

## 9 INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

R&D tax incentives remain a key tool of innovation policy across OECD countries. In 2024–2025, **tax incentives accounted for over half of total government support for business R&D** in most OECD countries, indicating that France's use of the CIR remains aligned with broader international trends.

Sources : [oecd.org](https://www.oecd.org)

## 10 WIDELY RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF R&D TAX INCENTIVES

R&D tax incentives, including the French CIR, continue to be **one of the most prominent forms of government support for business R&D across OECD countries**. According to the OECD's 2025 statistical release, **close to 55 % of total government support for business R&D in the OECD area is delivered through tax incentives**, making them more prevalent than direct grants in a majority of countries. France is among the economies offering some of the **most generous tax relief relative to GDP**, alongside other leading innovation jurisdictions, underscoring the international significance and recognition of R&D tax credits as a key tool to support corporate R&D investment.

Sources : [oecd.org](https://www.oecd.org)



# FRANCE'S RESEARCH TAX CREDIT

*Benefits and advantages for your company*

## CONTACTS

+370 655 77984

[info@cci-fr.lt](mailto:info@cci-fr.lt)

<https://cci-fl.org>

## 1 GENEROUS RATE (UP TO €100M AND BEYOND)

The French research tax credit (Crédit d'Impôt Recherche, CIR) is equal to **30 % of eligible R&D expenses up to €100 million and 5 % for the portion above €100 million** in metropolitan France. In French overseas departments (DOM), the rate for the first €100 million can be **50 %**.

Sources : [entreprises.gouv.fr](https://entreprises.gouv.fr)

## 2 OPEN TO ALL COMPANIES

All companies, regardless of size, sector, or nationality, can be eligible if they incur eligible R&D expenses and are subject to a real tax regime (normal or simplified), whether under corporate tax (IS) or income tax (IR).

Sources : [entreprises.gouv.fr](https://entreprises.gouv.fr)

## 3 BROAD TAX CREDIT BASE

The CIR base includes a wide range of expenditures related to research and development (salaries, social contributions, operating costs, subcontracting to qualified research bodies, etc.). Certain collaboration costs with public research partners are included under special rules.

Sources : [entreprises.gouv.fr](https://entreprises.gouv.fr) / [economie.gouv.fr](https://economie.gouv.fr)

#### 4 COMPLEMENTARY INNOVATION TAX CREDIT (CII)

In addition to the CIR, France offers a **Crédit d'Impôt Innovation (CII)** for small and medium-sized enterprises (PMEs) to support **prototype development and pilot installations**. From 2025, the CII rate in France is generally **20 % of eligible innovation expenses up to €400 000 per year** in metropolitan France.

- The CII can have **higher rates** in certain regions such as Corsica or DOM.

Sources: [economie.gouv.fr](http://economie.gouv.fr) / [francenum.gouv.fr](http://francenum.gouv.fr)

#### 5 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH TAX CREDIT (CICO)

France also created a **credit in favor of collaborative research** (Crédit d'Impôt en faveur de la Recherche Collaborative, CICO), aimed at encouraging companies to do R&D with research organisations.

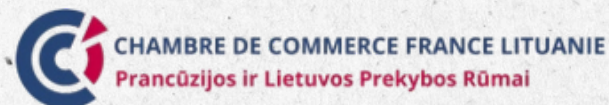
Eligible expenses under CICO can yield a **40 % tax credit (50 % for SMEs)** up to certain caps.

Sources : [francenum.gouv.fr](http://francenum.gouv.fr)

#### 6 REFUND AND CARRY-FORWARD FLEXIBILITY

If the CIR amount exceeds the company's tax liability, the excess portion may generally be **carried forward or, for many companies, refunded by the state**, helping cash flow.

Sources : [francenum.gouv.fr](http://francenum.gouv.fr)



A. Goštauto g. 8-359, LT-01108 Vilnius,  
Lithuania  
mail: [info@cci-fr.lt](mailto:info@cci-fr.lt)  
Tel.: +370 686 33 759

#### 7 LONG-TERM STABILITY AND ADVANCE RULING OPTION

The French Research Tax Credit (CIR) remains a **stable, long-standing part of France's innovation support framework**, even with recent changes introduced in the 2025 Finance Act (e.g., elimination of the "young doctor" bonus and adjustments to eligible costs). The key mechanisms of the CIR continue to apply in 2025 and beyond, providing predictability for companies planning multi-year R&D investments. Furthermore, companies can request an **advance ruling ("rescrit fiscal") from the French tax authorities or the Ministry of Higher Education and Research to secure formal confirmation of their CIR eligibility in advance**. Official templates and procedures for submitting these CIR advance ruling requests were published by the Ministry, offering companies a structured way to reduce uncertainty and audit risk before filing their CIR claim.

Sources : [group-gac.com](http://group-gac.com)

#### 8 INTERACTION WITH OTHER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Eligible companies can combine the CIR with other incentives, such as:

- CII (innovation tax credit)
- Status-based incentives for young innovative companies (JEI, JEU, JEC) with specific tax and social exemptions (This status now has updated criteria.)

Sources : [economie.gouv.fr](http://economie.gouv.fr)