THE WORLD’S FIFTH LARGEST MARKET

France is the fifth largest market in the world for human medicines (IQVIA, 2020) and was the second largest in Europe in 2019. In the same year, French companies in the pharmaceutical industry generated revenues of €60 billion, half of which came from exports. [LEEM, 2019; GERS; French Customs Authorities]

SANOFI: AN INNOVATIVE LEADER

By the end of October 2020, Sanofi had conducted a total of 84 R&D projects [Sanofi]. The French pharmaceutical giant is positioned as the leading private investor in R&D in France, across all business sectors (EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, 2019), with more than €6 billion invested over the next three years. Forty percent of Sanofi’s R&D global workforce is based in France, equating to nearly 5,000 employees. Their R&D research focuses on four key areas: oncology and immuno-oncology, immuno-inflammation, rare neurological diseases and vaccines.

EXPORTS ON THE RISE

Medicinal product exports are the fourth largest trade surplus in France, amounting to €30 billion in 2019, up 11% compared with 2018 [LEEM, 2020], the strongest growth seen since 2012. Medicinal exports to Europe increased by 13% in 2019 and represented €17.8 billion in 2019, 59.4% of the total.

FRANCE: ONE OF THE LEADING COUNTRIES FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

France takes part in 13% of global clinical trials and is ranked fourth in Europe, after Germany (16%), the United Kingdom (15%) and Spain (15%). Oncology remains a top field for France, which takes part in 19% of trials initiated worldwide. Of the 458 clinical trials underway worldwide for gene, cell and tissue therapies, France is ranked second after the United States. [LEEM, 2020]

EARLY ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS

With its Temporary Authorization for Use (ATU) system fully covered by health insurance, France has one of the fastest access systems to innovative treatments in Europe. This device enables patients suffering from serious or rare diseases to access innovative treatments. In 2018, more than 21,000 patients were able to benefit from this system. [LEEM; Solidarité-Santé]
A SECTOR CREATING SKILLED JOBS

Nearly 100,000 people were employed by pharmaceutical companies in France in 2017, including more than 44,000 in manufacturing operations (LEEM, 2018). Half of the 18,000 people working in R&D hold a research position (French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies, INSEE). In the public sector, nearly 30,000 people work in research, notably at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), the Institut Pasteur and the Institut Curie, the Institute of Biological Sciences (INSB) and the Institute of Chemistry (INC), both of which belong to the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS).

INVESTING IN RESEARCH

The pharmaceutical industry is among the top sectors in terms of company research efforts and it is the third research arm in France. Business enterprise R&D expenditure accounts for 9.8% of pharma company revenues. (LEEM, 2019)

AN ATTRACTIVE SECTOR

Between 2018 and 2019, France registered 73 foreign investment projects in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector, creating 1,895 jobs. For example, in 2019, the Swiss firm Octapharma invested €85 million in the expansion of its site in the Grand Est region and planned to create around 40 jobs. Moreover, American company Bausch & Lomb, which specializes in the production of eye drops, is planning to invest €30 million in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region to increase its production capacities.

A NATIONAL PRIORITY

A budget worth €200 million has been made available as part of the National Investment Program: €120 million to support vaccine and treatment production capacities and €80 million intended for phase one, two and three therapeutic trials for candidate vaccines against the coronavirus.

FRANCE’S PROWESS IN VACCINES

France is the world’s fourth largest exporter of vaccines (GTA/IHS), with world-renowned institutions such as the Institut Pasteur International Network (RIIP), totaling 23,000 personnel, overseeing projects in 25 countries on every continent. The RIIP plays a major role in particular against emerging infections wherever they occur across the globe, including Tuberculosis, HIV AIDS, Malaria and viral hepatitis. The Sanofi-Pasteur alliance is one of the global leaders in vaccine production, supplying more than one billion doses of vaccines worldwide every year. (Sanofi)
France takes part in 13% of global clinical trials and is ranked #4 in Europe.

France is the world's #4 exporter of vaccines (GTA/IHS).

#2 WORLDWIDE for the number of clinical trials in gene therapy and oncology.

13 NOBEL PRIZES in medicine and nearly 130 cancer research projects.