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## **PRESS RELEASE 20 December 2019**

### **Pagora International Day, a successful first edition**

Held at Grenoble INP-Pagora on 22 November, this event was devoted to hearing different perspectives and sharing international practices around the theme of "Skills & Innovation". Following on from the Forum (21 November), this first edition of Pagora International Day attracted a wide audience of companies, students and staff from the school and the laboratory.

The "Recruitment & Skills" round table, chaired by Séverin Van Gastel, Head of International Partnerships (Grenoble INP-Pagora), brought together Marc Cuglietta, Supply Chain Director (Fine Hygienic Holding, United Arab Emirates), Delia Partescano, Learning & Development Manager Europe (Albéa, France), Bernard de Galember, former Innovation and Bio-economy Director (CEPI, Europe), Frédéric Munoz, Head of Learning (Grenoble INP-Pagora) and Annie Scanlan, Head of Memberships & Information (Intergraf, Europe).

When recruiting executives, manufacturers are often confronted with the fact that candidates lack knowledge of their business activities, but also that they have certain expectations in terms of working conditions and sustainable development. As for the candidate profiles sought by companies, the speakers agreed on the importance placed on soft skills. In order to be recruited and to perform well in a professional role, technical skills alone are not enough: recruiters expect engineers to display qualities such as creativity, self-confidence, motivation, leadership, etc.

Chaired by the school's Deputy Director, Bernard Pineaux, the "Partnerships & Innovation" round table brought together Julien Bras, Head of Department (Nestlé Research Center, Switzerland), Evelyne Mauret, Director of LGP2 from 2011 to 2015, André Dion, Director (Printability and Graphic Communications Institute, Canada), and Rémy Botalla-Gambetta, Research & Innovation Project Manager, (DS Smith, France).

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**Grenoble INP-Pagora, the international school of paper, print media and biomaterials.** The school is Quality, Safety & Environment certified and part of Grenoble INP, an engineering institute geared towards training "*engineers who are creative, responsible and committed to a sustainable world*". It trains engineers for the sectors of green chemistry, paper, printing, packaging, biomaterials and printed electronics. Its wide range of courses, pedagogical expertise and strong partnerships with industry allow it to continuously tailor its training to the needs of businesses and to the 60 graduates it produces each year, thus enabling them to embark upon stimulating careers in France and abroad. Grenoble INP-Pagora also develops international training in conjunction with several European universities: it offers a 2nd year engineering course and a Biorefinery & Biomaterials Masters, both taught in English. The innovative research performed by its LGP2 laboratory helps to improve processes and create products that meet all the latest requirements, notably those linked to the environment. These various activities ensure that the training offered is up to date with the latest scientific and technological advances.  
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**The Laboratory of Pulp and Paper Science and Graphic Arts (LGP2)** is a joint research unit (UMR 5518) run by the CNRS, Grenoble INP and the AGEFPI. It conducts its scientific activities in conjunction with the academic community of Grenoble Alpes University. LGP2 comprises three teams: *Biorefinery: chemistry and eco-processes* – *Multiscale biobased materials* – *Surface functionalization through printing processes*. Their research strives to meet society's expectations when it comes to sustainable development (green chemistry, clean processes, recycling, biobased materials, renewable energy) and traceability & safety (functional materials, smart paper and packaging). [pagora.grenoble-inp.fr/lgp2](http://pagora.grenoble-inp.fr/lgp2)



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The speakers underlined the need to determine the ultimate utility of innovation and stressed the collaborative nature of such a process. The contribution of research laboratories, which is important but not exclusive, must in turn be supported by the contributions – legal, financial, technology transfers, etc. – of other entities. Nonetheless, the innovation approach taken within our sectors faces a contrasting situation. Companies are actively investing in innovation, while also coming up against structural obstacles: the somewhat conservative paper and graphic arts industries are finding it difficult to develop a long-term vision, customers are reluctant to accept the changes proposed, etc.

Pagora International Day continued with a presentation on Pagora and LGP2 by Director Naceur Belgacem, a tour of the school and the laboratory, and BtoB meetings between companies and Pagora - LGP2.

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**Photo(s)**

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