

The Minister of Science of Chile visits Inria in Paris, marking the beginning of a new stage of collaboration.

- The Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation of Chile, Aisén Etcheverry, was received by the Chairman and CEO of Inria, Bruno Sportisse, with the aim of designing a new stage to strengthen the commitment of Franco-Chilean cooperation in research and innovation in digital sciences, particularly in artificial intelligence.

As part of the official visit of the President of the Republic, Gabriel Boric, to France –where he met with the French President, Emmanuel Macron–, the Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of Chile, Aisén Etcheverry, visited the prestigious French Institute for Research in Digital Sciences and Technologies, Inria, in Paris. This is the first time that a Chilean government authority visits the Institute, which has had a center in Chile, Inria Chile, for more than 10 years.

The minister was welcomed by the Chairman and CEO of Inria, Bruno Sportisse; Inria's Deputy CEO for Science, Jean-Frédéric Gerbeau; Inria's Deputy CEO of Innovation, François Cuny; the Director of International Relations of Inria, Cécile Vigouroux, and the Director of the Inria center in Chile, Nayat Sánchez Pi. Also participated, Jorge Iglesias, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Chile in France and Alban Duverdier, Scientific Director in Information and Communication Technology of the General Directorate of Research and Innovation (DGRI), French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

Also, at the meeting, the minister had the opportunity to learn more about Inria, its structure, its capabilities in AI and its role as coordinator of the research component in France's National Plan for Artificial Intelligence.

Inria and the Chilean Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of Chile declared their willingness to strengthen Franco-Chilean collaboration and cooperation in the field of digital sciences and technologies, especially in the area of applied artificial intelligence in strategic areas for both countries.

“We just finished a visit to Inria, in France. We were with the Chairman and CEO of Inria in France, Bruno Sportisse, and also with the director of Inria Chile. On the occasion we had the opportunity to discuss in depth the new stage in the collaboration between Inria, as the French national research institute in digital sciences and technologies, and the Government of Chile. This is part of the bilateral collaboration that already exists today in terms of research, but above all in issues related to artificial intelligence, which is part of the priorities of the Ministry and the Government of Chile, and which are cutting-edge issues that are being discussed with very similar approaches in France and Chile”, said the minister.

Inria's Chairman and CEO, Bruno Sportisse, stressed on the importance of Franco-Chilean cooperation. “Inria's commitment through its Inria Chile Center highlights the synergies generated by Franco-Chilean scientific cooperation in the digital field. The challenges of artificial intelligence are global and it is crucial to strengthen the collaboration between our countries”, he stated.

Inria Chile is the only Inria center abroad, created in 2012 with the aim of promoting this relationship. For 11 years, Inria Chile has developed more than 190 research and development projects in digital sciences and technologies and, in particular, artificial intelligence, applied to strategic sectors such as astronomy, renewable energy, mining or the fight against climate change and the preservation of biodiversity, among others. This, working collaboratively with the main universities and research

centers in the country, thanks to a network of more than 650 scientists who have collaborated with the center since its inception. On the other hand, more than 200 students have benefited from the training programs of Inria Chile through research internships and undergraduate and postgraduate theses, while the Inria Academy program in Chile has benefited more than 700 people since its launch in Chile in 2019.

The director of Inria Chile, Nayat Sánchez-Pi, highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two countries and the potential of AI as a tool for the development of Chile and Latin America. "This visit is an important milestone in strengthening the collaboration between France and Chile in digital sciences and technologies, and in particular in artificial intelligence carried out by Inria. We will work together to design the future of our partnership, trusting that this visit marks the beginning of an even more fruitful and renewed period of scientific-technological collaboration, through Inria Chile", she said.

After the meeting, Minister Etcheverry had the opportunity to tour the center. She visited the Robotics Room, where she was able to discover three robots developed by researchers and engineers from the Inria center in Paris: the Solo 12 open source robot; the UR5, a collaborative industrial robot, and Upkie, a wheeled bipedal home robot designed to be 100% do-it-yourself.

Finally, the researchers from Inria's AIO project team presented Frost Forecast and Emistral, projects developed jointly by the Inria Paris Center and Inria Chile with their partners, highlighting the impact that artificial intelligence has on agriculture and environmental monitoring, respectively.

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