

Pascale Briand joins the Governing Board of Science Europe

On Thursday 21st November, Pascale Briand, Director General of ANR, the French National Research Agency, was elected to the Governing Board of Science Europe, the association that represents the European research performing organisations and research funding agencies. This appointment reaffirms the position of France in the funding of project-based research in Europe.

Europe is a priority for ANR, which attaches great importance to increasing the visibility and influence of French research. ANR actively participates in the various funding instruments of the European Union under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and the forthcoming Horizon 2020 programme. It coordinates four ERA-NET initiatives and puts out regular calls for proposals in partnership with its European counterparts, thereby facilitating the collaborative work of French researchers within the European Research Area (ERA). Since 2006, ANR has co-funded nearly 640 projects with European partners, which represents 6.5% of all projects funded.

ANR has been a member of Science Europe since 2011. Created under Belgian law, the Science Europe association federates the European research funding agencies and research performing organisations with the aim of promoting the collective interests of research and research funding in Europe. Its action underpins the European Research Area (ERA) through its direct commitment with ERA's key stakeholders. Under the chairmanship of Paul Boyle, the association renewed its governing board for two years at its annual General Assembly of 21st November.

The appointment of Pascale Briand to the governing board of Science Europe will reinforce the position and visibility of French research on the European scene and enhance the status of ANR as one of the major funding agencies.

ANR provides funding for project-based research. Employing a method based on competitive peer reviews that complies with international standards, ANR attaches great importance to providing the scientific community with instruments and conditions that promote creativity and openness and stimulate new ideas and partnerships, particularly between the public and private sectors. Its activity also contributes to enhancing the competitiveness and the influence of French research in Europe and across the world. Since 2010, ANR has also been the principal operator of the Investments for the Future programme in the field of higher education and research. In this role it ensures the selection, funding and monitoring of projects relating to the centres of excellence, health, biotechnologies, and the transfer of technology and the creation of value from research.

Project-based funding, a predominant approach in all the major knowledge-producing countries, has enabled ANR to enhance the competitiveness of French research. It effectively speeds up research in priority scientific areas, enabling the top teams of researchers to focus on the major knowledge-building challenges and on the societal issues identified in the French and European strategic agendas. A source of creativeness and innovation, it also facilitates collaborative work between teams from different disciplines and between public and private entities to achieve common goals.

www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/en / <http://www.scienceeurope.org/>

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