

- They enable young Ph.D.'s to be hired for public research right away, thus avoiding the current long period spent in post-doctoral contracts in France or overseas.
- They allow training of laboratory technical and administrative personnel to be improved and to catch up after the lag resulting from job cuts between 1993 and 1997.

ATTRACTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO RESEARCH

Attracting young people into research jobs is necessary to guarantee the dynamism and capacity for renewal in this sector. The 5.5 % increase in research funding for student-researchers – effective January 1st, 2002 – is an essential measure in this regard. This increase will amount to a rise in the research allowance (gross earnings) to $\square 1190$ (FF7800) per month. The monthly earnings of students who provide an additional teaching service of 64 hours annually (“instructorship”) will be slightly above $\square 1520$ (FF10,000 - gross) per month. The gradual, widespread introduction of such instructorships should allow all student-researchers to receive an income of FF10,000 per month.

In addition, the number of conventions industrielles de formation pour la recherche (CIFRE) [industrial agreements for training through research] for doctoral level student-researchers has been increased, and will rise in 2002 to about 820 per year, compared with 600 in 1997. This measure is likely to attract young people to research by guaranteeing them satisfactory opportunities in the private sector. More than 90% of doctoral candidates will in fact find jobs in companies on completion of their theses.

INCREASE IN PUBLIC RESEARCH FUNDING

The distribution of this increase indicates the broad research priorities – life sciences, information and communication technologies and, more recently, the environment – with an increase, in relation to 2001, in the budgets of INRIA (+30%), INSERM(+10%) and INRA (+9%).

Intervention funds:

Fonds National pour la Science (FNS) [National Science Fund,] and

Fonds pour la Recherche Technologique (FRT) [Technological Research Fund]

Public research laboratories, universities and graduate engineering schools benefit from these additional flows of FNS or FRT funds allocated for targeted research in priority fields. More than 70% of these funds are directed to public laboratories.

FNS

Established by the Innovation Law of 1999, the FNS is both a funding and co-ordination instrument of the Ministry of Research. It aims to:

- support new research themes in strategic fields that require co-operation among several laboratories; and
- increase the funds available for priority research fields in France.

The FNS is intended for public and non-profit organizations, and finances fundamental work in fields that are likely to have numerous applications. FNS interventions are usually in the form of Actions concertées incitatives (ACI) [concerted incentive actions] and the creation of scientific interest groups (GIS). From FF885M(€135M) in 2001, the FNS will be raised to FF1,000M (€152M) in 2002. This increase will essentially go towards financing research in the life sciences.

In 2001, FNS funds were used as follows:

- 68% for assistance to fundamental life sciences research (of which 51% are in genomics);
- 8% in the humanities and social sciences; and
- 6% each in information and communication science technologies and for ACI “young researchers” (120 recipients).