

HiTEC Retreat Report

Date: 11–13 September 2024

Location: Paris, France

Organizing Team: Thérèse Cibaka (IMD-3), Yanxin Liu (IMD-3), Sergey Schcherbachenko (IMD-3), and Ugochi Chime (IMD-3).

Overview

The HiTEC Retreat 2024 was held in Paris from the 11th to the 13th of September, gathering 25 participants (8 different institutes) for a three-day program that combined scientific exchange, team-building activities, and cultural exploration. The event provided an excellent opportunity for participants to connect across disciplines, share ongoing research, and discuss ideas in an engaging and collaborative environment.



HiTEC Retreat 2024, Maison de la Recherche, after the scientific and interactive activity.

Day 1 – 11 September 2024

Participants arrived in Paris around 12:06 and proceeded to Hotel Le Grand Quartier (15 Rue Nancy, Paris). Upon arrival, attendees enjoyed a light snack in the hotel garden, allowing for informal introductions and networking.

In the afternoon, the group visited the CNRS laboratory Kastler Brossel, gaining insight into ongoing research activities.



Visit at the CNRS laboratory Kastler Brossel

After the visit, participants checked in to their accommodations before gathering for the HiTEC Retreat dinner at Les Rupins 20:00. The dinner offered a relaxed atmosphere for further discussions and social interaction among attendees.



HiTEC dinner, Les Rupins – Paris

Day 2 – 12 September 2024

The second day began with breakfast at the hotel between 07:00 and 09:20, followed by a full day of interactive and scientific sessions at the Maison de la Recherche (Room Claude Simon, 4 rue des Irlandais, 75005 Paris).

The morning session featured two key activities:

- Interactive Activity 1: *Two Truths, One Card*. An icebreaker activity for self-introduction designed to encourage personal interaction.
- Flash Presentations (Part 1): Participants delivered concise 3-minute talks followed by 2-minute Q&A sessions, offering a dynamic platform for showcasing current research.



Participants during Activity Two truths, one Card followed by Flash presentation

After a 15-minute coffee break, the session resumed with additional flash presentations (Part 2), maintaining a lively and engaging atmosphere.

Lunch was self-organized, allowing participants to explore nearby restaurants and enjoy Parisian cuisine.

The afternoon session featured:

- Interactive Activity 2: *Once Upon a Time, the Future*. a creative foresight exercise inviting participants to imagine and narrate potential futures related to the topics Net-zero carbon emission and 100% Renewable energy.

In a group of 4 to 5 people, the participants were asked to discuss and later on report the following:

Imagine the following scenario: **100% Renewable Energy or Net-zero carbon emission**

1. Do you think it is achievable?
2. What challenges need to be tackled?
3. Select the main challenge, in your opinion, and discuss a strategy (step by step) to overcome it.
4. Are there any possible bottlenecks in implementing this strategy? Please cite them.
5. Which professionals/sectors/organizations would you need to implement this strategy and what are their respective tasks?
6. In what time frame would it be achievable?



Participants during Activity Once upon a time, the future

- A coffee break followed by participant feedback and final remarks, as well as logistical information for the following day.

The day concluded with a boat tour on the Seine River at 18:00, providing a memorable cultural highlight and opportunity for informal networking against the backdrop of Paris's iconic landmarks.



Participants during day 2

Day 3 – 13 September 2024

After breakfast at the hotel (07:00–10:00) and check-out by 10:30, participants visited the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, the largest science museum in Europe. The visit offered an inspiring conclusion to the retreat, linking scientific curiosity with public engagement.

Departure was scheduled at 15:15, marking the end of the HiTEC Retreat 2024.

Concluding Remarks

The HiTEC Retreat 2024 successfully met its objectives of promoting interdisciplinary dialogue, strengthening the community network, and inspiring future collaborations. The balanced combination of scientific sessions, creative activities, and cultural experiences fostered both professional growth and team cohesion.

The organizing team: Thérèse Cibaka (IMD-3), Yanxin Liu (IMD-3), Sergey Schcherbachenko (IMD-3), and Ugochi Chime (IMD-3), extends gratitude to HiTEC and to all participants for their active engagement and enthusiasm throughout the event.

Participants information

Number: 25 (19M and 6F)

ICE-3= 2 participants

IET-1= 3 participants

IET-3= 1 participant

IMD-1= 2 participants

IMD-2= 2 participants

IMD-3= 7 participants

ZEA-1= 1 participant

ZEA-2= 7 participants