The Montpellier Centre for Economics and the Environment (CEE-M) brings together the CNRS, the University of Montpellier, Montpellier SupAgro and the INRA, involving some thirty researchers and research teachers from various disciplines. Its research focuses on environmental public policy and behavioural economics, and its work combines empirical, experimental and theoretical approaches around four themes:

• Preserving natural resources and biodiversity
• Developing effective and equitable environmental governance
• Promoting ecologically innovative agriculture
• Managing environment-related risks

With its lab experimental platform dedicated to research (Laboratoire d’ Economie Expérimentale de Montpellier, or LEEM), CEE-M is one of leading French research institutions in the fields of environmental economics and experimental economics.

The research teams’ work covers the following areas:

• Qualitative and quantitative water resource management
• Ecological risk and major policy
• Agro-environmental analysis

The lab’s work focuses on the design and evaluation of innovative public policies that combine public instruments, voluntary and/or participatory initiatives, and agent behaviour analysis.

IM2E research teams

Team: Economics of Natural Resources and Biodiversity
Led by: Marion Davin
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Team: Environmental Governance
Led by: Raphael Soubeyran
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Team: Ecologically Innovative Agriculture
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Aims & Objectives

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The Montpellier Experimental Economics Laboratory (LEEM) is an experimental platform open to both CEE-M and external researchers. Indeed, external research accounts for a large portion of LEEM's work, as the lab continues to export ever more expertise across France and worldwide. LEEM has its very own mobile lab and is developing new expertise in field experiments and online surveys.

**Thesis topic:**
Modelling of drought adoption strategies among crop farmers: drought typologies and farmer interactions
Start date: November 2010.
Cifre scholarship

**Thesis topic:**
Irrigation water pricing
Start date: November 2009.

**Thesis topic:**
Agro-environmental contracts: assessment and innovative schemes in France
MESR Grant

**Thesis topic:**
Strategic interactions in the non-renewable resource market: the example of phosphorus.
Oral exam 1 July 2016 by Bocar Samba Ba
MESR Grant

**Thesis topic:**
Agro-environmental contracts: behavioural approaches and innovative schemes
MESR Grant

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### Platforms and technologies

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### CEE-M Keywords

**Water**
- Catchments
- Quality and quantity management
- Conflicts linked to water shortages
- Climate change

**Common Agricultural Policy**

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### National partners

- Aix-Marseille School of Economics [www.amse-aixmarseille.fr](http://www.amse-aixmarseille.fr)
- Toulouse School of Economics [www.tse-fr.eu](http://www.tse-fr.eu)
- Bureau d’Etude Enivilys [www.enivilys.com](http://www.enivilys.com)
- Compagnie d’Aménagement des Coteaux de Gascogne [www.cacg.fr](http://www.cacg.fr)

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### Examples of partnership projects

**Green-Econ**


The objective is to analyse the process of transition towards a greener economy by questioning the impact of environmental change on our societies, and their reactions to these changes. This project explores the impact of pollution on aquatic resources.

**PENSEE**

Evaluation of the effect of payments for environmental services. Funded by the National Research Agency.

The aim of the CEE-M’s work in this project is to analyse the potential of a new technology, communicating metres, to change the behaviour of irrigators. This project consists of testing the effect of green nudges, based on data provided by these meters, on irrigation decisions made by farmers.

**READYNOV**


In this project, CEE-M sets out to suggest innovative agricultural policy measures (calls for proposals, performance-based payments, collective bonus, etc.) and test them on the ground to improve the adoption of agricultural practices that are more respectful of water quality.

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### CEE-M’s contribution to water economics, and natural resource economics more generally, is founded on three key strengths:

- Public policy analyses that specifically factor in spatial externalities.
- Inclusion of the behavioural dimension (from risk aversion to sensitivity to social norms) in the choice of agents using natural resources.
- Experimental approaches: from experimental lab protocols to social experiments in the field, including experiments of choice. CEE-M conducts both ex-ante evaluations and impact assessments of public policy.