
CPU, the French Rectors' Conference, changes its name to France Universités

On Thursday 13 January 2022, the very day when CPU celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, President Manuel Tunon de Lara disclosed the new name of the organization and announced that henceforth the French Rectors' Conference would be named "France Universités", after unanimous approval of by its General Assembly last November.

Through this change, France Universités wishes to convey two messages.

On the one hand, the aim is to shift from a person-oriented to a more institution-driven approach. France Universités intends to highlight the richness of the French higher education system and embody the diversity of its member institutions, the width and breadth of their territorial inscription, as well as their varied teaching and training, and research and innovation profiles. The diverse pattern of French academia will thus be given greater visibility in an increasingly European and international context.

On the other hand, the aim is to position France Universités as an exacting partner, both with the government and its own members. France Universités will strive to liaise more closely with all the French institutions, and provide them with greater support on the pathway towards strategic autonomy. Owing to its powerful expectations on behalf of a state-sponsored higher education, research and innovation sector, France Universités also ambitions to challenge the government into reforming the way it shapes, monitors and evaluates public actions.

France Universités is an umbrella organization home to about 120 higher education institutions and groupments. Through the latter's Rectors and C.E.O.'s, it represents about 1.7mn students and 200.000 staff and faculty. Its mission is to be the voice of universities in the public sphere, to proactively negotiate with public authorities at international, European or French level (i.e. government, Parliament and regional and local authorities), associations of elected officials, central public administrations as well as representatives from the economic, social, cultural and media sectors.

The members of France Universités are all committed to academic freedom, and maintain that freedom of scientific research and equal access to knowledge are non-negotiable principles in any democracy and underlie fundamental human rights of which everyone should be able to avail themselves anywhere in the world.

Watch the [entire Congress of France Universités](#) on our [Youtube](#) channel.

Watch the [speech of the President of the Republic on the Elysée website](#)

Find the [proposals made by France Universités](#) for the presidential and legislative elections