“What is a LabEx?”

A LabEx—from the French term “Laboratoire d’Excellence” – is a Cluster of Excellence supported by the French National Research Agency within the framework of the “Investments for the Future” programme. The aim of this project is to enhance the visibility of top French laboratories across all disciplines by providing them with substantial resources. This is intended to enable them to compete on an equal footing with the best of their foreign counterparts, to attract internationally renowned researchers and teacher-researchers, and to build an integrated policy for top-level research, training and promotion, alongside a policy of widespread dissemination of knowledge.
EDITORIAL

The LabEx DynamiTe encompasses 18 research units, attached to 10 higher education and research institutions in the Île-de-France region, in connection with common research activities in the field of Territorial and Spatial Dynamics.

This territorial approach has elicited new interdisciplinary synergies around four societal challenges, giving rise to the following research fields:

• **Environment**: biodiversity, risk management, paleoenvironments.
• **City**: heritage, networking, ancient societies, metropolisation.
• **Development**: policy transfer, modelling, decline.
• **Exchanges**: identity, local development, regionalism.

Territory is a cross-cutting theme that now occupies a central role due to its relevance to public policy implementation and to recent scientific advances.

Each of DynamiTe’s research fields examines the value of taking into account the territorial dimension in both reflection and action. Indeed, The LabEx is convinced that this territorial approach enables a better understanding of the place of each individual amid the transformations of the contemporary world.

DynamiTe seeks to help advance our knowledge capital and our potential for action by revisiting the concept of territory from the perspective of a collective vision of a common future. Its members strive to harness the benefits of the respective contributions of their various disciplinary fields to these questions.

*The LabEx Management Board*
RESEARCH

The LabEx’s research activities are based on initiatives directly developed by members of the participating research units. The aim is to generate inter-disciplinary and inter-unit collaboration dynamics within the Work-Packages, the LabEx’s fundamental entities.

There are 13 of these Work-Packages, which often evolve in terms of their themes and partners.

Work-Packages

Environment

“Biodiversity - Territories - Societies”
Keywords: Local knowledge – North-South comparison – Biodiversity – Natural resources

“Environmental and social risk dynamics”
Keywords: Disasters – Vulnerability – Environmental change – Risk management – Social inequalities

“Environmental change and societies in the past”
Keywords: Paleoenvironments – Natural resources – Territories – Crises – Past human societies

City

“Heritage dynamics and megapolitan processes”
Keywords: Heritage – Heritagisation process – Cultural landscape – Megalopolises

“Settlement systems over long time”
Keywords: Temporality – Model – City – Networking

“Multiple constructions of space”
Keywords: Construction – Ancient societies – Territorial framework – Spatiality

“Producing the ordinary city”
Keywords: Metropolisation – Urban production – Stakeholder interactions – Residential spaces – Public spaces – Urban morphology
Publications

Over 300 publications have been produced by the Work-Packages on the LabEx’s topics, often in internationally recognised reviews (*Urban Studies, Journal of Quaternary Science* and *Nature*, for example).

DynamiTe provides financial support to some thirty publications, which are thus “LabEx accredited”.

Support for research

The LabEx DynamiTe is highly active in its support for the research activities conducted by its member researchers, in particular through the recruitment of PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and engineers. They are part of the Work-Packages, at the very heart of research activities.

Furthermore, the LabEx invests in the purchase of geo-referenced databases and field tools, in order to facilitate interaction between specific methodologies and disciplinary tools within the Work-Packages.
SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

Seminars
The groups punctuate their activity with regular meetings of their members (in the form of seminars and working days) and events open to a wider public, such as specific colloquia or conference sessions.

In total, over 60 seminars have been organised by the LabEx DynamiTe’s Work-Packages since it was established in 2012 (for example the seminar series “Circulation of urban references and local structures”, study days on the theme of “River control and management”, and a seminar on “Dynamics of metropolises”).

International colloquia
International colloquia are an integral aspect of the LabEx Work-Packages’ activity when it comes to promoting their research. Around one hundred international events have been organised by the Work-Packages since 2012, including, for example:

- the international colloquium “Inventing Greater Paris” (Paris – 2013 to 2016);
- the international colloquium “Urban and rural relationships: North-South comparisons” (Paris – 2015);
- the 8th International Conference on Geomorphology of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), on the theme of “Geomorphology and sustainability” (Paris – 2013);
- the Themed Schools of the MAPS Network - Multi-agent modelling of spatialized phenomena.

DynamiTe Meetings
The LabEx DynamiTe organises cross-cutting scientific events, involving numerous researchers and Work-Packages, in a spirit of openness towards the socio-economic world. A perfect illustration of this is the DynamiTe Meetings, two of which have been organised since the LabEx was launched:

- the 2015 DynamiTe Meetings, on the theme of “Governance and public policy: the question of territories”;
- the 2014 DynamiTe Meetings, on the theme of “Territories and territoriality in the face of four major challenges in contemporary societies: Environment, City, Development, Exchange”.

Summer Schools

The Summer Schools are major events for the LabEx and play an active role in its training policy.

Open to young researchers (PhD students and post-doctoral fellows) as well as to those seeking to improve their knowledge and/or develop new skills, they are organised annually in collaboration with several LabEx Work-Packages.

Three such events have been organised since DynamiTe was launched:
- Summer School 2016 (Italy) – “From risk to resilience, from past to present: critical perspectives and comparative approaches”;
- Summer School 2015 (France) – “Geographical information in the humanities and social sciences: data management and modelling”;
- Summer School 2014 (Italy) – “Spatial structures and dynamics: methods and tools for exploring spatial systems”.

Over 60 seminars have been organised by the LabEx DynamiTe Work-Packages since it was established in 2012.
One of the LabEx DynamiTe’s key objectives is to support training in relation to the overarching themes of its fundamental research units.

LabEx’s doctoral positions
Since its launch, DynamiTe has recruited twelve PhD students, whose profiles have been defined within the Work-Packages. As such, they participate in the seminars of the Work-Packages.

In addition, the LabEx offers its PhD students the opportunity to teach in its partner institutions, within the framework of teaching assignments.

Visiting professors
The LabEx DynamiTe regularly welcomes professors from foreign universities.

Driving a dynamic of openness and international partnership, these visiting professors teach in the LabEx’s partner institutions (at Bachelor and Master’s levels), and deliver lectures.

Since its launch, the LabEx has welcomed seven visiting professors, from Spain, the United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil, Mexico and Portugal.

Specialised vocational training
The LabEx supports vocational training activities intended for a varied audience (training workshops within the framework of the LabEx partner Doctoral Schools: Geographic Information System, research management, English for research, etc.).

DynamiTe members also contribute to around thirty Master’s courses in attached institutions (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Paris Diderot University, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, École Pratique des Hautes Études, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales) on topics such as risk management, town planning, environmental archaeology, etc.

The LabEx co-fines research seminars organised by its Work-Packages in collaboration with these Master’s programmes.

Lastly, DynamiTe participates directly in the innovation projects of the Centre Michel Serres. Drawing on interdisciplinarity and academic-business relationships, the Centre Michel Serres deploys an educational programme based on the completion of innovation projects in partnership with the professional world.

The “Seine Estuary” semester is part of this, and was overseen by a LabEx member.
The activities of the LabEx Work-Packages are based on a certain number of partnerships and co-funded projects individually implemented by members. These involve research and study operators (the French National Research Agency, the European Research Council, etc.), as well as public-sector companies (Air France, AXA, Renault, Suez, etc.).

The LabEx’s aim is to strengthen these collaborations, initiated within the framework of the activities of its Work-Packages, by developing research activities established in cooperation with the socio-economic sphere.
THE LABEX

Governance

The LabEx DynamiTe operational approach favours collective management and coordinated decision-making. As such, three governing bodies have been established.

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MANAGER**

Supported by the Project Leader and the LabEx management team

- LabEx coordination and representation

**MANAGEMENT BOARD**

- Elaboration of the LabEx’s scientific strategies
- Implementation of decisions taken by the Partners Advisory Board
- Definition of the LabEx’s operating rules

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

- Advice and assessment of the LabEx projects
- Scientific recommendations for the LabEx

**PARTNERS ADVISORY BOARD**

- Validation of strategic, scientific, educational and promotional objectives of the LabEx
- Deliberation and decision-making on resources provided for research
List of Partner Units

The LabEx DynamiTe encompasses 18 founding research units:

**ANHIMA:** ANthropologie et HIstoire des Mondes Antiques (UMR 8210).

**ArchAm:** Archéologie des Amériques (UMR 8096).

**ArScAn:** Archéologies et Sciences de l’Antiquité (UMR 7041).

**CES:** Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne (UMR 8174).

**CESSMA:** Centre d’Etudes en Sciences Sociales sur les Mondes Africains, Américains et Asiatiqes (UMR 245).

**CHS:** Centre d’Histoire Sociale du XXe siècle (UMR 8058).

**CRH:** Centre de Recherches Historiques (UMR 8558).

**EIREST:** Equipe Interdisciplinaire de REcherches Sur le Tourisme (EA 7337).

**Géographie-cités** (UMR 8504).

**HT2S:** Histoire des Technosciences en Société (EA 3716).

**ICT:** Identités, Cultures, Territoires (EA 337).

**LADYSS:** Laboratoire Dynamiques Sociales et Recomposition des Espaces (UMR 7533).

**LAMOP:** Laboratoire de Médiévistique Occidentale de Paris (UMR 8589).

**LIRSA:** Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire de Recherche en Sciences de l’Action (EA 4603).

**LGP:** Laboratoire de Géographie Physique Environnements Quaternaires et Actuels (UMR 8591).

**PRODIG:** Pôle de Recherche pour l’Organisation et la Diffusion de l’Information Géographique (UMR 8586).

**SAMM:** Statistique, Analyse et Modélisation Multidisciplinaire (EA 4543).

**Trajectoires. De la sédentarisation à l’État** (UMR 8215).
THE LABEX DYNAMITE IN FIGURES: 2013 TO 2016

The LabEx

- Over 260 member researchers
- 13 Work-Packages
- 18 Partner Units

Research

- Over 300 publications related to DynamiTe topics produced by the Work-Packages, including 30 “LabEx accredited” publications
- 11 post-doctoral fellows
- Over 15 engineers recruited on fixed-term contracts
- Over 10 databases bought by LabEx or developed within the Work-Packages

Scientific events

- Over 60 seminars organised by the Work-Packages
- 100 national and international events organised by the Work-Packages
- Around 140 participations in international conferences
- 2 DynamiTe Meetings

Training

- 12 PhD students
- 7 visiting professors
- 3 Summer Schools

For further information, visit: www.labex-dynamite.com

You can also find us on: