

The bifurcations and alternatives : a new method used in order to build foresight strategies

by Philippe Destatte

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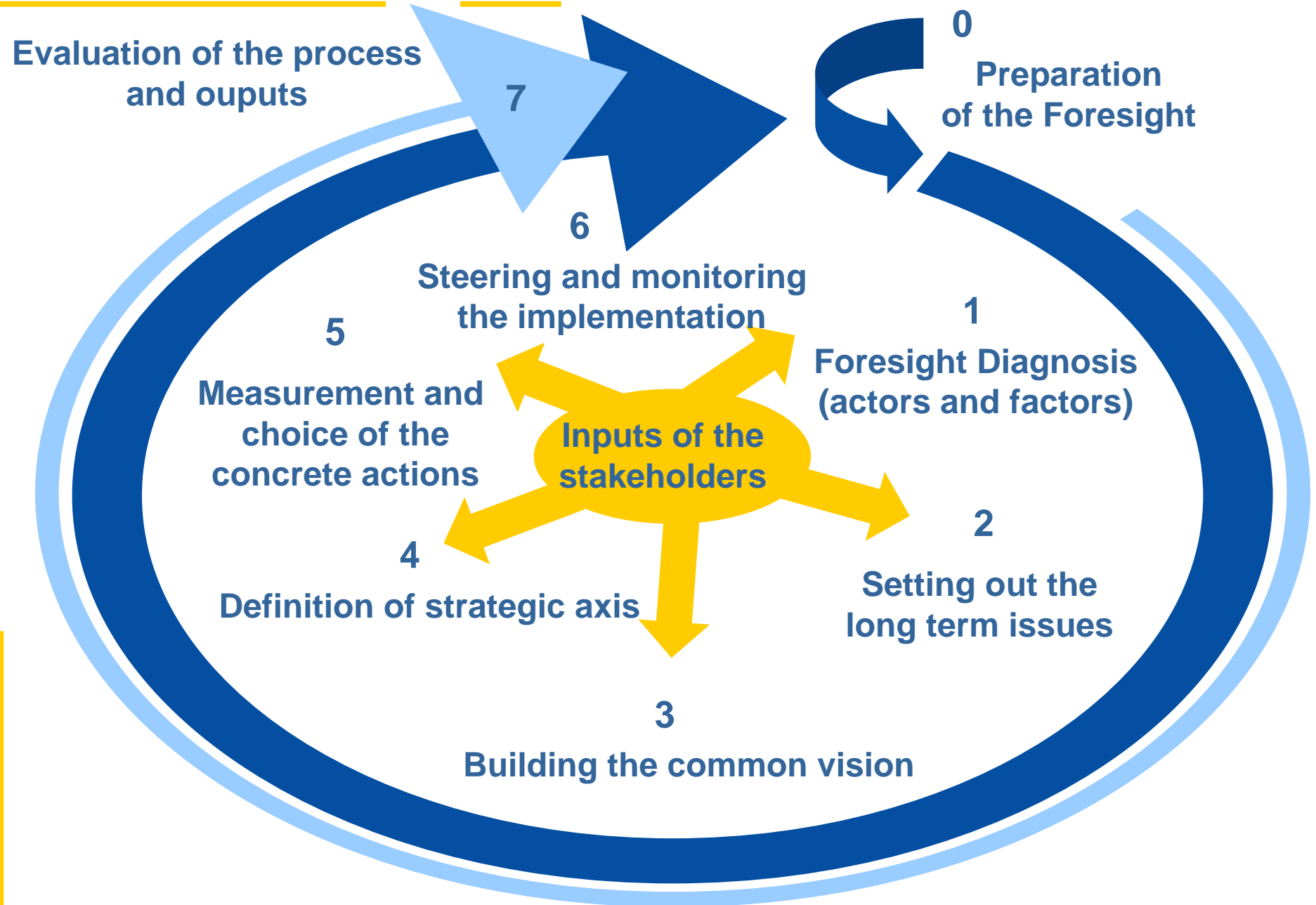
**World Future Society
Boston, July 10, 2010**



The Millennium Project



The Foresight Process



Wallonia 2030 : a Foresight of values and behaviors

Transborder

Transinstitutional

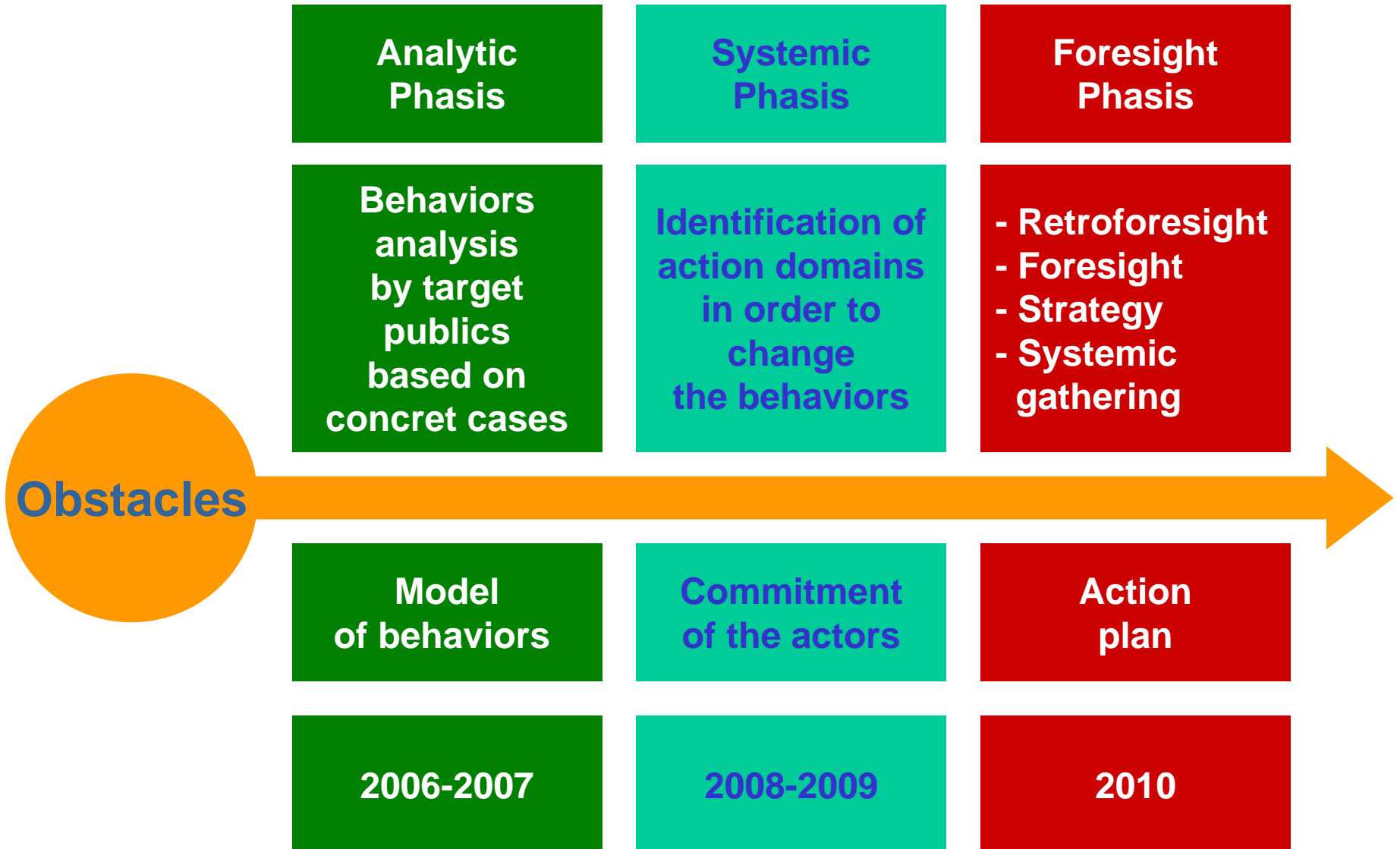


Regional Foresight College

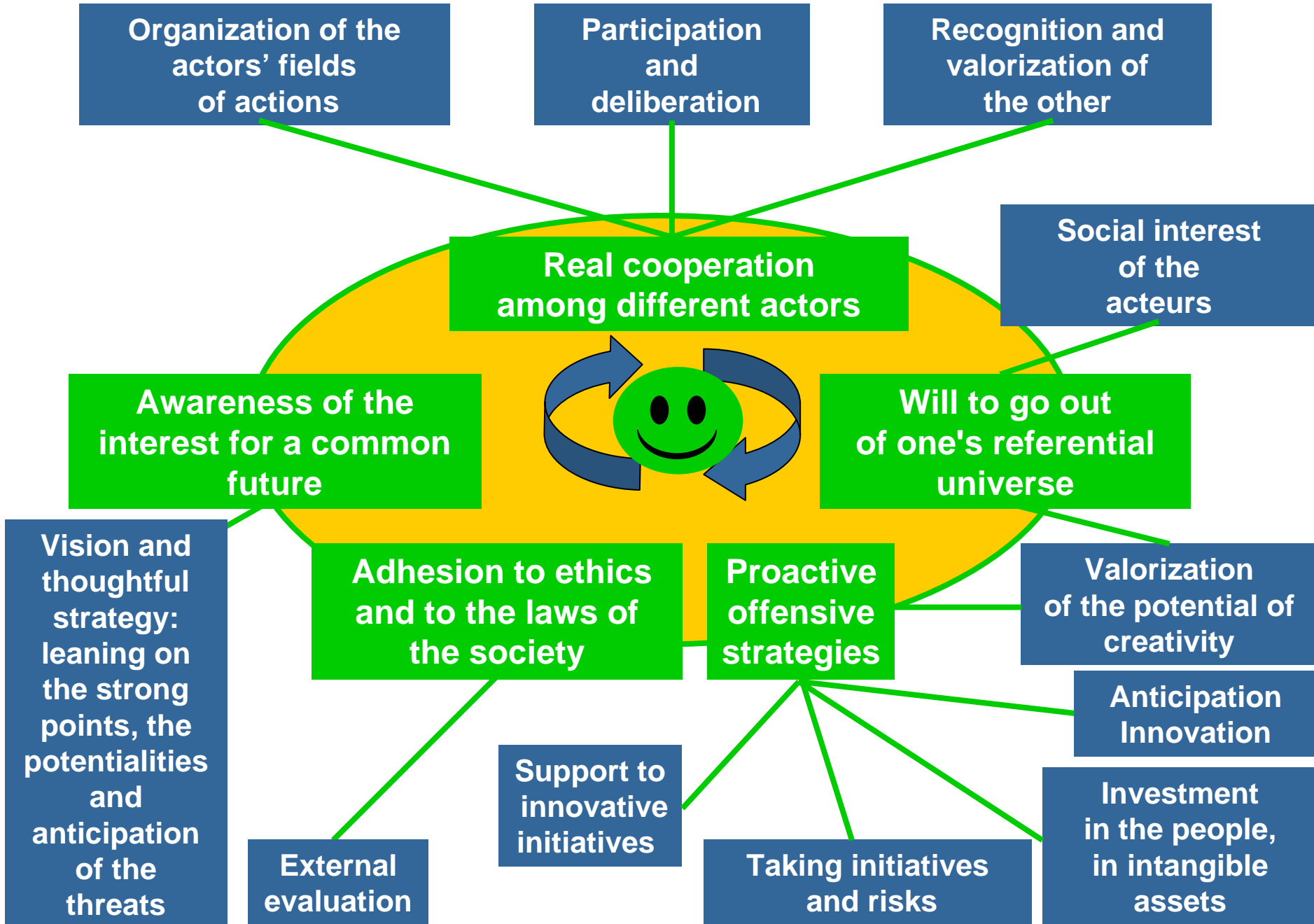
On-going

Experimental

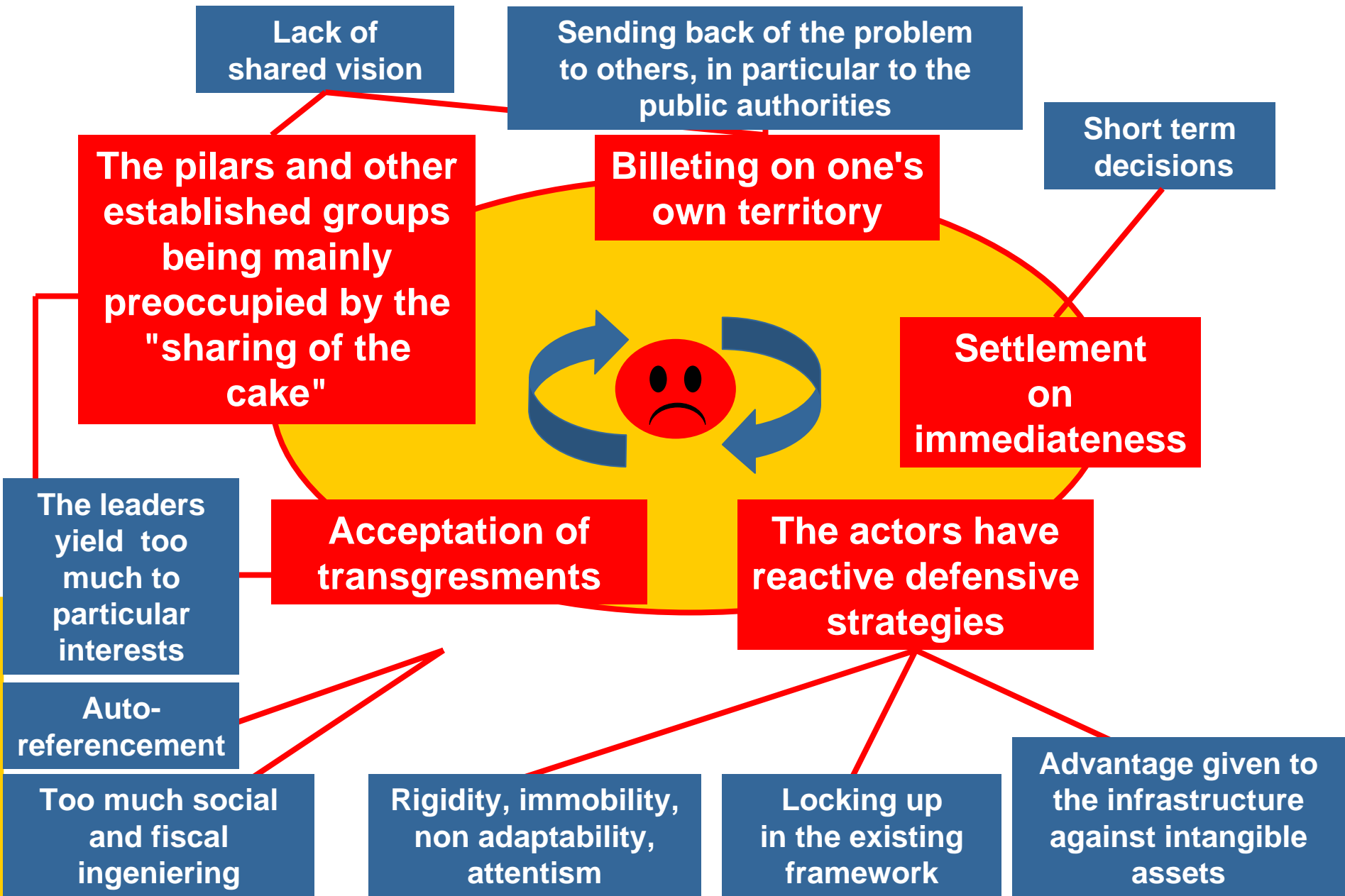
How to raise the obstacles to development?



Model of desirable behaviors



Model of mal-adjusted behaviors



Domain

Field of analysis that meets the knowledge or the competences of a given group or for which the persons have been chosen.

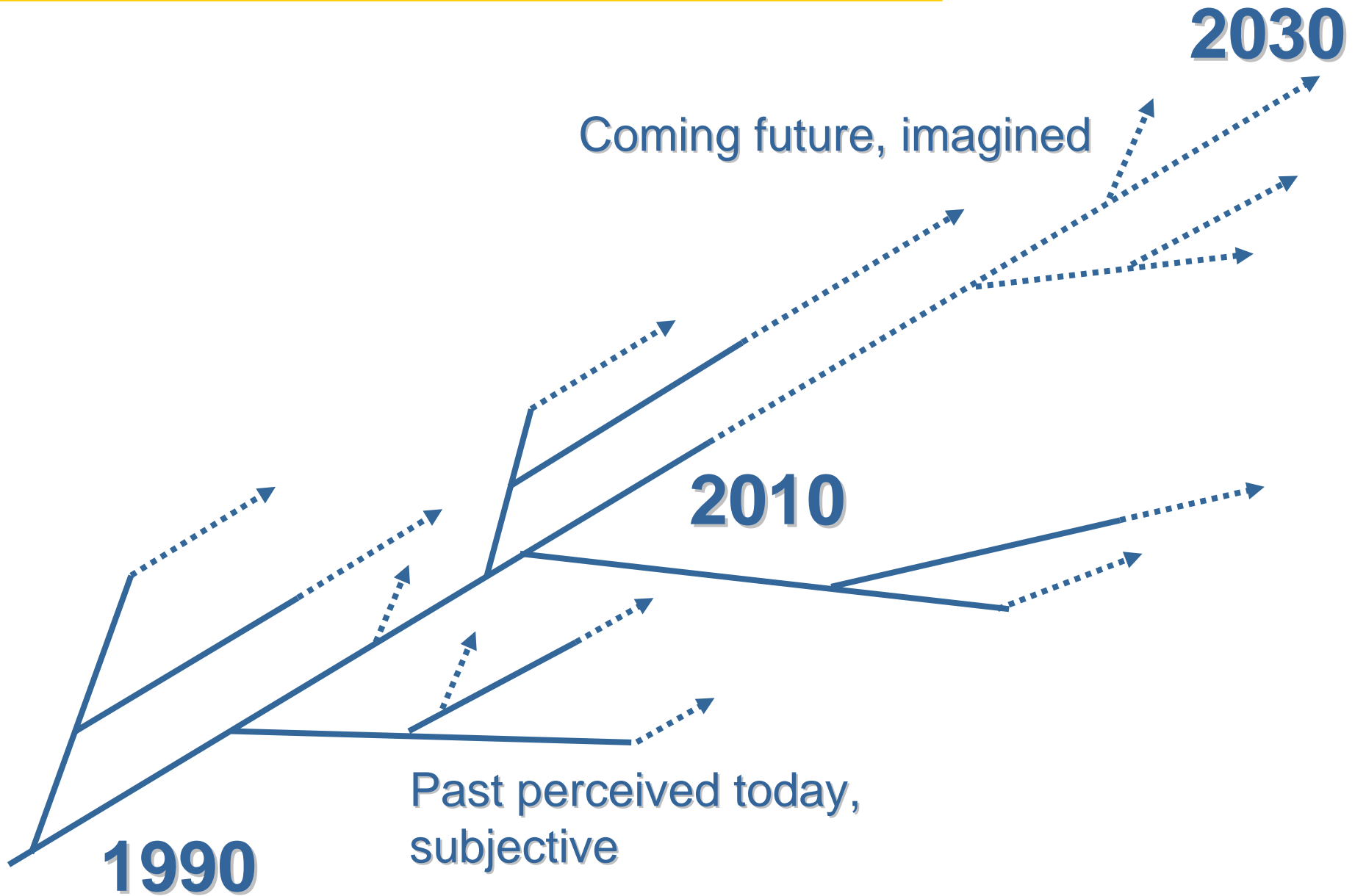
Wallonia 2030 domains



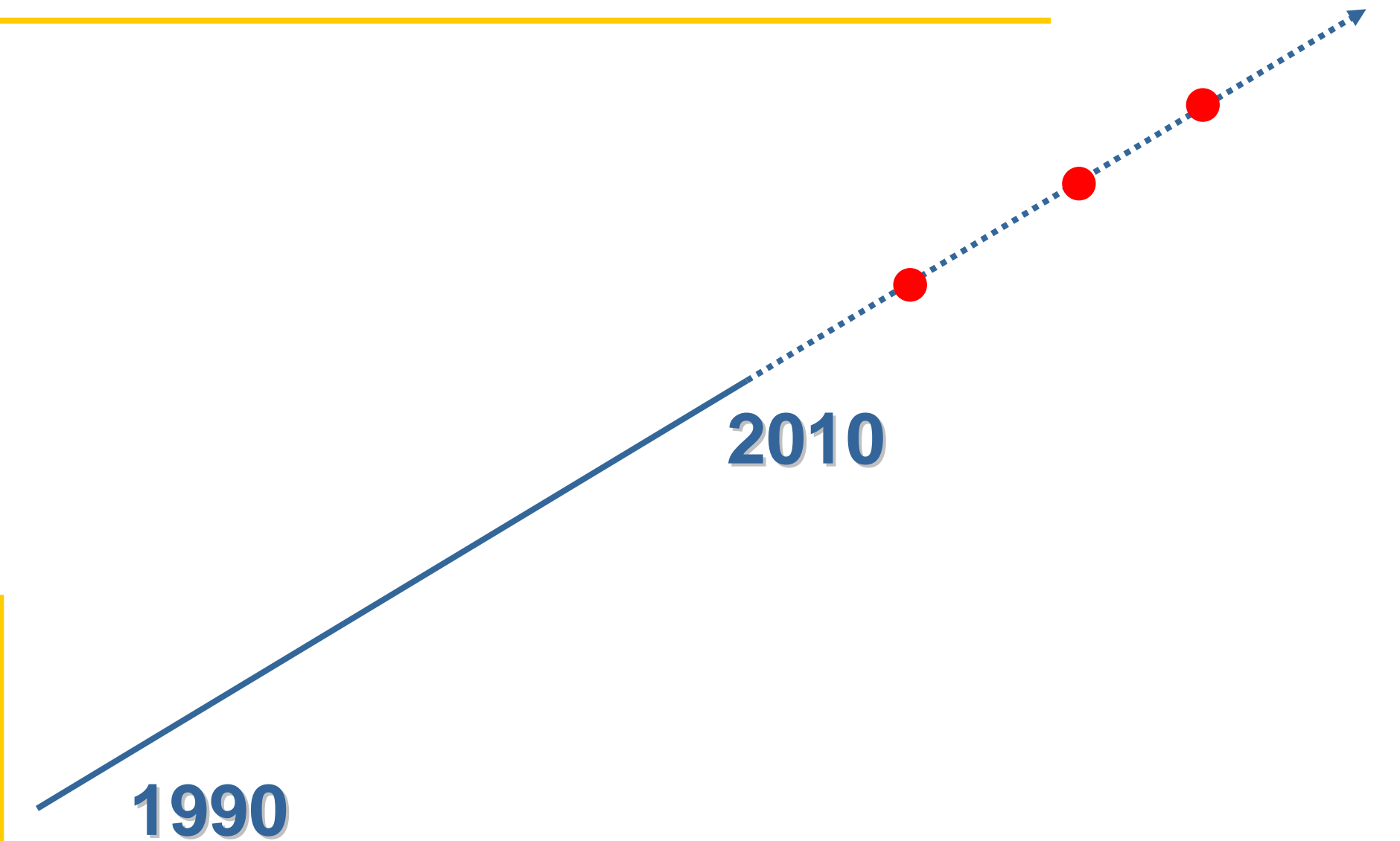
Work plan for each domain analyzed

1. Retroforesight (1990-2010)
2. Foresight (2010-2030)
3. Strategy (2010-2030)
4. Systemic gathering (2010-2030)

Complexity of a basis trajectory

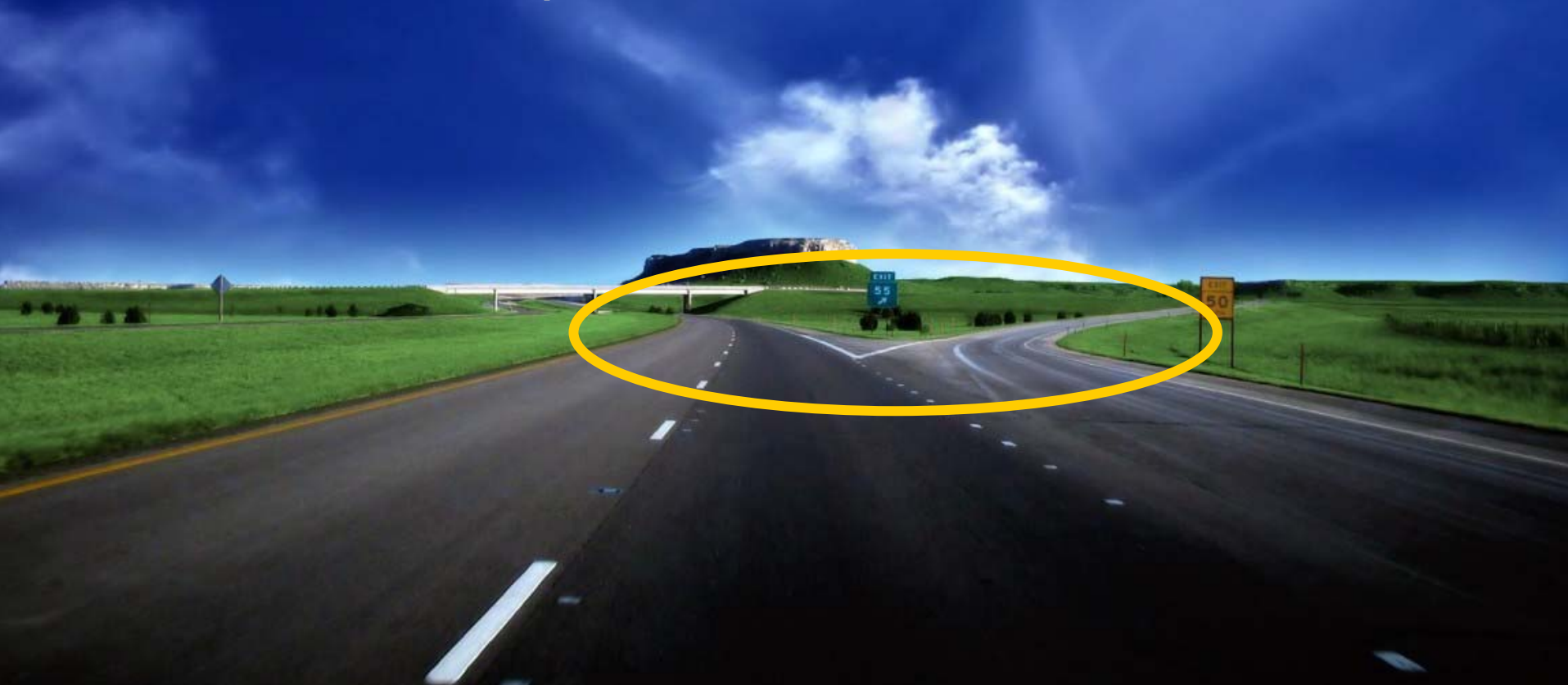


Basis trajectory of a domain with its bifurcations



Bifurcation

The moment when a variable or a system can evaluate towards some paths and realize only one of these possibilities.



Alternative

A proposal or a trajectory being in opposition or in breakdown with an initial one, related to a future hypothesis or to the representation of a possible future

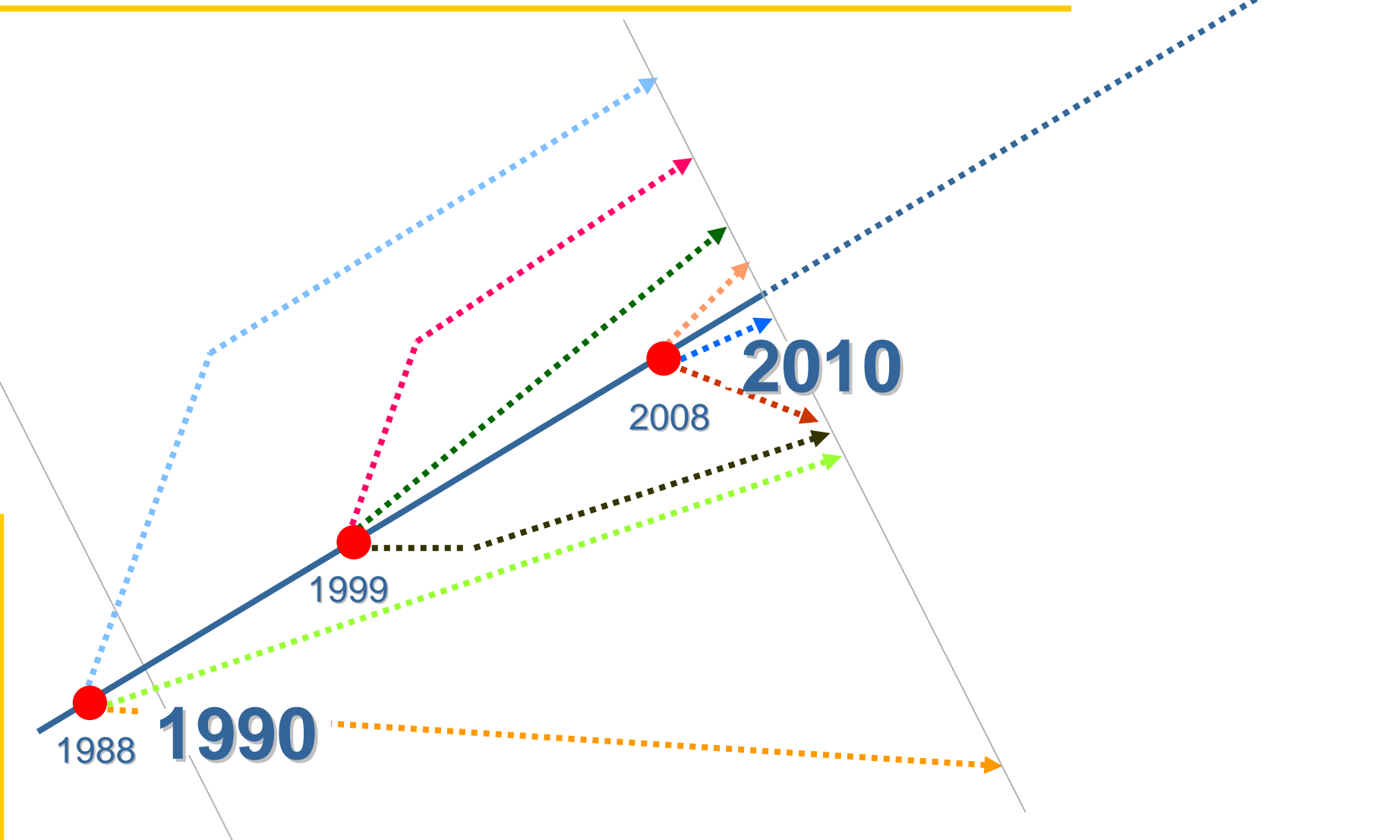


1. Retroforesight 1990-2010

**“these futures
which did not take place”**

Basis trajectory of a domain with its bifurcations and the different possible alternatives associated

2030



2. Foresight

2010-2030

14.2:268
C48: UF0
0588:159
08.5:175
F85: UF0
0258:061
06.8:102
A34: UF0
0256:187
07.7:147
Q86: UF0
0193:166
11.0:146
U35:B727
0245:247
19.0:197
G98:A319
0142:188
17.1:205
V97:B767
0213:216
12.7:213
S18:IL18
0166:274
13.9:260
C48: UF0
0588:159
07.4:178
F85: UF0
0258:061
06.4:105
A34: UF0
0256:187
07.3:144
Q86: UF0
0193:166
10.7:146
U35:B727
0245:247
18.7:196
G98:A319
0142:188
16.8:205

E74: UF0
0254:049
19.6:078
Q49: UF0
0247:265
16.4:310
N16: UF0
0257:047
13.2:025
P20: UF0
0154:114
09.3:065
J50: UF0
0256:118
07.4:084
E74: UF0
0254:049
19.2:079
Q49: UF0
0247:265
16.0:311
N16: UF0
0257:047
12.7:024
P20: UF0
0154:114
09.1:063
J50: UF0
0256:118
07.0:082
E74: UF0
0254:049
18.7:080

S18
0166:274
15.0:309

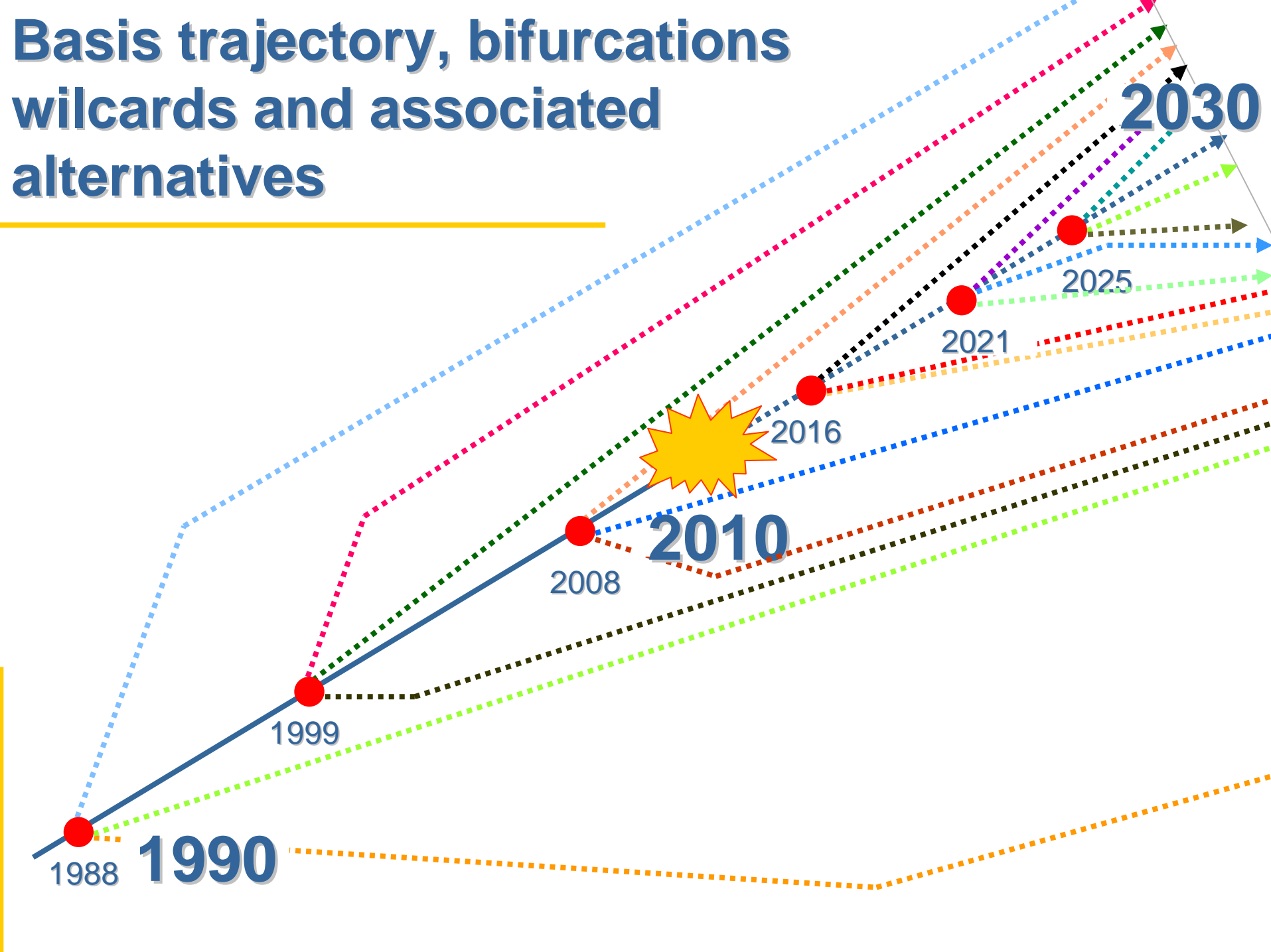
C48
0588:159
05.1:037

08.7:047
0193:166
08.6:069
Q86

F85
0258:061
13.1:039

J50
0256:118
15.7:025
0254:114
18.9:032

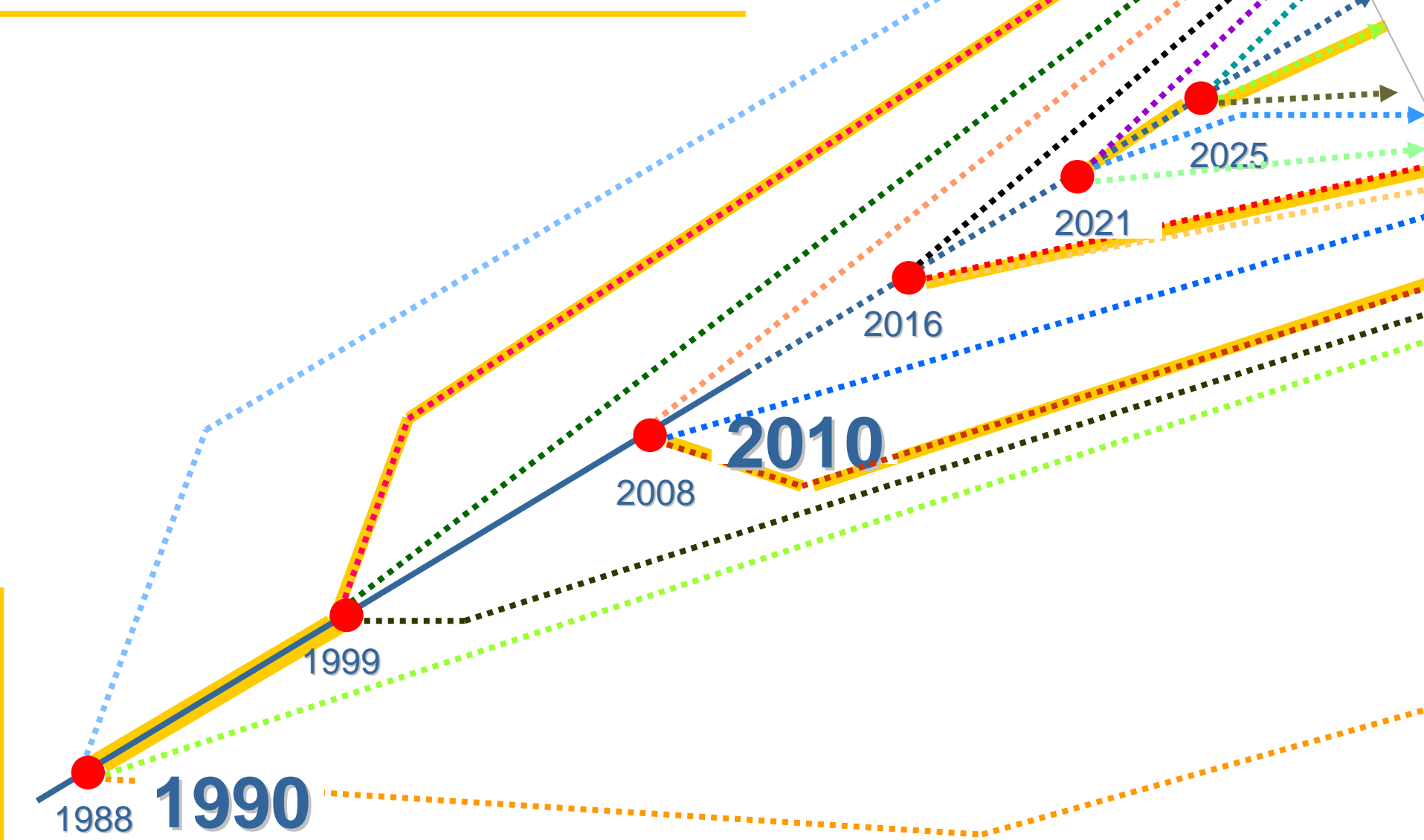
Basis trajectory, bifurcations wilcards and associated alternatives



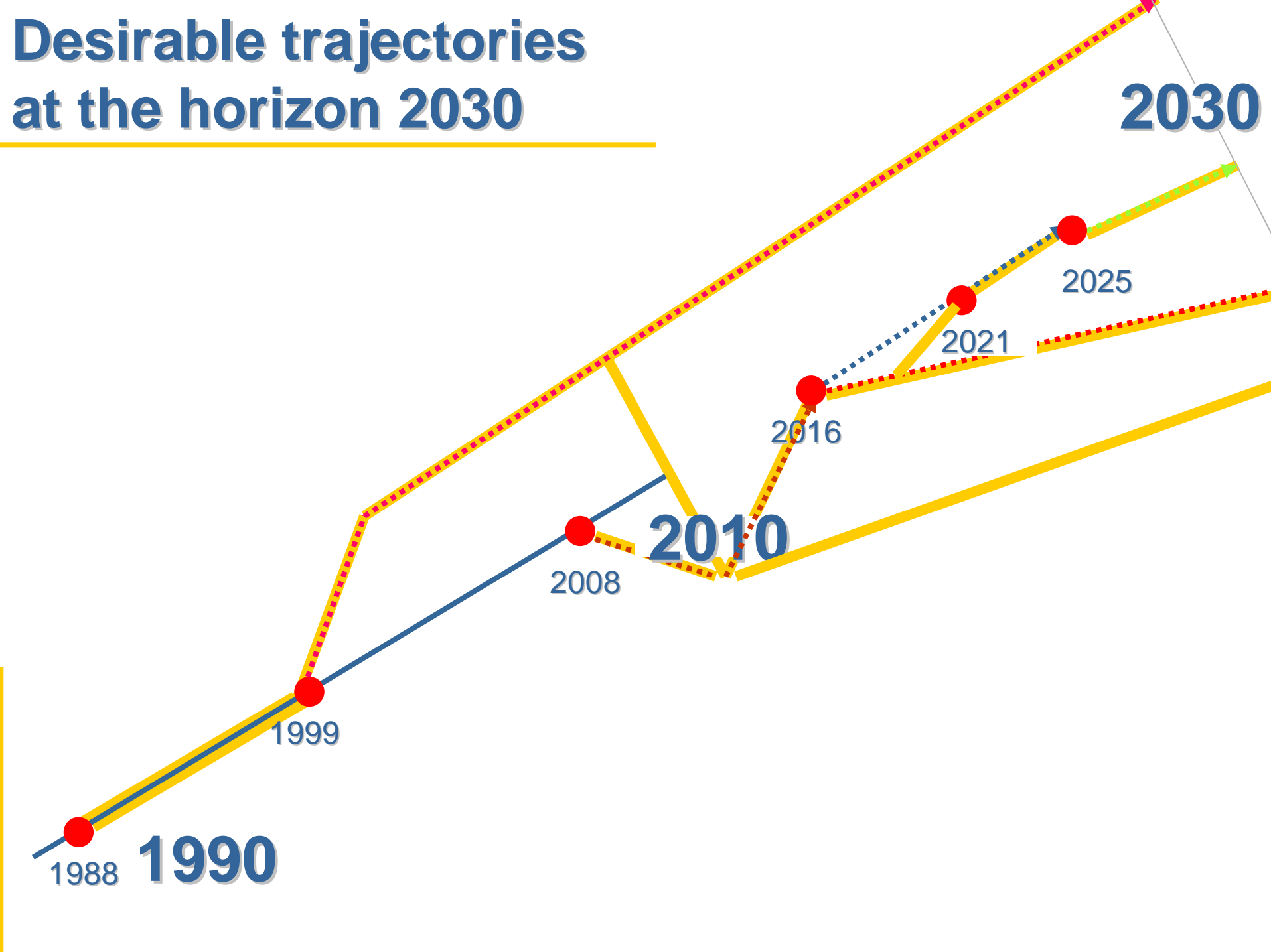
3. Strategy (2010-2030)

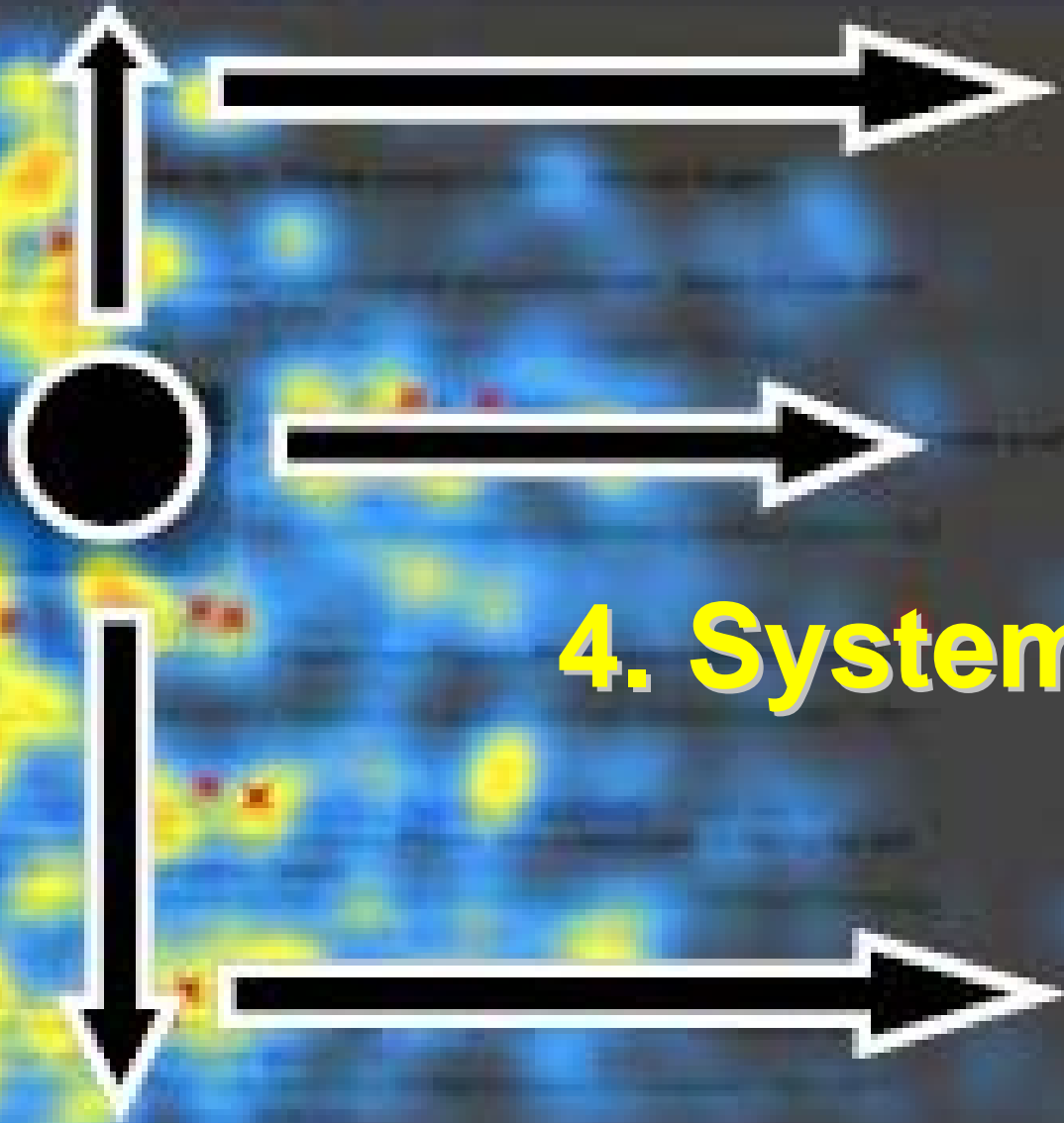


Desirable trajectories at the horizon 2030



Desirable trajectories at the horizon 2030





4. Systemic gathering (2010-2030)



1. Retroforesight (1990-2010) – 3 hours

- 1.1. From de basis trajectory, to identify the two or three bifurcation points since twenty years in the given domain (+/- 1990-2010).
- 1.2. To describe the alternatives that supported these bifurcations, to name them and to determine the causes of the changes, to mention if these were imposed to the actors or desired by themselves.
- 1.3. To qualify each of the alternatives with desired and mal-adjusted behaviors' model.
- 1.4. To verify the coherence and the relevance of the model according to the analysed bifurcations, in order to propose comments and to complete it if necessary.

2. Foresight (2010-2030) – 3 hours

- 2.1. To identify two or three bifurcation points and a major wildcard related to the domain in the twenty coming years (2010-2030).
- 2.2. To describe the two or three bifurcations that could appear in the concerned domain during that period.
- 2.3. To qualify and explain each of the plausible alternatives that are associated with these bifurcations by using the model of behaviors as modified in the retroforesight step.
- 2.4. To modelize the desirable trajectories that could lead to the vision from the basis trajectory and the alternatives corresponding to the desirable behaviors.

3. Strategy (2010-2030) – 3 hours

- 3.1. On the basis of the desirable trajectories, to build one or more strategic scenario(s) for the domain.
- 3.2. To describe each of the sequences that could lead to the vision at the chosen horizon (here: 2030).
- 3.3. To strengthen the work by listing the actions to realize, the forces and external partnerships to mobilize, as well as the necessary budgets for the 20 coming years.

4. Systemic gathering (2010-2030)

The systemic gathering consists in reconstituting the system by associating the different alternatives on the basis of the different domains and by articulating the different strategic sequences.

To temporally conclude

- The Bifurcations Method proposes an interesting alternative to the Scenarios Method
- The Bifurcations Method rehabilitates the importance of the events (the *kairos*) – even if nothing happens (missed opportunity) - , without neglecting the trends and evolutions
- It has the real advantage of being simple, robust and of being managed quite quickly if needed.

Thank you!

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