CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2022

Background

The DATAIA Institute – the AI institute of Université Paris-Saclay – is the French convergence institute dedicated to data science, artificial intelligence and the impact of their applications on society. It gathers more than 1000 researchers and professors from twelve institutions(see Appendix 2) and has an industrial affiliate program that enables Université Paris-Saclay academics and industrial actors in data sciences and AI research to work on projects of mutual interest.

Selected by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the "Investments for the Future" programs, DATAIA aims to:
- Structure a wide multidisciplinary expertise so as to produce new knowledge;
- Develop training, courses, master and doctoral programs that encourage multidisciplinary research;
- To promote international and high-level scientific collaborations related to its overarching challenges (https://www.dataia.eu/en/institute/overarching-challenges).

The DATAIA Institute supports research in data sciences, AI and their impacts on society through its annual "Call for Research Projects".

Scientific scope and objectives

Project proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the objectives of DATAIA Institute and in particular to the structuring of the fields of data science and artificial intelligence within Université Paris-Saclay. As a result, all proposals must fit into at least one of the four main challenges of DATAIA and can impact an application domain (see Appendix 1).

Terms of project proposal submissions

This call is restricted to teams within the scope of the DATAIA convergence institute. Only the laboratories of the partner institutions listed in the financing agreement can be project holders and managers of the allocated funding (seeAppendix 2). Consortia may have partners outside the founding members of DATAIA, but these will not be financed.

The projects that meet the following criteria will receive a particular

attention:

- projects hosted by two different institutions (see Appendix 2), and two different laboratories of DATAIA;

- projects involving international partners of DATAIA:
  - Alan Turing Institute (UK)
  - IVADO (Canada)
  - JST (Japan)
  - FCAI (Finland)

The aim of this 2022 call is to support DATAIA's actions through the full funding of research projects. The funding covers:

- either the financing of a PhD thesis and a fixed-term contract of 2 years (post-doc or engineer)
- or the funding of two PhD theses, and possibly operating expenses.

Budget requested cannot exceed € 240.000 per project.

Submission process

Project proposals will have a scientific description of the project and a financial appendix. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Proposal format

Project leaders submit a document that includes the following information:

- ACRONYM and title of the project
- Names of laboratories and project leaders and their contact information
- Names of laboratories (or teams) of the convergence institute that will benefit from the funding
- Names, contact details of the scientific and administrative managers within each laboratory (team) of DATAIA partners receiving funds
- Duration and estimated starting and ending dates of the project
- Description of the scientific project (5 pages max.). The description must specify:
  - background of the project and the state of art;
  - objectives of the research work;
  - innovative features, locks and added-value of the project;

o criteria of success;
o possible areas for further research;
o application areas, as well as adequacy with the objectives and over-arching challenges of the Institute.

The following criteria will be used for the evaluation of the project:
- scientific excellence,
- synergy between partner institutions,
- and potential application impact on the chosen subject.

 A response template is available on :
https://www.dataia.eu/sites/default/files/AAP/TemplateAAP_AAP2022.docx

Proposal submission

All project must be submitted on the submission platform :
https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/AAPDATAIA2022

For any questions, please contact: submission-dataia@inria.fr

Closing date for submissions: April 7th, 2022, 23:59 (Paris time).

Selection process

First of all, DATAIA executive committee will examine the eligibility of the projecs.

Then, DATAIA steering committee will preselect eligible projects. They may ask external experts to review the proposals.

At last, DATAIA steering committee will audition the project holders of the pre- selected proposals and chose the projects to be funded. The date of the auditions will be notified to the project managers one week beforehand.

The final decisions will be published on June 7th 2022

Validity of the funding

Selected research projects are funded for a period of 3 years and Funding will be available from September 1st, 2022. Each **funded thesis must start in 2022** and **be completed by 31/12/2025**.

Project acceptance and commitments

When the project is accepted, CVs of the selected candidates for PhD, post-

doc or engineer positions should be sent to the Convergence Institute as soon as possible. Selected candidates for PhD occupations are required to get the approval from PhD schools to hold these positions. Project leaders agree to use the funding as described in the project proposals validated by the DATAIA steering committee, and to report on the scientific activity and expenses annually. At the end of the project, they will give DATAIA Institute areport that will summarize the achievements and all publications done within the project duration.

All **beneficiaries of support** from the convergence institute **must include the following acknowledgement in all scientific communications** related to the funded activities:

This research was supported by DATAIA Convergence Institute as part of the « Programme d'Investissement d'Avenir », (ANR-17-CONV-0003) operated by [DATAIA Partner] XXX.

If the convergence institute considers that the funding has not been used in accordance with the objectives stated in the project proposals, a refund may be requested. Similarly, unused funding must be paid back by the partner institution.

Appendix 1
Subject areas

The scientific program of each proposal should explicitly address at least one of the four interdisciplinary challenges of DATAIA. See http://dataia.eu/en/institute/overarching-challenges

Projects may address topics more specific to application areas. A non-exhaustive list of these areas is available on link below. However, it is requested that projects address data science issues of general interest and are not restricted specifically to a field of application. See http://dataia.eu/en/application-domains

Appendix 2
List of DATAIA partners

AgroParisTech

CentraleSupélec

CEA Saclay

CNRS Saclay

ENS Paris-Saclay

IFP Energies-Nouvelles

Inria-Saclay

Institut Mines-Télécom Business School

INRAE

Université d'Evry-Val-d'Essonne

Université Paris-Saclay

Université Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines