



(ABCD)

Acting By Collaborating Differently

BORDEAUX MÉTROPOLE, FRANCE

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Multi-sector waste management & disposal



Land use (agriculture, forestry & other land uses)



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

Key Terms

Cross-institutional collaboration | Rencontres des Transitions | Co-creation | Stakeholder networks | Behavioural change | Science-society dialogue | Knowledge dissemination | Science Shop | Maison Écocitoyenne

Levers of Change

Data and digitalisation | Democracy and participation | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation

Description of the Pilot Activity

Bordeaux Métropole and the University of Bordeaux are co-developing a new governance model for climate transition — shifting from top-down planning to horizontal coordination that harnesses local knowledge and cross-sector collaboration. The initiative centres on "Les Rencontres des Transitions" (Transition Encounters), an annual event bringing together public authorities, researchers, associations, and businesses to co-create projects rolled out across the metropolitan area. ABCD uses iterative learning to identify and support grassroots transition projects, building a durable, citizen-powered structure for collective climate action. In Year 1, the first joint edition of Rencontres des Transitions (October 2024) brought together 90 participants and generated six projects across carbon neutrality, ecocitizen mobilisation, and water pollution — now being implemented. A "Science Shop" (Boutique des Sciences) is also being developed to bridge scientific and citizen knowledge through association networks.

Year One Highlights

ABCD's central mechanism is the annual Rencontres des Transitions — a structured process that moves from stakeholder consultation to facilitated workshops to concrete project implementation. The third edition (October 2024) was the first co-organised by Bordeaux Métropole and the University of Bordeaux, with Vice-Presidents for Transition from both institutions providing political backing. Six projects emerged across three themes — carbon neutrality, ecocitizen mobilisation, and water pollution — spanning employee mobility, professional transition programmes, sports-based awareness raising, and water treatment innovation.

Building the cross-institutional partnership took longer than expected. The operational team was not complete until April 2025, delaying some project launches. The practical work of harmonising two institutions' tools, protocols, and working methods proved significant — but the governance model has been refined based on experience and the foundation for faster implementation in Year 2 is now in place. The familiarisation approach for the Rencontres is also evolving, expanding from pre-event booklets to interactive visits, training workshops, and round tables.

Innovation Highlights

The Rencontres model creates a replicable annual cycle for translating stakeholder concerns into concrete projects through structured facilitation. The cross-institutional partnership demonstrates how to combine public authority implementation capacity with academic knowledge — and the practical lessons on governance, tools, and protocol harmonisation are transferable to other city-university partnerships. The familiarisation approach — ensuring participants share a knowledge base before workshops — continues to evolve from booklets toward more interactive pre-event formats.

Key Insight

Projects take time to set up. For the next edition, we will ensure they can be operationalised as soon as possible — the stakeholder mapping and operational team established in Year 1 will make this faster.

Twining with Girona (Spain)

Girona visited the ABCD team in May 2025. Their approach — using food as an entry point for transition, drawing on iconic local figures, and diversifying communication channels — inspired Bordeaux to explore more direct citizen engagement beyond association networks. Bordeaux is now consulting local authorities with strong civic mobilisation track records to develop this strand.

