

Futuribles International takes the torch from the CAP to manage and disseminate free online software developed by Michel Godet

This free foresight software first came on line in 2003, thanks to the goodwill and generosity of some forty member-companies of the Circle (CAP), created by Professor Godet for such endeavors. The Circle sought to contribute to the French school's international renown and reputation by making foresight software available free of charge. Through private donations, the CAP began investing several hundred thousand Euros to ensure this public good. The online software was originally in French and English with some in Spanish. Between 2003 and 2017, there have been approximately 90,000 downloads (45% Spanish; 30% French; 20% English).

In parallel, Michel Godet's book *Strategic Foresight for Corporate and Regional Development*, cowritten with Philippe Durance and published in French (Dunod), became available on line. This manual has been available on line in seven languages since 2011. In fact, it has been downloaded 9,000 times (6,000 in English; 2,000 in Spanish). In accordance with the publisher (Dunod), the French version became available at the end of 2017. At the same time, the French and English versions of the earlier manuals of strategic prospective (Dunod) became accessible on the site **laprospective.fr**.

In order to meet users' needs; i.e., stable versions of the software, accessibility from any computer without pre-installation, and compatibility (MAC/PC), the downloadable software programs were converted into web applications in 2013. MICMAC, Prospective Workshops, Scenaring Tools, Color Insight and MACTOR are all applications now.

Warning: These applications will be available early 2018 on both the futuribles.com and laprospective.fr sites. Downloadable versions of the software will be available on laprospective.fr until mid-2018.

We are delighted that *Futuribles* has taken over from the Circle (CAP), especially as François Bourse will continue his work with the software begun at the CNAM, where he excelled as one of my most talented disciples. With regard to *Futuribles*, we can think of no better ambassador for the French school on the international scene.

A Toolbox Full of Useful Methods

Several tools are regularly used to accompany and structure participatory foresight exercises. Proof that we do have resources to face complexity! In fact, the tools and techniques forged over the past thirty years are still useful today. For, even if the world changes, invariables and similarities remain in the types of problems arising. When we forget about our rich heritage of knowledge, we deprive ourselves of powerful levers and waste time reinventing the wheel. Over the past three decades, Michel Godet and the Circle for Prospective Action (CAP) have contributed to the development, dissemination, and maintenance of these foresight tools and methods while finetuning them. Today, *Futuribles* takes the reins.

An intellectual ‘undiscipline’, *la prospective* (Note: generally translated as *foresight* or *strategic foresight*) requires rigor and method to enlighten human action and lead us to a desired future. The ‘strategic foresight toolbox’ enables users to ask the right questions and reduce inconsistent reasoning. Some tools (MICMAC-structural analysis and PROB EXPERT SMIC) date to Professor Godet’s work at SEMA in the late 1970s. Other tools, such as MACTOR and the Prospective Workshops, were forged during his 32-year tenure at the CNAM (Conservatoire national des arts et métier, Paris) in collaboration with François Bourse. More recent additions include scenario building through morphological analysis or Color Insight to poll opinions. This ‘kit’ now contains analytical and processing tools that identify key points and guide reasoning, e.g., structural analysis, and probabilization. Also included are structural analysis, foresight survey techniques and collaborative tools, e.g., workshops.

Tools available (service, cloud version) allow users to do the following:

1. state the problem properly and choose the right method with "[Prospective Workshops](#)".
2. identify key questions for the future using structural analysis, the MICMAC method.
3. analyze actor interplay with the MACTOR method [MACTOR](#).
4. share a foresight base and build scenarios using morphological analysis with Scenaring Tools [Scenaring Tools](#).
5. pinpoint the most probable scenarios, plus the risks of breaks/ruptures with the SMIC PROB-EXPERT method
6. take into account and analyze representations by experts and stakeholders with Color Insight [Color Insight](#).