

E2S UPPA, an I-Site since 2017



"I-site" stands for "**Initiatives Science-Innovation-Territoires-Economie**".

The label "I-Site" is part of the excellence initiative launched in France, 5 years ago, with the notions of Excellence, Innovation and Cooperation as their motto.

There are two sorts of initiative, both funded by the French National Research Agency, within its programme of **Invest the future**:

- * the "Idex" label distinguishes "Initiatives of excellence", on a general topic,
- * whereas the "I-Site" label ; initiatives of excellence focused on **specific thematic**s.

« *The selection process is extremely competitive: the evaluation is performed by an international jury and only a few candidates were labelled.*

As of 2020, there are **only 8 universities** labelled as I-Site:

- * Université de Lorraine
- * Paris – Seine
- * Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté
- * Université de Lille
- * Université de Montpellier
- * Université Paris-Est
- * Université de Clermont
- * **Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour**

What is E2S UPPA for the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour ?

"E2S" stands for Energy Environment Solutions.

That is the name of the I-Site project submitted by the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, in 2016 .

The **Energy Environment Solutions (E2S)** project is centered around an academic consortium composed of the **University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour (UPPA)** and three national research organisations, **National Institute for Agronomy and the Environment (INRAE)**, **Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation (Inria)** and the **French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)** .

The core scientific domain of the project focuses on Environment and Energy and relies on strongly recognised **laboratories** supported by **state-of-the-art equipment**. The assessment and acceptance of new solutions and the public regulations will supply the area with interdisciplinary reflection.

Upon the obtention of the I-Site label, in 2017, the university then registered the brand E2S UPPA, both as the new name of their project and as a mirror of the university involvement.

One of E2S UPPA principal assets is its strong relationships with major international companies which can find in this partnership the scientific excellence they expect. Their industrial R&D centres on the site are already a key factor in consortium policy and will play a growing part for the next ten years.

These companies have created **CEPyA (Cluster Enterprises Pyrénées Adour)** which supports E2S UPPA in its trajectory towards a model for scientific excellence and international visibility.

Another primary goal is to increase international attractiveness in both education and research: to attract the world's best students, the university will achieve higher and higher level of quality.

Management and efficiency are conditions for success. The UPPA went from an **organisation** split in 10 components to a structure with three integrated faculties. A **specific governance** has been created for the project.

An aggressive recruiting policy generates an increase in academic researchers and PhD students. The industrial partnerships provide new forces, which, associated with the consortium's potential, has a leverage effect on research and innovation.

Gilles Pijaudier-Cabot, Executive Director



