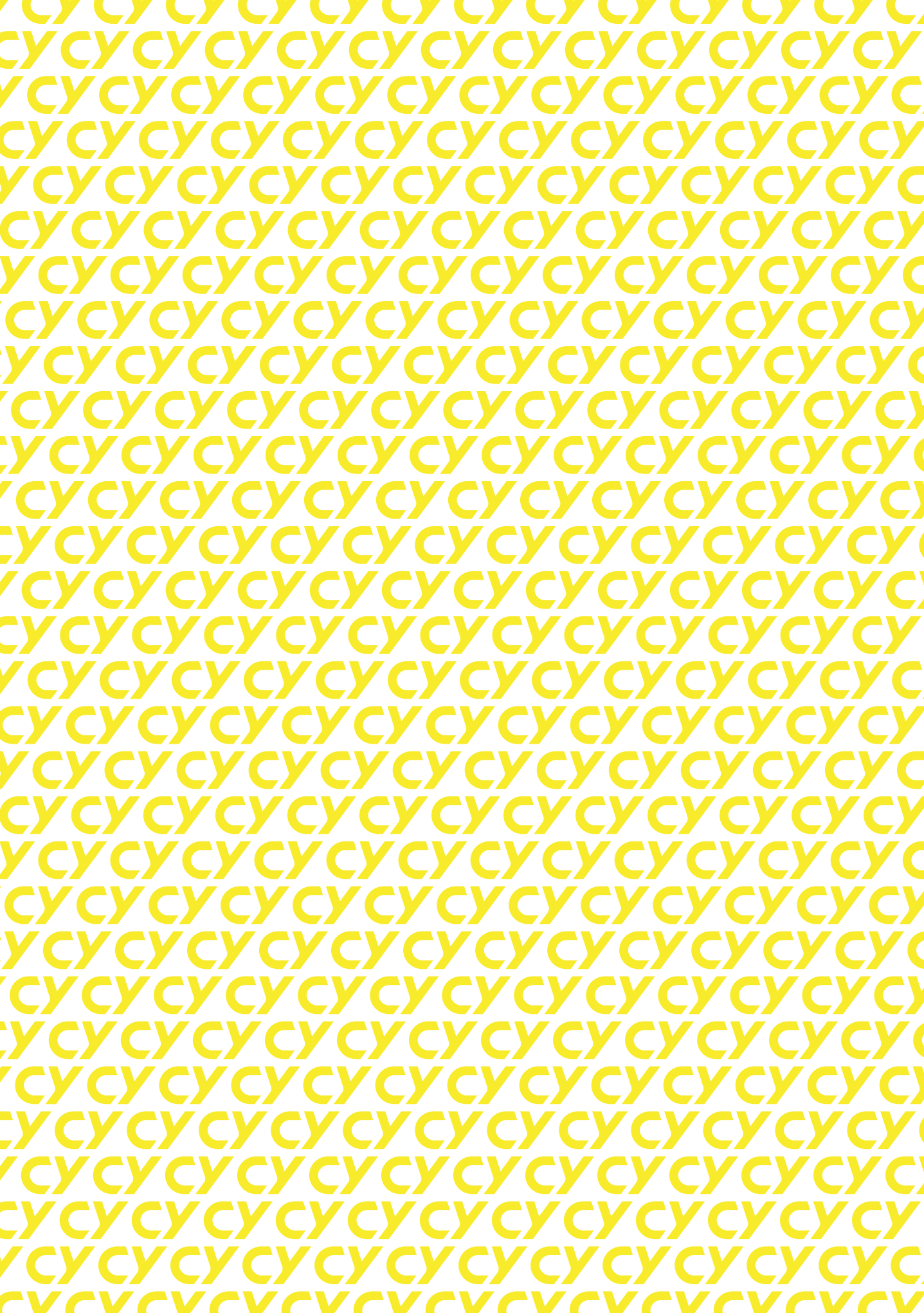




CERGY PARIS
UNIVERSITÉ

See why

Influence
Innovate
Support





Dear colleagues, dear partners,

I take great joy and pride in presenting CY Cergy Paris Université, a vibrant institution whose relative youth has not prevented it from evolving with the times.

Since its founding in 1991, our university has grown and changed significantly, always remaining committed to academic excellence. Our 2020 launch of the CY brand was the first visible step in our plan to obtain the I-Site label, which is granted to “universities of excellence.”

The early 2025 achievement of *grand établissement* status, which confirmed our position among the great universities and acknowledged what makes us unique, has given us the occasion to introduce CY anew. This is the purpose of this booklet.

Our ambition is clear: to become a hub for excellence and innovation whose influence extends far beyond our original boundaries, attracting students, academic staff and research faculty from all around France and abroad. With the creation of schools in disciplines as varied as design, engineering, and perhaps soon medicine, we are building a university ready to meet our society’s current challenges.

The story of our transformation is one of determination and will: with close to 30,000 students and solid international partnerships, we are far from a secondary player in the academic landscape. In fact, we are one of the major university clusters west of Paris.

Our collaborations with institutions around the world speak to our desire to train and educate a new generation of citizens and initiative-takers. We attract many master’s and doctoral students, 50% of the latter from abroad, which strengthens our position as a university open to the world.

We placed our bets on work-study programs and professional training, which translates today into an excellent rate of integration into the workforce. Our high-quality professional training, our skills-based approach, and our ability to offer our students a launchpad to a solid career are undeniable assets.

We use all means at hand to reveal students’ potential and guide them toward successful workforce integration, while contributing to their quality of life through environmentally responsible actions and solidarity. This is one of the essential parts of our public service mission and larger purpose.

We are aware of the responsibilities we bear, and so we wish to do our part in the development of a sustainable world that brings together social progress and economic efficiency, quality of life and environmental protection, resource preservation and creation of new types of energy.

However, we also face great challenges, which means that we must continue to boost our visibility—not just in France, but internationally. As a *grand établissement*, we will be able to consolidate the advantages of our new university model and ensure the impact of our university on the local area.

Our transformation is far from over. Our plan to open a medical school in 2028 illustrates our ambition to reconcile our academic offerings with the region’s needs. We have a unique opportunity in our hands to redefine the modern university. And together with our partners, the universities within the alliance, local governments, students, and faculty, we will continue to move forward with the same energy, passion, and determination.

In this booklet, I invite you to discover the incredible advantages that the CY Cergy Paris Université ecosystem has to offer. Here, students, staff, and professors dare to take the initiative and try new things, all while defending the humanistic values of openness, tolerance, intellectual curiosity, and critical thinking.

LAURENT GATINEAU

PRESIDENT OF CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ



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Our establishment

A response to the new challenges in higher education

DRAMATIC CHANGES ARE UNDERWAY IN HIGHER EDUCATION. OUR ESTABLISHMENT IS AFFIRMING ITS POSITION AS A LEADING ACTOR IN THIS CONTEXT. BY WEAVING TOGETHER AUTONOMY, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND AN INTERNATIONAL MINDSET, OUR AMBITIOUS PROJECT EMBODIES AN INNOVATIVE VISION, IN WHICH PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL TIES DRIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Over the past twenty years, higher education has been the theater of dramatic changes. In 2007, the law related to universities' freedoms and responsibilities broke ground for a new form of autonomy, offering institutions greater flexibility to adapt their courses to the expectations of a changing society.

In this context, the vision that inspired the creation of CY Cergy Paris Université fits neatly into the new challenges and transformations of the university landscape. CY Cergy Paris Université was conceived as a university with local roots and international connections. From day one, it has borne the ambition to become a hub for excellence, meeting the growing needs of a local area under rapid development, all while strengthening its ties with economic sectors and international collaborators.

Public funding, previously guaranteed, is now more and more dependent on universities' ability to propose competitive projects, often at European scale. This trend has increased the importance of calls for projects, leading universities to develop ambitious research strategies and multiply their partnerships. This dynamic gave rise to the "Initiatives for Excellence" (IDEX) and "Site Initiatives" (I-Site) whose goal is to build up skills hubs rivaling those at the world's greatest institutions.

Given these developments, French universities have chosen to form groups and merge, creating new entities that can pool their resources and gain a competitive edge. CY Cergy Paris Université was created in this setting as a model for cooperation and as a strategic move to strengthen the university's appeal and influence. Its educational project is based on a diverse array of course offerings, active partnerships with businesses and local governments, and an international mentality that attracts numerous students and researchers from around the world.

Institutions like CY Cergy Paris Université are no longer content to merely transmit knowledge. They are aiming higher: at becoming autonomous, well-funded international centers of excellence that support development in their local areas. Our university intends to position itself as a driver of development for Cergy and its neighbors, all while upholding a clear vision of its role in our society's future.



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1

Our story

Though a young university, founded in 1991, CY Cergy Paris Université quickly made its mark as a daring and free-thinking institution hungry for progress. In 2020, it reached a milestone when it became an *établissement public expérimental* (a new type of university cluster). This ambitious transformation, driven by the CY Initiative I-Site, in partnership with ESSEC and the CNRS, was approved in 2022 by an international jury. Determined to achieve and overcome obstacles on its path, CY Cergy Paris Université has risen to the challenge of international competitiveness while strengthening its role serving innovation and its local community. By incorporating engineering schools, strategic partnerships, and other renowned institutions into CY Alliance, it demonstrates its ambition, combining inclusion and excellence to have the greatest impact on the international stage.

2

Our vision

CY Cergy Paris Université defends a resolutely ambitious vision, in which freedom of thought and the drive to act join forces to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Its ambition relies on three fundamental principles: academic excellence, international openness, and a commitment to local community. Adventurous and openminded, the university values all forms of inclusion, encouraging each student to find their niche and achieve their dreams. With multidisciplinary course offerings, both academic and professional, it prepares students to grapple with the world's environmental, digital, and social transitions. Its skills-based approach coupled with support mechanisms that kick in at the beginning of students' journeys illustrates the university's desire to ensure successful workforce integration while cultivating the values of commitment and courage.

3

Our mission

CY Cergy Paris Université, assertive and determined, is much more than a place to learn: it is an agent of societal and economic transformation. Armed with ambition, it develops flagship projects like CFA CY, the university innovation hub CY Transfer, and research excellence programs to meet contemporary needs. Its determination is evident in its strategic choices. CY invests in cutting-edge fields like artificial intelligence, social sciences, and environmental transition, in order to unite innovation and social impact. Guided by its values of freedom, inclusion, and ambition, CY Cergy Paris Université continues to advance frontiers (both geographically and intellectually) to stake its claim as a courageous and modern institution loyal to its local community.



26000
STUDENTS

1200
RESEARCHERS

600
DOCTORAL STUDENTS

1024
SUPPORT STAFF

27
RESEARCH LABORATORIES
(INCLUDING 10 CNRS JOINT
RESEARCH UNITS),
3 RESEARCH FEDERATIONS,
AND 7 OPEN LABS

10
LIBRARIES IN
OUR NETWORK

9
CAMPUSES

18
SITES

210
MILLION EUROS
IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET

5672
DIPLOMAS GRANTED
IN 2023

60
PARTNER COUNTRIES
OUTSIDE EUROPE

31
PARTNER COUNTRIES
IN EUROPE

414
PARTNER UNIVERSITIES
IN EUROPE (ERASMUS)

4764
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Questions for Gabriel Desgranges

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AND DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY POLICIES AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ

**FROM LOCAL TIES TO PROFESSIONALIZING STUDIES,
GABRIEL DESGRANGES UNVEILS THE OBJECTIVES OF
A UNIVERSITY IN STEP WITH SOCIETAL CHALLENGES.**

What was the origin of the CY Cergy Paris Université project?

CY Cergy Paris Université embodies a desire to modernize higher education and weave it into the fabric of the local community. This transformation sprang from the need to move away from traditional models and create a more agile and innovative university capable of adapting to modern students' expectations. The university's name change symbolizes this ambition, the ambition of an institution with an entrepreneurial spirit and a more diverse curriculum offer in step with our day and age.

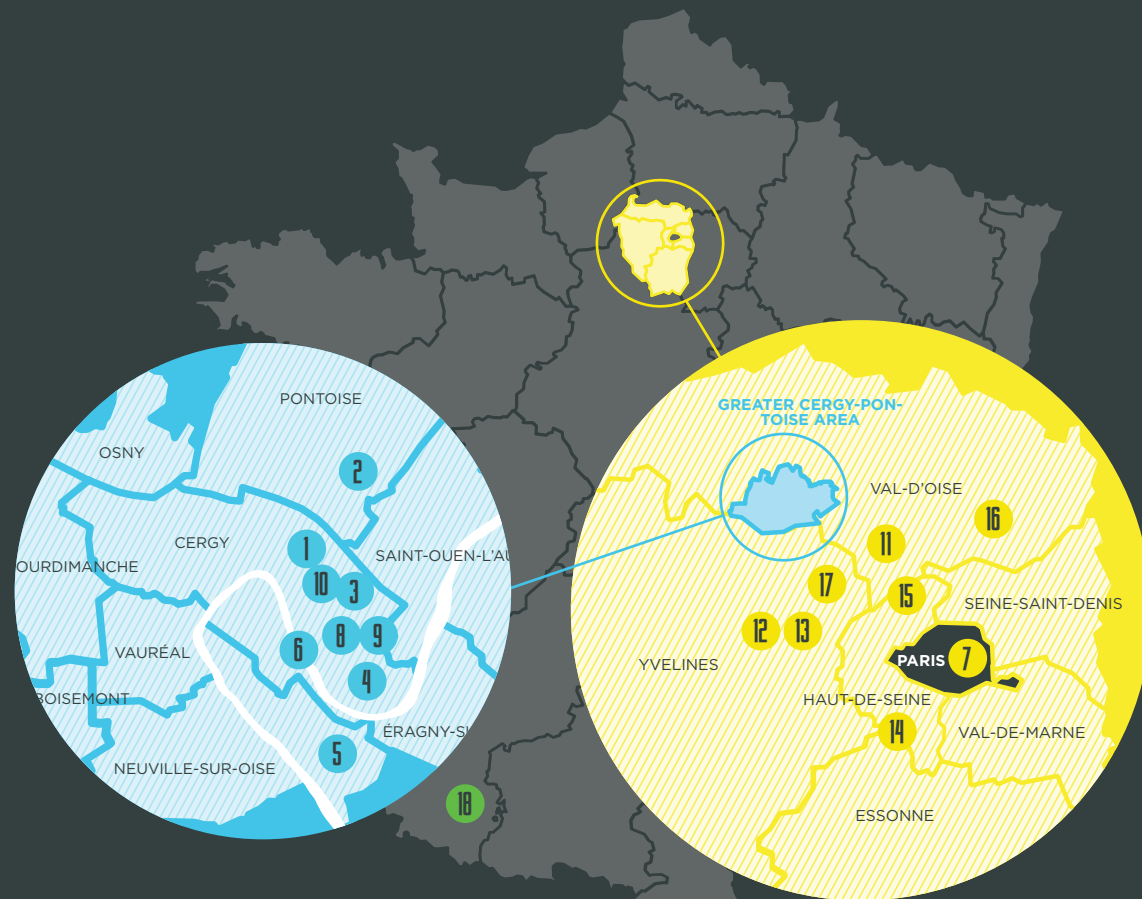
What are the main objectives of this transformation?

One of the main objectives of CY is the reworking of its curricula in order to better target workforce integration and support students from all backgrounds. What this means is developing courses directly related to skills needed in the job market, and facilitating access to curricula leading to professional certification starting at the undergraduate level.

At the same time, CY Cergy Paris Université is investing in cutting-edge research, especially in future-proof fields such as health. With the recent creation of a healthcare federation in early 2025, the university has established its position in cross-disciplinary research, particularly for artificial intelligence and its applications in various sectors.

Why is the transformation into a *grand établissement* so crucial?

Reorganizing into a *grand établissement*, or large university cluster, is an essential part of the CY project. This new status illustrates the agility and experimental spirit of CY Cergy Paris Université, opening up new possibilities for the university's internationalization and influence. It is more than a simple name change. This transformation endows CY Cergy Paris Université with the means to tackle modern-day challenges while remaining faithful to local students and the local area's needs.



Our campuses

IN CARRYING OUT ITS MISSIONS, CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ SEEKS TO LIVE IN SYMBIOSIS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

The university has 18 sites stretching from Cergy-Pontoise to Gennevilliers, Sarcelles, Versailles, Antony, and Pau. It aims to use this network to support the local area's development, beyond Paris, and to meet labor market and training needs thanks to its strong local partnerships.

1 Chênes site
Cergy

2 Saint-Martin site
Pontoise

3 Cerclades University Library
Cergy

4 Bernard Hirsch site
Cergy

5 Neuville site
Neuville-sur-Oise

6 Parc site
Cergy

7 8 EPSS sites
Paris Cergy

9 ILEPS site
Cergy

10 La Turbine
Cergy

11 Argenteuil site
Argenteuil

12 Saint-Germain-en-Laye site
Saint-Germain-en-Laye

13 iXcampus site
Saint-Germain-en-Laye

14 Antony site
Antony

15 Gennevilliers site
Gennevilliers

16 Sarcelles site
Sarcelles

17 Versailles site
Versailles

18 Pau site
Pau





Our community

Employment at CY Cergy Paris Université: striving for transformation and innovation

CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION IN ACADEMIA. WITH RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND SOCIOECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS, THE UNIVERSITY OFFERS AN EXCITING PLACE TO WORK WHERE ADAPTABILITY AND DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS ARE PRIZED.

Working at CY Cergy Paris Université means becoming part of an educational endeavor that brings together research, teaching, and partnerships with the socioeconomic world. Since its creation, the university has established itself as a dynamic workplace within the French university landscape, offering its 2,200 employees a setting in which adaptability and diverse professional backgrounds are prioritized. CY, which has embraced contract personnel to meet its growing needs, has a unique public-private partnership structure.

This structure, which goes hand in hand with agile management of human resources, inspires the university to innovate in order to attract and retain talent. With close to half of its employees hired as contract personnel, the institution is reflecting on its practices in terms of career expectations and remuneration, while emphasizing internal mobility. Within a decade, CY Cergy Paris Université grew from 14,000 to 26,000 students. It has kept pace with this growth by adapting and diversifying its workforce—teachers, researchers, and administrative staff alike.

This evolution is part of a larger regional dynamic enriched by partnerships with companies such as Renault, Safran, and the SNCF. Thanks to its multitude of sites and strategic alliances, CY Cergy Paris Université benefits from synergies with the private sector and continues to expand its collaborations in technical fields from transport to cybersecurity.

In parallel, new internal structures have been created: CY Tech, the engineering school within the graduate school, a product of CY's integration with engineering school EISTI; the design school; and CY Forensic, specialized in investigative sciences. These new initiatives show the university's desire to diversify its academic offerings and meet labor market needs. With a model that combines professional training, academic education and continuing professional development, CY Cergy Paris Université stakes its claim as an innovative institution that draws strength from its many public-private partnerships, enabling its community to thrive in a changing environment.



Valérie Mignot

INGÉNIEUR D'ÉTUDES,
IUT DE CERGY-PONTOISE

"The university is well-structured, which makes roles and responsibilities clear. Site-specific committees have been created to improve daily life for staff and users, which shows CY's openness to feedback and desire for progress."

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ

↗ Structural projects

More than 10 years of institutional transformations, integrating contract personnel and fostering public-private partnerships

↗ Diverse workforce

2,200 employees, 51% of whom are contract workers

↗ Careers and mobility

Salary reevaluation plan and career guidance

↗ Partnerships

Collaboration with leading companies (SNCF, Safran, Renault) and strong local connections

↗ Continuing professional development

Creation of an apprentice training center in 2020 and expanded apprenticeship offerings



Questions for Sara Biancini

VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ

EMPLOYER ATTRACTIVENESS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE BALANCE: SARA BIANCINI EXPLAINS THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIES FOR ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TALENT IN KEY FIELDS.

What are the greatest human resources challenges for the university?

CY Cergy Paris Université's rapid growth has greatly changed the composition of its workforce, which now features an increasing number of contract personnel dedicated to numerous training and research projects. Now, the institution must ensure that these new profiles have attractive career prospects and a framework for advancement, comparable to those of the permanent employees. To this end, the university has introduced new mechanisms for salary reevaluation and bonuses, all while honoring the different statuses of staff members contributing to the institution's missions.

How does the university strike a balance between public and private?

By adopting a unique hybrid operating model, CY Cergy Paris Université benefits from the flexibility of the private sector and the rigor of the public sector. The university is therefore able to offer a plethora of professional opportunities while attracting talent in crucial fields such as cybersecurity



© Jean-Michel Durasse

and artificial intelligence. Over time, the university would like to strengthen internal training and mobility pathways to give employees more options for their professional journeys.

What message would you like to send to future job candidates?

CY Cergy Paris Université sets itself apart with its capacity to offer enriching career opportunities and projects that combine academic excellence, inclusion, professional training, and international openness. Joining CY Cergy Paris Université means joining a community that values diverse skills and welcomes active participation in the creation of a forward-looking university.



Sylvie Mazaleyrat

HEAD OF COMPANY PARTNERSHIPS

"For me, our university's transformation has felt very natural. It has always been innovative. The CY Cergy Paris Université project has given us a boost: we're more visible now. We're no longer just a university. We're more than that."

3



Questions for Yassine Benyettou

STUDENT VICE PRESIDENT OF CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ 2022–2025
PRESIDENT OF CY ALLIANCE STUDENT GOVERNMENT 2024–2025

A SENSE OF BELONGING, ACCESS TO SERVICES, AND LOCAL INVOLVEMENT: YASSINE BENYETTOU SHARES HIS VISION FOR A UNIFIED, DYNAMIZED STUDENT BODY WITHIN A GROWING UNIVERSITY NETWORK.

What does the university's change in scale mean for the students that you represent?

Our student community is spread out over many sites, some of which are far-flung. The university's change in scale should not distance students further from each other, but strengthen the sense of belonging to a whole. That's also the role of the student government—helping all of these students meet each other.

At the beginning of 2024, CY Cergy Paris Université created a student government. What does this body do?

As previously mentioned, the main role of the student government is to strengthen a feeling of belonging among students at the same institution or in the same field. To do so, the student government brings together representatives from different sites and units, as well as representatives from other universities in the CY Alliance. Our first project is to establish

menstrual leave for students, as UPEC and University of Angers have done. We hope to expand this progressive measure to the entire CY Alliance.

What are the advantages of student life at CY Cergy Paris Université?

The Cergy-Pontoise area is young and dynamic with a large student population. Our university's main location is just a few minutes from the train station and is open to the city, like most of the other sites, which enables us to really feel like part of the community. At CY Cergy Paris Université, student life is coordinated by an enthusiastic department that understands the geographic realities of our university and is attentive to all sites, even those that are the farthest away. The development of student life in tandem with the other institutions in the CY Alliance is very important to the university, and this is expressed through the student government.



Hicham Sayed

ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE STUDENT

"When I arrived at CY Cergy Paris Université, the first thing that struck me was the size of the university. Most of my classes are at the two Chênes sites, which are nice and well-equipped. There's also a big building with several offices, the student center (which is a great place to hang out), and the athletics complex. With all of the student clubs and events like Campus Day, there's always something to discover or share."



Peggy Blin-Cordon

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE

"Student life encompasses healthcare services, support for students with disabilities, culture, sports, and student clubs. It also provides opportunities to acquire extracurricular skills like budgeting and teamwork."



Thuy-Mai Nguyen

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE

"The creation of a Student Life Vice President position sends a strong signal: that student life is a priority at CY and that it is in students' and employees' best interest to give it structure, coordination, and guidance."

Student life at CY Cergy Paris Université: balancing independence and support

CY students can count on the Student Life office for support with their living and studying conditions, wherever their classes are based.

CY's support is both practical and tangible. To assist students in difficulty, the university has set up financial aid, accessible healthcare services available throughout the university network, and support schemes for students with disabilities.

CY invests in student life and areas to meet up, work in groups, and relax, thanks to funding from the Campus and Student Life Budget. The Physical Education and Sports Center contributes to CY's balance between study and extracurricular life.

Close to 50 different disciplines are on offer, from team sports to well-being activities, for occasional practitioners all the way to high-level athletes. These offerings are hosted

in the university's own facilities and through partnerships with local sports clubs.

Students can also participate in cultural events organized by the Culture Office, or by joining one of CY's 90 student clubs. The university encourages student initiatives through a variety of aid mechanisms that help projects come to fruition. Citizen initiatives and participation in clubs and associations are more than valued—they are sometimes integrated into curricula, strengthening students' sense of belonging within the university community.

Student life is based on independence, responsibility, and active involvement. At the intersection of academic innovation and social involvement, the university seeks to make its students trailblazers of their own educational journeys and student experience, sowing the seeds for professional success later on.



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CY Alliance: a shared ambition

2020 marked the beginnings of the CY Alliance. This new alliance brings together Université de Cergy-Pontoise, EISTI, and the Paris-Seine COMUE that was formed in 2021. ILEPS and EPSS then joined CY Cergy Paris Université as components of this university. This alliance of skills and resources is the cornerstone of a new model for higher education, designed to meet contemporary needs.

CY Alliance, led by CY Cergy Paris Université and its member institutions, has clear ambitions: encouraging collaboration, cross-pollinating knowledge, and launching fruitful public-private partnerships that serve our society's transformations. Our objective is to promote inclusion and share knowledge as widely as possible, since we believe that education should be accessible and beneficial to all.

With more than 42,000 students, CY Alliance has the necessary scale for its strengths to be visible throughout France and internationally. Our locations across northwest Île-de-France allow us to connect with many different local businesses and institutions, creating a strong network and a wealth of valuable partnerships.

A campus with deep local roots

CY Alliance now includes twelve higher education and research establishments, both public and private, in northwest Île-de-France. Its presence is especially strong in Cergy-Pontoise, home to 80% of its students and 90% of its research activity. Within CY Alliance is CY Cergy Paris Université, founded on a singular vision: a diversified university

open to society and with international impact. Its mission is to prepare current and future generations to understand the world's complexity in a sustainable way through training, education, and research. The motto of CY Cergy Paris Université and CY Alliance is: *Inventez votre vie! Design your life!*

1 CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ

- CY LAW SCHOOL
- CY SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES
- CY LITERATURE AND HUMANITIES
- CY TECH SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING
- CY TECH ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
- CY TECH SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
- CY DESIGN SCHOOL
- CY EPSS
- CY ILEPS
- INSPÉ DE L'ACADÉMIE DE VERSAILLES
- IUT DE CERGY-PONTOISE
- SCIENCES PO SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE

2 EBI, School of Industrial Biology

3 ECAM-EPMI, Grande école for general engineering

4 ENSAPC, Paris Cergy National Graduate School of Art

5 ÉNSA Versailles, École nationale supérieure of architecture in Versailles

6 ENSEA, École nationale supérieure for electronics and applications

7 ENSP, École nationale supérieure for landscape architecture

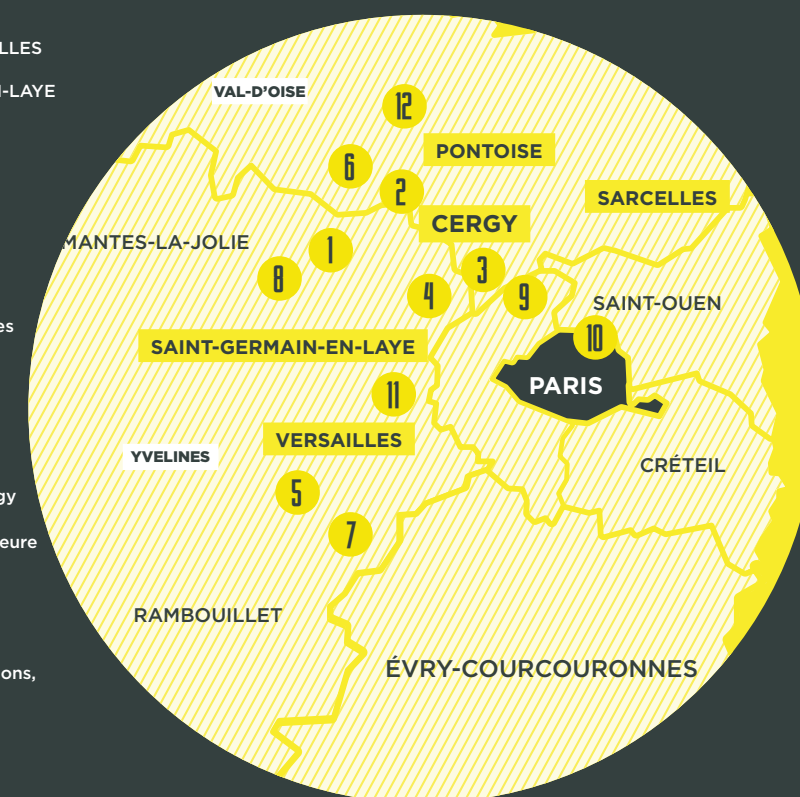
8 ESIEE-IT, School for digital technology

9 ESSEC Business School, École supérieure for economics and business studies

10 ISAE-Supméca, Institut supérieur for mechanical engineering in Paris

11 ISIPCA, School for fragrance professions, cosmetics, and flavors

12 SUP de V, École supérieure for sales and management





Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi

DEAN AND PRESIDENT OF ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL

CY Initiative and CY Alliance: joining forces for local community and innovation

CY INITIATIVE, LAUNCHED IN 2023, IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ AND ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL. THE TWO INSTITUTIONS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE ACADEMIC OFFERING AND COMBINE THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH OPENNESS TO THE WIDER WORLD. TOGETHER, THEY DEVELOP MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS AND BUILD SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE.

What is the story behind this partnership between ESSEC and CY Cergy Paris Université?

The relationship between ESSEC and CY Cergy Paris Université, then CY Alliance, is first and foremost grounded in the importance of local community. ESSEC, which was founded in 1907 in Paris, set up a campus in Cergy in 1973 when the commune was not yet very urban, and we have grown together with the area. Today, our school has a presence on three continents: in Europe (France), in Asia (Singapore, since 2005), and in Africa (Morocco, since 2017). Internationality runs in our veins, although strangely, until recently, our academic relationships with the other institutions in Cergy were sporadic and based on one-off collaborations. In France, dialogue can be difficult between *grandes écoles* (especially business schools) and public universities. This alliance therefore marks a real step forward. CY Alliance relies on a vision shared by its higher education institutions. Here we find people who know what they want for the future, who share the same convictions, and who are open to interdisciplinarity.

What are the strengths of this shared ambition?

Our alliance relies on three fundamental principles that are essential in the modern world. First, cross-disciplinarity. Today, complex challenges like climate change cannot be addressed through a single lens. We need a global perspective informed by engineers, economists, sociologists, and political science experts. The alliance breaks down borders between disciplines and paves the way for a holistic, inclusive approach. Next, international visibility: isolated schools are easily lost from sight on the international scene. We could not have the same influence without this inter-institutional cooperation, like the Université de Paris-Saclay, which has made its mark as an exemplar for collective excellence. CY Alliance follows this same direction, combining individual excellence and synergies. This union is a major asset for attracting the best talent and accessing the funding necessary for research and teaching. Finally, local impact, which is a key part of our shared commitment. CY Alliance goes beyond academic exchanges to align with the movement providing support for regional development. Our

wish is not only to promote innovation but also to make a real impact by transferring knowledge and technology to society.

What concrete projects have you accomplished together?

The first concrete symbol of this collaboration is our cross-disciplinary *Bachelor Act*, which was co-signed by ESSEC and CY and approved unanimously by our respective bodies. This degree exemplifies our desire to provide students with diversified training that prepares them to meet contemporary challenges. In addition, we have strengthened our relationships with other local schools such as ISIPCA, which specializes in fragrance professions, to develop shared programs and deepen connections add period after The 2023 opening of the Sports & Recreation Center on one of our academic campuses is another example of this shared vision. This athletic complex is meant to serve the educational community in our local area and offer accessible spaces for young people and students.

What are the benefits of CY Alliance for students, teachers, and staff?

This alliance offers students an education that opens their eyes to complementary disciplines, which is essential for grasping the complexity of modern-day challenges. As for teachers, they will discover heightened support for research and a stimulating environment that fosters cross-disciplinary thinking and has been attracting

more and more high-level researchers to Cergy. For staff, the alliance with CY Cergy Paris Université means new opportunities and better infrastructure, supported by increased funding for innovative projects.

How is ESSEC investing in the local area's development?

In parallel with this alliance, ESSEC is pursuing its commitments to several social entrepreneurship initiatives in the area. One is La Turbine, an incubator that supports local start-ups. Moreover, ESSEC Ventures and Antropia ESSEC work to promote responsible entrepreneurship that is open to society by fostering impactful projects. These commitments are formalized in a local charter, which demonstrates our social responsibility. ESSEC also collaborates with the Val d'Oise department and the Île-de-France region. They co-finance certain initiatives while we invest in our real estate to adapt our infrastructure to the expectations of our learning community.

How does the CY Initiative program intersect with the other local programs?

CY Initiative is an academic scheme bringing institutions together around a shared vision for higher education and research in the local area. This is the very foundation of our collaboration since it unites our strengths and expertise. Then, CY Generations, a program targeting the newer generations, aims to guide them successfully through education and training designed to reflect the needs of the future. Finally, CY Alliance provides the institutional framework. It is the entity that enables us to pool resources and move forward together by creating interdisciplinary responses to pressing societal and economic issues.

What does the future hold for CY Alliance?

Our ambition is to strengthen interdisciplinarity by creating touchpoints between our respective disciplines while honoring the specificities of each one. Of course, encouraging cooperation between universities and *grandes écoles* can be challenging in France due to their differing traditions. But thanks to our shared vision, we can overcome these hurdles. For the future, it will be essential to work together and make CY Alliance a model for innovation—not just for academic research, but also for direct, tangible impact on the local area.

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Our mission

Education at CY Cergy Paris Université: a focus on innovation and career preparation

DRIVEN BY ITS DETERMINATION TO REFRESH COURSE OFFERINGS AND GUIDE STUDENTS TO SUCCESS, CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ STANDS APART FOR ITS INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION. HERE, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IS INTERTWINED WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY TIES AND AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK.

At its creation in 2020, CY Cergy Paris Université vowed to transform its entire course catalog. Led by CY Sup, its undergraduate component, the university has added more support for students through their initial orientation and re-orientation choices. Bruno Fiorio, deputy vice president for undergraduate education and director of CY Sup, emphasizes the importance of this initiative: *"We must first address the challenge of successful completion of undergraduate studies, as the dropout rate remains significant. We are doing so by providing stronger support mechanisms to guide students from the day they arrive at the university."*

The institution now offers educational journeys customizable to students' diverse profiles, making the most of crossovers between different courses of study. Undergraduate degrees are flexible enough for students to change direction during their studies, an advantage that few higher education institutions offer in France. Through reorientation forums and specific modules for students in difficulty, CY Cergy Paris Université offers a second chance to those who may be facing academic obstacles. *"One-third of students abandon their undergraduate studies after the first year. Our goal is to set them up for success by offering clear options for reorientation that match their interests,"* explained Bruno Fiorio.

CAREER PREPARATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION, TWO KEY PILLARS

One of CY Cergy Paris Université's hallmarks is its strong emphasis on professional growth. The university boasts many partnerships with businesses and excellent apprenticeship offerings, which means its apprentice population is one of the largest among French institutions. *"Career preparation is a key part of our educational project. We work hand in hand with the business world to ready our students for their future careers,"* added Laurent Gatineau, the university president.



Bruno Fiorio

DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

"At CY Sup, our job is to support students as soon as they begin their undergrad degree, with special attention to their orientation and possible future reorientation. We want every path to lead to success. For students who encounter difficulties, we offer solutions and ways to bridge gaps."



Fabrice Goubard

DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

"Career preparation and international openness are key parts of our mission. With the skills-based approach, we show students real-world applications of each class subject, which helps them learn and succeed. Our international partnerships strengthen this vision by expanding the possibilities at their fingertips."



Oriane Simonet

MASTER'S STUDENT IN EDUCATION

"There were 18 students in my undergraduate major (Foreign and Regional Languages, Literatures and Cultures), which meant that we could really get to know our professors. They made themselves available and were very responsive. I didn't even need to seek out tutoring because I already had so much support."

In parallel, CY Cergy Paris Université has developed international bachelor's degrees in collaboration with partner universities in Cameroon, Vietnam, and the United States (soon to include Arizona State University). These degrees, which attract a diverse range of students, illustrate the institution's international mindset. Fabrice Goubard, vice president for education, specifies: *"Our ambition is to become a prominent institution in the francophone world and offer our students a truly international experience. Our specialized master's degrees, like the one in cultural heritage in Venice, are a fine example."*

THE SKILLS-BASED APPROACH: A NEW WAY TO TEACH AND LEARN

CY Cergy Paris Université has chosen to adopt a skills-based approach, an innovative educational method that encourages broadening one's gaze beyond traditional course topics to evaluate students' transversal skills. *"We ask teachers to break down their discipline into a set of skills to acquire. These skills are as useful for study as they are for employment,"* explains Bruno Fiorio. This approach enables students to make use of their strengths and expertise and better identify the key skills that employers are looking for.

For teachers, this approach encourages increased coordination between departments and collective reflection on the skills targeted. By revealing the connections between subjects of study, the university helps students understand why they are studying a given subject and, consequently, helps them take greater ownership of their educational journeys, putting success squarely within reach.

A UNIVERSITY IN STEP WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Aside from its academic offerings, CY Cergy Paris Université sets itself apart with its strong commitment to the local community. The university is a significant actor in the region's development, firstly through its network of sites around Île-de-France, and secondly through CY Alliance, which connects several partner establishments. Through these collaborations, students can be onboarded as early as high school, with tailored support to guide them toward profession-specific undergraduate degrees and BUTs (technical diplomas) offered by members of the alliance.

In a context in which undergraduate success has become a national priority, CY Cergy Paris Université asserts itself as a model to emulate. By redesigning its course offerings, strengthening its local ties, and developing its international network, the university proves itself fit to address contemporary challenges in higher education. Its unique approach is designed to help each student find their niche, whatever their initial path may be.



Questions for Pierre-Louis Fort

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE,
DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GREATER CROSS-DISCIPLINARITY, HEIGHTENED VISIBILITY, AND BETTER CAREER PREPARATION: THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES TRACKS AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY TO ADAPT AND DIALOGUE WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES TO RISE TO CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES.

How has the creation of CY Cergy Paris Université changed the humanities and social sciences (HSS) tracks?
The creation of CY Cergy Paris Université helped strengthen the HSS component through better coordination of the courses offered (with CY Sup, for example) and through better integration of the humanities into cross-cutting, interdisciplinary projects. The research laboratories' visibility has increased.

What interdisciplinary connections have formed since CY's creation?
Interdisciplinarity has developed both on the education side and the research side. The HSS departments implemented a common core (courses offered to all students, no matter what their field of study is) and researchers developed research projects for teams sourced from different laboratories. Other cross-cutting initiatives at another scale are being developed now, and will potentially be deployed.

CY Cergy Paris Université is motivated by career preparation, success, inclusion, and current

transitions. How do these themes show up within HSS?

Our students' success is, of course our number-one priority. We want to ensure that every student can be their best self and give their best effort. But the other themes are also central to our concerns. Transitions are part and parcel of many subjects of study, and they are important on their own merits as well. Take the example of the collectively created and often cross-disciplinary course modules, such as the one on the ecological transition and sustainable development. Inclusion has been an important topic within HSS for many years now. Particular attention is given to accessibility for people with disabilities; we now have designated disability advocates who ensure that these students can study under optimal conditions. In the same vein, I would like to add that we are very attentive to equality and respect for all. Finally, career preparation has been part of HSS since 2001, when the professional degree in passenger transport was created, along with apprenticeship opportunities. Other work-study opportunities have since been developed within our departments.

Components and partners of CY Cergy Paris Université: multidisciplinary that serves innovation and success

A CLOSER LOOK AT INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ'S LAW SCHOOL

The law school at CY Cergy Paris Université stands out for its dynamic, innovative approach to learning. For several years now, it has been offering curricula covering a wide range of legal fields and leading to excellent career opportunities, while remaining a pioneer in key domains.

WORK-STUDY AND CAREER PREPARATION

The CY law school was one of the first to offer work-study programs when it launched its master's in local government law and in law and business ethics over 17 years ago. Our model combines classroom learning with real professional experience, familiarizing students with the profession and facilitating their transition into their first job afterward. Now, the school's offerings have expanded with master's degrees including apprenticeships in business law, health law, public interest litigation, and other high-demand specializations. The CY Cergy Paris Université law school is one of the eleven French schools offering a *diplôme de juriste-conseil d'entreprise* (specialized master's in business law), a degree recognized for its excellent career opportunities.

HONORS TRACK AND NEW SUBJECTS

To promote academic excellence, the law school created an honors college, a selective track that recruits the best students and provides them with in-depth education focused on reflection and analysis. Furthermore, the law school has begun offering double degrees in law and economics and in foreign law in order to diversify students' skills and meet the growing need for multidisciplinary training.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

The law school has strengthened its continuing professional development suite with the foundations for DUs (specialized degrees) in urban planning, *laïcité* and other principles of the French republic, and local public finance. These degrees are meant for professionals as well as for students who want to expand their field of knowledge. At the same time, the law school is working on cultivating international relationships with a network of 70 partner institutions abroad. It also hosts international students thanks to programs like the LLM (international master's) in private law, which is taught in English and attracts candidates from around the world.



Nelly Ferreira
DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL

"We are a young and vibrant university with resources that grant us the agility to launch innovative projects, like double degrees and career preparation."



Sébastien Le Tacon

DIRECTOR OF CY GASTRONOMIE

CY GASTRONOMIE HÔTELLERIE IS SPEARHEADING A NEW TYPE OF CAREER PREPARATION AND INNOVATION WITHIN CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ. THANKS TO CROSS-CUTTING COLLABORATION AND STRONG TIES TO THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD, THIS COMPONENT OF CY EMBODIES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, INCLUSION, AND INTEGRATION OF TRANSITIONS TO RESPOND TO THE SECTOR'S NEEDS.

How has the creation of CY Cergy Paris Université changed CY Gastronomie Hôtellerie, its visibility, and its career prospects?

The creation of CY Cergy Paris Université brought together three tracks—the culinary arts and *arts de la table* diploma, the hospitality diploma, and the master's in management of catering and international hospitality services—and gave them a clear identity within France and internationally. Thanks to collaboration between the teaching and communication teams, the visibility and attractiveness of CY Gastronomie Hôtellerie have increased. This dynamic even led to the opening of a teaching restaurant at the Gennevilliers university site. The restaurant features four distinct concepts: traditional French cuisine for first-year students, bistro-style cuisine for second-year students, themed semi-gastronomic cuisine for third-year students, and a high-end event catering service for institutional and private clients. Open houses and two annual job fairs have strengthened connections with industry professionals and helped present career opportunities to students. Furthermore, the creation of the Pass Sup Gastro, in collaboration with Campus Versailles, has made it easier for young people with technical degrees to gain entry to university.

What connections and collaborations have been set up to enrich students' skills and introduce them to the professional world?

Since its creation, CY Gastronomie Hôtellerie has been involved in a number of exciting partnerships, such as one with the Gennevilliers Food Lab, where students design wood

and metal decorations for their events and restaurant decor. The school also partners with Campus Versailles for the "Dinner at the château" project, which has brought together teams from Italy, Latvia, and France to prepare haute cuisine events in exceptional places such as the Château de Versailles. Another project, focusing on reducing long-term unemployment, involved fourth-year students from the CY Design School and master's students. They worked together to explore new forms of hospitality in HoReCa, innovating and discussing the current state of the sector.

How are the guiding principles of CY Cergy Paris Université (career preparation, success, inclusion, and transitions) reflected within CY Gastronomie Hôtellerie?

During their first year, students learn about career opportunities through apprenticeships and guest speakers. More than 90% of our students obtain a diploma and find a stable job within a few months, proof of our model's utility. Inclusion is also very important. Our courses are financially accessible and welcome many students from professional high schools, allowing them to continue their studies up to the bac+5 (master's) level. The ecological and digital transitions are central to their education, approached via sustainable food, eco-friendly hospitality, waste management, local/seasonal food procurement, composting for the university vegetable garden, etc. Students also learn how to use technology like management systems, customer relationship management applications, and digital marketing tools in order to stay abreast of current and future practices in the sector.



Questions for Céline Braconnier

DIRECTOR OF SCIENCES PO SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE

FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, SCIENCES PO SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE HAS BEEN FORGING A REPUTATION AS AN INNOVATIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY THAT UPHOLDS OPENNESS AND INCLUSION. CÉLINE BRACONNIER, DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY UNTIL 2024, SPEAKS ABOUT THE GOALS AND CHALLENGES THAT HAVE SHAPED THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND POLITICAL STUDIES INSTITUTE.

What inspired the creation of Sciences Po Saint-Germain-en-Laye ten years ago?

We wanted to found a public *grande école*, open to all, for university-level studies. Our ambition was to teach critical thinking and responsibility through multidisciplinary studies in social sciences. We managed to do so despite a difficult budgetary context thanks to solid support from local partners like the city of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and the Yvelines department.

What challenges did you face when establishing the school?

One of the main challenges was finding a way for two universities, CY Cergy Paris Université and Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-

Yvelines, to collaborate on this joint project despite the fact that the university frameworks were not well set up for it. What's more, we needed to gain acceptance into the Sciences Po network and build our school off the foundation of these two universities while human resources were limited.

What are the school's values?

We value an equal playing field, a policy of anti-discrimination, and freedom of expression in an environment of mutual respect. We work actively to prevent violence and we encourage our students' involvement in local middle schoolers' and high schoolers' academic success, notably through our Cordées de la réussite mentoring program.



Questions for Dominique Sciamma

DIRECTOR OF CY DESIGN SCHOOL

IN 2020, CY DESIGN SCHOOL WAS CREATED. IT IS PART OF CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ AND FALLS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF CY TECH, THE UNIVERSITY'S GRANDE ÉCOLE FOR ENGINEERS. THIS UNIQUE INITIATIVE AIMS TO TRAIN DESIGNERS WHO CAN TACKLE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES WITH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH.

Not only does the school propose a new educational approach, it wants to rework the entire profession. What differentiates a CY Design School alumnus from a designer who went to another school?

The designers we train are multi-skilled. They can approach any issue in a systematic way, moving smoothly from the initial elements of information to a decision. We want to train designers who will be seen as equal to engineers or managers and who will claim their seat at the table. To do so, we give them the general knowledge that they need. They learn about artistic techniques, manufacturing, humanities and social sciences, and organizational behavior; and they contribute to many projects (twenty of them!) all with real-world partners (companies, local government, institutions, and more). Our focus on academic excellence and career preparation enables them to make an impact on people's lives and communities. In sum, I would say that we want them to become "political animals," in Aristotle's words.

How can you form a community while being dispersed across a variety of partner sites, including CY Tech?

We live by the university's slogan: "Design your life!" Who better than a design school to embody this promise and, better yet, fulfill it? Design is a culture, a collaborative process, and of course a multidisciplinary one. Cross-disciplinarity is the only possible approach, and design is the glue that sticks it all together. Beyond words, beyond

declarations, we have proof. First of all, there are the two double degrees that we set up with CY Tech: the Engineer—Digital Designer degree (six years) and the Economics, Management, and Innovation through Design degree (three years). Then, there are the 25 interdisciplinary projects that we have carried out with other components of CY Cergy Paris Université and CY Alliance schools and partners (ESSEC, ENSA Versailles, ENSP, IUT de Cergy-Pontoise, ENSAPC, Cerema, Campus de la Transition, EBI, Master MISE, etc.).

The CY Design School slogan is "For life." How does this promise show up in the classroom? We are living things within a living environment. We depend on it and it depends on us. We need to know more about the life around us and better identify our responsibilities and duties to it. This determination shows up in our general knowledge classes on "Culture of Living Things," "Culture of Care," and "Culture of Complexity," as well as in humanities and social sciences classes: philosophy, ethnography, semiology, and political science. But it is mostly through our annual projects that we keep our promise! Their inspiration always aligns with the school's stance; these are responsible projects for societal, social, environmental, and ecological issues. These projects are the beating heart of the school. They illustrate our vision as they guide our students toward their future careers as designers who make a difference.

CY Forensic School: innovative training in forensic science

THE FIRST FRENCH SCHOOL SPECIALIZED IN CRIME-SOLVING, CY FORENSIC SCHOOL WAS BORN FROM THE CLOSE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ AND THE FORENSICS DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (PJGN). THE SCHOOL OFFERS A UNIQUE SET OF FORENSICS COURSES.

When the PJGN moved to Cergy-Pontoise in 2015, it sparked the idea to build a school dedicated to forensics. Discussions between the university and the PJGN quickly led to the creation of dedicated courses, including several DUs (specialized degrees) in forensics, document analysis, and coordination of forensic operations. CY Forensic School's strength lies in its multidisciplinary approach. Its courses touch on many scientific fields such as chemistry, biology, and physics—but also on law, computer science, and humanities. This diversity gives students an excellent overview of what modern forensics entails.

CY Forensic School prides itself on the skills and knowledge of its professors, researchers, and doctoral students, as well as its 24 research laboratories, including ten CNRS joint research units. This interdisciplinary collaboration enriches both education and research.

THE POWER OF MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

CY Forensic School offers several ways to learn, from DUs to bachelor's degrees to continuing professional development. One of the school's strong points is its double degree offering: for example, students can opt to work toward a *licence* in life sciences and a DU in forensics at the same time. Or, they can obtain a *licence* in biology with a concentration in forensics over three years. And finally, the master's in cellular and molecular biology of the microenvironment can be combined with a forensics specialization. These double degrees give students a solid foundation of knowledge in basic sciences while training them specifically for forensics, increasing their employability and expertise.

With the creation of CY Forensic School, CY Cergy Paris Université consolidates its position as a major player in forensics education and research in France. The school aims to become an internationally recognized hub for excellence in this growing field.



© CY Cergy Paris Université



François Daoust

DIRECTOR OF CY FORENSIC SCHOOL

"We are proud to have created a school dedicated to forensics in France. This is a watershed moment for the future experts who will contribute to justice and public safety."

Research: an agile system useful to society

RESEARCH IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ, WHICH ENCOURAGES INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION. WITH INTERCONNECTED PROJECTS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, NEUROSCIENCE, AND ECOLOGY, THE UNIVERSITY STRIVES TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME.



Iryna Andriyanova
VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

“We’re proud of the scientific research performed by our researchers and professors, and we’re currently working to structure research projects around topics with a strong impact on society. We’re shaping our own research identity.”

With regard to research, the transformation of CY Cergy Paris Université included the launch of the CY Initiative project, structured around the I-Site. The university boasts 1,200 researchers and professors, including more than 600 doctoral students. It emphasizes excellence in research (basic and applied) and the importance of collaborative research. The connections developed over recent years have led to the formation of several joint research units in partnership with organizations like the CNRS and Cerema.

CY Cergy Paris Université has historically had four main research themes. The first, Modeling Sciences, has resulted in several prizes and honors. Notably, the European Research Council awarded two grants to CY Cergy Paris Université in 2024. The second theme, Heritage and Materials Sciences, led to the creation of the Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine and the unique project-based doctorate in the field of Heritage and Creation. The third theme, Education Sciences, is structured around INSPE, with research topics related to young people, education, and learning. Finally, research on Security, Risks, and Territory is performed in close collaboration with the Institut de recherche criminelle de la gendarmerie nationale, which positions CY as a leader on this subject in France.

One of the major advantages of CY Cergy Paris Université is its agility. With these four long-standing research themes, the university can respond to contemporary challenges involving technology or society by launching high-impact interdisciplinary projects, especially in health and artificial intelligence. For example, projects combining artificial intelligence, robotics, neuroscience, and cognitive

psychology seek to better understand human-machine interactions, with practical applications in health domains such as communication with autistic children and the development of learning methods.

CY Cergy Paris Université is also committed to the ecological and social transition. With support from Cerema, the university strives to have a tangible impact on public policies, especially regarding climate, urban planning, and mobility.

Finally, the ties between education and research remain an essential priority. For ten years, CY Cergy Paris Université has been a member of the FIGURE network, which offers master’s degrees in engineering. Although the landscape is changing, the university continues to integrate research into its degrees starting in undergrad, and offers enriching research options up through the doctoral level. In sum, our university is blazing an ambitious and innovative path, both locally and globally, in order to serve research, education, and society.



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Our main research themes

- Modeling Sciences, for which CY has received several prizes and honors, including two European Research Council grants in 2024
- Heritage and Materials Sciences, which led to the creation of the Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine and the unique project-based doctorate in the field of Heritage and Creation
- Education Sciences, structured around INSPE (the national institute for teaching and education sciences), with research subjects related to young people, education, and learning
- Security, Risks, and Territory: studied in close collaboration with the Institut de recherche criminelle de la gendarmerie nationale, which positions CY as a leader on this subject in France

27
RESEARCH
LABORATORIES

+550
RESEARCHERS
AND TEACHER-
RESEARCHERS
INVOLVED

624
DOCTORAL
STUDENTS
ENROLLED
IN 2024

45
MAJOR INDUSTRY
PARTNERS

ABOUT
1000
INTERNATIONAL-
LEVEL PUBLICATIONS
EACH YEAR

+12
DE
MILLION
EUROS IN ITS ANNUAL
RESEARCH BUDGET

3
“EXCELLENCE
CHAIRS”
PRIZEWINNERS
CY INITIATIVE

9
JUNIOR
PROFESSORSHIPS

Our research laboratories

CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ DISTINGUISHES ITSELF NOT ONLY THROUGH ITS INNOVATIVE CURRICULA, BUT ALSO THROUGH THE VITALITY AND DIVERSITY OF ITS RESEARCH LABORATORIES.

Aclaimed for its ability to partner with academic, industry, and local governmental entities, CY has established itself as a go-to institution in several strategic fields. With more than 25 laboratories covering a wide range of disciplines, from the hard sciences to humanities and social

sciences, CY Cergy Paris Université strives to develop its pedagogy through research and to tackle the major societal challenges of the future. The university holds firm to its ambition to remain at the cutting edge of multidisciplinary and partnered research, in step with contemporary challenges.

A closer look at three research laboratories

AGORA

Multidisciplinary research laboratory for humanities and social sciences

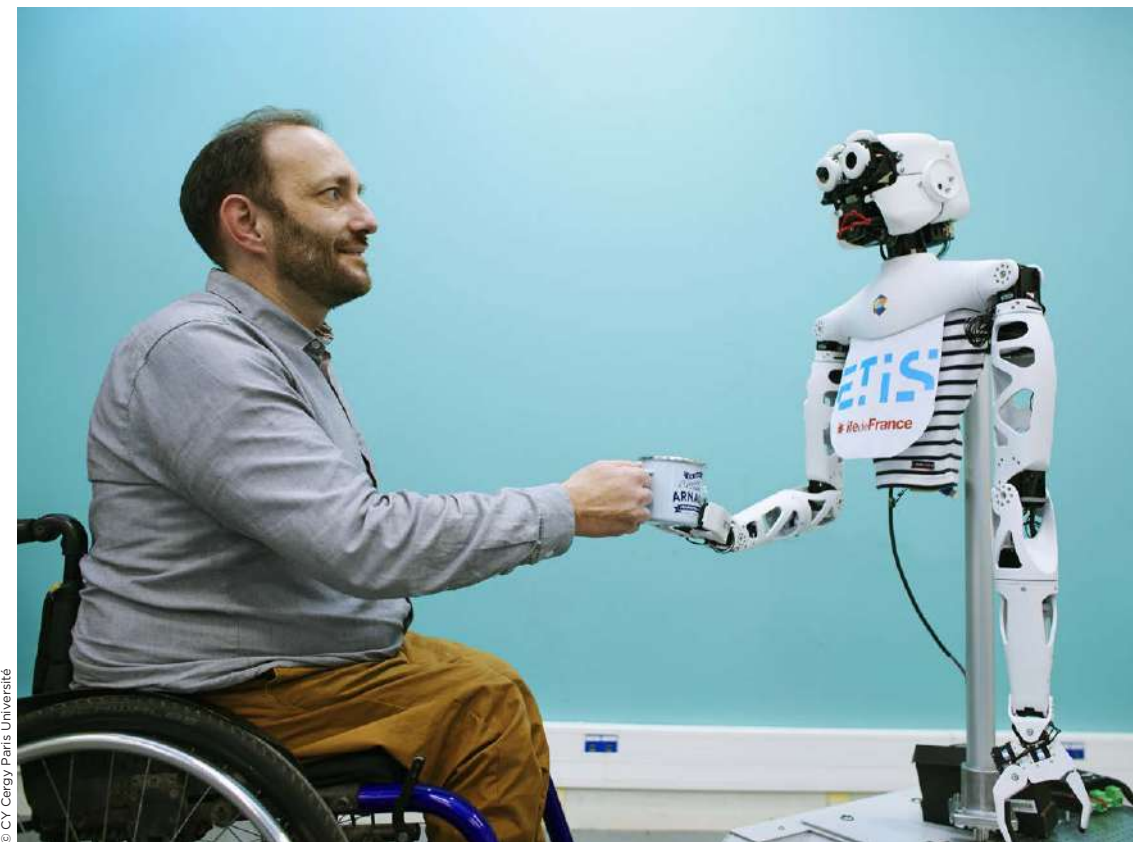
AGORA is a multidisciplinary research center for humanities and social sciences. Here, researchers analyze changes in contemporary societies, especially in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, with a historical, political, sociological, and linguistic lens. They work on politics, which they approach through the study of political ideas, political practices, economic issues, power, citizenship, international relations, social movements, identity, gender, public engagement, and the emergence of digital humanities. AGORA considers society's pressing topics from an inter- and multidisciplinary point of view. These topics include the evolving European and international political environment; the ways in which political ideas and practices shape political life and society; institutions' and organizations' influence on decision-making; and the way in which digital technology (mainly artificial intelligence and social media) initiate or are linked to these changes. The laboratory's overarching goal is to develop ways to understand the relationships between new ideas and political, economic, and social changes in all their diversity throughout the world. The idea is for researchers to observe contemporary societies, draw conclusions that help address worldwide challenges, and improve the effectiveness of the solutions proposed.



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ETIS

Information processing and systems

ETIS conducts theoretical and experimental research in the fields of information processing, signals and images, artificial intelligence, and bio-inspired cognitive robotics. Its goal is to develop interactive intelligent systems with the ability to learn and adapt autonomously. The lab's researchers strive to build two key properties into their systems:

- a)** the ability to learn and adapt to complex, dynamic environments with constraints like uncertainty, reliability, security, and confidentiality;
- b)** frugality with regard to environmental impact, energy use, and the impacts of the system's actions and interactions.

This lab is renowned for its contributions to telecommunications, embedded systems, robotics, data science, and artificial intelligence, most of which have focused on challenges related to health and the digital and environmental transitions.

LPPI

Laboratory for the Physics and Chemistry of Polymers and Interfaces

LPPI is gaining prominence as a key actor in polymers research. Its expertise in controlled-architecture polymers, ionic conductive polymers, and electronic conductive polymers has opened the door to long-lasting collaboration with prestigious academic partners and cutting-edge industries in energy, health, and heritage conservation and restoration. Aside from its many international collaborations in Europe, America, and Asia, this laboratory has also joined forces with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa to found an international laboratory studying technological innovation in (bio-) sensors and energy storage.

Graduate schools at CY Cergy Paris Université

SINCE THE LABOR MARKET'S NEEDS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY, THE GRADUATE SCHOOLS ARE FULLY DEDICATED TO TRAINING PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE NOT ONLY COMPETENT, BUT ALSO FLEXIBLE AND INNOVATIVE.

The CY Cergy Paris Université graduate schools encourage healthy competition, mutual learning, and innovation. They combine active pedagogy with international engagement and personalized support to produce an educational environment in step with the 21st century.

A PROJECT-BASED APPROACH

The CY graduate schools go beyond theory alone and espouse a practical, project-based approach. Students are immersed in hands-on situations, often through collaborations with businesses. From the beginning of their studies, they learn to work in teams, develop creative solutions, and manage real-life projects. They receive more than an academic education: they take an active role in preparing for the working world. These experiences help students develop hard and soft skills that will be essential to their future careers.

OPENNESS TO THE WORLD

The CY graduate schools broaden students' horizons with their international network. Partnerships with universities abroad enrich courses of study and encourage the discovery of other cultures and ways of working. These opportunities are priceless in a globalized world.

SUPPORT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

At CY Cergy Paris Université, student support is our priority. Each student has their own unique needs and dreams. This is why the university has a personalized support system. With personal development workshops and guidance counseling, the university aims to set every student on their own path to success. The goal is to create an environment where students flourish both academically and personally.

Student support is not just a response to student needs; it's also a commitment to society at large. CY Cergy Paris Université aspires to become a leader in higher education by educating and training professionals who prefer to set trends rather than merely follow them. This is what makes the student support initiative such a valuable and compelling driver of change for the future.



GRADUATE SCHOOLS



The Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences at CY Cergy Paris Université: a new space for innovation and knowledge sharing

IN SEPTEMBER 2024, CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ INAUGURATED ITS RESEARCH CENTER FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT AIMING TO CREATE A SPACE FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES.

The Annie Ernaux Research Center, in Cergy, is intended to be an intellectual crossroads where researchers and students at all levels can interact, share their points of view, and further their research.

It is more than a simple workspace. The center aspires to become an incubator for innovative initiatives, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and international collaboration. By bringing together experts from many fields—history, sociology, literature, geography, psychology, law, languages, education sciences, and more—it promotes a holistic approach to pressing contemporary issues.

A main objective of this initiative is to strengthen the connections between academic research and society at large. By hosting colloquia, public debates, and scientific and cultural events, the center wishes to break down barriers to knowledge and make the results of research accessible to the public. Against a backdrop of pressing environmental, social, and public health crises, it will focus on of-the-moment topics such as climate change, social inequality, and public policies, all while offering practical and innovative solutions. It will also prioritize the arts, literature, and culture in general. These fields are all essential for a well-informed, inspired, and curious population.

The research center aims to contribute to the training of future researchers and professionals as well. Through programs that offer structure and support, the institution will develop the skills necessary to tackle the challenges of the modern era. Students will have the opportunity to get involved in collaborative research projects.

Annie Ernaux, a writer linked to the city's history, agreed to give her name to this research center that embodies a strong commitment to the values of freedom, knowledge, and emancipation. By bringing together researchers, students, and individuals from civil society, the research center aligns with trends toward collaboration that will enrich knowledge and strengthen the social fabric in Cergy. This elegant and functional building is more than it appears—it is a communal space for knowledge to cross-pollinate and spread in order to better understand the world today and in the future.



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Annie Ernaux

WRITER, 2022 NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE, INAUGURATION SPEECH FOR THE ANNIE ERNAUX RESEARCH CENTER, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

"In a time when universities are subject to attacks and accusations by an anti-intellectualism that does not speak its name, it is good to remember that humanities strive for more freedom and more knowledge. It is this convergence between critical thinking and creation that I see as your reason for choosing my name."

3



Questions for Radjesvarane Alexandre

DIRECTOR OF CY TECH

WHILE CONCRETIZING ITS EDUCATIONAL MODEL AND STRENGTHENING INTERNAL COLLABORATIONS, CY TECH IS INVESTING IN AGILE WAYS OF LEARNING IN TUNE WITH LABOR MARKET NEEDS. RADJESVARANE ALEXANDRE SHARES THE AMBITIONS AND CHALLENGES OF THIS DYNAMIC GRADUATE SCHOOL.

What makes CY Tech different from other educational institutions?

CY Tech positions itself as a *grande école*, offering Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)-accredited engineering degrees (at the CY Tech engineering school), master's degrees, and continuing professional development programs. Through each track, we explore innovative and project-based learning methods.

How does CY Tech see its components interacting in the future?

It is essential to find the commonalities among the diverse communities present at CY Tech. Although we have separate guiding teams for economics/management and science/technology, we aim to encourage interdisciplinary interaction, because that is where the seeds of innovation

are sown. Our aim is to encourage internal collaboration that will lead to more harmonization and effectiveness, and foster the development of a shared identity.

What challenges do you foresee for CY Tech in the next few years?

Transition and innovation, especially in education, are the lifeblood of our strategy. We want to develop course offerings that meet market demands while guaranteeing academic excellence. Two priorities will be attracting companies' attention and developing our international relationships. Our plan is to keep building a strong reputation as a graduate school or *grande école* by updating our image while remaining faithful to our heritage. CY Tech's future relies on our capacity to evolve with the times and work together.





France Velazquez

DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIPS

CY Cergy Paris Université: an innovative hybrid model

Since her arrival in September 2020, France Velazquez, vice president for professional training at CY Cergy Paris Université, has witnessed a profound transformation. CY Cergy Paris Université has created a hybrid university and engineering school, a unique model that combines academic tradition with a pragmatic approach. “CY Cergy Paris Université brings together the best of both worlds: university excellence and an industry mindset,” she concluded. This model sets itself apart with its ability to produce multi-skilled graduates who can navigate the academic world as easily as the entrepreneurial or industrial landscape.

The university has clinched its position as a key actor in French higher education, backed by triple accreditation: university status, membership in the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, and CDEFI recognition. With these diverse certifications, CY can offer a complete educational journey: from traditional undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral programs to specialized master’s degrees, all of which help meet labor market needs. Its local presence in Val-d’Oise is another advantage strengthened by partnerships with companies, such as Atos, which are embedded into the curricula.

One of CY Cergy Paris Université’s major successes has been the creation of an apprentice training center within the university, which facilitates access to apprenticeships in previously excluded sectors. Today, CY Cergy Paris Université offers 45 fields of study distributed throughout its different components. Partnerships are on the rise: 60% of the companies hiring apprentices are small or very small businesses (VSEs/SMEs), and 88% of apprenticeship contracts signed are with the private sector. The apprentice training center in Val-d’Oise has greatly contributed to the university’s local connections.

Keeping up with labor market trends is a priority for CY Cergy Paris Université, which continuously updates its course offerings based on companies’ needs. Custom training courses are sometimes created, like the ones developed for the Pontoise hospital or the undergraduate degree in banking that emerged from a collaboration with Société Générale. By broadening its field of intervention, CY Cergy Paris Université raises its profile internationally—particularly through partnerships with Arizona State University and two locations in Asia and Africa.

Its evolution since 2020 has been incredible, especially regarding the acceptance of economic value within the university. France Velazquez recognized that some fields may be resistant to change: “We all agree on the reasons for change, but the changes themselves are not welcomed with the same enthusiasm everywhere.” However, the fact that the revenue generated by these new training courses can be reinvested in the university’s projects is universally appreciated.



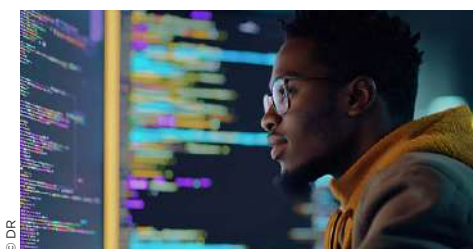
Judith Razafimandimby

APPRENTICE, PROFESSIONAL DEGREE IN INSURANCE, BANKING, AND FINANCE

“Learning only through theory can sometimes be difficult. Personally, I’m a better student when I learn in a real-world situation. Learning through work-study also helps you build your network. This is a huge advantage after you graduate. It makes it easier to find a job.”

Two professional campuses with “excellence” qualifications

THE “PROFESSIONAL CAMPUSES” ARE NETWORKS CENTERED AROUND KEY INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS. THEY WORK WITH PARTNERS TO DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND GENERAL TRAINING AT THE SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVELS. IN ADDITION TO INITIAL TRAINING, THEY ALSO OFFER CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. CY ALLIANCE INCLUDES TWO PROFESSIONAL CAMPUSES, BOTH RECOGNIZED WITH “CAMPUS D’EXCELLENCE” (STAR CAMPUS) STATUS.



Campus for Security Professions

Security, safety, cybersecurity, and trust management

Private security, forensics, close protection, remote surveillance, cybersecurity, risk management consulting and expertise...The Campus for Security Professions offers CY Alliance students the opportunity to learn more about the numerous professions in these growing sectors.

The Campus covers all professions related to security

Its courses (digital security, cybersecurity, safety & security, extreme risks, professional risks, health and safety, well-being at work) fall into four categories that each represent a segment of security:

- Data and information systems security, cybersecurity
- Safety of property and persons
- Prevention of extreme risks and management of large events
- Well-being and trust management

Since September 2024, the Campus has been located at the IUT d’Argenteuil, five minutes away from the train station. It includes technological facilities, modular classrooms, a library, and a dining area. There is also a display space open to the public at the Bains-Douches complex in Argenteuil.



Campus Versailles

Heritage and fine craftsmanship

For those interested in professions related to architecture, art, design, horticulture, landscaping, gastronomy, hospitality, services, or tourism, Campus Versailles has the ideal solution in the Grandes Écuries at the Château de Versailles.

This campus is a place to learn, work with your hands, discover, and innovate. It is dedicated to heritage and fine craftsmanship professions. Its courses are divided into five types of professions, all of which are relevant to the Versailles château: architecture, arts, horticulture and landscaping, gastronomy, and tourism.

Currently established on a 1,000m² pilot site, Campus Versailles is pursuing renovations that will enable it to move into the two wings of the Grandes Écuries by 2026. This will expand the campus to 6,000m² dedicated to education, exhibitions, artisans’ residencies, and a teaching restaurant.

- **Specialized degree (DU) in woodworking professions and design** with CY Cergy Paris Université
- **DU in construction and heritage professions** with CY Cergy Paris Université
- **Certificate** in traditional plasterwork techniques
- **Two PassSup opportunities in tourism and gastronomy** to encourage students in professional tracks to continue their studies in higher education
- **Reorientation course** for those changing careers to become artisans, with Artisans d’Avenir
- **Summer schools** that welcome students and researchers for in-depth weeklong programs on fine craftsmanship

CY Cergy Paris Université: an unwavering commitment to equality and inclusion

Diversity is a strength and a driver of success for CY Cergy Paris Université, which has given pride of place to equality and inclusion. In an academic environment where visible and invisible barriers persist, the university has adopted a proactive and concrete policy for its students and staff.

Its commitment to an equal playing field is clear. There are specific mechanisms set up to help students with disabilities—including technical assistance, accommodations during exams, and tutoring—so that everyone will have the same opportunities to succeed. These efforts cover social inclusion too, thanks to partnerships with high schools in low-resource areas, particularly through the Cordées de la réussite program. These initiatives aim to open the university's doors to young people whose plans for the future

would otherwise be stymied by socioeconomic obstacles.

The university is similarly determined to promote gender equality, encouraging female students to study the sciences, deconstructing gender stereotypes and carrying out awareness-raising campaigns. Its goal is to provide every student with what they need to flourish. CY Cergy Paris Université strives to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels free to be themselves.

By promoting a culture of inclusion, CY Cergy Paris Université wants to be more than a place to learn: its aim is to be an exemplar of solidarity and justice, where students prepare not just for their careers but also for their role as citizens in a more just society.



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Hervé Goux
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
FOR THE ECOLOGICAL
AND SOCIAL TRANSITION



Ronan Hébert
GEOSCIENCE PROFESSOR AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR TRANSITIONS

“Our goal is to reduce the environmental impact of the university's activities and prepare the next generation for environmental challenges.”

Transitions at CY Cergy Paris Université

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF RONAN HÉBERT, GEOSCIENCES PROFESSOR AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR TRANSITION, AND HERVÉ GOUX, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITION, CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ HAS UNDERTAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO INCORPORATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSITION.

The transition roadmap, presented in 2021, lays out the fundamentals of a process built around three main themes: academic (education and research), regional, and operational transitions.

ACADEMIC TRANSITION

The university supports cross-disciplinary research projects connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals through a call for projects funded by CY Générations, its forward-looking investment plan. It encourages laboratories to take into account the environmental impact of their research activities. As for education, CY Cergy Paris Université stands out for its organization, since 2021, of the largest *Rentrée climat* workshops that have ever been held at a French university. These workshops open students' eyes to environmental issues. Student initiatives related to the transition, like the Repair Event, also receive support from CY Générations.

REGIONAL TRANSITION

CY Cergy Paris Université's transition is meant to be undertaken in close partnership with local communities. The Val-d'Oise department, the Cergy-Pontoise urban area, and the city of Cergy all joined the university in signing a roadmap that promises to develop related training for all staff. Climate scientist Valérie Masson-Delmotte gave a talk on October 2, 2024, in front of local authorities and decision-makers. The agglomerations that host most of the CY Cergy Paris Université sites are

also full partners in CY Générations. Joint projects receive financial support.

OPERATIONAL TRANSITION

Operations are also changing to ensure that the transition will inform university management and all of the institution's activities. The goal is to modify operational processes for the better, making them more responsible and sustainable.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2024, the university received the DD&RS Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility label for a two-year duration in recognition of its transition policy initiated in 2009. It became the eleventh university to receive the label. CY also prepared an official report of its greenhouse gas emissions. In 2025, CY Cergy Paris Université intends to implement its guiding principles, common core of knowledge and skills, and decarbonization action plan in order to maintain its commitment to continuous improvement and remain in compliance with the DD&RS label's standards.

The general philosophy behind CY Cergy Paris Université's roadmap is that the university must prepare future generations to tackle environmental issues while reducing the environmental impact of its activity. Cross-disciplinary actions and growing student engagement are key ingredients for the success of this ambitious transition.



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**Our
influence**

Excellence Chairs: drivers of innovation and research

AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ, EXCELLENCE CHAIRS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION. DESIGNED TO ATTRACT RENOWNED RESEARCHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, THESE POSITIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT.

The Excellence Chairs are organized according to priority themes and seek to provide optimal conditions for research work. Researchers in these positions can develop cutting-edge projects, often in partnership with institutions or companies. This is part of the university's overall effort to make itself more competitive at the international level and to adapt to rapid changes in the research world.

Chairs focus on essential subjects such as the major challenges of our era. This is the case for the Environmental Transitions and Urban Resilience chair, who is committed to finding innovative solutions for cities facing climate change. This project makes use of a broad network of local partners, strengthening ties between the university and local actors.

In the realm of education, the Artificial Intelligence and Educational Innovation chair explores the impacts of AI on learning methods. With this approach, CY Cergy Paris Université demonstrates its aptitude with novel educational technology while fostering inclusive, ethical initiatives.

These chairs are also a very good way to support doctoral studies. By allocating funding and placing doctoral students on applied research projects, CY Cergy Paris Université seeks to encourage innovation and international exchange. The partnerships established through the Excellence Chairs strengthen connections between the university and foreign institutions as well, paving the way for long-term collaboration.

The impact of the Excellence Chairs impact goes beyond academia. They contribute to CY Cergy Paris Université's international influence and create new opportunities for researchers and students alike. With their attention to the world's pressing issues, the Excellence Chairs drive scientific excellence and innovation both within France and internationally.

CY Entreprendre: an entrepreneurship initiative for students

SINCE 2020, CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ HAS BEEN PROMOTING STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH CY ENTREPRENDRE, DIRECTED BY SANDRINE LE DÛ, WHO IS THE DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP. THIS PROGRAM, WHICH IS PART OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK PÉPITE (PÔLE ÉTUDIANT POUR L'INNOVATION, LE TRANSFERT ET L'ENTREPRENEURIAT), HELPS STUDENTS DEVELOP USEFUL SKILLS THAT GO BEYOND STARTING A BUSINESS.

A THOROUGH AND INNOVATIVE INITIATIVE

CY Entreprendre has four main themes: informing, raising awareness, training, and guiding. Its goal is to inculcate essential skills for the job market: project management, creativity, leadership, and more. Those who want to go further can request student-entrepreneur status, which makes it possible to start a business alongside one's studies, and the student-entrepreneur degree (DEE) may suit those who want to focus entirely on their business.

Interested students submit their ideas to a selection committee composed of experts, entrepreneurs, and academic representatives from CY Alliance. If their business ideas are retained, students gain access to a swath of services: coworking spaces, coaching, competitions, professional expos, and access to funding. This program is further reinforced by a network of local and national partners that can help provide entrepreneurs with funding or support.

LOCAL ROOTS AND A STRONG NETWORK

Situated in Val-d'Oise, CY Entreprendre benefits from local partners such as the Va-d'Oise Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Réseau Entreprendre, Initiative 95-78, and Banque Populaire Rives de Paris. It is also active in the area through CY Alliance schools. With over a hundred active partners, the university offers support beyond the campus that allows young people to develop their projects with established experts.

PROMISING RESULTS AND GROWING IMPACT

Over the past ten years, more than one hundred businesses have been created thanks to CY Entreprendre, and 65% of the projects supported were still operating three years after their launch. CY also pays special attention to women's entrepreneurship, with specific actions encouraging young women to take the leap. Today, 42% of projects supported are in part dedicated to environmental and social responsibility.

Each year, one hundred project owners benefit from the initiative, and 56% of them are CY Cergy Paris Université students. The program is available to everyone, with no age cap, and includes people looking to change careers. CY Entreprendre, which has received the PEPITE Excellence label, encourages innovation and the development of projects with an international outlook.

TOWARD THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ

The CY Entreprendre team continues to adjust and broaden the program. An ambassadors' club is being created to strengthen student engagement, and a site dedicated to CY Entreprendre will soon provide a boost as well. Soon, CY Cergy Paris Université will be a key actor in entrepreneurship in Île-de-France, all while continuing to foster an entrepreneurial mindset anchored in students' education and practices.

CY Entreprendre is more than an incubator. It now represents a gateway to employability for thousands of students, intertwining local support with national and international renown.



Sandrine Le Dû

DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DIRECTOR OF CY ENTREPRENDRE-PÉPITE

"Our mission goes well beyond creating businesses. We want to encourage an entrepreneurial mindset and help students develop the cross-functional skills that strengthen their professional profiles, whether as entrepreneurs or employees."

CY Transfer: a bridge between research and industry

AT CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ, CY TRANSFER—WHICH RECEIVED THE PÔLE UNIVERSITAIRE D'INNOVATION (PUI) LABEL IN 2023—IS MEANT TO CATALYZE INNOVATION. ITS MISSION IS TO CREATE GATEWAYS BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY, MAKING THE UNIVERSITY WORLD MORE ACCESSIBLE.

CY Transfer intends to become a “one-stop shop” for public-private partnerships. This initiative opens up opportunities for dialogue with industry actors, as well as for developing real-world projects, dissertations with an industry focus, or even services. Its structure encourages both a proactive approach and responsiveness to articulated needs.

To simplify these relationships, CY Transfer implements practical actions “in the field,” complemented by digital tools that facilitate access to information (laboratories, platforms, experts, patents, etc.). Its full portfolio can be viewed online here: www.pui-cy-transfer.fr. Along with this, CY Transfer has developed a matching application that makes it easier for industry actors and laboratories to make contact. Thanks to Konekti (www.mykonekti.fr), companies can easily find the expertise that they're looking for, which simplifies the collaboration process. At the same time, CY Transfer reinforces its local ties by reaching out to industry ambassadors. The experiences they share inspire other companies to get involved in academic projects with CY Cergy Paris Université.

Public-private partnerships are what drive this PUI. For example, a partnership with SME Aéroprotec obtained funding to adapt a type of paint to make it more eco-friendly, leading to a joint patent application. CY Transfer does more than set up commercial relationships; it is just as involved in developing fundamental research with economic utility in response to social issues. CY Transfer has developed tools to help with project submissions for research personnel, students, companies, and start-ups. Via the innovation portal, the C4T tool (<https://c4t.pui-cy-transfer.fr/connexion>) simplifies the search for opportunities and support.

With a 20% increase in its number of doctoral students, the university has found itself at a tipping point. CY Transfer aims to relieve some of the burden on faculty and researchers and allow them to focus on their core activities while giving them access to the information necessary for their projects. A strategic focus on humanities and social sciences, as well as on key fields like water, health and hydrogen, reflects CY Cergy Paris Université's ambition to make its mark in the regional ecosystem.

CY Transfer has established itself as an essential actor in innovation at CY Cergy Paris Université, facilitating communication between academia and industry while supporting the development of projects and start-ups launched by students or from within the university's research structures.



Olivier Romain

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INNOVATION

“CY Transfer is first and foremost a facilitator that helps make connections between the university and industry, by offering tools and resources to each side.”



CY Fondation: a driver for innovation and success



Christel Bériot

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CY FONDATION

“CY Fondation shoulders a central responsibility by becoming the CY Alliance foundation. It must feed into our collective work and support establishments as they develop philanthropic input, a challenge in terms of image and social responsibility. The objective is to co-construct projects like academic chairs focused on cross-disciplinary themes like the ecological transition, educational innovation, and inclusion.”

CY Fondation was created to give impetus to projects in higher education and research at CY Cergy Paris Université. Its role is fundamental: it strives to spark innovation, encouraging initiatives that enrich the student experience and draw researchers to public interest projects in step with socioeconomic trends.

The foundation concentrates on a number of strategic priorities such as guiding students through successful educational journeys and supporting research through the chair positions. With both financial and human resources, CY Fondation contributes to ambitious projects including the installation of research and educational equipment, organization of scientific events, funding of scholarship grants, and recruitment of doctoral students and post-docs.

By strengthening its partnerships with socioeconomic actors, CY Fondation creates new opportunities for students and encourages them to get involved in enriching experiences. It sets the scene for ambitious research projects, vectors for transformation, by connecting researchers, companies, and local authorities in service of the public interest.

CY Fondation embodies the CY Cergy Paris Université ambition to produce well-informed graduates ready to innovate and contribute to our society's future.

Luciana Radut-Gaghi: “CY Cergy Paris Université, connected to the world”



LUCIANA RADUT-GAGHI, VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SHARES CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ'S INTERNATIONAL VISION FOUNDED ON WORLDWIDE PARTNERSHIPS AND GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION.

Why is CY Cergy Paris Université so invested in international collaboration? Our university has always prized international connections. We understood from the start that our development and visibility would require solid partnerships with institutions abroad. These partnerships are now at the heart of our strategy, which focuses on transition-related challenges. Take the example of the international laboratory we run with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. Together, we undertake innovative chemistry research relevant to global topics. Similarly, at our international laboratory in Cameroon with the universities of Yaoundé and Douala, researchers and students work together on civil engineering projects to advance solutions for sustainable development.

Why are these partnerships so important for CY Cergy Paris Université?

All parties benefit thanks to constant communication and mutual trust. We share educational practices and expertise developed through research to identify solutions to current challenges. Furthermore, these partnerships enable CY Cergy Paris Université to demonstrate its stance as an institution involved in national and European strategic negotiations in scientific diplomacy. For example, within our European alliance EUTOPIA, we collaborate with nine other members to strengthen education and research in Europe. Thanks to EUTOPIA, CY Cergy Paris Université is an active participant in discussions and decisions about European diplomas, the legal status of alliances, and internationalization “at home.” It takes these responsibilities seriously. Our involvement in two binational campuses, French government initiatives for international influence, is a shining example of participation in capacity-building projects. With the Hanoi University of Science and Technology, and more recently with the French University of Egypt, we are proud to take the high quality of our degrees and research abroad.

How do these collaborations enrich students' experiences?

These are a real benefit for our students. Thanks to these partnerships, they can study or intern abroad, earn a double degree, work on international projects, and most importantly, start building a network while they are still in school. These days, understanding global issues and knowing how to work with people from other cultures are essential skills. We also provide strong support for student entrepreneurs with CY Entreprendre, which has received the Pépite label. The Francophone Employability Center at CY Cergy Paris Université is integrated into the network of the Agence universitaire de la francophonie. This structure helps students launch entrepreneurship projects abroad. Students can access different resources including funding and even incubators abroad, which helps them hone their skills and improve their employability.

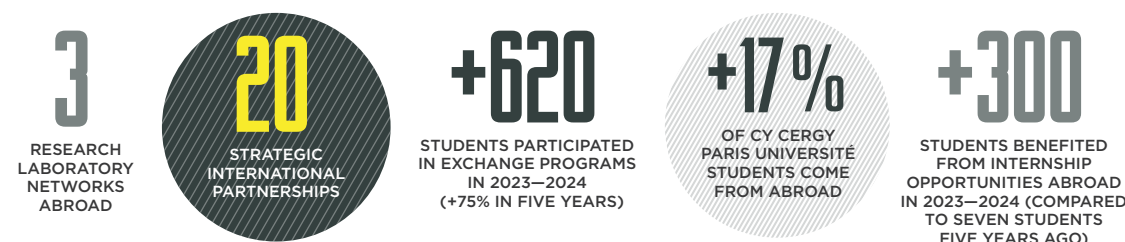
How does the university plan to strengthen its international ties?

At this stage of our development, we now have a number of models for solid international partnerships. We have around twenty major collaborations with institutions around the world, which we intend to nourish and maintain over the long term. Several different mechanisms come into play: co-supervision of dissertations as in the EUTOPIA alliance; international laboratories like those in Singapore, Cameroon, and South Africa; double degrees and “delocalized” degrees like the ones we have in Japan, China, Vietnam, Cameroon, Mauritius, and soon in Morocco and Egypt; and short-term programs such as those initiated directly with the United States or created by CY components or member institutions (CY Tech, Sciences Po Saint-Germain-en-Laye, EPSS). European funding, like the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, represent another form of partnership that we have kicked off with the Science and Innovation Fellowship in EUTOPIA and which will be further developed.

CY Cergy Paris Université: international partnerships and worldwide influence

CY Cergy Paris Université is committed to developing international partnerships that enrich its educational offerings, its research, and its student experience. These collaborations spread the university's influence beyond France's borders, offering its students and researchers opportunities to learn and work in a global environment.

Its partnerships cover many fields of expertise, from science and technology to the humanities. They strengthen the university's research and innovation and promote intercultural exchange, which prepares students for their futures in a globalized world.



A closer look at our strategic partnership with Arizona State University

Among CY Cergy Paris Université's flagship connections is one with **Arizona State University (ASU)**, which is distinctive for its breadth and ambition. This cooperation is founded on educational and scientific innovation. Our institutions share knowledge and join forces on initiatives in sustainability and engineering. Arizona State University, hailed as one of the most innovative universities in the United States, shares CY Cergy Paris Université's forward-looking vision for education, which places interdisciplinarity and technology at the forefront. This partnership has already enjoyed great success. Students at CY Cergy Paris Université can serve as interns in ASU's research laboratories. They have participated in the last two editions of a hackathon on sustainability challenges related to aerospace research, and will soon have access to ASU's wealth of online classes. Finally, researchers from both institutions collaborate on innovation projects.

OTHER STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

- ➔ **EUTOPIA**: a European alliance created in 2019 that brings together ten universities in Europe as well as six outside it. The alliance includes 50 themed communities connected via teaching, research, and innovation.
- ➔ **French University of Egypt (UFE)**: CY Cergy Paris Université is part of the UFE consortium, contributing to the development of programs, degrees, and research projects.
- ➔ **International Research Laboratory on Artificial Intelligence (CNRS-IPAL)**: focusing on cutting-edge technological research.

With its international strategy, CY Cergy Paris Université asserts itself on the world stage for higher education while retaining its local roots. CY Advanced Studies, the international research center in Neuville, and the Annie Ernaux Research Center for the humanities and social sciences as well as the movement launched by the CY Campus association, make our area a thriving hub for international students and researchers. Our balance of local roots and international influence is what makes us unique.

EUTOPIA: a campus without borders

SINCE 2019, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN FORMING LARGER STRUCTURES VIA INTER-UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT. THESE NETWORKS, WHICH ENJOY SIGNIFICANT FUNDING, TRANSFORM HIGHER EDUCATION BY OFFERING INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNEYS.

During his speech at the Sorbonne in 2017, Emmanuel Macron called for the creation of European university alliances to push back against American and Asian competition. Since then, the higher education landscape in Europe has transformed. This vision of intensified cooperation is embodied in the “European Universities” initiative, launched in 2018 and backed with ambitious funding from the European Commission. Today, there are 64 alliances with more than 500 European higher education members.

EUTOPIA, the alliance that CY Cergy Paris Université is part of, was founded in 2019 and is composed of ten universities from ten European countries. With nearly €14 million at its disposal, EUTOPIA is working on ambitious projects to bring its members together through joint degrees, interdisciplinary modules, and a network of laboratories for research on sustainable development and innovation.

These alliances go beyond student exchange programs. EUTOPIA and similar networks seek to create integrated European campuses and offer cross-border, diploma-granting degrees that are recognized throughout the EU. Rallying around shared values, they bring new academic and cultural possibilities to life for students and researchers.



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Venkadesh Nerendrael
ECONOMICS/MANAGEMENT STUDENT

“EUTOPIA gives you the opportunity to have a truly international experience while remaining a student at CY Cergy Paris Université. I participated in a project that took me to Slovenia, where I worked with students from several countries to design a communication strategy for a company. This project helped me improve my English, strengthen my communication skills, and develop a European network. Soon, I’ll go to Romania for another program. This one focuses on entrepreneurship. It’s an amazing chance to expand my academic horizons.”

Ten European institutions serving excellence in European higher education



eUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities



3



Questions for Jean-Paul Jeandon

MAYOR OF CERGY AND PRESIDENT OF THE CERGY-PONTOISE AGGLOMERATION

IN CERGY-PONTOISE, CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ AIMS TO FULLY INTEGRATE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO ITS REVITALIZATION. JEAN-PAUL JEANDON EXPLAINS HOW LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE PITCHING IN.

What is the ambitious project that CY Cergy Paris Université is developing and how does it fit into the current context?

The project that we are working on is indubitably of the 21st century. It aims to meld the campus into the Cergy-Pontoise urban area, which is rare and yet essential for an ecological approach to development. This project addresses current challenges in higher education and seeks to create a fertile environment for learning and innovation. We believe that integrating the university into the urban fabric increases not only its own appeal, but that of the whole area.

How do local authorities contribute to CY Cergy Paris Université's attractiveness and what joint projects are underway?

Local authorities play a key role in CY Cergy Paris Université's attractiveness. We provide funding for several projects including the École nationale supérieure d'arts and the development of new infrastructure such as

gymnasiums and the IUT de Neuville. We have also invested in CY Tech, our *grande école* for engineers. These projects demonstrate our desire to create a stimulating environment that students and businesses flock to. In addition, we have created a job fair and a new event called "From campus to company" to help students find jobs.

What initiatives have been taken to improve student life and the general quality of life in the area?

We have launched several initiatives to improve student life, such as the "Assises de la vie étudiante," which inform students about what's happening in Cergy-Pontoise. We have created bike paths to make it easier to circulate between campuses and around the local area. And we are building around 1,300 units of student housing per year to meet the growing needs. The goal is to establish pleasant living conditions that will encourage students to stay in the Cergy-Pontoise area after graduation.

A UNIVERSITY THAT SERVES THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

CY Cergy Paris Université stands out for its commitment to local community. The dynamic and growing Cergy-Pontoise area benefits from educational and research offerings that promote local economic and social development. CY Cergy Paris Université is a key partner for businesses, local government, and other institutions since it participates in the training of skilled and determined future professionals.

Grand building projects: an investment in the future



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CY Cergy Paris Université has many ambitious infrastructure plans that demonstrate its desire to modernize its buildings and sites while consolidating its role as a leader in the region. Backed by a €117 million budget through the 2021-2027 State-Region Plan Contract (CPER), the university is constructing and renovating its buildings in response to the growing needs of its student and researcher population.

A closer look at flagship projects

THE CY TECH PROJECT IN CERGY

Among the most significant initiatives is the development of the Hirsch site. It is the largest construction project underway. The first phase, of which €56 million was funded by the CPER, €5 million by the local council, €5 million by the Cergy-Pontoise agglomeration, and €5 million by the university itself, is expected to be delivered at the end of 2029. This project will transform the site currently occupied by INSPE into new buildings for the CY Tech graduate school. Tranche 1 will cover 11,000 m². These new buildings will be across from ESSEC and a few meters from the Cergy-Préfecture station on the RER A, and will add to the educational offerings at the international Cergy campus. The objective is to endow this *grande école* with modern infrastructure in order to produce 1,000 engineering graduates per year by 2030.

THE RESEARCH BUILDING IN NEUVILLE

By 2028, a new building of about 3,900 m² at the Neuville experimental sciences site will host laboratories conducting health-related research. These laboratories are currently spread across the crowded the Saint-Martin and Neuville sites. This research building, of which €20 million is funded by the 2021–2027 CPER, will complement the future infrastructure at the soon-to-be-renovated Pontoise hospital, where CY Cergy Paris Université and Hôpital NOVO plan to intensify their joint research in the field of health. In line with the medical school project spearheaded by CY Cergy Paris Université, a future extension projected to cost about €5 million will accommodate a fourth health-related laboratory. Our facilities will thus be enhanced by the creation of a health research center at the Neuville site.



Albert Noumowé
VICE PRESIDENT FOR REAL ESTATE

"We are modernizing our infrastructure so that we can continue to provide staff and students with an environment in which innovation and learning thrive. Each of these initiatives aims to strengthen the attractiveness of CY Cergy Paris Université and offer the best conditions possible for the students who choose us, while collaborating closely with our local area."

THE IUT DE NEUVILLE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

This project seeks to transfer two departments from the Argenteuil campus to the Neuville campus to address the deteriorating condition of their current facilities. Two departments currently at the Saint-Martin site will also be transferred to Neuville. These operations are planned for late 2026. A €26.5 million construction project in Neuville will give the IUT modern buildings adapted to the needs of the departments that will occupy them. These departments of the IUT, previously spread out in Argenteuil and Pontoise, will enjoy greater proximity to each other in Neuville.

3



Questions for Sophie Deraëve

DIRECTOR OF CY CAMPUS, PhD IN URBAN PLANNING

SOPHIE DERAËVE SPEAKS ABOUT THE FOUNDING OF CY CAMPUS IN 2017, ITS TRIUMPHS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO MEET THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY'S NEEDS.

What inspired the creation of the CY Campus association?

Launched in 2017, the CY Campus association aims to strengthen collaboration between local communities, the university, and other higher education establishments. It assists these entities with their planning projects and the development of facilities that will serve student life: university buildings, student housing, sports facilities, dining halls, transportation, and more. Its goal is to help improve the student experience in the local area.

What are CY Campus's greatest triumphs?

One of the association's greatest achievements has been assisting CY Cergy Paris Université and local governments through the historic negotiations over the 2021–2027 State-Region Plan Contract. This contract represents over €100 million in public investment for emblematic infrastructure projects, including the construction of the *grande école* CY Tech and a building dedicated to biotechnology research in Neuville, linked to the plan to start a

medical school. The commitment to creating more than 1,000 spots in student social housing, the construction of a new gymnasium, and the development of a mobility plan shared by the local higher education institutions are all successes made possible through CY Campus teamwork.

How does CY Campus communicate with local communities?

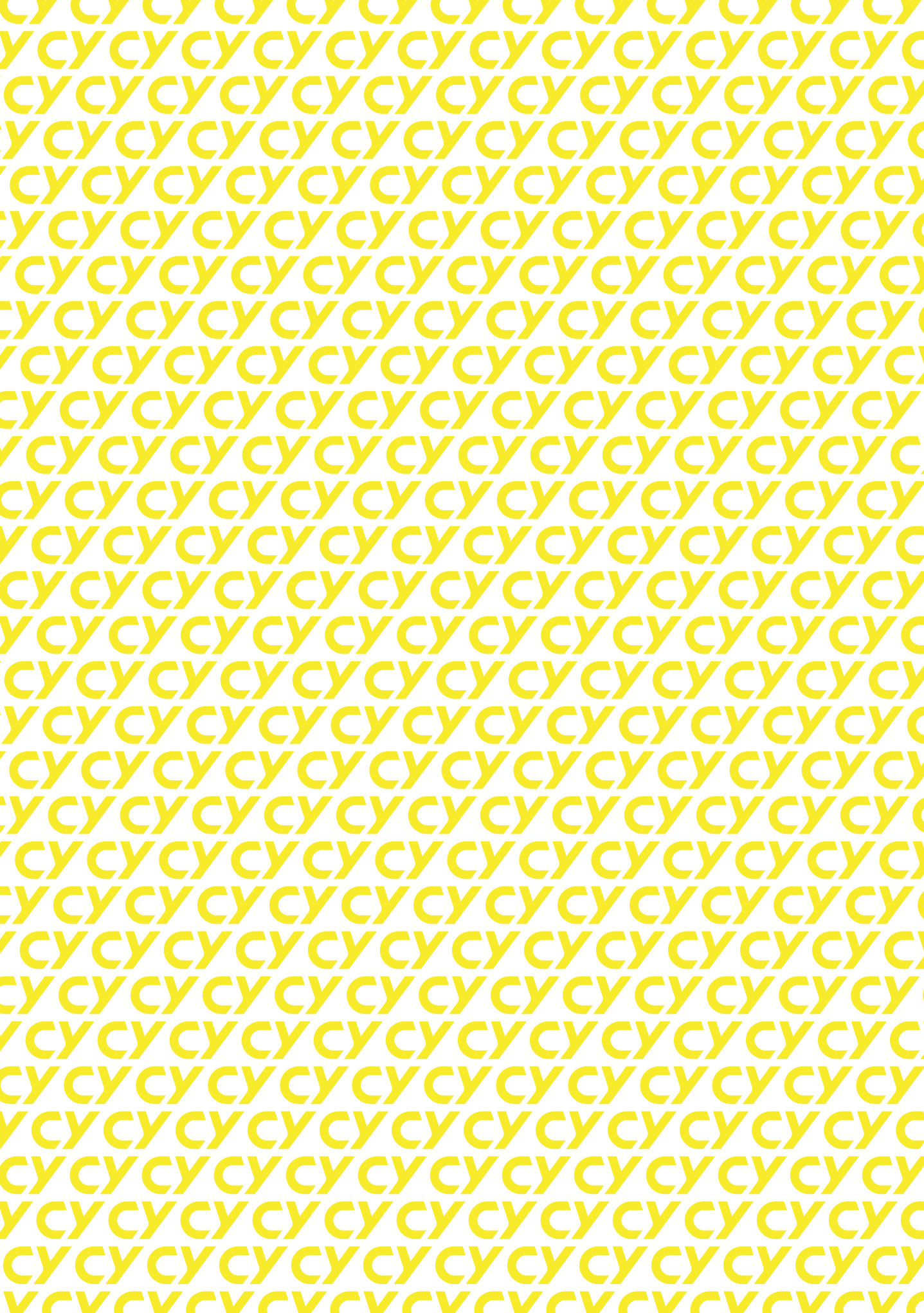
The association serves as a space for dialogue between the university and its local partners (the prefecture; the Val-d'Oise local council; the Cergy-Pontoise agglomeration; the Cergy, Neuville, and Pontoise town halls) demonstrating a rare synergy between a higher education institution and its local community. It involves continuous activity in political and technical committees. CY Campus also produces studies that clarify the campus's operations and needs and develops concrete recommendations for the short and medium term that align with CY Cergy Paris Université's transition objectives.

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