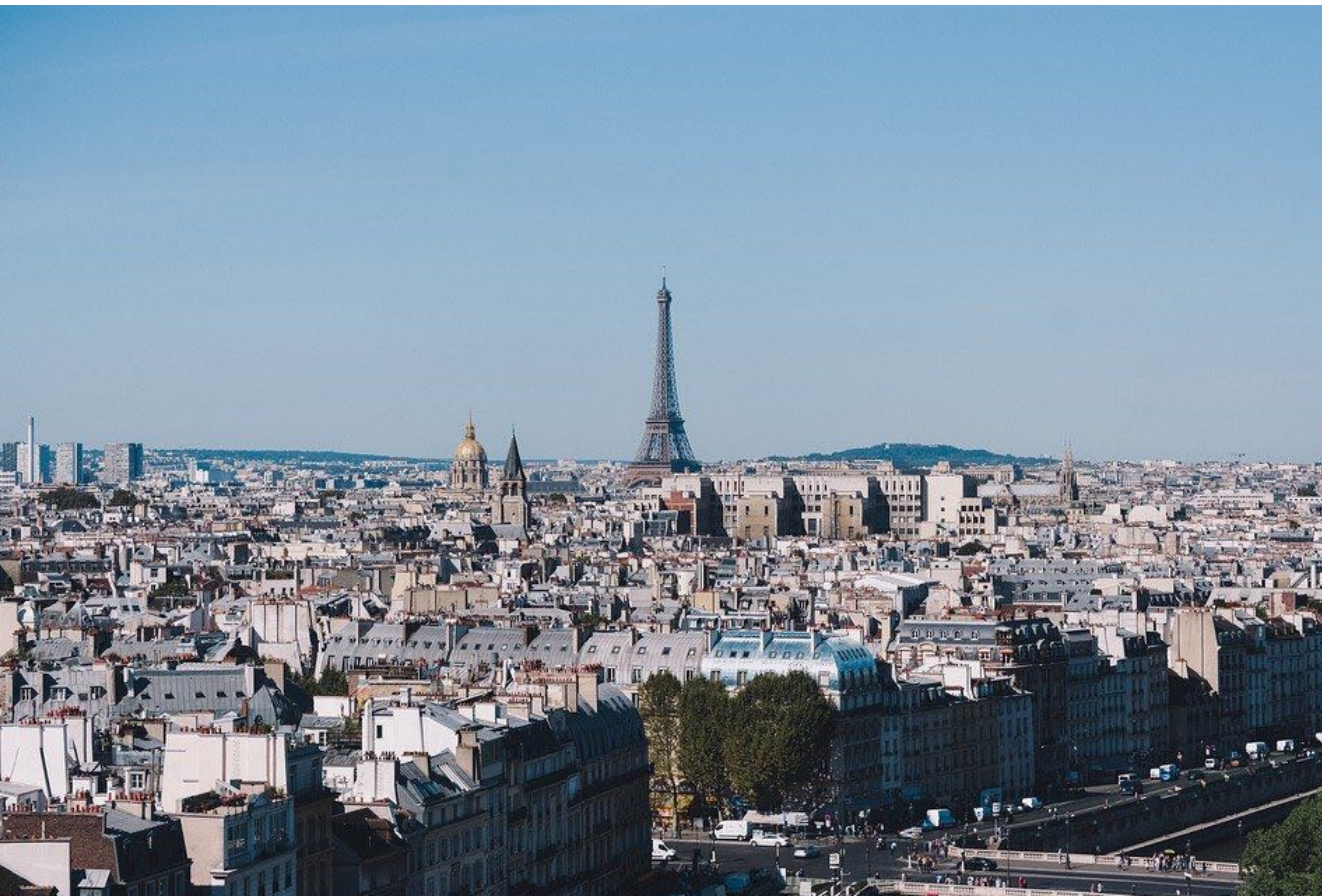# Bid for the organization of ICALP 2022 in Paris, France

2022, July 4-8

A hybrid conference

The bid in short

conference chair
Thomas Colcombet

workshop chairs
Valia Mitsou and Mahsa Shirmohammadi

organizers
Olivier Carton, Geoffroy Couteau, Irène Guessarian, Simon Mauras, Sylvain Périfel, Amaury Pouly, Eva Ryckelynck, Arnaud Sangnier, and Sylvain Schmitz

dates
From **July 4 to July 8 2022.** (The second week of July is not available as the14th is the French national holiday.)

support
The conference is organized by **Université de Paris** and **IRIF**.

location
The conference will have a **hybrid format**: it will be simultaneously taking place in **Paris**, and **online.**

The physical location of the conference will be on the site "**Grand-Moulins**" of the Université de Paris, South-East inner Paris, next to the banks of the Seine river.

lecture halls
The university will offer a large room of 278 seats, and four smaller rooms of 70 seats each, next to the larger one. Additional rooms can also be made available.

events
Traditional welcome reception and dinner are planned, but there will be no excursion. A special event is to be organized for the **50 years** of EATCS and ICALP.

transportation
Paris is easy to reach from everywhere by train or direct flight. The conference is inside Paris. Transportation is convenient using subway, bus, or Vélib' (bike sharing).

conference equipment
All rooms are appropriately equipped for conferences. Any extra equipment required for handling the hybrid aspects will be provided by a hired company.

expected registration fee
€500 for physical participants / €40 for online participants, + €100 for one author per paper

accommodation
So far, we have not made any specific arrangements concerning accommodation. There is a large choice of accommodation in the immediate area as well as in the more touristic areas of Paris. A list of nearby hotels will be collected and made available.

Why hybrid, why in 2022, why in Paris?

With the end of the pandemic, as we all hope, 2022 is the right moment for trying new things and rejuvenate the event.

People are now used to virtual events and fully appreciate he new possibilities offered by these modern models of conferences.

Paris is always very much appreciated for conferences. Being in Europe, it is easily accessible (by train or direct flight) for most usual attendants. For these reasons we believe that there is no risk of any significant decrease in the number of attendants. Also, the conference has not been hosted in France since the 2010 edition in Bordeaux.

2022 will be the

50 years anniversary

of both the ICALP conference and EATCS.

The first ICALP was organized by IRIA (now INRIA) in 1972, near Paris, in Rocquencourt. This makes Paris an ideal location for these anniversaries.

A conference hosted by

Université de Paris

The **Université de Paris** is a public university created in 2019 and resulting from the merger of Paris Descartes (Paris V) and Paris Diderot (Paris VII), and the integration of Institut de physique du globe de Paris as a component institution.

UP in numbers

4500
teachers-researchers

3000
administrative
and technical staff

61000
students

142
laboratories

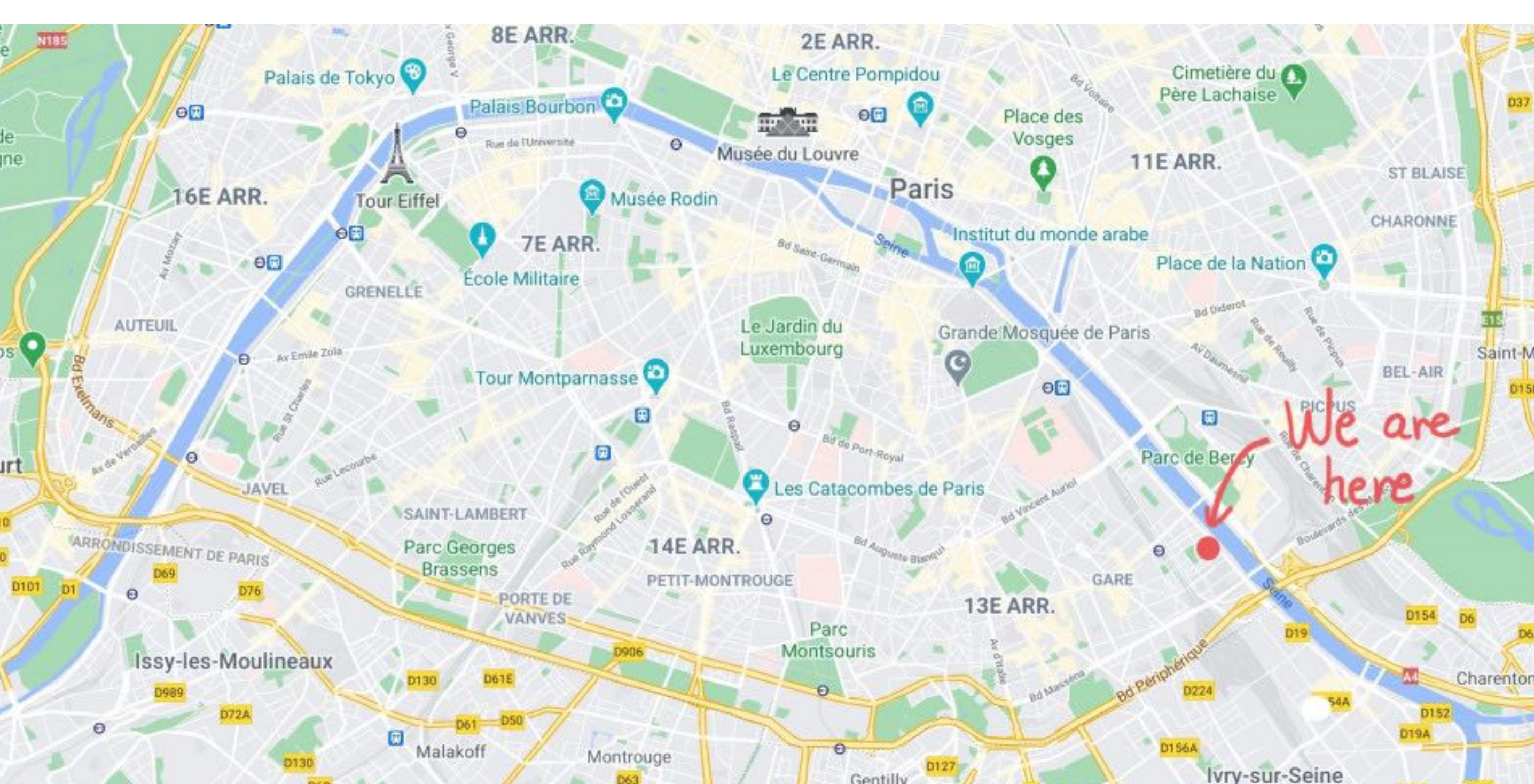# The conference site: the "Grands Moulins"

The conference will take place on the "Grands Moulins" campus of the Université de Paris.

A large amphitheater of 278 seats is available,

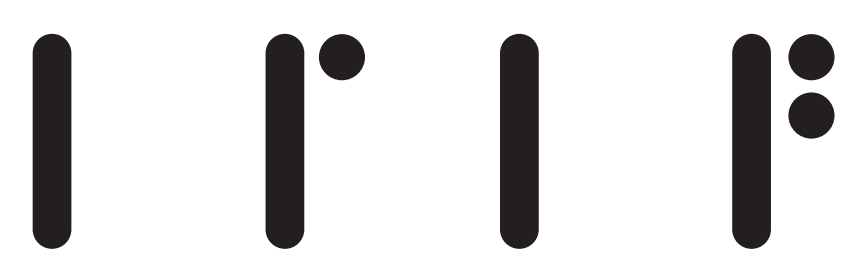next to four smaller rooms of 70 seats each.

The site is easy to reach from anywhere in the Paris area via public transportation

… or bike!

A conference organized with

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE EN INFORMATIQUE FONDAMENTALE

The Research Institute on the Foundations of Computer Science (**IRIF**) is a research unit co-founded by CNRS and Université de Paris. It results from the merging of the two former research units **LIAFA** and **PPS**.

Université de Paris

IRIF is renowned for its contributions to the design and analysis of algorithms, the study of computational and data representation models, the foundations of programming languages, software development, verification, and certification.

An historic place for computer science in France and Europe

LIAFA (now IRIF) was itself, together with LIP6 (Sorbonne Université) the continuation of LITP, the laboratory of Maurice Nivat and Marcel-Paul Schützenberger.

Maurice Nivat was a founding member of **EATCS**.

Maurice Nivat and Marcel-Paul Schützenberger organized the **first ICALP** conference, 50 years ago, in Rocquencourt, France.

IRIF in numbers

90
teachers-researchers

6
administrative
and technical staff

70
student and post-docs

ICALP 2022, a hybrid conference

The hybrid model: setting a new direction for the community.

We propose to organize ICALP 2022 as a hybrid conference.

The event will take place in Paris. A number of participants will be attending the talks in person, while, at the same time, online participants —possibly authors—will be attending using videoconferencing softwares.

This scheme will allow us to get the most from the two modes of participation: the participants who choose to come will be able to interact in person; at the same time, researchers who might not have the ability to travel to the event and would otherwise miss out will now be able to attend ICALP.

OPPORTUNITIES

- A conference more largely *open everyone*:
  - more participants: the ones that could not afford to come (for economical, political, or other reasons) can now participate remotely,
  - more submissions from researchers who are unable to fund their trip.

- A conference more *mindful of its ecological impact*, and in particular of climate change.

- A *better and more modern image* of the conference.

CHALLENGES

Organizing a hybrid conference entails several difficulties, that the organizing team needs to address. E.g.

- Direct interactions between participants will be more difficult, in particular for students who are building their network during conferences.
  We are searching for innovative ways to improve on this.

- Distant participants will belong to various time zones
  Slots will be carefully chosen and material will be made available online.

- It is harder to estimate the number of participants, which makes budgeting more complex.
  Our budget is resilient to such variations.

OUR PROPOSAL
Our current expected organization is:

- All sessions (keynote speakers, and the four sessions in parallel) will be filmed, streamed online, and made available on the web for participants in other time zones.

- Distant participants will be able to ask questions online through a slack-like system, and possibly interact with camera and microphone.

This solution is already widely and successfully used by other communities.

Conference events

Welcome reception, coffee breaks

The "Grands Moulins" site offers a variety of options for coffee breaks, as well as for organizing an on-site welcome reception, indoor or outdoor. We are also investigating off-site historical places for the welcome reception.
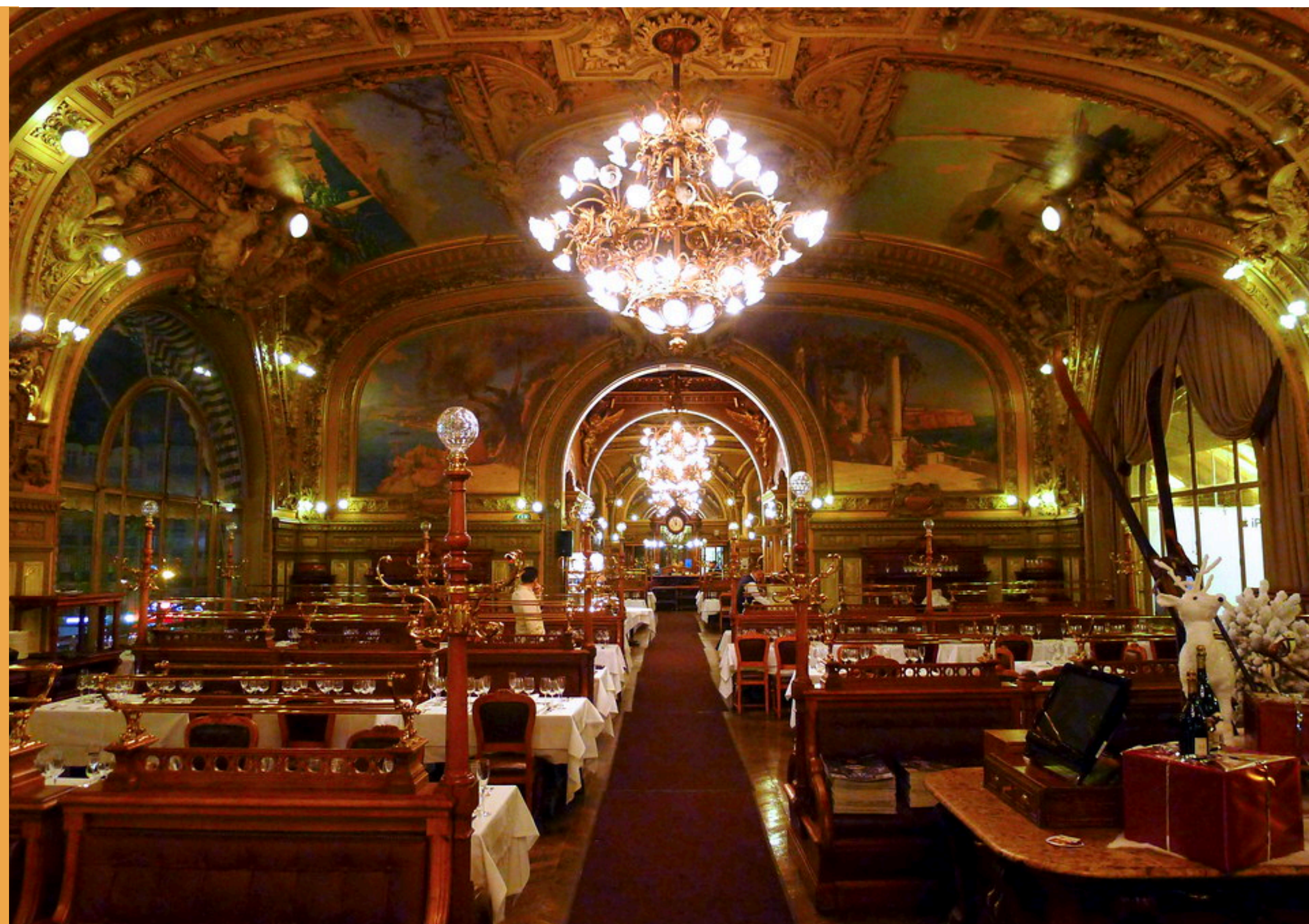
50 years ago: creation of EATCS and first ICALP

The 2022 edition will be the occasion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of both EATCS and the first ICALP, which was held in Rocquencourt, in the Paris area. The organizers would like to collaborate with EATCS for deciding the form that this event should take.

Conference dinner

Paris offers plenty of wonderful options for a memorable conference dinner, including but not limited to historical places such as "Le Train Bleu" in Gare de Lyon, which we are considering for the conference dinner.

The organization team

Olivier Carton
Professor at Université de Paris, IRIF.
Regular attendant of the ICALP events.

Thomas Colcombet
Full-time senior CNRS researcher, IRIF,
Regular attendant of the ICALP events. Co-created "Highlights of Logic, Games and Automata", organized Highlights 2013 (180 participants) and 2020 (300 registered participants, online). Former member of the STACS steering committee.
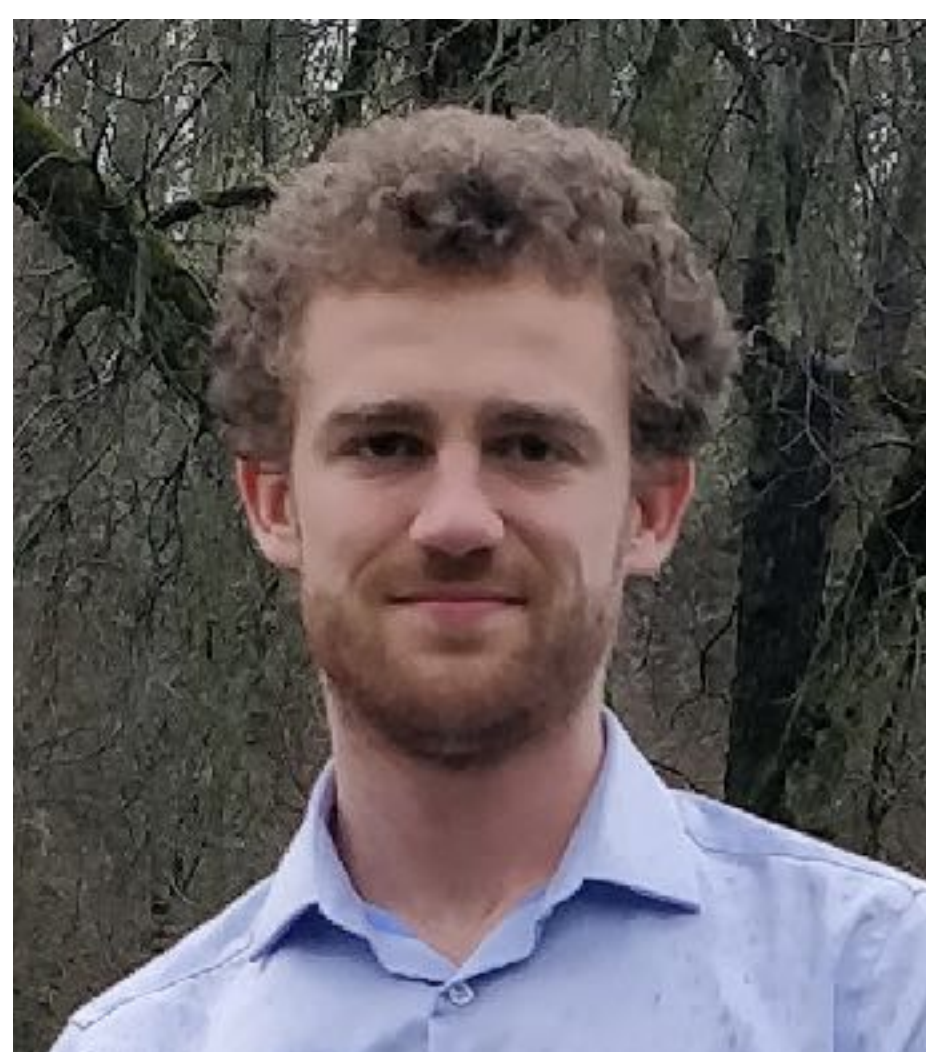
Geoffroy Couteau
Full-time CNRS researcher, IRIF.
Participated to the organization of Eurocrypt 2017, and regularly serves in program committees.

Irène Guessarian
Emerita at Sorbonne Université, IRIF. Organized CDB 2004 (40 participants) and FICS'2000 (50 participants). Attended ICALP 72 and 76.

Simon Mauras
PhD student at IRIF.
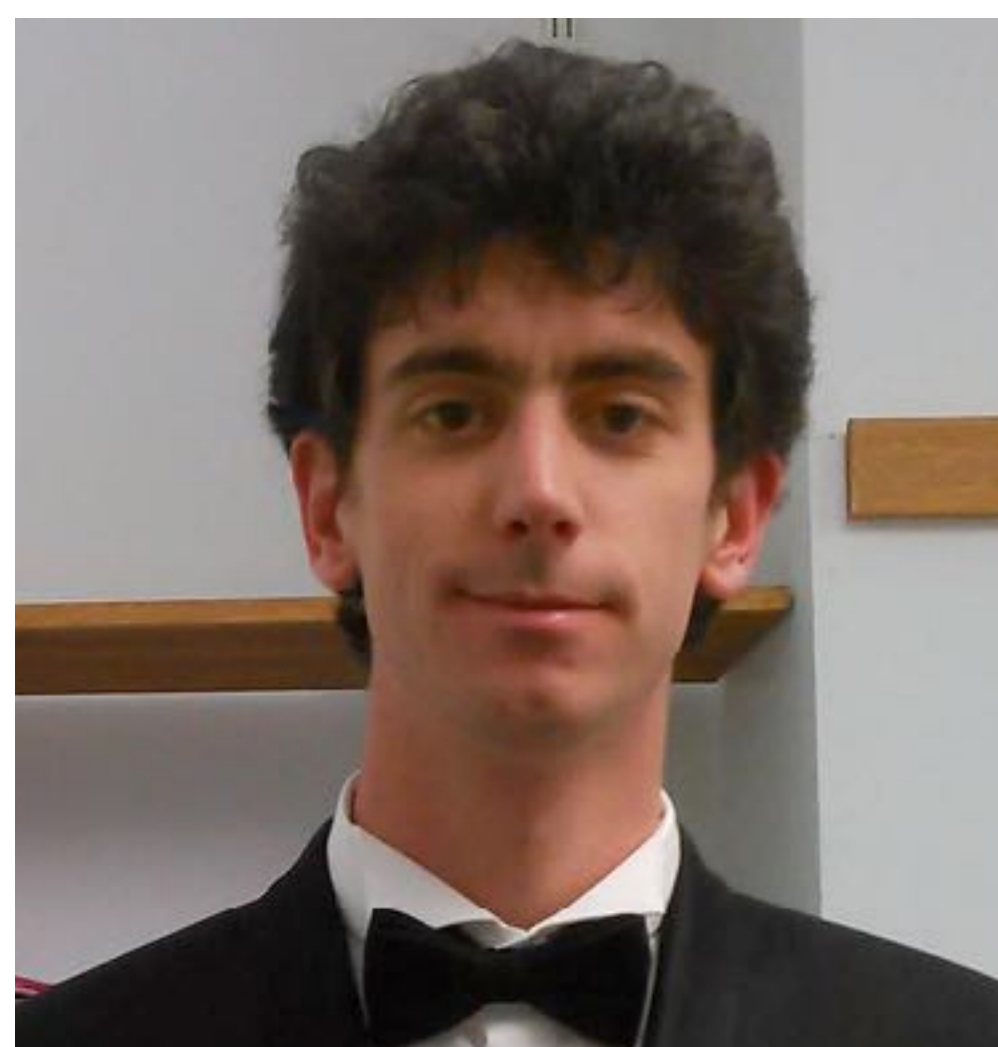Participated to the organization of ICGT 2018 (Lyon), FOCS 2018 (Paris), EC 2020 (online).

Valia Mitsou
Assistant professor at Université de Paris, IRIF. Regular attendant of the ICALP events. Participated in the organization of various research events while being a graduate student in New York.

Sylvain Périfel
Assistant professor at IRIF / Université de Paris since 2008. He has co-organized in particular Journées du groupe CMF du GDR-IM in 2011, and a Workshop on Algebraic Complexity Theory in 2018.

Amaury Pouly
Full-time CNRS researcher, IRIF.
Regular attendant of the ICALP events.

Eva Ryckelynck
Head of the administration at IRIF.

Arnaud Sangnier
Assistant Professor at Université de Paris, IRIF
Participated to the organization FORMATS'06.

Sylvain Schmitz
Professor at Université de Paris, IRIF.
Regular attendant of the ICALP events. He has (co-)chaired the organization of RP'20 (virtual, ~70 participants), Highlights 2014 (~180 participants), GT-Vérif 2013 (~60 participants) and participated to the organization of GT-Vérif 2014 and CIAA'05 (~60 participants each).

Mahsa Shirmohammadi
Full-time CNRS researcher, IRIF.
Regular attendant of the ICALP events.

More details about the Budget

Organizing a half-physical half-virtual hybrid conference comes with several challenges. Among them is the budget projection, which is highly sensitive to the number of physical participants. Below, we outline our estimates and some of the design choices we made to ensure a stable budget.

Attendance fee

We estimate a cost of about €500 per physical participant, plus an additional cost of €100 for each paper presented at the conference (hence, a physical participant presenting a paper would pay a fee of €600). The estimation was made using a basis of 150 physical participants and 200 online participants.

Fixed costs

- ‣ conference registration: €3,000 (based on a quote from Dakini, a company organizing scientific conferences)
- ‣ Invited speakers: €1,500 / speaker, 5 invited speakers (based on average costs from previous conferences)
- ‣ Awards: €1,500 * 3 (for the Gödel prize, the Presburger award, and the distinguished dissertation award)
- ‣ EasyChair costs: €1,200
- ‣ Live stream: €12,000 (for live streaming from 4 rooms for 4 days, based on online estimates of costs for hiring a dedicated team. The lecture hall will already include a control room)
- ‣ EATCS council: €2,400 (light refreshment and meal for up to 40 people)
  Note that the rooms are offered by Université de Paris, without any cost. This explains in large the relatively low cost, and compensates for the additional costs of live streaming and recording for the hybrid conference.

Variable costs

Per participant

- ‣ EATCS membership: €40
- ‣ Cocktail: €65 to €90 dep. on the standing
- ‣ Dinner: €65 to €100 dep. on the standing
- ‣ Lunches: €30 * 4
- ‣ Coffee breaks (2 / day): €12 * 8
- ‣ Goodies / bag: €15

Per paper

- ‣ LIPICS proceedings: €60

Sponsorship

For the moment, we expect
- ‣ €5,000 from IRIF
- ‣ €5,000 from CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)
- ‣ €5,000 from DIM info
we are also examining sponsorships from
- ‣ INRIA
- ‣ Nomadic Lab
- ‣ FSMP

Budget stability

Separating per paper and per participant fees

Our choice of separating the cost per paper from the cost per physical participant is motivated by the necessity of having a stable budget in spite of the hybrid format. Due to the stability of the number of accepted papers, this separation makes our budget estimates highly resilient to variations in the number of physical participants

Adjusting live streaming costs with online participant fees

Our simulated budget does not include any participation cost for the online participants (beyond EATCS membership and possible paper presentation costs), and uses a bases of €12,000 for live streaming and recording the talks. The cost of such services varies greatly, and evolved noticeably over the past months. If the actual cost were to increase, adjusting the budget with a (small) fee from online participants can be considered.

An attractive and easy to reach city

Paris is a very attractive city, and remains easily reachable (by train or direct flight) for most usual attendants. We expect that this will ensure a sufficient number of physical participants to the conference.