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“Associate Teams” Program

Call for Projects 2025

The Associate Teams are an essential element of the Institute's international policy. This program is one of Inria's main tools to support bilateral scientific collaborations and to promote and strengthen its strategic partnerships abroad.

An Associate Team is a new joint research project created between an Inria project-team and a research team abroad. The two partners jointly define a scientific objective, a research plan, and a bilateral exchange program. Associate Teams (EAs) are funded for 3 years.

To promote and develop these collaborations by supporting research projects of excellent scientific level, Inria's Department of International Relations (DRI) launches an annual call for proposals.

1. 2025 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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

For the 2025 call, an Associate Team proposal must correspond to one of the program's objectives set out below:

A. National Priorities: all Inria centers are eligible

B. NEW: Local Priorities: they are eligible only for project-teams attached to the Inria center concerned

A. National Priorities

→ Europe (geographical): *See details in Appendix 1 (page 07)*

Partnerships

- **Germany:** Inria-DFKI, Inria-CISPA, Inria-ECDF
- **Netherlands:** Inria-CWI
- **Norway:** Inria-Simula
- **United Kingdom:** Inria-London
- **Switzerland:** Inria-EPFL

→ North America: *See details in Appendix 2 (page 09)*

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**
- **Australia**
- **Taiwan**

→ Africa and Middle East: *See details in Appendix 5 (page 13)*

Target Country

- **Africa:** all countries

Exploratory zone

- **Israel**

→ Multizone: *See details in Appendix 6 (page 14)*

JLESC Consortium

- **North America / Asia / Europe**

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 arranging complementary funding:

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

B. Local Priorities

Local Priorities, new to the Associate Teams 2025 campaign, complement the national priorities for each Inria Center and aim to support the site policy of each Center.

Each Inria Center has been asked to propose this year 2 local priorities (maximum) in close connection with the international priorities and strategies of university partners within the framework of site policy. A priority may be an establishment or an alliance of establishments. These priorities sometimes overlap with national priorities, or can be distinct.

The local priorities indicated for a given Inria Center are eligible only for the project teams attached to this Center.

They are indicated in appendix 8 ([page 16](#)).

2. PROPOSAL OF A NEW ASSOCIATE TEAM

- **Application**

It is recommended to discuss with the DRI correspondents in the Inria Centers for setting up the Associate Team project, both on the administrative and scientific aspects.

The list of DRI correspondents in the Inria Centers is available at the following address:

<https://intranet.inria.fr/Inria/Directions/Relations-internationales/DRI/Les-Correspondants>

The project submitted must fall within the framework of the 2025 call (see paragraph "1. 2025 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES" on page 01).

The Inria principal applicant of an Associate Team must be a member of a project team (EP). He/she can be the main Inria leader of a single Associate Team. The 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 document template for the presentation of the scientific project is available:

- [in Word version](#)
- [in Latex version](#)

- **Associate Teams selection process**

The quality of proposals is assessed by an **ad-hoc or existing scientific committee** at each Center. The person in charge of the "Associate Teams" program at the DRI will be invited to participate in the Centers' selection committees as a guest.

The DG, acting on a proposal from the DRI, then uses these assessments to select successful projects.

Selected projects are subject to FSD approval and will only be confirmed once FSD validation has been obtained¹.

The selected projects must be the subject of an agreement between Inria and the partner institution.

¹ Projects submitted to this call for projects will be subject to examination under the PPST (Protection of scientific and technical potential and economic intelligence). More information on this device: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid27031/protection-dupotentielscientifique-et-technique-et-intelligence-economique-ppsthtml>

- **Funding**

Inria awards funding of 7000 to 12 000 EUR per year per Associate Team². These amounts are subject to the overall budget allocated to the DRI after general arbitration and may be revised accordingly. For co-financing, please refer to appendix 7 on page 14.

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

- **Eligible Expenses:**

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

- Exchanges - short and medium-term stays (from a few days to a few weeks) - of researchers, engineers, post-docs, PhD students and trainees*
 - between France and partner countries (including trainees)
 - between the partner country and France
- Organization of joint workshops/work meetings (travel and accommodation expenses)

It is important to leave the possibility of being able to use part of the budget to introduce Inria to young researchers, in particular to strengthen the attractiveness of the establishment. We want the most relevant and balanced distribution possible over the entire 3 years, by promoting the mobility of young researchers, particularly from Inria.

- **Ineligible Expenses:**

This budget does not cover:

- Registration fees and participation in conferences*
- Scholarships or internship allowances
- Purchase of equipment
- Publication costs

More generally, expenses which are not indicated in the "Eligible expenses" section are therefore ineligible.

- * **Special case of trainees:**

- *The budget may be used for travel and short or medium-term stays of trainees from an Inria team to the partner.*
- *Due to national regulations governing internship bonuses, it is not possible for the Institute to cover the travel costs of an intern (under an internship agreement) to an Inria team.*
- *The budget of an Associate Team cannot be used to pay a stipend for interns from the partner institution hosted by Inria teams. The Associate Team principal investigators may, however, submit a request for support for the hosting of an internship under the Inria Department of International Relations "Internships" program. Applications for this program are made throughout the year on the DRISI platform (<https://drisi.inria.fr/internshipSujet/new/1>). Although funding is not automatically granted (this is a selective program with a defined budget), support for internships within the framework of an Associate Team is identified as a priority for the program.*

² Up to 12,000 euros/year for the first two years for Associate Teams outside Europe and up to 9,000 euros/year for Associate Teams in Europe, up to 10,000 euros/year for the third year for Associate Teams outside Europe and up to 7,000 euros/year for Associate Teams in Europe

*Special case of joint workshops organized on the sidelines of a conference:

As we are all concerned with reducing the carbon footprint, if several members of the various partners of the Associate Team meet at a conference in one of the partner countries, optimizing your trip to carry out a joint workshop is encouraged by the DRI. As such, all costs linked to the conference remain to be charged to the budget of the Inria project team, however travel and accommodation costs linked to the joint workshop can be charged to the budget of the Inria project team.

A user guide for the 2025 budget will be available at the beginning of 2025 and sent to the Associate Teams for more details regarding the use and allocation of the budget. For your information, you can consult the 2024 budget notice [here](#)

3. CALENDAR

- **Inria**

July 2024	Launch of the call
July 15, 2024 - 13:30 to 14:30 hrs	Information webinar about the program for Inria PTs
September 16, 2024 - 13:30 to 14:30 hrs	Information webinar about the program for Inria PTs
October 17, 2024	Submission deadline for the general call and submissions on the Inria side within the framework of specific calls
October-December 2024	Evaluation of proposals
January/February 2025	Official decision and notification of results and budget decision

- **Specific calls and complementary funding**

Attention! These calls for proposals and complementary funding require a **double submission** (to Inria and to the partner). Partners must ensure that they comply with the submission procedures and timetable established by their funding agency or institution.

For partners in India, please refer to the specific call with DST- CEFIPRA	Timetable and conditions to be indicated by the partner
Brazilian research support foundation of São Paulo (FAPESP)	Timetable and conditions to be indicated by the partner

For specific calls and additional funding: please refer to appendix 7 on [page 14](#).

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Follow-up**

Any change in circumstances having an impact on the running of the Associate Team must be reported as soon as possible to the DRI's International Programs Manager (change of leader on the Inria side or on the partner side, EP of affiliation, etc.).

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

- **Information requests**

For further information or questions, we invite you to contact the International Programs 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 program 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 subject relevant to both institutions.

Associate Team projects with the DFKI are eligible for the 2025 campaign. As the partnership aims to extend its collaborations in Japan, submissions involving a partner from Japan are eligible under this call.

Inria-CISPA (Germany)

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

All CISPA departments are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program as part of the Inria-CISPA partnership.

Inria-ECDF (Germany)

Inria and ECDF (Einstein Center Digital Future) signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2023 with the aim of promoting scientific exchanges and developing joint research projects in areas related to digital sciences in the Berlin-Potsdam region..

All establishments based in Berlin and Potsdam are eligible for the program. Applications involving ECDF member institutions are particularly encouraged.

Inria-CWI (Netherlands)

The CWI (Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica) and Inria have a long history of cooperation and scientific dialogue, the two institutes recently 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 research fields are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of the Inria-CWI partnership.

Inria-Simula (Norway)

Inria and Simula Research Laboratory, a research organization in Norway (<https://www.simula.no>), signed an agreement at the end of 2020 with the intention of building a partnership that aims to develop collaborations in HPC, Intelligent Systems, Cardiac Modeling, 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" program within the framework of the Inria-Simula partnership.

Inria-London (United Kingdom)

Inria and UCL (*University College of London*) signed an agreement at the end of 2019 to strengthen and structure the impact of scientific collaborations between the institute and its London partners, first and foremost UCL, particularly around the themes of artificial intelligence, machine learning and statistics, as well as all scientific fields of interest to Inria.

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

UCL departments in Inria's research areas are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of Inria-London. As the program is set to grow, submissions for Associate Teams with other London partners, as well as with Cambridge and Oxford universities, are also eligible under the 2025 call.

Inria-EPFL (Switzerland)

Inria and EPFL (*École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne*) have been working together since 2015 on issues of common interest, linked to new uses of the Internet, particularly those of applications linked to Big Data and the Cloud. All scientific fields of interest to Inria are eligible. <https://project.inria.fr/epfl-Inria/>

All EPFL faculties in Inria research areas are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the Inria-EPFL framework, for a bilateral project. It is also possible for Inria PTs to join forces to submit an Associate Team project via a sponsoring PT, 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 links with Inria teams and develop new collaborations.

Associate Team projects with any Canadian partner (a university or also a research center such as *Fields Institute, Vector Institute, MILA, AMII, IVADO*) are eligible for the 2025 campaign, without thematic restrictions.

Projects with the University of Waterloo in the areas of *Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Digital Health, Cybersecurity* are particularly encouraged.

Inria@SiliconValley (United States)

The Inria@SiliconValley program, 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 California research institutions are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within Inria@SiliconValley, without thematic restrictions.

Appendix 3: Latin America

Projects associating IRD and CIRAD are particularly encouraged.

Inria Brazil

Created in 2020 on the basis of a partnership between Inria and LNCC (*Laboratório Nacional de Computação Científica*), the Brazilian national scientific computing laboratory based in Petrópolis), the Inria Brazil program, through the coordination of a network of Brazilian partners, aims to develop and strengthen collaborations between Inria, LNCC and other research and innovation partners in the country.

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

Associate Team projects with the LNCC and/or another Brazilian research and innovation partner (university, research foundation, and involving a company) are eligible for the 2025 campaign, without thematic restrictions.

Projects in the fields of *HPC, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Scientific Computing* are particularly encouraged.

Inria Chile

Created in 2012, Inria Chile aims to structure and strengthen scientific collaborations in digital sciences and technologies between Inria teams and those of Chilean universities, while promoting increased collaboration with the industry.

<https://www.inria.cl/en>

All Chilean academic partners are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of Inria Chile.

Appendix 4: Asia and Oceania

Japan

Japan is a target country in the Institute's international strategy. Cooperation agreements are in progress 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 with Japanese partners are eligible for the 2025 campaign.

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.

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*), with which a cooperation agreement has been in operation since December 2020. Complementary to KAIST, ETRI (*Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute*) is also a partner, with an agreement signed in November 2021, as well as KISTI (*Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information*), with an agreement signed in June 2023.

All Associate Team projects with Korean actors are eligible as part of the 2025 campaign. Associate Team projects with the following Korean actors are particularly encouraged as part of the 2025 campaign, without thematic restrictions: KAIST, ETRI, KISTI, POSTECH (*Pohang University of Science and Technology*) and SNU (*Seoul National University*).

India

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

All Associate Team projects with Indian actors are eligible as part of the 2025 campaign. Projects with IIT Delhi (*Indian Institute of Technology Delhi*) as well as the IISc (*Indian Institute of Science Bangalore*) are particularly encouraged.

Singapore

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

All Associate Team projects with academic or research partners in Singapore are eligible for the 2025 campaign. Projects with NTU (*Nanyang Technological University*) in artificial intelligence, as well as with A*STAR (*Agency for Science, Technology and Research*) in all Inria fields are particularly encouraged.

Australia

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

All Associate Team projects with Australian partners are eligible as part of the 2025 campaign. Projects with universities in the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide regions are particularly encouraged.

Taiwan

Taiwan is an exploratory zone.

All Associate Team projects with actors from Taiwan are eligible as part of the 2025 campaign.

Appendix 5: Africa and Middle East

LIRIMA (Africa)

The LIRIMA (*International Laboratory for Research in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics*), created at the end of 2009 by Inria and seven other institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and Maghreb countries, is the result of close collaboration between researchers from Inria and research institutions in these countries.

To support the development of new actions, submissions from institutions in African countries that are not currently LIRIMA partners are also accepted as part of the 2025 campaign.

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

All Inria's fields are eligible, and special attention will be given to projects associating IRD and CIRAD, and to frugal digital technology.

Israel

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

All Israeli academic partners are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program. Projects in the field of artificial intelligence are particularly encouraged.

Appendix 6: Multizone

JLESC (AmNorth America / Asia / Europe)

The JLESC (*Joint Laboratory for Extreme Scale Computing*), focuses on the development of algorithms and software for high-performance computing on supercomputers and large-scale distributed computing infrastructures. The founding partners of JLESC are Inria and the University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign UIUC (USA). Other members are ANL- Argonne National Laboratory (USA), BSC- Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Spain), JSC- Jülich Supercomputing Center (Germany), and 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 JLESC framework can be submitted with all JLESC members: UIUC (USA), ANL (USA), BSC (Spain), JSC (Germany), Riken CCS (Japan) and UTK (USA) only within the scientific scope of the JLESC.

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.

Attention! These calls and complementary funding require a double submission (to Inria and the partner). Partners must ensure that they comply with the submission procedures and timetable established by their funding agency or institution.

For the 2025 campaign, specific calls are launched with DST-CEFIPRA for India and the Brazilian Foundation for Research Support of the State of São Paulo (FAPESP).

→ **(Calendar and details to be specified) Call with the Franco-Indian Center 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 DST-CEFIPRA co-funding, Associate Teams must align with one of the themes that will be published soon.

As part of the specific agreement with DST-CEFIPRA, co-selected Associate Teams with India may receive a total funding of at least 20,000 euros per year for three years (at least 10,000 euros per year from Inria funding and the equivalent from DST-CEFIPRA).

The link to the DST-CEFIPRA call text will be shared with International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as it is known.

→ **(Calendar and details to be specified) Additional funding from the Brazilian São Paulo State Research Support Foundation (FAPESP).**

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

Only researchers from the State of São Paulo are eligible.

The information will be transmitted to the International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as the call for the FAPESP SPRINT program is broadcast.



Appendix 8: Local Priorities

The local priorities indicated for a given Inria Center are eligible only for the Project Teams attached to this Center.

If no restrictions are specified, the local priorities indicated for a given Center are open to all Project Teams of this Center.

When the priority indicated is an alliance of establishments, each establishment in this alliance is eligible

→ Inria Center of the University of Bordeaux

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



→ Inria Center of Grenoble Alpes University

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



→ Inria Center of the University of Lille

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



→ Inria Lyon Center

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



→ Inria Center of the University of Lorraine

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


→ Inria Paris Center

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

→ Inria Center of the University of Rennes

-  Alliance européenne EDUC (<https://www.educalliance.eu/>)
The above priority is only open to teams totally or partially from Rennes
-  European Alliance EULiST (<https://eulist.university/>)
The above priority is only open to teams linked to IMT (GALLINETTE & STACK), Rennes team ERMINE, Renno-Brest team ODYSSEY as well as any new joint team with IMT

→ Inria Saclay Center

-  University of Cordoba – Argentina (<https://www.unc.edu.ar/>)
The above priority is only open to teams from the Inria Center at IP Paris

- ✚ 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/>)
The above priority is only open to teams from the Inria Center at Paris Saclay University

→ **Inria Center of the University of Côte d'Azur**

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