



Bundesministerium  
für Wirtschaft  
und Energie



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

**Roadmap**  
**for a**  
**Research and Innovation Network on Artificial Intelligence**  
**between the Governments of**  
**the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany**

On 22 January 2019 France and Germany signed the Aachen Treaty to strengthen the Franco-German cooperation and integration. The treaty includes the cooperation in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Article 21 of the Treaty reads as follows:

*The two countries shall intensify their cooperation in the field of research and digital transformation, including in artificial intelligence and disruptive innovation. They will promote ethical guidelines for new technologies at the international level. They shall establish Franco-German initiatives to support innovations open to cooperation at European level. The two countries shall establish a coordination process and common funding mechanisms to promote joint research and innovation programmes.*

Part of the priority projects within the implementation of the Treaty is the establishment of a “Research and Innovation Network on Artificial Intelligence” (in the following: joint AI network), which will form the model of cooperation between France and Germany.

This roadmap stipulates the basis for cooperation in the form of the joint AI network.

I. As objectives for the joint AI network, the French and German Governments strive:

**1. to strengthen ties between existing structures.**

The governments recognise their countries’ leading research in the field of AI. They will deepen ties in existing structures deployed on the basis of their national AI strategies.

**2. to create a common AI ecosystem to bring about new cooperation projects.**

Together, they will combine their efforts on the basis of their national strategies to create the relevant landscape for new research and industry cooperation projects.

**3. to share common positions on AI policy at EU level and promote a coherent European action at international level.**

The joint network will lead to better understanding of what is needed in the field of AI. Both governments will jointly introduce their findings to European and international work on AI.

II. To achieve these objectives, both governments concur in the following approach:<sup>1</sup>

**1. to support common events and projects.**

Both governments will initiate, support and promote common events and projects in order to foster dialogue and cooperation between research institutions and industrial partners in the field of AI.

The French AI network and the German Competence Centers for AI will set up a Memorandum of Understanding in order to promote and deepen joint research in the field of artificial intelligence. A first call for proposals will be launched in 2020.

Both governments will launch in 2020 initiatives aimed at supporting projects based on recommendations from French and German AI centres or research and innovation and industrial partners. Focus of such initiatives is to create and support consortia of French and German technology buyers, technology providers, and academics.

Both governments intend to cooperate on breakthrough innovations in the field of artificial intelligence, building on the launch of their national initiatives, the Conseil de l'Innovation and the Agentur für Sprunginnovationen and taking into account the work of the European Innovation Council. They will encourage the Conseil de l'Innovation and the Agentur für Sprunginnovationen to develop joint methods and explore common projects in 2020.

Both governments will invite industry and research for a business roundtable on AI in 2019 to allow for consolidated contacts among experts and identify projects.

**2. to establish sectorial focus groups to intensify concrete AI cooperation projects.**

France and Germany concluded their national strategies in 2018. Both strategies recognise the horizontal meaning of AI affecting the society and industry as a whole.

In 2019, both governments intend to take concrete action in order to assess sector-specific needs together through the work of the joint AI network. With the work of the joint AI network of innovation centres and industry, both governments will aim at taking a decision on the feasibility of a Franco-German funding scheme in 2020.

In addition to that, both governments will intensify their common activity on a secure and trustworthy data infrastructure as a basis for a digital ecosystem where data can be made available, collated and shared in a trusted environment, aiming for a joint endeavour in early 2020, and launch a data sharing initiative on a specific sector as a first project of the piloting phase of such infrastructure.

**3. to develop common recommendations and inspire actions at European level**

The EU Commission's Coordinated Plan on AI sets the framework for national AI strategies and cooperation schemes between EU Member States. With its network, France and Germany aim to bolster the European cooperation in AI and provide meaningful joint input for the EU's initiatives in the field of AI. In this sense, France and Germany will leverage the potential of AI for promoting sustainable development and tap the potential of AI to address major challenges, e.g. climate change and the scarcity of resources.

France and Germany intend to encourage the promising joint work of standardisation organisations DIN, DKE and AFNOR on AI topics, which should lead to a coordinated approach to jointly influence European and international standardisation bodies by the end of 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. list of actions detailed in annexes 1 and 2.

In a working group, both governments will foster the exchange of views on legislative aspects in the field of AI to submit by the end of 2019 a common approach to the European Commission as input to its upcoming proposals.

Both countries will work together to strengthen Europe in the development and application of leading edge technologies, esp. in the field of AI. To this end, opportunities for European initiatives will be explored.

III. The French and German governments aim to operate the joint AI network as follows:

The actions of the joint AI network will be coordinated by the French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the German Federal Ministry for Research and Education, the French Ministry for Economy and Finance, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Signed in Toulouse on 16 October 2019 in two copies.

For the Government of the French Republic



Bruno Le Maire

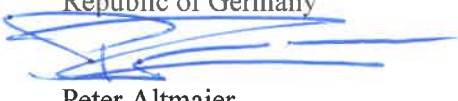
Minister of Economy and Finance



Frédérique Vidal

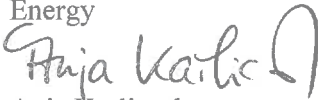
Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

For the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Germany



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