

Call for Research Projects

DATAIA Convergence Institute

Background

The DATAIA Institute is the French convergence institute specialized in data science, artificial intelligence and society, or how big data technologies and artificial intelligence intersect with the human and social sciences so that artificial intelligence benefits to society.

Selected by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the "Investments for the Future" programs, the DATAIA Institute aims to consolidate and structure a wide multidisciplinary expertise to better meet the major challenges in data science, artificial intelligence and their applications, by removing barriers between mathematics, computer science, humanities and social sciences.

It gathers more than 130 researchers and professors from seventeen institutions (see Appendix 2 below) and has created its industrial affiliate program that enables close collaboration with companies.

The DATAIA Institute supports multidisciplinary research through an annual "Call for Research Projects".

Scientific Scope and Objectives

Project proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the objectives of the DATAIA Institute and in particular to the structuring of the field of data science within the Paris-Saclay Campus. As a result, all proposals must fit into at least one of the 4 main challenges of DATAIA and can impact an application domain (see the list of "Subject areas" in Appendix 1).

They have to involve the collaboration of at least two people from two DATAIA partner institutions (see the list in appendix 2) who do not belong to the same laboratory or to the same host institution.

The aim of this 2020 call is to support DATAIA's actions through the full funding of one research project.

The funding covers:

- either the financing of a PhD thesis and a fixed-term contract of 2 years (post-doc or engineer)
- or the funding of two PhD theses, and possibly operating expenses.

The budget requested cannot exceed € 220k per project.

In addition to this call, DATAIA is co-funding two joint research projects:

- one research project with Digicosme
- one research project with MSH

Details of the calls are available on <http://dataia.eu/en/call-projects/call-research-projects>

Terms of Project Proposal Submissions

This call is restricted to teams within the scope of the DATAIA convergence institute. Only the laboratories of the partner institutions listed in the financing agreement can be project holders and managers of the allocated funding (see list in appendix 2). Consortia may have partners

outside the founding members of DATAIA but these will not be financed.
The rules for co-funded projects with DIGICOSME and MSH may differ from previous terms (See <http://dataia.eu/en/call-projects/call-research-projects>)

Submission Process

Project proposals will have a scientific description of the project and a financial appendix. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Proposal Format: Project Leaders must submit a document that includes the following information:

- ACRONYM and title of the project
- Names of laboratories and project leaders and their contact information
- Names of laboratories (or teams) of the convergence institute that will benefit from the funding
- Names, contact details of the scientific and administrative managers for each laboratory (or team) receiving funds
- Duration and estimated starting and ending dates of the project
- Description of the scientific project (5 pages max).

The description will specify :

- background of the project and the state of art,
 - objectives of the research work,
 - innovative features, locks and added-value of the project,
 - criteria of success,
 - possible areas for further research,
 - application areas, as well as adequacy with the objectives and over-arching challenges of the Convergence Institute.
- Financial appendix

The following criteria will be used for the evaluation of the project: scientific excellence, synergy between partner institutions, and potential application impact on the chosen subject.

Proposal Submission :

All projects must be submitted on the following website:

<https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/DATAIA2020>

Closing date for submissions : March 6th, 2020 at noon (Paris time).

This call for projects is available on the website <http://dataia.eu>

For any questions, please contact:

- com-dataia@inria.fr

Publication date of results: April 17th, 2020

Funding of selected projects will be available from September 2020.

Selection Process

DATAIA executive committee (Bureau) will examine the eligibility of the projects . DATAIA steering committee (Comité des Programmes) will make the pre-selection of the eligible projects. They may ask external reviewers to assess the proposals. Then, DATAIA steering committee will audition the project holders of the pre-selected proposals and will deliberate on the selected projects.

Publication of results is scheduled on April 17th 2020.

Validity of DATAIA Funding

Selected research projects are funded for a period of 3 years, and must be completed on 31/12/2023. Each funded thesis will have to start in 2020.

Project Acceptance and Commitments

When the project is accepted, CVs of the selected candidates for PhD, post-doc or engineer positions should be sent to the Convergence Institute as soon as possible. Selected candidates for PhD occupations are required to get the approval from PhD schools to hold these positions.

Project leaders agree to use the funding as described in the project proposals validated by the DATAIA steering committee, and to report on the scientific activity and expenses annually. At the end of the project, they will give DATAIA Institute a report that will summarize the achievements and all publications done within the project duration.

All beneficiaries of support from the convergence institute must include the following text in all scientific communications related to the funded activities: *This research was supported by DATAIA Convergence Institute as part of the « Programme d'Investissement d'Avenir », (ANR-17-CONV-0003) operated by [DATAIA Partner] XXX.*

If the convergence institute considers that the funding has not been used in accordance with the objectives stated in the project proposals, a refund may be requested. Similarly, unused funding must be paid back by the partner institution.

Appendix 1

Subject Areas

The scientific program of each proposal should explicitly address at least one of the four subject areas outlined on the link below; these are the four interdisciplinary challenges of DATAIA : see <http://dataia.eu/en/institute/overarching-challenges>

Projects may address topics more specific to application areas. A non-exhaustive list of these areas is available on link below. However, it is requested that projects address data science issues of general interest and are not restricted specifically to a field of application: see <http://dataia.eu/en/application-domains>

Appendix 2

List of DATAIA partners

Agro ParisTech

CentraleSupélec

CEA

CNRS

Ecole polytechnique

ENS Paris-Saclay

ENSAE

ENSTA ParisTech

HEC Paris

IFP-EN

Inria (Inria-Saclay)

Institut Mines-Telecom (Télécom Paris, Télécom Sud Paris, Institut Mines-Télécom Business School)

INRAE

Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne

Université Paris-Saclay

Université Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines