

SUCCESS FOR THE 2ND EDITION OF LES GÉOPOLITIQUES DE GRENOBLE: SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER 2027

On 20 and 21 November 2026, the 2nd edition of Les Géopolitiques de Grenoble, organised by the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) and GEM with the support of the City of Grenoble, drew an estimated 6,200 cumulative in-person attendances and around 4,500 remote attendances (via videoconference) over 2 days. *Twelve round tables, three times as many as in 2025, more than 50 speakers, and an audience of university students, school pupils, teachers and members of the public: in just two editions, Grenoble has established itself as one of France's major forums for geopolitical debate open to all.*

A STRONG APPETITE FOR UNDERSTANDING A WORLD IN UPHEAVAL

Opened by the inaugural lecture of Pascal Boniface, Director of IRIS, "Towards the collapse of the international order?", this 2nd edition examined the **ruptures reshaping the world order**: the Sino-American duel for supremacy, the war in Ukraine and the future of European security, the reshaping of the Middle East, drones and artificial intelligence, the war economy, humanitarian action under threat, rivalries over seas and oceans... All topics that resonated widely with the public, against a particularly busy backdrop of international news.

> *"I have always been convinced that geopolitics is a civic matter, not reserved for a small number of specialists but of concern to as many people as possible," says* ***Pascal Boniface***.

THE CITY OF GRENOBLE, A PARTNER FOR THE FIRST TIME, WANTS TO MAKE IT A BENCHMARK

A partner of the event for the first time, the City of Grenoble marked its commitment with a speech by **Laurence Ruffin, Mayor of Grenoble**, during the opening addresses, alongside **Fouziya Bouzerda, Director General of GEM**, and **Pascal Boniface**. A crossroads city shaped by migration, home to 180 nationalities, 63,000 students, one in five of whom come from abroad, and more than 350 international associations, Grenoble was, in her words, "made to host the Géopolitiques".

KEY FIGURES

- **2 days** of talks and debates, free and open to all
- **12 round tables** (compared with 4 in 2025) and **more than 50 speakers**: researchers, diplomats, military officers, journalists, business leaders
- **An estimated 6,200 cumulative in-person attendances** and **around 4,500 remote attendances**
- **2 episodes** *of Géopolitique le débat* on RFI **recorded, one of them under live broadcast conditions**
- **1 book prize** of Les Géopolitiques de Grenoble, awarded to Jean-Pierre Filiu
- **3rd edition in November 2027**



Opening of the 2nd edition. The opening addresses, Friday 20 November, in the WTC auditorium.

"People think geopolitics is only for specialists. On the contrary: it is our mobile phone, our energy bill, our shopping trolley. Understanding what is happening around us means better understanding our everyday lives. And democracy depends on knowledge: without it, we fall prey to simplistic or conspiracist explanations," stressed **Laurence Ruffin**, *before setting out the course: "Our ambition is to open this event to as many people as possible who feel far removed from geopolitics, in every neighbourhood, and for Grenoble to become the benchmark city in this field."*

Building on this success, IRIS and GEM wish to involve local authorities, institutions and businesses from the region more widely, alongside the Grenoble stakeholders already on board, for an even more ambitious 3rd edition open to an even wider audience.

GEOPOLITICS SERVING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PUPILS

True to its educational mission, Les Géopolitiques de Grenoble was aimed first and foremost at young people: students from GEM, Sciences Po Grenoble and Université Grenoble Alpes, *alumni*... For the first time, the event also opened up to **all economics and business classes préparatoires (preparatory classes for the grandes écoles)**, thanks to a partnership with APHEC (Association des professeurs des classes préparatoires économiques et commerciales, the association of economics and business preparatory class teachers): recordings of the 12 round tables are being shared with its **1,500 member teachers, in some 170 lycées (upper secondary schools) in France, its overseas territories and Morocco**, ahead of the BCE and Ecricome written entrance exams. Three debates were moderated by preparatory class teachers: Alain Joyeux, President of APHEC (globalisation and economic warfare), Romain Carron (the new monetary order) and Élodie Matricon-Thomas (drones and artificial intelligence).

This partnership **strengthens GEM's position as the benchmark school for geopolitics among classes préparatoires**: a compulsory entrance exam paper, a core curriculum course for more than fifteen years, the Géolab from the L3 year, and double degrees with IRIS Sup' (237 graduates since 2012) or Sciences Po Grenoble. "It is the recognition of geopolitics as a management discipline," says **Alain Joyeux**.

It also strengthens IRIS's position as the benchmark think tank for teaching geopolitics, making it accessible to as many people as possible.



Opening addresses. Laurence Ruffin, Mayor of Grenoble.

For many, the event is a direct extension of their courses. "Geopolitical issues affect our everyday lives. You don't get to attend conferences like this one every day, so we had to seize the opportunity," says a **master's student on GEM's Programme Grande École**. The debates were also illustrated live by cartoonist **Tommy Dessine**, adding a touch of humour much appreciated by the audience.

This ambition will be stepped up in 2027: **upper and lower secondary school pupils, accompanied by their teachers, will be welcome** to make geopolitics a tool for understanding the world from an early age.

"Making geopolitics accessible to all, and to young people first and foremost, is our responsibility as a school. Grenoble has shown that it is ready to become the beating heart of this debate."



Fouziya Bouzerda
General Director of GEM

RFI LIVE AND A COMMITTED BOOK PRIZE

A highlight of Saturday morning, the round table **"France in the world: balancing power or declining influence?"** was **recorded live for the programme** *Géopolitique* **on RFI (available on replay on the website)**, moderated by **Chantal Lorho, Deputy Editor-in-Chief at RFI**, with Pascal Boniface, Anne Lauvergeon (ALP), Thomas Hofnung (*La Croix*) and Tawfik Bourgou (Université Lyon 3). A second programme, on "The geopolitics of seas and oceans: space, resources and power rivalries", was also recorded ahead of the dedicated round table, and its replay is likewise available on the RFI website.

Le Dauphiné Libéré also hosted a workshop on **foreign interference in the media**, led by Georges Bosi, Deputy Editor-in-Chief.

The event closed on Saturday with the **presentation of the Les Géopolitiques de Grenoble book prize to Jean-Pierre Filiu**, historian and professor at Sciences Po, for *L'Étrange Aveuglement. Comment les grandes puissances fabriquent un monde sans droit* (Les Arènes). Praising an event that was "very well attended, by hundreds of people at each round table", the prize-winner recalled what is at stake in his book: "We are facing predators, whether their name is Donald, Vladimir or Benjamin, who are methodically tearing down the rule of law on which European integration is founded. So this is not a matter of opinion; it is a matter of defending the European model in which we all, of course, believe."



Jean-Pierre Filiu receives the Book Award from Géopolitiques de Grenoble



"UN, BRICS, G7, digital giants... Who governs the world?" One of the twelve round tables of this 2nd edition.



From left to right :: Laurent Griot, Alain Joyeux, Philippe Monin, Fouziya Bouzerda, Pascal Boniface, Mourad Chabbi.

SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER 2027

Building on this momentum, IRIS and GEM invite the public to the **3rd edition of Les Géopolitiques de Grenoble, in November 2027**. Local authorities, schools and partners wishing to get involved can already contact the organisers.

Les Géopolitiques de Grenoble is part of a more than fifteen-year association between IRIS and GEM, which began with an academic partnership unique in France: the GEM-IRIS Sup' double degree at bac+5 (master's) level, combining strategic analysis, management and global power relations.

ABOUT GEM: Founded in 1984, GEM is a triple-accredited grande école (AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA), recognised for its academic excellence, its technological DNA and its international outlook. The first French school to adopt the status of Société à Mission (purpose-driven company), GEM places innovation, sustainability and societal impact at the heart of its strategy. With its EAGLE 2030 plan, GEM is scaling up to become GEM Alpine Business School, a pioneer in sciences, learning journeys and the major transitions. It trains agile, hybrid profiles able to think and act in a changing world. Each year, 7,000 students follow a transformative path on the Grenoble, Paris and Lyon campuses, thanks to immersive teaching and a network of more than 230 academic partners worldwide.

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