



University foundations as territorial actors

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The Amidex Initiative

- By producing knowledge, universities shape the territories they inhabit.
- **Aix Marseille University: 84,000 students, 8,000 staff, 5 campuses, 9 cities in Southern France.**
- Embedded in a socially and environmentally complex region.
- Amidex is the instrument amU built to **operate as a territorial actor**. Aix-Marseille is 1 of 9 sites to have been awarded the 'Initiatives of Excellence' label, and among the first 3 to have been made durable in 2016.



The Aix-Marseille Initiative of Excellence (IdEX)

Amidex is supporting the development of a world-class higher education and research hub in the Aix-Marseille region, dedicated to research, training and innovation, and capable of addressing major societal and scientific challenges.

- A foundation running its own calls for projects
- Interdisciplinary institutes
- Site-level coordinator of the France 2030 investment plan since 2020

→ 14 years

→ a government capital of 750 M€

→ 26 M€/year

→ Largest IdEx : capital & number of projects in France

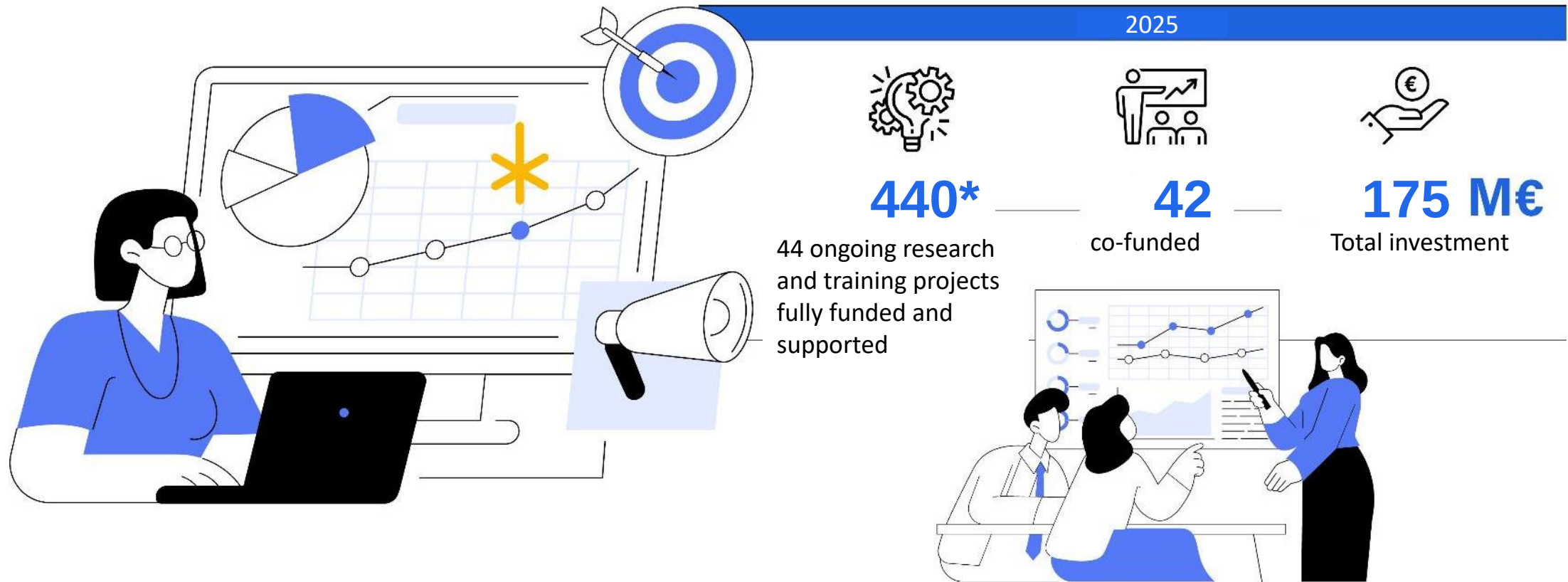


The Amidex Consortium

Amidex brings together a consortium comprising nine founding institutions from the Aix-Marseille site, coordinated by Aix-Marseille University.



2025 Key Figures



*Figures as at 31 December 2025

An exploratory initiative promoting interdisciplinarity

Aix Marseille University places interdisciplinarity at the heart of its development strategy through **Interdisciplinary Institutes**.

As key drivers of national and international influence, these institutes bring together and foster high-calibre scientific communities to provide comprehensive solutions to complex societal challenges, spanning environment and climate issues, quantum technologies, nuclear energy, and more.

amU Océan
Aix Marseille Université

OCEAN Institute

Training a new generation of researchers, engineers, legal experts and managers to meet the growing challenges of marine sciences

amU Institut QuantA,
quantum initiative
Aix Marseille Université

Quanta

Understanding quantum technologies: from philosophers to industrialists

amU Nuclear fusion, fission and
instrumentation institute
Aix Marseille Université

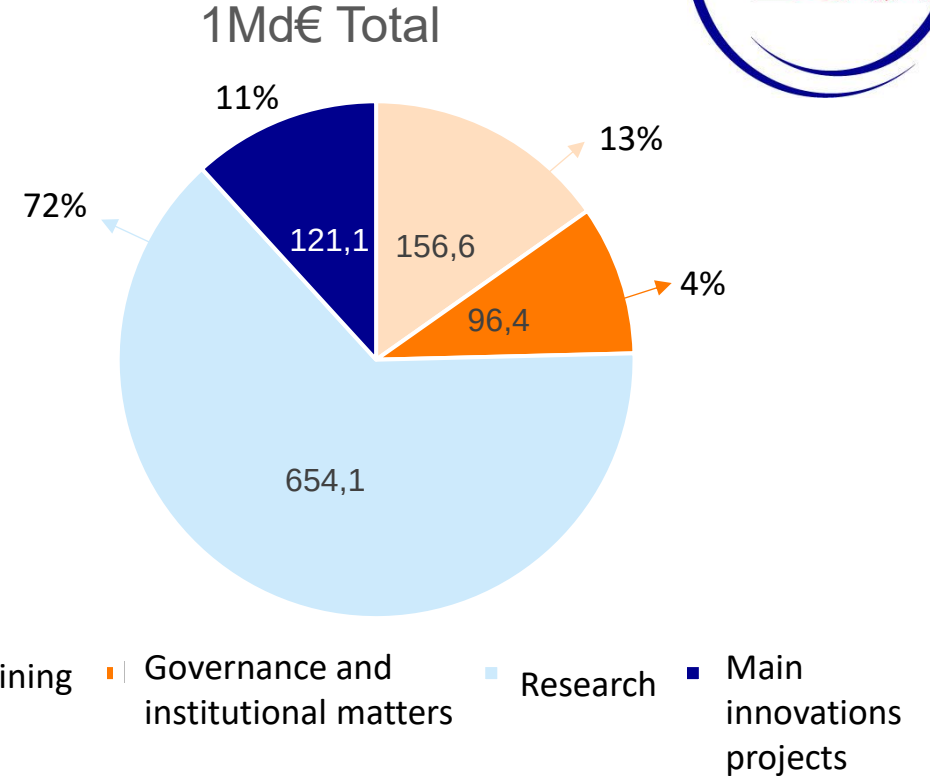
ISFIN Institute

Research and training in instrumentation for major nuclear facilities, characterisation of materials and structures, and fusion science.

France 2030: a partnership for the future

As part of the **France 2030 investment plan**, amU and its partners are joining forces to radically modernise the higher education landscape and tackle the challenges facing our society.

This plan address the major challenges of tomorrow by advancing knowledge in fields as diverse as health, life sciences, the humanities and social sciences, the environment, and advanced technologies.



En 2025



132

44 ongoing projects



Funding as a policy tool

- Long-term, stable funding programmes build trust between partners who do not share the same timelines or incentives
- Acting as an intermediary foundation helps overcome institutional silos and asymmetries
- The real output of the funding: **a coherent and competitive regional research and innovation ecosystem**

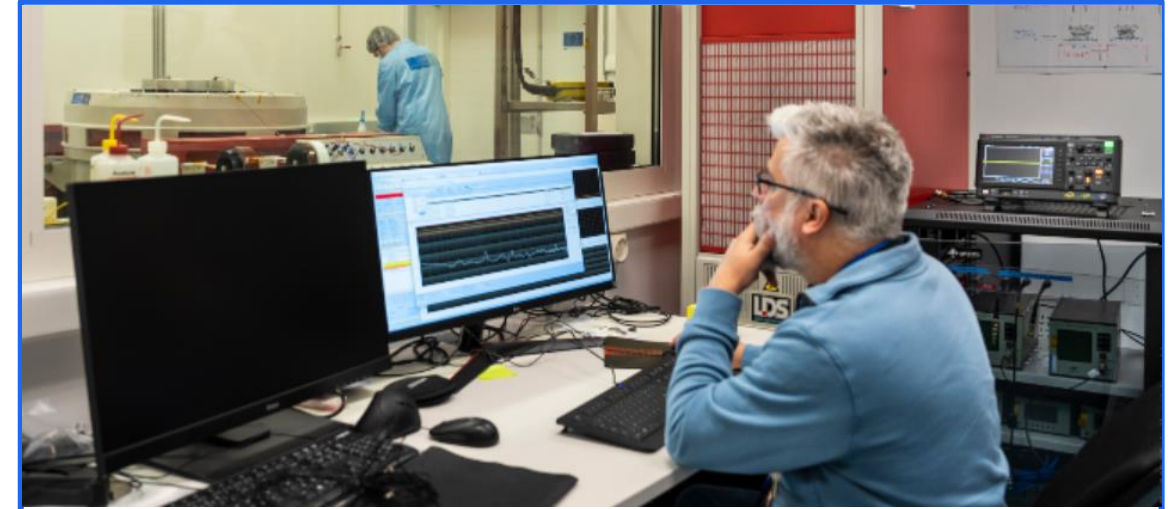


Staffing for shared infrastructure growth



HR Support for Aix-Marseille Platforms

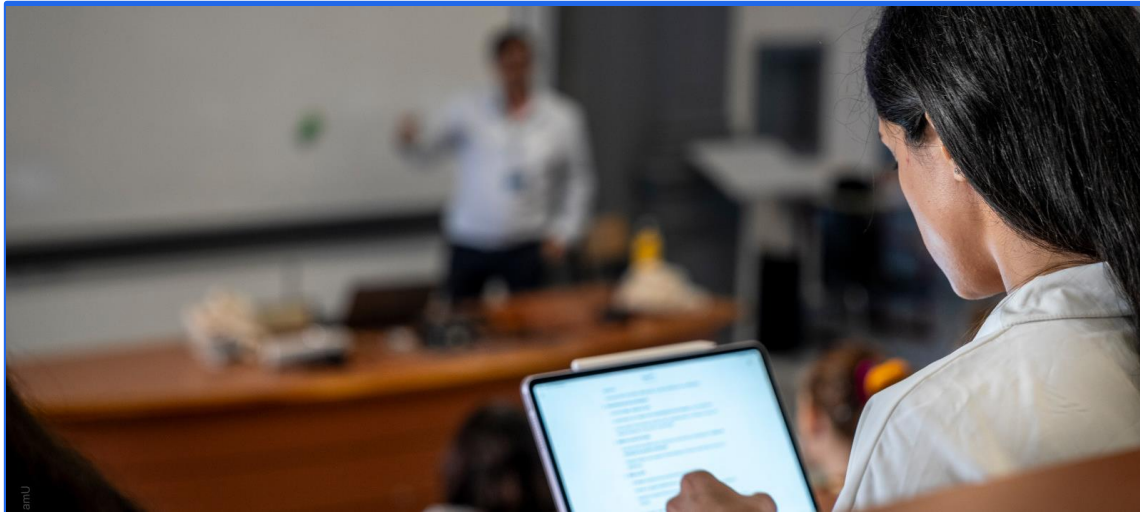
A call aimed at supporting the technology platforms and technical resources in the Aix-Marseille site by recruiting additional staff, developing their organisational structure.



Postdoctoral research positions for people with disabilities

A project designed to support researchers with disabilities in pursuing a stable and sustainable academic career. It offers funding for postdoctoral research for up to 3 years and for project-related costs of up to €15,000.

Scientific Diplomacy : providing a safe haven for threatened scientists



PAUSE

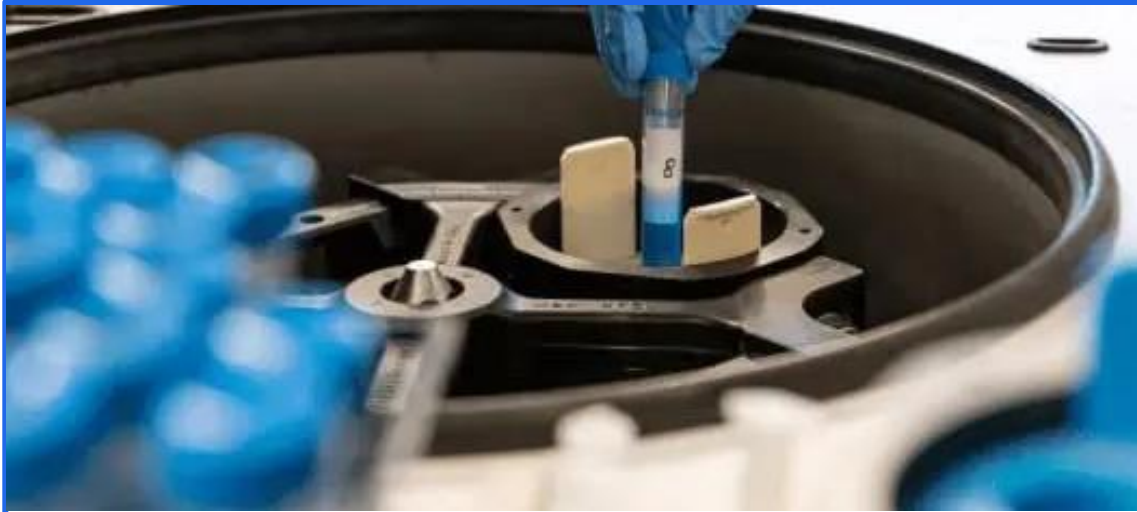
A national programme, supported by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and established by the Collège de France, which welcome hosts researchers and artists fleeing war, political persecution and censorship. Twenty-two award winners have been d from Yemen, Iran, Venezuela, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Gaza.



Safe Place for Science

A hosting programme scientists based in USA whose research is currently under threat. Aix-Marseille University is offering them an employment contract and a research grant of up to 600,000 euros for a maximum period of three years.

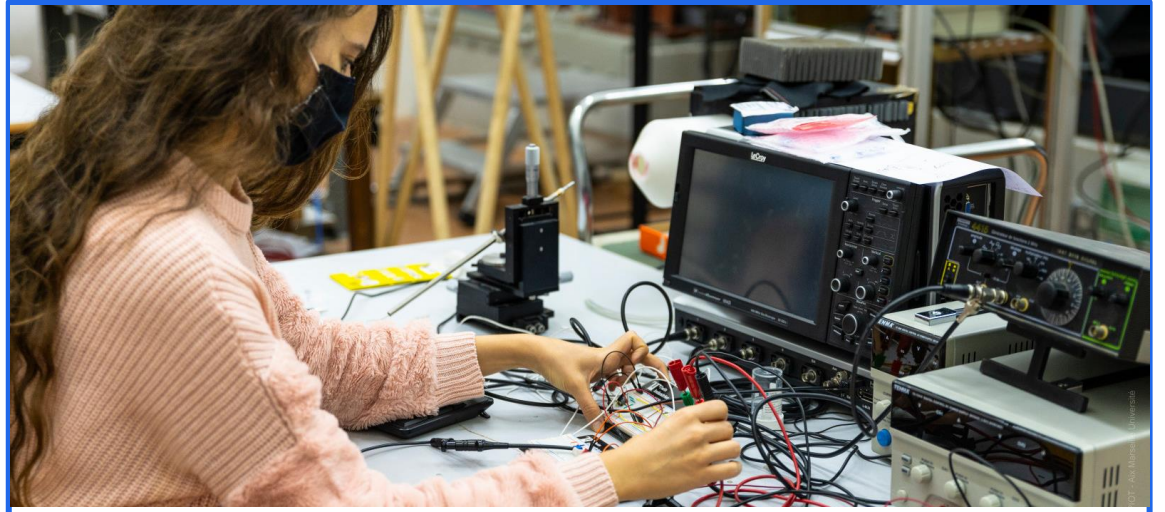
Connecting universities to non-academic actors



MIB - Marseille Immunology Biocluster

A project whose mission is to establish and develop cooperation between the academic world, hospitals, industry, local authorities and public bodies in the service of the future of immunology.

The aim of the project is also to help Europe regain its leadership in clinical research and the production of medicines



TIGER - Transform and Innovate in Graduate Education with Research

A project that places students at the heart of the scientific process from the Master's level onwards, with a view to strengthening the links between teaching and research at Aix-Marseille University, through immersive platforms deployed across the campuses.

Pushing innovation forward : on a local and European level



CISAM+ - The City of Innovation and Knowledge Aix-Marseille

A project offering interdisciplinary training in innovation, support for prototyping on amU campuses, and enhanced cooperation between students, academic staff and socio-economic stakeholders on open innovation projects.



MER – Mission Europe pour la Recherche

A joint project involving four partner organisations (amU and its subsidiary Protisvalor, CNRS, Inserm and IRD), which aims to provide greater support to the site's research units in securing European grants for their research and innovation projects.

Measuring impact : a design choice, not a technical afterthought

The joint evaluation and impact assessment initiative, led by Amidex, is dedicated to ensuring rigorous evaluation and tailored support for all the projects on the ground, at local, national and even international levels.

The methodology is based on the development of financial and non-financial performance indicators, as well as on the design of methodologies tailored to the analysis of project outcomes.

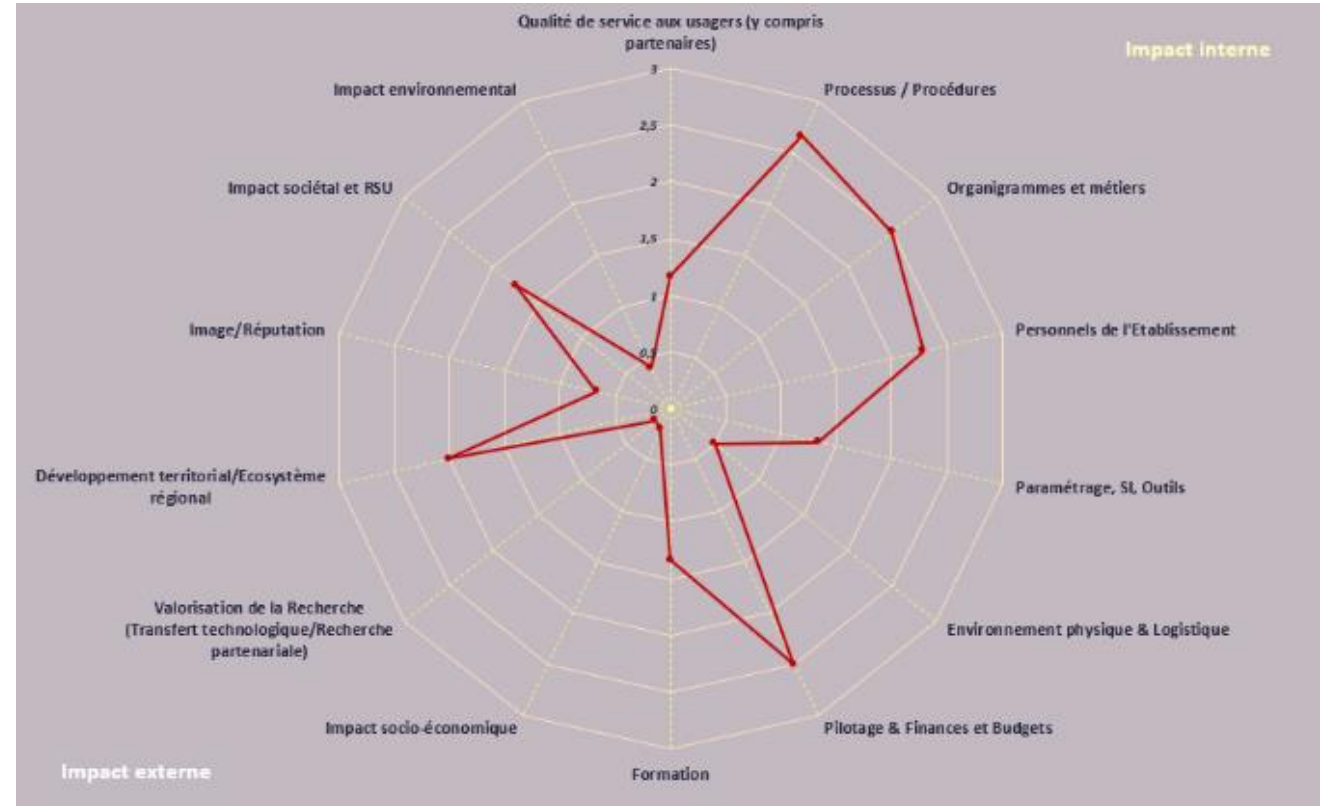
Demonstrate the transformative effect of the programmes on research and training

Determine and showcase the added value generated for the territory

How we measure impact

Performance indicators tailored to each project's outcomes

- Measure immediate effects and **long-term impact** of the site's structuring projects
- **Highlight progression** over time, not just end results
- **Identify strengths** and areas requiring attention
- Demonstrate the **added value** and transformative effect of the projects : for research and for the territory
- Inform the site's **governance decisions**



Honest challenges

- Administrative complexity of large, multi-institution consortia
- Aligning academic and non-academic timelines
- Measuring societal and territorial impact is a complex task

University foundations can hold three missions together: financial sustainability, ecosystem structuring, and territorial value

What is next ?

France 2030 France 2050 – The future is being prepared now

