



Expertise France in **Ukraine**



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70
employees

18
projects
in progress

€61,6 m
overall
financing

Since 2006, Expertise France, a subsidiary of AFD Group, has supported reforms in Ukraine, with a particular focus on the justice, health, and governance sectors. Starting in 2023, France increased the mobilization of its expertise, opening a new chapter in technical cooperation between the countries in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion. The following year marked the official opening of the Expertise France Country Directorate in Ukraine.

In 2025, Expertise France is implementing 18 national and regional projects in the country with a total funding of approximately €62 million. The agency has become a key provider of French expertise, supporting Ukraine as it responds to war challenges, embarks on reconstruction, and prepares for EU accession.

Supporting Ukraine in recovery and the EU integration

Ukraine has been confronting existential challenges in the context of full-scale war and its resolute and determined willingness to join the European Union. The resolution of the European Parliament, adopted on 23 June 2022, calling for immediate granting of candidate status for EU membership to Ukraine marked a significant milestone for the country in its continuous European integration process. However, this path may still require a significant amount of work in terms of adaptation to European requirements and reconstruction. This is quite a task, which Ukraine can overcome only with the support of its European partners.

Expertise France, the second-largest public agency in charge of technical cooperation in Europe, stands in solidarity with Ukrainian partners. The agency identified key sectors to address and propose the best technical solutions to meet the most urgent needs Ukraine is currently facing. Expertise France gathered a strong and highly qualified team of experts in various fields: justice, health, social protection, economic, financial, and local governance, innovation, security, and sustainable development.

2024 was marked by numerous significant achievements and the signing of purposeful agreements, which contribute Ukraine's path towards the EU, despite the war's challenges. The opening of the Country Direction of Expertise France for Ukraine confirmed a particular attention and confidence France has been reassuring to the country. Multiple Ukrainian beneficiaries have been receiving technical support from Expertise France, among which the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, High Council of Justice, the Ministry of Economy, State Audit Service, State Property Fund, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, state enterprise non-lethal defence agency and others.

Cornerstone

mAIDan Program

The program is multi-sectoral technical assistance facility for Ukraine, which aims to support the recovery, reconstruction and European integration of the country. It is funded by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and implemented by Expertise France.

The program marked a new chapter in bilateral technical cooperation between Ukraine and France in the context of the challenges of a full-scale war and Ukraine's acquisition of candidate status for membership in the European Union.

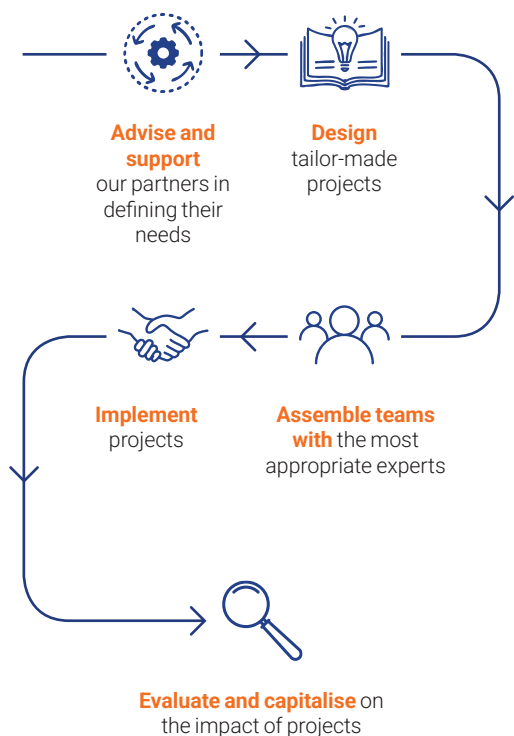
The activities of the program focus on supporting projects in Ukraine in various areas, such as local governance, public administration in the areas of economy and finance, social policy, innovation, security, etc.



mAIDan program identifies the needs and sectors to which French technical assistance to Ukraine should be directed, and also mobilizes technical solutions to meet the most urgent needs and initiate structural cooperation.

Since the start of the program in September 2023, Expertise France has launched and implemented 10 projects and 13 short-term initiatives for a total amount of 11.1 million euros.

How We Work



Our Tools



Methodological and technical advice: diagnostics, recommendations, action plans, etc.



Capacity building: training, coaching, change support



Networking: peer exchanges, study visits, consultation workshops, etc.



Supply of goods, services and works: drawing up specifications, awarding contracts, coordinating work, etc.



Our Impact in 2023-2025





Areas of Intervention

Ensuring Health and Social Protection Services

APPUI HEALTH

The objective of APPUI project is to contribute to improving Ukrainian populations' access to essential healthcare services in times of crisis. The project is delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and in coordination with the Ministry of Health of France. The project focuses on three main thematic:

- Mobilization of French expertise including in priority sectors through Hospital Cooperation, subventions to Implementing Partners, support to National Healthcare Authorities
- Rehabilitation and modernisation of healthcare infrastructure
- Provision of specialized medical equipment & Emergency Fund

The project is aligned with France's main priorities for the healthcare sector in Ukraine, including physical rehabilitation, mental health, surgical care including maxillofacial reconstruction, antimicrobial resistance and oncology. APPUI serves as an engagement platform to enhance French and Ukrainian public cooperation in the healthcare sector.

STIYKIST

The aim of the project is to help improve access to employment and quality social protection services in the context of the war in Ukraine, particularly for vulnerable groups of people. The two main dimensions of the project are providing access to social protection services for children with disabilities and developing of new vocational training in key sectors for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

REHAB

REHAB project aims to support Ukraine in maintaining and strengthening its healthcare system to address the consequences of the conflict on the physical and mental health of Ukrainians. Activities are designed around enhancing mental health services and infrastructure in the Odesa region; strengthening physical rehabilitation efforts and infrastructure, while also emphasizing broader capacity-building initiatives across Ukraine with national and international partners through grants, supporting Franco-Ukrainian hospital cooperation; and identifying and conducting feasibility studies to support local communities in the development of Health strategies and prepare for concessional loan opportunities.

L'INITIATIVE

L'Initiative is a French instrument that complements the work of the Global Fund. It aims to accelerate the fight against major pandemics and help countries improve access to high-quality healthcare services. Since 2022, as part of the response to the war in Ukraine and its health consequences, the Initiative's steering committee launched a 8 projects of total value of €9 million Ukraine HIV and Tuberculosis Emergency Fund.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- Support associations to implement emergency activities for the winter period;
- Ensure continuity of care for the Ukrainian population, particularly the most vulnerable and key populations (primary healthcare, maternal and child healthcare, adolescent healthcare, mental health, specific care and treatment for HIV infection and tuberculosis). ;
- Prevent the health of populations from deteriorating too much by acting on the determinants of health in emergency situations: shelter and protection, provision of essential equipment.



EU PROJECT PRAVO-JUSTICE

EU Project Pravo-Justice, funded by the EU and co-funded by France, a technical assistance project implemented by Expertise France. After the victory of the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine, EU Project Pravo-Justice became one of the drivers in promoting the rule of law in Ukraine, aligning the country's legislative framework with European standards, developing a strategic vision of reforms, in particular judicial reform, effective enforcement of judgments, etc. It not only contributes to disseminating European practices in the Ukrainian justice system and providing constant expert support to judicial authorities, but also acts as a catalyst for change, laying the foundation for Ukraine's integration into the EU.

Its key components are:

- Prosecutorial Reform and Prosecution for International Crimes
- Judicial Reform
- Enforcement and Protection of Property Rights
- Support to EU Integration Process in the Justice Sector

Strengthening the Rule of Law & Judicial System



EU GLOBAL FACILITY ON AML/CFT

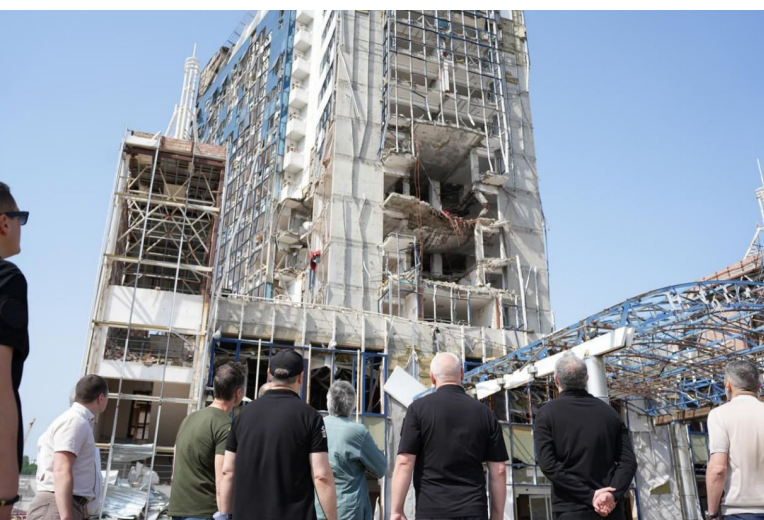
EU Global Facility on AML/CFT – Phase 2 operates in nearly 40 countries, covering all aspects of the criminal justice chain in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The project focuses on 3 components:

- Partner countries have measures in place to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in line with international standards (FATF, UN, EU)
- Institutional capacity building in partner countries (including national coordination)
- Strengthening regional and international cooperation in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU (NABU)

Expertise France supports the fight against corruption and strengthening the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU). The project is aimed at the reinforcement of NABU's whistleblower protection mechanisms, a communications analysis tool designed for judicial investigations (in conjunction with the French Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France), as well as accession of Ukraine into OECD anti-bribery working group.



Structuring Local Governance for Sustainable Reconstruction

RELEVE: SUPPORT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN RECONSTRUCTION AND DECENTRALIZATION

The overall aim of the project is to support the resilience of the population, the recovery process and Ukraine's integration into the European Union. The specific objectives are structured around three pillars:

- I. Support for decentralization reform at central level, in particular, support in developing complex restoration programs at regional and local level (hromadas);
- II. Support for recovery through capacity-building for local municipalities in the following areas: mobility, waste treatment, agriculture, innovation, culture and heritage
- III. Support for the establishment of partnerships between French and Ukrainian local authorities. Material support according to the needs of the communes, thanks to the RELEVE project's special fund for the purchase of equipment/carrying out of works.

In March 2025, Expertise France and GIZ united their efforts within U-LEAD with Europe program to sustain the decentralisation reform in Ukraine. The agreement with U-LEAD will provide formal grounds for both sides to join forces in order to reach the best possible results in advancing decentralisation in Ukraine, strengthening capacities of municipalities and supporting them to enter partnerships with French municipalities within U-LEAD with Europe's Bridges of Trust.



EU4RECONSTRUCTION

In July 2025, the European Union (EU), together with Denmark, Germany, France and Lithuania, launched a €37 million Team Europe Initiative that unites the strength, experience and solidarity of the EU to support Ukraine's ongoing recovery and reconstruction.

EU4Reconstruction will direct coordinated funding, technical support and digital tools straight into Ukraine's rebuilding efforts – ensuring that public investment is transparent, accountable, and aligned with EU standards from the bottom up. The programme will reinforce the leadership of the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development, strengthen the State Agency for Reconstruction and Development of Infrastructure, empower local governments to manage reconstruction professionally and sustainably, and support civil society and independent media to play an active role in oversight, ensuring public trust and reducing corruption risks.

KALYNA

Kalyna is a cooperation project between Region Île-de-France and Chernihiv and Kyiv oblasts, financed by AFD and co-financed by Region Île-de-France.

Expertise France supports Region Île-de-France in the implementation of the project. It is aimed at supporting Chernihiv and Kyiv regions in their mastery of European funding mechanisms through founding a Franco-Ukrainian training program.

Chernihiv and Kyiv Regional Administrations are key beneficiaries of the project. The main objective of the project is to enable both regions to master the European funding framework and mechanisms.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- diagnose and develop training programs on European financing
- provide training for trainers and lead practical workshops
- share experiences and best practices, organize study trips for Ukrainian local government officials.

We Support Reconstruction

As part of France's commitment to supporting Ukraine, particularly Chernihiv oblast, which is one the most affected ones by the war, Expertise France provided support to complete conservatory works on the roof of the Chernihiv Regional Drama Theatre, as well as reconstruction works of several damaged institutions in Chernihiv: Chernihiv Polytechnic National University, Peremoha Startup and Innovation Center, Agricultural Microbiology Institute of National Academy of Agricultural Science of Ukraine.



Supporting Financial System in Moving Towards European Standards

SUPPORT FOR THE STATE PROPERTY FUND OF UKRAINE

The State Property Fund of Ukraine manages the 2,000 SOEs slated for privatization or liquidation. As these processes might be spread over several years, the SPFU has to look for maintaining their market value until they are auctioned. Their weight in the state budget is considerable, requiring a rationalization of the portfolio.

Expertise France supports the SPFU in consolidating and aligning its management activities with international best practice and European standards. To face up to the large-scale invasion and sustain its economy, Ukraine must rely on the maximized contribution of its portfolio of SOEs, equipped with modern, efficient and transparent management tools.

The project has got 4 components:

- Corporate governance reform
- Risk management system
- Management of sanctioned assets
- Management of state owned agricultural plots

SUPPORT FOR THE STATE AUDIT SERVICE OF UKRAINE IN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

The support to the State Audit Service of Ukraine, within Maidan programme, it focuses on financial control and fight against corruption, through two major objectives :

- improve the use and management of public funds in Ukraine for better transparency, accountability, and public efficiency
- facilitate the effective incorporation of the EU acquis into the ukrainian legislation

The project is divided into two components :

- evolution of the regulatory framework in line with EU standards
- improvement of methods and practices of the financial control of the public funds

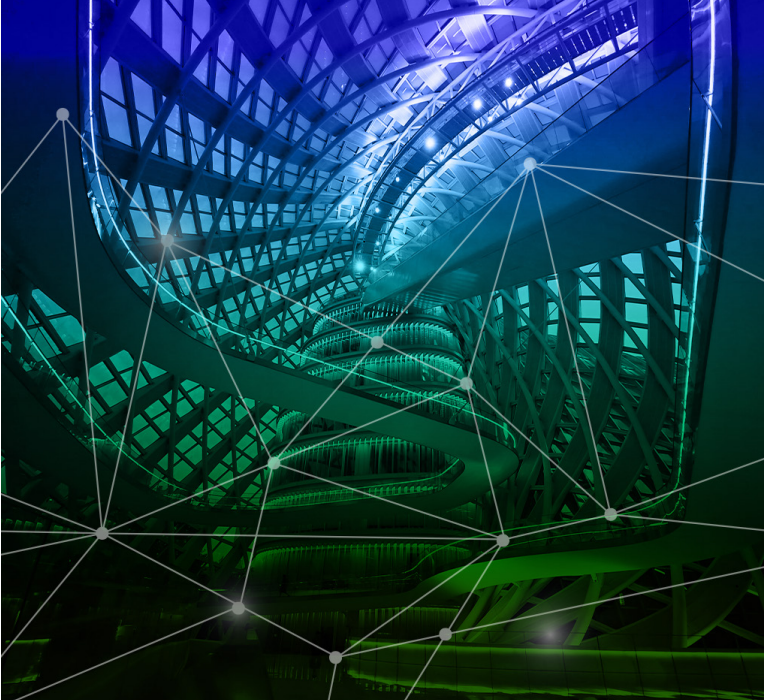


SUPPORT FOR THE REFORM OF PUBLIC COMPANY GOVERNANCE

The project is contributing to the reform of the governance of state-owned enterprises in Ukraine, in coordination with other international donors working in this sector, and to contribute French expertise and experience, particularly in the centralization of the state shareholder function.

In particular, this program has enabled the exchange of best practices between Ukrainian and French institutions, as well as supporting the development of the French state property management model. Within this framework, a concept note and roadmap for the creation of a centralized Ukrainian governance body for state-owned enterprises has been developed, also proposing an adaptation of the normative and regulatory frameworks.





Combating Threats and Strengthening National Security

CYBER SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR UKRAINE (CCBU)

The project is launched in the framework of the Tallinn Mechanism, aiming to identify Ukraine's needs and organize the contribution of affiliated countries to strengthening the country's civilian cyber capabilities and cyber resilience, with a long-term perspective.

In the beginning of 2025, following the onslaught of cyber-attacks targeting critical infrastructures, which have gained pace since the full scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, Expertise France also launched a special Cyber Security Capacity Building program in Ukraine. It aims to support Ukraine's cyber-resilience and to build better capacities in the field of cybersecurity, especially related to critical infrastructure.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE NON-LETHAL GOODS PROCUREMENT AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF UKRAINE (DOT)

The action aims to provide expertise in all phases of the procurement process with a view to certification. In particular, the project aims to improve logistical management of goods delivery, combined with the need to guarantee the confidentiality of delivery locations, knowledge, understanding and management of regulatory constraints linked to export controls. In addition, the action will support the deployment of the Internal Compliance Program (ICP) to ensure that the procurement process complies with EU export control regulations for strategic goods (military and dual-use goods).

Boosting the Private Sector for Innovation

EU4INNOVATION EAST

The project aims at enhancing the competitiveness of the startup ecosystems in five Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. At its core is a comprehensive strategy to foster high-performance incubators, expand funding and market opportunities, strengthen community ties and amplify the visibility of EaP startups. Through strategic co-financing, capacity building, regulatory support, amplifying regional achievements and deepening cross-border connections, the project lays the groundwork for impactful growth.

In Ukraine, EU4Innovation East focuses on unlocking early-stage innovation, boosting incubation and acceleration, creating an enabling environment for innovation through regulatory reforms and fostering cross-sector collaboration, and elevating global visibility of Ukrainian startups.

EU4Innovation East is funded by the European Union and co-funded by French Government.



Banking on Sustainable Policies for a Competitive Economy

EU4GREEN RECOVERY EAST - A GREEN, RESILIENT, AND COMPETITIVE GROWTH MODEL FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Ukraine has been one of beneficiary countries of the EU4Green Recovery East program, a regional initiative supporting the Eastern Partnership countries on their path towards a greener, more resilient, and competitive economy.

With an EU-contribution of EUR 21.3 million (2025-2028), this programme aligns with the European Green Deal and the EU's Global Gateway, driving forward environmental policy innovation that create jobs, improve health, and secure vital resources sustainably.



Within the program, regional workshops and policy facilitating dialogs were organised. Ukrainian government officials from multiple sectors participated in courses on green economy policymaking, while 22 experts were trained on contaminated site assessment, focusing on high risk industrial facilities damaged during the ongoing conflict. Within the program, analysis of green economy policies was conducted, assessing Ukraine's alignment with EU directives and SDGs.

International Technical Experts



The team of International Technical Experts (ETIs), assigned by French Government and embedded in several ministries, began its work in Ukraine, providing support to Ukrainian government in the process of the country's accession to the European Union. Expertise France oversees deployment of the ETIs.

As of May 2025, ETIs have been deployed in Ukraine to the following institutions:

- the Ministry of Energy
- the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture,
- the Ministry of Social Policy.

Experts have been actively supporting the Ministries for the preparation of the screening on the acquis by the European Commission on their respective topics, providing and sharing the EU experience and the experience of being a member state.

Screening is the first technical step in the process of accession to the European Union. The European Commission and the candidate country jointly examine the content of the relevant EU directives and regulations, compare the existing national legislation with EU law, and identify the legislative, administrative, and institutional alignment needs. This work prepares the negotiations by providing a clear picture of the gaps to be addressed and the reforms required.



Nataliia DENIKEEVA

Deputy Minister for Digital Economy Development
at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

Nataliia brings over 15 years of experience in managing business projects, including in international markets. She joined the Ministry of Digital Transformation in 2019, where she was responsible for developing the tech industry, startup ecosystem, and venture investment landscape. She led the launch of several flagship initiatives, including Diia.City, UK-Ukraine TechBridge, and CodeUA.

In July 2025, she was appointed Deputy Minister. Her portfolio includes the digital economy, technology sector development, robotics, and innovations.



Interview

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION?

We are clear on our mission and align everything to it: helping Ukraine defend its freedom and rebuild its economy through next-generation institutions and innovation. Our North Star is a Ukraine that ranks among the top 30 countries by GDP per capita, with digitalization, technology, and innovation powering long-term growth.

One of our core priorities is to build a comprehensive legal and institutional framework that lifts national competitiveness and scales the technology sector. We are shaping an environment where predictable, modern rules work hand-in-hand with purposeful policy and practical, founder-facing instruments. It's an adaptive mix that creates market certainty, rewards innovation, and evolves as new needs arise.

We already have proof points. Diia.City, a virtual free economic zone for tech companies, has operated for nearly four years and now brings together around 3,000 Ukrainian and international companies and startups. Its residents grow faster, attract capital, and make a visible contribution to the economy. Another important component we are developing is Diia.City Invest, which is a legal infrastructure to lay the foundation for Ukraine's venture ecosystem.

Drawing on international experience, we are preparing a White Paper for Ukraine's startup ecosystem to identify and remove blockers that hold back founders and to introduce game changers that can significantly boost growth. We are also drafting a Startup Act, a comprehensive policy framework for the startup lifecycle to set clear, long-term rules of the game.

We aim for two outcomes: first, a powerful pipeline of homegrown startups, including a strong defense-tech sector that directly supports our security and industrial capacity; second, Ukraine positioned as a top-tier European jurisdiction and a global magnet for founders and investors in the future.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

The overarching challenge is Russia's full-scale war. Everything we do is calibrated to help the country endure and win, and to keep building the foundations for rapid recovery afterward.

The war creates a set of major challenges for the innovation economy that we have to work through today: loss and displacement of people, a continuing brain drain as talent leaves for safety, and higher risk perceptions among international investors.

Many funds encourage Ukrainian startups to move to other countries. We are countering this by keeping a credible way to build companies in Ukraine: Diia.City already lets investors back Ukrainian startups at home under clear, internationally familiar rules and protections, so founders don't have to choose between raising capital and staying here.

Another issue is the data and monitoring gap: today we lack real-time, reliable metrics on startup numbers, funding flows, and ecosystem health.

Despite the pressure, wartime needs also spark solutions, especially in defense tech and dual-use innovation. We treat each of these not as fixed problems but as areas for development: we focus on practical fixes, build new capabilities, and turn short-term resilience into lasting market growth.



HOW DO EU4INNOVATION EAST AND EXPERTISE FRANCE SUPPORT THESE PRIORITIES AND ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

EU4Innovation East and Expertise France are core partners helping us move faster with targeted, high-impact support.

Policy support & best practice transfer. Expertise France facilitates the systematization of international and French models and best practices through targeted technical assistance to the ministry, helping Ukraine adapt proven frameworks to its local context. In this context, EU4Innovation East contributes to the development of an EU-aligned innovation ecosystem in Ukraine by facilitating the harmonization of its regulatory framework with European Startup Nations Alliance (ESNA) standards.

Venture capital ecosystem development. EU4Innovation East contributes to the development of financial instruments, co-investment schemes, and regulatory improvements aimed at attracting new venture capital and unlocking private investment. This includes technical support for Diia.City Invest and the launch of a grant program targeting early-stage startups.

Startup monitoring & Data systems. EU4Innovation East supports the development of robust databases and digital dashboards to monitor startup growth per capita, guide policy refinement, and foster transparency across the innovation ecosystem.

Capacity building & Institutional strengthening. EU4Innovation East provides targeted technical support for strategic development and coordination within the Ukraine's Global Innovation Strategy WINWIN 2030, contributing to the fostering of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine's expert capacity across key sectors including GreenTech, Space Tech, AI, MedTech, and BioTech.



Expertise France is France's public agency in charge of international technical cooperation, the second largest in Europe. As a subsidiary of Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group), it designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Expertise France works in key areas of development: governance, security, climate change, health, education, and more. Alongside its partners, it contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



27 November 2025

EXPERTISE FRANCE

 [expertisefrance.fr](https://www.expertisefrance.fr)

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