

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 23 February 2021

Université Paris-Saclay commits to the fight against period poverty

Université Paris-Saclay commits to ending period poverty with the launch of the “Never in the red again!” operation (*Plus jamais dans le rouge !*)

In France, it is estimated that period poverty affects around 1.7 million people, many of whom are students. Université Paris-Saclay is committed to improving living and health standards for its students and to fighting against the taboos surrounding menstruation. As a result, the University has decided to launch the “Never in the red again!” operation (*Plus jamais dans le rouge !*).

The operation will be deployed on three levels in several stages:

- Providing all students with better access to disposable period products

Eleven period product dispensers (organic and disposable pads/tampons) from the company Marguerite & Cie will be installed throughout March in discreet and accessible locations for all students on the campuses of the University’s nine constituent faculties and institutes, as well as in Université Paris-Saclay’s Student Centre (*Maison des Etudiant.es*) and university libraries.

- Giving the most vulnerable students regular sanitary protection replenishments

This action is aimed at providing material support for over 5,000 scholarship students within the University’s nine constituent faculties and institutes, four component *grandes écoles* and two associate institutions. The goal is to supply strategic locations (e.g. student associations, the solidary grocery store Agorae, the University’s health services, etc.) with free sanitary products.

- Promoting and making a greater variety of reusable menstrual products more accessible

Reusable pads, menstrual cups, period underwear... alternative and more sustainable period solutions exist. In line with its policy for sustainable development, Université Paris-Saclay will be launching an information and awareness campaign on the topic. The company *Dans Ma Culotte* has provided the University with 500 sample products which will also be available in strategic locations throughout the University’s nine constituent faculties and institutes, four component *grandes écoles* and two associate institutions.

By launching the campaign with the support of student associations and elected student representatives, the University hopes to reach the entire student population. Raising awareness among non-menstruating people about the physical, sanitary and economic constraints caused by menstruation is essential in order to achieve gender equality.

A communication campaign illustrated by the press cartoonist, Besse, will accompany the operation’s launch at the start of March, as part of the 2021 Gender Equality Week.

The operation has received funding from the Student and Campus Life Contribution fund, the Prefecture of the Ile de France region, the Essonne Department, the Paris-Saclay Urban Community and the student welfare office in Versailles, the Crous. It is also supported by the Fondation Paris-Saclay Université.

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 very heart of a dynamic economic hub.



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