



**PRÉFET
DE LA RÉGION
D'ÎLE-DE-FRANCE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

PAYS HÔTE



THE SEINE AND THE MARNE SWIMMABLE FOR THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES 2024 AND SUSTAINABLE FOR THE «LEGACY» PHASE: A COMMITMENT HONORED BY THE GOVERNMENT

august 2024



The Seine is considered the highlight of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Until 1923, people used to swim there, but the increase in river activities and pollution forced the authorities to ban swimming.

Today, the commitment made by the President of the French Republic to allow people to swim there again is coming true, and constitutes one of the most beautiful legacies of the Olympic Games.

The prefecture of the Île-de-France region, in conjunction with the regional and interdepartmental directorate for the environment, planning and transport (DRIEAT) and the City of Paris, is coordinating the Swimming plan, which involves a number of local authorities'. This project is driving and programming the implementation of several actions and works in the field of sanitation by 2024. This involves a major project to clean up the Marne and Seine rivers.

By 2023, World Triathlon athletes were able to swim in the Seine. In 2024, the open-water swimming and triathlon events will take place between Pont Alexandre III and Pont de l'Alma. In subsequent years, clearly identified swimming areas will be opened up in the Seine and Marne rivers to enable everyone to enjoy a swim.

The government has decided to mobilize substantial funding to enable the implementation of this ambitious plan. Through the Seine-Normandie Water Agency (Agence de l'Eau Seine-Normandie - AESN), the French government is contributing 700 million euros towards the estimated total cost of 1.4 billion euros. By the end of the Games, identified bacteriological pollution will have been reduced by 75% thanks to the Swimming plan.

Key figures

For the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

75%

of identified bacteriological pollution eliminated.

Swimming plan :

700 M€

invested by the French government through the Seine-Normandie Water Agency, out of an estimated total of 1,4 Md €.



1 MAJOR WORKS TO CLEAN UP THE SEINE

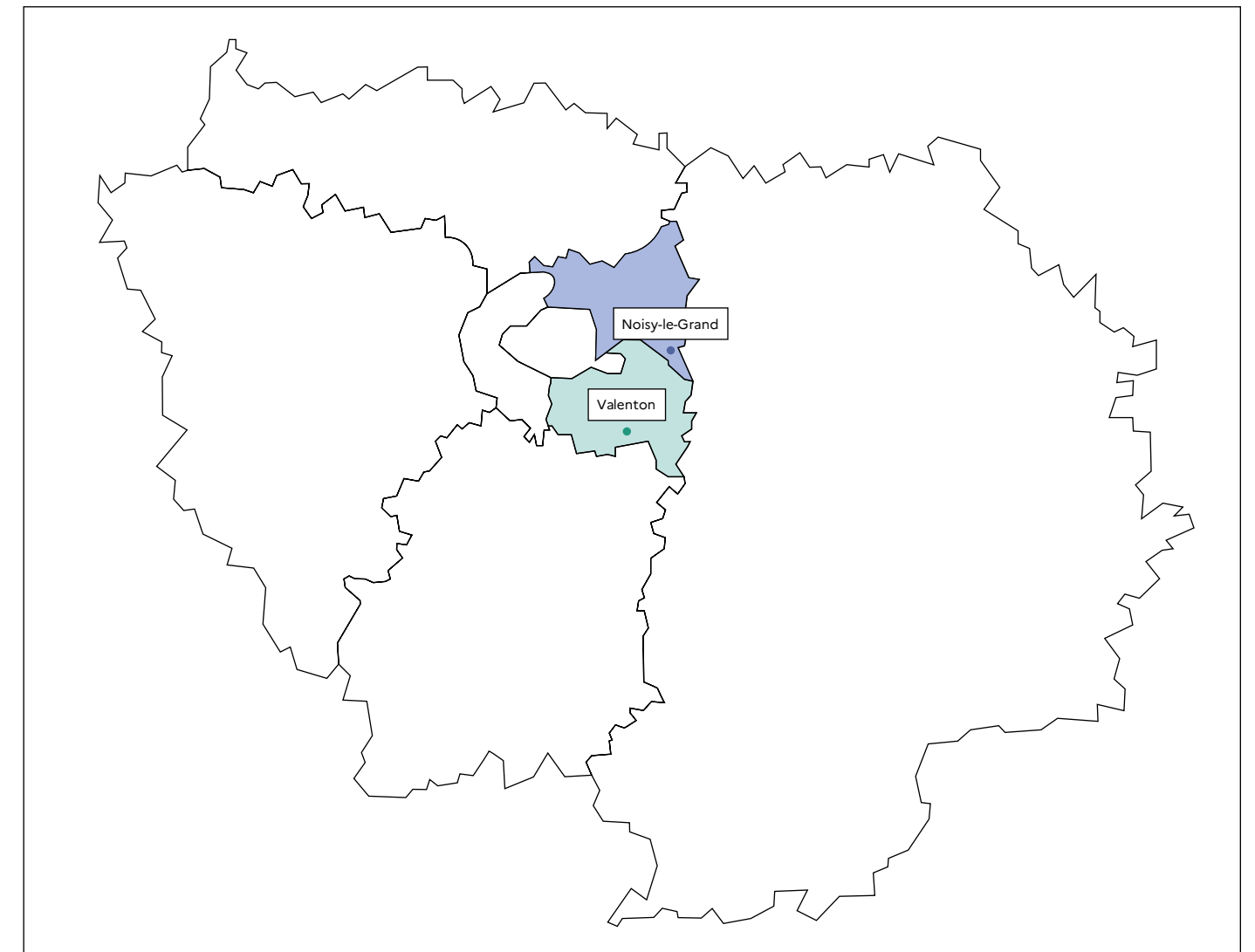
- The two wastewater treatment plants operated by the Syndicat Interdépartemental pour l'Assainissement de l'Agglomération Parisienne (SIAAP) located in the towns of Valenton and Noisy-le-Grand, upstream of the Alexandre III bridge test site, have been upgraded to disinfect discharges, which represents two-thirds of the improvement expected in the absence of rain.
- The two disinfection units at Noisy-le-Grand and Valenton are now in operation

The Government has also ensured the ports are linked to the sewerage network, in Paris upstream from the test site, through its operators VNF and HAROPA PORT. This 12.5 million euro project has been completed since July 2022. Sewage collection networks have been installed on the docks of ports hosting stationary boats.

Sewage collection networks have been installed on the docks of ports hosting 263 stationary boats. This allows them to connect to these networks and no longer discharge their wastewater into the Seine in accordance with Article 11 of the 2018 Olympic Law. All boats upstream of the competition site are connected.



Credits : Charles Xardel



2 MAJOR WORKS TO REDUCE SPILLS IN THE SEINE DURING RAINY WEATHER

When it rains in the Paris area, rainwater entering the sewerage system causes wastewater to be discharged into the Seine, which must be limited. Major projects have been launched in Paris and in the Seine-Saint-Denis and Val-de-Marne départements, involving the creation of structures to improve the resilience of the wastewater system in the case of a rainfall event.

The very strong mobilization and work of the relevant local authorities, under the impetus and support of the French government, has enabled us to respect the timetable and finance all these major projects (storage basins, major pipelines, etc.).

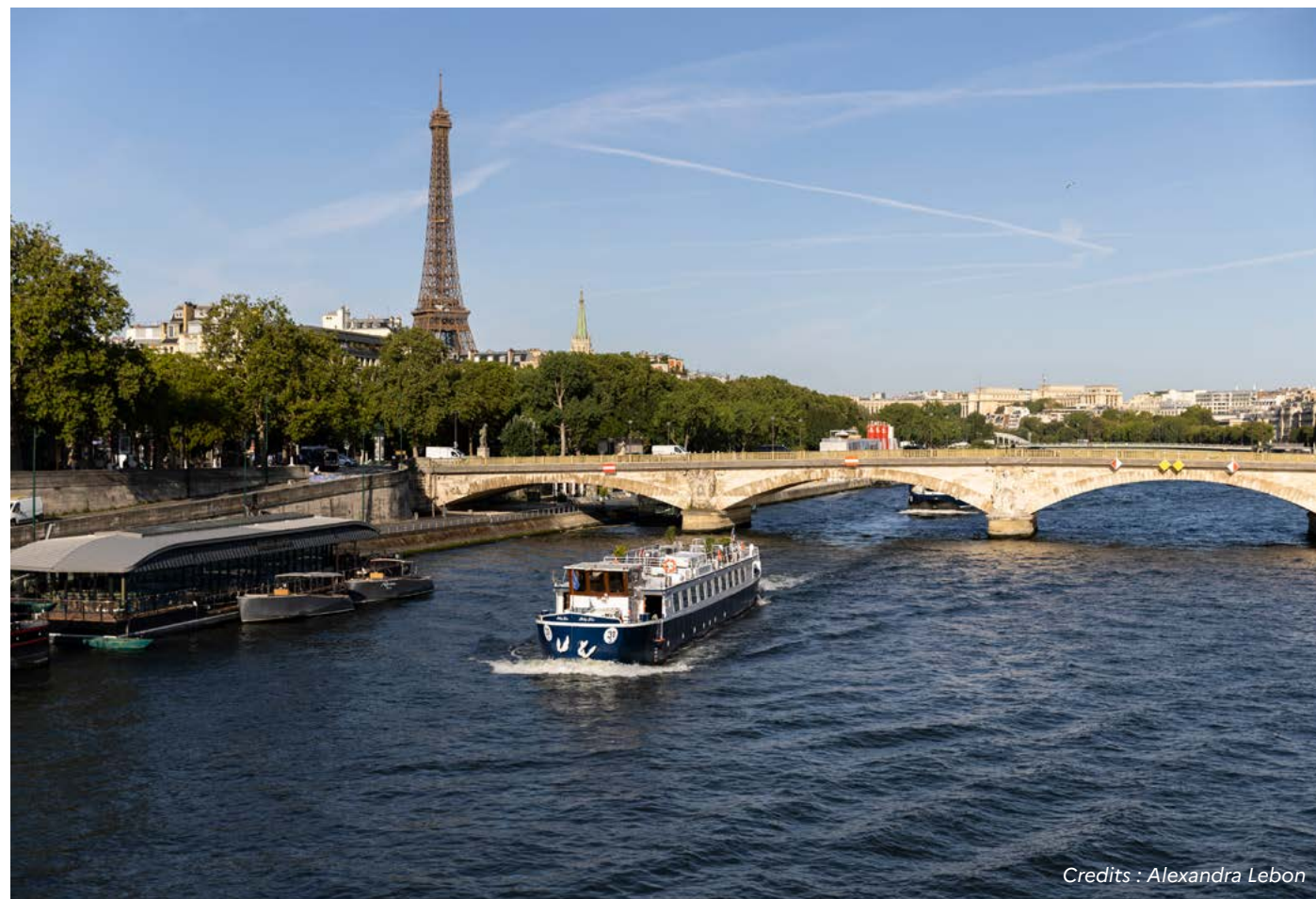


Credits : SRCI

+ In detail :

- Austerlitz storm basin (Paris): service start-up in May 2024,
- Ru de la Lande stormwater treatment plant (94): inaugurated on April 23, 2024
- Large pipeline VL8: service start-up on July 15, 2024,
- Several basins and works on the Ru Saint Baudile watershed (93): service start-up in June 2024
- Several projects in the Fresnes-Choisy of the river sector (94) : last commissioning mid-July 2024

These structures are accompanied by other actions to optimize spill structures in order to eliminate discharges for daily rain. These actions will reduce the return to good water quality to around 2 days after the last rain.



Credits : Alexandra Lebon

3 WORKS ON PUBLIC COLLECTION NETWORKS AND CORRECTION OF DEFECTIVE CONNECTIONS

These actions allow the removal of permanent pollution upstream of the events site in the Seine. They consist of:

→ resorption of poor wastewater connections

→ correction of malfunctions on public networks



Credits : Crossaterra

Incorrect connection means that wastewater is discharged into rainwater systems, which then end up in water-courses without being cleaned up. The environmental impact of incorrect connections is very significant, as wastewater from toilets, showers, etc. ends up in the environment. On the connections, at the initiative of the Government, an action plan was drawn up by community manager of each sewerage network, until the summer of 2024 (or beyond).

The multitude of actions undertaken has made it possible to reduce about

50%

of the gross pollution generated by bad connections.

As the JO approaches, nearly

80%

of the work on public networks has already been undertaken, more than the initial target of 75%.

To further boost the correction of bad connections, AESN's assistance has been increased until August 1st, so that it can finance 100% of bad connections for private individuals or condominiums where the local authority is in charge of the public works.

In addition, palliative solutions involving wastewater pumping have been implemented at Fresnes Choisy (94) to further reduce untreated wastewater inputs.

These actions will reduce bacteriological pollution for the Olympic and Paralympic Games site and, beyond that, for other permanent swimming sites, some of which may open in 2025.

To make the work possible, the Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie (Seine-Normandy Water Agency) has significantly increased its level of aid for work under the Swimming plan. In addition, Article 63 of the French Climate and Resilience Act, which comes into force on January 1, 2022, makes it mandatory to inspect and correct faulty connections when selling a home.

The local authorities, led by the prefectures of the 92, 93 and 94 départements, have structured and programmed their work and put in place exceptional resources to change the scale of the program in 2022, 2023 and the first half of 2024.



Government funding

The Government ensures, through the regional prefect and the local prefects, with the support of DRIEAT, the coordination of all actors, both by releasing the necessary financial and regulatory resources, defining technical measures and prioritizing work with stakeholders.

The Government acts in the context of this project :

- Exceptional financial aid, via the Seine-Normandie water agency, to enable those involved in the action plan to carry out appropriate work (private individuals and local authorities). On the last figure of the action plan, at 1.4 billion euros, the AESN will finance nearly 700 million euros.
- Resorption of bad connections of Government buildings, through the various decentralized services and central administrations of the ministries involved: nearly 600 buildings have been identified. The necessary compliance work has already been carried out, or will be by June 2024.



4 BY 2025, SUSTAINABLE SWIMMING SITES

To prepare for the opening of permanent swimming sites from 2025, the regional prefecture, in conjunction with the Métropole du Grand Paris and the City of Paris, met on 21 March 2024 the municipalities, Local public institutions and interested departmental councils in the Île-de-France region.

The services of the State assists the local authorities in the understanding and the consideration of the account issues (sanitary, conciliation of the uses of the river, safety issues) required before sites can be opened to the public.

In particular, it is important to ensure water quality at each site, even though this opening is subject to different rules than a one-day competition.

In this context, it is judged sufficient if the concentration of E.coli (bacteria found in feces) is less than 900 CFU/100ml for 90% of the period under review, and that of enterococci less than 330 CFU/100ml.



On July 1, 2024, 26 cities were interested, with 32 potential sites :

- 8 sites in Seine (downstream): 3 in Seine-Saint-Denis (93) and 5 in Hauts-de-Seine (92).
- 3 sites in Paris (75).
- 12 sites in Seine (upstream): 7 in Val-de-Marne (94) and 5 in Essonne (91).
- 9 sites in the Marne: 7 in Val-de-Marne (94), 1 in Seine-Saint-Denis (93) and 1 in Seine-et-Marne (77).

The Paris sites and some sites on the Marne could open in 2025, depending on water quality results following the commissioning of the Swimming plan facilities. The mobilization of network managers to correct faulty connections should continue beyond the Games, in order to further reduce pollution reaching the Seine and Marne rivers.

Improving water quality downstream of Paris will require the mobilization of local authorities along the river, whose territories are not currently covered by the Swimming plan. The French government will continue to provide financial support for this work through the Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie (Seine-Normandy Water Agency).

5 THE BATHING PLAN: A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR BIODIVERSITY IN ILE-DE-FRANCE'S WATERWAYS

Beyond the issue of swimmability, the Swimming plan has accelerated the preservation of the Seine, a unique ecosystem particularly vulnerable to human pressures. Reducing pollutant discharges into the river improves its ecological quality, promotes rich and varied biodiversity and makes it more resilient to climate change. In the Seine, for example, the number of fish species has risen from 3 in the 1970s to 36 today.

In this way, the structuring works should make it possible to reduce annual discharges by an average of 30 to 40%, and thus to treat between 1 and 1.5 million additional m³ of wastewater in treatment plants. The Swimming plan has also led to a 20 to 30-fold increase in the annual rate of correction of faulty connections: by July 1, an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 residents - the equivalent of a town like Nogent-sur-Marne or Neuilly-sur-Marne - had had their wastewater discharged directly into watercourses eliminated, a third of them social housing tenants.

The Swimming Plan has also been a catalyst for mobilizing stakeholders to manage rainwater at source and reduce waterproofing. Over and above the benefits of reducing rainwater discharges, greening the city improves the living environment for residents and creates islands of coolness, which are essential for attenuating the impact of climate change.

The Seine Normandie water agency has helped to disconnect a cumulative surface area of around 150 hectares under the Swimming Plan, representing 750,000m³ of potentially polluted rainwater which will no longer be collected by the networks and will no longer overflow the sewerage systems. The work will also have enabled the creation of some 40 to 50 hectares of green space in the highly urbanized Swimming plan area, equivalent to over 10% of all existing green space in the city of Paris.

These surfaces represent only part of the waterproofing actions carried out in the Greater Paris area: in addition, the Green Fund's «renaturation of towns and villages» measure has made it possible to support 77 projects to the tune of 52 million euros by 2023, enabling the renaturation of more than 144 hectares. This fund will continue to support projects with a positive impact on the return of nature to the city.



CLEANING THE SEINE WITH A VIEW TO THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES IN PARIS IN 2024

Public actors are continuously implementing actions, and even more so during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, to limit floating waste and between two waters, before, during and after the Games on the river.

This is mainly to reduce the volume of waste floating in the Seine or accumulated on the banks, in the Paris center sector and at the right of the Athletes' Village in Seine-Saint-Denis. This floating waste is sometimes natural (wood, plants, etc.) but also linked to human activities (e.g., bottles, plastic bags, various objects, etc.).

Cleaning the Seine before the events

The stakeholders (City of Paris, VNF, HAROPA PORT, SIAAP, Paris 2024...) are implementing actions to ensure the cleanliness of the banks and of the Seine during the JOP (cleaning contracts, floating dams, etc.) and mobilize additional means to prevent the arrival of waste in the Seine and remove them in the event of a spill in the Seine during the JOP.

Among the actions identified, cleaning boats/ collectors booms, additional means of collection at docks, have been implemented.

Communities upstream of the Seine are also mobilized to implement awareness actions to limit the risks of waste to water.



Credits : Alexandra Lebon

ACTION PLAN RESILIENCE "WATER QUALITY - SEINE TESTS" FOLLOWING THE TEST EVENTS OF 2023

Following the Seine event tests in Summer 2023, the prefecture of the region and the City of Paris, in partnership with Paris 2024, VNF, HAROPA PORT and network managers (SIAAP, Seine-Saint-Denis and Val-de-Marne departmental councils) have drawn up the «Water quality - Seine events» resilience action plan. The main aim of this plan is to improve the robustness of the sanitation system, the reliability of the water quality monitoring system and the search for the source of pollution.

Under the supervision of the regional prefecture and the city of Paris, this action plan is divided into six sections:

1st part

- Monitor the completion of structuring works, the elimination of bad connections and the sanitation of ports (including avoiding sources of pollution from sailing boats, such as those at the opening ceremony).

E.g.: With regard to port sanitation, the aim is to make port sanitation systems in Paris more reliable, and to step up awareness-raising, prevention, monitoring and enforcement measures to ensure that boats are properly connected upstream of Olympic Games venues.

2nd part

- Strengthen the resilience of sanitation facilities.

E.g.: Strengthening resilience means providing the sanitation system with the means, through specific and targeted actions identified in advance, to continue operating normally in the event of an incident (breakdown, disaster, peak activity, cyber attack, etc.) or to return to its initial operating state as quickly as possible.

3rd part

- Detect and limit the impact of potential sources of pollution, monitor spills and incidents and draw up a crisis management plan.

E.g.: The main actions aim to strengthen the detection and monitoring of spills and incidents during the Olympic Games, while formalizing a crisis management plan.

4th part

- Secure the water analysis system and the tools used.

E.g.: Under the management of the City of Paris, the actions defined aim to secure the entire laboratory analysis chain carried out by Eau de Paris, protocols, schedules and analysis sectors, and to share them with the French government and Paris 2024 (and the international federations).

5th part

- Keep the Seine clean (waste on the water and around pontoons).

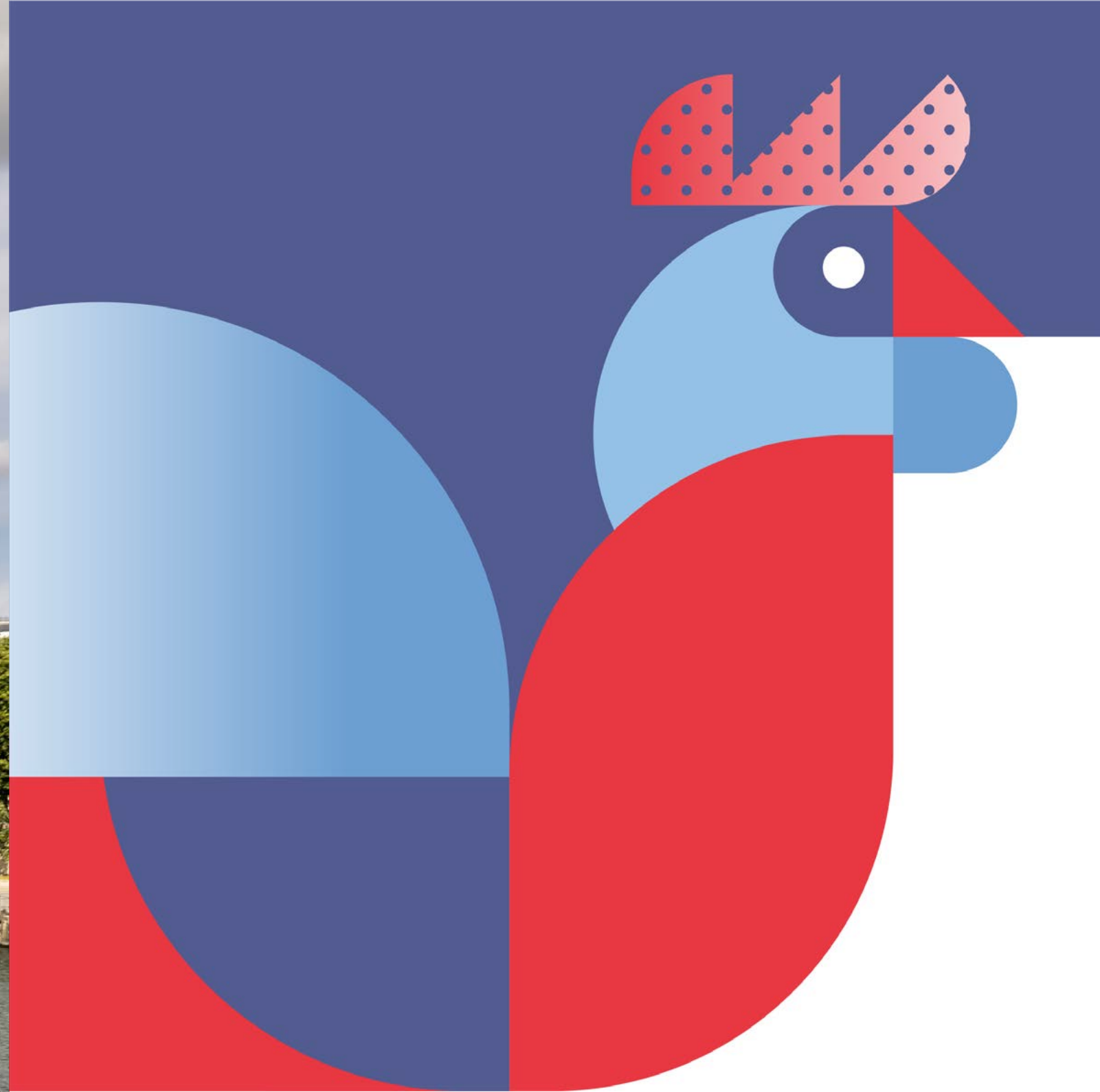
E.g.: Paris 2024 will be mobilizing cleaning resources around the pontoons, as well as booms and cleaning boats. In addition to the actions already planned by VNF at the Champs Elysées port (cleaning contract) and HAROPA PORT (launch of a multi-year cleaning contract), the City of Paris will be putting in place reinforced cleaning resources during this period. Local authorities upstream of the Seine are also mobilized to implement awareness-raising actions to limit the risk of waste in the water.

6th part

- Define training, monitoring and reporting procedures before and during the tests.

E.g.: Tests and training are planned to confirm in «real» conditions that the water analysis methods correspond to the requirements of the action plan and the crisis management process in the event of an incident.

The actions identified as part of the «Water quality - Seine events» resilience plan have been implemented, allowing us to approach the Games with a strengthened, reliable and proven water quality monitoring system, a more robust wastewater treatment system, and an effective pollution source-tracking methodology.



Contact Presse :

Préfecture de la région d'Île-de-France, préfecture de Paris,
Service régional de la communication interministérielle
pref-presse@paris.gouv.fr
01 82 52 40 25



