

Press release  
November 9th 2020

## **Climate Training is Back in Session at Institut Mines-Télécom All first-year students at IMT schools will learn about climate change**

**As a group of graduate schools that educate engineers and managers in science and technology and industrial, energy and environmental topics, Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) is leading an institution-wide effort to tackle the central issue of the ecological transition. In addition to the individual initiatives in place at each school, some of which have existed for some time, IMT is organizing "*Fresque du Climat*" (Climate Fresco) workshops for all first-year students. This collective endeavor is part of an ambitious action plan bringing together faculty and students to respond to the challenges of the ecological transition.**

### ***Fresque du climat* (Climate Fresco), boosting awareness at the start of the school year**

Sparking and supporting societal transitions has always been part of IMT's genetic make-up. The institution is now focused on the ecological, digital and industrial transitions. To respond to the urgency of climate change, information is the first condition for effective action, at both the individual and collective levels. It is a priority for IMT to encourage and help students to play a major role in transformations – especially ecological ones. Students must be equipped with a solid understanding of the issues in order to develop new approaches and solutions. It has also become apparent that the majority of students strive to become responsible engineers and managers who are mindful of their impacts, and citizens who take an active role in civil society. This means that when they graduate, they must be prepared to help transform the current model.

Over 200 research professors, students and alumni of IMT schools have teamed up to lead collective intelligence sessions for "*Fresque du Climat*" with 2,700 new students. These workshops provide a fun and educational way for students to gain an understanding of climate change by examining the complex interactions at work. To allow for personal reflection, encouraging students to both position themselves within this global crisis and play an active role, each school has added to this fresco through insights on opportunities for transforming the model, here and now. Some have organized "Tech for good" workshops while others have offered a wide range of presentations: sustainable projects in their region, development of specialized programs based on ecological transition at their school, sustainable development activities led by student organizations, and screening the film "*Demain*".



DR Télécom Paris

### **Co-developing a joint training program on ecological transition**

Students from IMT schools, working together in an ecological transition group, are a key driver of IMT's transformation. In 2019, they adopted a participatory approach to organize and propose a common foundation of training in ecological transition, a foundation that had already existed for a number of years in the schools that were the furthest along in their transformation. This group worked all year long in order to present a comprehensive program of 100 hours of training in ecological transition in June 2020.

IMT schools took part in this participatory approach, by forming working groups made up of students, department heads and research professors to finalize this joint training program and put it in place for the start of the following school year, or the one after that.

For Anne Monnier, the Ecological Transition Officer, who was hired to lead the collective work to establish and implement an ambitious joint program:

*"Upon my arrival, I was surprised by the wide range of initiatives focusing on ecological transition already started at IMT schools by an entire community, and by students in particular, but they weren't really highlighted or shared among the schools. The challenge was to orchestrate these initiatives based on a shared vision geared towards societal and ecological transformation, which is now a concern for everyone. This is no small task, and priority is given to training, in order to better "equip" our 12,600 students with a set of skills. This includes the knowledge, expertise and soft skills they need to understand, communicate and act mindfully, while weighing their responsibilities. The process is already underway."*

Upcoming *Fresque du climat* workshops:

- IMT Lille-Douai: November
- Télécom SudParis: 9 & 10 December

#### **About IMT [www.imt.fr](http://www.imt.fr)**

Institut Mines-Télécom is a public higher education and research institution under the aegis of the French Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, which groups together 8 graduate schools, 2 subsidiaries and a network of strategic and affiliated partners. Its activities in the fields of engineering sciences and digital technology support the education of engineers and managers,

partnership-based research, innovation and economic development. Always attentive to the economic world, IMT combines strong academic and scientific legitimacy, close corporate relations and strategic positioning in the key transformations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: digital technology, industry, energy and ecology, and education. IMT is a founding member of the Alliance for the Industry of the Future and co-founder of the Franco-German Academy for the Industry of the Future with Technische Universität München (TUM). It is recognized by 2 Carnot Institute accreditations for the quality of its partner-based research. Each year, IMT trains over 1,200 students, enters into nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

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