

PRESS RELEASE

Sorbonne University and SUEZ sign a partnership to accelerate scientific research on the environment

Paris, 11th April, 2023

On Thursday, April 6, Nathalie Drach-Temam, President of Sorbonne University, and Jérôme Bailly, Director of Innovation, Research and Services for the SUEZ Group, signed a framework partnership agreement aimed at strengthening their scientific and industrial cooperation over the next five years around two themes: eco-mimicry and ecological transition.

By signing this framework agreement, Sorbonne University and SUEZ are taking advantage of their complementarity to support the development of their respective activities on environmental issues, in particular:

- **Eco-mimocry**

This partnership aims to develop innovative projects, inspired by the essential properties of living organisms, to make cities more resilient to climate change: revegetation, development of urban agriculture, and more. It will also involve designing new solutions to restore the balance of the planet's biogeochemical cycles (such as storm water management, water sharing between urban and rural areas and natural ecosystems).

- **The Ecological Transition**

The synergy between the skills of Sorbonne University and SUEZ will enable us to set up or contribute to experiments on the ecological transition in close proximity to the territories. It will also be an opportunity to develop training for the institution's students.

To lead the interdisciplinary community of Sorbonne University and develop these themes with SUEZ, [l'Institut de la Transition Environnementale](#) (link in French) of the Sorbonne University Alliance has been appointed to ensure the scientific coordination of the partnership.

With their long-standing collaboration in the fields of training and research, Sorbonne University and SUEZ are already involved in research work on a national scale on health monitoring through wastewater networks. SUEZ, whose 40,000 employees are present in 40 countries, is also involved in the university diploma (DU) in entrepreneurial and intreprenurial project management, created by Sorbonne University in response to the economic and societal crisis.

Thanks to the "project management and simulation" module, students in this degree program work directly with SUEZ to meet two environmental and societal challenges: cooling cities with cool islands and recovering 100% of organic waste.

For Nathalie Drach-Temam, President of Sorbonne University: *"This partnership with SUEZ is an important step in our shared commitment to the ecological transition. Thanks to our respective and complementary skills, it will guarantee the quality of interactions in research and training. It is also in line with one of Sorbonne University's three challenges: One Earth. We have only one planet, with limited resources. For sustainable resources, we must act with the stakeholders concerned. SUEZ is one of them."*

Jérôme Bailly, Director of Innovation, Research and Services at SUEZ, said he was "very pleased with this long-term partnership with Sorbonne University, a high-level partner. Through the excellence of its research and expertise, Sorbonne University will make a key contribution to SUEZ's work to meet the environmental challenges surrounding water and waste. This partnership will accelerate our joint research and is fully consistent with SUEZ's strategic plan, which calls for strengthening the group's efforts, in particular through a 50% increase in its budget."



© Pierre Kilmacher – Sorbonne Université

Jérôme Bailly, director of Innovation, Research and Services at SUEZ
and Nathalie Drach-Temam, president of Sorbonne University

About Sorbonne University:

Sorbonne University is a world-class research-intensive university with a comprehensive range of arts, humanities, medicine, science and engineering. The University took the historic name following the merger of Pierre and Marie Curie and Paris-Sorbonne Universities in 2018. Today, Sorbonne University has more than 100 laboratories, with 3,400 academic researchers and another 3,000 researcher partners from the French national research organizations. The University's robust innovation ecosystem offers end-to-end transfer capabilities, bringing research results into the market and an entrepreneurial mindset to students and staff. The University encompasses exceptional trans-disciplinary institutes and initiatives to meet three essential transitions. The institutional project SOUND, focused on global health, a sustainable planet, and shared humanity. Sorbonne University is also a member of the 4EU+ Alliance, an innovative model of the European university.

<https://www.sorbonne-universite.fr>  @ServicePresseSU

About SUEZ:

Faced with growing environmental challenges, for more than 160 years, SUEZ has been acting to deliver essential services that protect and improve the quality of life. SUEZ enables its customers to provide access to water and waste services, with resilient and innovative solutions. With its 35 000 employees present in 40 countries, the Group also enables its customers to create value over the entire lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their ecological transition, together with their end-users. In 2021, SUEZ produced drinking water for 66 million people worldwide and sanitation services for more than 33 million people. The Group generates 3.6 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater per year and avoided the emission of 3.8 million tons of CO₂. In 2021, SUEZ generated revenues of 7.5 billion euros.

For more information: www.suez.com  @suez

Press Contacts

Katherine Tyrka 01 44 27 5105
katherine.tyrka@sorbonne-universite.fr

Colette Génin 06 80 70 40 15
suez.media@suez.com