

Institut Mines-Télécom Digital Sobriety Forum: training the engineers of tomorrow.

This first virtual forum, attended by nearly 600 participants from all the IMT schools, closed on February 5.

Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) held a major Digital Sobriety Forum open to all students and staff. This new awareness-raising operation is one of the priorities of its ecological transition strategy: informing and training. The aim is to allow future graduates from its engineering and management schools to address socio-ecological issues and place them at the heart of their professional decisions. In addition to giving young graduates new skills, it aims above all to support the ecological transition more generally. In this regard, IMT is increasing its commitment this year by leading reflection within the higher education ecosystem to redefine engineering and management skills in the light of the ecological dimension.

Collective mobilization around the ecological transition.

Institut Mines-Télécom, with its students, faculty members and staff, is evolving in line with the challenges of the ecological, digital and industrial transition. In the fall of 2020, all first-year students, around 2,700, took part in the "Climate Fresco" workshop. This winter, IMT responded to a dual demand from students and companies with its forum dedicated to digital technology, a key theme at the core of its teaching topics. In spring, it will provide training for around 50 in-house activity leaders to install large Digital Technology Frescoes in its schools before the summer.

Future engineers and managers are increasingly aware that it is their responsibility to implement the ecological and societal transition by designing systems with low negative environmental impact and high positive social impact. With this in mind, IMT's schools are rapidly evolving to lay the foundations for essential technical knowledge and human and social skills to enable them to embody this new prism of values in their careers. In 2020, some schools already rolled out dedicated teaching units of more than 80 hours, while others are on track to release new programs in 2021.

Digital Sobriety Forum: discover and meet the actors

The Digital Society Forum brought together nearly 600 students, faculty members and staff in an active and participative format: free choice of stands and direct exchanges in the form of question and answer sessions with actors in the field. Some participants challenged their own preconceived ideas and discovered the hidden impacts of digital technology; others learned new models, from the circular economy to the decentralization of the web and low technology.

The Forum was composed of virtual stands where students could join discussion spaces with academic and professional experts, entrepreneurs, alumni and representatives of collectives or associations. The Forum was attended by: Green IT; the think tanks and do tanks INR (Institut du Numérique Responsable), The Shift Project, FING (Fondation Internet Nouvelle

Génération) and Negawatt; the Low Tech Lab and Fairphone programs; the Startin'blox platform; the Latitudes collective (for placing technology at the service of general interest) and the Good in Tech Chair led by three IMT schools and Science Po.

The participants also had access to a bank of resources in different formats (video, white papers etc.) to learn more about specific topics.

Highlight of the day: “Gaïatica”, a cooperative simulation game



The forum was based on interactive participation with the highlight being a real-time simulation game called “Gaïatica” in which players addressed the challenge of global warming. In this immersive and collaborative experience, the players had to make decisions to try and balance the equation between the exponential growth in uses of digital technology and ecological requirements. The participants experimented with possible solutions through different challenges in the form of use cases (how to structure the Internet access offer, how to reduce the impact of cloud, how to limit programmed obsolescence through policy, how to encourage the circular economy etc.). Each response led to a simulated scenario evaluating the different impacts in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, social acceptability and global warming. The aim of the game was to associate examples with the evidence in an application limiting the environmental impact.

IMT in a collaborative ecosystem for sustainable digital technology

The ecological transition is a collective issue and IMT plays an active role in structural groups. For example, it has signed an agreement with the Institut du Numérique Responsable to set up a transversal training program to provide certification for staff. In the past few months, it has also been working alongside Talents du Numérique to address the question of which skills should be developed among its graduates in terms of ethics and the impact of digital technology. To stay informed on all the best webinars on the subject and reduce its own digital impact, IMT is also a signatory of Planet Tech Care.

Inter-school working groups

Institut Mines-Télécom contributes to The Shift Project inter-school working groups as well as national graduate school networks which are laying the foundations of a list of core skills for the responsible engineer. The choices of engineers and managers, whether key decision-makers or technicians, must consider the context of the ecological and social transition. They must take different criteria into account such as global warming, the availability of resources and societal impacts. IMT involves its student members of the Réveil Ecologique collective in its reflection to definitively place the ecological transition at the heart of its teaching programs by September 2021.

About IMT 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

Camille, a student at IMT Mines-Atlantique, took part in the Digital Sobriety Forum:

“Of course, all actors have to address these topics. As a future engineer, it is people like myself who will reflect on the creation of the websites/applications of tomorrow. We are the ones who will have to think about making digital tools that are better adapted to the issues of global warming. As users, we can also promote change by using more appropriate means.” Camille continues: *“An event like this allows us to become aware of the impact of everything we do on the Internet and on our phones. Habits that are sometimes seemingly insignificant, like sending documents by email or watching videos in HD, actually have a big impact. This event provides the opportunity to reconsider and think about changing some of them.”*

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 21st 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 12,000 students, enters into nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

 [@IMTFrance](https://twitter.com/IMTFrance)

Press contact :

Institut Mines-Télécom

Séverine Picault

+33 (0) 6 27 66 05 09 / +33 (0) 1 75 31 40 97

severine.picault@imt.fr