

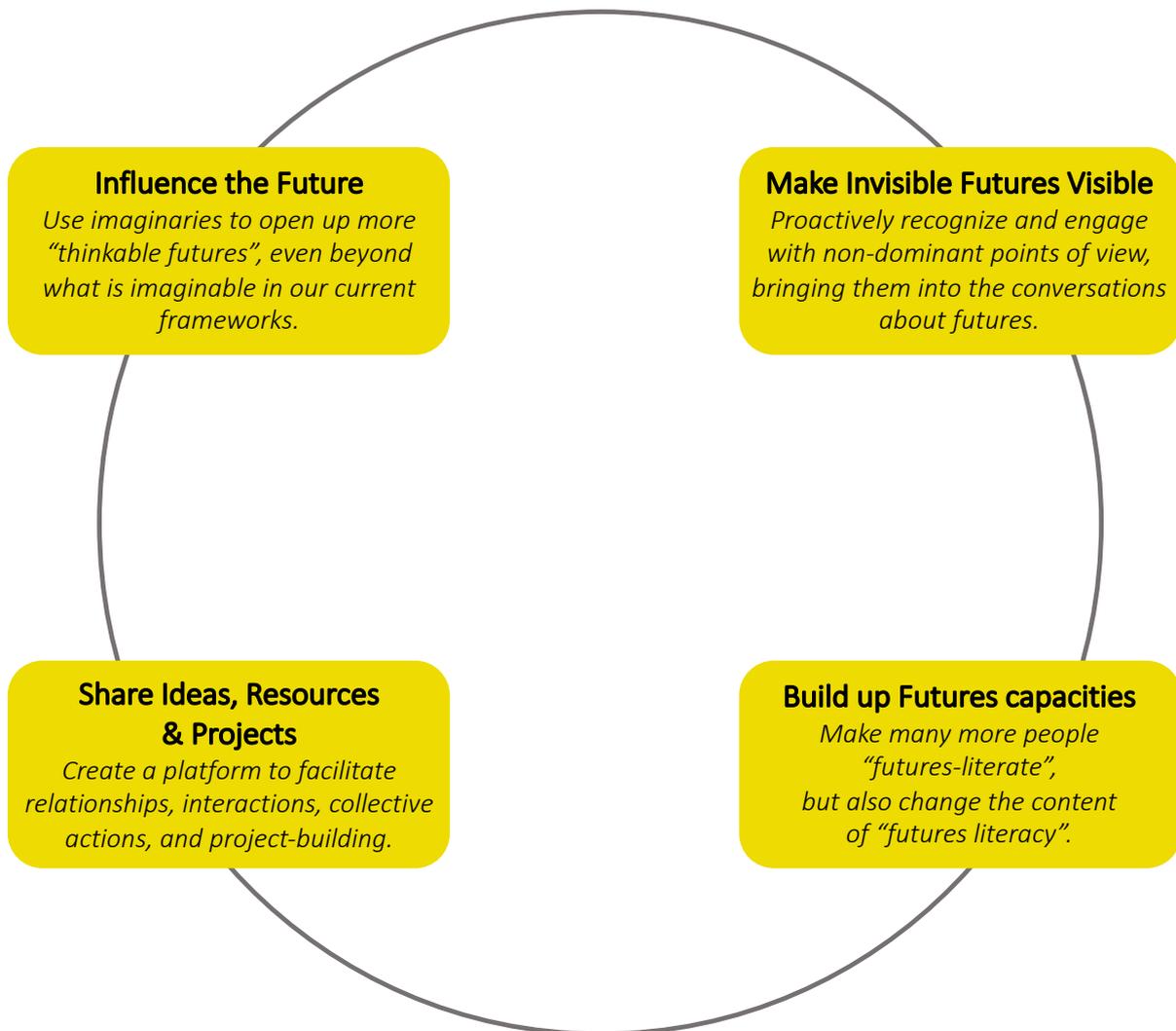
## FOUNDERS MEETING - REPORT

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## Objectives: What Does the Plurality University Stand For?

The discussions highlighted 4 possible, and related, high-level objectives for U+, to which each Founder can allocate different levels of importance:



► Objective: Influencing the Future

The Plurality University aims at influencing what the future will be and how it will be framed and discussed, by:

- Using imaginaries to broaden the scope of “thinkable futures” and hence, of possible alternatives;
- Making the previously unimaginable, imaginable: discovering other futures, thinking along different paradigms, interacting with other human and non-human intelligences...

Here, the focus is on **Content:** the plural stories, images, and metaphors that make many alternative futures present in our minds.

**Research:** the ability to reflect on those contents, what they say, how they are produced, what paradigms they are built upon...

**Influence:** the complex link with corporate, public, and civil society debates, decisions, and action.

What this should NOT be	What actions could be related to this objective <alone or grouped together – see below “Actions”>
<p>Staying limited to western, techno-centric, economy-centric, patriarchic... visions of the future.</p> <p>Finding a single “right” vision of the future.</p> <p>Storytelling, illustrating pre-cooked visions of the future.</p>	<p>“Futures fragments”: members each gift a fragment of the future to the community.</p> <p>“Reading Circles”: working on diverse interpretations of existing works of art, design and fiction in relation with the future.</p> <p>“Mappings”: of futures, of works of art and fiction, of methods, of participants...</p> <p>“U+ Day”: a day during which many locations around the world share diverse visions of the future on one same topic.</p> <p>“Futuramas”: a plurimedia and multilingual, curated catalog on futures concepts, knowledges, visions, images, stories...</p> <p>“Ecology of Knowledge”: a multifacet program on plural, new and traditional forms of knowledge in relation to the future.</p> <p>An international Research Network on plural futures, their content, production, and link to institutional, corporate and civil society action.</p> <p>...</p>

► Objective: Making Invisible Futures Visible

The Plurality University aims at broadening the circle of who takes part in conversations about the future, by:

- Proactively seeking and engaging with non-dominant and even non-human points of view;
- Creating or recognizing spaces where collaboration and reciprocal learning can take place, allowing all participants to reexamine their own assumptions.

Here, the focus is on **Proactive diversity** (including: gender, abilities, social, cultural, geographic, species...): seek, recognize and be recognizable by invisibilised entities and communities.

**Mutual learning:** engage with and learn from one another.

**Agency:** make currently non- or under-represented futures, and those who imagine them, full participants in global conversations about the future.

What this should NOT be	What actions could be related to this objective <alone or grouped together – see below "Actions">
Self-congratulatory. Paternalistic. Formulaic. Tokenistic. Ethnocentric.	<p><i>"Reverse training"</i>: first, change the futurists by immersing them within communities and having them build their credibility, rather than the reverse.</p> <p><i>"Story Club"</i>: help write, transmit, discuss the future stories that already exist within the communities.</p> <p><i>"Exiled Capacities"</i>: a curatorial and/or affinity-based process to challenge our own ways of thinking, doing and being.</p> <p><i>"Exposure"</i>: facilitate multilingual publications of under-exposed stories/images of the future.</p> <p><i>Work with NGOs and institutions already on the ground</i>, introducing Futures as a leverage for self-confidence and self-reliance.</p> <p><i>In all Plurality University projects</i>, place particular emphasis of the diversity of participants and futures.</p> <p>...</p>

► Objective: Building Up Plural Futures Literacy

The Plurality University aims at making many, many more people “futures-literate”, but also changing the content of “futures literacy”. It does this by:

- Focusing on non-futurists: students, children, professionals, disadvantaged communities;
- Considering futures literacy, not as a specific body of knowledge to be taught, but as an ability to challenge our assumptions, to imagine different futures, and to engage with others’ futures.
- Use stories, images and metaphors as material for and outputs of futures literacy training.

Here, the focus is on **Capacity building:** build abilities to imagine and discuss futures, then act upon them; create and share reusable educational tools.

**Learning by doing and interacting:** experiment with methods where learning takes place along collective action.

**New and Plural Knowledge:** expose oneself to new and/or different paradigms, embrace uncertainty and diversity.

What this should NOT be	What actions could be related to this objective <alone or grouped together – see below “Actions”>
Top-down. A discipline. Conformist. For specialists. Reserved for expensive higher education institutions.	“U+ Lab”: coproduce and experiment new form of futures literacy education with groups of students. “Child Futures”: just as the “Savanturiers <sup>1</sup> ” program allows schoolchildren to produce legitimate academic research, work with children to learn futures literacy by producing futures. “Reverse Learning”: ‘re-educate’ futurists from the point of view of non-dominant communities. “Imagination Toolkits”: tools and methods to help non-dominant communities formulate their vision of the futures, reflect on them and share with the world. “Infiltration”: training civil servants and corporate decision-makers to ‘pluralize’ their approach of the future. ...

<sup>1</sup> <https://les-savanturiers.cri-paris.org/>

► Objective: Sharing Ideas, Resources and Projects

*The Plurality University is a platform that helps its members, and possibly others, to:*

- *Generate and deepen relationships;*
- *Share and discuss content, practices, questions, projects.*
- *Build common projects, help projects find partners and funding.*
- *Give visibility to projects, produces, people and communities.*
- *Coordinate collective actions.*

Here, the focus is on **U+ as a Community** (or a community of communities): facilitate relationships, interactions, affinity grouping, companionship, and the birth of a common identity.

**Projects:** a network in which projects can emerge, be discussed, find partners and visibility, gain credibility towards funders...

**Tools:** generic services to facilitate interaction, collaboration, knowledge management and publication.

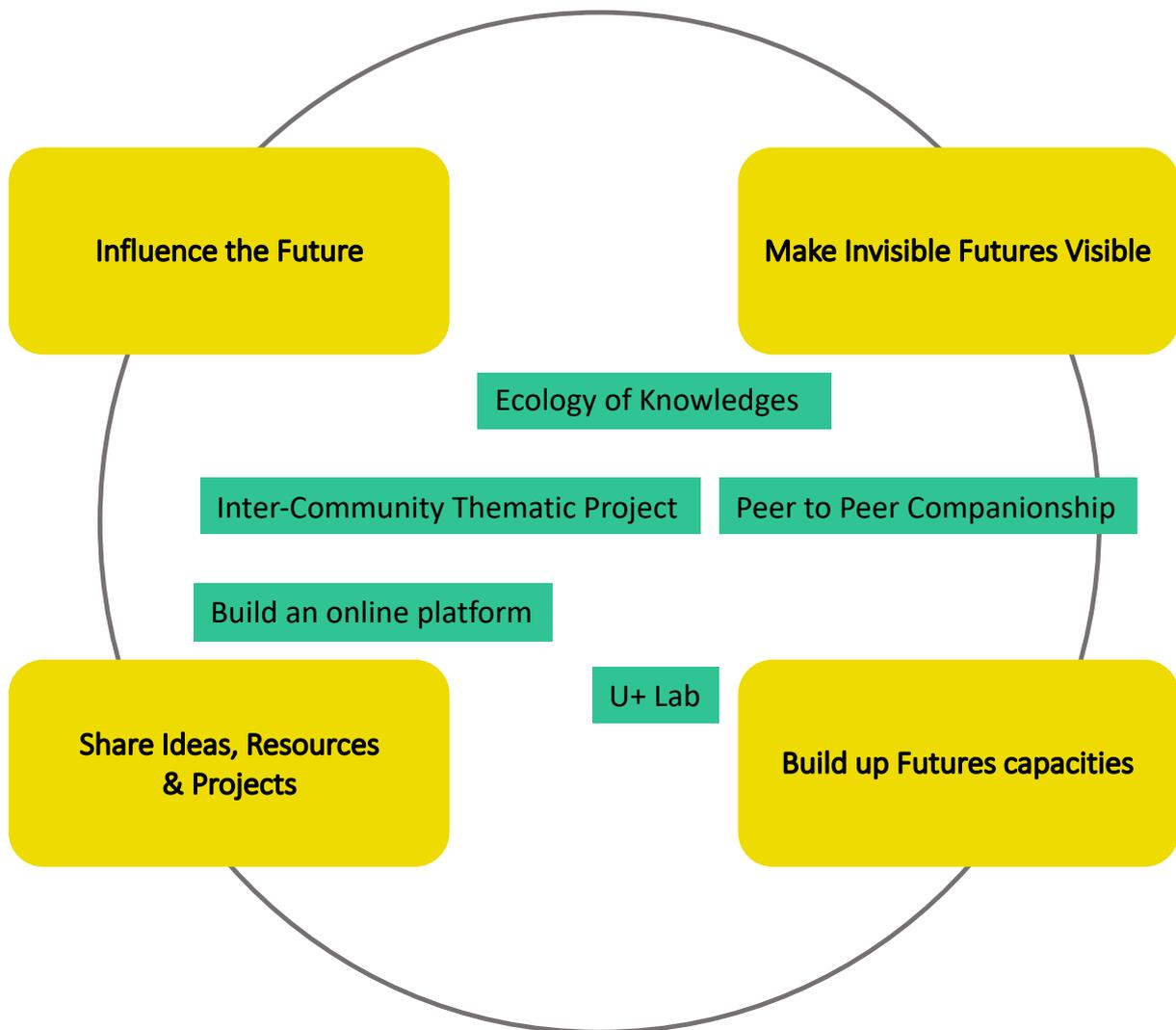
What this should NOT be	What actions could be related to this objective <alone or grouped together – see below "Actions">
<p>A funding mechanism.</p> <p>Monolingual.</p> <p>Just online and if online, just accessible in a few countries.</p> <p>Google-based.</p>	<p><i>"Quick Collaborations"</i>: simple, low-commitment sharing initiatives – "Futures Fragments" (see 'Influencing the Future'), Futures Digests, Exquisite Cadavers...</p> <p><i>"Peer to Peer Companionship"</i>: a project-related exchange program for individuals in different countries, with a focus on those who are least likely to travel extensively.</p> <p><i>"Local U+"</i>: local U+ communities events, dinners, projects, etc.</p> <p><i>"Common Projects Factory"</i>: a process to submit projects for peer review, improve them, find partners and raise credibility for fundraising.</p> <p><i>Online Tools</i>: crowdsourced directory, forum, chat, collaborative publication...</p> <p>...</p>

## Actions: What Should the Plurality University Do First?

What follows describes several of the “collective actions” that were discussed during the Founders’ Meeting. Collective actions are typically undertaken under the Plurality University’s name; they should involve as many members as possible, and be open to others; they may involve financial expenditures and will require time by the currently small U+ staff (1.2 persons).

It is highly unlikely that we will be able to carry out more than 2-3 such actions in 2019: the staff is currently tiny (1.2 persons), and the funding is not secured yet. Therefore, the discussion should be about (i) enriching the projects below, or adding to the list, before (ii) choosing what to do first.

The possible projects connect several possible objectives in different ways:



## Appendix 1: Raw Takeout of the Founders' Meeting

The raw takeouts of the Founders' Meeting can be found online in text form:

- Governance:
- List of desirable 'Accomplishments':
- Visions of the Plurality University in 10 years:
- Workshops on Actions:

## Appendix 2: The Founders (evolving list)

**Aarathi Krishnan**, Humanitarian Futures and Foresight

**Agnes Yun,,** Organic Media Lab

**Ali Eslami**, VR Artist and practitioner

**Anab Jain**, Designer, futurist, filmmaker and educator

**Andrew Yang**, Transdisciplinary artist and biologist

**Andrew Zolli**, Technologist & social innovator

**Annick Rivoire**, Digital arts critic and journalist

**Ariel Kyrou**, Journalist, writer and entrepreneur

**Ash Koosha**, musician, futurist and technologist

**Ayodele Arigbabu**, Writer, architect and creative technologist

**Bayo Akomolafe,,** Professor of psychology, Executive Director of The Emergence Network

**Bob Beard**, Public Engagement Strategist, Center for Science and the Imagination

**Brigitte van der Sande**, artistic director Other Futures Festival

**Chloé Luchs Tassé**, Plurality University Coordinator

**Chris Julien**, Research director at Waag

**Dan Lockton**, Chair of Design Studies and founder of the Imaginaries Lab

**Daniel Kaplan**, Futurist and entrepreneur, Plurality University initiator

**Dougald Hine**, Social thinker and innovator, writer

**Elliott P. Montgomery**, Futures-researcher and strategic designer

**Emile Hooge**, Futures explorer and service designer

**Estelle Hary**, Designer

**Felwine Sarr**, Scholar and writer

**François de Jouvenel**, Director of Futuribles

**Frédérique Pain**, Director of Research and Innovation, Strate Design School

**Geoffrey Delcroix**, Manager of innovation, studies and foresight projects

**Guy Mamou-Mani**, Co-President of the Open Group

**Jacques Barcia**, Journalist, science fiction writer and futurist

**Jacques-François Marchandise**, CEO, Fing

**James Auger**, Designer and researcher

**Joffrey Lavigne**, Author and designer

**Jonathan Dotse**, Science fiction writer, afrofuturist, and digital hypermedia artist

**Jorge Camacho Rojas**, Head of Strategy, Uncommon, teacher and lecturer

**Ketty Steward**, Writer

**Laura Le Du**, Researcher of tools and methods for regenerating imaginaries

**Malka Older**, Writer, aid worker, and PhD candidate

**Martin Serralta**, Director of Development, Institut des Futurs Souhaitables

**Mary Anne Mohanraj**, English Professor, writer

**Mathieu Baudin**, Historian, founder of Institut des Futurs Souhaitables

**Maud Le Floc’h**, Director and Founder of POLAU, Pôle des Arts Urbains

**Max Mollon**, Design practitioner, teacher and researcher

**Maya Kóvskaya**, Ecological political theorist, curator and art critic

**Maya Van Leemput**, Futurist

**Michael Roch**, Sci-fi writer and screenwriter

**Miguel Llansó,,** Filmmaker and professor

**Mimi Mondal**, Speculative fiction writer and editor

**Olivier Fournout**, Researcher, Telecom ParisTech, and aAuthor

**Orit Halpern**, Co-director of the Speculative Life Research Cluster, Concordia University

**Oulimata Gueye**, Critic and curator

**Petra Ardai**, Theatre-maker, writer, dramaturge, teacher and performer

**Puruesh Chaudhary**, Futures researcher and strategic narrative professional

**Rocio Berenguer**, Transdisciplinary artist

**Sangkyo Rho**, Professor of Information Systems, Seoul National University

**Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou**, Architect, anthropologist, founder of L'Africaine d'architecture & WoeLab

**Shadreck Chikoti**, Writer

**Shahid Mahmud**, Chairman of Interactive Group and Co-Founder of Foresight Lab.

**Sheba Chhachhi**, Artist, photographer and thinker

**Sophie Coiffier**, Independent researcher and writer

**Taiyo Fuji**, SF writer

**Tamer El Aidy**, Scientific mediator

**Thomas Gauthier**, Professor of business administration, futurist

**Tomo Kihara**, Design researcher

**Vanessa Andreotti**, Researcher on Race, Inequalities and Global Change

**Wytske Versteeg**, Novelist and political scientist

**Yosuke Ushigome**, Lead Creative Technologist at Takram's London studio