

Press communication from the ASUR organizing committee

The 13rd of June 2025 contact@agorasur.fr

Agora Sciences University Research (ASUR) meetings on 16 and 17 June for a reorganisation of the University and research

Agora Sciences University Research (ASUR) is a new cross-party think tank drawn from the University and research community. Its objective is to develop a renewed vision of the University and research, their missions, institutions and procedures. It aims to promote intellectual, political and legislative reflection on the scientific and university system to be built over the coming decade. ASUR will hold its founding meeting on 16 and 17 June at the Cordeliers site of Paris Cité University.

Faced with attacks of unprecedented violence that spare virtually no country, it is up to the academic community to work collectively to re-establish the university and research as essential to democracy. More than 400 people have already signed up to contribute to this process.

These meetings constitute the first step in this process of self-renewal. Their purpose is to structure the collective reflection that will continue until a white paper and legislative proposals are drafted, which will be presented to the public in the autumn. The purpose of these meetings is not to document the attacks and ills afflicting the University and research, which are the subject of a rich and abundant academic literature. Rather, it is to enable the academic community to establish the fundamental principles on which to redefine its core missions in a world beset by multiple crises.

With the support of several associations, including ALIA (French Association for Academic Freedom), the ASUR meetings will begin by clarifying the concept of academic freedom, which is essential for the existence of institutions capable of advancing shared knowledge. They will then focus on defining the terms of academic responsibility in the face of crises and demands from society. The meetings will conclude with a discussion of an initial set of proposals.

Monday, 16 June, 2pm–7pm: Academic freedom and collegiality

How can academic freedom be guaranteed and sustained? How can this freedom be advanced? What legal forms can consolidate it? What concrete measures can support it?

Tuesday, 17 June, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: A new contract between Science, University, Research and Society

A privileged space for the development, transmission and sharing of common knowledge, the academic world is the target of attacks that seek to mask the climate, environmental, economic and democratic crises. How can we conceive of mediations that allow it to fully play its political role without being subservient to any power?

Tuesday, 17 June, 2pm-7pm: Re-establishing University and research

How can we organise universities, research organisations and government expert services in practical terms? The discussion will focus on internal organisation, regional planning, and relations with the government and political and economic powers.

The full programme is available online <https://agorasur.fr/colloque/>

The workshop will take place at the Cordeliers site of Paris Cité University, Amphithéâtre Frezal, 15 rue de l'École de médecine, 75006 Paris; <https://u-paris.fr/medecine/site-des-cordeliers/>; Accessibility: private parking, rue de l'Ecole de médecine. Ramp and lifts for the amphitheatre. Metro 4 (Odéon) and RER B (Saint-Michel)