Part of our research activities are focused on the construction of load-bearing masonry made of rammed earth.

We have recently developed a method for producing compressed earth blocks without using chemical binders such as cement or calcium hydroxide. This method involves applying a very high compaction pressure of up to 100 MPa and a bio-cementing process. When earth blocks are fabricated in this way, their rigidity and resistance are comparable to those of conventional masonry materials, and their hygrothermal properties are much better.

This research was financed by the European Commission, the Regional Council of Nouvelle Aquitaine, the Côte Basque-Adour conurbation and the Departmental council of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques.