

« Associate Teams » Programme Call for Projects 2026

Associate Teams are an essential part of Inria's international policy. This programme is one of the main tools for supporting bilateral scientific collaborations by promoting and strengthening its strategic partnerships abroad.

An Associate Team is a new joint research project created between an Inria project-team and a research team abroad. Both partners jointly define a scientific objective, a research plan and a bilateral exchange programme. Associate Teams (EA) receive funding for three years, which is non-renewable.

In order to promote and develop such collaborations by supporting research projects of excellent scientific quality, Inria's International Relations Department (DRI) launches an annual call for proposals.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE 2026 PROGRAM

Each year, the DRI defines the programme's objectives. Regional or thematic priorities reflect the institute's international strategy to establish its presence around the world and develop strong partnerships with certain countries.

As part of the 2026 call, an Associate Teams proposal must correspond to one of the programme objectives set out below:

- A. National priorities:** all Inria centres are eligible
- A. Local priorities:** these are only eligible for project-teams of the Inria centre concerned.

A. National priorities

- ☐ **Europe (geographical) :** *See details in Appendix 1 (page 7)*
 - ☐ Partnerships
 - **Germany:** Inria-DFKI, Inria-CISPA, Inria-Berlin (ECDF)
 - **Netherlands:** Inria-CWI
 - **Norway:** Inria-Simula
 - **United Kingdom:** Inria-London
 - **Switzerland:** Inria-EPFL
- ☐ **North America:** *See details in Appendix 2 (page 9)*
 - ☐ Target country
 - **Canada**
 - ☐ Network
 - **United States:** Inria@SiliconValley
- ☐ **Latin America:** *See details in Appendix 3 (page 10)*
 - ☐ Partnerships
 - **Inria Brazil**
 - **Inria Chile**
- ☐ **Asia and Oceania:** *See details in Appendix 4 (page 11)*
 - ☐ Target countries
 - **Japan**
 - **South Korea**
 - **India**
 - ☐ Exploratory zones
 - **Singapore**
 - **Taiwan**
 - **Australia**
- ☐ **Africa and the Middle East:** *See details in Appendix 5 (page 13)*
 - ☐ Target countries
 - **Africa:** all countries
 - ☐ Exploratory zone
 - **Israel**
- ☐ **Multizone:** *See details in Appendix 6 (page 14)*
 - ☐ Consortium JLESC

☐ **Co-financing:** *See details in Appendix 7 (page 15)*

Collaboration with one of Inria's partners who have committed to supporting Associate Teams, either through a joint call for proposals, or by providing complementary funding:

- **India:** DST-CEFIPRA
- **Brazil:** FAP de São Paulo

B. **Local Priorities**

Local Priorities, a new feature of the previous campaign (EA 2025), complement the national priorities for each Inria Centre and aim to support the site policy of each Centre.

The local priorities from the previous campaign have been renewed. These priorities were established in close collaboration with the international priorities and strategies of academic partners as part of the site policy. A priority may be an institution or an alliance of institutions. These priorities sometimes coincide with national priorities, or may be distinct.

The local priorities indicated for a given Inria Centre are only eligible for project teams of that Centre.

They are listed in appendix 8 (page 16).

2. **PROPOSAL OF A NEW ASSOCIATE TEAM**

• **Application**

It is recommended that you consult with the DRI correspondents at the Inria Centres when setting up the Associate Team project, both for administrative and scientific matters.

The list of international correspondents at Inria centres is available at the following address:

https://numin.inria.fr/portal/g/:spaces:71lwaa/base_de_connaissance/notes/1495#CCRI

The project submitted must be part of the 2026 call for (see paragraph « 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE 2026 PROGRAMME » on page 01).

The main Inria representative of an Associate Team must be a member of an Inria project team (EP). They may only be the main Inria representative of one Associate Team. This scientist, who coordinates the project on the French side, fills in the online form on the dedicated platform (<https://drisi.inria.fr/eaEquipeAssociee/new>), and attaches the document presenting the scientific project on the same platform.

The template for the scientific project presentation is available:

o in Word format

o in Latex format

• **Selection process for Associate Teams**

The quality of proposals is assessed in the Centres by an **ad hoc or existing scientific committee**. The committee will ensure that the proposal is indeed a new research project. The head of the « Associate Teams » programme at the DRI will participate in the Centres' selection committees as a guest.

Based on the DRI's recommendations, the general management (DG) relies on these evaluations to select the approved projects. Selected projects are subject to approval by the FSD and will only be confirmed once FSD validation has been obtained¹.

The selected projects must be formalized by an agreement between Inria and the partner institution.

¹ Projects submitted under this call for proposals will be subject to review under the PPST scheme (Protection of Scientific and Technical Potential and Economic Intelligence).

More information on this scheme is available at:

<https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid27031/protection-du-potentiel-scientifique-et-technique-et-intelligence-economique-p.p.s.t.html>

• **Funding**

Inria allocates funding of between €7,000 and €11,000 per year per Associate Team. These amounts are subject to the overall budget allocated to the DRI after general arbitration and will be determined accordingly.

For co-funding, please refer to appendix 7 on page 15

The Inria budget for the Associate Team must be used directly for exchanges between partner teams and the advancement of joint research by funding researcher mobility.

☐ **Eligible Expenses:**

The budget allocated to an Associate Team allows for the funding of:

- o Exchanges - short and medium-term travel and stays (from a few days to a few weeks) - for researchers, engineers, post-doctoral students, doctoral students and interns*
 - between France and partner countries (including interns)
 - between the partner country and France
- o The organisation of joint workshops/working meetings (expenses related to travel and stays)

*It is important to allow for the possibility of using part of the budget to bring young researchers to Inria and raise awareness of the organisation, particularly in order to enhance its attractiveness. The most relevant and balanced distribution possible **over the three years**, favouring the mobility of young researchers, particularly from Inria, is therefore desirable.*

☐ **Ineligible Expenses:**

This budget cannot be used to finance:

- o Registration fees and participation in conferences*
- o Internship grants or allowances
- o The purchase of equipment
- o Publication costs

More generally, any expenses not listed in the « Eligible expenses » section are therefore ineligible.

*** Special case for interns:**

- o *The Associate Team budget can be used for travel and short or medium-term stays by interns from an Inria team at the partner's premises.*
- o *Due to national regulations governing internship allowances, it is not possible for the institute to cover the travel expenses of an intern (internship agreement) to an Inria team.*
- o *The budget of an Associate Team cannot be used to remunerate interns hosted by Inria teams. However, Associate Team leaders may submit a request for support to cover remuneration for hosting an intern under the DRI's « Internships – EA Support » programme. Applications for this programme are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year on the DRISI platform (<https://drisi.inria.fr/internshipSujet/new/1>). Although funding is not automatically granted (this is a selective programme with a defined budget), support for internships within the framework of an Associate Team is identified as a priority of the programme.*

*** Special case of joint workshops organised alongside a conference:**

As we are all concerned with reducing our carbon footprint, if several members of the various partners of the Associate Team find themselves at a conference in one of the partner countries, the DRI encourages you to optimize your travel arrangements to hold a joint workshop. In this case, all expenses related to the conference remain to be charged to the Inria project team budget, but travel and accommodation expenses related to the joint workshop can be charged to the EA budget.

A guide to using the 2026 budget will be available in early 2026 and sent to Associate Teams for more details on the use and allocation of the budget. For your information, you can consult the 2025 budget guide [here](#)

3. CALENDAR

• Inria

July 2025	Call launch
October 16, 2025	Deadline for submissions for the general call and Inria submissions under specific calls
October to December 2025	Proposal evaluation
January / February 2026	General Management (DG) decision, notification of results and budget decision

• Specific calls and complementary funding

Important!! These calls and complementary funding require a **double submission** (to Inria and to the partner). The partner must ensure that the terms and conditions are met and adhere to the submission timeline established by their funding agency or institution.

For partners in India, please refer to the specific call with DST-CEFIPRA	Timeline and terms and conditions to be specified by the partner
Brazilian Foundation for Research Support of São Paulo (FAPESP)	Timeline and terms and conditions to be specified by the partner

Regarding specific calls and additional funding: refer to [appendix 7 on page 15](#)

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Follow-up**

Any change in circumstances that may impact the progress of the Associate Team must be reported as soon as possible to the DRI International Programmes Manager (change of project leader at Inria or the partner organisation, affiliated EP...)

A brief annual report will be requested at the end of years 1 and 2. A review will then be requested at the end of year 3 (final year).

- **Requests for information**

For further information or questions, please contact either:

- the DRI correspondents at your centre: [here](#)
- the International Programmes Manager at DRI: [Natacha Régis](#)

Appendix 1 : Europe (geographical)

Inria-DFKI (Germany)

Inria and the DFKI (*Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz*) strengthened their partnership in May 2024 committing to implement a joint programme for research and innovation in the fields of AI for Industry 4.0, AI for wearable technologies, AI and cybersecurity, human-robot cooperation, and any other topics relevant to both institutions.

Associate team projects involving DFKI are eligible under the 2026 campaign. As the partnership aims to expand its collaborations in Japan, projects submitted that also involve a Japanese partner are eligible under this call.

Inria-CISPA (Germany)

Inria and the CISPA Helmholtz Centre for Information Security signed a memorandum of understanding in 2023 to strengthen Franco-German scientific collaboration in the field of cybersecurity. The parties intend to contribute their respective national perspectives and reflect them in the European context.

All CISPA departments are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme under the 2026 call for proposals.

Inria-Berlin (Germany)

Inria and the ECDF (*Einstein Center Digital Future*) signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2023. This agreement promotes scientific exchanges and the development of joint research projects in fields related to digital sciences in the Berlin region, extending to Potsdam.

All institutions based in Berlin and Potsdam are eligible for the programme under the 2026 call for proposals. Applications involving ECDF member institutions are particularly encouraged.

Inria-CWI (Netherlands)

CWI (*Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica*) and Inria have a long history of cooperation and scientific dialogue. The two institutes have strengthened their collaboration and formalized their partnership by signing a new strategic agreement in 2023.

Scientific cooperation is strengthened by the creation of joint projects and research teams in areas such as quantum computing, human interaction, energy, cryptography, digital health, machine learning and software engineering.

<https://project.inria.fr/inriacwi/>

CWI research groups in these scientific fields and in Inria's research areas are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme under the 2026 call for proposals.

Inria-Simula (Norway)

In 2020, Inria and Simula Research Laboratory, a research organization in Norway (<https://www.simula.no>), signed an agreement with the aim of building a partnership to develop collaborations in HPC, Intelligent Systems, Cardiac Modelling, Cryptography and Quantum Computing, as well as all scientific fields of interest to Inria.

All Simula departments in Inria's research areas are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme under the 2026 call for proposals.

Inria-London (United Kingdom)

In 2024, Inria and UCL (*University College London*) signed a letter of intent to create a Joint Centre between the two institutions to strengthen and structure the impact of scientific collaborations between the institute and its London partners, foremost among which is UCL, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence, machine learning and statistics, as well as all scientific fields of interest to Inria.

<https://london.inria.fr/home/>

UCL departments in Inria's research areas are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme under Inria-London. Submissions for Associate Teams with other London partners and with the universities of Cambridge and Oxford are also eligible under the 2026 call.

Inria-EPFL (Switzerland)

Inria and EPFL (*École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne*) have been working together since 2015 on issues of mutual interest related to new uses of the Internet, particularly those involving Big Data and Cloud applications. All scientific fields of interest to Inria are eligible.

All EPFL faculties in Inria's research areas are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme for a bilateral project. Under the 2026 call for proposals, it is also possible for Inria EPIs to join forces to submit an Associate Team project via a lead EP, with a partner at EPFL.

Appendix 2 : North America

Canada

Canada is a priority country in the institute's international strategy. In April 2023, Inria signed an agreement with the University of Waterloo to strengthen existing ties with Inria teams and develop new collaborations.

<https://project.inria.fr/inriacanada/>

Projects involving Associate Teams with any Canadian partner (a university or research centre such as the *Fields Institute*, *Vector Institute*, *MILA*, *AMII*, *IVADO*) are eligible under the 2026 call, with no thematic restrictions.

Projects with the University of Waterloo in the fields of *Artificial Intelligence*, *Quantum Computing*, *Digital Health*, *Cybersecurity*, *Applied mathematics*, *HPC* & *Digital Continuum* are particularly encouraged.

Inria@SiliconValley (United States)

The Inria@SiliconValley programme, launched in 2011, helps to structure and strengthen research and innovation collaborations between Inria and California through a network of researchers from Inria project teams and Californian universities.

<https://project.inria.fr/siliconvalley/>

All Californian research institutions are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme as part of Inria@SiliconValley, with no thematic restrictions for the 2026 call for proposals.

Appendix 3 : Latin America

Projects involving IRD and CIRAD are particularly encouraged.

Inria Brasil

Created in 2020 on the basis of a partnership between Inria and the LNCC (*Laboratório Nacional de Computação Científica*), Brazil's national scientific computing laboratory based in Petrópolis, the Inria Brasil programme aims to develop and strengthen collaborations between Inria, LNCC and other research and innovation stakeholders in the country by coordinating a network of Brazilian partners.
<https://project.inria.fr/inriabrasil/>

Associate Team projects involving partnerships with the LNCC and/or any other Brazilian research and innovation actor (university, research foundation) (with the possibility of involving a company as a third partner) are eligible under the 2026 call, with no thematic restrictions.
Projects in the fields of *HPC*, *Big Data*, *Artificial Intelligence*, *Scientific Computing* are particularly encouraged, as are those focusing on energy, digital health and agroecology.

Inria Chile

Created in 2012, Inria Chile aims to structure and strengthen scientific collaborations in digital science and technology between Inria teams and those of Chilean universities, while promoting increased collaboration with industry. In 2025, a new Franco-Chilean Binational Centre on Artificial Intelligence was created and is operated by Inria Chile.
<https://www.inria.cl/en>

All Chilean academic partners are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme within the framework of Inria Chile. Following the creation of the binational centre, artificial intelligence projects are a priority and are particularly encouraged in the 2026 call for proposals.

Appendix 4 : Asia and Oceania

Japan

Japan is a target country in the institute's international strategy. Cooperation agreements are underway with the NII (*National Institute of Informatics*), the NICT (*National Institute of Information and Communications Technology*) and the AIST (*National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology*).

All Associate Team projects involving Japanese partners are eligible. Projects with the NII in the fields of open science, the AIST in the fields of artificial intelligence, and the NICT in the fields of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and next-generation networks (5G/6G) are particularly encouraged under the 2026 call for proposals

South Korea

South Korea is a target country in the institute's international strategy. The main academic partner is KAIST (*Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*). Complementary to KAIST, ETRI (*Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute*) has also been a partner since the signing of an agreement in November 2021, as has KISTI (*Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information*) with an agreement signed in June 2023

All Associate Team projects with Korean partners are eligible under the 2026 call for proposals. Associate Team projects with the following Korean partners are particularly encouraged, without thematic restrictions: KAIST, ETRI, KISTI

India

India is a target country in the institute's international strategy

All Associate Teams projects involving Indian partners are eligible under the 2026 call for proposals.

Singapore

Singapore is an exploratory area in the institute's international strategy.

All Associate Teams projects with academic or research partners in Singapore are eligible. Projects with A*STAR (*Agency for Science, Technology and Research*) research institutes in all Inria fields are particularly encouraged under the 2026 call.

Australia

Australia is an exploratory area in the institute's international strategy.

All Associate Teams projects involving Australian partners are eligible under the 2026 call for proposals.

Taiwan

Taiwan is an exploratory area.

All Associate Teams projects involving Taiwanese stakeholders are eligible. Projects in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity are particularly encouraged under the 2026 call.

Appendix 5 : Africa and the Middle East

LIRIMA (Africa)

Africa is a target area in the institute's international strategy, which aims to structure its activities on this continent through collaborations within the framework of LIRIMA (International Laboratory for Research in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics) and collaborations with its partners such as CIRAD, IRD and INRAE.

In order to support the development of new actions, project submissions from Associate Teams with institutions in African countries that are not currently LIRIMA partners are accepted under the 2026 call.

Projects with the following countries are particularly encouraged: South Africa, Benin, Cameroon, Senegal, Kenya and Morocco.

All Inria fields are eligible, and particular attention will be given to projects involving IRD and CIRAD..

Israel

Israel is an exploratory area in the institute's international strategy.

All Israeli academic partners are eligible for the « Associate Teams » programme. Projects in the field of artificial intelligenc

Appendix 6 : Multizone

JLESC (North America / Asia / Europe)

The JLESC (*Joint Laboratory for Extreme Scale Computing*), focuses on developing algorithms and software for high-performance computing on supercomputers and large-scale distributed computing infrastructures. The founding partners of the JLESC are Inria and the University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign UIUC (USA). Other members include ANL- Argonne National Laboratory (USA), BSC- Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Spain), JSC- Jülich Supercomputing Center (Germany) et Riken Center for Computational Science (R-CCS) (Japan). University of Tennessee-UTK (USA) is an associate member.

<https://jlesc.github.io>

Associate Team projects within the framework of JLESC can be submitted with all JLESC members: UIUC (USA), ANL (USA), BSC (Spain), JSC (Germany), Riken CCS (Japan) and UTK (USA) within the scientific scope of JLESC only.

Appendix 7 : Co-financing

Inria establishes specific agreements to support Associate Teams with international partners, either through joint calls for proposals or by providing additional funding.

Important! These calls for proposals and additional funding require a double submission (to Inria and to the partner). The partner must ensure compliance with the terms and conditions and adhere to the submission schedule established by its funding agency or institution.

For the 2026 campaign, specific calls are being launched with the DST-CEFIPRA for India and the Brazilian Foundation for Research Support of the State of São Paulo (FAPESP).

- ☐ **(Schedule and terms and conditions to be specified) Call with the Franco-Indian Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research - (CEFIPRA), mandated by the Department of Science and Technology-(DST).**

Submissions for Associate Teams with India are open to any Indian academic or research partner. To be eligible for co-funding from DST-CEFIPRA, Associate Teams must be involved in one of the themes to be published shortly.

Under the specific agreement with DST-CEFIPRA, Associate Teams co-selected with India could receive total funding of at least €20,000/year for three years (at least €10,000/year from Inria and the equivalent from DST-CEFIPRA).

The link to the DST-CEFIPRA call for proposals is as follows: (to be announced)

- ☐ **(Timeline and terms and conditions to be specified) Additional funding from the Brazilian Research Support Foundation of São Paulo (FAPESP)**

Associate Teams submitted with researchers from the State of São Paulo may also receive financial support from the State's Research Support Foundation (FAP).

Only researchers from the State of São Paulo are eligible.

The information will be forwarded to International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as the FAPESP SPRINT programme call for proposals is published.

Appendix 8 : Local Priorities

Local priorities indicated for a given Inria Centre are only eligible for Project Teams attached to that Centre.

If no restrictions are specified, the local priorities indicated for a given Centre are open to all Project Teams at that Centre.

When the priority indicated is an alliance of institutions, each institution in that alliance is eligible.

☐ Centre Inria de l'Université de Bordeaux

- McGill University – Canada (<https://www.mcgill.ca/fr/>)
- Université Laval – Canada (<https://www.ulaval.ca/>)

☐ Centre Inria de l'Université Grenoble Alpes

- University of Tsukuba – Japan (<https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/>)
- National Taiwan University (<https://www.ntu.edu.tw/english/>)

☐ Centre Inria de l'Université de Lille

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven – Belgium (<https://www.kuleuven.be/lang/fr>)

☐ Centre Inria de Lyon

- Instituto Italiano di Tecnologia - Genova – Italy (<https://www.iit.it/it/>)
- University of Copenhagen– Denmark (<https://www.ku.dk/english/>)

☐ Centre Inria de l'Université de Lorraine

- Luxembourg Institute of Health (<https://www.lih.lu/fr/>)
- Université de la Grande Région (<https://www.uni-gr.eu/>)

☐ Centre Inria de Paris

- European Alliance 4EU+ (<https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1.html>)
- European Alliance circleU (<https://u-paris.fr/luniversite-europeenne-circle-u/>)

☐ Centre Inria de l'Université de Rennes

- European Alliance EDUC (<https://www.educalliance.eu/>)
The above priority is only open to teams based wholly or partly in Rennes
- European Alliance EULIST (<https://eulist.university/>)
The above priority is only open to teams linked to IMT (GALLINETTE & STACK), the Rennes-based team ERMINE, the Rennes-Brest-based team ODYSSEY, and any new joint team with IMT

☐ **Centre Inria de Saclay**

- Universidad de Cordoba – Argentina (<https://www.unc.edu.ar/>)
- Carlos III University of Madrid – UC3M – Spain (<https://www.uc3m.es/Home>)
Collaborations with the Computer Security Lab are particularly encouraged
(<https://cosec.inf.uc3m.es/>)

☐ **Centre Inria d'Université Côte d'Azur**

- European University ULYSSEUS (<https://ulysseus.eu/fr/member-universities/>)
- European University CHARM-EU (<https://www.charm-eu.eu/index.php/fr/lalliance>)