



**Land of
opportunities**



— TERRE D'AVENIRS —

Essonne The Land of Opportunities





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Why Choose **Essonne**?

Authentic by nature, and avant-garde by disposition, Essonne is rooted in an illustrious past and encourages dynamic stakeholders to consider developing their projects here.

Essonne is a “miniature France,” capable of producing the best there is. One only needs to consider the Saclay plateau, where 15% of France’s research is conducted. “The Land of Opportunities” is not only our motto, it is also a state of mind, an impetus, an impulse that makes Essonne a center in its own right by offering a favorable ecosystem for achieving your initiatives.

Often at the forefront, Essonne is a part of the Ile-de-France region, one of the most dynamic regions in Europe that is able to keep up with globalization’s demanding competition standards. In Essonne, there are a multitude of professions, innovative industries and a desire by the Departmental Council to foster this economic dynamic by injecting 1.2 billion euros by 2021 through its multi-year investment plan, a true catalyst for public and private initiatives.

To win the current economic battle, there needs to be a vision and a drive; to be successful, your projects, ideas and entrepreneurial spirit will need five key assets to take shape: proximity, drawing power, excellence, personal development and authenticity. Essonne is a great place to live, a land of opportunities.



A handwritten signature of François Durovray in black ink, written in a cursive style.

François Durovray

President of the Essonne
Departmental Council



Essonne: Right at Your Doorstep

With direct connections to Paris and Europe's main capital cities, Essonne is strategically located in the Ile-de-France region, putting it in a position to become France's leading economic region. This means it can be both a national and international gateway for large corporations, small- to mid-size companies and innovative start-ups.



TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

Orly airport, to the north of Essonne, offers many flights to France's largest cities and European capitals, as well as to the United States and Asia.

Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport is accessible via highway (A6 and A86) and mass transit (RER B).

DESTINATION "ENTERPRISE"

A WIDE VARIETY OF EFFICIENT MASS TRANSIT OPTIONS:

- **3 regional express train lines** (RER B, C and D)
- **Multi-modal hub** in Juvisy
- **TZen 4**
- **Tramway T7 Villejuif/Athis-Mons/Juvisy-sur-Orge** in 2019
- **T12 Express Massy/Évry** in 2021
- **Metro line 18 for the Grand Paris Express project** in 2024
- **TGV station under Orly airport** in the works

VERY HIGH SPEED BROADBAND FOR SURFING THE WEB AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE

While already widespread, very high speed broadband will be available across all of Essonne by 2020, helping to increase the services offered and the ability of companies and families to communicate.

Essonne embraces digital technology and strives for excellence to rise to the challenge of meeting the demands of business today.

Essonne in figures

1

TGV train station in Massy, which connects to the European train network.

The river port of Evry and its container terminal is only

25 km from Paris.

2

European highways (A6 Paris-Marseille and A10 Paris-Bordeaux) connect travelers to all of Europe.

1,400 km of departmental roads

4

national highways (N6, N7, N20 and N104)

Essonne: Strategic Appeal

In the south of Ile-de-France, one of Europe's most dynamic regions, Essonne is a strategic business location. It benefits from a diverse economic network as well as a young and educated population, which is an integral part of Essonne's drawing power and potential. Essonne considers innovation to be fundamental and fosters the entire technology development process, from project incubation through industrial application. This taste for innovative projects comes from a rich heritage of inventions. Essonne is where Nicolas Appert developed canned food containers, the first airfield was established, Genopole® sequenced the genome and the Renault Zoé car was created.





UNIQUE DRAWING POWER POTENTIAL

REMARKABLE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

Essonne benefits not only from a very dense network of SMEs and SMIs and a qualified and competitive workforce, but it also hosts large and renowned national and multinational companies such as Alcatel-Lucent, Carrefour, Coca-Cola, Danone, Renault Sport F1, Safran/SNECMA, Sanofi Aventis, Thalès and Nokia.

TAILORED SUPPORT FOR PROJECT LEADERS, ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS

The Essonne Development Agency is committed, along with its network of experts, to supporting companies daily in their projects. As a one-stop shop for finding a location to set up a business, investing and growing, its efforts have a threefold focus:

- Supporting the creation and expansion of companies

- Conducting research to provide an accurate view of the local economy
- Fostering employment with both job seekers and entrepreneurs, and developing domestic employment

AGRICULTURE, AN ECONOMIC VECTOR IN SOUTHERN ESSONNE

Around 45% of the land in Essonne is used for agriculture. Farmers mostly grow grains, but vegetable, livestock, and especially organic farming (27% of Ile-de-France) are expected to rise to meet new consumption trends.



A SUCCESSFUL HIGH-TECH ECOSYSTEM

TWO GLOBAL BUSINESS CLUSTERS

MEDICEN PARIS REGION

This business cluster makes Ile-de-France the European industrial leader in the fields of diagnostics and therapeutics as well as in advanced healthcare technologies.

SYSTEMATIC PARIS REGION

This cluster is dedicated to digital software and technologies to bolster industrial and service-oriented competitiveness. It brings nearly 800 industrial, SME and scientific stakeholders together in the Ile-de-France region, including many which are based in Essonne.

- **Teratec:** European expertise center in high-performance digital simulation.
- **Digitéo Labs:** a world-class research park working in the fields of science, information technology and communication.

SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR START-UPS AND ECO-INNOVATIVE SERVICES

Many incubators encourage new business start-ups, including Ecole polytechnique's accelerator, which hosts the top French start-up projects. The Institut d'Optique Graduate School's Photonic FabLab also makes a large range of cutting-edge equipment available to companies.

Located in the Docks neighborhood of Ris-Orangis, Plascilab is the first Fab Lab located in southern Ile-de-France, open to all, where 3D printing, mechanics and information technology mingle in a spirit of collaborative creation. Co-working spaces are being developed around Essonne and will soon open their doors to freelancers and entrepreneurs.

FOUR NATIONAL BUSINESS CLUSTERS

- **Advancity:** a cluster for sustainable cities and urban eco-technologies.
- **ASTech:** business aviation, space transportation and aeronautic motorization.
- **Cap-Digital:** digital technologies.
- **Mov'eo:** vehicles and mass transit that are safe for both the public and the environment.

SOME OF THE BEST RESEARCH PARKS AND FACILITIES IN EUROPE

- **The Synchrotron Soleil:** an exceptional source of innovation for research and industry.
- **Neurospin:** a large neurological research center with an imaging platform unlike any other in Europe.

Essonne in figures





Essonne: Striving for Excellence

Essonne is a land of inventors and researchers with a vision for the future and has been instrumental in considerable scientific progress through the years, from atomic revolution to space exploration. Essonne is home to the Atomic Energy Commission's center for nuclear studies, Airbus Safran Launchers (formerly Arianespace) and the INRIA-Microsoft Research laboratory. On the Saclay plateau, an internationally renowned scientific and technological cluster brings together eighteen universities, grandes écoles and research organizations, corporate R&D centers and innovative businesses. This innovation-focused ecosystem makes Essonne a catalyst for projects and a bridge between education, research and entrepreneurship.



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

A YOUNG, DYNAMIC POPULATION WITH STRONG POTENTIAL

Essonne's dynamism is especially evident in its population. More than 60% of Essonne's population is under the age of 40, making it one of the youngest areas of the Ile-de-France region.

This workforce is dynamic and more highly qualified than the national average, making it a major asset for Essonne. The cities of Evry, Massy and Palaiseau and the technological hub of Paris-Saclay are just a few of the magnets that attract this young and active population.

AN EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Essonne is home to more than 40,000 students, two universities (Evry-Val d'Essonne and Paris-Sud) linked to the Paris-Saclay hub – a scientific and technological center of worldwide renown – and a network of prestigious grandes écoles (Polytechnique, Institut d'Optique Graduate School, Supélec, Ecole nationale supérieure de Techniques avancées, Télécom Ecole de Management and SudParis, among others). Soon, Ecole normale supérieure as well as an institute for pharmaceutical and cosmetic technology will establish facilities here as well.

More than 100 middle schools and 45 high schools make up a talent pool of leaders for Essonne's next generation. Plans are also in place for Essonne to establish the first international high school in southern Ile-de-France.



THREE MAJOR FIELDS OF INNOVATION

BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Genopole®, located in Evry, is the first biopharma cluster dedicated to life sciences. Projects in human genome sequencing, stem cell development, synthetic biology and bioproduction have helped earn its worldwide reputation.

OPTICS AND THE PHOTONIC INDUSTRY

Located in Palaiseau and managed by Opticsvalley, this vast network of advanced technologies is a national hub for ultra-modern optics. With more than 1,100 companies located in the Ile-de-France region, this flourishing economic sector supports 43,000 jobs.

ECOTECHNOLOGIES

From homes to energy, Essonne develops eco-businesses to become a pioneer in sustainable development and energy transition.

Essonne in figures

23,000
people working
in research and
development

15%
of French R&D
potential

200
laboratories

2
Nobel prizes

4 Fields medals
for the Paris-Saclay
University



© Photo credit : Jérémy Barande - École polytechnique



Essonne: Where Authenticity Reigns

Just outside Paris surrounded by a naturally green and rolling landscape, visitors can discover multiple traces of the history that shaped Essonne. Numerous medieval abbeys and basilicas bear witness to this era inscribed in France's heritage. The fortress of Dourdan, the chateau of Villeconin, the city of Etampes (named a French Town and Land of Art and History) all reflect French medieval and Renaissance architecture. Seven of the 21 prestigious sites along the "Gardens and Castles around Paris" route are located in Essonne. Agriculture, a key aspect of the area's identity, and the pristine natural environment where surprising and little-known fauna live, shape the southern part of the region.





ROOTED IN THE PAST TO IMAGINE THE FUTURE

A STRONG AND DIVERSE PATRIMONIAL IDENTITY

Bordered by four historic French regions – Hurepoix, Brie, Beauce and Gâtinais – Essonne enjoys a preserved and natural environment. Traversed by the Seine and numerous other rivers, it has a rich history, which can be seen through its many castles, churches and unique gardens. Once primarily an agricultural area, Essonne was able to adapt first to industrialization and later to innovation and the “industries of the future.” Today, it offers an unrivalled balance between city life and country life, history and modernity, authenticity and dynamism.

ROOTED IN HISTORY AND THE ARTS

Several artists and historical figures have marked Essonne's history, from Dagobert's coronation at the Château-Forêt to Racine, Boileau, La Fontaine and Madame de Sévigné's 17th century gatherings at the Château de Baille.

The homes of Victor Hugo, Gustave Caillebotte and Jean Cocteau offer a glimpse of their lives, documents and rare works related to their literary and artistic backgrounds. The painter Léonard Foujita's last workshop is located in Villiers-le-Bâcle. The picturesque garden of Méréville, created by François Bélanger and the painter Hubert Robert, is a true work of art that reinvents the idea of the garden. These secret gardens where the famous found inspiration attest to their deep fondness for Essonne.

AUTHENTICITY TO BE DISCOVERED ON FOOT OR BY BIKE

Only a few kilometers to the south of Paris and often near an RER station, numerous bike paths and more than 1,400 km of signed pedestrian paths wind through forests, orchards, ponds and marshes, hills, pools and streams.

QUALITY PRODUCTS MADE IN ESSONNE

More than 50 farmers, artisans, restaurateurs and associations sell authentic local, high-quality products under the collective trademark “Produits & Terroir Essonne.” The Soisy-sur-Ecole glassmaking studio showcases the craftsmanship of Essonnian glassblowers.

A PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT, A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

Linking cities and the countryside, maintaining and promoting green corridors and hiking trails, and giving waterways their rightful place in the landscape are some of Essonne's objectives. Essonne is highly committed to sustainable development and preserving nature and the environment for its inhabitants. Sensitive natural spaces in Essonne contribute to the protection of biodiversity, tourism development and the access to nature for all.

Essonne is also overflowing with greenery, exemplified by the forests of Sénart and Verrières.

Essonne in figures

1

national natural
geological
reserve

26%

green spaces

55

sensitive natural
spaces

400 km
of waterways

#1

environmental
département
in Ile-de-France

2

regional natural
parks



Essonne: Pursuing Personal Growth

Essonne combines the charm of pristine nature with the proximity of urban activities. From castles and gardens to movie theaters and museums, performances and festivals, Essonne offers a thousand reasons to come and explore.

It is also equipped with a full-scale athletic field for different sports and recreational activities.





LIVING WELL TOGETHER

Essonne in figures

123

tourist attractions

2

royal cities:
Dourdan and Etampes

5

Museums
of France

1.2
million
tourists

2.2

million overnight
hotel stays

A VERY POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATION

Essonne charms visitors thanks to the diversity of its natural and cultural heritage and its accommodations (vacation rentals, B&Bs, campgrounds, etc.).

A RICH AND VARIED PALETTE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Château de Chamarande and estate, a renowned artistic and cultural center, offers numerous free activities throughout the year. The French photography museum in Bièvres has a one-of-a-kind collection of objects and photos. The Agora theater, the national stage of Evry and Essonne, puts on more than 40 performances in every genre each season. The Massy Opera attracts more than 40,000 spectators annually with its quality programming and internationally renowned artists.

- 30 movie theaters, including 17 art house venues
- 4 concert halls
- 1 media library
- 1 network of neighborhood libraries
- numerous music and film festivals

DYNAMIC ATHLETIC CLUBS FOR STAYING FIT AND HAVING FUN

Locals can choose from more than 2,600 athletic clubs to play their favorite sport. The Robert Bobin stadium has a 19,000 seat capacity for track & field meets and soccer and rugby matches. For water sports enthusiasts, the regional outdoor activity centers in Draveil and Etampes offer numerous outdoor and athletic activities over several dozen acres. Essonne is the top *département* in the Ile-de-France region in terms of athletic facilities, with more than enough to delight its 308,200 members.

STRONG AND EFFECTIVE SOCIAL COHESION

To help people with disabilities and the elderly in their daily lives, Essonne has numerous personal assistance services, helplines, housing for 12,000 dependent elderly people, and reception and information centers, including the Essonne assisted living facility for people with disabilities.

Essonne is also home to the large hospital complex Sud Francilien in Corbeil-Essonne, known for its wide range of healthcare services.



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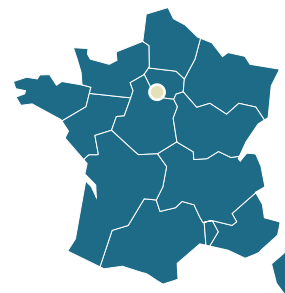
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Essonne The Land of opportunities

Essonne

LE DÉPARTEMENT

— TERRE D'AVENIRS —



A VIGOROUS ECOSYSTEM

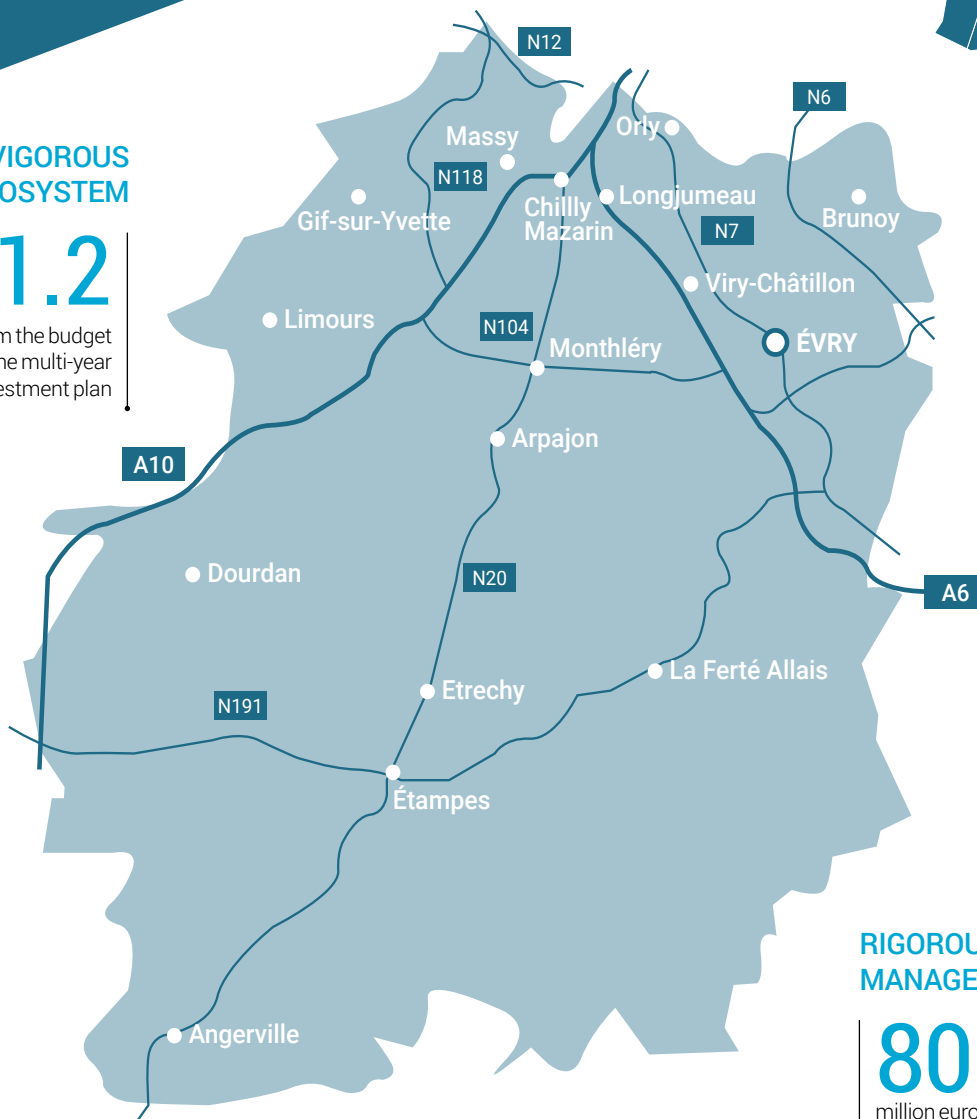
1.2

billion euros from the budget
invested in the multi-year
investment plan

THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE

1.4

billion euro
budget



RIGOROUS MANAGEMENT

80

million euros in savings
= excellent financial
management

USEFUL CONTACTS – YOUR DAY-TO-DAY PARTNERS

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