



MAK!T
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTPELLIER

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024 & 2025

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Philippe Augé
President,
University of Montpellier

FOREWORD

Created in 2019 as part of the I-SITE excellence program, the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT) contributes to the University of Montpellier's international vision based on the three pillars of "Feed, Protect, and Care." Through its visiting scientists program, the institute provides a unique environment for international scientific cooperation dedicated to understanding and supporting today's major transitions.

Since its inception, MAK'IT has focused on a clear mission: reinvent ways of engaging scientific communities and stimulate their contribution to accelerating the transition toward more sustainable societal models. To achieve these goals, the institute promotes interdisciplinarity, dialog between science and society, and the advancement of innovative approaches.

In 2025, MAK'IT reached a new milestone in its journey by making public policies for transition a central pillar of its scientific program. While the research work continues to draw on all disciplines in order to explore the multiple dimensions of these transitions, it is now more explicitly focused on the analysis, design, implementation, and adoption of public policies for transition. This focus addresses the growing need for a better understanding of the institutional, social, and political mechanisms capable of supporting the transformations that are essential in the context of the global challenges we face.

The natural progression of this shift has led to a strategic partnership with the University of Montpellier's Key Initiative on Public Policies for Transition (KIPPT). The goals of this initiative and those of MAK'IT converge around a shared purpose: to generate scientific knowledge capable of guiding public policy and contributing to the development of more equitable, effective, and inclusive transition pathways. This collaboration strengthens the University of Montpellier's ability to build an international scientific community committed to addressing these issues and establishing partnerships with significant societal impact.

Since 2019, MAK'IT has helped foster a dynamic international community of researchers on transitions – now comprising approximately 90 alumni – working in close collaboration with Montpellier's research units. Collaborations initiated during research visits extend well beyond their duration and fuel international scientific networks that help advance knowledge on transitions and the public policies that accompany them. This community now serves as a key driver for developing comparative approaches, promoting the exchange of experiences between regions, and enriching collective reflection on the conditions for implementing societal transformations.

MAK'IT's work contributes cross-functionally to the University of Montpellier's objectives. It supports the university's internationalization strategy by enhancing its appeal to high-level researchers engaged with today's major challenges, while consolidating its position as a leading voice on issues concerning transitions and related public policies. Research conducted through the Institute also contributes to the University's scientific momentum thanks to the diversity of disciplines involved and the quality of collaborations developed with academic and non-academic partners.

By proposing new ways of conducting research – collaborative, interdisciplinary, open to society, and action-oriented – MAK'IT has become a leading platform for conceptualizing, analyzing, and supporting transitions. By strengthening its focus on public policy issues related to transition, MAK'IT provides knowledge that can be directly applied to public policy, while enhancing the University of Montpellier's international scientific reputation. With its actions, MAK'IT plays a significant role in shaping research that provides insight for collective decision-making in response to the major challenges of the 21st century.



Laura Michel
Director,
Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions

MAK'IT, the Montpellier Institute for Advanced Studies, was established in 2019, embodying the University of Montpellier's commitment to place major contemporary transitions at the heart of its scientific strategy. "Feed, care, and protect": these are the three fundamental challenges that guide the work of a research community fully focused on addressing the profound transformations taking place in our societies.

Under the leadership of Patrick Caron until 2024, MAK'IT laid a solid foundation and paved the way for ambitious opportunities, attracting international researchers from around the world to Montpellier. Together, they explored the role of controversies in transition trajectories, resulting in fruitful collaborations and original spaces for reflection.

In January 2025, I had the honor of stepping into the role of director for this institute, which is simultaneously an academic, intellectual, and deeply human endeavor.

At a time when the very notion of "transition" is being called into question – sometimes perceived as too slow, too fragmented, or insufficiently advanced, as well as being undermined by forms of environmental backlash – it remains an essential framework for envisioning the transformations necessary to preserve habitability on Earth. Beyond terminology, what unites us is the imperative to make our development models more sustainable.

If science is sometimes contested today, it is also because it provides knowledge, highlights issues, and opens paths to progress in the face of various forms of obscurantism.

Amid major crises, armed conflicts, growing pressures on academic freedom, and challenges to scientific discourse on key issues such as climate, the environment, and health, MAK'IT has created a much-needed space for freedom, discussion, and research. It fosters dynamic thinking enriched by interdisciplinary exchange, clashing perspectives, and an openness to artistic practices. This collective intelligence is a vital response to the complexity and brutality of the contemporary world.

Since 2025, we have made public policy the centerpiece of MAK'IT's mission, as we are convinced that the work produced here, at the forefront of new research frontiers, serves as a unique lever for shaping public action. The interdisciplinary research conducted within the institute stimulates concrete discussions, such as the working group on planetary boundaries and their incorporation into law, illustrating MAK'IT's ability to foster dialog between science and public decision-making.

We also ensure that international researchers are closely integrated into the I-SITE laboratories and projects to foster rich exchanges with local teams. A genuine community has taken shape over the years: a vibrant network of international collaborations that, beyond short-term visits, continues to nourish, challenge, and stimulate scientific activity in Montpellier.

This dynamic builds on an environment that is particularly conducive to exchange, notably thanks to dedicated spaces such as Villa Leenhardt and the MAK'IT workspace at the Botanical Institute. It also benefits from a robust program of scientific and cultural events, including seminars, international workshops, conferences, and meetings. We have organized and co-organized many events, notably with the Key Initiative on Public Policies for Transition (KIPPT), the UNESCO Chair on "World Food Systems," and the UNESCO Water Center, fostering dialog between the local scientific community and international colleagues. These opportunities have helped forge lasting connections among researchers.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of Brenda Galvan, project manager, as well as the invaluable support of Nathalie Modjeska, both members of the Department of Structuring Programs.

Their work is essential to MAK'IT's vitality and outreach.

“

Louise Jackson
Professor emerita,
University of California, Davis,
United States
Scientific council member



I am a professor emerita and a Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis. With a background in ecology, I have focused much of my work on participatory research into the functions of interactions between plants, soils, and ecosystems in farmland and grasslands. My research encompasses different scales, from genes to landscapes, focusing in particular on nutrient cycles between plants and soils, soil food webs, and the analysis of biodiversity and ecosystem functions at the landscape scale. Over the years, I have participated in local and international initiatives addressing agricultural resilience to climate change, as well as agrobiodiversity and ecosystem services. I am also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

My commitment to the depth and diversity of the scientific programs focused on sustainability in Montpellier dates back to my postdoctoral fellowship at CEPE (now CEFÉ) in 1982. I served on CIRAD's scientific advisory board and have been a member of the MAK'IT scientific advisory board for the past five years. My involvement with MAK'IT has enabled me to discover the breadth, dynamism, and capacity for innovation that characterizes Montpellier's scientific community, as well as the many opportunities offered to visiting researchers, who not only collaborate with each other but also engage with research units in exploring the relationship between science and society in support of sustainable transitions.

“

Since the five research clusters comprising the “University of Montpellier I-SITE - PEI” Experimental Public Institution were created in 2022, their mission has been to implement, within their five specific areas of expertise, a research strategy aligned with major societal and scientific challenges relating to the themes of “Feed, Care, and Protect.” This includes scientific excellence in research areas to be developed, as well as, of course, the partnerships to be established to achieve the stated objectives.

In this context, the participation of the directors of the Research Clusters within the Scientific Council of the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT) is vital in helping to select the most relevant and promising applications and research topics to support within this Institute – particularly by welcoming renowned international scientists who are experts in their respective fields and who are also capable of advancing the Institute's mission regarding governance and public policy issues related to transitions.”



Daniel Barthélémy
Director of the Agriculture,
Environment, and Biodiversity
Research Center at the University
of Montpellier, France
Scientific council member

WHY DID WE CREATE AN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE ON PUBLIC TRANSITION POLICY IN MONTPELLIER?

Launched in a ceremony in the presence of France's Minister of Higher Education and Research in March 2019, MAK'IT – Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions – is Montpellier's Institute for Advanced Study (IEA). Institutes for Advanced Study are organizations that host high-level international researchers on a temporary basis to conduct interdisciplinary research with complete academic freedom. Modeled after the first institute of its kind, founded at Princeton in 1930, around 100 such institutes now exist worldwide.

MAK'IT is fully aligned with the IEA model while developing its own unique characteristics. Our institute promotes interdisciplinarity, notably through enhanced exchanges between the life science and social science communities. Furthermore, from the very start, MAK'IT has consistently focused on transitions: The institute's mission is to stimulate the scientific community's contribution to accelerating the transitions necessary in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the fields of agriculture and food, water, the environment, and health – areas of research in which Montpellier's I-SITE is internationally recognized for its excellence. The Institute is firmly rooted in a local scientific community, within a dense network of international academic and institutional partners. Visiting researchers are therefore able to work within a particularly dynamic scientific ecosystem that fosters interdisciplinary exchanges, the emergence of new research frontiers, and new collaborations.

Starting in 2025, special attention has been given to applications related to I-SITE flagship projects in the areas of agroecology, One Health, and water reuse.

PUBLIC POLICIES FOR TRANSITION

In today's world, supporting the transition toward more sustainable and equitable development models has become a major challenge for public authorities and society as a whole. With this in mind, MAK'IT's mission has since 2025 been aligned with issues related to public policies for transition.

Contemporary societies face many complex and interconnected challenges that call into question the viability of our current development model, its sustainability, and our ability to "function as a society." While these changes may present opportunities, they also carry risks of economic, political, and social disruption, which may be particularly pronounced for the most vulnerable populations. Change directly challenges the governance of our societies and our ability to implement public transition policies that can address these challenges.

MAK'IT's goal is to foster the production of interdisciplinary knowledge on the complex issues underlying the I-SITE program's priorities – Feed, Care, and Protect – to help guide the elaboration, implementation, and adoption of public transition policies. Our calls for applications are open to researchers from all disciplines whose work provides key insights for understanding and managing transitions.

STRONG INTEGRATION INTO MONTPELLIER'S SCIENTIFIC ECOSYSTEM

At MAK'IT, we chose to balance two key factors: fostering a strong sense of community among the researchers hosted by the Institute and ensuring their integration into Montpellier research units. This approach reflects our commitment to build long-lasting exchanges between international fellows and local scientific communities, with the goal of inspiring new collaborations and extending partnerships initiated during residencies.

Visiting researchers are fully immersed in Montpellier research units, where they benefit from a world-class scientific environment, active research collaborations, and support specifically adapted to their work. At the same time, they have access to dedicated spaces that promote interaction among fellows. This dual connection, rooted in the host laboratories and nourished by the community of fellows, is one of MAK'IT's defining features. It is reinforced by regular meetings that bring together international experts, local researchers, and stakeholders from civil society to discuss topics at the intersection of science and society. These exchanges encourage people to compare viewpoints, foster the emergence of new research opportunities, and develop lasting synergies.



Since the Institute
was founded in 2019



85

International visiting researchers

38

Countries represented

30

Research units hosting scientists

190

Scientific events organized

40 Women / **45** Men

IN 2024 AND 2025...

25

Researchers
hosted

10

as part of the Visiting Scientists
program

5

as part of the FIAS program
(European COFUND program)

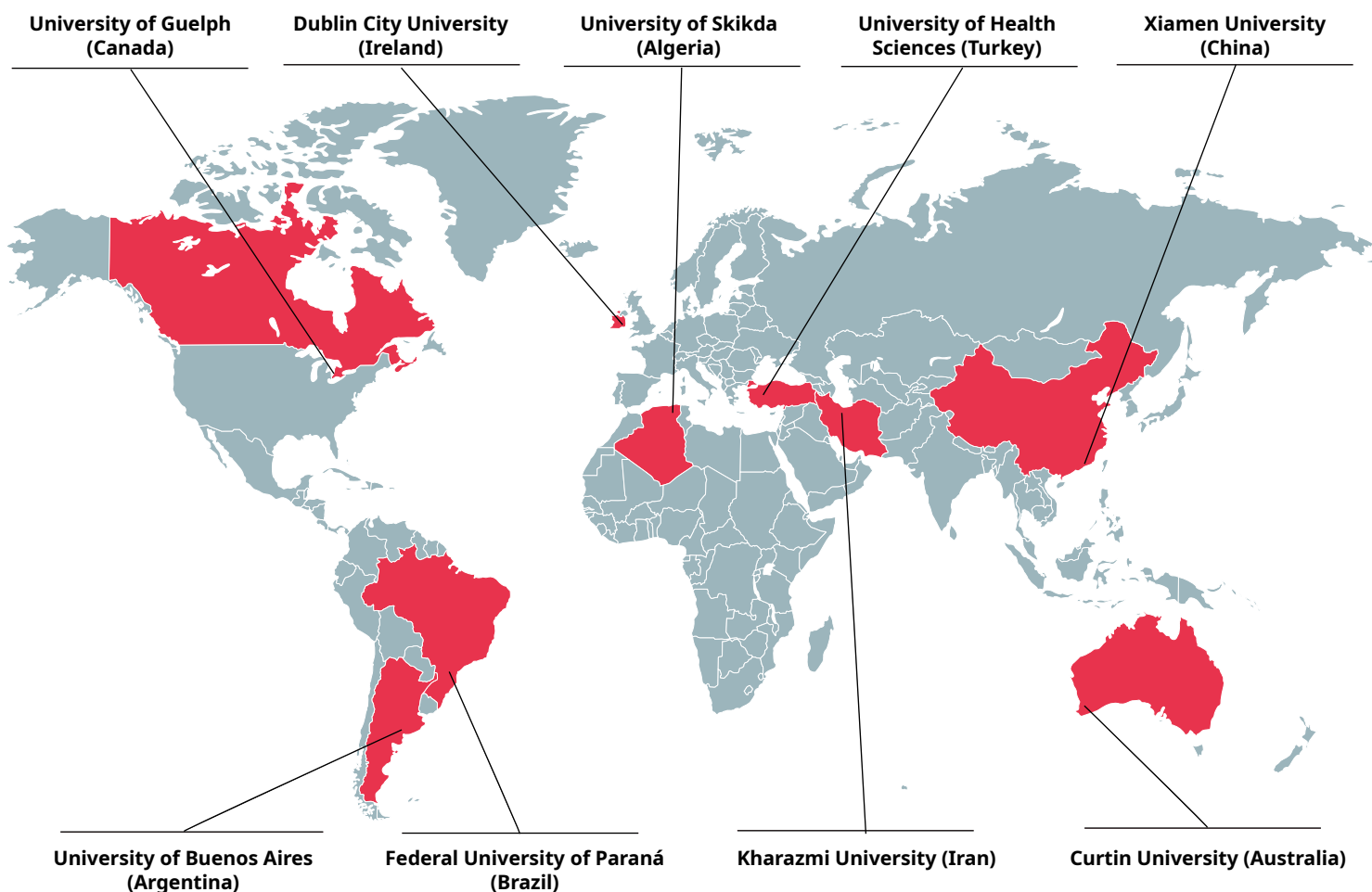
4

as part of the
CAT program

6

as part of the
COHORT program

MAK'IT welcoming the world in 2024 and 2025



MAK'IT, WELCOMING THE WORLD SINCE 2019

NORTH AMERICA

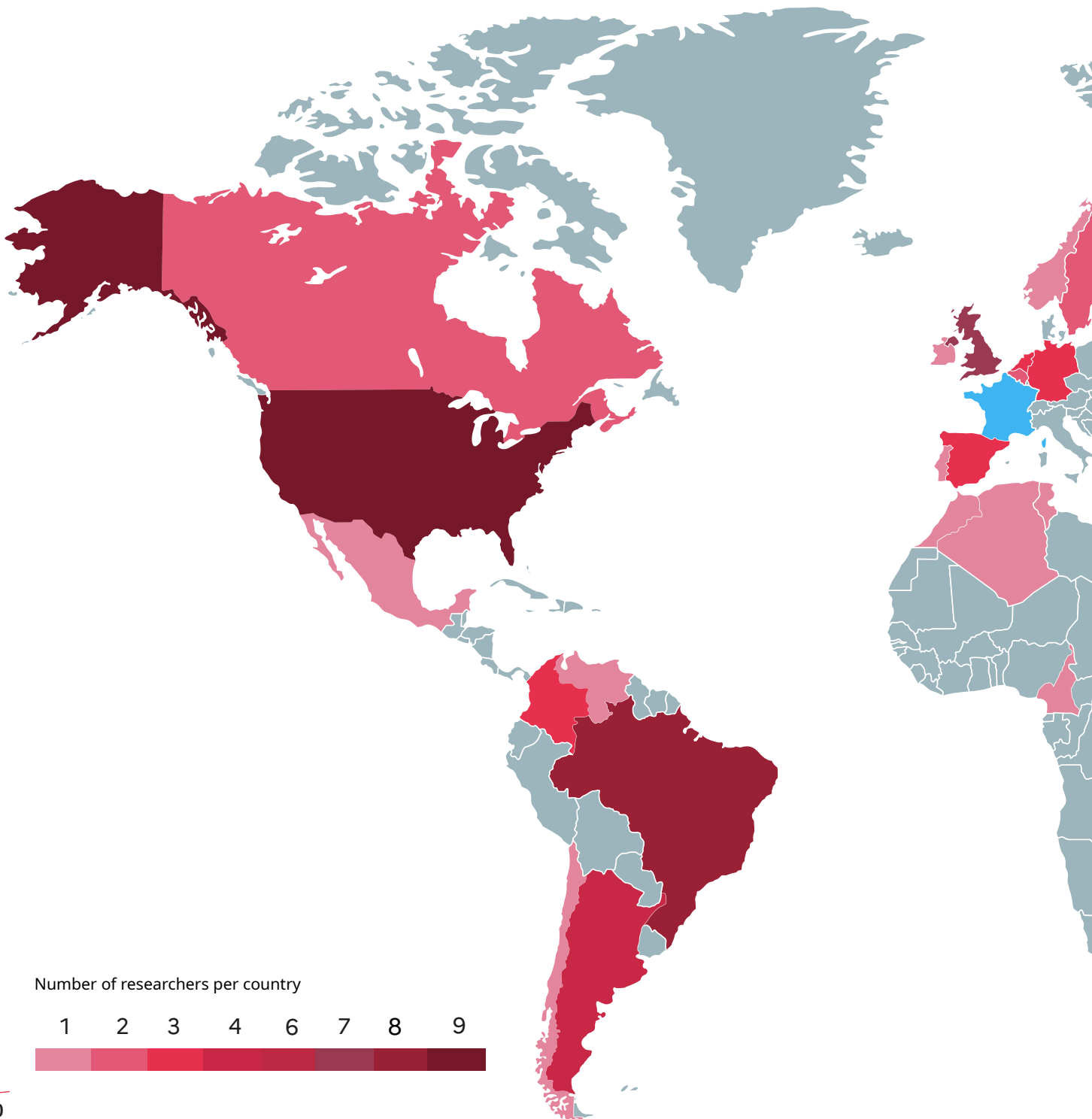
University of Toronto
Arizona State University
Cornell University
Franklin & Marshall College
Macalester College
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua
University of San Francisco
University of Guelph

SOUTH AMERICA

Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación
y Enseñanza (CATIE)
International Center for Tropical Agriculture
(CIAT)
Universidad ICESI
Simón Bolívar University
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)
Federal University of Paraná
Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária
Universidad de Buenos Aires
Universidade de Brasília
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
Universidade de São Paulo
Universidad de Chile
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología
Agropecuaria (INTA)
Universidad de La Habana
Universidad Nacional de San Martín
University of Morón

AFRICA

University of Tunis El Manar
Institute for Research, Socio-Economic
Development and Communication (IRESCO)
University of Dar es Salaam
University of Sklida
University of Zimbabwe

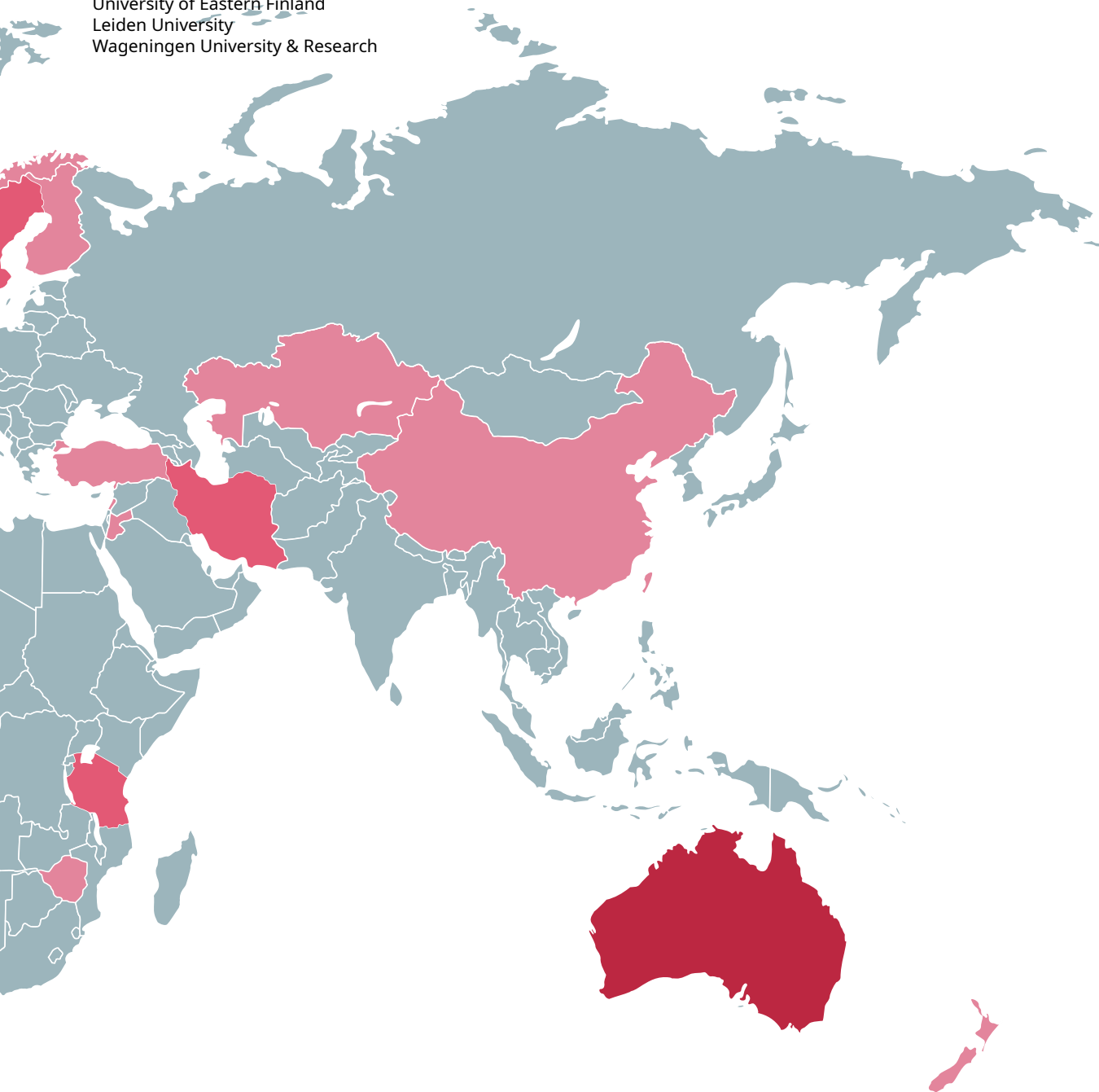


EUROPE

Agencia Aragonesa para la Investigación y el Desarrollo
Cardiff University
Dublin City University
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
Imperial College London
Hochschule Geisenheim University
Lancaster University
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Kristianstad University
KU Leuven
Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics
Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
TU Darmstadt
University College London
Université Catholique de Louvain
Universidad de Cádiz
Universidade de Lisboa
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
University of Cyprus
University of Copenhagen
University of Eastern Finland
Leiden University
Wageningen University & Research

ASIA & OCEANIA

AGresearch Ltd
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
Curtin University
Health Sciences University
Kharazmi University
Lebanese University
Monash Sustainable Development Institute
National University of Singapore
National Taiwan University
University of Jordan
University of South Australia
University of Technology Sydney
Xiamen University



GOVERNANCE

MAK'IT's Scientific Council – MASC – brings together international experts from the University of Montpellier's strategic partner universities, directors of the University of Montpellier's five research clusters, and researchers from the I-SITE Program of Excellence (PEI). MASC is an independent body that supports the Institute's strategic development across three primary missions, as outlined here.

- **Provide well-informed opinions, advice, and recommendations on the Institute's scientific strategy, positioning, research themes, and activities.**
- **Impartially evaluate applications submitted in response to MAK'IT's various calls for proposals.**
- **Contribute to the Institute's international exposure and promotion.**

Its members are all recognized experts in their respective fields and they meet twice a year. They are appointed for a two-year term, renewable one time. MASC was partially renewed in April 2025.

COMPOSITION OF MAK'IT SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Olivier Barreteau

Deputy Director of the UNESCO International Center in Montpellier, ICIREWARD

Daniel Barthélémy

Director of the Agriculture, Environment, and Biodiversity Research Center at the University of Montpellier

Carlos Correa

Executive Director of the South Centre, Geneva, Switzerland

Irène Georgescu

Professor of Management, Director of the Social Sciences Research Cluster at the University of Montpellier

Louise Jackson

Professor Emerita, Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources, University of California, Davis, United States

Joulia Larionova

Professor of Materials Science, Director of the Chemistry Research Center at the University of Montpellier

Laura Michel

Associate Professor (HDR) in Political Science, Director of the MAK'IT Institute

Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet

CNRS Research Director in Integrative Membrane Biophysics, Director of the Biology and Health Research Cluster

Serge Morand

CNRS Research Director in Health Ecology, Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Thailand

Stéphane Pagano

CNRS Research Director, Director of the Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics, and Systems Research Cluster at the University of Montpellier

Belinda Reyers

Professor of Sustainability Sciences, Center for Environmental Studies (CFES), University of Pretoria, South Africa

Paulo Saldiva

Professor of Pathology, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo (IAS-USP), Brazil

Ibrahima Thioub

Professor of Modern and Contemporary African History, former Rector of Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar, Senegal

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HOSTING PROGRAMS

HOSTING PROGRAMS

The MAK'IT Institute offers selected researchers a unique platform to further their research projects in a stimulating, multidisciplinary environment.

The rigorous candidate selection process focuses on the originality and excellence of proposals, project relevance, and their potential to drive innovation within Montpellier's scientific ecosystem. Evaluation is carried out by members of the MAK'IT Scientific Council or by experts affiliated with European programs such as FIAS and CAT.

By joining MAK'IT, researchers immerse themselves in a collaborative environment, committing to forge close ties with the local scientific community. Such interactions are essential for building lasting and productive partnerships. In addition, visiting researchers are required to organize at least one international scientific event in Montpellier, in collaboration with their local peers, thereby contributing to the area's scientific vitality.

INTEGRATION WITHIN THE MONTPELLIER SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY: JOINT RESEARCH UNITS (JRUs)

In 2024, the University of Montpellier and its partners decided to give the MAK'IT program a new direction by promoting greater integration of international scientists into the laboratories within the I-SITE consortium, as part of a broader framework of research themes focusing on governance and public policy issues related to transitions.

Through a research-intensive, thematically focused university that is internationally recognized for its impact on societal challenges such as food security, environmental protection, and human health, the University of Montpellier scientific community and its partners are pioneering solutions for the future, serving both humanity and the environment.

This dynamic research also benefits from state-of-the-art technological platforms.



Visiting researcher Oguzhan Ekizoglu, hosted in 2025 by the Montpellier University Hospital and the Montpellier Criminal Law and Forensic Sciences Team (EDPFM).

Visiting researcher Filomena Silva, hosted in 2024 by the IATE research unit dedicated to agro-polymers and emerging technologies.





MAK'IT INTEGRATION WITHIN THE MONTPELLIER SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

The MAK'IT team promotes interdisciplinary, cultural, and personal exchanges among visiting researchers and facilitates their integration into Montpellier's scientific ecosystem.

During their stay in Montpellier, regardless of their host program, researchers participate in joint interdisciplinary activities centered around seminars during which they present their projects. These meetings are special opportunities that allow everyone to share their work and exchange ideas with colleagues, including those from the local ecosystem.

The MAK'IT team also assists them in organizing scientific events during their stay, such as conferences and international seminars.

Group sessions are also organized to introduce researchers to the resources available at the University of Montpellier (including support for putting together European projects provided by the Office of Innovation and Partnerships, as well as documentation services offered by

the University and its partners. Local support is available to help them get settled, such as the Euraxess Welcome Desk at SAIEC (International Student and Researcher Welcome Service), a support structure created in Montpellier by several local higher education and research institutions to facilitate the reception and integration of international students and researchers.

Since September 2024, MAK'IT has been implementing a cultural program for its visiting scientists to help them integrate into their new environment and feel a sense of belonging.



VISITING SCIENTISTS PROGRAM

This hosting program enables internationally renowned foreign researchers to spend between 3 to 6 months at a research unit within the context of the I-SITE Excellence Program, led by the University of Montpellier. Research projects carried out by visiting researchers contribute, in a cross-disciplinary and innovative manner, to the Institute's missions, which have focused since its inception on supporting and accelerating transitions toward sustainable development. Since 2025, these projects have been specifically designed to provide insight into and contribute to public policies on transition.

In particular, the Institute seeks to encourage, without exclusion, projects in the following fields:

Agroecology

One Health

Water reuse

Through the intellectual and cultural wealth and diversity they bring, these visits foster both the emergence of new ideas and the development of international partnerships. This helps strengthen the University of Montpellier's position in the field of research dedicated to the governance of transitions across I-SITE's key research areas: Feed, Care, and Protect.



Workshop led by George Brown, visiting researcher in the "Visiting Scientists" program, June 20, 2025

FRENCH INSTITUTES OF ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAM

The French Institutes of Advanced Study (FIAS) is a COFUND (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions) program funded by the European Commission. It is based on international mobility and offers high-level research fellowships at MAK'IT as well as at six other institutes of advanced study: in Aix-Marseille, Orléans-Tours, Lyon, Nantes, Paris, and Rennes. The program is coordinated by the French Network of Institutes of Advanced Study (RFIEA), of which MAK'IT is a member.

FIAS supports high-quality, innovative research. Recipients enjoy complete freedom in conducting their research and benefit from strong scientific and extra-university support from the institutes and the French network. Each year, the program offers several 10-month fellowships for researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

Launched in 2020 and funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement (no. 945408) and by French national funding under France 2023 (Contract 11-LABX-0027), the first program concluded in 2025.

A second COFUND project has been ongoing since late 2025 and will run through 2030. Still coordinated by the French Network of Institutes for Advanced Study (RFIEA), the project expects to host six fellows in Montpellier between 2026 and 2030. This program supports the University of Montpellier's goals related to enhancing its international appeal and maintaining its commitment to research excellence.



CONSTRUCTIVE ADVANCED THINKING

MAK'IT has partnered with about ten other European Institutes for Advanced Study (IEA) as part of the "Constructive Advanced Thinking" program, coordinated by the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS). Since the inauguration of this program in 2020, MAK'IT has regularly hosted week-long seminars featuring rich discussions and collaborative work.



CAT group visit: October 7–18, 2024 / Research project: "Controversial Tools: A Study of Modeling Practices in Water Governance"

This program enables small interdisciplinary groups of young researchers from around the world to conduct cutting-edge research projects aimed at understanding and addressing current and emerging societal challenges. The CAT program gives them an opportunity to meet several times over a two- to three-year period at the initiative's partner Institutes for Advanced Studies (IEA), where they benefit from the local research environment and networks.

Rossella Alba, Bich Tran, Jonatan Godinez, and Rozemarijn ter Horst (two postdocs and two doctoral students, respectively) visited Montpellier from September 30 to October 11, 2024, to explore the many social and political factors that affect water models and modeling. Supported by MAK'IT through the "Constructive Advanced Thinking" call for proposals, their research project focuses on "Controversial Tools: Researching Modeling Practices in Water Governance."

During their two-week stay in Montpellier, the researchers presented their project on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at a scientific seminar organized by the G-EAU research unit. They also interviewed members of the water sciences community, including researchers from the unit.

The CAT program will continue in 2026 with the arrival of two new groups to work on the following themes:

- March 2026 - Project: *Metamorphoses of Rights? A critical exploration of planetary boundaries and their implications for environmental law.*
- October 2026 - Project: *"Work, Historical Perspectives, and Future Challenges for Employee Representation in Europe" (DemWo)*

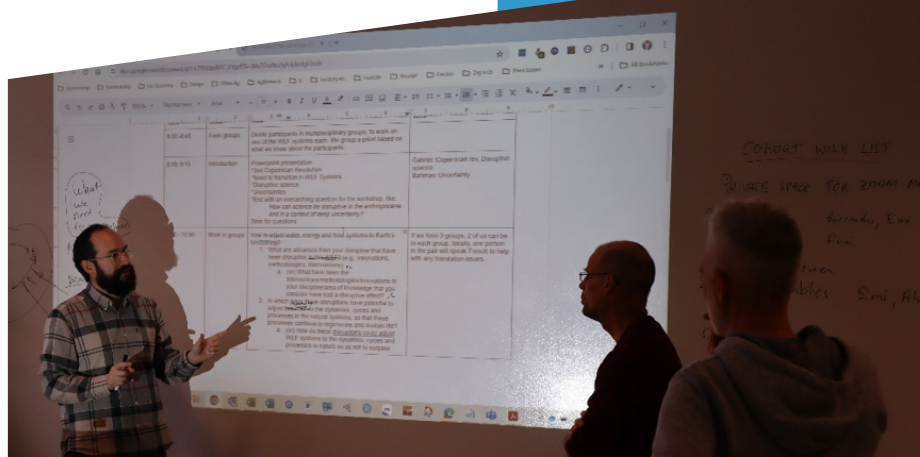
COHORT PROGRAM

The theme selected for hosting a cohort of six researchers from January to July 2024 was "Breakthrough Science to Address Global Challenges."

The work undertaken by this cohort, along with the discussions held with all visiting researchers and their host teams, confirms the merits of an interdisciplinary approach to transitions by addressing the controversies that make these transitions difficult. By bringing together junior and senior researchers, the institute also stimulates learning processes and strengthens the ability of future generations of scientists to anticipate upcoming shocks and address tomorrow's challenges. It therefore pays particular attention to the ways in which each individual is transformed through interaction with others from different disciplines and regions around the world. By facilitating dialog and creating a safe space within which to organize it, the institute explores alternatives to avoid and work around the polarization that plagues the world today.

The result of collective thinking among the members of the 2024 cohort, this work led to a recent publication titled "Disruptive Science to Address Global Challenges":

Gui, E.M., Romera, A., Descalzo, A. et al., [What Makes It So Difficult for Science to Contribute to a Sustainable Future? An Analysis of Controversies.](#) *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* (2026).



CULTURAL PROGRAM

IMMERSION THROUGH CULTURE AND PROMOTION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S HISTORICAL HERITAGE

As part of its policy to ensure a high-quality welcome and support for international researchers, MAK'IT has introduced a cultural program dedicated to visiting scientists, starting in 2024-2025.

The aim of this initiative is to help researchers become more immersed in the local culture and to highlight the University's heritage as well as the cultural and human richness of the Montpellier area.

Through guided tours, heritage discovery, and cultural encounters, visiting researchers explored the University's history and heritage, notably thanks to the participation of several University colleagues who actively helped organize various activities. This initiative highlighted the knowledge, places, and people that shape the University's identity.

Beyond the campus, participants discovered a region that is remarkably rich in cultural and natural heritage, with wine-making traditions, olive cultivation, shellfish farming, fishing, and Mediterranean landscapes all providing the researchers with memorable experiences.

Researchers appreciated this immersion initiative, seeing it as a complementary form of support during their stay in Montpellier. The cultural program also helped foster exchanges among the researchers, strengthen their integration into the MAK'IT community, and facilitate their exploration of the local area and university environment.



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HOSTED RESEARCHERS

AFRICA



Latati Mourad
University of Skikda
(Algeria)

>>> Agroecology and Sustainable Intensification of Annual Crops (AIDA) and Eco&Sols, September 24, 2024, through July 24, 2025

Evaluation of the Performance and Resilience of a Cereal-Legume Intercropping System Using the New Version of the STICS Soil-Crop Model Under Different Climatic Conditions

NORTH AMERICA



Patrick Allard
University of California, Los Angeles
(United States)

>>> Institute of Human Genetics (IGH) January 8 to July 8, 2024

Understanding and breaking the vicious cycle of arsenic exposure



Madhur ANAND
University of Guelph
(Canada)

>>> Laboratory: Montpellier Institute of Evolution Sciences (ISEM) February 15 to July 15, 2025

Structure, Functionality, and Tipping Points in Socio-Ecological Systems



Eve Bratman
Franklin & Marshall College
(United States)

>>> Montpellier Interdisciplinary center on Sustainable Agri-food systems – social and nutritional sciences (MoISA) September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Honey and influence: Bee preservation policy and the ethics of a sustainable future



Tania Li
University of Toronto
(Canada)

>>> Knowledge, Environment, Societies (SENS) September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Socio-spatial and environmental (in) justice and citizenship in rural areas of the global South A comparative perspective



Armand Soldera
University of Sherbrooke
(Canada)

>>> Institut Charles Gerhardt Montpellier (ICGM) January 1 to March 31, 2024

Solving biological, health, and environmental problems.

South America



Enrique Aliste
University of Chile
(Chile)

>>> Knowledge, Environment, Societies (SENS)
September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Green narratives in, from, and about the Global South: A geopolitical approach to the production of scientific knowledge and environmental narratives concerning Latin America



George Brown
Federal University of Paraná
(Brazil)

>>> Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE)
November 25, 2024 to July 16, 2025

Linking soil fauna communities to the provision of ecosystem services in rural and urban environments.



Adriana Descalzo
University of Morón
(Argentina)

>>> Cohort program
January 8 to July 8, 2024

Breakthrough science to address global challenges.



Gabriel Lopez Porras
Autonomous University of Chihuahua (Mexico)

>>> Cohort program
January 8 to July 8, 2024

Breakthrough science to address global challenges.



Gabriela Merlinsky
Universidad de Buenos Aires
(Argentina)

>>> Knowledge, Environment, Societies (SENS)
September 15, 2025 to March 15, 2026

Water conflicts, environmental justice, and socio-ecological transformations in the Southern Cone

ASIA & OCEANIA



Ramia AL BAKAIN

University of Jordan
(Jordan)

**>>> Montpellier HydroSciences
September 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024**
Development of a new, efficient analytical method for wastewater treatment. Applications for aquifer rejuvenation.



Mohammad Ali Raayatpanah

Kharazmi University, Tehran
(Iran)

**>>> Montpellier Laboratory of Informatics, Robotics, and Microelectronics (LIRMM)
September 16, 2024 to July 16, 2025**
Mathematical programming and robust optimization techniques for a green, resilient, and sustainable food supply



George CURRY

Curtin University
(Australia)

**>>> JRU - Cirad Innovation
October 10, 2024 to July 24, 2025**

Aligning innovation processes with livelihood and sociocultural priorities: moving towards an understanding of the sociocultural and economic factors that influence the adoption of innovations by farming households in Papua New Guinea, Africa, and Latin America.

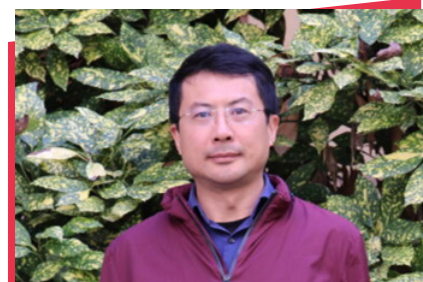


Oguzhan Ekizoglu

Health Sciences University, Izmir
(Turkey)

**>>> Montpellier Criminal Law and Forensic Sciences Team
September 15, 2025 to March 15, 2026**

Using artificial intelligence for radiation-free forensic age assessment: A transnational approach to migrants' rights and public policies in transition



Zhi Li

University of Xiamen
(China)

**>>> Montpellier Center for Environmental Economics (CEEM)
September 15, 2025 to February 15, 2026**

Allowance Auction Design for China's National Carbon Market: Balancing Revenue Neutrality, Price Stability, and Allocation Efficiency



Emi Minghui Gui
Monash Sustainable Development
Institute (Australia)

>>> Cohort program
January 8 to July 8, 2024

Breakthrough science to address
global challenges.



Alvaro Romera
AGresearch Ltd.
(New Zealand)

>>> Cohort program
January 8 to July 8, 2024

Breakthrough science to address
global challenges.

EUROPE



Philippe Baret
University of Leuven
(Belgium)

**>>> JRU - Innovation and Develop-
ment in Agriculture and Food**
September 1 to November 30, 2023
and March 1 to March 31, 2024

How does change come about
through DIY? Transforming water
governance, agricultural systems,
and the livelihoods of rural
communities



Riccardo Bommarco
Swedish University of Agricultural
Sciences (Sweden)

>>> Cohort program
January 8 to July 8, 2024

Breakthrough science to address
global challenges.



Frances Cleave

Lancaster University
(United Kingdom)

>>> Water management, stakeholders, and uses (G-EAU)
September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

How does change come about through DIY? Transforming water governance, agricultural systems, and the livelihoods of rural communities



Silvia Giordani

School of Chemical Sciences, Dublin City University (Ireland)

>>> Montpellier Charles Gerhardt Institute (ICGM)
September 16, 2024 to January 16, 2025
and May 26 to July 25, 2025

Functional nanomaterials (carbon nano-onions) for health, energy, and the environment



Bahman Rostami-Tabar

Cardiff University
(United Kingdom)

>>> Cohort program
January 8 to July 8, 2024

Project: Breakthrough science to address global challenges.



Filomena SILVA

Aragonese Foundation for Research and Development (Spain)

>>> Agro-Polymer Engineering and Emerging Technologies (IATE)
September 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024

Cyclodextrin nanosponge to improve the circularity of biopolyesters



HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2024

CONFERENCE ON HUMAN IMPACT ON WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION



In April 2024, the University of Montpellier hosted the international conference “Humans and Water: Human Impact on Water Management and Pollution,” a major event focusing on critical issues related to water contaminants.

Organized by three beneficiaries of the “Visiting Fellows” program – Filomena Silva, Patrick Allard, and Ramia Al-Bakain – with support from MAK’IT and the Occitanie Region, the event brought together international experts to adopt an interdisciplinary approach in analyzing the impact of human activities on water resources.

Discussions covered major issues such as pollution from microplastics, PFAS (“forever chemicals”), and heavy metals, as well as the challenges of water management in the context of climate change. The conference highlighted the importance of a comprehensive approach to the pollutant lifecycle and promoted sustainable solutions at the interface between scientific research, innovation, and public policy.

NOVEMBER 2024

HONORARY DOCTORATE PRESENTED TO ARMAND SOLDERA BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER



One of the highlights for the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions and the University of Montpellier was the presentation of an honorary doctorate by the University of Montpellier to Armand Soldera on November 14, 2024, fully illustrating the Institute’s commitment to international collaboration. A former visiting researcher with the MAK’IT program, Armand Soldera forged close ties with the Montpellier community during his stay, before being named dean of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Sherbrooke.

This honor illustrates not only the excellence of his scientific career but also the transformative impact of MAK’IT’s mobility programs in building long-lasting partnerships and international academic networks, furthering Montpellier’s global presence.

JANUARY 2025

COLLABORATION BETWEEN MAK’IT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER DOCTORAL COLLEGE



On January 13, 2025, the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions and the University of Montpellier Doctoral College co-organized an event dedicated to supporting doctoral students and early-career researchers in their international ambitions. Centered around two interactive roundtable discussions, this exchange featured contributions from several MAK’IT fellows, including Ramia Al-Bakain, George Brown, Silvia Giordani, and Mourad Latati.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to share their experience regarding international mobility, addressing both cultural understanding and the benefits and challenges of pursuing postdoctoral work abroad. It offered participants a unique opportunity to expand their thinking about career strategies, build their professional networks, and better anticipate the challenges associated with the internationalization of scientific careers.



IMPACT

“

George Curry,
Curtin University, visiting
researcher at the JRUIInnovation
unit (October 10, 2024 – July 24,
2025) accompanied by two other
fellows, Sylvia Giordani and
Madhur Anand.



During my MAK'IT residency at CIRAD, I was able to build strong and lasting research relationships that have already yielded significant results, including progress on a special issue of a journal dedicated to social and technical innovations in agriculture, as well as laying the groundwork for a future comparative research project. This residency also provided me with the time and intellectual space needed to finalize several publications and presentations, including a major article in “Cahiers Agricultures” and the organization of a workshop that helped strengthen case studies for the special issue.

The human aspect of my residency was just as important. Living in the MAK'IT villa alongside researchers from different countries and backgrounds created a dynamic and supportive community. Shared meals, daily conversations, and the excellent cultural activities organized by MAK'IT turned the villa into a true living space, fostering friendships that deeply enriched this experience.

This residency has had a lasting impact, strengthening long-term partnerships with colleagues at CIRAD, helping to shape the next phase of our collaborative research, and leaving me with wonderful memories and lasting friendships.

My experience at MAK'IT was exceptional. The Institute provides an ideal intellectual environment, with top-quality research facilities, a dynamic scientific community, and excellent administrative support. Combining structured academic events with more informal exchanges among researchers created a stimulating atmosphere that was particularly conducive to scientific work.

Living at Villa Leenhardt and receiving the monthly stipend allowed me to completely devote myself to my research. I am finishing my time at MAK'IT with a significantly stronger research program, new collaborations, and lasting professional relationships.

”

Zhi Li,
Xiamen University, visiting re-
searcher at the unit: Montpellier
Center for Environmental Econom-
ics (CEEM) (September 15, 2025
– February 15, 2026) with scientific
advisor Marc Willinger



PUBLICATIONS

Publications resulting directly from visiting researchers' stays at MAK'IT contribute to the exposure of the University of Montpellier and I-SITE Excellence Program in scientometric rankings. There were 28 articles and publications during this period.

2025 - SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

- Dylewsky, S., Kéfi, S., Anand, M., & Bauch, C. T. (2025). **Neural models for prediction of spatially patterned phase transitions: methods and challenges**
- Bartkowski, M., Zhou, Y., Penna, I., Russo, D., Mohan, H., Serodre, T., Anglaret, E., Bandiera, T., & Giordani, S. (2026). **Surface engineering of carbon nano-onions for folic acid-mediated targeted chemotherapeutic delivery**. ACS Nano Materials, 9(2), 1234–1251.
- Bordoni, A., Rossetti, L., Rizzo, S. A., Dhuique-Mayer, C., Bárcena, N., & Descalzo, A. M. (2025). **Enhancing nutritional value through semi-solid fermentation of quinoa and mango-orange juice: a sustainable approach to food processing**. Sustainable Food Technology.
- Romera, A., Bratman, E., Pinero de Plaza, M. A., Descalzo, A., & Ghneim-Herrera, T. (2025). **Freeing transdisciplinarity from the project straightjacket: reframing the problem**. Social Sciences & Humanities Open, 11, 101483.
- Lacoste, M., Bellon-Maurel, V., Piot-Lepetit, I., et al. (2025). **Farmer-centric on-farm experimentation: digital tools for a scalable transformative pathway**. Agronomy for Sustainable Development, 45, 18.
- Li, T., & Semedi, P. (2025). **No remedy: injustice and constrained citizenship in Indonesia's plantation zone**. Journal of Agrarian Change, e70056.
- Anand, M., Bauch, C. T., & Kéfi, S. (2025, October 30). **Mathematics of coupled human-environment systems**. SIAM News.
- Raayatpanah, M. A., Elias, J., Martignon, F., Pimpinella, A., & Poss, M. (2025). **Resilient NFV service chains under energy-aware attacks: a bilevel optimization approach**. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Smart Computing (SMARTCOMP), Cork, Ireland, 219–221.
- Rafflegeau, S., & Curry, G. N. (Coords.). (2025). **Smallholders and artisanal millers: the least known actors of the global oil palm sector / Agriculteurs et artisans transformateurs, l'autre facette des filières d'huile de palme**. Cahiers Agricultures, 34, 24.

2024 - SCIENTIFIC WORKS AND ARTICLES

- Li, T. M. (2024). **Securing oil palm smallholder livelihoods without more deforestation in Indonesia**. Nature Sustainability, 7, 387–393.
- Engle, E. W., Larkins, M., Bratman, E., & Higgins, A. K. (2024). **Centering diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in environmental studies and sciences by practicing compassionate pedagogies**. Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, 14, 469–483.
- Moseley, W. G. (2024). **Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation**. Agenda Publishing.
- Bratman, E. (2024). **Field notes from a sandbox: learning wild patience with wild bees**. Earth Stewardship, 1(1), e70001.
- Choukrani, H., & Ghneim-Herrera, T. (2024). **Advancing sustainable futures through education: a Montpellier case study on student-led advocacy for transdisciplinary approaches**. Journal of Adult and Continuing Education.
- Dowd-Urbe, B., Blundo-Canto, G., Glover, D., Louafi, S., Shilomboleni, H., Rock, J. S., et al. (2024). **Socio-economic assessment and genetically engineered crops in Africa: building knowledge for development?** Global Food Security, 42, 100782.
- Dowd-Urbe, B., Rock, J. S., Spreadbury, T., Chiril, P., & Uminsky, D. (2024). **Bridging the gap? Public-private partnerships and genetically modified crop development for smallholder farmers in Africa**. Plants, People, Planet, 6(2), 437–451.
- Kateule, R., & Ghneim-Herrera, T. (2024). **Unveiling the controversies: ICTs in agriculture and the challenges for Africa**. South Centre Report.
- Kateule, R., Kamanyi, E., & Tunga, M. (2024). **Crisis management: unveiling information and communication technologies' revamped role through the lens of Sub-Saharan African countries during COVID-19**. The African Journal of Information Systems, 16(2), 77–93.

- Leyba, K. A., Chan, H., Loesch, O., Belec, S., Sicard, P., & Goergen, C. J. (2024). **Automatic segmentation for analysis of murine cardiac ultrasound and photoacoustic image data using deep learning.** *Ultrasound in Medicine & Biology*, 50(8), 1292–1297.
- López Porras, G., & Allard, P. (2025). **Making waves: public health risks from arsenic in Mexico's water extraction practices.** *Water Research X*, 26, 100283.
- Metzger, J. P., Joly, C., Sparovek, G., Pardini, R., Ruggiero, P., di Giulio, G., et al. (2024). **Guiding transdisciplinary synthesis processes for social-ecological policy decisions. Perspectives in Ecology and Conservation.**
- Shrivastava, P., Jackson, L., Ghneim-Herrera, T., Caron, P., Correa, C., Alvarez Pereira, C., et al. (2024). **Science in crisis times: the crucial role of science in sustainability and transformation.** *PLOS Sustainability and Transformation*, 3(10), e0000132.
- Silva, F., Al Bakain, R., Pradeau, G., Ben Braham, M., Prtorić, J., Ait-Mouheeb, N., et al. (2024). **Protection over restoration to ensure water sustainability. Communications Earth & Environment**, 5(1), 1–6.
- Spitschan, M., Kervezee, L., Lok, R., McGlashan, E., & Najjar, R. P. (2024). **Brighter future for light therapy: harmonising the reporting of light interventions in psychiatry.** *BMJ Mental Health*, 27(1).
- [How stepping out helped us tune in: finding space and time to think as an early career researcher.](#) (2024). *NPJ Biological Timing and Sleep*, 1(1), 1–2.
- Zimmerer, K. (2024). **Rural agriculture and the cities. ReVista, the Harvard Review of Latin America.**
- Zimmerer, K. S., Aumeeruddy-Thomas, Y., Caillon, S., Jiménez-Olivencia, Y., Porcel-Rodríguez, L., & Duvall, C. S. (2024). **Agrobiodiversity threats amid expanding woody monocultures and hopes nourished through farmer and food movements in the Mediterranean.** *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*, 12(1), 00093.
- Zwarteveen, M., Domínguez-Guzmán, C., Kuper, M., Saidani, A., Kemerink-Seyoum, J., Cleaver, F., et al. (2024). **Caring for groundwater: how care can expand and transform groundwater governance.** *International Journal of the Commons*, 18(1), 384–396.



OTHER COLLABORATIONS

CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

VISITING RESEARCHER PARTICIPATES IN A PUBLIC EVENT IN MONTPELLIER

As part of MAK'IT's "Visiting Scientists 2024-2025" program, Madhur Anand, a visiting researcher from the University of Guelph (Canada), participated in the 41st edition of the Montpellier Comédie du Livre book fair, held in downtown Montpellier on May 15-24, 2025, to present her book : "To Place a Rabbit". This novel powerfully explores the intersection of art and science and the subjectivity of translation, while interweaving time, language, life, artistic creation, and human relationships.

Madhur Anand, a fellow in the MAK'IT "Visiting Scientists" program, presenting her book "To Place a Rabbit" at the Montpellier Comédie du Livre book fair from May 15 to 24, 2025.



THE CULMINATION OF A PROJECT

The publication of the book "Latin American Political Ecology: Working the Past, Densifying the Present, Sketching Futures", published by David Dumoulin Kervran, Gabriela Merlinsky, and Pierre Gautreau, marked a major intellectual and editorial event during the 2025-2026 academic year. This publication led to a roundtable discussion involving researchers who debated contemporary issues in political ecology. The participation of Gabriela Merlinsky from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina – who was hosted as part of MAK'IT's Visiting Scientists program – helped promote international and interdisciplinary exchanges. This event highlighted Latin America's fundamental contribution to critical environmental thinking, exploring the links between academic knowledge and socio-environmental struggles, while offering the French-speaking public essential insights for rethinking development models and envisioning alternative eco-political futures.

Gabriela Merlinsky, a fellow of the MAK'IT "Visiting Scientists" program for 2025-2026, at the launch of the book "Latin American Political Ecology: Working the Past, Densifying the Present, Sketching Futures" on March 9, 2026.

PUBLICATION SUPPORTED AS PART OF THE MAK'IT FELLOWSHIP

During his stay at MAK'IT as part of the "Visiting Scientists 2025" program, George G. Brown contributed to the publication of the "Soil Biology Manual / Manual de Biologia do Solo", which was released in 2025 in English and Portuguese. Supported through his fellowship, this work was published in collaboration with the Brazilian Federation of No-Till Farming and the Brazilian Society of Soil Science.

The manual serves as a reference resource on soil biology and aims to promote science-based knowledge and best practices related to soil health and sustainable agricultural systems.

English and Portuguese versions are available freely on the partner institutions' websites. Spanish and French translations are currently in progress and are expected to be published by the end of 2026.



George G. Brown is an ecologist at the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and teaches in the graduate program in soil science at the Federal University of Paraná, Brazil. His stay as a visiting researcher at the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT) took place from November 25, 2024, to July 16, 2025.

SEPTEMBER 2024

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Testimonial and reflection on career paths, inequalities, and diversity in scientific careers

Silvia Giordani, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

OCTOBER 2024

MODELING FOR FAIR WATER TRANSFORMATIONS

Seminar hosted by JRU G-EAU: A critical discussion of the role of water models in issues related to justice, governance, and the sociopolitical transformation of water.

CAT Group

DESIGN OF A ROBUST TWO-STAGE WIRELESS BODY NETWORK

Mohammad Raayatpanah, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

NOVEMBER 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS IN CONTAMINATED COMMUNITIES

A sociological analysis of citizens' experience dealing with industrial pollution, and the role of participatory science in identifying risks

Christelle GRAMAGLIA - Sociologist specializing in environmental sciences, and Research Director at the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (INRAE)

DECEMBER 2024

DESIGN AND CO-EVALUATION OF INNOVATIVE CROPPING SYSTEMS

Seminar on the use of modeling (STICS) to design more sustainable and more resilient agricultural systems, notably through intercropping

Mourad Latati, visiting researcher in the "FIAS" program

JANUARY 2025

ALIGNING INNOVATION PROCESSES WITH LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIOCULTURAL PRIORITIES.

Seminar on the sociocultural and economic factors influencing the adoption of innovation among farming households in Papua New Guinea

George Curry, visiting researcher in the "FIAS" program

FEBRUARY 2025

LINKING SOIL FAUNA COMMUNITIES TO THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN RURAL AND URBAN ENVIRONMENTS.

Seminar to explore the role of soil fauna communities in ecosystem functioning and their contribution to the provision of essential ecosystem services, such as fertility and nutrient cycling

George Brown, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

MARCH 2025

TIPPING POINTS IN HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT COUPLED SYSTEMS.

This seminar, organized at the CEFE site (CNRS, Montpellier), focuses on human-environment coupled systems (HECS), where societies and ecosystems interact dynamically. The approach uses mathematical models to analyze the influence of human behavior on environmental trajectories as well as the risks of critical changes.

Madhur Anand, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

SEPTEMBER 2025

WATER CONFLICTS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE

Analysis of water-related conflicts, along with debates on environmental justice and related issues, as they emerge from various mobilizations and collective actions in Argentina and Uruguay.

Gabriela Merlinsky, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

WATER POLICIES, MARKET-BASED MECHANISMS, AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT IN CHINA.

Seminar on water management policies and regulations in China: institutions, legal frameworks, social acceptance, stakeholder behavior, ecological constraints, and governance capacity.

Zhi Li, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

DECEMBER 2025

USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR RADIATION-FREE FORENSIC AGE ASSESSMENT: A TRANSNATIONAL APPROACH TO MIGRANTS' RIGHTS AND PUBLIC POLICIES IN TRANSITION

The purpose of this meeting was to assess current practices for determining the age of living individuals and to explore their implications in forensic medicine, law, and ethics, particularly in light of recent developments in new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Oguzhan Ekizoglu, visiting researcher participating in the "Visiting Scientists" program

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

JANUARY 2024

PRODUCING AND DISSEMINATING ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH: EXPERIENCE, PRACTICES, AND CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON REDUCING KNOWLEDGE INEQUALITIES. PUBLICS IN TRANSITION

This international conference focused on highlighting an often-overlooked inequality: the disparity in how knowledge is produced and disseminated, particularly in countries of the Global South and non-English-speaking contexts.

MARCH 2024

FROM WARNING TO SAVING THE PLANET: SCIENCE TAKES ACTION

International dialog across science and policy on the transformations needed to address global crises.

APRIL 2024

HUMANS AND WATER: HUMAN IMPACT ON WATER MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION

International conference on water pollution, resource scarcity, and health and regulatory challenges.

NOTIONS OF JUSTICE, FORMS OF CITIZENSHIP, AND STATE-SOCIETY RELATIONS IN THE FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

This international conference addressed the issue of socio-spatial and environmental justice by examining situations where people are excluded from access to property resources (land and natural resources) and exposed to environmental risks due to large-scale public or private projects that transform the landscape and its uses.

OCTOBER 2024

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN URBAN AREAS

Presentation of nature-based solutions to address urban challenges related to biodiversity and sustainability – the Biota Synthesis project. Conference moderated by Jean-



Paul Metzger (University of São Paulo, Brazil), a former MAKIT fellow, as part of the first scientific sessions of the SOLU-BIOD program

JUNE 2025

SOIL FAUNA AND THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: BRIDGING THE GAPS.

Workshop led by George Brown, visiting researcher participating in the “Visiting Scientists” program

GENDER AND INCLUSIVITY: STRATEGIES FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF FAMILY WELL-BEING.

Workshop led by George Curry, visiting researcher in the “FIAS” program

JUIN 2025

BOOSTING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THROUGH HIGH BIODIVERSITY-BASED MEDITERRANEAN FARMING SYSTEMS



Workshop led by Mourad Latati, visiting researcher in the “FIAS” program

JULY 2025

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF TIPPING POINTS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ART



Workshop led by Madhur Anand, a researcher hosted as part of the “Visiting Scientists” program

JUNE 2024



SHARING OUR MAK'IT EXPERIENCE: REFLECTIONS AND FUTURE ORIENTATIONS. A COLLECTIVE PRESENTATION OF THE WORK AND PERSPECTIVES OF MAK'IT FELLOWS.

On a sunny day in June, twelve researchers gathered in Montpellier for a day of reflection and discussion, in an atmosphere marked by intellectual camaraderie. Each MAK'IT guest researcher presented their progress, sharing their ideas and breakthroughs achieved during their time at MAK'IT. The Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT) has consistently pioneered this intellectual renaissance, welcoming researchers from around the world. In 2024, visiting scientists, FIAS fellows, and members of the MAK'IT Cohort program made significant advances in their respective fields, both contributing to a better understanding of global challenges and fostering innovative solutions.

Researchers also highlighted significant shifts in their research trajectories, influenced by the diverse perspectives and critical feedback received from peers. This event not only displayed their individual achievements but also underscored the collective growth fueled by their shared experiences, paving the way for future collaborations. The fellows also discussed the challenges they faced, ranging from navigating interdisciplinary collaborations to integrating into the local research community. Just as the sun shines brightly on Montpellier, the accomplishments of MAK'IT researchers in 2024 stand as a beacon of hope and inspiration. Their work not only advances our understanding of global challenges, but it also showcases the power of new collaborations and interdisciplinary research in finding innovative solutions.

JULY 2025



A COLLECTIVE PRESENTATION OF THE WORK AND PERSPECTIVES OF MAK'IT FELLOWS.

In a warm and friendly setting, the presentation by the six 2024–2025 visiting researchers took place in the presence of the Institute's Director, scientific advisors, and their families. This gathering provided an opportunity to look back on a year rich in interactions, interdisciplinary collaborations, and scientific achievements, before coming together to wrap up a stay marked by numerous positive experiences on both personal and professional levels.

The visiting researchers' testimonials highlighted the impact of the MAK'IT program on their careers. Beyond the scientific advances they achieved, the researchers emphasized the value of international collaborations, their exposure to new research approaches, and the development of essential personal skills such as adaptability, resilience, and teamwork. For many, the residency enabled them to advance major research projects, publish in leading international journals, submit new work, and present their findings at high-level scientific conferences. Exchanges with researchers in Montpellier and the interdisciplinary environment provided by MAK'IT helped generate new ideas and open up opportunities for long-term research collaborations.

The visiting researchers also discussed the challenges they faced during their stay – administrative procedures, family adjustments, and language barriers – and the importance of the support provided by the MAK'IT community in overcoming them. This experience increased their confidence, ability to deal with the unexpected, and conviction that cooperation and mutual support are at the heart of scientific and human success.

Lastly, everyone acknowledged the warm welcome they received in Montpellier, as well as the city's high quality of life and the constant support provided by the MAK'IT team. These factors played a major role in making their stay a memorable experience, the impact of which will continue to enrich research projects, international collaborations, and personal development for years to come.

PARTNERS AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

RESEARCH UNITS INVOLVED IN MONTPELLIER

Research units play a key role in hosting researchers invited to MAK'IT and are at the heart of the academic and scientific exchanges that take place there. These MAK'IT research fellowships with research institutions in the I-SITE network help enhance the international profile and overall appeal of the University of Montpellier and its partners by fostering the full and complete inclusion of researchers in the local research community and by encouraging the development of lasting scientific collaborations.

ABSys

Biodiverse Agricultural Systems

AGAP

Genetic Improvement and Adaptation of Mediterranean and Tropical Plants

AMAP

Botany and Modeling of Plant and Vegetation Architecture

ART-Dev

Stakeholders, Resources, and Territories in Development

ASTRE

Animal, Health, Territories, Risks, and Ecosystems

CEFE

Center for Evolutionary and Functional Ecology

CESAB

Center for Biodiversity Synthesis and Analysis

CEPEL

Center for Political and Social Studies: Environment, Health, Territories

Espace-Dev

Space Observation, Modeling, and Related Science

G-EAU

Water management, stakeholders, and uses

HSM

Montpellier HydroSciences

IATE

Agro-Polymer Engineering and Emerging Technologies

IGH

Institute of Human Genetics

IGMM

Molecular Genetics Institute of Montpellier

Innovation

Innovation and Development in Agriculture and Food

IRIM

Montpellier Infectiology Research Institute

ISEM

Montpellier Institute of Evolution Sciences

ITAP

Technologies and Methods for the Agriculture of Tomorrow

LGMR

Rare Disease Genetics Laboratory

LUPM

Montpellier Universe and Particles Laboratory

LSTM

Laboratory of Tropical and Mediterranean Symbioses

MARBEC

Marine Biodiversity, Development and Conservation

MIVEGEC

Infectious Diseases and Vectors: Ecology, Genetics, Evolution, and Control

MISTEA

Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics for the Environment and Agronomy

MoISA

Montpellier Interdisciplinary Center for Sustainable Agri-food systems (social and nutritional sciences)

MRM

Montpellier Research in Management

PhyMedExp

Physiopathology and experimental heart and muscle care

SELMET

Mediterranean and Tropical Livestock Systems

SENS

Knowledge, Environment, Societies

ICIREWARD

International Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Water Systems Dynamics

KIPPT Key Initiative

Public policies for transition

PARTNERS

Foundation of the French Network of Institutes for Advanced Study



Netias · Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study



FIAS · French Institutes for Advanced Study



European commission · Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions



UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems



Euraxess Service Center



Key Public Policy Initiatives for Transition

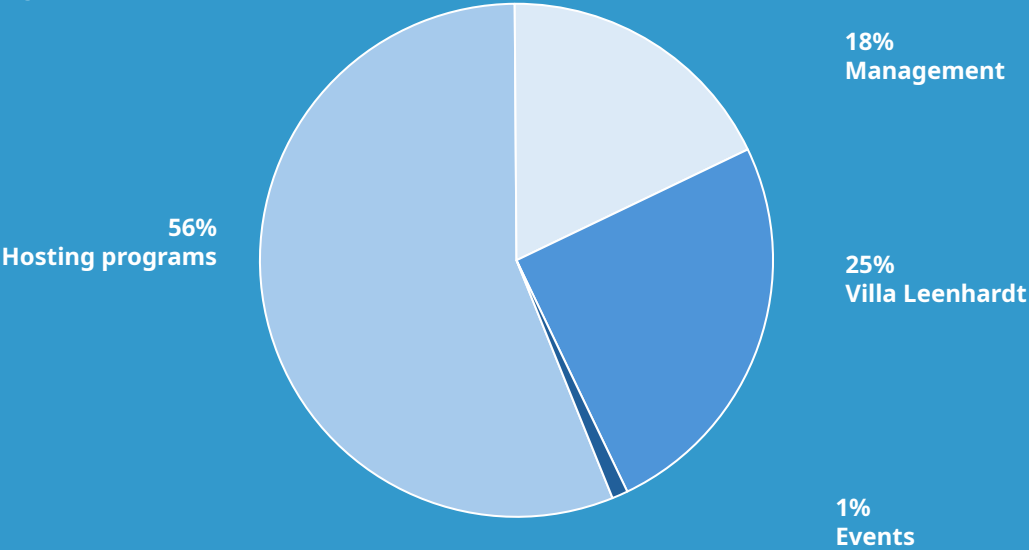


UNESCO International Centre - ICIREWARD

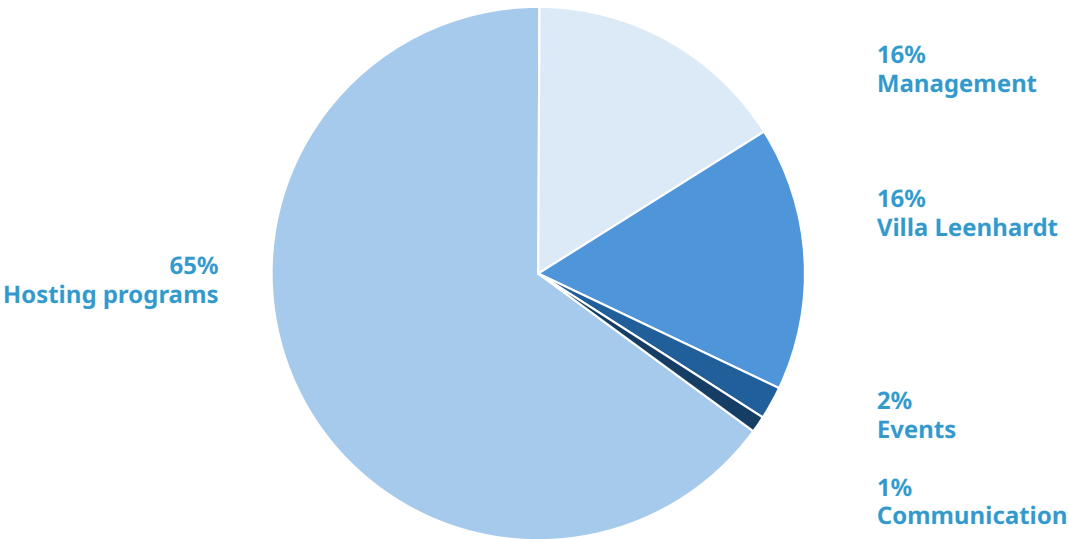


FINANCIAL REPORT

2024 EXPENSES



2025 EXPENSES



VILLA LEENHARDT

Located in the heart of the Triolet University Housing Complex in Montpellier, Villa Leenhardt has been a welcoming home for visiting researchers for the past four years. The result of a partnership with the Montpellier CROUS, it features eight renovated apartments and common areas, providing housing for international researchers at the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT) right in the center of Montpellier's academic ecosystem and conveniently close to public transportation.



THE TEAM



Laura Michel
Director of MAK'IT

Associate Professor (HDR) in Political Science,
University of Montpellier – CEPEL (JRU 5112)



Brenda Galvan
Project manager

Member of the University of Montpellier's
Department of Structuring Programs, in the Support
office for international outreach and attractiveness
of structuring programs



UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTPELLIER

