

PRESS RELEASE

Lyon, 07/11/2017

FROM 23RD TO 27TH APRIL 2018, THE UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON WILL HOST THE 27TH EDITION OF THE PREMIER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE WEB: THE WEB CONFERENCE 2018 (EX. WWW2018)

The Université de Lyon welcomes the trust that the IW3C2 places in it for the second time to host the 27th edition of the premier international conference on the web: The Web Conference 2018 (previously WWW), from April 23rd to 27th 2018, with the support of the Digital League.

The reference amongst international web conferences

“Over the last twenty, thirty years, many conferences have emerged that are talking about the impact of the web, how the technologies are evolving, how it is impacting society, how it is changing business...But we want people to know that our conference is THE Web Conference. It’s the place to come to learn about the latest in the technologies such as the Web of Things, referencing, recommendations and artificial intelligence; where we can get inspired about the future of the web thanks to visionary keynote speakers on web usage, its impact on society and emerging technologies. This conference is by far the most cited in publications on the web” explains **Dame Wendy Hall**, President of the IW3C2.

[VIDEO – Dame Wendy Hall](#)

The call for contributions (or call for papers) was launched on June 20th for the research tracks and alternate tracks including: Health on the Web; Intelligent and Autonomous systems on the Web; Security and Privacy on the Web; User Modeling, Interaction and Experience on the Web; BIG Web (previously a collocated conference); Web and Society and Web Economics, Monetization, and Online Markets.

A conference opening up to a wider audience

The goal for The Web Conference for the 2018 edition, and those that will follow, is to continue to **develop this conference worldwide, all the while opening it up to a wider audience** by building on the scientific heart of the event. To convince non-scientific web actors to participate will foster discussions and interactions between different groups of people such as experts and other participants. In order to achieve this, adapted content will be proposed to such target groups.

Lyon should accommodate more than 2,500 international participants during the five days of the conference and a rich, forward-thinking program with eminent personalities.

This edition will have as baseline: **Bridging natural and artificial intelligence worldwide.**

Lyon and its region: digital territories with international vocations

A world-class academic site of excellence, the University of Lyon (UdL) represents more than 140,000 students, including nearly 20,000 foreign students, in the Lyon Saint-Étienne area, in the heart of the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes region.

The Université de Lyon contributes to securing an international visibility and the spreading of French research and higher education across the globe. **Thus, the UdL is the initiator or organizer of major events such as The Web Conference, showcasing the finest experts of new technologies.**

“The Université de Lyon has always attached a great importance in supporting its ecosystem through societal evolutions and transformations. Thanks to the IDEX label, the UdL now benefits from a strong support for developing its visibility globally. For this reason, hosting an event with a global scope as The Web Conference is perfectly aligned with our ambitions and also with the tradition of supporting innovation, that we continue to honor year after year. Drawing on its real expertise in sciences and the digital sector, the UdL has full legitimacy and the resources necessary to lead and organize such a visionary and prestigious event” emphasizes **Khaled Bouabdallah**, President of the Université de Lyon

Committed communities working alongside the Université de Lyon

The Lyon Metropolis is the 2nd French digital pole and already welcomes numerous national and international digital talents. With 5 accelerators, 8 incubators, 3 fablabs, a living lab and several renown associations (Imaginove, La Cuisine du Web, Rezopole...), Lyon is incontestably a formidable land of innovation for companies in the digital sector.

David Kimelfeld, president of the Metropolis of Lyon recently announced that the Metropolis “places digital technology at the heart of its urban transformation. It is a vector of economic, social et societal innovation, with added value for all key players of the territory, whether they be entrepreneurs, researchers, citizens, cultural or associative actors.

Whether it is the investment of nearly 20 million euros in favor of the development of a optic fiber network for economic players, the organizing of the Lyon French Tech collective, the Data Grand Lyon platform, or the hundreds of experiments being deployed in the metropolis, the projects we are embarking on, or are accompanying, converge towards a single objective: to co-construct an innovative metropolis in a digital world.

In this respect, hosting for a second time The Web Conference as well as the actors who build the future of the web is a most inspiring prospect”.

Laurent Wauquiez, president of the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes confirms that “I am very happy that the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region welcomes for the second time The Web Conference from April 23 to 27. We are proud to be a partner of this extraordinary international event, whose originality has not diminished since its creation in 1994.

To gather scientists, industrialists and users is to promote a certain vision of digital technology, where technology is at the service of man, where the virtual is at the service of the real economy, where transmission is at the service of all communities and territories. With The Web Conference and the many novelties of this 2018 edition, it is this path that has been initiated and I welcome it.

Making Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes the European Silicon Valley, is our ambition. This requires the excellence of our training courses, as the IDEX of the University of Lyon embodies, and the mobilization of our entire innovation ecosystem (competitiveness clusters, accelerators, clusters, incubators), which already makes of our Region a leader in Europe. Thanks to the Campus Région, which opened in Lyon in September 2017, we are training our talents, tomorrow's digital creators, who our companies need. Academic excellence, training tailored to the needs of companies, supporting our young innovative entrepreneurs and our most disruptive start-ups, broadband Internet accessibility in all territories, are the four pillars of the digital policy of the Region for which more than 650M € will be invested by 2021 to succeed.

I would like to warmly thank all the organizers, partners and volunteers who make this event possible and thus contribute to promoting the attractiveness of our territory at the international stage. To all those who are discovering our Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, I invite you to discover our scientific and technological assets, our economic power, our incomparable art of living, and I encourage you to come and create with us, the world of tomorrow. Excellent The Web Conference to all!”

A new brand for a new ambition

More than 20 years of scientific conferences

Launched in Geneva in 1994, The International World Wide Web Conference (WWW) was the first annual scientific conference, not just historically but also in terms of the value of the research presented, that focused on a global approach to the web.

Since then, the event has continued to evolve and increasingly brings together experts, at the annual conference alternatingly organized in Europe, Asia and the American continent (the 2017 edition took place in Perth, Australia). The goal remains unchanged: **reviewing the state of the art and summarizing the results of ongoing international scientific research, thus promoting exchanges between leading web experts in order to build the future of the web and discuss its impacts on society.**

One brand for all the editions

For the 2018 edition, the IW3C2 (International World Wide Web Conference Committee) who manages the conferences cycle has ambitious goals: to position The Web Conference as **THE reference amongst web conferences**. This translates most notably in a change of brand: The International World Wide Web Conference becomes The Web Conference. This identity, along with the new logo and an ambitious motto: «**Let's Build the Web of Tomorrow**”, will be applied on all of the communication mediums with one aim: henceforth, the conference series will take precedence over each edition.

The Web Conference 2018 online:

<https://www2018.thewebconf.org>

Facebook : [The Web Conf](#)

Twitter : [@TheWebConf](#)

Contacts presse

Université de Lyon

Cécile Cassin, Communications Director

cecile.cassin@universite-lyon.fr

PLUS2SENS

104, rue Tronchet – Lyon 6^e – France

+33(0)4.37.24.02.58. [@Plus2sens](#)

Claire-Marie Signouret – clairemarie@plus2sens.com –

+33(0)6.14.61.82.95.

Mylène Gachon – mylene@plus2sens.com – +33(0)6.03.29.21.98.

Conference series organized by:

