

France's Public-Algorithm Transparency Law — "A Dead Letter Since 2016", per the Ombudsman

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · France

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

France's 2016 law requiring agencies to disclose algorithmic decision rules has gone almost entirely unenforced, the Ombudsman found in Nov 2024, naming only three compliant bodies. Researchers built an independent observatory since regulators had not.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	0/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Défenseur des droits / Observatoire des algorithmes publics \(ODAP\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Algorithmes, systèmes d'IA et services publics : quels droits pour les usagers ? \(Défenseur des droits\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[L'observatoire des algorithmes publics \(Société Numérique / DINUM\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

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