

THE FRENCH
NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
RESEARCH PROGRAM

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR HUMANITY: THE FRENCH AI STRATEGY

Vision and goals of the National AI Research Program

Objectives of the **National AI Research Program**
(→ [AI Mission National Artificial Intelligence
Research Program](#)):

- ▶ To sustainably establish France as one of the world top 5 countries in AI;
- ▶ To make France a European leader in research in AI.

45% of the AI dedicated public budget is devoted to the research program.

To this aim, several actions are carried out in the first phase extending from the end of 2018 to 2022:

-  Network of 4 Interdisciplinary Institutes for Artificial Intelligence (3IA)
-  190 chairs for research and education
-  500 new PhDs in AI per year
-  Supercomputer Jean Zay, #2 at EU Level
-  + €100M for ANR's AI programs
-  Call for projects for international collaboration
-  Research partnerships (Labcom, Carnot, IRT)
-  AI Great Challenges

“Only on the basis of strong research shall we be able to promote, on an international level, the ethical values that we stand for while supporting our companies.”

Frédérique Vidal,
Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur,
de la Recherche et de l'Innovation

National AI Strategy

The President of the French Republic presented an ambitious strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and launched the National AI Strategy on the closing day of the “AI for Humanity” debate (→ [aiforhumanity](#)) on March 29, 2018.

The priorities set out are: **research, open data and ethical or societal issues.**

This National AI Strategy (→ [SNIA](#)), with a public fund budget of 1.5 billion euros for five years (2018-2022), gathers three approaches:

- 1** Achieving best-in-class level of research for AI, through training and attracting best global talent in the field;
- 2** Disseminating AI to the economy and society through startups, public-private partnerships and data sharing;
- 3** Establishing an ethical framework for AI.

“Public research in digital technology has a responsibility to participate in the construction of a responsible and controlled AI and to nourish the public and citizen debate on these subjects, beyond circles of experts: it is one of the challenges of the AI plan to place the human at the center.”

Bruno Sportisse,
CEO of Inria

Inria coordinates the National AI Research Program

Inria is leading this mission in cooperation with the national research institutions in digital sciences and technologies, and in contact with all stakeholders involved in the AI ecosystem. To carry out its mission, clearly separated from its research activity, Inria has set up a dedicated direction, whose main actions focus on:

- ▶ **Coordinating** the implementation of actions supported under the program;
- ▶ **Providing** scientific and technological expertise;
- ▶ **Contributing** in the development of bilateral cooperation activities, and
- ▶ **Participating** in strengthening the economic impact of public research.

Each year, Inria reports on its coordination action to the inter-ministerial steering committee of the National AI Strategy.

Talent support programs

“At a time when international competition for talent and cutting-edge research in AI is stronger than it has probably ever been, the swift deployment of the National AI Research Program is essential to give concrete form to the AI for Humanity strategy launched by the President of the Republic. *Only on the basis of strong research shall we be able to promote, on an international level, the ethical values that we stand for while supporting our companies.* I expect the 3IA to operate soon in a national network supported by Inria, which coordinates the national research program, alongside their German counterparts and more broadly with the world's top AI research institutions.” Frédérique Vidal, (Sept. 24, 2019)



In order to mobilize the scientific community throughout the national territory and contribute to increase France attractiveness by supporting talents, 43 research and training chairs and 22 PhD programs (~300 PhD grants) in AI have been implemented, in addition to the 3IAs.

Jean Zay: The supercomputer

The Jean Zay supercomputer is the first supercomputer where high performance computing and AI converge. Its computing power reaches 28 petaflops per second, thanks to its 86,344 computational cores supported by 2696 GPU-based accelerators. On the data storage side, Jean Zay can support a very large data access load, with flow rates of almost 0.5 TB per second. Jean Zay is also a **champion of energy efficiency** thanks to its latest generation warm-water cooling technology, from which energy is recovered to heat the local buildings.

provides support to the GPAI governance bodies, namely the Council of Ministers of the member states and the Steering Committee.

Within the framework of the Paris CoFE, Inria has also proposed the **creation of a “Do Tank”** for conducting experimentation in the **work of the experts**. In a first phase, the “Do Tank” will be devoted to the working group on the “Future of work”.

The Paris Centre of Expertise of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence

Inria operates the Paris Centre of Expertise (Paris CoFE) of the Global partnership on AI (<https://gpai.ai/>). Launched in June 2020, GPAI is the fruition of an idea developed within the G7, under the Canadian and French presidencies.

The Paris CoFE supports the working groups on the “Future of work” and “Innovation and commercialization”. It provides the working groups with scientific, technical and logistical support, in close collaboration with the **Centre of Expertise in Montreal (CEIMIA) and the GPAI Secretariat at the OECD**. The Paris CoFE prepares meetings, conducts studies and produces reports for the working groups' experts. The Paris CoFE organizes the GPAI summit every other year and the plenary of the multi-stakeholder experts group. It also

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