

9 SOLID GOVERNMENT INNOVATION PROGRAMS

Strategic national initiatives such as **France 2030** continue to channel public funding into innovation ecosystems, targeting deep tech, clean energy, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing. These programs coordinate public and private investment to strengthen France's competitive edge globally.

Sources : businessfrance.fr

10 ANOTHER MAJOR INITIATIVE: "LA FRENCH TECH"

The **French Tech ecosystem** remains a central pillar of France's innovation strategy. French startups and scaleups continue to attract capital: in **2024, the French tech ecosystem raised €10.8 billion in funding**, representing a significant share of total European tech investment, with dynamic growth in AI, transportation tech, and fintech.

Sources : tech.eu



FRANCE: AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

and a
Buoyant
Commercial
Ecosystem...

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1 A WIDELY PERCEIVED POSITIVE IMAGE

France has been the **leading destination in Europe for foreign investment for the sixth consecutive year in 2024**, attracting **1 025 foreign investment projects**, including **104 in R&D**, consolidating its position as a top innovation hub in Europe. This reflects continued confidence from international investors despite a global slowdown in investment.

Sources : en.media.businessfrance.fr

2 STRONG ACADEMIC AND INDUSTRY R&D PARTNERSHIPS

France continues to support collaborative research models, with **numerous R&D partnerships between foreign firms and French research institutions**, fostering innovation across sectors such as AI, health, tech, and decarbonization. These partnerships are key in driving technological development and cross-border innovation activity.

Sources : en.media.businessfrance.fr

3 AN INNOVATION-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT NATIONWIDE

France offers strong support for innovation - reflected in public strategies like the France 2030 initiative - and benefits from streamlined administrative processes, fast business creation, and a robust ecosystem that combines academic excellence, industrial capacity, and market access.

Sources : businessfrance.fr

4 HIGH PROPORTION OF R&D PERSONNEL

France remains among the European leaders in research capacity, with **approximately 12 researchers per 1 000 employees**, a higher rate than in Germany and the United States, underlining the depth of scientific and technical talent in the workforce.

Sources : businessfrance.fr

5 HIGHLY QUALIFIED RESEARCHERS

France sustains high academic and scientific performance, with **27 universities ranked among the world's top 1 000**, and a **strong pool of talent in science and technology sectors**. Its ecosystem continues to attract international researchers and students, strengthening its innovation base.

Sources : businessfrance.fr

6 TAX INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATION

The **Research Tax Credit (Crédit d'Impôt Recherche – CIR)** remains one of France's most competitive R&D incentives in the OECD, providing a **30 % tax credit on eligible R&D expenditure up to €100 million** (and additional support for innovation expenses). This tax regime helps maintain France's attractiveness for business R&D investment.

Sources : *France Market Overview Stage 1 Report submitted jointly by OCO Global and Ernst & Young December 3, 2024*



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7 FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON THE RISE

Foreign investors continue to choose France for innovation-led projects: **104 R&D-related foreign investment projects were recorded in 2024**, evidencing strong international interest in establishing research and innovation activities within the country.

Sources : en.media.businessfrance.fr

8 INNOVATION CLUSTERS: BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE FRENCH ECONOMY

France's innovation ecosystem includes a **network of about 300 business networks**, including competitiveness clusters, sectoral networks, and collaborative regional initiatives, bringing together **thousands of companies and research partners** to foster innovation and collaboration across sectors. These networks connect firms, research centres, and public partners to develop joint innovation projects and strengthen competitiveness at home and abroad.

Sources : franceclusters.fr