

Call for applications

International workshop of urban planning
6th - 8th July 2019 - Paris Region

Extension of the call
for applications
Submission until
May 19, 2019

Living day-to-day with the river Seine



les ateliers

maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine

LES ATELIERS INTERNATIONAUX DE MAITRISE D'ŒUVRE URBAINE DE CERGY-PONTOISE

Le Verger, 1 rue de la Gare

95020 Cergy-Pontoise CEDEX

Contact for les Ateliers: **contact@ateliers.org**

Contact for the 2019 workshop: **seine@ateliers.org**

Tél : +33 1 34 41 93 91

PILOTS

Benoît Vernière

Delphine Baldé

ASSISTANT PILOT

Manon Colle

PERMANENT TEAM

Pierre-André Perissol, President

Christine Lepoittevin, Director

Véronique Valenzuela, Project Director

Juliette Lombard, Management Assistant

Khadijatou Sene, Administrative Assistant

LIVING DAY-TO-DAY WITH THE RIVER SEINE

THE EMERGENCE OF A COMPLETE CITY SOUTH OF THE PARIS METROPOLITAN AREA

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TOPIC PRESENTATION

For many years, rivers did not play a central role in urban development: indeed, *they were limited to a productive or industrial function*. Today, calls for projects involving rivers are multiplying across the world, reflecting a change of perception of the relationship between town and river.

At a time when environmental challenges are very much in the news, resulting in commitments and objectives, riverside cities with their river-related activities can undeniably make major contributions to shaping the urban ecosystem.

In addition, rivers can help meet the current need to assert the distinctive identities of metropolitan areas in relation to each other. A river is much more than a mere urban façade: it is a vector for enhancing a territory's attractiveness

and quality of life, while reinforcing its social bonds.

Numerous planning stakeholders have clearly identified the planning potential of rivers, and yet the synergy creation between urbanised and riverside areas is still far from realising its full potential. The heritage value of a city-river interface is still often unrecognised, so there is an urgent need to re-think this interface with a view to providing the inhabitants with new uses, allowing them to regain access to the riverbanks, facilitating river crossings and developing economic activities. Given that some programmes may give rise to conflicting uses, the question is how to reconcile economic and ecological interests? Another key issue facing the development of river towns and cities is managing flood risk.

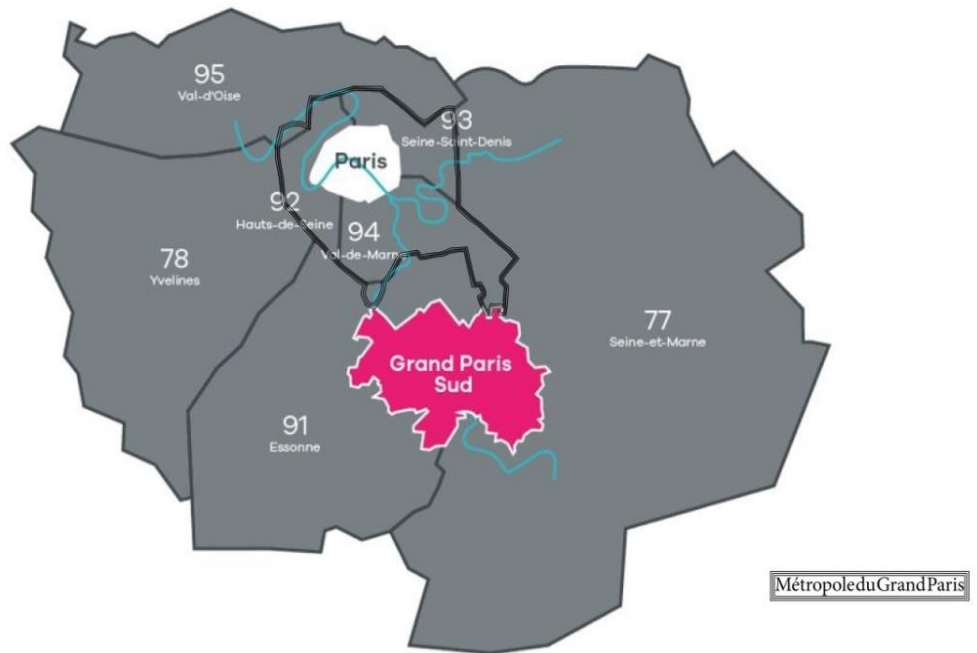
TERRITORY COVERED: SOUTHERN GREATER PARIS

The Southern Greater Paris area is an agglomeration of 23 municipalities in the south-east of the Paris-Île-de-France Region spread over two counties (“départements”) through which the river Seine runs. This area has seen strong urban growth over the last 50 years, thereby contributing to the development and structuring of the Paris metropolitan area. However, the river Seine as

such, which crosses this territory of 350,000 inhabitants, has not played a part in structuring its development. Hence two questions: first, today, how can we give the river Seine a role to play in the Greater Southern Paris area? Second, what planning strategy is required to turn the Seine valley with its riverbanks into a genuine agglomeration?

1. A RECENT URBAN HISTORY, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SEINE

The study area is located in the *départements* (counties) of Essonne and Seine-et-Marne and corresponds to the Grand Paris Sud (Greater Southern Paris) conurbation, which was created on 1 January 2016 and which includes 23 municipalities.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRAND PARIS SUD IN PARALLEL WITH THE GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA

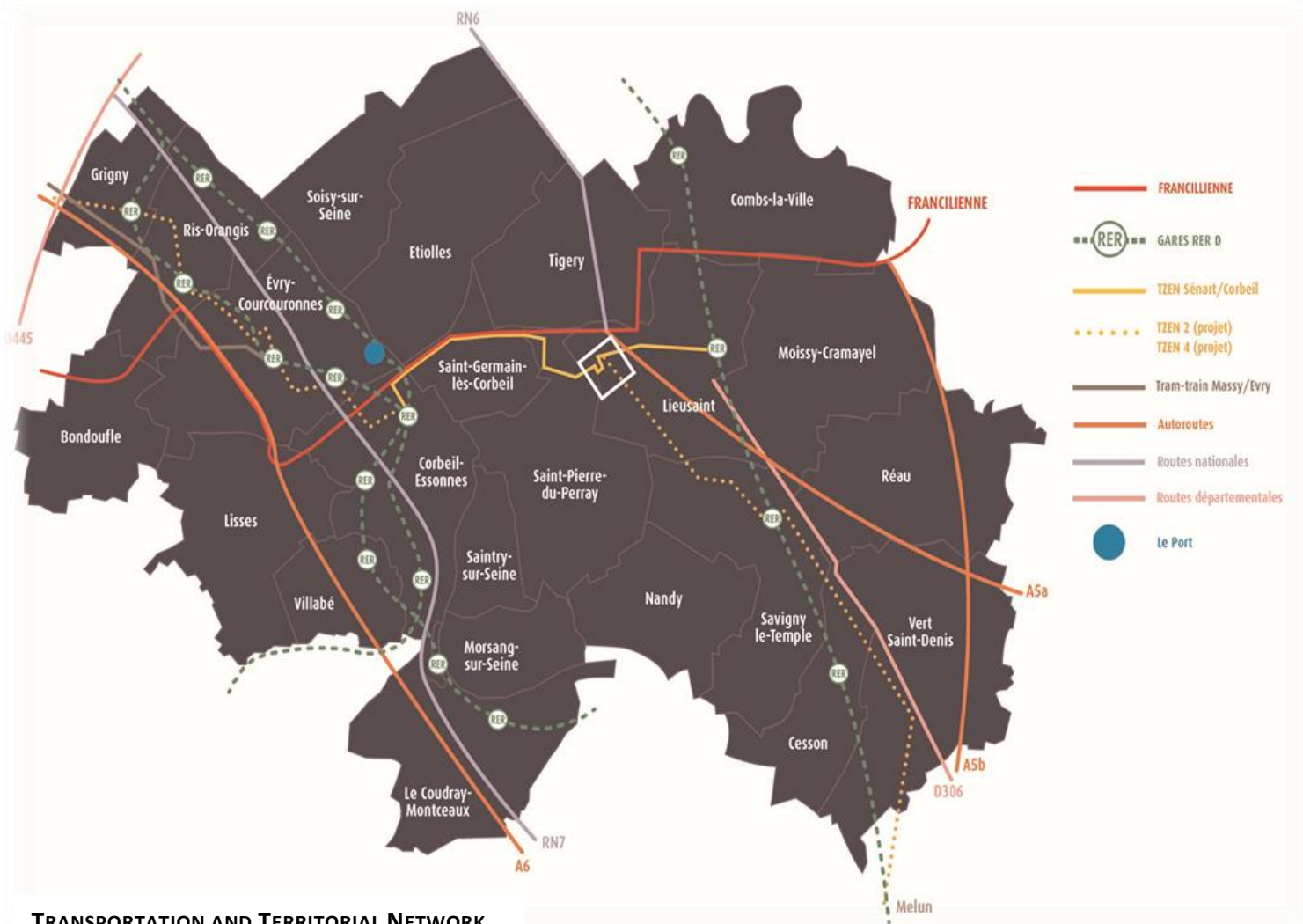
This territory has experienced a rapid and significant urban development since the late 1960s. It hosts two former *new towns* — Evry and Sénart — which were created as part of the 1965 Paris Region Master Plan for Urban Planning and Development (SDUARP), the main objective of which was to structure the intense growth of the Parisian metropolitan area. These new towns were thereby created to

organise the rapid development and provide residents with public facilities and jobs close to their homes.

The development of this territory was centred mainly around these two urban centres and occurred in an extremely rapid manner (transitioning from rural areas with a single city, Corbeil-Essonnes, in the 1960s to an urban area of 351,608 inhabitants 50 years later).

Urbanisation therefore developed on the plateaus, via major infrastructure projects (construction of housing, facilities, services, etc.), that relied primarily on a coordinated network of transportation infrastructures and which were designed on a regional scale.

Today, this territory has an extensive transportation network connected it to the capital and the entire Île-de-France Region: direct access to the A6, A5, N104; connections to major national roads; 17 RER stations; high-service bus lines; a planned TGV station in Lieusaint-Moissy; etc.



TRANSPORTATION AND TERRITORIAL NETWORK
SOURCE: GRAND PARIS SUD



The Vallée de la Seine now acts as a border between two urban centres and two large residential areas:

- The left bank was the main site of development from the 1960s to the 1980s (large housing complexes in the 1960s and 1970s, new town neighbourhoods in the 1980s). Today, urban policies aim to rebuild the city in its own right, integrating an approach of diversity and bridging the urban divides linked to transportation infrastructure.
- The right bank, home to the new town of Sénart, is characterised by a more recent and more residential development (61% of the area is composed of single-family homes).

GRAND PARIS SUD IN NUMBERS

350,000 INHABITANTS, RANKED 5TH IN THE ÎLE-DE-FRANCE REGION IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF INHABITANTS

222.2 KM²

23 MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS 2 DEPARTEMENTS: SEINE-ET-MARNE AND ESSONNE

51 % OF TERRITORY COVERED IN AGRICULTURAL, FOREST AND NATURAL AREAS

49 % OF TERRITORY COVERED IN URBANISED SPACES (OF WHICH 17% IS DEDICATED TO HOUSING)

MAJOR TRANSPORTATION AXES: RER D, A5, A6, FRANCILIENNE MOTORWAY, T ZEN BUS NETWORK

35 KM FROM PARIS

15 KM FROM ORLY AIRPORT

25 KM OF THE SEINE

31 KM OF SEINE RIVERBANKS

2. A NEW CONURBATION IN THE PARIS METROPOLITAN AREA

Today, this territory presents many of the characteristics of a large conurbation, whether by its size (220 km², 350,000 inhabitants) or its level of facilities and services (university, hospital centre, national theatre, etc.). However, its rapid development, the administrative boundaries that previously traversed its borders (2 *départements*, 23 municipalities, several inter-municipalities until 2016) explain its heterogeneity as well as the fact that this territory is not yet perceived as a city in its own right.

The creation of a single inter-municipal structure, the Grand Paris Sud Urban Authority, responds directly to this desire to create a “complete city” while also defining the territory’s specific trajectory within the Paris metropolitan area.

This inter-municipal authority has recently begun a broad reflection on its future and its overall strategy. Its objective is to define the links or bonds that must be (re)discovered and created to become a complete and vibrant conurbation within the Paris metropolitan area.

3. THE VALLÉE DE LA SEINE: WHAT ROLE DOES IT PLAY IN THE GRAND PARIS SUD, WHAT URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY SHOULD IT UNDERTAKE?

The objective of the workshop is to contribute to this general reflection by focusing on an important but, until recently, relatively unaddressed area: the Vallée de la Seine.

The area is fairly disconnected from the main urban centres (except Corbeil-Essonnes, which has a degree of riverside presence) and, in a broader sense, has played no significant role in urban planning and development strategies until recently.

Nonetheless, it is distinguished by its striking natural qualities: its distinctive hillsides and vegetation create a clear and recognisable landscape. It is precisely this picturesque character that led to its banks being listed as “Rives de Seine” in 1976, with the intention of protecting them from urban pressure. Eleven (11) of the 23 municipalities of the Grand Paris Sud are currently covered by this label.

Although several distinct areas can be identified, it is an overall natural tonality that dominates the territory

through the presence of recreational spots, agricultural areas at the base of the valley and residential zones on the wooded hills.

Several industrial and port areas exist, particularly in the north and around Évry-Courcouronnes and Corbeil-Essonnes (near the N104 ring road). The narrowness of the valley and the relative remoteness of major transportation infrastructure make these areas, often quite old, appear to be exceptions. For example, in Ris-Orangis, the former site of the Alcohol Docks has been transformed into an eco-neighbourhood during the course of the last decade.

The Grand Paris Sud Urban Authority has initiated public policies aimed specifically at the Vallée de la Seine; namely, to develop an identity specific to its banks, to redevelop them to make them accessible to all, to recreate a link between inhabitants/users and the river, but also to integrate urban resilience into its projects in anticipation of future changes.



THE SEINE IN EVRY-COURCOURONNES (PORT)

It is now a question of defining a strategy specific to this area.

Should the river and its surroundings be considered an active part of local life or a link to other areas of the capital? What development strategies should be adopted that will fully contribute to the vitality and identity of this territory? What role(s) can the Vallée de la Seine play in the future of this territory: that of a leisure area, a large urban park, a transportation hub?

The Vallée de la Seine is subject to various and even contradictory objectives: as an instrument for economic development, a biodiversity reserve, etc. The objective of the workshop is to explore these different dimensions and to propose to the Grand Paris Sud Urban Authority several broad strategies for the Vallée de la Seine.



THE SEINE IN NANDY

4. WORKSHOP FORMAT AND CALENDAR

The workshop will be organized following the original method of Les Ateliers, **with a new Format**, which consists of bringing together, for a period of **3 Days**, 30 to 40 professionals from varying countries and professions, who are then divided into teams of participants, with each including at least one local professional.

The first day of the workshop is dedicated to meetings and visits. Local authorities will have the chance to express directly to the participants their concerns about the subject and their specific expectations. Then, later in the afternoon, the teams of participants will start working. The last day, will be held the Exchange Forum, during which the teams will present to the other teams and to a local authorities and local actors, their analyses and the first proposals, who will openly provide feedback, exchanges, discussions and debates.

The objective is not to rank the teams, but to build on the proposals presented by the teams and identify within these productions, elements of analysis and proposals that are the most relevant for local authorities to take into account and implement.

The workshop is therefore not a contest, since there is neither a prize nor a procurement to be won. What counts is the capacity of the teams, followed by the local authorities and actors, to collaboratively produce analyses, new representations, and action plans that can be easily appropriated for Grand Paris Sud sustainable development around the Seine River.

PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKSHOP – 6TH TO 8TH JULY

This workshop address professionals of all ages and nationalities, who practice a profession or have experience tied to urban management. All fields are welcomed: architects, sociologists, geographers, landscape architects, engineers, economists, artists.

English proficiency is required. However, one (or two teams maximum), would work in French if necessary.

Participants will be provided lodging in Grand Paris Sud and premises for conducting their work. A document presenting Grand Paris Sud's situational context and current projects, as well as an archive of research materials and essential maps will also be made available.

Participants are not remunerated, but the following costs will be covered: travel expenses (within a reasonable limit), accommodation in individual rooms, catering, interpretation, field visits, and work materials.

The participants are selected by the workshop's pilot team on the basis of their professional capacities, their experience with similar topics, their approach to the subject, and their ability to communicate (language, visual expression), and their motivation!

5. PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 SEINE INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOP

Les Ateliers Internationaux de Maîtrise d’Œuvre Urbaine de Cergy-Pontoise is a non-profit association, which was created in 1982 through the initiative of the urban planners behind the New Town of Cergy-Pontoise. Les Ateliers de Cergy is an international network of professionals, academics and decision-makers in urban planning. Focused on the practice of urban development, the association organises workshops envisaged as a space for collective design and creativity. In France and elsewhere, these workshops provide project managers with an international perspective and illustrated proposals highlighting territorial strategies and urban development projects. Through the convergence of different professions and cultures, they are also a place to question the processes of learning and exchange at the highest level.

HOW TO APPLY?

The workshop is open to professionals from France and abroad across all disciplines (urban planning, design, architecture, geography, engineering, photography, sociology, economics, landscape design, ecology, art, communications, etc).

DATE AND PLACE

The workshop will be held from **6 to 8 July 2019**, in the Grand Paris Sud, Île-de-France (France).

Requests for information and/or documentation: seine@ateliers.org

PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

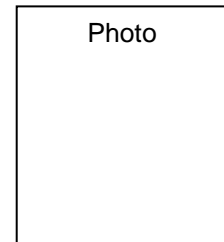
Applications must be submitted no later than **15 April 2019**, to the email address: seine@ateliers.org

They must include:

- A completed application form
- A CV/résumé and a brief summary of your work (5-page limit)

les ateliers

maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine



APPLICATION FORM SEINE WORKSHOP 2019:

Family name : _____

First name: _____

Date of birth : _____ Nationality : _____

Postal address : _____

E-mail : _____ Mobile phone : _____

Somebody to contact in case of problem : _____ Tél. : _____

Degrees : _____

Current situation: _____

Participation to other collective works: _____

How did you hear about Les Ateliers?

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Former participation | |
| Friend/colleague | |
| University/professors | |
| Internet | |
| Other (please specify) | |

Skills (from 0 : nul to 4 : mastery)

| LANGUAGES | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| French | | | | | |
| English | | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

| EXPRESSION | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hand drawing | | | | | |
| Computer drawing | | | | | |
| Writing | | | | | |
| Photo | | | | | |
| Indesign software | | | | | |
| Oral/written presentations | | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

| SPECIFIC SKILLS | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Engineering | | | | | |
| Visual Arts | | | | | |
| Economy | | | | | |
| Design | | | | | |
| Environmental planning | | | | | |
| Public Transport | | | | | |
| Landscape design | | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |

Describe yourself in 80 words (French or English)