

Application to organise the 6th General PARSEME meeting La Rochelle, France



LOCAL ORGANIZERS :

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LA ROCHELLE

Excerpt from the [Wikipedia](#) :

La Rochelle is a city in western France and a seaport on the Bay of Biscay, a part of the Atlantic Ocean. Its main touristic feature is the "Vieux Port" ("Old Harbour"), which is at the heart of the city, picturesque and lined with seafood restaurants. The city walls are open to an evening promenade. The old town has been well preserved. From the harbour, boating trips can be taken to the Île d'Aix and Fort Boyard (home to the internationally famous TV show of the same name). Nearby Île de Ré is a short drive to the North. The countryside of the surrounding Charente-Maritime is very rural and full of history (Saintes). To the North is Venise Verte, a marshy area of country, criss-crossed with tiny canals and a popular resort for inland boating. Inland is the country of Cognac and Pineau. The attractive Île de Ré is accessible via a bridge from La Rochelle.

Last, it should be noted that insolation is remarkably high. The student population is about 10,000 out of 80,000 inhabitants. Touristic information from Wikitravel is given at the end of this document.

TENTATIVE DATES PROPOSED: 17-18 March 2016

Any 2 consecutive week days between 7th and 18th of March 2016 are equally suitable to us (no local school holidays, no European bank holidays). We are very open to organizing a workshop for any WG, prior to, or after the general meeting.

On 19th, a sightseeing boat trip can be organized to the « [Île de Ré](#) » island with a stop-over in a local town, or a boat trip to « [Fort Boyard](#) ».

LOCATION AND AVAILABLE MEETING ROOMS

Main Meeting venue :

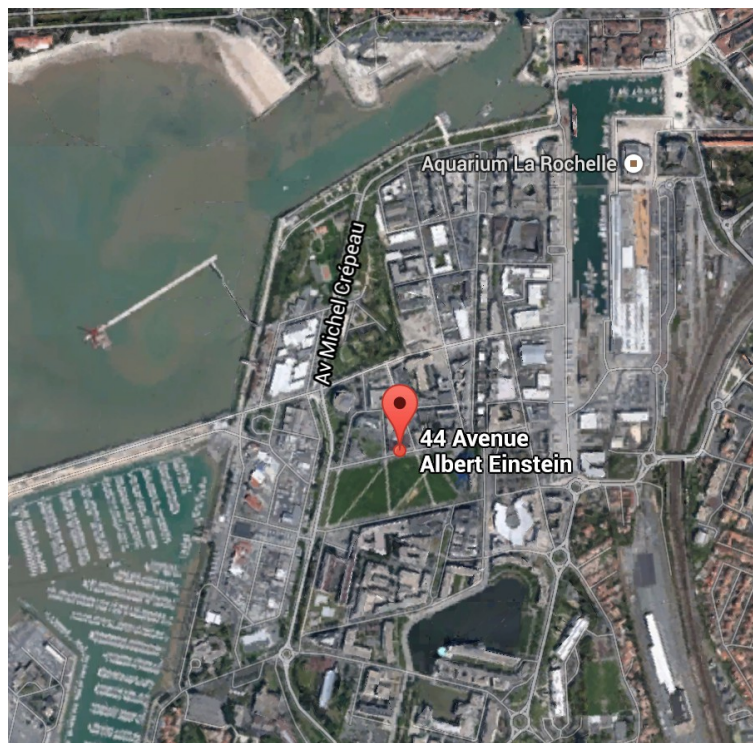
Pôle communication, multimédia et réseaux
University of La Rochelle
44, avenue Albert Einstein
17000 La Rochelle, France

The main conference room was recently built in the « Pôle communication, multimédia et réseaux ». It can seat 200 people and is equipped with all the latest recording and broadcasting facilities. It includes 7 seats and microphones on the stage, e.g., for panel discussions. Full details are available at the following url (in French):

<http://services-numeriques.univ-larochelle.fr/Location-amphitheatre>

4 smaller rooms are available for parallel sessions (with capacities of 60 and 3*40 persons).

The conference room is located 200 meters from the « port des minimes », a 10-minute walk from the old port and the 3 towers, and a 15-minute walk to the closest beach.



Lunches will take place in the neighboring “[Technoforum](#)” building, which hosts the main administration of the University of La Rochelle. This is also where poster sessions are due to take place (about 35 poster boards are readily available).



There are numerous options for dinner on the 1st evening of the meeting, for instance “[Bar Andre](#)” (renowned for sea food and sea view), or “[& la Suite](#)” (awarded several prizes). Unsurprisingly, as of today, both are available on 17-18 March 2016.

ACCOMMODATION

This list is only including hotels very near the conference setting, known to be ok, and for which we have lately been able to agree on the following discounted prices. Regular prices may be slightly higher and can be found with booking engines (e.g. www.booking.com, www.hotels.com, etc.). There are numerous other options given the fact that La Rochelle is a touristic city, while vacancy will not be an issue since the meeting is to be held on weekdays and off-season.

[Hôtel Saint-Nicolas](#)

60€ / night (breakfast included)

[Hôtel ibis, Vieux Port](#)

89€ / night (1-2 person)

[Altica Hotel](#)

46€ / night (+ 5.90€ breakfast)

[Hôtel Kyriad](#)

89€ / night (+ 11€ breakfast)

[Hôtel Les Gens de Mer](#)

68 € / night (+ 9€ breakfast)

triple rooms (90€ / night)

Travel

La Rochelle can be reached in several ways:

1. By plane from Lyon, London, Paris-Orly, Porto...: <http://www.larochelle.aeroport.fr/en/>
2. By train: <http://en.voyages-sncf.com/en/>
3. By car

By plane (International airport of La Rochelle-Ré)

The airport has daily connections the French hub of Lyon, hence making it simple to reach La Rochelle with a connecting flights from numerous European cities. In addition, direct flights are provided on a non-daily basis by Ryanair and Easyjet, towards Birmingham, Bristol, Brussels (Charleroi), Dublin, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Geneva, Leeds, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Paris, Porto, Southampton. Please refer to booking sites for updated multiple leg connections, for instance www.skyscanner.com or www.edreams.com.

From the airport, you can reach the conference venue by taxi or by bus (with line number 7 until place de Verdun and then bus number 3 until the Technoforum bus stop, 1.30€ for 1 ticket, 11€ for a 10-trip ticket).

By plane (other airports)

Traveling to La Rochelle can also be achieved by flying to one of the larger nearby airports of Paris CDG, Paris Orly, Bordeaux or Nantes.

If you're not flying to La Rochelle, we recommend that you fly either to Paris CDG, from which you can take a train to La Rochelle without going through Paris, or that you fly to Bordeaux airport which is generally better connected than Nantes airport.

By train

- Paris CDG airport – La Rochelle: about 4 hours
- Paris center (Montparnasse station) - La Rochelle: about 3 hours
- Bordeaux – La Rochelle: about 2 hours
- Nantes – La Rochelle: about 2 hours

Walking from the train station to the conference center takes 10 minutes. Alternatively, you can take a taxi, or bus number 3 towards the stop “Technoforum”.

By car, follow signs to “Les Minimes”,

The conference venue (University) is located between the SNCF railway station and the harbor of Les Minimes.

Visiting La Rochelle

Copy/paste of the “See” section of La Rochelle's [Wikitravel](#) page :

The Old Port ("Vieux Port")

This is the oldest and also the most picturesque part of La Rochelle. Most of the town buildings are hundreds of years old and very well maintained. The narrow streets and pale stone buildings give the Old Port a distinctly mediterranean quality.



The Three Towers (Tour St. Nicolas, Tour de la Chaine & Tour de la Lanterne)



When visiting the Old Port you cannot fail to notice the the three defensive towers, which guard the harbour. They date back to medieval times when control of the city was contested by both French and English. They are well worth a visit although you will have to be in good health to climb the stairs. The staff are friendly and speak both English and French. All the signs to the various rooms and exhibits are also both in French and English. You'll also be given a returnable booklet containing lots of historical information about what is in each room.

The Aquarium

Nature fans will enjoy the huge aquarium, which can be found within easy walking distance of the harbour. The whole tour takes approximately 2-3 hours to experience and is an excellent activity if the weather outside is poor. Audio devices for various languages are available but all educational notices for each exhibit are also translated into English.

Port des Minimes One of the biggest ports of pleasure boats in Europe. Be prepared to be blown away by the number of yachts in this enormous port. Also, visit the beach beside the port.