

Creation of the French Gustave Eiffel University

■ ■ France

Initiative: National | Timeline: Establish by Jan 2020

Summary

To address the **continuous transformation of cities** due to urbanization, the French Government decided to create a unique, **pioneering university** made out of six existing bodies (a research institution, a university, a school of architecture and three engineering schools): with 17 000 students and 2 300 staff, Gustave Eiffel University will gather on a **quarter of the French research and training effort on Cities and Transportation**. The ambition is altogether to address societal challenges of tomorrow, to provide broad skills to the students, to offer international education programmes, to imagine and feed research and innovations covering the numerous fields linked to cities. **Advice to public authorities** at international, national and local levels, and **dialogue with society** will also feature the University activities.

Inspired by **international models**, the governance of the new University will be a mix between the French traditional model of universities, the research organisations model and the *Grandes Écoles*. The new University will consist of several campuses all over France with headquarters in the Paris region. The President will be appointed by the French Government and Board members will be mainly external experts. A strong bilateral cooperation programme will strengthen **international networking with Universities and research organizations** working in the same fields. In addition, a number of **big training and research facilities** across the country, Gustave Eiffel University will foster the **cross-fertilisation of existing knowledge and skills** between the engineering sciences, earth or environmental sciences, human and social sciences.

Description

The need to provide resilient infrastructure systems will intensify in the future. Addressing vulnerabilities requires that citizens, cities and regions, the business sector and governments avoid exacerbating threats to infrastructure systems. To ensure availability, quality, safety and security of such infrastructures, both long-term development strategy and the ability to build on adverse events are needed.

The evolution of cities is accelerating on a global scale as regards densification and sprawl, facing societal challenges. To assess such complex transformation, the contribution from research, aiming at the cohesion of the populations and targeting sustainability, is essential.

A Multidisciplinary, Multiscale, Integrated Approach

More comprehensive infrastructure lifecycle and multiscale assessment methodologies are required. In order to address the resilience issues and those linked to urban and transportation systems of tomorrow, the Gustave Eiffel University aims at becoming an iconic multidisciplinary research demonstrator, fostering innovation and high level education, focused on climatic and energy supply emergencies, preservation of biodiversity and resources, revision of economic models. Therefore the University will offer and provide skills in many disciplines, including civil engineering, architecture, and urban planning.

Challenges for "Quality Infrastructure" and Urban Liveability

The continuous transformation of cities is an actual given issue for research communities that cannot be assessed at one glance. Wide cooperation is

required with partners sharing the same values, and the need for cross-fertilisation in the approaches around all subjects related to “Quality Infrastructure” and to infrastructure resilience is recognised.

With the support of the academic, social and economic partners, the University’s ambition will be to enhance knowledge, carry innovative ideas and offer tools, methods, innovative products and perform associated services to meet the challenges of the inclusive, resilient and sustainable City of tomorrow. Such cooperation will bring a real paradigm shift in the approach to urban problems.

A Dynamic Vision Shared with Key International Partners

The Gustave Eiffel University will share principles and practices with European and international partners, aiming at building interdisciplinary and intersectoral networks and programmes, to match research, innovation and society burdens at several levels: regional, national and worldwide.

Building exchanges through networking and co-programming

Around the world, the University will strengthen and gather its networks focused on infrastructures, transport, and cities. The ongoing process will consolidate existing thematic links by integrating cross-visions, building a network of universities and research organizations sharing such bases. Strong bilateral international cooperation will be engaged to serve resilience issues of complex systems

constrained by environmental and societal burdens.

The Gustave Eiffel University will support the effort in participating into the construction of European and international universities through adapted networking, will continue lobbying within the framework of European associations, writing position papers, exchanging staff with long-term partners and creating new links. In addition, recurrent bilateral international actions will be developed to create or sustain links in communities. Such actions will be supported by joint projects and initiatives induced by International Associated Laboratories and Institutes, that combine research, education and innovation.

Developing the “territorial connection”

To pool knowledge at different scales, and to be a leader in targeted areas of the city will lead the Gustave Eiffel University to confirm a permanent presence in a logic of “territorial connection” between its national locations and European and international settlements set by campuses or offices.

Gustave Eiffel University staff and students mobility, internationalization with innovative teaching methods and welcoming international partners according to their thematic areas and skills will provide an excellent basis for cooperation. Such dynamic integration will build and provide leadership in targeted areas serving infrastructures resilience in particular.

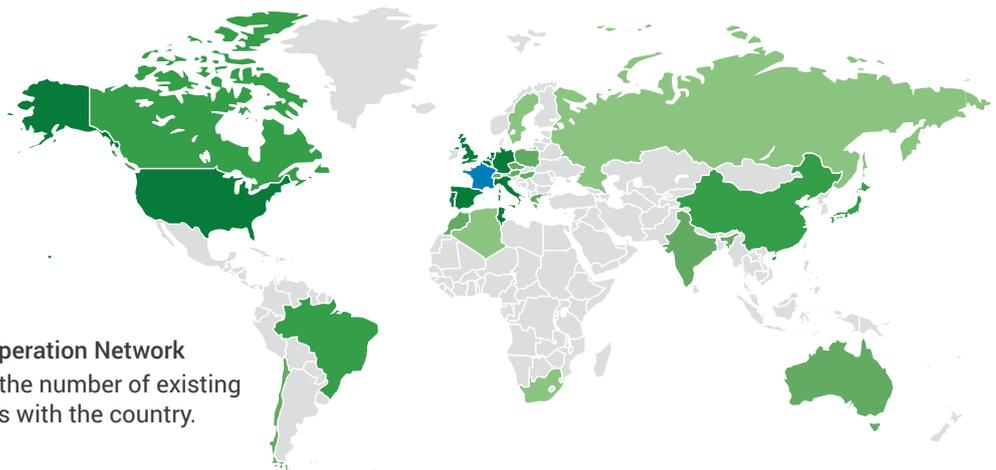


Figure: A Worldwide Cooperation Network
The green index reflects the number of existing collaboration agreements with the country.



Further information

<http://univ-gustave-eiffel.fr/>

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