



June 2006, updated in August 2006

# La France à la loupe

## Research in France

France has a multitude of research structures with different legal forms. **Publicly** funded research comes under the **Ministry of Higher Education and Research** (General Directorate for Research and Innovation, see [Decree 2006-572 of 17 May 2006](#)). What distinguishes France is the **coexistence of two major systems** :

- Research bodies, including Scientific and Technical Public Establishments (EPST) and Industrial and Commercial Public Establishments (EPIC), such as the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research), INRA (National Institute for Agronomic Research) and CEA (Atomic Energy Commission).
- Higher education institutions : Scientific, Cultural and Professional Public Establishments (EPCSCP), such as the Collège de France, French schools in other countries and research laboratories.

**Private sector** research is backed by the **Ministry of Industry**. This research is coordinated with the chambers of commerce.

**Innovation as a whole** comes under both Ministries. The French Agency for Innovation (Agence Nationale de Valorisation de la Recherche – ANVAR) comes under both Ministries and supports innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises.

In February 2005, the **Agence Nationale de la Recherche** (National Research Agency – ANR) was set up to promote basic and applied research, innovation and public-private sector partnerships, and technology transfers of the findings of publicly funded research to the business world.

Several major pieces of legislation have shaped the current structure of research and helped French research to rank fifth in the world in terms of scientific publications: Law 82-610 of 15 July 1982 on technological research and development policy and programming in France, Law 85-1376 of 23 December 1985 on research and technological development, [Law 99-587 of 12 July 1999 on innovation and research](#), which was supplemented by an "[Innovation Plan](#)" in December 2002.

[Law 2006-450 of 18 April 2006 on research](#), which is also known as the "Research Pact", provides for an overhaul of the national research and innovation system to enable it to cope with worldwide competition and to enhance the international stature of French research.

The Pact is organised around six objectives:

- enhancing strategic guidance and priority-setting ;
- building a unified, consistent and transparent research assessment system ;
- focusing efforts and facilitating cooperation between research players ;
- offering attractive scientific careers with good prospects for promotion ;
- stepping up the pace of innovation and creating closer links between public and private sector research ;
- enhancing the integration of France's system within the European research community.

The law has also created a **High Council for Science and Technology** directly attached to the President of the French Republic. Its mission is to "advise the President and the Government on any issue concerning national guidelines for policy on scientific research, technology transfer and innovation."

The 2004 **budget** for research and higher education stood at 18.9 billion euros. The Research Pact calls for a 26% increase that will raise this budget to 24 billion euros in 2010.

## To find out more

---

### WEBSITES

- **Ministry of Higher Education and Research**  
<http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/>
- **Research Pact** : Programme Law on Research  
<http://www.pactepourlarecherche.fr/>  
*See the fact sheets*
- Page of **Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)**  
<http://cordis.europa.eu/france/fr/home.html>
- **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs** : report on « Science, Research and Technology »  
[http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/france\\_829/decouvrir-france\\_4177/france-a-z\\_2259/sciences-recherche-technologies\\_2625/index.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/france_829/decouvrir-france_4177/france-a-z_2259/sciences-recherche-technologies_2625/index.html)
- **National Research Agency (ANR)**  
<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/>
- **French Agency for Innovation (ANVAR)**  
<http://www.oseo.fr/>
- **Scientific Internet Portal**  
<http://www.science.gouv.fr/>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Legislation et parliamentary documents*

- ↻ **Research Code** : available on line from the Légifrance website  
<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnCode?&commun=&code=CRECHERL.rcv>
- ↻ **La valorisation de la recherche dans les universités** – rapport d’information (Information report) n°341 / M. Philippe Adnot, fait au nom de la Commission des finances. – Sénat, 10 May 2006  
<http://www.senat.fr/rap/r05-341/r05-341.html>
- ↻ **2006 Budget Bill : Recherche et Enseignement Supérieur** – avis n°100 / MM. Pierre Laffitte et Jean-Léonce Dupont, fait au nom de la Commission des affaires culturelles. – Sénat, 24 November 2005  
<http://www.senat.fr/rap/a05-100-7/a05-100-7.html>
- ↻ Rapport d’information (Information report) n°1998 déposé à l’Assemblée nationale, en application de l’article 145 du Règlement, par la Commission des affaires culturelles, familiales et sociales sur **la recherche publique et privée en France face au défi international** et présenté par M. Jean-Pierre Door, député, 21 December 2004  
<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/pdf/rap-info/i1998.pdf>

### *Articles*

- ↻ **Recherche publique, innovation et société aujourd’hui en France** / Dominique Pestre. – Le Débat (human science review), No 134, March 2005
- ↻ **La grande misère de la recherche en France** / Entretien avec Etienne Baulieu et Edouard Brezin. – Le Débat (human science review), No 134, March 2005
- ↻ **Les spécificités juridiques de l’administration et du pilotage de la recherche : les lois d’orientation et de programmation de la recherche du 15 juillet 1982 et du 23 décembre 1985** / Jean-François Théry. – Revue française d’administration publique (French Review of Public Administration), No. 112, 2005
- ↻ **L’administration et les politiques de recherche : quelles spécificités ?** / Jean-Richard Cytermann. – Revue française d’administration publique (French Review of Public Administration), No. 112, 2005
- ↻ **Quelles politiques de recherche ? – Modes de financement et acteurs : une politique de la recherche en crise ? Le cas de la France** / Jacques Friedel. – La revue internationale et stratégique (International and Strategic Review), No. 55, automne 2004
- ↻ **Heurs et malheurs de la recherche** / Pierre Bonnaure. – Futuribles Review, No. 292, December 2003