



MEGASTRAT

**Making Megatrends Applicable For Individual
Opportunity Forecasts And Strategic
Development**

French School of Scenario Thinking



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French School of Scenario Thinking

Introduction to French School of Scenario Thinking

This is one of the different Schools of Thinking that developed of the same calibre as the [MEGASTRAT-Method-Intuitive Logic School-Hdm-V1-010524.docx](#). Michel Godet developed a largely mathematical and computer-based probabilistic approach to scenario development in the mid 70s, the later called French School. This Method faces the future as a field of freedom and power and notes the importance of having a global and a long view (vision) in the decision making.

Description

What is this tool about

This is one of the earlier Scenario development methods and focuses on a slightly iterative and easily adaptable process of 9 Steps that produces Scenarios. One part of this process is a structural analysis. It is strongly anchored in a philosophical and conceptual background offered by authors like Berger and Jovenel. The Objectives of this Method are to detect the priority issues for study (key variables), to determine the main actors and their strategies and to describe the development of the system under study in the form of scenarios.

For which purposes is it used in LTOFS

This is a structured and well defined process to develop long term future scenarios. This Process takes you from the beginning of looking at key variables to the end product of scenarios.

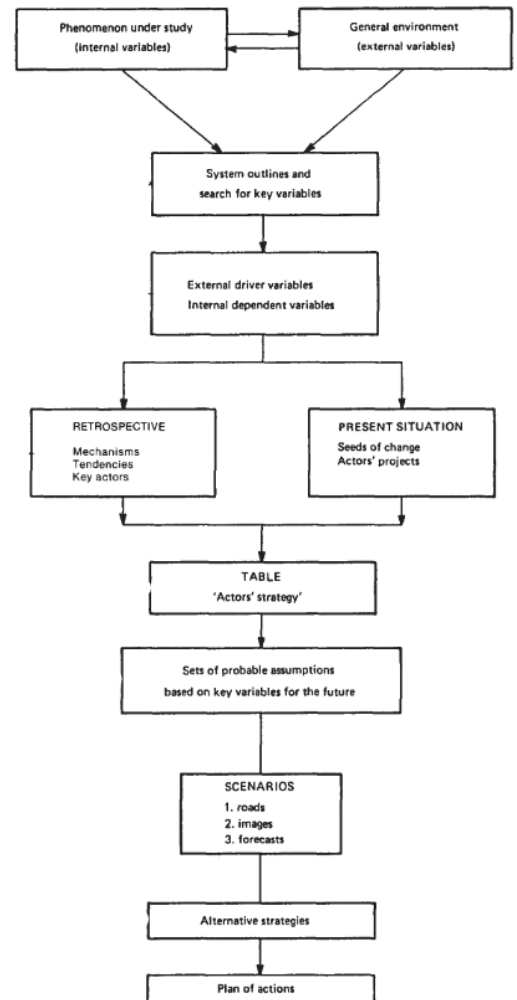
Limitations of the tool (if any)

Free, Expertise in Futurology, Scenarios or Structured Analysis is helpful

When and how to use this tool

Variables

The first step is to look at the internal Variables of the phenomenon under study, as well as the external Variables of the General environment. Which Variables are important and have influence, now or in the future? Think politically, economically, technological and social. Using the resulting variables, the System can be outlined, and key variables defined.



Following that external driver Variables (like work legislation or interest rates) and internal dependent Variables are looked at. Those two steps can be done using a Structural Analysis Method such as MICMAC or others. Establish relationships between drivers and variables, who influences who? What is dependent on what? This is a largely qualitative task and relies on knowledge of the industry and experience. This task is best done in groups.

Analysis of Actor Roles

After being sure of all drivers and variables, take a look back. Get into the history of Actors relevant to your system and Phenomenon, what are their Tendencies, are there Mechanism at work and who specifically are/were the key actors?

At the same time, take a look at the now: What are the relevant Actors doing right now and what are 'seeds of change' you're seeing at the moment?

Bring both those perspectives together on one Table as an Actors strategy.

Scenarios

Form a Set of assumptions of the future, based on the before defined key variables of the future, how they interact and influence each other and also the identified actor strategies. Based on the assumptions, formulate roads to futures, images and forecast. Write possible scenarios down.

Plan for Action

Based on the scenarios, plan for alternative Strategies than you had before and make a plan of actions you want to take to achieve or not achieve certain scenarios.

For more on making strategy, take a look at Module 4.

Resources

Links:

Webpage of founder Michel Godet <http://en.lapropective.fr/>

Papers:

we recommend reading up here: [SCENARIOS: LEARNING AND ACTING FROM THE FUTURE Part 3: Three Schools of Scenario Planning](#)

The Original Paper written by Michel Godet, 1986 in Futures 18 (2) 134-137
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0016328786900947>