The place of synthetic biology as a new technical and scientific frontier has been growing since the mid 2000s. Its roots are to be found in the rapid progression of knowledge in biology and biochemistry and the convergence of nanotechnologies, life sciences and information technologies.

Synthetic biology's focus is the engineering of novel biological components as well as the re-engineering of existing biological entities. In other words, its aim is the intentional conception of artificial biological systems. Accompanied by uncertainty as to the definition of the field's objectives, topics and issues, the emergence of synthetic biology has provoked lively discussion on its promises and dangers.

With the participation of GENEVIÈVE FIDRASO*, Minister of Higher Education and Research

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Presentations will be made in English or French (depending on the speaker) but simultaneous translation will be available in the two languages.