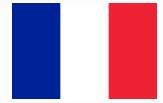


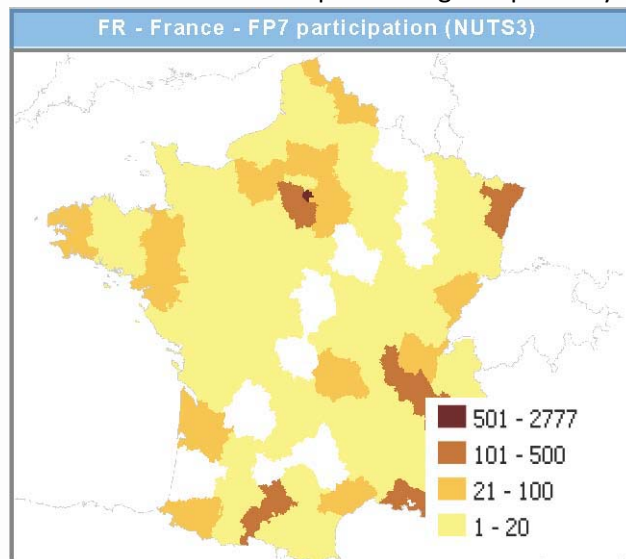


HORIZON 2020

FRANCE



Over recent years efforts to improve the French research and innovation (R&I) system have been considerable; the far-reaching reforms undertaken since 2005 have organized and structured the system so as to make it more efficient and better performing. Despite very high pressure on government's budget, France has preserved



its R&D budget, largely increased indirect support to business R&D through the R&D tax credit and undertaken considerable additional investments in R&D and innovation through the programme Investissements d'Avenir from 2010 onwards. In addition to providing substantial and sustainable funding over the years, this programme will also have a major structuring effect on the R&I system, improving in particular the valorisation and exploitation of research results.

At 2.1-2.2% of GDP, R&D intensity has not progressed significantly in France until 2009 (last year available). The level of business expenditure on R&D has remained lower than in a number of advanced economies. This is to a large extent a reflection of the economic structure of the country where the manufacturing sector has been

decreasing and is only moderately oriented towards high-tech sectors. It is also the result of an insufficient engagement of SMEs and enterprises of intermediary size in R&I activities. This may call for a specific targeting of public support to R&D on these enterprises. More generally, unlocking the growth potential of SMEs in R&D-intensive and innovative sectors is crucial in order to augment France's research and innovation capacity, ensure its industrial renewal and boost its growth potential. This may require in particular facilitating in small firms the financing of market deployment activities while supporting the setting up of a true innovation management in these firms. To sustain structural change on the longer run, innovation and entrepreneurship education and training should be further developed in higher education curricula.

Innovation Union Scoreboard position	11 out of 27
R&D intensity target	3%
Number of eligible proposals	18.564 in response to 294 FP7 calls for proposals
Number of applicants	29.330 (9.3% of EU-27)
Success rate (EU-27 =21,5%)	25.8%
Rank in number of participants signed contracts (EU-27):	3
Rank in budget share (EU-27)	3
Top collaborative links	DE, UK, IT, ES, NL
Total Population & EU 27 Population Share	65.075.373 (12.9% of EU-27)