

**PRESS RELEASE**

Paris-Saclay, February 23, 2022

**Seventeen student entrepreneurs from Université Paris-Saclay head for the Silicon Valley**

**They may be students but they are also entrepreneurs! On February 27, 2022, the seventeen winners of the Start-Up Challenge 2021-2022 will head to the Silicon Valley for an immersive entrepreneurial experience. An exciting program of company visits, networking events and meetings with young entrepreneurs, founders and alumni await them!**

For the competition's fourth edition, the Start-Up Challenge 2021-2022 welcomed fifteen teams of young entrepreneurs from the University. Their goal was to win an intensive acceleration phase for their project and potentially become ambassadors for Université Paris-Saclay during an immersive week in the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the Silicon Valley.

During two weeks in November 2021, the teams competing took part in workshops led by professional experts on a wide range of topics, including value proposition, teamwork, client acquisition, legal practices, pitching, and more.

Entrepreneurs, teachers and investors all shared their experiences and entrepreneurial passion with the students, giving them the opportunity to improve their projects on all fronts.

On November 30, 2021, the teams of student entrepreneurs pitched their projects in front of a jury of mentors and former winners. The jury was chaired by Nathalie Hatton-Asensi, Head of Education and Success at Université Paris-Saclay.

The jury named eight winning projects who will be ambassadors for innovation and student entrepreneurship at Université Paris-Saclay. They will fly to the Silicon Valley on February 27 for an immersive seven-day adventure.

**The eight winning start-ups**

**QuantIM** aims to speed up the application transfer of cutting-edge quantitative approaches in medical imaging around the world, by offering optimized algorithmic and scalable solutions, which facilitate their deployment in clinical practice.

**52 Hertz** is developing an integrated underwater communication device, the Talky-Divy. The device is a connected regulator mouthpiece with embedded technology which can be directly adapted to diving regulators. The device makes scuba diving safer and more fun and enjoyable.

**Cocagne.Art** is an urban agriculture start-up that develops autonomous planter containers, which solve business model problems for companies selling smart indoor vegetable gardens.

**First Steps in France** is a mobile application aimed at helping Chinese expats or students who do not speak French when they arrive in France, and encouraging their social inclusion.

**VisitForMe** is a platform which helps students looking for an apartment to find accommodation remotely by putting them in contact with a third person who visits the apartment located in the chosen area on the student's behalf.

**Simbo** aims to become the reference in support for international students in France, by providing reliable, concrete and effective solutions for their administrative, legal or logistic needs.

**Otesa** is a digital queue for cafeterias and canteens in high schools and universities. Students place their order via the application and receive a notification when it is ready. No need to wait in line! For catering professionals, Otesa provides a more organized and fluid service.

**Light Cycle** illuminates (quite literally) the safety distances to be respected with cyclists or scooters for other road users.

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## ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

*Université Paris-Saclay brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with six national research organisations.*

*With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Université Paris-Saclay offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the University's academic staff.*

*Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading university, Université Paris-Saclay is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Université Paris-Saclay is nested in a protected natural area, at the heart of a dynamic economic hub.*



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