Members of the Centre for Himalayan Studies are, like their CNRS and university colleagues (see for example here or here – in French), very concerned about the direction the reforms the government is proposing are likely to take.

We do not believe that logics of competition and production make for a model that can promote action by public research and teaching organizations. Neither teaching nor research 'makes products' or seeks to 'sell' to the detriment of 'market' rivals. Actors in our institutions are not 'staff resources' who are to be 'managed'. And promoting inequality as a principle of resource allocation in public research, in the name of a social 'Darwinism' that is more akin to 19th-century ideologies which one would have hoped would have gone out of fashion by now than to a true understanding of how science works, appears to us to be a grave aberration.

We believe that, as is the case for many other professions, both practical know-how and theoretical ambition require having before you a lifetime perspective, not the abrupt cut-off point of a fixed-term contract. Experience is acquired in ways that no 'number of points' can guarantee, and each researcher is an adult, not the infantilised executor of a project conceived independently of him or her. It seems to us that the current projects to reform our professions threaten the dignity of our careers and are blind to the true ambition of our work.

Petition (in French) signed by several learned societies.

Minutes of the General Assembly to coordinate the faculties and research units fighting against the reforms, held on Saturday, 18 January 2020, Université Paris Diderot, and the motion (in French) to take follow-up action.