

Table I. Summary of some major differences between forecasting and foresight

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Foresight	Forecasting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Basic points, needs, research questions are still open and looked for as part of the foresight process</li><li>● More qualitative than quantitative</li><li>● Looks for ‘information’ about the future for priority-setting</li><li>● Brings people together for discussions about the future and for networking, makes use of the distributed intelligence</li><li>● Criteria for assessments and preparation for decisions</li><li>● Communication about the future as an objective</li><li>● Long-, medium- and short-term orientation with implications for today</li><li>● Finds out if there is consensus on themes</li><li>● ‘Experts’ and other participants, very dependent on opinions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Basic points, topics and research questions have to be clarified in advance</li><li>● More quantitative than qualitative</li><li>● Questions what the future in the selected area might look like</li><li>● More result-oriented, can also be performed by individual people or in single studies (depends on methodology)</li><li>● Not necessarily assessments, different options and choices or the preparation for decisions</li><li>● Describes future options, results more important than the communication aspects</li><li>● Long-, medium- and short-term orientation as well as the path into the future are the major points</li><li>● No information about consensus necessary</li><li>● Mainly ‘experts’ and/or strict methodologies, less dependent on opinions</li></ul>

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