

The Destree Institute (1938-2018): 80 years of social and territorial tectonics



The Destree
Institute
WALLONIA POLICY LAB

The Destree Institute (1938-2018): 80 y

1. Research and development enhanced by continuous learning, consultancy and field action

The Destree Institute conducts its research, which is mainly inter-universities, in various forms: basic, applied and participatory action research. As a think tank, its primary focus is on innovation and operationalisation. Continuous learning and consulting activities are the results of a process geared towards society or the market. This value chain determines the contribution made by The Destree Institute towards building a democratic society founded on the intellectual, social and cultural emancipation of all the populations who live in that society. It has numerous partners in the field, including Paris Diderot University, the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, the University of Mons, the Catholic University of Louvain, the University of Liège, the French Institute of Education (ENS Lyon), the Gaston Berger Institute (INSA Lyon), the University of Houston (Texas), the Institute of Advanced Studies on Land Use Planning and Development of European Territories (IHEDATE) in Paris and the Open University in Charleroi.

www.institut-destree.org/Valorisation

2. A consolidation of skills through training in key areas of expertise

The Destree Institute pays the utmost attention to the new generations coming through. It wants to help them build their skills in the key areas of expertise, namely source criticism, educational support, democratic governance, foresight and information technologies, as well as in project development, monitoring and assessment or in the linguistic field. In partnership with several universities in France and Wallonia, The Destree Institute is helping to develop the operational foresight training available to the various elements of society. Since 2018, it is organising the University Certificate in Operational Foresight, in conjunction with the Open University and the University of Mons on its campus in Charleroi.

www.institut-destree.org/Formation

3. A contribution to establishing new relations between political leaders, civil society and businesses

Political leaders are faced with a persistent civic unease resulting from a crisis in the legitimacy of the elected representatives and problems in addressing the challenges of interdependence. Well located within the setting of the Parliament and Government of Wallonia, and in its capacity as a centre for associative dialogue between researchers, civil servants, entrepreneurs and political leaders, The Destree Institute valorises a contributory democracy and wants to play an active role in seeking solutions to social problems. To achieve this goal, The Destree Institute supports the Parliament of Wallonia in its desire for democratic redeployment: organisation of the 2015 review entitled *The drivers of a renewed democracy*, of *The Long Term Issues of Ageing citizens'* panel in 2016 and 2017, and of *The Young people in Wallonia citizens'* panel in 2018. The Destree Institute is also involved with the United Nations in its research about the future of governance and, at the European level, working with the Commission's *European Policy Lab*.

www.institut-destree.org/Democratie_contributive

4. A constant presence at the international level

By highlighting an alternative, more respectful and more cohesive society, the Millennium2015 foresight research process, *An action plan for women's empowerment and gender equality*, has boosted The Destree Institute's standing at the global level (www.millennia2015.org). This is being achieved through the European Union, the International Organisation of la Francophonie, the UNESCO, the United Nations and its Economic and Social Council as well as bilaterally. This approach is valued as it confirms that local and regional action levels can interact with global issues. The active presence of The Destree Institute within the Millennium Project and the Open Government Partnership (Civil Society Community) is a source of inspiration and action as well. International relations of proximity - inter-regional and cross-border - are of course essential.

www.institut-destree.org/International

1. The notion of social and territorial tectonics, which we hold dear, refers etymologically to the specific, tangible skill and work of the carpenter and, by reference to geology, to the movements that occur in society and in territories, and to the study of those movements and the efforts to anticipate them.

years of social and territorial tectonics¹

An approach consistent with creative thought

The Destree Institute is a European think-and-do tank situated in Wallonia. As a non-governmental research centre and a pluralist, independent laboratory, it directs its approach towards creative thought by systematically instigating measures that are factual (rigorous data collection and analysis), interactive (discussion and co-construction) and conceptual (producing innovative added value). Activating retrospective and foresight, its ultimate aim is definitely focussed on present action for the purpose of transforming the system in order to align it with a more harmonious vision.

Two analytical frameworks

The Destree Institute has created internally two analytical frameworks for retrospective and foresight research: firstly, the Inter-universities Centre for the History of Wallonia and the Wallonia Movement, created in 1986 and overseen by Paul Delforge and, secondly, the Independent Regional Foresight Unit (CiPré), created in 2000 and directed by Pascale Van Doren. The CiPré operationalises its research through the Wallonia Policy Lab, whose aim is to embrace specific issues. These tools have extensive archives (more than 500 linear metres), a huge library (more than 10,000 volumes) and some thematic databases. They serve and also rely on several networks (including The Millennium Project, The European Regional Foresight College - Foresight Europe Network, or UN Women) and three permanent interactive platforms.

Three permanent interactive platforms



Since 2004, the **Wallonia Regional Foresight College** has taken over the *Wallonia to the future* (1987-2004) foresight exercises by organising quarterly meetings of about twenty key figures from the business world, the public service and the associative sector. More than forty-

five seminars, two conferences and a convention have been organised on issues such as the behaviour model in Wallonia, the future of education and the public services as part of the *Wallonia 2030* foresight exercise, with several recommendation papers on topics such as a new social contract (2011), the principles for a future regional policy declaration (2014) or the need to follow a path towards socio-economic recovery (7 March 2017). The most recent work from the

Wallonia Regional Foresight College, entitled *Trajectoires 2036*, deal with innovation, contractualisation, research and development.

www.college-prospective-wallonie.org/



The Wallonia Territorial Intelligence Platform

which has been developed since 2006

in partnership with the Wallonia

Public Service DGO4 (Land Use Planning), has set itself the objective of sharing good practices in the area of territorial development by bringing together all the infra-regional initiatives leaders involved in exemplary strategic redeployment, such as *Luxembourg 2010 - RéseauLux*, *Pays de Herve*, *Pays de Famenne*, *Wallonie picarde 2025*, *Cœur du Hainaut 2025*, *Liège Europe Métropole*, *GRE-Liège* and *Entre-Sambre et Meuse*, in dialogue with the universities through the Permanent Territorial Development Conference (CPDT). In addition to the fifty or so seminars organised in Namur or regionally and a conference in 2012, The Destree Institute has engaged the members of the Platform in a preparatory foresight process for the forthcoming Wallonia Territorial Development Model (SDT) as well as to consider cross-border issues.

www.intelliterwal.net/



The Millennium2025 Women and Innovation Intelligence Platform

is a network that was set up in 2008 by The Destree Institute on the initiative of Marie-Anne Delahaut. More than 7,500 voluntary researchers and leaders in 130 countries and

regions are empowering women in the knowledge society with the *Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation*, a public utility foundation whose foresight research process has received UNESCO patronage since 2010. This international programme has led to The Destree Institute being recognised as an official NGO partner of UNESCO (consultative status) and as having special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) since 2012. The Millennium2025 Platform highlights the concrete actions built by the Millennium2025 Foundation to deliver and finance the Action Plan established with the UNESCO in 2012.

www.millennia2025-foundation.org

Why the reference to Jules Destrée?

A philosophically and politically pluralist organisation since it was founded in 1938, The Destree Institute is not dedicated to any particular ideology, government, issue or authority. The Institute conducts research, with respect for human rights, on the general interest and the common good of women and men in society, from the local to the global levels, through an exemplary democracy and a better development. The reference to the figure of Jules Destrée (1863-1936), who was the first Belgian minister responsible for science, arts, culture and education, is relevant to the 21st century since he was engaged as well in the service of his region, Wallonia, as in international cooperation within the League of Nations and as a visionary at the pan-European level.

Board of directors of The Destree Institute

The Board of Directors is composed of: **Philippe Suinen**, **President**, Bernadette Mérenne, Vice-president, Jacques Lanotte, Treasurer, Jean-Louis Dethier, Denis Drousie, André Grogard, Jean-Pol Hiernaux, Jean-François Husson, Laurence Lambert, Pierre-Jean Lorens, Jacques Pèlerin, Paul Piret, Serge Roland, Luc Simar and Anne-Marie Straus (General Assembly of 4 July 2018).

The Destree Institute team

- **Hélène Bodart**, Interface and Monitoring Adviser in the office of the Director General
- **Jonathan Collin**, Budget and Finance Advisor
- **Marie-Anne Delahaut**, Director of Research Information Society and Gender Equality
- **Paul Delforge**, Director of Research History, Archives and Library
- **Philippe Destatte**, Director General
- **Mary Genatzky**, Research Fellow in Foresight
- **Luc Maréchal**, Associate Director of Research
- **Fabien Moustard**, Research Fellow in Foresight
- **Michaël Van Cutsem**, Associate Director of Research
- **Pascale Van Doren**, Director of Research Foresight, Head of the Independent Regional Foresight Unit (CiPré) - Wallonia Policy Lab
- **Chloë Vidal**, Director of Research Foresight, Wallonia Territorial Intelligence Platform and Young Foresight Research, Permanent Delegate of The Destree Institute in France

Contact

The Destree Institute

Namur: 9, avenue Louis Huart,
B5000 Namur, Wallonia, Belgium.
In the near future: 24, rue Saint-Nicolas,
B5000 Namur, Wallonia, Belgium.
Paris: c/o IHEDATE, 22-28, rue Joubert,
F75009 Paris, France

Hélène Bodart

Interface and Monitoring Adviser
in the office of the Director General
bodart.helene@institut-destree.eu
Tel. +32 81 22 29 85
www.institut-destree.eu

The Networks



The Millennium Project

The **Millennium Project - Global Futures Studies & Research** was founded in 1996 in Washington by the American Council for the United Nations University, with the objective of creating a global foresight research network to improve the future prospects for humankind. It is a global participatory think tank, organised in more than sixty nodes, which are themselves network heads, involving universities, businesses, private and public research centres. The Destree Institute has been involved in this movement since 2000 and, since 2002, it acts as the Brussels' Area Node, meant to be cross-border and connected with the European institutions.
www.millennium-project.org/



The **Foresight Europe Network** is the result of the merger, in 2012, of two networks co-founded by The Destree Institute: the European Regional Foresight College, set up within the DATAR-DIACT in Paris in 2004, and the European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative (EuMPI), created in San Francisco and inaugurated in the European Parliament in Brussels in 2003. These networks were chaired by Philippe Destatte from their foundation until 2012. The objectives of the Foresight Europe Network are to promote foresight in the European Regions, to create a European community of skills, concepts, methods and practices in the field of foresight and to contribute in collective learning for the stakeholders by providing them with reviews on concrete experiences that reflect European excellence.
<http://www.feneu.org>

Institutional support

The Destree Institute receives institutional support from the Parliament, the Government and the Public Service of Wallonia and is recognised as a General Continuous Learning Service by the French speaking Community of Belgium.

