The 2050 Board Meeting

How a Time Machine

can change our perspectives?

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INTRODUCTION

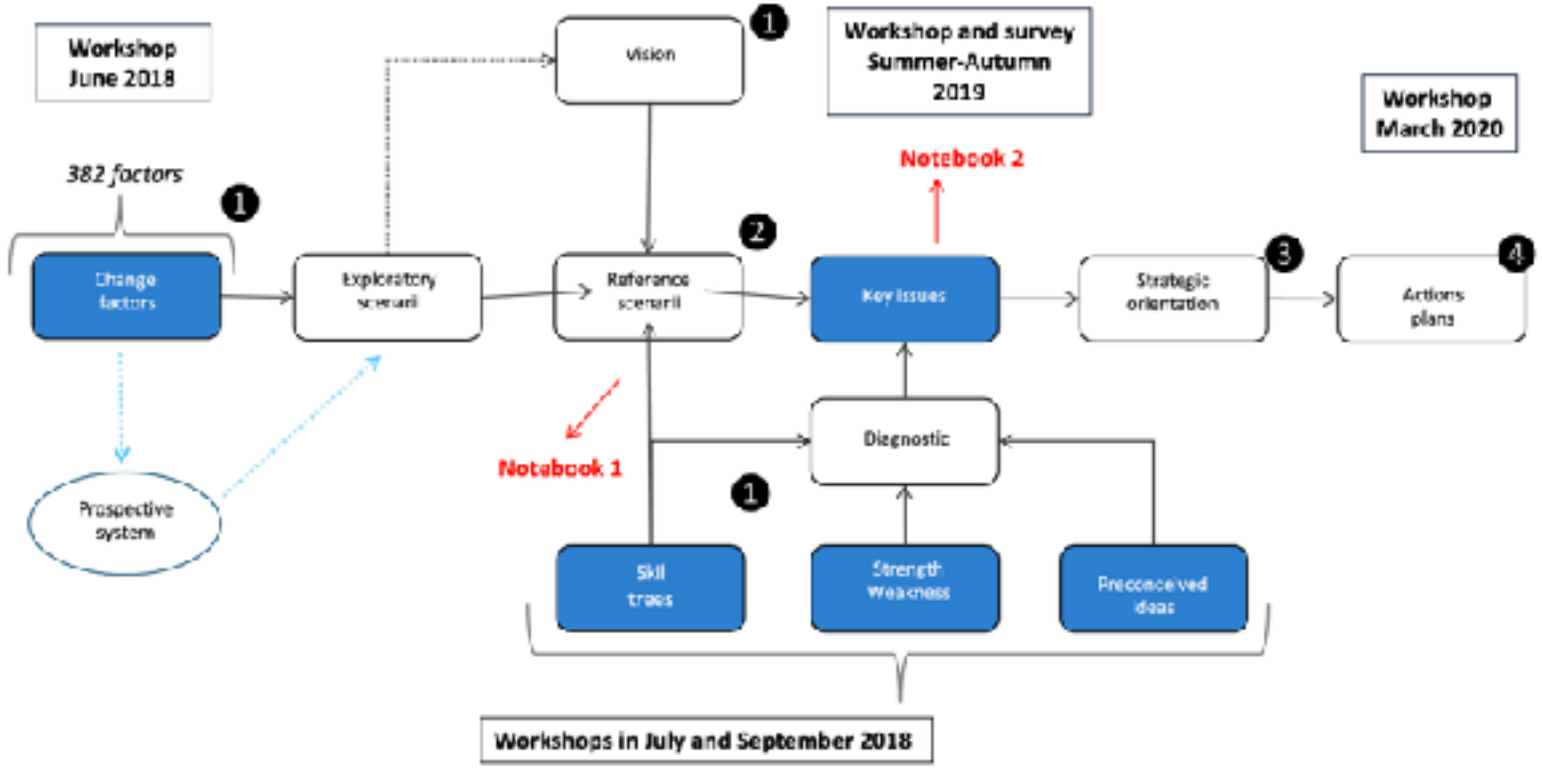
- In a VUCA/BANI world, how to envision the future and align strategies?
- A paradoxical challenge for universities
- The case of INSA Lyon
  - French university engaged in innovative approaches
  - Experiment « Future Design » with a conceptual Time Machine

INSA Lyon: A French Engineering University

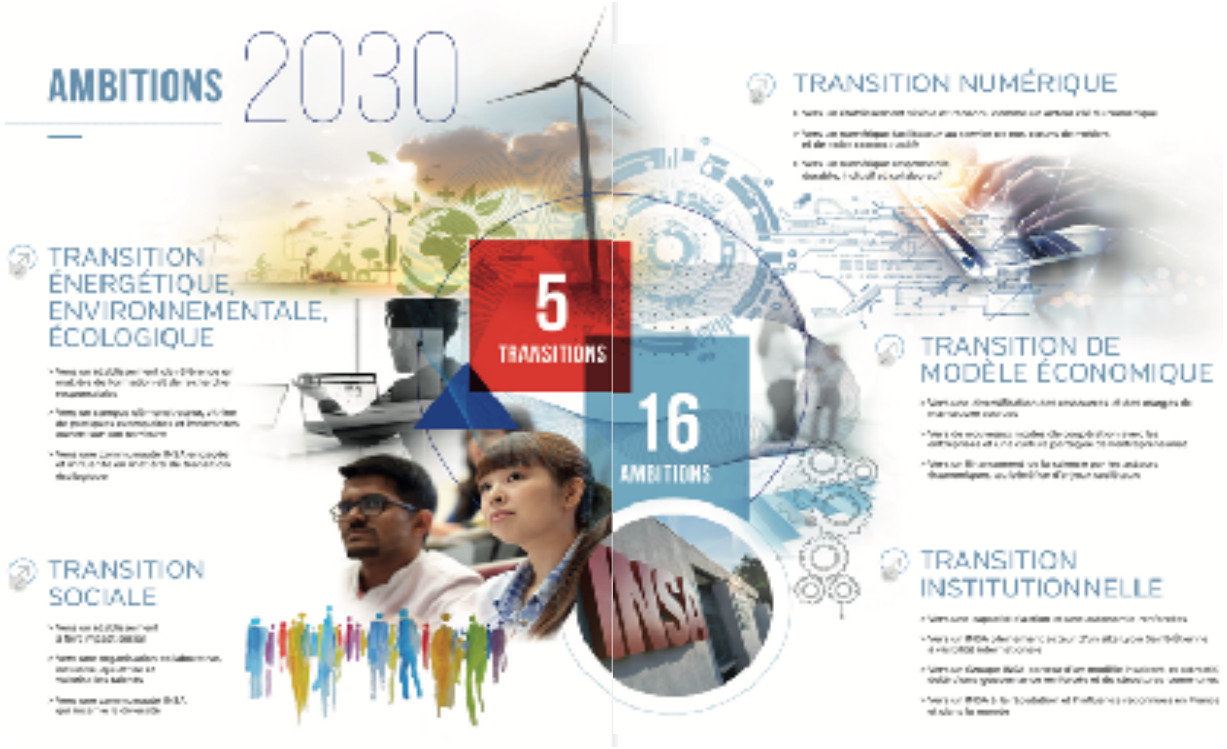
- Created in 1957
- An alternative vision: Engineers as « Philosophers in action »
- 5400 engineering students - 9 engineering departments
- 600 PhD students - 22 research laboratories
- 700 faculty members / 600 administrative staff
- Since 2018, a new strategic direction
  the Gaston Berger “Prospective approach”

INSA 2040
A 2 Years
Foresight Process

- 500 staff and students, 80 external partners
- 18 exploratory scenarii
  -> **5** scenarii retained
  -> **9** key issues



Landing on the INSA Lyon Strategy and its Implementation



- 5 steering groups including staff and students
  - Evaluation of the institution progress
  - Proposal of new actions and progress

2024 : Assembly for Ecological and Social Transition

- An assembly inspired by the French Climate Convention of 2020
- To reassess the strategy in light of socio-ecological challenges
  - 100 participants (staff, students, partners), 65% selected by lottery
  - 4 sessions of two days between May-November 2024
    - Conferences and workshop sessions including “Time machine”
  - Co-development of orientations and actions on 5 domains
    - Education - Research - Collaborations - Institutional operations - Learning community

A Time Machine Experiment

Scheduled in the board meeting of March 28, 2024,
2 hours with 12 members of the direction board

Course of Experiment

- Three phases
  - Introduction (40 min)
    - Future design methodology
    - 2050 scenario elaborated by a group of students
      - Severe environmental degradation & China leading power
    - University future vision by INSA Lyon Director
  - Transportation in 2050 by
    « The Time Machine » with teleportation noises (60 min)
    - The 2050 scenario as the current reality
    - Critical assessment by each participants of the 2024 decisions
  - Back to 2024 (20 min)
    - Sharing emotions
    - Deepening critical analysis

Experiment Analysis

- Rapid and complete commitment of all participants
  - Initially skeptical ones turn enthusiast
  - Quick adaptation to 2050 « time zone »
  - Full adherence to 2050 hypotheses
  - Emotional as well as analytical engagement
- Greater freedom of thought than usual
  - Genuine intellectual stimulus
  - Rare level of engagement

Experiment Analysis

- Significant perspective on present decisions
  - Critical of 2024 choices
  - Motivation to pursue more impactful actions
  - Questioning of the current consensual collective decision process
  - Renew the “willingness to go into battle”
- Heightening awareness of long-term planning vs daily operations
- Hope to prompt reflections on the raised issues
  - Training of “ingenious engineers”

Perspectives

- Demonstration of the Time Machine potential on a management committee
  - Deepening level of thinking, discussion …
  - Accelerating formulation of long-term vision
- How to institutionalize this process with a forward-looking perspective?
  - Impact of the choice of the scenario ?
  - Frequency of the use of the Time machine? with whom?
- Time machine and/or “representatives of the future”
  - INSA students as good candidates
  - How to train them? On which scenario?