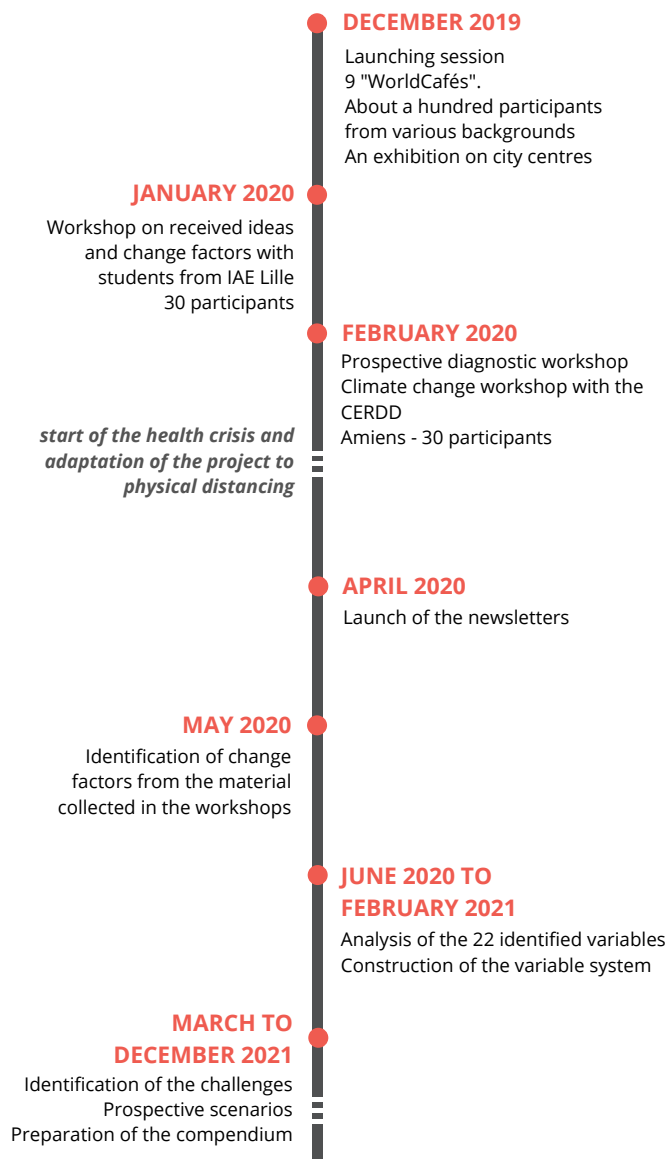


TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT



The Foresight College was created by the Agence Hauts-de-France 2020-2040 to be a space for reflection and dialogue on the issues of tomorrow, in the service of regional policies: the aim is to anticipate in order to build the future.



Contact
collegedeprospective@hautsdefrance.fr

To learn more about the "Future of city centres" project
<https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr/college-de-prospective-centres-villes/>

To subscribe to our newsletter (in French)
<https://framaforms.org/inscription-newsletter-college-de-prospective-1599815572/>



COLLÈGE DE PROSPECTIVE

AGENCE HAUTS-DE-FRANCE 2020-2040



Quels centres-villes à l'horizon 2040 ?

The Future of City Centres

For more information, find all our publications on our website



English version



THE PROJECT

▶ WHY A FORESIGHT PROJECT ON CITY CENTRES?

The "Future of City Centres" project is one of the first two projects launched by the Foresight College. It is part of a context of weakening town centres, particularly in the Hauts-de-France region, where this fragility is manifested by a significant commercial vacancy. The support measures drawn up or supported by the Region reflect a strong desire to maintain dynamic town centres in the region, and the foresight project supports this strategic objective. In particular, it feeds into the various schemes in which the Region is a stakeholder or initiator.

▶ A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The Foresight College aims to put collective intelligence at the service of a subject that is complex because of its multidisciplinary nature. The partnership dimension was therefore essential in the design of the project. This characteristic was implemented right from the start of the project, which mobilised around one hundred participants in Lille. Open to all, the sitting was keen to bring together representatives from the four main types of actors: local authorities, civil society (particularly associations), institutional partners (State, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chamber of Trade and Crafts, urban planning agencies, etc.) and the academic world. A small group of volunteers from these different spheres was set up after the launch session to take part in a series of foresight workshops across the region.

🔍 **Online resources (in French):** <https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr/quels-centres-villes-a-lhorizon-2040/>

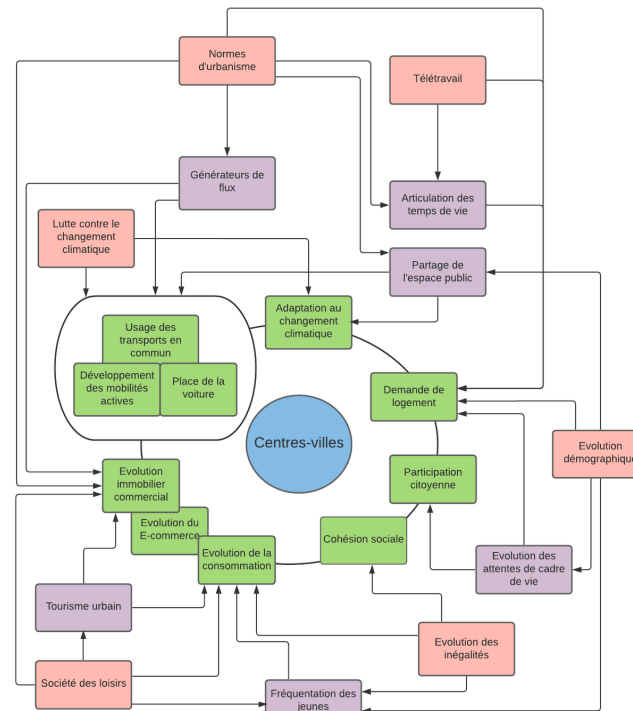
THE FRAMEWORK

▶ MULTIDIMENSIONAL CITY CENTRES

The project rely on two essential strategic objectives: the preservation of town centres on the one hand, and the preservation of shops in town centres on the other. Those strategic ambitions are reflected in the support measures implemented by the Region in parallel. However, the commercial dimension is not the only one at work in these areas. On the contrary, the town centre is the result of the cohabitation, within a limited area, of a set of functions that are both complementary and competing: shops, local services, public services, culture, leisure, tourism, living space, etc. The aim of the foresight study is therefore to take into account all the dimensions involved in the multifunctionality of town centres, and not just their commercial function, however important it may be.

▶ THE SYSTEM OF VARIABLES

The variables identified during the foresight workshops are the bearers of major changes that have a direct or indirect impact on town centres. The relationships highlighted in the system presented below correspond to the main influences determined in the analysis of each variable; they do not claim to be exhaustive. These relationships of influence may change over time and space.



🔍 **Online resources (in French):** <https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr/22-variables-cles-pour-lavenir-des-centres-villes/>

THE RESULTS

▶ IDENTIFYING THE MAIN CHALLENGES

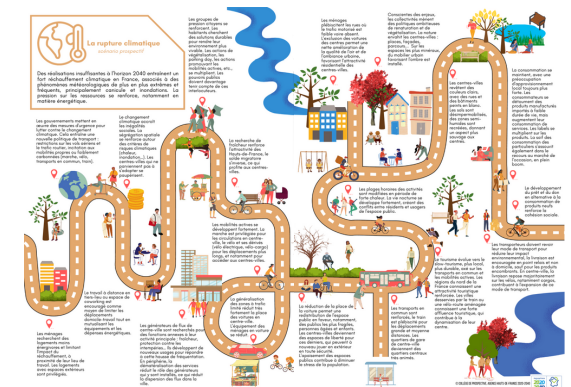
The 22 factors of change identified by the Foresight College and analysed in the variable memos make it possible to identify the main prospective trends that will affect town centres in the next twenty years. These ongoing transformations, most of which have even been accelerated by the health crisis, are leading the region's town centres to face a series of challenges. These challenges can be summarised in five main families:

- Anticipating climate change
- Attracting residents
- Managing mobility
- Enticing visitors
- Involving users

🔍 **Online resources (in French):** <https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr/quels-centres-villes-a-lhorizon-2040-les-grands-defis-3/>

▶ THE SCENARIOS

Scenarios are 'stories' describing possible - but not necessarily probable - futures. This exercise allows for the development of strategies to create the desired future among the possible futures. For this purpose, two provocative scenarios have been developed. Although the chosen disruptions appear a priori negative, the scenarios rather evoke the reactivity and margins of manoeuvre available to adapt town centres and maintain these heritage spaces that are essential to our lifestyles and our territories. For this reason, these are not "unacceptable" scenarios, but rather "resilient" scenarios, which show town centres that have certainly undergone major transformations, but which are still present, still central. The future of a territory is never mapped out in advance; it depends on eminently political choices that can be made without reference to the trend.



🔍 **Online resources (in French):** <https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr/college-de-prospective-centres-villes/>

