

## SME-related policy measures adopted, implemented or announced in 2021

# FRANCE

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<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>						
Plan "France 2030"	Plan "France 2030"	Several ministries	No	Announced	12/10/2021	<p>"France 2030" is an investment plan aiming at bringing out future technological champions and supporting the transitions of the French economy for sectors of excellence such as: energy, automotive, aeronautics or even space.</p> <p>The total budget is €34 billion over 5 years (2022-2027). By far, this is the largest investment plan compared to previous years, especially if considering that the 4<sup>th</sup> investment plan (€20 billion) is running in parallel from 2021 to 2026. The entity in charge of managing the plan will also be</p>

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						<p>reviewed to target better "disruptive innovations".</p> <p><a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-2030-un-plan-d-investissement-pour-la-france-de-demain">https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-2030-un-plan-d-investissement-pour-la-france-de-demain</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/le-programme-d-investissements-d-avenir">https://www.gouvernement.fr/le-programme-d-investissements-d-avenir</a></p>
Loi Climat et Résilience	Climate and Resilience Law	The Ministry of Ecological Transition	No	Adopted	24/08/2021	<p>With more than 300 articles, the law is supporting the ecological transition through different dimensions ranging from consumption to housing, and including travel. The law aims at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2030 (compared to 1990) while having a fair transition for all citizens.</p> <p>The law is based on a report prepared by an expert group called "la convention citoyenne pour le climat" and composed of 150 citizens randomly selected. SMEs will be impacted in various ways: from more work for renovation of public and private buildings to more opportunities for start-ups in the green business.</p>

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<b>SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>						
<b>DIGITALISATION</b> (e.g. Digital Innovation Hubs, training, vouchers, grants or loans for digitalisation and to invest in new digital equipment, etc.)						
<b>INNOVATION</b> (e.g. vouchers, grants or loans for R&D and innovation, support to encourage SMEs to commercialise RTD results and to acquire patents, etc.)						
Deuxième phase de la stratégie nationale pour l'IA	Second phase of the national strategy for AI	Bpifrance (the one stop shop for entrepreneurs)	No	Announced	10/11/2021	<p>The objective is for France to be one of the world leaders in AI. Networks of interdisciplinary artificial intelligence institutes, excellence chairs in AI, doctoral programs, and investment in the computing capacities of public research will be supported. Open calls for SMEs will also be conducted. The budget for the second phase stands at €2,22 billion for five years with €1,5 billion from public funds and €506 million from private cofunding.</p> <p> <a href="https://www.bpifrance.com">https://www.bpifrance.com</a>   <a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/la-strategie-nationale-pour-lintelligence-artificielle">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/la-strategie-nationale-pour-lintelligence-artificielle</a>   <a href="https://www.bpifrance.fr/nos-appels-a-projets-">https://www.bpifrance.fr/nos-appels-a-projets-</a> </p>

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						<a href="#">concours/appel-a-projets-maturation-technologique-et-demonstration-de-solutions-dintelligence-artificielle-embarquee</a>
<b>SKILLS</b> (e.g. vocational education and training, forecasting skill needs, measures to adapt the vocational training systems to the requirements of the labour market, etc.).						
Amplification de la formation professionnelle	Increasing vocational training	Ministry of Labour, employment and inclusion	No	Announced	27/09/2021	In addition to existing actions such as PIC (the 2018-2022 investment plan for competencies), the government aims at increasing the number of people trained in sectors characterised by labour shortage: hotel-coffee-restaurant, construction, industry, health and the elderly, transport and logistics as well as trade. Together, nearly 300,000 jobs are to be filled. The budget is €1.4 billion for this additional action over two years: 2021-22. <a href="https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/le-ministere-en-action/pic/">https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/le-ministere-en-action/pic/</a> ; <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/formation-professionnelle-la-cle-du-retour-a-l-emploi">https://www.gouvernement.fr/formation-professionnelle-la-cle-du-retour-a-l-emploi</a>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN</b>						
Plan indépendants	Plan for the self-employed	Government	No	Announced	16/09/2021	The plan proposes 20 actions helping the self-employed during their journey. For example, a single statute (instead of two) will better

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						protect the personal assets of the self-employed. The simplification and expansion of the allowance for the self-employed will facilitate their retraining. Appropriate tax measures will boost the transfer and takeover of a business. A single website will better guide them toward their administrative steps. <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2021/09/20210916_dp_plan_independants.pdf">https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2021/09/20210916_dp_plan_independants.pdf</a>
<b>REGULATORY OBSTACLES</b>						
<b>ACCESS TO FINANCE</b> (including guarantee schemes, public funding programmes, support for alternative financing and equity financing, favourable legal, tax and regulatory frameworks for investments, fiscal incentives)						
Prolongation des Prêts Garantis par l'Etat (PGE)	Extension of the State Guaranteed Loan (PGE)	Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and banks	Yes	Implemented	18/11/2021	The objective is to support SMEs hit by the COVID 19 crisis. As part of the recovery plan, the state guaranteed loans (PGE) support banks financing companies, for up to €300 billion. No repayment is required in the 1st year – and the company can choose to depreciate the loan over a maximum period of 5 years. The distribution of the PGE should have been ended in June 2021, but it has been extended to June 2022.

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Nouveaux dispositifs de soutien aux entreprises	New business support actions	Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and banks	Yes	Implemented	02/06/2021	The objective is to support SMEs hit by the COVID 19 crisis. In addition to actions extended to the end of 2021, a number of financial actions are implemented such as: solidarity fund, support fixed cost of companies, help with stocks, partial activity, and assistance with the payment of social contributions and contributions. <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/de-nouveaux-dispositifs-de-soutien-aux-entreprises">https://www.gouvernement.fr/de-nouveaux-dispositifs-de-soutien-aux-entreprises</a>
<b>LATE PAYMENTS</b> (measures aimed at addressing late payments)						
<b>ACCESS TO MARKETS</b> (e.g. market-specific support and business training activities, export credit insurance, missions – covering both the Single market and third countries)						
<b>START-UP ENVIRONMENT</b>						
French Tech Green20	French Tech Green20	La French Tech	No	Implemented	03/05/21	The objective is to identify and support the growth of future technological leaders in their ecological transition. The 20 start-ups were selected mostly on the basis of their environmental impact as well as their ability to develop rapidly and on a large scale. They will

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						<p>be included in an acceleration programme for one year. The green rooster is pursuing a similar strategy for early-stage start-ups.</p> <p><a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/transition-ecologique-startup-greentech-frenchtech-green20">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/transition-ecologique-startup-greentech-frenchtech-green20</a> ; <a href="https://evenements.bpifrance.fr/jour-e/content/communaute-du-coq-vert">https://evenements.bpifrance.fr/jour-e/content/communaute-du-coq-vert</a></p>
<b>SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT</b>						
Augmentation du Plan deep tech	Deep Tech plan increased	Bpifrance	No	Implemented	15/03/2021	<p>The long-term objective is to reach 500 new deep-tech start-ups per year by 2023. Launched in 2019 with a budget of €2.5 billion, the deep tech plan aims at making France a deep tech nation. In March 2021, Bpifrance announced to double the number of start-ups supported to follow the high number of submissions to 200 yearly (400 already supported with an objective of 1500 by 2023). The actions are: 1/ stimulate creation, 2/ support growth and 3/ boost innovation ecosystems in the regions and by sector.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bpifrance.fr/nos-actualites/plan-deeptech-3-chiffres-2-ans-un-seul">https://www.bpifrance.fr/nos-actualites/plan-deeptech-3-chiffres-2-ans-un-seul</a></p>

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Forum "Choose France"	"Choose France" summit	Head of state and prime minister	No	Implemented	28/06/2021	<p>The fourth edition of the "Choose France" summit allows the Government to promote French territories and assets to foreign investors. The first three editions resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 35 projects (€6.5 billion);</li> <li>- 20 projects are completed and 14 are in the process of being deployed;</li> <li>- nearly 30,000 jobs have been created.</li> </ul> <p>The 2021 edition announced 22 projects accounting for the creation of 7,000 jobs.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/choose-france-le-sommet-sur-l-attractivite-francaise">https://www.gouvernement.fr/choose-france-le-sommet-sur-l-attractivite-francaise</a></p>
<b>NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS</b>						
Plan Destination France	Destination France plan	State Secretary for Tourism & Minister Delegate for Small and Medium-sized Enterprise	No	Announced	22/11/2021	<p>Hardly hit by the pandemic, the plan<sup>1</sup> sets a 10 years trajectory for the tourism sector to rebound and remain the first holiday destination. The tourism sector is mostly made of SMEs. The plan should help to: recruit talents through a</p>



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						communication campaign and other actions (currently facing labour shortages), provide targeted state aid, spread digital and ecological support, and organise community support. The total budget is €1.9 billion. Since March 1st 2020, the government has supported the sector with a total of €38 billion. <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/destination-france-le-plan-de-reconquete-et-de-transformation-du-tourisme">https://www.gouvernement.fr/destination-france-le-plan-de-reconquete-et-de-transformation-du-tourisme</a> ; <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2021/11/dossier_de_pre_sse_-_destination_france_-_plan_de_reconquete_et_de_transformation_du_tourisme_-_20.11.2021.pdf">https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2021/11/dossier_de_pre_sse_-_destination_france_-_plan_de_reconquete_et_de_transformation_du_tourisme_-_20.11.2021.pdf</a>
Industrie du recyclage	Recycling industry	The Ministry of Ecological Transition and ADEME agency (the agency for ecological transition)	No	Announced	17/09/2021	To increase recycling and the circular economy, the ministry has announced investments amounting to €370 million additional (€200 million were committed for the recovery plan). The focus is on 5 priority sectors: plastics; composite materials; textiles; strategic metals; paper and cardboard. Call for proposal will be issued by ADEME which prescribes the collaboration with at least one SME.

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						<a href="https://agirpourlatransition.ademe.fr/entreprises/aides-financieres/20210728/pia4-rrr2021-153">https://agirpourlatransition.ademe.fr/entreprises/aides-financieres/20210728/pia4-rrr2021-153</a> ; <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/370-meu-pour-renforcer-l-industrie-du-recyclage">https://www.gouvernement.fr/370-meu-pour-renforcer-l-industrie-du-recyclage</a> ; <a href="https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/strategie-acceler-recyclage-et-transition-vers-economie-circulaire">https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/strategie-acceler-recyclage-et-transition-vers-economie-circulaire</a>
<b>OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS</b> (e.g. second chance for honest bankrupt entrepreneurs, bankruptcy prevention, entrepreneurship education, public procurement)						