

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

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