



## INVENTING THE GREATER PARIS METROPOLITAN AREA:

### Newcomers of the urban fabric

Paris, March 1, 2017

With 57 sites proposed in the consultation, Inventing the Greater Paris Metropolitan Area is currently the largest urban consultation in Europe, and of the 420 proposal files received in the first phase, 164 have been selected for the second phase. Through its size and its diversity of landscapes, ranging from the heritage site to the urban wasteland taking in the neighborhoods of new stations of the Grand Paris Express on the way, the consultation has naturally included the major French construction and real estate promotion companies, making up 42% of the candidates. The consortia led by the major groups are however often mixed, and dedicate a considerable share to local associations, cultural programming associations and startups in the design and operation phases of the future projects. In all, independent operators number 326 in the finalist consortia. And small developers and architect firms have not been forgotten, since they make up 58% of the candidates out of the 164 currently selected files.

The international scope of the consultation can be found in the architectural and landscaping practices participating in the consortia. Large international names such as Skidmore, Owing & Merrill, Sou Fujimoto, Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners, OMA, Shigeru Ban, MVRDV can be quoted, as well as the presence of many landscaping agencies from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark.

The presence *en masse* of local associations promoting social integration, artistic collectives, cultural programming associations and training centers reflects the very strong local anchorage of the projects. There are 157 of them for the whole consultation, involved right from the construction phase of the projects. The projects aim to be participatory and the most recurring themes are the social integration of disadvantaged people and access to culture and sport. The promotion of ecological lifestyles is at the center of the proposals and aims to make these sites as resilient as possible.

Finally, the consultation is an opportunity for startups, the leaders of Third-Places, incubators and small structures to participate, since there are 169 different entities for the entire consultation. They are most often the drivers of innovation and reinventing uses. Thus, urban agriculture startups are present in more than half of the proposals and offer solutions ranging from permaculture, to shared gardens and aquaponics. The actors of the circular and collaborative economy are there, just as startups promoting innovative and connected transport.