

## FRANCE

This review has been checked and approved by Christian Cribellier (Sous-direction de l'archéologie (SDA)), June-December 2023.

**Country:** France  
**Type:** National  
**Name:** National Programme of Archaeological Research

Marty, B., H. Delhumeau & M. Monnier (eds.), 2016: *Programmation nationale de la recherche archéologique*, (Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication).

### Who has created /funded the framework?

National Council for Archaeological Research (CNRA), Ministry of Culture

### Who owns the framework?

National Council for Archaeological Research (CNRA)

### What was the process of creating the framework?

The national council of archaeological research (CNRA) has the responsibility for developing the national research strategy of France. This is set out in the heritage code article R 545-2: "*the National Council for Archaeological Research proposes to the Minister responsible for culture the main research aims, further more they determine which research themes are worthy of being explored, deepened or enriched, and they take care of the national harmonization of interregional programs and provides advice on the principles, methods and standards of research in archeology.*"

The CNRA is made up of expert members from the various French institutions involved in preventive and research based archaeological research (CNRS, Ministry of Research, Ministry of Culture, Universities, Inrap, community and private companies) in different chronological periods. They are partly appointed and partly elected by the territorial archaeological research commissions (CTRA) sitting in 6 interregional committees. To develop the sixteen strands of research of this national research programme, the members of the CNRA also collaborated with a large number of specialists (around a hundred) from different backgrounds brought together in working groups.

This is how the national research program for the Ministry of Culture is developed.

## **Aims and objectives of the framework**

### ***Who is it for?***

Archaeologists involved in development led investigations and all researchers in research programs.

### ***What is it for?***

The National Program of Archaeological Research is a framework supporting the undertaking of preventive/development led investigations and research programs. It scientifically bases the choices that are made by archaeologists in the face of the multiplicity of operations to be undertaken. It also invites the exploration of a dynamic, constantly renewed discipline.

The program presents the guidelines drawn up by the CNRA to help place archaeological research in the most current scientific debates of the discipline and by integrating the results of preventive/development led archaeology.

It enables the Ministry of Culture and the decentralized authorities of the State to exercise fully their role of study, conservation and transmission of archaeological heritage, recognized in its historical and cultural identity and in its environment.

The program has the following objectives:

- Make state policy and strategy publicly accessible
- Ensure that research aims and methodologies meet recognized scientific priorities
- Allow the various organizations involved in French archeology (Ministry of Culture, CNRA, universities, local authorities, Inrap, approved private operators) and the various researchers to be involved in prioritizing research.
- Optimise allocation of resources for research outside of the fieldwork report
- Provide justification for allocation of resources to elected officials and society
- Set out identified national and international research
- Set out priorities on current issues and work

## **Structure and content of the framework**

### ***What does it contain?***

Research guidelines, policy contexts and descriptions, resource assessments and recommendations on thematic subjects and periods based on sixteen strands of research.

### ***How is it structured?***

Proposed research strands that summarize the sixteen themes - chronological and thematic.

These themes are divided into four areas:

- assessment and challenges
- research topics and recommendations
- perspectives
- bibliography

### ***What period/themes does it cover?***

Period and thematic:

1. The lives of human ancestors of the late Lower Pleistocene and Middle Pleistocene
2. Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene lives of human ancestors
3. Rock art in context
4. First agricultural communities: 6<sup>th</sup> millennium to the first half of the 4th millennium BCE
5. Affirmation and structuring of rural and pre-urban societies: 4th millennium to the 4th century BCE
6. The urban phenomenon from the Iron Age to the contemporary period
7. Rural areas, settlement and agricultural production from the Second Iron Age to the contemporary period
8. Ritual practices: places of worship, funeral spaces and other forms of ritual expression from the Neolithic to the contemporary period
9. Production Economies of the Metal Ages
10. Places of power in Medieval and modern periods
11. Archeology of pre- and post-contact Native American and Inuit societies
12. Archeology of the contemporary world
13. Archeology of conflicts
14. Landscape archeology
15. Maritime, river and lake environments
16. Archeology of care and health

### **Output**

#### ***Format***

PDF with accompanying web text introducing the program.

#### ***Date of publication***

2016

An update of the 2016 research program which began two years ago is being finalized by the CNRA in 2023. It was the subject of a presentation during the scientific meetings of French archeology in France and abroad organized on June 6-7, 2023 :

<https://aibl.fr/seances/assises-scientifiques-de-l-archeologie-francaise-en-france-et-a-letranger/>

This update will include 16 research topics, some of which already present have been considerably modified and two new ones: 15 - Maritime, river and lake territories; 16 - Archeology of care and health. The working document can be consulted at this webpage:

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Archeologie/Ressources-documentaires/Programmation-nationale-de-la-recherche-archeologique/Programmation-nationale-de-la-recherche-archeologique-2023-document-de-travail>

#### ***Where can you find it?***

The 2016 research program can be viewed here:

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Archeologie/Ressources-documentaires/Les-essentiels/La-programmation-nationale-de-la-recherche-archeologique>