

25 leading institutions unite around the Paris-Saclay Call for a Sovereign Europe through Science



Launch of the Paris-Saclay Call – 19 February 2026 – Paris-Saclay Summit

Launched on Thursday 19 February 2026, at the close of the 3rd Paris-Saclay Summit, the *Paris-Saclay Call* brings together an unprecedented consortium of universities and alliances — *France Universités*, *Institut Polytechnique de Paris*, *Université Paris-Saclay* — major research organizations — *CEA*, *CNRS*, *INRAE*, *Inria*, *Inserm*, *Institut Curie*, *Institut Imagine*, *Institut Pasteur* — and global companies including *Danone*, *EDF*, *Equans* and *Sanofi*.

In just one week, support has multiplied at an exceptional pace: *Onera* and innovative companies such as *Exotrail*, *Kimialys*, *Quandela* and *STMicroelectronics* have joined the initiative, along with international institutions like *Aarhus University* (Denmark), *EIFER – European Institute for Energy Research* (Germany), and *Wageningen University & Research* (Netherlands). Leading elected officials from the Île-de-France region have also expressed their support: *Valérie Pécresse*, President of the Region, *François Durovray*, President of Essonne Department, and *Grégoire de Lasteyrie*, President of the Paris-Saclay Urban Community.

The *Paris-Saclay Call* sends a strategic message on the eve of decisive negotiations over *FP10*, the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2028–2034), set to mobilize €175 billion.

This coalition will play an active role in the *FP10* negotiation phase (March–May 2026), in the *Horizon Europe* evaluation (September 2026), and in shaping the EU's 2028–2034 budget — with an initial review planned during the next *Paris-Saclay Summit*, early 2027.

The *Call* begins with a unifying declaration:

“We, academic institutions, research organizations, universities, technology centers and private companies engaged in R&D, wish to issue a solemn appeal to decision-makers across Member States and EU institutions. The choices made in the coming months regarding the funding, design and implementation of the future FP10 Framework Programme will determine Europe’s long-term ability to generate knowledge, turn scientific excellence into innovation, and secure its strategic sovereignty.”

According to Grégoire de Lasteyrie, President of the Paris-Saclay Urban Community: *“The Paris-Saclay Call is a bold and collective statement — a full commitment to science and to a stronger Europe. We must reverse the technological decline threatening our continent and stand firm against imperial dynamics that destabilize the global order. In Paris-Saclay, we are making a clear choice: to turn crises into historic opportunities. Science must be the driving force behind Europe’s sovereignty strategy for the decades ahead.”*

A five-pillar strategic agenda

The *Paris-Saclay Call* highlights key weaknesses in *Horizon Europe* (limited valorization, national imbalances) and builds on the *Draghi* (R&D-industry), *Letta* (the “fifth freedom” of knowledge), and *Heitor* (*Choose Europe*) reports. Its priorities are:

- **Achieve European-scale critical mass** for major projects (e.g. clinical trial networks).
- **Preserve academic freedom**, a cornerstone of Europe’s global appeal.
- **Strengthen the research-industry continuum** (noting that 24 of 28 major drugs originated from publicly funded research).
- **Secure mastery of critical technologies** — AI, quantum, health, energy, space and defense.
- **Align national and European strategies**, given that 90% of public funding decisions are taken at national level.

“Science, by nature, transcends borders. Europe is the essential arena in which to share risks, expertise and infrastructure, building a technically independent Union,” adds Sylvie Retailleau, President of Universcience and former Minister for Higher Education and Research.

Paris-Saclay: natural birthplace of the Call

This unique region concentrates 20% of French public and private research capacity, combining academic excellence, industrial strength and world-class infrastructures. *Université Paris-Saclay* and *Institut Polytechnique de Paris*, both of global standing, anchor its scientific core. Over 300 internationally renowned laboratories conduct frontier research on the territory.

Among its flagship assets: the **11.7-Tesla MRI** at *NeuroSpin* (world leader in brain imaging), the **SOLEIL synchrotron** (materials analysis, unique in Europe), the **Jean-Zay supercomputer** (Europe’s most powerful in academia), and the **Quandela quantum processors** (European pioneers). With more than **600 deep-tech startups**, Paris-Saclay transforms science into industrial and economic success — serving European sovereignty through innovation.

The Paris-Saclay Summit: an unprecedented success

Initiated by the Paris-Saclay Urban Community and co-organized with *Le Point*, the *Île-de-France Region* and the *Essonne Department*, the *Paris-Saclay Summit* has, for three years running, turned the region into Europe's capital of science for two intense days.

The **18–19 February 2026** edition broke all records: *5,000 participants* and *25,000 session bookings* (an average of five per attendee), up **45%** from 2025. *130 scientists from 20 countries* led *80 sessions*, featuring world-class figures such as Nobel laureate *Didier Queloz* (exoplanets), *Valérie Masson-Delmotte* and *Jean Jouzel* (climate), *Eugenia Cheng* and *Stéphane Mallat* (mathematics), *Michael E. Mann* (paleoclimate), and many others — alongside *Le Point's Top 100 Inventors Awards*.

The Summit showcased emblematic commitments: **youth engagement** through “*La Recherche en Baskets*” and direct exchanges between researchers and students; **gender equality**, with perfect parity among speakers and the inauguration of a *Territorial Observatory on Gender Inequalities in Education* (Université Paris-Saclay Foundation); and **European cooperation in research and innovation**, embodied by the *Paris-Saclay Call*.

Replay all sessions, including the *Paris-Saclay Call* launch, at: evenements.lepoint.fr/paris-saclay-summit/

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