



PRESS RELEASE



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Make our planet great again : the 18 first researchers have been selected

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Following the decision of the United States to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, issued a call to researchers, entrepreneurs, associations and NGOs, students and the civil society to pull together and join France in the fight against global warming.

The priority research programme “Make our planet great again” was launched under the auspices of Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and of Louis Schweitzer, General Commissioner for Investment. The CNRS is in charge of the scientific aspects of the programme and of the processing of the applications in cooperation with the Agence Nationale de la Recherche.

Campus France received more than 5000 expressions of interest and 1822 completed applications for long term and short term research residencies, at PhD as well as post-doctoral level. Applications came from around one hundred countries, mainly from students and researchers resident in the USA (1123 candidates), but also from the UK (53 candidates) and India (51 candidates).

Scientific excellence and relevance to the call were the main criteria for the evaluation of the projects. 450 candidates were short-listed for long term residencies-approximately 25% of the applications received. In this first round, 18 high-level projects were selected by an international panel led by Mme Corinne LE QUERE, Professor of Climate Change Science and Policy at the University of East Anglia and Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. A second round will take place in the spring of 2018. Germany has now joined the initiative and the new calendar will be set up under a joint scientific leadership.

The 18 laureates, of which 7 are women, come from 6 different countries, mostly the USA (13 projects). The selected projects are of very high level and address especially important issues, such as the impact of climate change on hurricanes, the effect of clouds in climate models, the effects of climate change on pollution as well as the public health consequences of climate change and the impact of climate change on circular economy. The laureates will join their new research labs in France in the next months.

The 18 first laureates of Make our Planet Great Again are :

Earth system science

Laureate: Pr Venkatramani BALAJI, Senior Researcher

University of origin: USA, Princeton

Project : High-Resolution Modeling of the Earth System

French research lab : Saclay, CEA/CNRS/UVSQ, Laboratoire des sciences du climat et de l'environnement

Laureate: Dr Frédéric BOUCHARD, Junior Researcher

Research lab of origin: Canada, Institut national de la recherche scientifique

Project: Permafrost and Greenhouse gas dynamics in Siberia

French research labs : Saclay, Université Paris-Sud/CNRS, Laboratoire Géosciences Paris-Sud

Laureate: Pr Julien BOUCHARREL, Junior Researcher

University of origin: USA, University of Hawaii

Project : Tropical Cyclone activity and upper-ocean Dynamics

French research labs: Toulouse, CNES/CNRS/IRD/Université Paul Sabatier, Laboratoire d'Etudes en Géophysique et Océanographie Spatiales

Laureate: Dr Virginie GUEMAS, Junior Researcher

Research lab of origin: Spain, Barcelona supercomputing center

Project : Atmosphere – Sea ice Exchanges and Teleconnections

French research labs: Toulouse, MétéoFrance/CNRS, Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques

Laureate: Dr Nuria TEIXIDO, Senior Researcher

University of origin: USA, Stanford University

Project : Predicting future oceans under climate change

French research labs: Villefranche-sur-Mer, Université Pierre et Marie Curie/CNRS, Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche

Laureate: Pr Louis DERRY, Senior Researcher

University of origin: USA, Cornell University

Project : Water, reactions and isotopes in the Critical Zone

French research labs: Paris, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris

Laureate: Dr Barbara ERVENS, Senior Researcher

University of origin: USA, NOAA Boulder

Project : Modeling biologically-driven process in clouds

French research labs: Clermont-Ferrand, CNRS/Université Clermont-Auvergne, Institut de Chimie de Clermont Ferrand

Climate change and global sustainability

Laureate: Pr Joost DE GOUW, Senior Researcher
University of origin: USA, University of Colorado Boulder
Project : Budget of Organic Carbon in Polluted Atmospheres
French research labs: Lyon, Université de Lyon/CNRS IRCELYON

Laureate: Dr Delphine RENARD, Junior Researcher
University of origin: USA, University of California Santa-Barbara
Project : AgrobiodiverSity for a food-Secure planet
French research labs: Montpellier, CNRS/Université Montpellier/Université Paul Valéry/EPHE/SupAgro/INRA/IRD, Centre d'écologie fonctionnelle et évolutive

Laureate: Pr Alessandra GIANNINI, Senior Researcher
University of origin: USA, Columbia University
Project : Processes of climate change in the tropics
French research labs: Paris, CNRS/ENS/Ecole Polytechnique/Université Pierre et Marie Curie,Laboratoire de météorologie dynamique

Laureate: Pr Thomas LAUVAUX, Junior Researcher
University of origin: USA, PennState
Project : Quantification of urban greenhouse gas emissions
French research labs: Saclay, CEA/CNRS/UVSQ, Laboratoire des sciences du climat et de l'environnement

Laureate: Dr Vincent VADEZ, Senior Researcher
Research lab of origin: India, CGIAR
Project : Improve Crops in Arid Regions and future climates
French research labs: Montpellier, IRD/Université de Montpellier/CIRAD/CNRS, Laboratoire Diversité - Adaptation - DEveloppement

Laureate: Pr Christopher CANTRELL, Senior Researcher
University of origin: USA, University Colorado Boulder
Project : Atmospheric ChemistRy Of the Suburban ForeSt
French research labs: Créteil, Université Paris-Est Créteil/CNRS, Laboratoire Interuniversitaire des Systèmes Atmosphériques

Laureate: Pr Camille PARMESAN, Senior Researcher
University of origin: USA, Université du Texas à Austin
Project : Climate Change Impacts on Species
French research labs: Moulis, CNRS/Université Paul Sabatier, Station d'écologie théorique et expérimentale

Laureate: Dr Benjamin SANDERSON, Junior Researcher
University of origin: USA, NCAR Boulder
Project: Risks ans Uncertainties under Climate Change
French research labs: Toulouse, CERFACS/CNRS, Laboratoire Climat, Environnement, couplage et incertitudes

Energy transition

Laureate: Dr Philip SCHULZ, Junior Researcher

Research lab of origin: USA, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Project : Interfaces and Hybrid Materials for Photovoltaics

French research labs: Paris, EDF/CNRS/Chimie-ParisTech, Institut de Recherche et Développement sur l'Énergie Photovoltaïque

Laureate: Dr Lorie HAMELIN, Junior Researcher

Research lab of origin: Poland, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation

Project : Carbon management towards low fossil carbon use

French research labs: Toulouse, INSA/INRA/CNRS, Laboratoire d'Ingénierie des Systèmes Biologiques et des Procédés

Laureate: Dr Giuliano GIAMBASTIANI, Senior Researcher

Research lab of origin: Italy, CNR-ICCOM

Project : CaTalyt foR TrAnsition to ReNewable Energy FutuRe

French research labs: Strasbourg, CNRS/Université de Strasbourg, Institut de Chimie et Procédés pour l'Energie, l'Environnement et la Santé

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