



VersaillesGrandParc
communauté d'agglomération

ici les entreprises rayonnent!

Economic environment

VERSAILLES GRAND PARC

The Versailles Grand Parc conurbation community is one of the most important business centres in western Paris and is an ideal area for creating or developing a business. It offers many opportunities for both start-ups and larger companies.

Its ecosystem is articulated between sectors of excellence and strategic business sectors such as energy, mobility, defense & security, health and urban ecology.

In order to support players in these sectors, Versailles Grand Parc offers a territory for experimenting, developing a project and scaling up.

 20km from Paris

270 000
inhabitants 

134 000
jobs 

 18
cities and towns

 5% of national private R&D

16 economic activity zones 

 32 000 economic actors including 10 700 employers

 17 train stations and 2 stations of Grand Paris Express line for 2024

16 higher education institutions & research laboratories 

 22 000 students

 16 theaters

 Château de Versailles



Source: Insee, Legal population census 2015 - Territorial limits on January 1, 2017

VERSAILLES GRAND PARC ECOSYSTEM

A strategy based on economic development and support for innovation

AN INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

The conurbation community is made up of 18 municipalities located in an historic, protected environment whose administrative and cultural centre is the city of Versailles. With its reputation for culture, gastronomy, gardens and luxury, Versailles has symbolised French-style excellence since the 17th Century.

From the technical prowess of hydraulic engineers and Louis XIV engineers to the *Oberkampf Factory*, Versailles Grand Parc has always been a land of entrepreneurs, innovation and discovery: an outstanding region open to the world and involved in projects on an international scale.

Today, its influence and visibility beyond our borders are taking on new impetus. Located in the heart of the Paris-Versailles-Saclay OIN (Operation of National Interest), the conurbation is part of the leading French R&D hub, ranked among the top eight global science and technology hubs (MIT Technology Review, June 2021).

AT THE HEART OF OPEN INNOVATION: A RICH, DIVERSIFIED ECOSYSTEM

Business centres, research and innovation hubs, company incubators, competitiveness clusters, shopping and leisure centres, Versailles Grand Parc offers an exceptional concentration and wide variety of resources, services and potential partners: large international businesses, dynamic start-ups, niche SMEs, and cutting-edge research laboratories.

Versailles Grand Parc is home to many innovative companies and is establishing itself as a reference center for **low-carbon mobility and ecological transition**.

The proximity and influence of large, global industrial groups, public technological research centres encourage the **emergence new project sponsors**, who find an **ecosystem conducive to the development of their start-up**.

Versailles Grand Parc is an active member (and financial support) of the **French Tech Paris-Saclay Community** and has a large range of resources and support to connect its tech start-ups to the premier pool of Deeptech start-ups (disruptive technologies) in France, **facilitating their entrepreneurial journey and boosting their growth and evolution**.

- **Large international groups:** Safran, Dassault Systèmes, General Electric Healthcare, Siemens, Thalès, Stellantis, Eiffage, Air Liquide...
- **Paris-Saclay OIN:** World-class scientific and technological centre
- **Visibility and international influence**
- **Inovel Parc - Vélizy :** Major economic hub in western Paris, 10 km from Paris
- **National Cluster** dedicated to **Innovative Mobilities** part of the 2015 framework-agreements
- **Experimentation hub** dedicated to the aviation of the future
- **A business incubator** to integrate start-ups into the economic fabric
- **Start-up accelerator experimentation laboratories:** ACCELAIR (Air Liquide), 3DExperience Lab (Dassault Systèmes), Versailles Sciences Lab (Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University), Aerogarage (Safran)



On the strength of all its assets, Versailles Grand Parc supports the creation, establishment and development of businesses in the 16 activity zones located in its region.

TEACHING & RESEARCH

Study Train Experiment

A POOL OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TALENT OF OVER 22,000 STUDENTS

Education quality is part of the history of Versailles Grand Parc. Prestigious establishments and public and private classes préparatoires (preparatory classes) (Lycée Hoche, Sainte-Geneviève Primary School, Jules Ferry and La Bruyère High Schools) contribute to the international reputation of its institutions.

The conurbation community is also home to the Franco-German Lycée in Buc and the famous HEC Business School whose EMBA has been ranked by the Financial Times between 1st and 3rd place worldwide since 2014.

In addition, thanks to the main establishments of Paris-Saclay University, ranked 13th in the world and 1st in continental Europe in the 2021 Shanghai ranking, educational provision offers a wide range of training courses, from degrees and undergraduate studies to PhDs, in many specialities, all of

an extremely high level and international prestige. Versailles and its economic area constitute a major employment hub in the west of Paris.

New economic actors and their families are therefore moving to this highly successful and attractive place. **Their innovation and design projects benefit from the economic dynamics and the broad reach of competitiveness clusters** in the sectors of R&D and high added-value activities. They enjoy a **favourable environment to connect to research laboratories and access acceleration programmes.**

As an international research hub, Versailles Grand Parc supports, accompanies and coordinates projects focused on fundamental sciences, strategic economic and social areas and promotes developments linked to disruptive technologies.

- Top lycées and prestigious classes préparatoires
- International Franco-German lycée in Buc
- Wide choice of schools offering international departments
- 8 higher education establishments
- HEC - UVSQ / Université Paris-Saclay
- 4 national research centres: INRIA – Gustave Eiffel University (UGE) – VEDECOM – INRAé
- 3DS Dassault Systèmes Campus, Air Liquide Paris Innovation Campus and Thalès Hélios Campus
- Cluster for innovative mobilities at Versailles-Satory
- Digital and Cybersecurity Schools

By setting up in Versailles Grand Parc, start-ups benefit from extremely dynamic and varied research infrastructures, as well as incubators and high-performance public and private growth accelerators.



QUALITY OF LIFE & ENVIRONMENT

A protected territory and dynamic living environment

A CREATION-FRIENDLY ECOSYSTEM

More and more start-ups are setting up in the Versailles Grand Parc region. This attractiveness can be explained by a balanced, protected urban environment, an abundance of parks, gardens and green spaces, good transport links and the proximity of Paris business centres. It is also thanks to a dynamic commercial network and a sparkling cultural life.

With an internationally recognised cultural and historic heritage, in particular because of the Château of Versailles and the influence of the former royal city, the conurbation has undeniable natural and ecological assets. The region is blessed with a wide variety of landscapes such as forests and wooded hills and offers a wide range of sporting and outdoor activities.

SERVICES FOR QUALITY OF LIFE

While protecting the environment, the area offers a high level of services to its residents and businesses.

Businesses are at the heart of the conurbation's transport policy; the high level of its public transport offer makes it possible to connect the different business districts and to reach the capital very quickly.

To meet the health needs of residents, the region has two referral hospitals and a large number of local medical centres.

Versailles Grand Parc is fully involved in waste reduction and organising an affordable and ecological way to collect it. It also carries out actions to combat noise and air pollution and helps improve the energy efficiency of its environment.

Finally, Versailles Grand Parc is investing in security through video protection systems and **provides the necessary peace of mind for quiet development.**



- An historic site with an outstanding heritage
- A very wide choice of sporting and cultural activities
- Numerous shopping and leisure centres
- 2 referral hospitals
- Business districts with sustainable development
- 12 conservatories and music schools
- A highly developed road and transport network
- 2 tramway lines T6 and T13
- 2 Grand Paris Express Metro Lines are under way for the 2024 Olympic Games, for the extension of Line 14 and 2027 for Line 18

SECTORS OF EXCELLENCE

Innovative Mobilities and Urban Ecology

INNOVATIVE MOBILITIES: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS

Mobility is an established, strategic priority of the conurbation community policy that includes 17 states, 5 RER or TER (Regional train) lines, a tram line, 100 bus lines and a rapidly developing soft mobility network.

The 2015 framework agreements have defined the main issues and areas of focus for the next few years around regional development, transport, the economy and the environment.

In this context, many public and private research centres such as those of Stellantis group (PSA – Fiat Chrysler), Nexter, VEDECOM, Air Liquide and Safran, have chosen Versailles Grand Parc to develop their activities.

The creation of a cluster dedicated to the transport of tomorrow and innovative mobilities in Versailles along with an experimentation hub on electric aircraft and air transport of the future complete this ecosystem.

Versailles Grand Parc promotes and develops, in conjunction with the transition and energy optimisation of 'virtuous' modes of transport, respectful of the environment and adapted to the needs of residents.

Versailles Grand Parc - ambition in action:

- To create places to innovate and experiment
- To provide service to users
- To demonstrate the known-how of local businesses
- To improve the quality of life of residents

Innovative mobilities have therefore been developed through numerous projects such as MOBILAB and Pistes Fabric; but also through new experiments such as the first two self-driving open-road shuttles and the first 100% hydrogen bus line.

THE MAJOR MOBILITY CHALLENGES

1 Improve non-optimised uses by:

- Promoting carpooling and car-sharing
- Parking management
- Organising 'Green' Challenges

2 Improve the transport offer for users:

- Developing active modes
- Commissioning self-driving shuttles
- Overhaul of the bus network in 2019
- New tramay line T13:
Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole > Saint-Germain-en-Laye

3 Encouraging the development of new engine specifications by:

- Commissioning of 7 hydrogen buses since 2019
- Deployment of 80 operated electric buses
- 2 NGV/Bio NGV charging stations for equipped collection trucks
- Experimenting with electric aircraft



URBAN ECOLOGY: HUMAN AND URBAN

Blessed with an outstanding natural location, Versailles Grand Parc relies on its complementary rural, urban and cultural qualities to develop its economic attractiveness and preserve its 'art of living'.

With 49% of its surface made up of forests and natural or agricultural areas, the conurbation is very mindful of the quality of the environment. It supports innovation in urban ecology through actions such as planting in built-up areas, recovery of bio-waste, preservation of biodiversity, soil-less cultivation and water and air quality management.

Versailles Grand Parc is responsible for creating the 'Human and Urban' business cluster which became the CIBI (International Biodiversity Council). It brings together companies, landscapers and educational and research institutes such as INRAé in order to carry the BiodiverCity® environmental label.

THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF URBAN ECOLOGY:

- To improve the living environment of citizens and support biodiversity by promoting nature in the city
- To support the dynamics of the circular economy in the region
- To strengthen the link between the city and agriculture
- To promote short circuits

'Les Fermes en Ville' (city farms) is an urban ecology demonstrator located in Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole which has given over 3.5 hectares to significant soil-less urban agricultural projects since 2014.

