

Joint Udice / U15 Canada statement

Introduction

On the occasion of the meeting of the Canada-France Joint Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (Comix), U15 Canada and Udice, groups of Canadian and French research-intensive universities, wish to share their common vision of strengthening the scientific and academic partnership between France and Canada and how they can contribute to it.

The Comix takes place in a particularly promising context for cooperation in research and higher education between our two countries. In addition to a shared political will to strengthen the bilateral partnership - including scientific - expressed during the recent meetings between the French President and the Canadian Prime Minister, there are new opportunities at the European level, with the start of negotiations between the European Union and Canada for an association agreement with Canada in the Horizon Europe program.

Role of research universities in the cooperation between France and Canada

French and Canadian research universities have been collaborating for many years in both research and education. Several pairs of Udice and U15 Canada member universities have already established strategic partnerships aimed at developing joint actions (joint research projects, student and researcher mobility, joint training programs, research chairs, etc.).

The research intensive universities wish to play their full part in strengthening the scientific partnership between France and Canada, thus contributing to the historical friendship between our two countries and their ability to jointly respond to the major challenges of our time.

This commitment is based on a set of shared values and objectives:

- We pursue scientific excellence and wish to transmit and produce the most advanced knowledge.
- We wish to put scientific excellence at the service of society in order to respond to the major challenges facing our planet (climate change, technological transformations, global health, for example).
- We share a global approach to the education/research/innovation continuum. We produce cutting-edge knowledge, train the next generations by confronting them with this knowledge and promote its transfer to the economy and society.
- We distinguish ourselves by our ability to address complex subjects in a global and transdisciplinary manner that cannot be reduced to a single thematic field.
- We respect academic freedom and democratic values are the foundation of our work.
- We value international cooperation as an imperative for the advancement of knowledge.
- We are located at the heart of our respective socio-economic environments in order to be both attentive to the needs of society and able to respond to them through training, research and innovation.
- We wish to promote diversity within our institutions and in our joint actions.

Principles guiding partnerships between French and Canadian research universities

To best fulfill their role as central actors in the scientific partnership between France and Canada, the Udice and U15 Canada research universities wish to base their partnerships on the following principles:

Reciprocity: the universities strive to balance the flow of students and researchers as well as their respective contributions (financial, human or in kind) to make these partnerships effective.

Complementarity: partnerships must mobilize the strengths, material capacities, equipment and infrastructure of each university involved in order to benefit the partner university.

Responses to challenges common to both countries: through their contributions to the work of Comix, the Udice and U15 Canada universities participate in the identification of the thematic priorities of bilateral cooperation and direct their joint actions towards these priorities.

Transdisciplinarity: the universities mobilize their respective capacities to address these major challenges in a transdisciplinary manner, benefiting in particular from the contribution of the human and social sciences.

Opening up to Europe: the partnerships between Udice and U15 Canada universities are intended to open up new perspectives for cooperation between Canada and Europe through European research funding programs, but also through the international outreach of the European Alliances, of which Udice universities are active members.

Actions to be developed

Udice and U15 Canada wish to implement concrete actions that will be developed around the following priorities :

- Promote and defend the interests of research universities with our respective governments for their involvement in bilateral cooperation and for the reinforcement of the means granted to the scientific cooperation between France and Canada
- Increase the mobility of researchers and students
- Share our thoughts and best practices on cross-cutting issues of common interest (open science, response to geopolitical challenges, research security...)
- Facilitate cooperation around the priority themes defined in the Comix framework (organization of workshops and support for joint research projects)

Ottawa, April 23th 2023

For U15 Canada

Chad Gaffield, Chief Executive Officer



For Udice

Estelle Iacona, President of Paris-Saclay University

