

Technological Forecasting and Social Change – Special Issue

Call for Papers: Special Issue on “Foresight Support Systems: The Future Role of ICT for Foresight”

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Motivation

Today, many foresight activities are supported by information and communication technology (ICT) applications. Consulting firms often offer trend databases and have their own scenario software packages; prediction markets have made great strides into businesses management [1]. Moreover, the advantages of the Internet have been increasingly utilized for foresight methods, such as the Delphi technique [e.g. 2-5]. Obtaining data relevant for the future from web-mining and data-mining has recently gained attention in literature [e.g. 6-7]. Methods for using ICT in creative group decision-making are being developed [8-9]. Overall, ICT-based applications will be an important enabler of foresight capabilities and will gain in importance in coming years [10-11]. The field is emerging, and as of yet, very incoherently. Decision support systems have proven to be a valuable component in managerial decision making by providing reliable and objective assessments of operational issues. This concept is now being transferred to decisions with a longer and more strategic time horizon. Since strategic foresight is often credited as a crucial antecedent for long-term success in companies, and up to now foresight processes have largely been project-based and individually implemented, it seems particularly promising to integrate methods of futures research in decision support systems. While the phrase “foresight support systems” (FSS) first emerged in 2000 [12] it has since then only sporadically been used among others on conferences [see e.g. 13] until recently. The research of Banuls and Salmeron [14] in 2011 marks the beginning of the systematic study on the methodology of the FSS as an emerging separate field of research. Such systems allow experts and stakeholders to collaborate over an entire foresight process and thereby support in reaching decisions oriented towards the future.

Our interest

This special issue aims to unify previously scattered efforts of either conceptualising or creating foresight support systems or similar ICT-based foresight tools into coherent discussion and stream of literature. In particular, we are interested in theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions regarding:

- The combination of quantitative and qualitative data in FSS
- Improvements to forecast accuracy by triangulation via ICT-supported methods
- Linkages and interfaces among multiple foresight tools
- Applications of FSS or similar tools in different phases of foresight processes

- Improvements to efficiency through FSS or similar tools
- The role of expert and crowd knowledge in FSS
- The transfer of creative and group processes to ICT for FSS
- Empirical data regarding the impact of FSS or similar tools on decision making
- Conceptualisations of cutting-edge FSS
- Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and methods on the design of FSS
- Collaborative intelligences systems
- Citizen participation and social networks in planning and foresight
- Case studies of FSS

The above areas are only suggestions; this special issue would also welcome papers discussing other topics relevant to FSS and ICT for foresight. Prospective authors are encouraged to contact the guest editors with enquires in relation to this special issue. For more information about the journal and submission guidelines, please refer to:

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/techfore>. Papers should be submitted via the journal's online submission system: <http://ees.elsevier.com/tfs> indicating in the special issue "Foresight Support Systems".

Please also refer to TFSC's "Guide for Authors" for style and format guidelines (see: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/505740/authorinstructions)

For questions you may send a message to Heiko von der Gracht (heiko.vondergracht@ebs.edu).

Important dates:

- **Last date for submitting the manuscript: 28th February 2013**
- End of the first review cycle: April 2013
- Tentative date for completing the revised papers: June 2013
- Tentative date for completing the second review cycle: August 2013
- Submission of the final manuscripts for print: September 2013

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