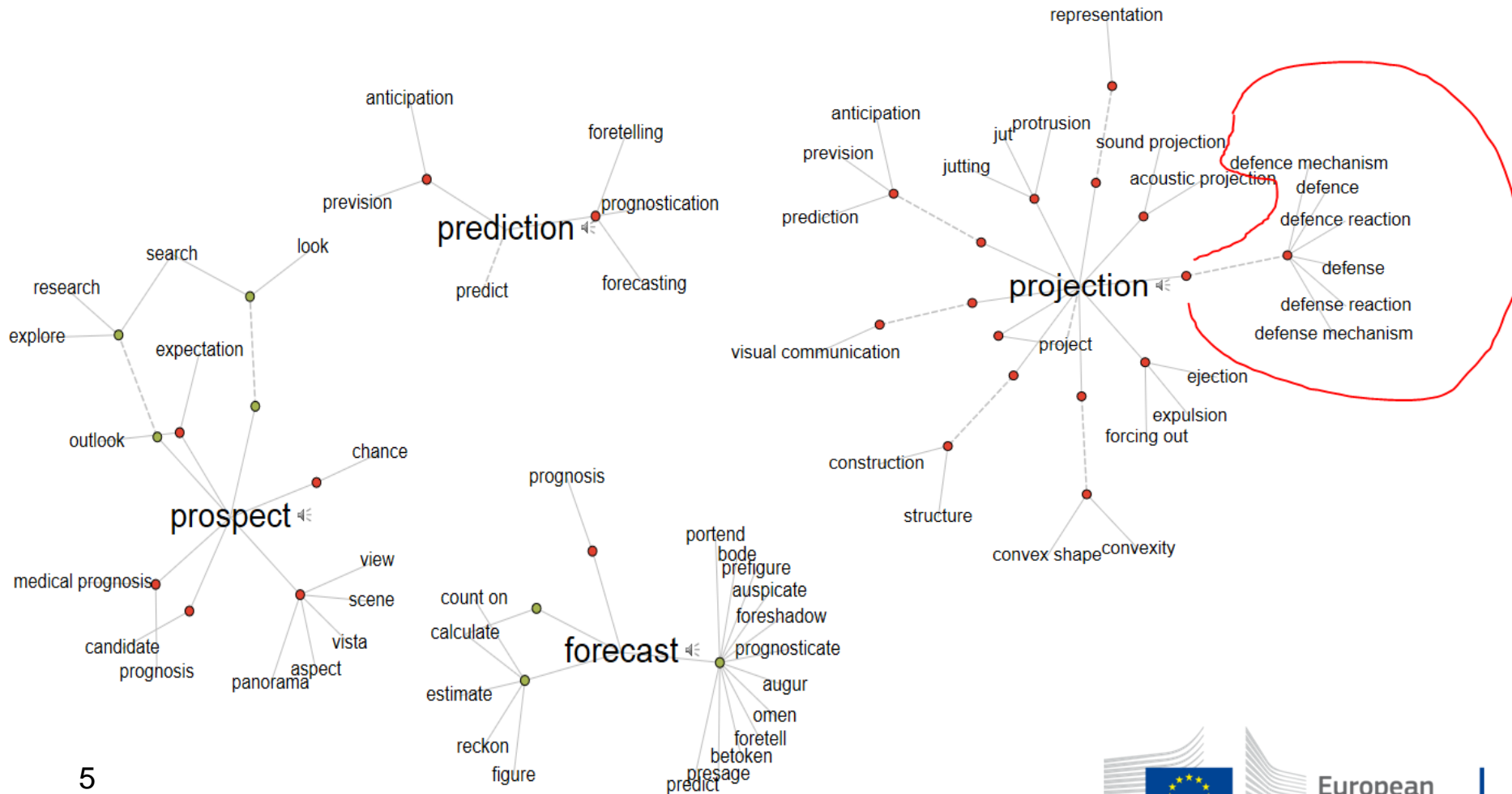
Practical difficulties

- *Prospective questions: eg. Reg. No 249/2011 on LFS module on retirement*
 - **Affected by non-response**
 - **35% on average**
 - **84% in RO**
 - **95% in HR**
- *General questions: where do you see yourself in 10 years?*

	Plans to stop work
1	In up to 1 year
2	In more than 1 year up to 3 years
3	In more than 3 years up to 5 years
4	In more than 5 years up to 10 years
5	More than 10 years
9	Not applicable (not included in the filter)
Blank	No answer or does not know



Families of words



Situational analysis



Prediction/ forecast/ projection ?

- *Prediction: An accident will occur*
 - **2005 analogy of the Australian Productivity Commission**
- *Forecast:*
- *Projection:*

Prediction/ forecast/ projection ?

- *Prediction: An accident will occur*
- *Forecast: We forecast an accident*
 - **This is what producers identify as the most probable development**
- *Projection:*

Prediction/ forecast/ projection ?

- *Prediction: An accident will occur*
- *Forecast: We forecast an accident*
 - **This is what producers identify as the most probable / expected development**
- *Projection: If poor visibility and unexperienced train driver, accident would occur*
 - **What-if**
 - **If speed.. then breaking distance..**

Analysis

The Economist (@TheEconomist) tweeted at 9:00 am on Mon, Nov 18, 2019:

'By the year 2100 it's projected that 1/3 of all people will live in Africa'



The world's population has more than doubled since the 1970s. But in some places populations are in decline



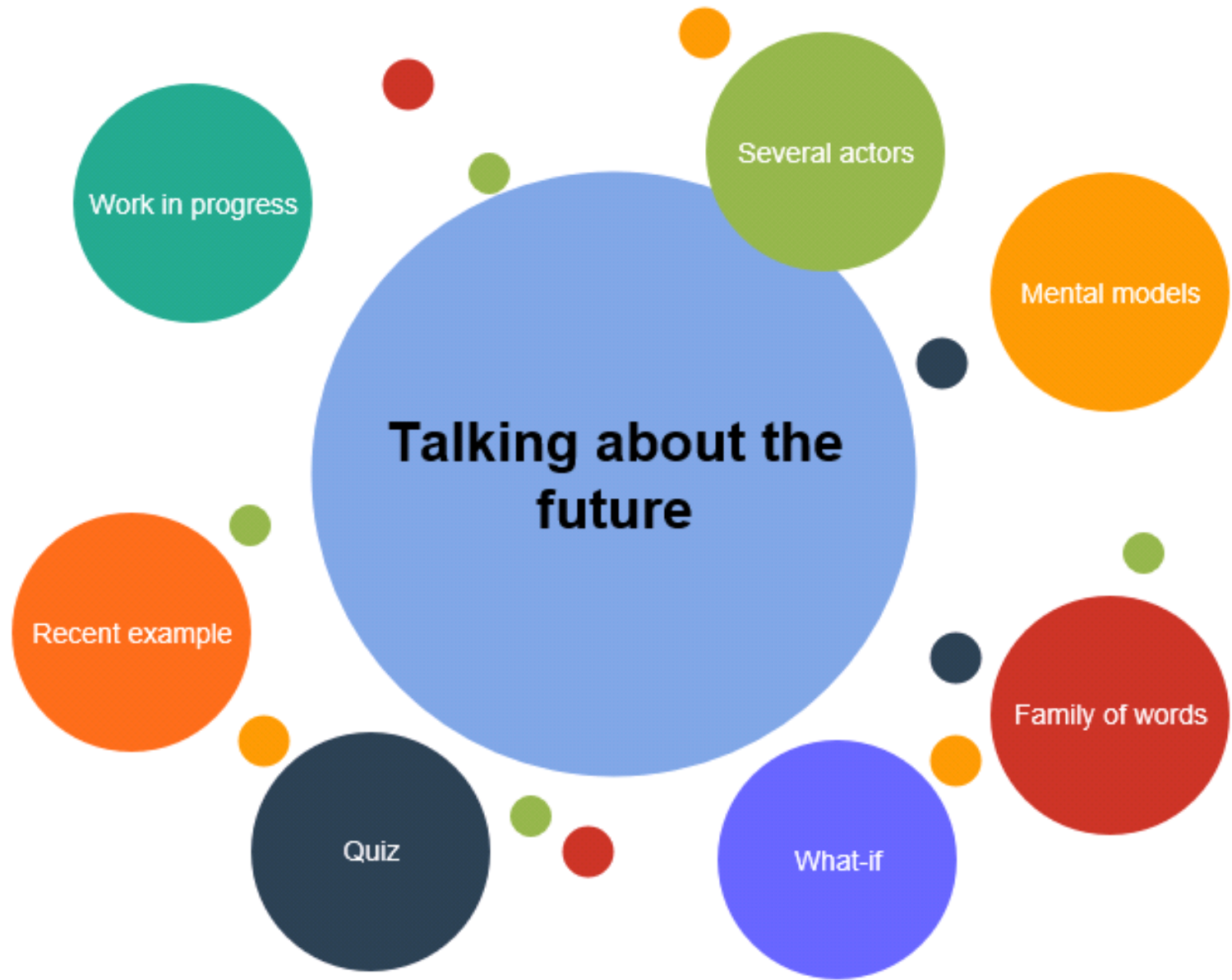
Global population: what it means for the future of the world
By the year 2100 it's projected that one-third of all people will live in Africa. What impact will global population shifts have on the future of the world?

Terms used

- *It's projected that..*
- *Is set to overtake; become*
- *Is forecast to shrink..*
- *Is likely there will be..*
- *Future tense: will have; will change; will be*
- *Present tense: simple and continuous*

To sum up:

- Communication is challenging
- Care with words, but some flexibility needed
- Better to explain what population projections are:
 - **'What-if' scenarios (more than one scenario)**
 - **Assumptions**
 - **Calculation precision is not forecasting precision**
- Awareness of the users' needs and practices



Work in progress

Collective work

ESS: Working Group on Population Projections

Thank you for your attention!