# SI Doctorat INRAE: collecting data to build policies and distribute opportunities

EUA-CDE Annual meeting

UPB, Barcelona, 26-28 June 2024

Dr. Irina VASSILEVA, Doctoral Education Strategy, INRAE



### > A glimpse of Higher Education and Research in France

French research policy is conducted by the Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

It defines the main **orientations** and allocates **resources**.

- Public Research is conducted by operators
  - Universities and other HEI => enroll and graduate students, including doctoral candidates
  - **Research bodies** ( **INRA** ) => **host and supervise**, but don't enroll students/doctoral candidates
  - **Other** types of institutions also play a role (ex.: competitiveness clusters, scientific cooperation foundations)

#### • Research units, differents types:

- Specific to a single operator
- Joint : common to two or more operators and/or HEI

### MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ ALIMENTAIRE

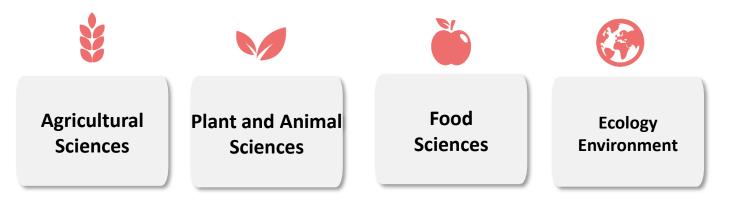
Liberté Égalité Fraternité Under the aegis of the Ministry for Higher Education, and Research and the Ministry for Agriculture and Food Sovereignty





Égalité Fraternité

National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment Started in January 2020, through the merger of INRA and Irstea



European leader in the agriculture, food, environment nexus

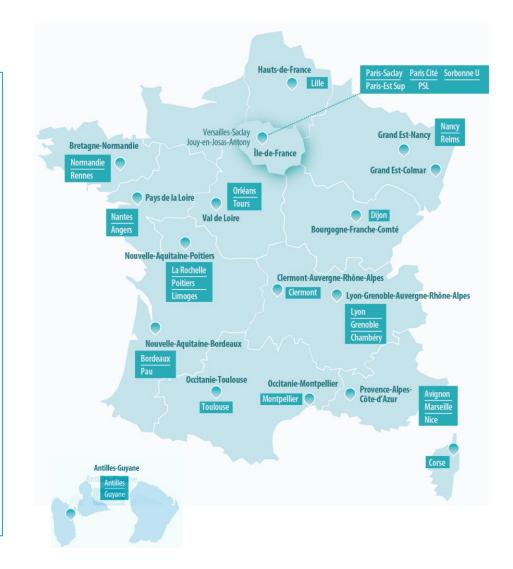




- Community of 12,000 people
- 18 research centers & 14 scientific divisions
- INRAE present on 34 university sites
- 273 research, experimental research and support units
- A significant portion of joint research units => strong links with HEI
- Policy & Action plan : Involvement in Higher Education
- Doctoral Education Strategy: the Doctorate as a major focus & transversal object; Research based Education
- INRAE is connected with

INRA

- 90 doctoral schools
- 40 HEI authorised to award the Doctorate
- INRAE hosts **about 2 500 doctoral candidates** (30% under contract with the Institute)



### > SI Doctorat INRAE project

### WHAT?

### SI Doctorat INRAE is:

- A response to an identified internal need
- An information system that consolidates data on doctoral candidates hosted in joint INRAE-HEI research units
- An action of INRAE's doctoral education policy
- Part of an action plan regarding INRAE's involvement in higher education, launched in 2022

#### WHY?

- A response to an identified internal need
- Offer ever-improved support for DC

### HOW?

- Data transfer from ADUM and AMETHIS, in order to avoid multiple data entries and simplify processes
- Parallel tasks:
  - technical, functional, legal (particularly related to GDPR), and political (relations with academic partners)

#### The transfer of data INRAE requires:

- The agreement of the doctoral candidates' enrollment HEI
- The individual consent of each doctoral candidates

#### $\Rightarrow$ We implemented:

- o 94% political agreements
- Data transfer agreements with ADUM & AMETHIS
- o Internal communication campaign

#### **Categories of collected data:**

- Identification data concerning the PhDs
- Data concerning the thesis
- Data concerning the progress of the doctoral « journey »

### SI Doctorat INRAE: advantages of the approach

### Internally

- INRAE has a database allowing the management of doctoral candidates and their theses
- The system is operational since November 2023

### For INRAE's research units, scientific divisions and regional centers:

- Access to a verified information entered by PhDs, validated by enrollment HEI, and automatically transferred to INRAE
- Possibility to complement imported data
- Access to a unique, user-friendly workspace, allowing the gathering and management of information concerning DC and doctoral theses
- Possibility to perform operational reports for management needs
- Possibility to perform pre-formatted institutional reports
- Possibility to send e-mails to doctoral candidates

### For doctoral candidates:

#### **Receive useful information about**

- Support and training programs offered by INRAE
- Scientific events offer (workshops...) organised by INRAE
- INRAE's financial support for international mobility during the PhD
- Career opportunities

All this without having to re-enter information!

Simplification of processes and data management!

### SI Doctorat INRAE: advantages of the approach

### Externally

- INRAE is the first national research institute in France to have undertaken such an initiative in coordination with all stakeholders -> an inspiration for others?
- Strengthening ties with partners
- Data sharing among stakeholders of the Doctorate in France
- Hope for data convergence at the national level



### SI Doctorat INRAE: key messages

- The development of functionalities follows the political and legal projects which are very important (GDPR)
- The difficulties encountered are ultimately opportunities
- An opportunity to strengthen dialogue with partner HEI and develop relationships around a concrete project
- Mutual trust and shared institutional objectives are the basis of constructive exchanges

SI Doctorat INRAE is a rich and inspiring institutional experience showing that beyond the challenges, positive impacts can be noted at various levels: individual, institutional and inter-institutional

### **THANK YOU!**



## **Open discussion**

Irina VASSILEVA Doctoral Education Strategy INRAE - DESSE irina.vassileva@inrae.fr





SI Doctorat INRAE - EUA-CDE, Barcelona 26-28 June 2024