

What is a IRN?

A IRN is an International (here, European) Research Network (“Réseau de Recherche International/Européen”) funded by CNRS (the French National Centre for Scientific Research). Basically, it is a mobility scheme project aiming to set up a thematic research consortium – the theme is meant to cover a subdisciplinary field more than one specific concept (hence, philosophy and economics, not, for instance, one study about inequality *stricto sensu*).

One IRN lasts for 4 effective years after one so-called “prefiguration year”. It aims at stimulating co-authored publications and organise international events (workshops, conferences), to favor exchange of researchers (experienced and early stage) between associated research centres and to promote collaborative research.

Four important points have to be mentioned:

- 1) Credits provided within the IRN will fund research
- 2) Coordination activities and mobility of teams involved in the project: outgoing from France to European partners who can thus host guests at no cost for them. They do not fund hiring personnel. Mobility, stay, local expense and organisation of conferences are eligible.
- 3) Within a IRN, each partner of the project funds its own team. Incoming mobility from European partners is enhanced, French labs are willing to make efforts to provide help for foreign colleagues – there already exist schemes set by Aix-Marseilles School of Economics.
- 4) A IRN is not a legal hiring structure. Consequently it will not be possible to hire new staff but only fund existing staff as mentioned in the administrative documents of the project.

In a sense, it is not very different from Brussels European Union mobility schemes. This one is funded by the French government, aiming at providing another opportunity for French research units to make links with European colleagues, whereby these other research centres also benefit from the scheme.

A Presentation of RESEARCH UNIT AMSE.

AMSE (*Aix-Marseilles School of Economics*) is a research centre in economics, labelled by the following institutions: Aix-Marseilles University (AMU), the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Higher School in Social Sciences (EHESS) plus the Ecole Centrale de Marseille. AMSE gathers presently approximately 80 faculty, 15 administrative staff and more than 60 doctoral students. It is regularly ranked among the five top research centres in economics in France, and worldwide amongst top 100 departments according to RePEc. AMSE studies all areas of economics within five departments:

- Decision, Interaction and Networks,
- Macroeconomics and International Economics,
- Statistics and Econometrics,
- Economic Development and International Finance (DEFI)
- **Economic Philosophy and Public Intervention** (quoted last for politeness, not for lesser number of staff. All can be seen through simply googling in AMSE)

Historically, GREQAM was set up in 1994 by the merging of GREQE (Research Group in Quantitative Economics and Econometrics), LEQAM (Laboratory of quantitative economics of

Aix-Marseille) and CRIDESOPE which specialized in economic epistemology. Among others, Professors Alain Leroux, Alan Kirman, Pierre Livet (associated), Nicolas Gravel, Alain Trannoy, André Lapied, CNRS full research professor (research director) Gilles Campagnolo are members. Younger staff is numerous and constantly flowing in and out.