

# Introduction



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This working seminar represents an initial step in the dialogue between the Ile-de-France region and Europe. We are delighted to have this opportunity to meet you and share our experiences. It is an important day for the IAU since we increasingly realise that to understand the challenges and develop the Ile-de-France region, we must place it in the broad and diverse context of Europe. We have been seeking this new framework for several years, in particular since the review of the Ile-de-France Regional Master Plan (SDRIF) conducted four years ago. Under this plan we prioritised the Paris Basin which comprises the Ile-de-France region and its seven surrounding regions. The IAU has drafted a strategic reference framework for the Presidents' collective of these 8 regions whose population totals 26 million. This document, despite the fact that it has no legal impact, offers our regional authorities an original and innovative approach that is essential to the effective coordination of urban development strategies.

We are aware of the fact that it is vital to give a European reach to this framework. We are here to seek a consensus among experts and institutions on the Ile-de-France from a European perspective. We are convinced that self-analysis is not enough, that it is better to be observed by others, to be challenged by experts who are able to perceive and view us in a way that is different from our own self-perception. We are here to obtain the views and perceptions of external experts.

This will be an enriching day for us all, one for which we have high expectations. We hope that there will be a follow-up and that we will have further opportunities to work with Ile-de-France Europe and with you.

Our Institute is a tool to increase our know-how and make proposals. Our research is not conducted for pleasure but aims to assist and facilitate decision-making. The Ile-de-France is a metropolitan region that understands and makes others understand its challenges and potential. This is the right time!

In the coming months we will publish a "manual" on this European framework. The information we will gather today will be a step stone towards the gaining new knowledge and know-how.

Finally, we are undertaking a fresh review of the Ile-de-France Regional Master Plan which incorporates the "Great Paris" plan. This plan encompasses several projects, in particular a major transport project which will impact the pace of development and the economic and regional objectives of the entire region. We will therefore revisit the SDRIF for which our Institute is the project developer. We will need your insights as European experts as well as your ideas and views on the challenges our conurbation faces.