

UK Science & Innovation Network Country Snapshot:

France

France's position in Global Innovation Index:

22nd

Position of UK in France's international collaboration 08-12:

3rd

French Science and Innovation Landscape

In 2013, France spent 2.08% of GDP on R&D (UK = 1.73%). The French Government has fixed the Research and Higher Education budget for 2015 at €23.05bn, a 0.2% increase from 2014.

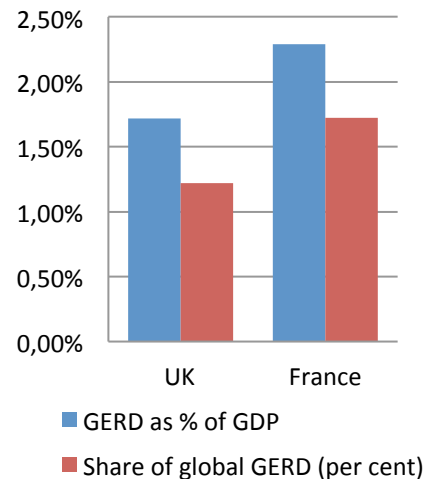
France is 6th ranking nation in terms of scientific publications (UK, 3rd) and 6th in terms of numbers of citations (UK, 2nd). France ranked 11th in 2014 EU Innovation Union Scoreboard (UK, 8th) and 22nd in the 2014 Global Innovation index¹ (UK, 2nd). In terms of industrial R&D investment, France ranks 2nd behind Germany in terms of R&D

investment by the top 2000 R&D investing companies (UK, 3rd, DE, 1st). In terms of where the top 2000 R&D spending companies are based, France comes 3rd, behind Germany (1st) and the UK (2nd).

Reforms to the research system under the previous Sarkozy government have seen massive investment in R&D to increase international competitiveness through the Future Investments Programme (€21bn allocated to HE and Research over 10 years) and to upgrade universities and science facilities, improve technology transfer agencies and university-hospitals. Further reforms have led to universities grouping together to form larger academic clusters, with the aim of giving them more weighting in international rankings and more visibility with international students.

Public R&D spending in France tends to be dominated by large, state-funded research organisations such as the CNRS (basic and multidisciplinary science), CEA (nuclear and low-carbon technologies), INSERM (health) and INRA (agronomy). A small proportion of public R&D spend is allocated

competitively via the National Research Agency, ANR, although the main state-backed players are in pole position to win funding through this route. France also hosts international agencies and research organisations such as the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the OECD.



Value of exports to France:

£32,234m

Value of imports from France:

£36,563m

ONS Pink Book 2013

¹ <https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/content.aspx?page=data-analysis>



UK Science and Innovation in France

The UK research base enjoys strong links with France. Researchers in France form the third largest national group of co-authors of scientific papers with the UK behind the US and Germany. Furthermore, each year around 18,000 French students come to the UK to study with around 8000 UK students heading in the other direction. Strong links exist between the UK and France in international fora, including in the EU (eg EASAC) where we coordinate on policy as far as possible. Given the well-developed personal and professional relationships between researchers and top-level decision-makers, there is little call for specific bilateral programmes. The EU's Horizon 2020 programme is also a strong source of financing for UK-France collaboration – there were 3,609 separate research projects involving research organisations in both the UK and France during FP7, Horizon 2020's predecessor.

SIN France recent success stories /forward look

- The 2014 Franco-British Summit saw the signing of an **MOU on Space, and R&D cooperation featured as part of the nuclear communiqué**. The joint steering committee on Space met in June 2014 and a number of implementing agreements for joint work on satellites have been signed. On nuclear R&D, ongoing deliverables include a nuclear skills roadmap and doctoral training.
- SIN France organised a **UK cell therapies** showcase event at the Ambassador's Residence in the margins of the International Society for Cellular Therapies (ISCT) global conference in Paris. UKTI LSO and Cell Therapies Catapult presented the UK offer to over 180 international experts, resulting in 10 active leads for the Catapult.
- SIN France and SIN Germany organised a **trilateral energy storage workshop**, bringing together around 35-40 participants from government, business and research to discuss policy best practice and the policy and market mechanisms needed for a coherent European approach. SIN was working with the Energy KTN, TSB, BIS, DECC, Low Carbon Futures and UKERC on this workshop. A report will be published underlining the key themes, informing the work of a trilateral working group to continue the best-practice exchange.
- **FutureLearn** Director met with top French Grandes Ecoles to learn more about their international MOOCs strategy and promote FutureLearn as a partner. One university has signed up to the platform, which is worth £250 000 for FutureLearn.
- We accompanied CMO Sally Davies to meetings on **AMR** with Health Research agency and the President's Health adviser, resulting in France agreeing to review the organisation of AMR within the research system.
- Reporting on French research response to **Ebola**, identifying and facilitating key contacts for UK stakeholders

SIN France contacts

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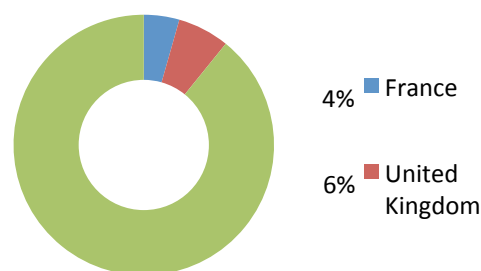


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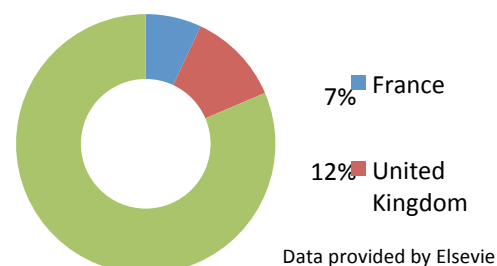
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