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# « Reshaping the French Higher Education Funding system to improve its efficiency ? »

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# The French higher education and research systems : a double dichotomy

## Higher Education Institutions : Universities vs Schools

**2 551 100 students**

**73 public universities (63% of students)**

Professionally oriented degrees, research oriented degrees  
Doctoral education and award of the PhD degree

**34 engineering schools**

**65.000 students**

**40 other HEI I, the field of the ministry**

**93.000 students**





The French higher education and research systems : a double dichotomy

## **Public Research System : Universities vs Organisms**

**73 public universities**

**11 State Sectorial Research Institutes**

CNRS, INSERM, INRA, CEA...





# The French higher education and research systems : a double dichotomy

## Public expenditure



170.000 staff in 2016 for HE  
+ 73.000 dedicated only for research

+ 5 000 jobs from 2013 to 2017

The Nation has spent € 26 billion on HE in 2015

The budget for 2016 provides for € 26,2 billion

In 2014, average expenditure per student : € 11.560



**1**

**France has moved toward a performance and excellence oriented funding system**



# Toward an excellence oriented funding system

1

...major milestones :

1976



## The first allocation system

(GARACES) inspired by the rational public choice approach

A formula based on cost analysis

1990



## A new allocation system (SANREMO)

A model based upon activity related costs



# 1

## Toward an excellence oriented funding system

...major milestones :

2005

Creation of the  
**National research agency**

→ 10.000 projects funded in 2012



2007

A new law about  
**university autonomy**  
(university responsibility and  
liberty)

→ 103 HEI gradually became  
autonomous until 2012

→ € 9 billion transferred

→ Campus operation



# Toward an excellence oriented funding system

1

...major milestones :

2009

2010

## A new allocation model (SYMPA)

A formula based on activity and  
performance  
€ 2 billion involved



## 1<sup>st</sup> Excellence scheme

€ 35 billion including € 22 billion  
for research and learning

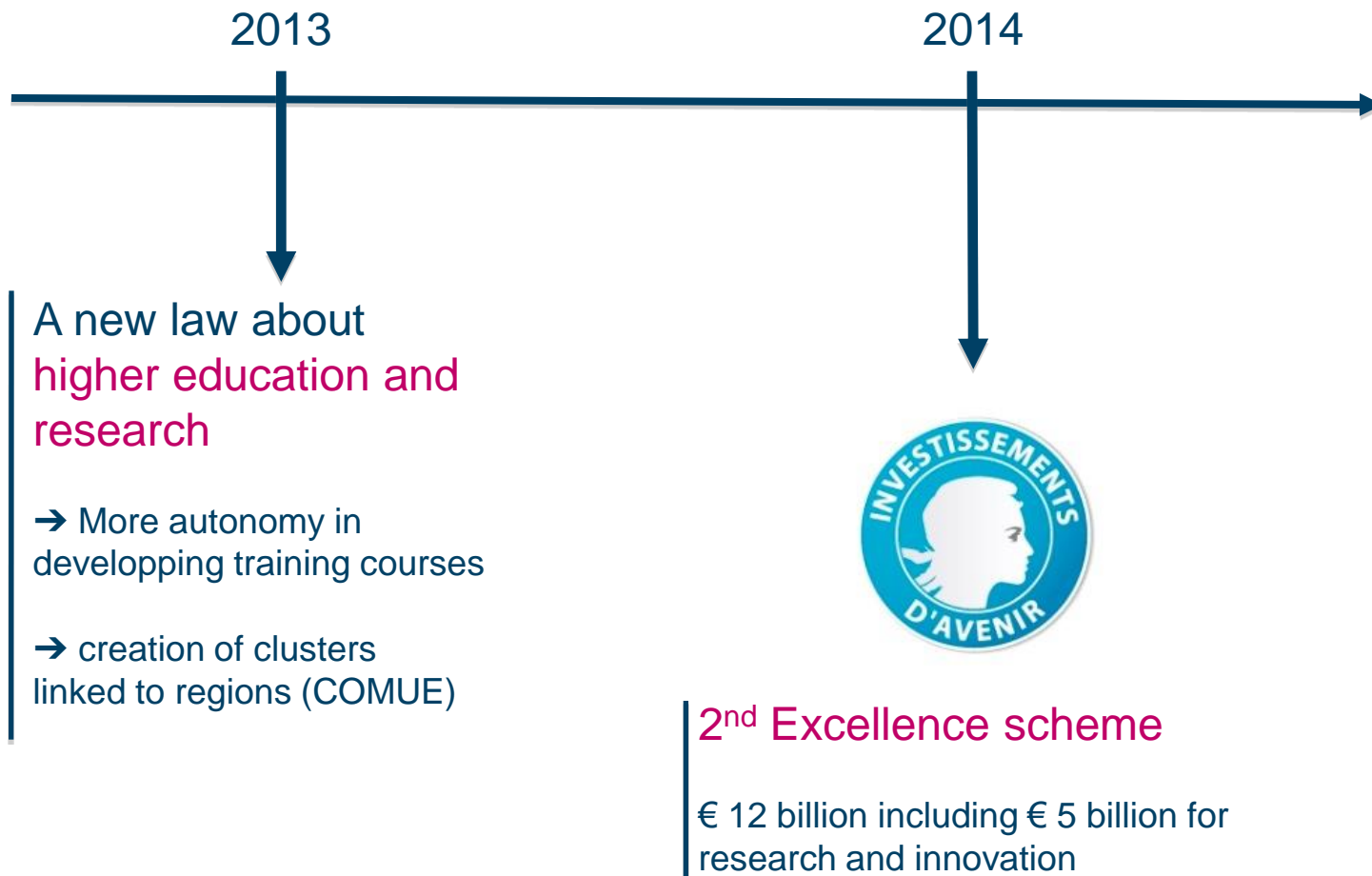




# Toward an excellence oriented funding system

1

...major milestones :





# Toward an excellence oriented funding system

...major milestones :



A new allocation system and new performance contract design for engineering schools (MODAL)

New indicators, new perspectives  
€ 0,8 billion involved (payrolls)



3<sup>rd</sup> Excellence scheme

€ 10 billion including € 5,9 billion for teaching, research and innovation



# 2

## Performance based-funding : the 2015 new model for engineering schools



# Performance based-funding

2

Research institutions  
salaries and running costs

€ 7,1 billion  
73.000 employees

For instance :



AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE  
**ANR**

National research agency :  
funding body  
€ 0,6 billion

Others programmes  
(military, industry,  
culture..):  
€ 2,9 billion  
13.350 employees

HEI  
salaries  
of teachers and  
researchers and  
running costs

€ 12 billion paid by  
autonomous HEI  
164.000  
employees

86% salaries  
12% running costs  
2% real estate

HEI : € 0,5 billion  
salaries paid by  
the State  
7000 employees

Scholarships  
€ 2,5 billion

State-region  
contracts (CPER)  
Real estate investments

€ 3,5 billion  
financed by regions  
(on 6 years : 2015-2020)

**26 billion**  
**270.000**  
**employees**  
**Voted by**  
**Parliament**



1<sup>st</sup> Excellence  
scheme

€ 22 billion

2<sup>nd</sup> Excellence  
scheme, in 2014  
€ 5 billion

3<sup>rd</sup> Excellence  
scheme, in 2016  
€ 5,9 billion



Campus  
Real estate investments

€ 5 billion



**In 2009, the new allocation formula, called « SYMPA » :**

- it introduces funding on performance
- it covers both higher education and research
- it calculates theoretical endowment for all universities, leading to benchmark : some are « overfunded » and others « underfunded » relative to each other

But SYMPA is only dedicated to functioning funding : € 2 billion

# 2

## Performance based-funding

It covers both higher education and research, activity and performance (€ 2 billion) :

	Education	Research	Total
Activity	60 %	20 %	80 %
Performance	5 %	15 %	20 %
Total	65 %	35 %	100 %

For instance :

- «Weighted number of students who really sit for an exam » / activity
- « added-value of diploma » / performance



## 2

## Performance based-funding

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Total	65 %	35 %	100 %

For instance :

- « weighted number of producing researchers » / activity
- « weighted by the mark given to the laboratories » (from A+ to C) /performance



# 2

## Performance based-funding

### → Strengths

More structured relationship with the institutions  
On the basis of transparent criteria

The performance criteria have had positive effects :  
example of increasing share of faculty producing

Strong differentiation in funding distribution (flux) :  
average increase of funding per HEI between 5 to 50 %

### → Weaknesses

Insufficient consideration of singularities of the universities?

SYMPA doesn't include payroll credit





## **2015 : a performance based funding renewed**

Steering committee with stakeholders

The aims :

- a still performance-based model
- a clear and efficient allocation system
- consistent with the new HE panorama

The new model entered into force on January 2015 but only for engineering schools (the model wasn't accepted by stakeholders for universities) : 800 million, 6% of the funds for HE

Conclusion

A funding mix consistent  
with national objectives

