



Youth Wiki national description

Youth policies in France

2021

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France

Youth Policy in France

Social, professional and civic inclusion of young people along with protection and educational development of youth have long been key themes of French public policies. Although there is **no definitive or permanent model for political strategy on youth**, as its form very much depends on successive governments, youth policies are nonetheless a constant in public action, whether they are promoted by a ministry responsible for youth affairs or by the Ministry of National Education, all the more so as youth policies are not only decided at **national and territorial (regional) level** but are also implemented at **local level** by the authorities concerned (Regions, *Départements* and municipalities).

Local authorities act in **complementarity** and interdependence with State policies in the implementation of youth policies that relies on overlapping the various levels of public action and upon **interministerial, intersectoral and multi-partner** operation.

Youth policies have been the responsibility of the Ministry of National Education, youth and sports, which, in particular through its [Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation](#) (DJEPVA – Direction de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation Populaire et de la Vie Associative), focuses on the design and implementation of youth policies.

Combating youth unemployment (26.2% of under 25 y/o in 2016 according to Eurostat) and the **precarity** that affects some of France's young people is one of the public authorities' major concerns. It should be emphasised, however, that such phenomena do not affect all young people and do not have the same consequences on their individual life paths. **Continued inequalities** between young people themselves and the **resulting fragmentation of French youth** is another challenge to be taken into account in youth policies.

1. YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

Public action in favor of youth is the responsibility of **both public authorities** (State, local authorities) but involves also many **stakeholders from different fields**: associations, NGOs, youth movements, research institutes or the business sector. All these actors can work both independently and jointly. This **multiplicity of interveners** implies a diversity of modes of governance of youth policies. However the State plays a key role, by drawing up policies, setting public schemes for youth and financially supporting the projects and associations that can carry them. It should be noted, however, that in France there is no **systematic model of public action in favor of young people**, which can be carried out by a specific ministry such as a ministry of Youth with its own youth national strategy or on the contrary be carried by other ministries concerned (Ministry of National Education), the structure of public policy making is depending on governmental choices.

Otherwise, youth is seen as an **inter-ministerial issue**. The policies in its favor are then transversal, covering education and vocational training, health and well-being, leisure, mobility, civic commitment, culture and so on. Furthermore, if they are part of a national framework, public actions in favor of young people are also **territorialised**, implemented in local and regional authorities, but also in some cases, within the framework of **European policies**.

1.1 Target population of youth policy

There is no official, objective or quantified definition of “youth” in France.

Previously described as a “[transition period](#)” marked by a crossing of thresholds charactering “adulthood” (stable job, own accommodation, building a household, etc.), **youth is now regarded as a process of identity construction** made up of “discontinuous and reversible” experiences and tests.

Statistical and demographic study institutes in various countries nonetheless retain the **16 to 25** age bracket, which is consequently the one most used by public authorities. **25 is considered to be the age of “social majority”** in so far as it is the age at which young people are entitled to make full use of certain rights, social rights in particular (including minimum wage and supplementary health insurance).

This period of life is marked both **by the end of a legal obligation:**

- End of compulsory schooling at age 16

and access to new social rights and benefits (non-exhaustive list):

- majority and the right to vote at age 18;
- possibility of receiving various social benefits from age 25 onwards: *Revenu de Solidarité Active* (RSA – minimum income);
- eligibility to the [prime d'activité](#) (activity bonus) introduced on 1 January 2016, which concerns all “modest income” workers over 18: students with jobs, apprentices and the self-employed, who can benefit from it according to their resources;
- access to mobility programmes, whose age-limits vary depending on operator: 30 for the *Office Franco-Allemand pour la Jeunesse* (OFAJ – Franco-German Youth Office [FGYO]), and 35 for the *Office Franco-Québécois pour la Jeunesse* (OFQJ – Franco-Québécois Youth Office), for example.
- Mandatory training for young people aged 16 to 18 year-old

Prolongation of duration of studies and later entry on to the job market – and the job stabilisation period – tend to extend this period beyond age 25. Faced with this, the public authorities favour the notion of a “**journey towards autonomy**” when drafting their youth policies.

1.2 National youth law

Existence of a National Youth Law

Although the French State **has no general law on youth**, it is the subject of **specific laws** drawn up by various ministries working on behalf of young people, including the ministry in charge of youth, the Ministry of National Education or also the Ministry of Justice.

In addition, the French State ratified the [1989 International Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), (Decree no.90-917 of 8 October 1990 bearing on publication of the convention on children’s rights) in 1990, which establishes a [protective legal framework](#) for all children and provides them with acknowledged rights.

Scope and contents

While being varied in content, laws bearing on youth and implemented by the ministries concerned focus on protection, social and professional inclusion, and training.

Youth laws (Incomplete list)

Ministry of National Education

One of the main legislative corpuses on youth is the *Code de l'éducation* (French education code) set by **Order no.2000-549 of 15 June 2000**. The Code is a compilation of all laws and regulations in force in the field of education. It defines the *general principles of education*, its administration and organisation. It is divided into two parts, one legislative and the other regulatory.

The Code includes the:

- The Framework law on the future of schools (*Loi d'orientation et de programmation pour la refondation de l'Ecole de la République* of 8 July 2013). Above all, this law seeks to foster *success at school*.
- The Law of 22 July 2013 bearing on higher education and research, which aims above all to contribute to student success and enable 50% of each age group to obtain higher education qualifications, specifies action to be taken to develop student and researcher mobility through promoting study and activity periods abroad.
- Law n° 2019-791 of July 26, 2019 for a school of trust: this law, enacted in 2019, reforms the secondary education system and introduces new principles such as lowering the age of compulsory education from six to three.

Ministry in charge of youth

The Ministry in charge of youth oversees regulations governing **collective reception of minors** outside the parental home and outside school hours. It ensures compliance with legislation on reception of minors. Numerous decrees, memorandums and orders are also contained in the *Code de l'Action Sociale et des Familles* (Social Action and Family Code) regulating protection of minors and setting safety standards for collective reception of minors and young people.

For example, the following decrees and decrees regulate and define the non-formal education sector (indicative list):

- Order of 25 April 2012 (supervision and organisation of certain physical activities);
- Order of 12 December 2013 (supervision of extracurricular activities);
- Order of 3 November 2014 (declaration prior to reception of minors);
- Order of July 15, 2015 (on non-professional diplomas in youth work: BAFA and BAFD);
- Order of February 28, 2017 (extracurricular supervision + 80 days / + 80 minors).

Ministry in charge of social affairs and health

Social Action and Family Code

The **Social Action and Family Code** was created in 1953 by Decree no.56-149 of 24 January 1956. Formerly known as the Family and Social Aid Code, it compiles **all legislative and regulatory provisions bearing on social action and the family**. The corpus also includes major texts from the Ministries responsible for youth, education and health.

It specifies and defines the main objectives of social measures intended, among other things, for "disabled children and teenagers". It describes the various **forms of social aid and action** (family associations, social aid to families, family education and counselling, reception of young children, social inclusion actions, *départemental* social inclusion schemes, support funds for young people in difficulty, etc.).

Ministry in charge of labour

The law for the freedom to choose one's professional future

Among other things, this law, enacted by the President of the Republic on 5 September 2019, reforms apprenticeship and vocational training. It aims to ensure better guidance with a view to increasing the attractiveness of this training path as “a path of passion, excellence and future success, for young people, families and companies alike”.

The law also institutes measures for apprentices:

- The possibility of signing an [apprenticeship contract](#) until the eve of one's 30th birthday;
- An [increase of €30](#) net a month for apprentices under 21 years of age studying for the Certificate of Professional Aptitude (CAP) or Professional Baccalaureate;
- obtainment of [€500 in financial assistance for adult apprentices wishing to take the B category driving license](#) test.

Ministry of Justice

Laws relating to the Ministry of Justice are mainly designed **to protect young people, minors in particular, combat juvenile delinquency and foster social integration of young delinquents.**

Juvenile justice has long been a concern of France's public authorities, which, in 1945, adopted an ordinance bearing on “delinquent childhood” – [Ordinance no.45-174 of 2 February 1945](#) – which sought to limit repressive measures and replace them with educational measures. Since 1945, a whole series of ordinances, decrees and [laws](#) bearing on protection of children and teenagers has been adopted, setting the legal framework for protection of minors.

In 2019, in the context of the reform of the justice system, the Government reformed the Ordinance of 2 February 1945 bearing on delinquent childhood.

The Ordinance of 11 September 2019, bearing on “the legislative part of the Juvenile Criminal Justice Code”, created the legislative part of the Juvenile Criminal Justice Code **replacing** the Ordinance of 2 February 1945 bearing on delinquent childhood.

The new Code reiterates the general principles applicable to juvenile justice, including:

- the primacy of the educational over the repressive;
- the special nature of juvenile justice;
- attenuation of responsibility depending on age, with the age of criminal majority still set at 18.

The Code introduces a **presumption of non-discernment for delinquent minors under 13 years of age**: “Minors under thirteen years of age are presumed to be incapable of discernment”. It also **modifies the criminal procedure** applicable to delinquent minors.

Youth rights

Young French people's rights and obligations differ depending on their situation. They arise either from children's rights, when they are minors, or common law once they have reached the age of majority.

Only a **few individual “youth-specific” rights exist**; young French people **generally benefit from (social) rights as their parents' “assignees”** (family benefits, social security membership, tax incentives, etc.) and enjoy few direct rights of their own. Diverses studies published by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education emphasises this point, explaining it partly by the overall [“familialisation”](#) of young people's benefits.

Young people can nonetheless **be informed on their rights**. Ensuring that young people know their rights is one among many focuses of public youth policies, largely because they are all too often ignorant of them.

Amenities providing information on rights have been in existence since the 1980s, **House of Justice and Rights and Access to Rights Points**, alongside collaborative work between associations promoting young people's education and access to their rights and local public stakeholders (municipalities and schools). Reliable, objective, non-specialised information on all aspects of young people's daily lives is also provided by a network of youth information facilities (around 1,500 of them across the country) financed by the State and local authorities.

In addition, programmes designed to raise young people's awareness of their rights are developed in partnerships between the Ministries of Justice and Education, associations promoting access to rights, judges' associations, and the Defender of Rights, an independent State institution created in 2011 and enshrined in the Constitution, whose missions are "the defence of persons whose rights are not respected and equal access to rights for all". The Defender of Rights' Educadroit programme, for example, raises awareness of and provides training in their rights among children between 6 and 12 years old as well as adults who are professionally involved with children.

The Government plans to reinforce the public service centre (Maison France Service) initiative, which does not specifically target young people but whose mission it is to facilitate all inhabitants' access to public services by provision of information and assistance, in particular in rural areas and disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. There are currently 1,340 such centres across French soil.

Revisions/updates

The Ordinance of 2 February 1945 bearing on delinquent childhood is one of several regulatory texts concerning young people that has gone through numerous revisions (40 in all). These various amendments have concerned the modalities for implementing repressive and educational measures as well as criminal (penal) procedure.

1.3 National youth strategy

Existence of a National Youth Strategy

The elections of May 2017 and the its governmental change mark **numerous evolutions in youth policies governance**. The elaboration, the control and the implementation of youth policies are attributed by decree to **the Ministry of National Education and Youth** whose portfolio is composed of youth and NGOs , association policies.

From 2013 to 2017, a youth strategy has been created: the [Priority Youth Plan](#) ("*Plan Priorité Jeunesse*"), adopted by the CIJ – Cross-Ministerial Committee for Youth ([Comité Interministériel de la Jeunesse](#)) on 21 February 2013. Several policies of this youth strategy are **still relevant**. For the moment (2019-2020) there is no a new strategy for youth.

Current public policies in favor of youth are articulated mainly around education, training, commitment and autonomy. It should be pointed out that these public policies do not form, strictly speaking, a "strategy" since **they are not formalized in plan or road map**, but nevertheless **they must meet several and general objectives**.

- Participating in young people's personal development, and encouraging their commitment and autonomy
- Fostering employment and professional integration
- Combating inequalities on the pathway to autonomy
- Giving priority to education and training
- Improving living conditions

Scope and contents

The goal of public youth policies is to create “**a society of trust**”. By acting on young people’s training and commitment and fostering their autonomy, government policies seek to ensure “society’s trust in its young people and young people’s trust in society”.

The main focuses of action are:

- Education and training
- Commitment (The youth engagement)
- Autonomy

Education and training

The training of young people is at the heart of governmental youth policies which wants to build a “**school of trust**” to ensure pupils'success. Several measures concerning primary and secondary schools were implemented.

At primary school:

- The lowering of the **compulsory education** to three years
- The gradual splitting of first-grade class in schools located in disadvantaged urban areas.
- The adaptation of school time by leaving municipalities (with teachersn representatives of parents pupils...) the choice to move to the “four-day” school week.

At secondary school:

- Reform of secondary schools (high schools) and the Baccalaureate examination

Initiated in 2018, the reform of general and technological Baccalaureates – national diplomas awarded upon completion of secondary studies and the first stage in higher education – consists of reducing the number of tests and introducing continuous assessment. The new Baccalaureates will come into force in 2021.

The reform goes hand-in-hand with the reform of the lycée, which abolishes three general streams, “economic and social”, literature”, and “scientific”, and introduces a system of *specialities*.

Higher education is also affected by deep reforms:

- The national plan “Students” was presented bt the government in october 2017. This plan aims at transform the first cycle of higher education in its entirety :orientation, access to higher education, structuring of the first cycle as well as living and studying conditions.

The youth engagement

Stepping up young people’s commitment at the service of society is one of the Government’s major goals and a key focus of youth policies. It has been given concrete expression by development of the civic service and by the implementation of a new commitment scheme, **Universal National Service**_(Service national universel) in 2018.

Universal National Service fulfills several objectives:

- “transmission of *Republican values*”
- “strengthening of social cohesion – which relies on experience of social and territorial mixity ”
- “development of a culture of commitment and assistance with social and professional integration”.

It targets all young people between 15 and 17 years of age (for the first two phases) and is organised into three phases:

1. a **two-week cohesion stay**, spent in collective accommodation in a *département* (local authority) other than that in which the volunteer lives. During the stay, young volunteers take part in a variety of collective activities including introductions to the Highway Code and administration of first aid.
2. **a general interest mission** at an association, local authority department or public service, aiming to develop a culture of commitment and foster young people's integration into society.
3. **the possibility of voluntary commitment for at least 3 months**, making use of existing volunteering schemes: civic service, the Armed Forces' and National Gendarmerie's operational reserves, volunteer firefighters, European Solidarity Corps, etc. This phase is opened to volunteers between 16 and 30 years of age.

The autonomy of young people

The autonomy policies aim at developing the young people's autonomy are articulated around three axes

1. the fight against the non-use of social rights;
2. the territorialisation of youth policies;
3. the synergy of the actors*

* Source: [speech by the Minister of National Education](#) to the Youth Policy Orientation Council, June 29, 2017

Responsible authority for the implementation of the Youth Strategy

The responsible authority and coordinator of youth policies is the Ministry of Education, youth and sports, which is also responsible for the implementation of youth policies, under the decree "N ° 2017-1080 of May 24, 2017 relating to the powers of the Minister in charge of education". The [Minister's Decree of Attribution](#) specifies that he is responsible "for preparing and implementing the Government's policy bearing on actions in favour of youth".

Revisions/updates

From 2013 to 2017, a national youth strategy, the "[Youth Priority Plan](#)", was adopted by the Interministerial Committee of Youth of 21 February 2013, chaired by the Prime Minister.

This plan defined the National Youth Strategy as a "government priority". It was an official roadmap that presented the challenges of youth policies and the various measures that the government should implement to improve the living conditions of young people. The Youth Priority Plan was a continuation of the projects carried out by the Government in 2012. More than a planning of measures in favor of youth, the Youth Priority plan had to renew public action by encouraging partnership work between the ministries, local authorities, associations, social partners, but also with young people themselves.

Since the spring 2017 elections, the Government's strategy has been based on the measures taken from the Youth Priority Plan and is part of the desire to create a "trustworthy society" by acting on training, engaging young people and promoting their autonomy.

1.4 Youth policy decision-making

Structure of Decision-making

Youth policies are defined and encouraged by the central authority and implemented regionally. Local authorities are also involved in drafting public youth policies and work in

partnership with the ministry responsible for youth. It should be borne in mind that, at local level, the **French administrative system depends on the State (Government and ministries) and local public authorities** alike. Moreover, it exists various local public (administrative) authorities as the **Région, the Département, the municipality and the intermunicipality**, each has its own political areas.

National (central) authority : The Ministry in charge of youth and its deconcentrated department

1) The Ministry responsible for youth

The main authority which has the general competence of definition of the national strategy, regulation and control of the youth policy is the Ministry of Education, Youth. and sports.

To develop and implement its youth policy, the Minister of National Education, youth and sports relies on the **Department (directorate) for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation-DJEPVA** ([Direction de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation Populaire et de la Vie Associative](#)) which draws up and implements youth policy. [The Order of 24 December 2015 amending the order of 30 December 2005](#) sets "the organisation of directorate and sub-directorate of the ministry in charge of youth".

The structure of the DJEPVA

The DJEPVA comprises:

- the Sub-directorate for Cross-ministerial Youth and Voluntary Organisations Policies;
- the Sub-directorate for Non-Formal Education;
- the INJEP - National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education, a [body with national authority](#) under the aegis of the Director of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations.

The Director of the DJEPVA is also "[cross-ministerial delegate for youth](#)" (Decree no.2014-18 of 9 January 2014). He coordinates implementation of actions carried out by the various ministries in favour of youth.

The role of the DJEPVA

The DJEPVA **supports actions on the part of youth and non-formal education associations**, which act as its special interlocutors. Other bodies also under its aegis include the Civic Service Agency ([Agence du Service Civique](#)) and it serves as national authority for application of the "[Erasmus + Youth](#)" European programme.

The DJEPVA **takes part in drafting and implementing non-profit sector development policy**, seeking among other things to simplify the legal framework within which NGOs develop by promoting community actions, "[bénévolat](#)" (charity, voluntary work) in particular, and acknowledging the importance of those involved in voluntary organisations and non-formal education, which it also lends financial support to.

As regards best use and development of civic commitment, the Department oversees **mainstreaming of civic service** (general interest missions proposed to young people between 16 and 25 years old). It also **oversees the educational quality of stays and the safety of minors** at ACMs – children's summer camps (*Accueils Collectifs de Mineurs*).

2) Deconcentrated departments

The Decree of 1 July 1992 bears on application of **deconcentration**, defined in its first Article as "*the general rule of division of powers and resources between the various echelons of the State's civil service.*" **Deconcentration is a system of administrative organisation** in which the central power (that of the State) is delegated or transferred to regional departments known as deconcentrated departments ([services déconcentrés](#)) or

external departments. The process aims to improve the State's efficiency by **decongesting the central administration and speeding up decision-making at local level.**

As regards youth policies, [deconcentrated departments](#) are DR(D)JSCS – [Regional/ Départemental Departments of Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion](#), present in **each regional "capital"** and responsible for **managing and coordinating implementation of national youth policy**, in compliance with [Decree no.215-1867 of 30 December 2015](#), which defines their organisation and missions.

Since 2019, the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (*Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative* – DJEPVA) and decentralised directorates responsible for youth policies have been preparing a reform of their organisation, based on the [Prime Minister's Circular of 12 June 2019](#) bearing on implementation of the reform of the State's territorial organisation.

The reform consists of merging Regional Directorates of Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion's (*Directions régionales de la jeunesse, des sports et de la cohésion sociale* – DRJSCSs) administrations, missions and staff with those of local education offices (local education authorities and *départemental* Directorates of National Education Services).

In regions and *départements*, staff involved in missions bearing on sport, youth, non-formal education and voluntary organisations will be incorporated into local education offices on 1 January 2021.

A Regional Education Authority Delegation for Youth, Commitment and Sport (*Délégation régionale académique à la jeunesse, à l'engagement et au sport* – DRAJES) will be created in each local education authority (see Glossary). At *départemental* level, a youth, commitment and sport department will be created in *Départemental* Directorates of National Education Services (*Directions des services départementaux de l'Éducation nationale* – DSDENs).

At central level, as from 1 January 2021 the DJEPVA, which is currently under the administrative authority of the General Secretariat of the Social Ministries, will be attached to the General Secretariat of the Minister of National Education and Youth and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (*Secrétariat Général du Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Jeunesse et du Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation* – SG MENJ-MESRI).

Local authorities

Since enactment of Law no.82-213 of 2 March 1982 bearing on the rights and freedoms of municipalities, *départements* and regions, **the State has reinforced and developed its decentralisation procedure by transferring some of its administrative competences to the various territorial authorities** : regions (13 in all since January 2016), départements, municipalities and intermunicipalities.

The Law of 16 January 2015 bearing on delimitation of regions and regional and *départemental* elections and modifying the electoral calendar, and the Law of 7 August **2015 on the Republic's new territorial organisation have further reinforced regions' competences.**

Such bodies have a measure of local autonomy ([Art. 72 s. of the Constitution](#); [European Charter of Local Autonomy, 1985](#)), although such autonomy is exercised in compliance with the law and under State control. This "control of legality" may also be carried out by the departemental or regional [Prefect](#).

Regarded as **pertinent echelons of action, local authorities are of key importance to the success of youth policies.** Their various levels (regional, departemental, municipal and intermunicipal) make them all the more likely to implement actions designed to benefit young people.

Such local-level decision-making relies on complementarity and cooperation between the ministry and the deconcentrated departments in charge of youth. **Local youth policies are implemented in partnership** (collaboration between local authorities) and are **intersectorial**. They are characterised by their wide diversity and depend, among other things, on each area's stakeholders, resources and specificities.

1) Régions

France is composed by 13 "metropolitan" Regions" and 5 "Overseas" *Regions and Départements*.

Regions' competences are essentially centred on territorial development and spatial planning; vocational training, management of lycées, and public transport.

The Equality & Citizenship Law of 27 January 2017 designated the region as the "leader" of local authorities on youth policies. This law also enshrines the principle of a "territorial structured dialogue" on youth policies between public authorities (state and region), civil society and young people.

According to the article *Réforme territoriale et réorganisation de l'État: quels enjeux pour les politiques de jeunesse ?* (Territorial reform and reorganisation of the State: what challenges for youth politics?) by the researcher Jordan Parisse of the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut national de la Jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire – INJEP), published in February 2019, "Regional councils therefore inherit not so much a general competence in the field of youth policies as a function of "conductor" of the various local authorities actively involved with young people".

2) Départements

Départements are responsible for so-called "solidarity" and specialised preventive actions (in particular on behalf of minors placed under judicial protection).

Départemental Councils act on behalf of youth through their **role in the building and maintenance** of lower secondary schools (*collèges*) and drafting of local social policy, implementation of child welfare services in particular. "Child welfare" refers to social action on behalf of families experiencing major material or educational problems with regard to their children. *Départements* implement the RSA – minimum income scheme, which young people of 25 and over can apply for, as well as providing them with ad hoc financial assistance. Young people between the ages of 18 and 25 experiencing social and/or financial problems may make use of the FAJ – Youth Assistance Fund (*Fonds d'Aide aux Jeunes*). This *départemental* fund finances aid to social and professional integration of young people in economic difficulty and, if necessary, provides them with temporary financial help.

3) Municipalities and intermunicipalities

Municipalities and *intermunicipalities* (intermunicipalities are groups of municipalities that pool management of public services) are the smaller local administrations.

(Inter)municipal youth policies bear largely on **social and educational action, prevention of delinquency and civic commitment**. Among other things, municipalities' social services, (with the Département's agreement) grant aid from the FAJ and can decide on social accompaniment of young people in major difficulty. **Municipalities also provide young people with information on existing schemes related to employment, healthcare, accommodation, mobility and social rights** via dedicated information facilities.

Main Themes

The Government and other institutional actors with a say in youth policies focus above all on the education and training of young people, which constitute the main themes of youth policies, which also prioritise autonomy, young people's mobility and their participation in society.

Youth policies are usually designed to:

- Ensure young people's academic success and professional integration;
- Foster young people's autonomy;
- Promote young people's ability to act in society and develop their commitment;
- Foster mobility among all young people;
- Inform young people on the public mechanisms concerning them as well as on their (social) rights.

Policy development draws on data, statistical data in particular, much of it produced by the Ministry of National Education's Directorate for Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance (*Direction de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la performance* – DEPP), as well as on work carried out by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP) attached to the DJEPVA, and on analysis of data produced by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (*Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques* – INSEE) and Ministerial Statistical Departments (*Services statistiques ministériels* – SSMs).

Such studies bear on youth policies and young people's living conditions.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds confronted with social and economic problems and the question of inequalities between young people are also the subjects of studies and reports, such as [INJEP's work](#) on young people with fewer opportunities and their unequal access to various public schemes.

Since 2016, the DJEPVA and INJEP, in partnership with the Research Centre for the Study and Observation of Living Conditions (*Centre de Recherche pour l'Étude et l'Observation des Conditions de Vie* – CREDOC), have carried out an annual survey among over 4000 young people between 18 and 30 years of age living in France, enabling obtainment of qualitative information on youth: the *Baromètre Jeunesse* (Youth Barometer).

This work provides youth policy developers with objective quantitative and qualitative data highlighting the problems encountered by young people and their aspirations regarding international mobility, recreational activities, culture, commitment and access to social rights.

The National Agency for Youth

National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education

France **does not have a youth "agency" as such**. Public policies on youth are developed and coordinated by the DJEPVA's departments.

Since 1 January 2016, the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (*Institut national de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire* – INJEP, created in 1953), which is a Government Agency with National Authority (*Service à compétence nationale* – SCN) has been attached to the Director of the DJEPVA. Its missions and operation are set by **Decree no.2015-1771 of 24 December 2015 on creation of a government agency with national authority called "National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal education"**.

Its role as observatory is given concrete expression by production of analyses and statistical data, the research work it carries out, and its studies and assessments in the fields of youth, education, associations and sport.

It is also a resource and expertise centre for professionals involved with youth and non-formal education, associations, public decision-makers and representatives of civil society. In this respect, one of its mission is to "collect, summarise, disseminate and promote knowledge on youth policies" in particular through publications and events.

The Institute comprises five missions:

1. The Surveys, Data and Statistical Studies Mission (*Mission des enquêtes, des données et des études statistiques* – MEDES)
2. The Study and Research Mission (*Mission d'étude et de recherche* – MER)
3. The Experimentation and Evaluation of Public Policies Mission (*Mission d'expérimentation et d'évaluation des politiques publiques* – MEEPP)
4. The Valorisation and Dissemination Mission (*Mission de valorisation et de diffusion* – MVD)
5. The Documentation/Resource Centre Mission (*Mission de la documentation/centre de ressources* – Mdoc)

The Institute plays a **key role in knowledge and analysis of youth policies**, as “a resource and expert assessment centre for all stakeholders in youth affairs, non-formal education and voluntary organisations, for parliamentary assemblies and bodies representing civil society”.

INJEP's role is “to observe and analyse young people's situations and youth policies at all territorial levels from local to European”. **At the Prime Minister's request**, it carries out studies and drafts assessments relating to cross-ministerial youth policy, and oversees specific activities of observation or expert assessment of public action in favour of youth.

INJEP also runs the FEJ – Youth Experimentation Fund (**Fonds d'Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse**), which finances experimental projects concerning young people.

Policy monitoring and evaluation

Assessment and analysis of public youth policies in France have been developed and systematised over the last dozen or so years. Assessments, which may be quantitative, statistical or qualitative, are carried out by various public and private bodies (laboratories and academic research centres, research firms, etc.) Among other things, they seek to assess the impact of youth programmes and policies, and make recommendations.

A variety of institutions and organisations participate in the assessment and monitoring of policies, including Ministerial Statistical Departments, studies institutes, Ministerial Inspection Departments and consultative bodies. The public authorities may also call upon the services of external policy assessment agencies to monitor their youth policies.

Indicative list of youth policy assessment bodies

Each ministry has its own ministerial evaluation and statistical department, able to produce data and assess policies and programmes likely to concern young people.

At the DJEPVA/INJEP, the **Surveys, Data and Statistical Studies Mission (MEDES)** produces statistics in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE). Its role is to produce and disseminate public statistics on youth, non-formal education and sport.

Other ministerial evaluation and statistical departments

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food: Department of Statistics and Foresight Analysis (*Service de statistique et de la prospective* – SSP)
- Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities: Department for Local Studies and Statistics (*Département des études et des statistiques locales* – DESL)
- Ministry of Public Action and Accounts: External Trade Statistics and Analyses Division (*Département des statistiques et des études du commerce extérieur* – DSECE)
- Ministry of Culture: Department of Studies, Foresight and Statistics (*Département des études, de la prospective et des statistiques* – DEPS)

- Ministry for the Armed Forces: Defence Economic Observatory (*Observatoire économique de la défense* – OED)
- Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition: Data and Statistical Studies Department (*Service de données et des études statistiques* – SDES)
- Ministry of National Education: Directorate for Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance (*Direction de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la performance* – DEPP)
- Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation: Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate (*Sous-direction des systèmes d'information et des études statistiques* – SIES)
- Ministry of Justice: Statistics and Studies Sub-Directorate (*Sous-direction de la statistique et des études* – SDSE)
- Ministry for Solidarity and Health: Directorate of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (*Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques* – DREES)
- Ministry of Labour: Directorate of Research, Economic Studies and Statistics (*Direction de l'animation, de la recherche, des études et des statistiques* – DARES)

The Advisory Council on Youth Policies

The Advisory Council on Youth Policies (*Conseil d'orientation des politiques de la jeunesse* – COJ) is an administrative consultative body under the Prime Minister's authority, created by Decree no.2016-1377 of 12 October 2016. (See below Part 1.5 [Dynamic Interministerial Approach](#)).

The COJ has three main missions:

1. it may be consulted on legislative and regulatory projects connected with youth, and discuss any questions of general interest concerning youth policies;
2. it may make proposals to the Government to improve young people's situation
3. it has to send an annual report to the Government.

COJ website: <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/spip.php?rubrique1188>

The Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation

The Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (*Direction interministérielle de la transformation publique* – DITP) is a Prime Ministerial department that assists the French Government in the implementation and assessment of public policies.

Ministerial Inspection Departments

Several administrations (ministries) have inspection departments or inspection bodies responsible for carrying out inspections or producing assessment studies. In the field of public youth policies, the Minister of National Education and Youth's "Youth and Sport" inspectors make up a civil service corps in its own right which participates in the implementation and assessment of public policies adopted by ministries. It may be required to carry out advisory, study and research missions in the fields of youth, non-formal education, physical and sports activities, collective recreational activities, and associations). Since September 2019, it has been merged with three other inspection bodies – the Inspectorate General for National Education (*Inspection générale de l'éducation nationale* – IGEN), the Inspectorate General for National Education and Research (*Inspection générale de l'administration de l'éducation nationale et de la recherche* – IGAENR), and the Inspectorate General of Libraries (*Inspection générale des bibliothèques* – IGB) – to form the General Inspectorate of Education, Sport and Research (*Inspection générale de l'éducation, du Sport et de la recherche* – IGESR).

1.5 Cross-sectoral approach with other ministries

Mechanisms and actors

The Ministry of National Education and Youth is developing interministerial cooperation which, among other things, aims to create **complementarity** between policies and the ministries that implement them. Such complementarity is to be seen above all between youth policies, educational policies, and policies on culture.

The development and implementation of youth policies is based on multi-partner work involving the State and its ministries, local authorities, representatives of associations and youth movements, and, in some cases, young people themselves. This shared work may take the form of consultative bodies bringing together various parties involved in development of youth policies, such as the Advisory Council on Youth Policies (*Conseil d'orientation des politiques de jeunesse* – COJ), or of "territorial structured dialogue" in regions. The Cross-Ministerial Committee for Youth (*Comité interministériel de la jeunesse* – CIJ) brings together ministers concerned by questions of youth, enabling dialogue on and validation of policies and schemes concerning young people.

The cross-ministerial committee of youth (COJ)

The Decree No. 82-367 of 30 April 1982 defines the CIJ as "an interministerial committee for the consideration of youth issues [with] the purpose of proposing to the Government any measures to improve the living conditions of young people"

The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister or, on his delegation, by the Minister of State for Youth and Sport. The Director of the DJEPVA, who is also the Interministerial Delegate for Youth (*Délégué interministériel à la jeunesse* – DIJ) under the authority of the Minister of National Education and Youth (Decree no. 2014-18 of 9 January 2014 on creation of an Interministerial Delegate for Youth), is responsible for preparing the CIJ's deliberations and following up their decisions. He coordinates the implementation of actions carried out by the various ministries on behalf of young people, ensuring that all actors and partners contributing to them are involved. Preparation of the CIJ's meetings is based on discussion and sharing of information that leads diagnoses shared between the various ministerial stakeholders, who are therefore able to make joint proposals of measures on behalf of young people.

The director/delegate must convene the CIJ and "coordinate the implementation of the actions carried out by the various ministries in favor of young people, taking care to involve all the actors and partners". The committee is based on a work of exchange, sharing of information that leads to a shared diagnosis between the various ministerial stakeholders, that can jointly define measures for young people.

The interministerial delegate for Youth Affairs is tasked with:

- ensuring implementation of cross-ministerial measures decided upon;
- overseeing the coherence of the various ministries' actions;
- fostering exchanges between the State and stakeholders in national and local youth policies, including local authorities, young people's organisations, and youth and non-formal education associations;
- accompanying processes of public policy co-construction with young people;
- ensuring follow-up and preparation of Cross-Ministerial Committee for Youth meetings;
- carrying out and disseminating studies and research on youth, in particular via the *Observatoire de la jeunesse* (Youth Observatory) set up by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education.

It should be noted that the installation and organization of **these bodies is not mandatory and systematic** and depends on the will of the government. For example, between 2018 and 2020, the CIJ was not organized.

Cross-Ministerial Committee for Youth reports:

- CIJ of 21 February 2013
(http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/CIJ_Rapport_21_fevrier_2013.pdf)
- CIJ of 4 March 2014
(http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/tome_1_bilan_priorite_jeunesse_def.pdf)
- CIJ of 3 July 2015
(http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/BAT_PrioriteJeunesse_12pages_24-08.pdf)

The Advisory Council on Youth Policies

The Advisory Council on Youth Policies (*Conseil d'orientation des politiques de jeunesse – COJ*), is a consultative body reporting to the Prime Minister, created by Decree no.2016-1377 of 12 October 2016 on creation of the COJ. It provides a forum for debate between the various parties involved in developing youth policies.

The COJ's missions include **assessment** of youth policies, presentation of an annual **activity report** to the Government, and **non-mandatory consultation** on legislative and regulatory projects.

The Council also has a **power of initiative** to communicate proposals to the Government with a view to improving young people's situation.

The Council comprises eight boards when sitting in **plenary session, reflecting its crosscutting character and horizontal cooperation**:

1. State
2. local authorities
3. young people and youth organisations
4. youth and non-formal education associations and movements
5. integration of young people
6. social partners
7. associate members
8. qualified individuals

The COJ's members are as follows:

- The Interministerial Delegate for Youth, Director of the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (DJEPVA)
- The Ministers respectively responsible for social affairs, culture, defence, national education, employment, higher education, the interior, youth, justice, housing, Overseas France, health, and urban affairs
- The President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council's (ESEC) group of Student Organisations and Youth Movements
- The Ministerial Delegate for Local Missions (*Délégué ministériel aux missions locales – DMML*)
- The President of the "Youth Information National Union" (*Union nationale de l'information jeunesse – UNIJ*) association
- The President of the Network of Second-Chance Schools (*Réseau des Ecoles de la deuxième chance – RE2C*)
- The High Commissioner for Civic Engagement (*Haut-commissaire à l'engagement civique – HCEC*)
- The President of the National Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse nationale d'allocations familiales – CNAF*)
- The President of the National Health Insurance Fund for Salaried Workers (*Caisse nationale d'assurance maladie des travailleurs salariés – CNAMTS*)

- The President of the Agricultural Social Mutual Fund (*Mutualité sociale agricole* – (MSA)
- The President of the National Union of Social Action Community Centres (*Union nationale des centres communaux et intercommunaux d'action sociale* – UNCCAS)
- The President of the National Union of Family Associations (*Union nationale des associations familiales* – UNAF)

The Council's [different sessions](#) have distinct roles:

- **"The plenary session sets the major focuses, enables members to share a common culture and common objectives**, and ensures regular communication of committees' and workgroups' activities".
- **"The two thematic committees** (non-formal education and integration of young people) **work on more targeted problems"**.
- "Committees and plenary sessions alike may create workgroups to appraise specific questions".

1.6 Evidence-based youth policy

Political Commitment to Evidence-Based Youth Policy

Although there is no exact equivalent of the notion of "evidence-based youth policies" in French, experimentation and scientific assessment of public policies and the empirical evidence-based approach both exist and have been increasingly developed in France over the past few years, in particular in the field of youth policies.

Experimentation is regarded as a new tool for public action, necessary if we are to transform it and make it more effective, and assess the impact of various youth schemes before universalising them. Created in 2008, **the Youth Experimentation Fund (*Fonds d'Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse* – FEJ)** is intended to finance experimental programmes aiming to foster "pupils' academic success, contribute to equality of opportunities and improve lasting social and professional integration of young people under twenty-five years of age".

Youth policies are also analysed and assessed **by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (*Institut national de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire* – INJEP)**, which is an observatory and resource and expertise centre whose mission is to "contribute to improvement of knowledge in these fields by production of statistic and analyses, observation, experimentation and assessment".

Cooperation between policy-making and research

INJEP – National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education

Cooperation between research and the public authorities finds concrete form in the action of the INJEP – National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education, under the aegis of the Director of the DJEPVA, which "draws up analyses via **the carrying out of research, studies and assessments, and produces statistical data, in collaboration** with the SSP_ Public Statistical Department, in the fields of youth, non-formal education, community life and sport".

FEJ – Youth Experimentation Fund

The FEJ organization

Cooperation between research and policy-making also found concrete expression in 2009 with setup of the FEJ – Youth Experimentation Fund (*Fonds d'Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse*), to finance "innovative actions in favour of youth, implemented at a limited level and assessed".

The [Article 25](#) of the law n° **2008-1249** of December 2008 is at the origin of the FEJ which seeks to support experimental youth schemes. **Experiments consist of limited implementation of an action or scheme to be tested out before it is mainstreamed.** The **FEJ** aims to finance "experimental programs aimed at promoting the academic success of students, contribute to equal opportunities and to improve sustainable social and professional integration "for young people under the age of twenty-five. In total, between 2015 and 2017, 650 (last available figures) project reviews were analyzed and evaluated, in particular to determine whether the continuation of the project is authorized. 81 projects are still going during the period 2019-2020

The **FEJ** is overseen by a **Management Committee that sets major guidelines and general themes, and is chaired by the minister responsible for youth affairs.** Its secretariat and animation is provided by the INJEP which also prepares and selects calls for projects and coordinates the regional and national animation of the selected experimentations.

The FEJ Mission

The FEJ works through the launch of national calls for projects reserved for associations, public or private structures proposing "an innovative action or to contribute to reform existing systems to make them more effective". These actions are then evaluated by expert structures in qualitative and quantitative evaluation: university laboratories, research centers or even evaluation firms. The evaluation is funded by the FEJ.

Assessment plays a major role in the social experiment initiative promoted by the FEJ. It is carried out by an independent external body and may be 100% financed by the FEJ. Assessment of experimental schemes must enable decisions to be taken on their effectiveness (in other words, their ability to achieve goals), and therefore on whether or not to mainstream them.

The FEJ's [main focuses](#) include :

- school dropout,
- professional integration,
- accommodation,
- healthcare,
- local and international mobility,
- civic commitment (**most experiments bear on youth commitment**),
- discrimination.

Example of FEJ experimental

Among these projects, the experimental Regional platforms for European and international mobility ("*Plateformes régionales de mobilité européenne et internationale*") were extended to the whole of France following a call for projects launched by the Ministry responsible for the youth via the FEJ : the FEJ has funded 17 experiments bearing on international youth mobility. Implementation and assessment of these projects on mobility provided a good deal of useful knowledge in such areas as governance and accompaniment of young people, and they have consequently been extended to a number of regions, including Centre-Val de Loire.

Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 650 project reviews (latest available figures) were analysed and assessed, in particular to determine whether or not implementation of the projects in question was pointful and might be applied more widely in territorial terms or among the population.

National Statistics and available data sources

The French State has a SSP – Public Statistical Department (*Service Statistique Public*) that regularly produces data as a basis for **drafting public policies**. It develops indicators enabling assessments of French society and its population's demographic, economic, social and environmental situations. The key text as far as public statistics are concerned is [Law no.51-711 of 7 June 1951](#).

The Public Statistical Department is made up of the **INSEE – National Institute of Statistics** and Economic Studies, and others SSMs – Ministerial Statistical Departments.

INSEE (**National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies**)

INSEE is one of the ministry responsible for of the economy's General Departments; it is tasked with collecting, analysing and disseminating information on French society across the country, and carrying out annual surveys.

INSEE has no specific youth division, but, through **its focuses on such themes as work, school education and higher education**, and surveys carried out in certain areas by its regional departments, it collects information on young people's living conditions. Such is the case with its *Portraits of Youth* ("*Portraits de Jeunesse*") , which are statistical studies (regular reports) bearing on young people's social conditions in given regions.

SSM – Ministerial Statistical Department

Each ministry also has its own **SSM – Ministerial Statistical Department**, which may produce data on ministry policies as seen by young people. Data collected on youth bears essentially on **education, school dropout, employment, accommodation, health and student mobility**.

The Ministry of National Education and Youth's Surveys, Data and Statistical Studies Mission, (*Mission des enquêtes, des données et des études statistiques – MEDES*) **is responsible for producing and disseminating public statistics** on youth, non-formal education, voluntary organisations and sport. (See Assessment and monitoring of public policies).

The list may also be extended to include other public institutions that produce and disseminate data on youth, including :

- the CNAF – National Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse Nationale d'Allocations Familiales*),
- the Urban Policy Observatory's Bureau of Statistics,
- the CEREQ – Centre for Studies and Research on Qualifications (*Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur les Qualifications*), which collaborates regularly with the National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP).

Budgetary Allocations supporting research in the youth field

It is difficult to estimate total sums allocated to research on youth, as the research budget also finances such bodies as higher education institutions, as the CNRS – National Centre for Scientific Research, the ANR – National Research whose areas of study do not necessarily include youth.

In application of the 2020 Finance Act's "Youth and Voluntary Organisations" (*Jeunesse et vie associative*) financial programme for 2020, the public resources allocated to INJEP and the Youth Experimentation Fund for production of data and drafting of studies aiming to "guide public decision-making by producing data, carrying out studies and conducting rigorously assessed experiments" come to a total of one million euros.

Source:

- [Programme 163 "Youth and Voluntary Organisations" 2020 Finance Act](#),
- [Draft Finance bill 2020, Ministry of National Education. Program 163 Youth](#)

1.7 Funding youth policy

How Youth policy is funded

Youth policy budgeting is covered by “finance laws that determine the **nature, sum and allocation of State resources and charges as well as the resulting budgetary and financial balance**”. (Art.1 of the [Framework law](#) of 1 August 2001 bearing on finance laws). All [Finance laws](#) are voted on by the [Parliament](#), which is the budgetary authority.

Youth affairs are a focus of crosscutting cross-ministerial action and consequently affect budgets. Budgeting forms the subject of a DPT – Crosscutting Policy Document ([Document de Politique Transversale](#)) summarising the [State’s budgetary](#) effort taking all ministries together in various crosscutting fields.

The Crosscutting Policy Document (*Document de politique transversale* – DPT) “on behalf of youth” presents the State’s total investment on youth policies, made up of various financial programmes. The DPT’s estimated total allocated in 2020 on behalf of young people comes to almost 95 billion euros

One of the DPT’s financial programmes is specifically dedicated to voluntary organisations and youth policies: Programme 163, which constitutes the budget allocated to the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations.

In 2020, Programme 163, which comes to over 663 million euros, finances the following actions:

- **Development of civic service**
- **Development of Universal National Service**
- **Development of voluntary organisations (Non-profit sector)**
- **Actions in favor in youth and non-formal education**

What is funded

Priority investments mainly cover :

1) Development of civic service:

The civic commitment programme introduced in 2010 enables any young people who so wish to participate in “general interest missions” for which they are recompensed.

2) Developing the universal national service

The universal national service is aimed at all young people, girls and boys. It takes the form of a mandatory one-month period between 16 and 18 years of age, in the continuity of the citizen journey started in primary school and continued in college, followed by a longer commitment on a voluntary basis, between 16 and 25 years old.

2019 saw the launch of the scheme in 13 pioneer *départements*. Appropriations to the SNU in 2020 provided for in Programme 163 should enable the scheme to be deployed throughout the national territory.

3) Development of non-profit (NGOs) sector, financing in all:

- the FDVA – Community Life Development Fund (*Fonds de Développement de la Vie Associative*); the fund is intended to support community life at national and local level and, more specifically, finance training of volunteers and innovative social action
- volunteer resource and information centres
- support for federations of national and regional associations
- national support for accredited “Youth and Non-Formal Education” associations
- The functioning of the departmental delegates to the associative life (DDVA)

- The Citizen Engagement Account (CEC)
- 4) Actions in favour of youth and non-formal education:
- European and international mobility
 - providing young people with information (subsidies for youth documentation and information bodies);
 - developing a wider leisure-activity offer and setup of “new-generation holiday camps”;
 - careers in non-formal education field;
 - support for (JEP – Non-Formal Youth Education) organisations projects;
 - support for studies on youth, non-formal education and voluntary organisations.

Source: [Draft Finance bill 2019, Ministry of National Education. Program 163](#)

[Draft Finance bill 2020, Ministry of National Education. Program 163 \(Projet de Loi de finances 2020, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la jeunesse. Programme 163 Jeunesse et vie associative\)](#)

Financial accountability

In the field of youth policies these are the usual mechanisms governing financial responsibility and control relating to management of public funds that apply.

As regards allocation of subsidies to associations, the following rules apply:

In the context of actions in favour of youth and non-formal education, the Government has simplified associations' and foundations' dealings with government bodies ([Order of 23 July 2015 bearing on simplification of the system for associations and foundations](#)).

The Order of 23 July 2015 led to modifications in the rules governing funding of associations. In addition:

- Allocation of subsidies must now comply with national law and European standards;
- Local authorities and public institutions must also provide the State with lists of all subsidies allocated to associations as well as to foundations registered as charities.

Moreover (numerous) Youth public schemes are subject to inspections and periodical audits made by the national [Court of Auditors](#).

Use of EU Funds

France receives **EU funding from European Structural Funds** and in the context of the 2014-2020 “Erasmus +” European programme, for its “Education and Training” component and its “Youth and Sport” component, which concerns the Ministry responsible for youth affairs.

The “Erasmus +” programme

The programme's “Youth” component is managed by the Erasmus+ “Youth & Sport” Agency France. The “Youth” component of the [Erasmus+ Programme](#) has a budget chapter of its own and is specifically dedicated to development of non-formal education activities. It is based on three key actions:

- Key Action 1: “Mobility for young people and youth workers in the interests of learning”;
- Key Action 2: “Cooperation and partnerships for innovation and exchange of good practices”;
- Key Action 3: “Support for policy reform”;

The total budget allocated to the [ERASMUS +Agency](#) by the European Commission in 2020 to support projects stands at 15,4 millions.

Funding of the 3 Key Actions is divided up as follows:

- 1) mobility for young people and youth workers (Key Action 1)
- 2) strategic partnerships (Key Action 2)
- 3) support for policies reform, including structured dialogue (Key Action 3)

In addition, via the Erasmus+ Programme, the European Union (EU) also finances two major networks in France:

- SALTO resource centres, which aim to support and develop national agencies' action in various geographical areas or on certain themes. Among other things, the SALTO resource centre based at the French Agency for the Erasmus+ Youth and Sport Programme (*Agence Erasmus+ France / Jeunesse & Sport* – AEFJS) provides training opportunities for young workers in countries in the South Mediterranean area.
- the Eurodesk European network, whose objective it is to inform young people on the mobility opportunities available to them at European level. In France, the network is run by the Youth Information and Documentation Centre (*Centre d'information et de documentation jeunesse* – CIDJ).

The European Solidarity Corps programme

Also run by the Erasmus + Agency the European Solidarity Corps (ESC), which, in France alone, is allocated over 13 million euros in European appropriations, has three components:

- the European and national individual and collective volunteering component,
- the traineeship component,
- the jobs component.

European Structural Funds

France also benefits from allocations by [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) under the Europe 2020 strategy "for smart sustainable inclusive growth".

Two European funds are mobilised on behalf of the economic, social and territorial cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 :

- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): 8.4 billion euros to fund the "investment for growth and employment" objective, and 1.1 billion for European Territorial Cooperation (ETC).
- The European Social Fund (ESF): 6.03 billion euros. For 2014-2020, the ESF is complemented by 310 million euros under the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which seeks to foster young people's integration into the job market, in particular young people "not in employment, education or training" (NEETs).

These **two funds do not specifically finance youth policies**; nonetheless their objectives include social inclusion and professional integration, and they may therefore finance projects that also bear on youth.

Source: <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr>

1.8 Cross-border cooperation

Cooperation with European countries

Ensuring successful cooperation, exchanges and partnerships with other EU Member States is one of French youth policies which seek to **increase and diversify mobility offers**, especially in Europe – in other words, encourage exchanges between Member States' youth.

Such cooperation takes several forms:

Bilateral agreements

Bilateral agreements such as **the OFAJ (Franco-German Youth Office)**, which was created by the Élysée Treaty in 1963. The OFAJ is an international organization with its head office in Paris; its function is to support and develop all types of exchanges between the two States' youth, helping consolidate Franco-German relations through a range of mobility and language exchange programmes intended for children and young people, including jobseekers.

The Council of Europe

France is also a founder Member State of the **Council of Europe**, an intergovernmental organization in existence since 1949 that brings together 47 Member States with the main objective of promoting and ensuring respect for human rights. It monitors Member States' progress in this area and makes recommendations via specialized independent monitoring bodies. The Council encourages greater youth participation in its "co-management" system. Representatives of youth NGOs (non-government organizations) sit alongside civil servants on committees tasked with defining youth priorities and coming up with recommendations and programs, in such decision-making **bodies** as the *Comité Directeur Européen pour la Jeunesse* (CDEJ – European Steering Committee for Youth), which fosters intergovernmental cooperation in the youth sector and serves as a means for comparing national policies, and the *Conseil Consultatif pour la Jeunesse* (CCJ – Advisory Council on Youth), which brings together thirty representatives of non-government youth organizations and networks.

Local partnerships between European Regions

Local authorities also play a significant role in the development of European partnerships. Some regions are trying to set up new cooperation activities between young Europeans.

The Hauts-de France Region for example has annually hosted **the Weimar Triangle Youth Summit** (*Sommet des Jeunes du Triangle de Weimar*) since 2001 – an event in which 45 young German, Polish and French participants get together to debate and brainstorm on a topic of current European concern. The summit is the result of a trilateral agreement between the Hauts-de France, the Province of Silesia in Poland, and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany.

Mutual learning sessions between European policy-makers

Participation of those involved in development and implementation of national youth policies in meetings, workgroups and mutual learning seminars organized by Member States in order to exchange viewpoints on practices and issues involved in youth policies, in the context of the **Open Coordination Method (OCM)**.

International cooperation

International cooperation in the youth field is characterized by cross-ministerial action, mainly on the part of the Ministries responsible for youth affairs and sport, national education, and foreign affairs, which have formed special partnerships with international institutions and organizations.

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

The **OIF** Composed of **88 States and governments**, its activities focus on implementation of international policy and multilateral cooperation designed to "**promote the French language and cultural and linguistic diversity**" and "peace, democracy and human rights", "support school education, training, higher education and research", and "develop cooperation at the service of sustainable development".

Among other bodies, the OIF cooperates with **the CONFESJES** – French-Speaking World Conference of Ministries in charge of fYouth and Sports (*Conférence des Ministres de la Jeunesse et des Sports de la Francophonie*), whose role is to "work for promotion of youth, sports and recreational activities in the Francophone world".CONFESJES policies are

designed to benefit its Member States' youth and form part of the Francophone Youth Strategy 2015-2022 (*Stratégie Jeunesse de la Francophonie 2015-2022*), whose aims are "empowerment and self-fulfilment", "accountability, participation and civic commitment based on democratic values", "equality of the sexes, "accompaniment and support of all stakeholders in Francophony, "Francophone commitment and solidarity, the promotion of the French language", and "appropriation of the concepts of sustainable development".

The strategy is based on "partnership, subsidiarity and measurability" (projects are assessed according to indicators defined by OIF Member States).

the OFQJ - Franco-Québécois Youth Office

As a OIF member, the government of Quebec signed a memorandum of understanding with the French government on 9 February 1968, which led to setup of the OFQJ - Franco-Québécois Youth Office.

The OFQJ is a bi-governmental body active in France and Quebec, governed by a Board of Directors chaired by the French minister responsible for Youth and the Quebec Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, and by the French Minister in charge of Youth. **The Office participates in bringing together young French and Québécois citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 through mobility programmes designed to increase student employability by complementing and improving on their training** (through placements in professional environments), as well as developing networks of partners and raising awareness on entrepreneurial values. "France-Canada" and "France-Quebec" mobility agreements facilitate exchanges and mobility of "young professionals, jobseekers, students, apprentices, artists and culture professionals".

Local partnerships

Local authorities also undertake action targeting youth, in particular in regions that encourage French youth's international commitment through international cooperation agreements.

Since 2015 the ministry responsible for foreign affairs and the DAECT – Delegation for External Action by Local Authorities (*Délégation pour l'Action Extérieure des Collectivités Territoriales*) annually launch a call for projects in support of decentralised cooperation, Youth and European and international mobility ("[Jeunesse et mobilité européenne et internationale](#)") intended for local authorities and concerning young people between the ages of 16 and 30. It mobilises several French and foreign local authorities and provided more than 100 young people with the opportunity to commit to decentralised cooperation projects.

The [Delegation for the external action of local authorities](#) of the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Ministry in charge of agriculture and the Ministry of National Education and Youth, has launched since 2015 an annual "[Youth and European and International Mobility](#)" call for projects aimed at local authorities such as municipalities, wishing to involve young people in decentralized cooperation projects.

At regional level, **Regions also have a range of aids to mobility on offer to young people** (apprentices, upper secondary and university students, and jobseekers). They enable beneficiaries to set up projects in "southern countries" or go on language study stays there to round out their training. Some regions have their own **European and international mobility platforms** bringing together international mobility developers from NGOs, local authorities and government departments tasked with promoting French youth mobility on the international scene.

These projects enable reinforcement or initiation of partnerships with other foreign local authorities.

1.9 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Since 2017, the Government has implemented measures designed to bring about far-reaching changes in the secondary and higher education systems.

The reform of the baccalaureate and high school

The Minister of Education entrusted in November 2017, a **mission of reflection on the transformation of the baccalaureate (exam)**. This mission was responsible for rethinking and "simplifying the organization of the baccalaureate" and "to affirm [its] function of access to higher education" as well as "to strengthen the link between the baccalaureate and the continuation of the curriculum of students in higher education". The mission has given its [report](#) on January 24, 2018.

Following the submission of the report, the Minister of National Education presented his reform project in the Council of Ministers on 14 February 2018. **The first edition of this "deeply renewed" baccalaureate is scheduled to take place in 2021.**

The [changes in the baccalaureate](#) envisaged by the report lead to a new organization of the high school where the student **orientation project is to be built**. Among these changes (non-exhaustive list):

- The establishment of functioning in teaching units and no longer in general and technological fields;
- The implementation of a "regulated autonomy" within the institutions;
- The valorization of "computing and digital, [considered as] a major priority";
- The reduction in the number of examinations on the baccalaureate exam.
- The creation of a new platform for access to higher education "**Parcoursup**" which replaces the "Admission Post Bac (APB)" platform, created in 2009.

Mandatory training up to the age of 18

With a view to reducing poverty among the most vulnerable young people, minors not in education, employment or training (NEETs) in particular, the Government instituted an obligation of training for all young people between 16 and 18 years of age in the Act of 26 July 2019 for a School of Trust.

The measure should come into force at the start of the 2020/2021 school year.

<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/lutte-contre-l-exclusion/lutte-pauvrete-gouv-fr/la-mise-en-oeuvre/accompagner-vers-l-emploi-et-l-autonomie/article/obligation-de-formation-jusqu-a-18-ans>

Ongoing debates

Universal Basic Income

On 13 September 2018, the President of the Republic announced the creation of a Universal Basic Income (*Revenu universel d'activité* – RUA), a merger of several social benefits, with a view to combating non-take-up of social rights.

The drafting of the Bill on the RUA involved organisation of citizens' workshops in various areas, along with a series of institutional, public and citizen consultations, including in the form of an online survey that obtained some 8000 responses.

A number of youth movements and associations combating social exclusion have requested that 18-year-olds be eligible for the RUA – a request that has aroused considerable debate, including at the Advisory Council on Youth Policies, which has produced an [Opinion](#) on young people's access to the RUA, addressed to the Prime Minister.

2. Voluntary Activities

According to a study conducted by the France Bénévolat association in 2019 (*The evolution of volunteer involvement in France, from 2010 to 2019*, France Bénévolat-IFOP-Crédit mutuel), France has 20 million volunteers, among which the young people aged 15 to 35 years are 23%. **Volunteering rate remains practically stable for several years.**

The data from the study also show that youth engagement is strongest among all age groups surveyed. Voluntary activities are also popular with the public authorities, particularly because they enable young people to take part in society, to experience citizenship, develop qualities while participating in the autonomy of young people and social cohesion.

The State intervenes in favor of volunteering, through the promotion of these activities, financial support to associations and the development of voluntary schemes both in France and abroad. Policies relating to voluntary activities are based on a joint effort between various stakeholders in the perimeters of different actions: ministries, public operators, local authorities, associations, companies...

However, volunteering and voluntary involvement **is marked by inequalities**: volunteering practice is associated with the social category and/or degree level. Volunteering is more important among the population whose the level of education is the highest.

Facilitating access to volunteering and democratizing it for all young people, especially the less socially advantaged young people, are therefore issues for the public authorities and associations involved in the development of volunteering.

2.1 General context

Historical developments

The **history of voluntary commitment is closely associated with that of NGOs** recognised and authorised by the [Law of 1 July 1901](#), which defines an NGO as "**the agreement whereby two or more persons pool together, on a permanent basis, their knowledge or activity for a purpose other than sharing profits**" (Article 1). This "republican" act enshrines the right of "**freedom of association**", which played a fundamental role in the development of *bénévolat* (volunteering).

Political organisations (unions, workers' movement, etc.) and religious organisations (religious scouting) played a key role in the creation of the first French network of *bénévoles*, whose profiles have adapted with social changes.

In the 19th century, the many wars and their wounded contributed to the creation of associations following the example of [La Croix-Rouge française](#) (The French Red Cross), founded in 1863, along with the first committees of *bénévoles* and first-aid organisations: relief societies for wounded soldiers (the Red Cross) that were initially largely composed of men but gradually opened to aristocratic women who, in the late 19th century, set up their own voluntary associations (*Union des Femmes de France* [Women's Union of France], 1882).

World War II and the post-war period also played a significant role in the evolution of *bénévolat*, in particular by democratising and increasing the presence of women and young people, who started to join non-profit organisations.

After 1945, the need to rebuild society and French territory generated the birth of large "public utility NGOs" ("[reconnues d'utilités publiques](#)") such as [Secours Catholique](#), the [Petits Frères des Pauvres](#) (1946) and [Emmaüs](#) (1949), for which *bénévolat* was underpinned by the **principle of charity and selflessness**. The post-war period also saw construction of the "**non-formal education movement**" for young people. These movements and organisations, which set themselves the goal of training "emancipated

citizens", enabled young people to practise recreational, sports, cultural and educational activities as well as to commit in various ways (environmental volunteering, archaeological sites, environment, etc.), participating in creation of a **"bénévolat culture"** more deeply rooted in French society and based on the values of **solidarity, democracy and "active" citizenship**.

In the 1950s, the ideals of non-formal education infused the public authorities responsible for youth and specifically the ministries responsible for culture, youth and sport. They began to support the non-formal education movement financially, as well as developing legal, administrative and legislative frameworks for non-profit organisations and promoting *"bénévolat"* among French youth, especially for the values associated with it.

Since the 1980s, the non-profit sector and *bénévolat* have grown in France. The sector has undergone many changes, including a gradual professionalisation involving recruitment of "professional *bénévoles*" and the desire to promote *bénévoles*' "skills" and thus consider *bénévolat* as a preliminary professionalising commitment.

According to a study carried out by the France Bénévolat association, *L'évolution de l'engagement bénévole associatif en France, de 2010 à 2019 Enquête France Bénévolat-IFOP-Crédit mutuel*, France has 20 million volunteers, 13 million of whom are carrying out their project within a non-profit association, 2 million of whom are part of another type of organisation, and 5 million of whom volunteer informally.

The report indicates that:

- Volunteer work is on the rise among young people: The rate of involvement in volunteer work among under-35s increased to 22% in 2019. Despite a decrease among those above 65 years old, their rate of involvement remained higher than that for younger generations (31%).
- There are also slightly more women in associations than men, with an equal level of involvement.

Main concepts

Two types of civic commitments coexist in France: *bénévolat* and volunteering, which is a specifically French distinction. Although there are two commitment concepts, it is important to stress that they are both based on **the same values of (voluntary) solidarity and commitment**.

1) Bénévolat

There is no legal or contractual definition of the *bénévolat* status in French law. The commonly accepted definition is that of [the opinion of the Conseil Économique et social](#) (EESC – Economic and Social Council) rendered at its meeting of 24 February 1993 which defines the *bénévole* as anyone who freely commits to non-salaried action to help other people outside their professional and family time (this definition applies to all volunteers, youth, elderly people, etc.).

A *bénévole* acts in his/her organisation without being bound to its structure by any duration or frequency other than the rules that may have been optionally and freely consented to in a mutual agreement. The *bénévole* is not subject to **any subordination**.

Bénévoles participate in their organisations' activities without receiving **any financial compensation**. However, they may be reimbursed for the costs incurred by their activity. **A *bénévole* does not receive a salary.**

There are two types of *bénévolat*: "formal", exerted in an organisation, and "informal", also known as "direct *bénévolat*" or "proximity *bénévolat*", which is expressed by one-shot, non-permanent help (collecting toys, helping neighbours, etc.).

2) Volunteering

Volunteering is another form of commitment (in a more formal legal framework defined by the public authorities, unlike *bénévolat*). Unlike the *bénévoles*, **volunteers are compensated (financial compensation)**.

The various schemes are governed by rules of their own. Law no.2010-241 of 10 March 2010 bearing on the civic service has however brought together several civic service schemes: charitable volunteering, international administrative volunteering, international business volunteering, international solidarity volunteering and European voluntary service. This form of commitment often responds to a general interest mission and is usually exercised in non-profit organisations or with legal entities governed by public law. **In addition, volunteer status is governed by regulatory texts (laws and decrees) providing a restrictive legal framework.**

2.2 Administration and governance of youth volunteering

Governance

It is necessary to look first at relations between non-profit organisations and the State to identify the governance of *bénévolat* and volunteering: non-profit organisations are regarded as **interlocutors**, autonomous organisations representing civil society, as well as **partners** of the State with which they fulfil general interest missions.

The public authorities participate in development of the non-profit sector by supporting it financially and regulating its legal, legislative and administrative framework, as well as by promoting *bénévolat* and developing tools (*bénévolat* guides, etc.) that are useful and necessary to non-profit organisations.

Main actors

The Ministry in charge of Youth

In France, the public authority with final responsibility for the non-profit and *bénévolat* sector is the ministry in charge of youth which also covers "voluntary organisations and non-formal education" (Decree no. 2014-409 of 16 April 2014 and Decree no.2012-782 of May 2012). Currently, the Ministry in charge of youth is the Ministry of national Education.

- The ministry **defines and impulses financial and administrative support policies** bearing on *bénévolat* and volunteering.

Under the aegis of the ministry, the DJEPVA - Department (directorate) for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations and in particular the **Sub-Division for Cross-Ministerial Youth Policies and Voluntary Organisations** implements guidelines for non-profit organisations and *bénévolat*/volunteering and coordinates cross-ministerial actions for non-profit organisations and *bénévolat*.

- The Sub-directorate for Cross-Ministerial Youth Policies and Voluntary Organisations ([Sous-Direction des Politiques Interministérielles de Jeunesse et de Vie Associative](#)) is in charge of "coordination of actions to promote voluntary organisations, European and international mobility of young people, volunteering and *bénévolat*".

This sub-directorate **operates a fund dedicated to voluntary organisations**, the FDVA – Voluntary Organisation Development Fund.

- the **FDVA** is set up by Decree no.2011-2121 of 30 December 2011, which is designed to **contribute to the development of non-profit organisations**.

The **fund finances training of *bénévoles* through grants to NGOs** and promotes long-term *bénévolat*. Financing is allocated in the context of calls for projects, by decision of the Minister after consulting an advisory committee "bearing on the composition and

jurisdiction of the advisory committee on funds for the development of voluntary organisations" (Order of 7 February 2012). The FDVA is present in the French regions through decentralised departments of the ministry for youth and voluntary organisations: regional and departmental directorates for youth, sport and social cohesion.

The funds have advisory committees whose members are drawn from national government, elected regional authorities and associations and are responsible for setting funding priorities and objectives. **160,000 volunteers per year receive training support from the FDVA.** More than 10,000 projects receive FDVA support every year.

Alongside the ministry responsible for youth, other ministries also contribute to implementing volunteer programmes (volunteer work for international solidarity, in companies, in public administration) by promoting or even funding them. These ministries include:

- Ministry for foreign affairs
- Ministry for higher education
- Ministry for the economy and finance
- Ministry of the Interior

Public operator in the field of volunteering

The Civic Service Agency

Civic Service Agency, ([The Agence du Service Civique](#)) manages the setup and development of the civic service. Created on 12 May 2010, it is supervised by the ministry in charge of youth and is a public interest group. It enables public and private partners to pool resources for implementation of general interest missions, in compliance with Decree no.2012-91 of 26 January 2012 bearing on public interest groups. the agency is under the responsibility of the ministry of youth.

The Agency's role includes:

- **defining strategic guidelines and priority missions for Civic Service** in compliance with the provisions of Article L. 120-2 of the *Code du Service National* (National Service Code).
- **promoting and making best use of Civic Service among particular target groups**, host and youth guidance organisations, educational institutions and professional sectors;
- **ensuring equal access for all citizens to Civic Service**;
- monitoring and assessing implementation of the Civic Service;
- **implementing and monitoring conditions for ensuring social diversity** among Civic Service beneficiaries;
- defining the content of civic and citizen training courses provided for in Article L. 120-14 of the [Law of 10 March 2010 bearing on civic service](#)";
- Implementing the youth component of the European Erasmus+ Programme. Since 1 January 2016, **the Civic Service Agency has been responsible for implementation of the youth component of the European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme.** Erasmus + Youth and sports Agency is a part of the Civic Service Agency.

The Cooperation Fund for Youth and Popular Education

The Cooperation Fund for Youth and Popular Education (FONJEP), created in 1964, is a body managed jointly by national government, local authorities and non-profit associations. Its objective is to bolster the development of non-profit youth volunteering

projects and popular education. To achieve this objective, FONJEP covers five major areas of work:

1. Developing dialogue and cooperation between actors
2. Facilitating the roll-out of non-project youth volunteering projects
3. Supporting international solidarity: FONJEP runs several international programmes for solidarity that are jointly funded by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Agence française de développement (AFD)
4. Analysing and developing the socio-economic models of "Youth Popular Education" associations
5. Preserving and highlighting the history of the popular education sector

France Volontaires

France Volontaires is an organisation set up in 2009 that aims to promote and develop different forms of international solidarity volunteering. It brings together 34 French organisations engaged in non-formal education and international solidarity and is supported by many partners: governments, communities and associations. The organisation also sends out international solidarity and civic service volunteers. It contributes to the public interest grouping of the *Agence du Service Civique* (Civic Service Agency). **France Volontaires is also supported by the ministry of foreign affairs.**

the NGO seeks to:

- Work towards better knowledge and recognition of volunteering programmes;
- Contribute to the quantitative and qualitative development of volunteering;
- Support volunteer organisations in their missions (training, support of volunteers, etc.);
- Participate in the consolidation of French public policy on volunteering.

Main non-profit stakeholders: (indicative list)

France Bénévolat is a public utility organisation set up on 22 January 2010 with the aim of developing voluntary work, promoting general interest, putting people interested in *bénévolat* assignment with voluntary organisations in touch with one another, as well as supporting such organisations by reinforcing recognition and promotion of their *bénévoles*

The **Mouvement Associatif** (Non-Profit Movement) is a federation bringing together 600,000 organisations. Its role is to act as a mouthpiece for voluntary organisations and set up permanent dialogue with public authorities. It represents almost one in two non-profit associations in France. The volunteer movement has four main objectives:

1. Handling the challenges of community work
2. Driving dynamics in volunteering
3. Supporting non-profit associations
4. Raising the profile of association-based volunteering work

La Fonda is a public utility organisation set up in the 1980s. Its role is also to "equip" non-profit stakeholders by conducting surveys, drafting reports and surveys on the non-profit sector and organizing participative events;

The **Ligue de l'Enseignement** (Education League) is a confederation of over 40,000 lay and non-formal education organisations, grouping together about 2,500,000 members and hundreds of thousands of *bénévoles*. Founded in 1866, it is one of the oldest non-formal education organisations still active in France. It encourages and supports local initiatives that enable general access to "education and culture in the recognition of cultural diversity" and encourage voluntary work. It is one of the public authorities' special interlocutors.

The list may also be extended to include the main associations that encourage *bénévolat* and implement commitment schemes that **cater to young people only (indicative list)**:

The [CNAJEP](#) - Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Organisations (Comité pour les relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Éducation populaire) promotes youth commitment to local and non-profit action. It brings together over 70 youth movements and ensures that associations are represented in dealings with the public authorities and in joint bodies. The CNAJEP also acts as an observatory and "laboratory for ideas" on youth, non-formal education and public policies, as well as being a vehicle for proactive dialogue with the public authorities on all these questions. The CNAJEP contributes to co-construction of public policies, managing national implementation of the "structured dialogue" decided upon by the Council of European Ministers, which adopted a resolution on 23 November 2015 aiming to "improve youth political participation in democratic life in Europe".

The [Forum Français de la Jeunesse](#) (FFJ – French Youth Forum) is one of the main stakeholders in youth participation. Set up in 2012, it is "an autonomous forum where France's youth can express their ideas", bringing together the main youth-led bodies (associations, unions, political parties' youth branches, student insurance companies, etc.).

[Animafac](#), is a national organisation that assists students in their non-profit projects, promotes involvement in higher education and has a non-profit network consisting of 5000 student organisations. It is a [major stakeholder in civic service volunteering](#).

Cross-sectoral cooperation

The implementation of systems for community and volunteer work is based **on cross-sector cooperation** that mobilises a range of actors who work together: ministries, public institutions and operators, associations and the entrepreneurship sector and the social and solidarity economy. The results of this cooperation are the development, implementation and coordination of community and volunteer work programmes for young people, with data on volunteer activities also produced.

Example of cross-sector cooperation in the case of civic service:

The implementation of civic service is based on partnership work between public and community actors, as can be seen in the board of directors and the strategic committee of the service agency, which is responsible for managing the volunteer programme.

The Agency for Civic Service has a board of directors made up of members such as the minister for youth, the France Volontaires association and members who are recognised experts in the field of volunteer work. It also has a strategic committee that comprises representatives from organisations that take on youth volunteers, the youth volunteers themselves and members of parliament. The role of this committee is to address all questions related to the development of civic service and to offer guidance to the board of directors.

All objectives, actions and tools are submitted to the board of directors and debated and regularly updated by strategic committee working groups.

The High Council for Voluntary Organisations

The High Council for Voluntary Organisation concretizes also the cross-sectorial cooperation between public and NGOs stakeholders.

The High Council for Voluntary Organisations (*Haut-Conseil à la Vie Associative*) **is an advisory body** to which draft laws and decrees relating to the financing and organisation of non-profit organisations must be referred. The Council may "formulate objectives and make recommendations" on the non-profit sector, *bénévolat* in particular. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and is composed of 25 members from the world of voluntary organisations appointed for five years by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister responsible for voluntary organisations. It is responsible for drafting [assessments](#) – appraisals of inventories on the non-profit sector, highlighting trends and issues involved in voluntary organisations and *bénévolat*.

2.3 National strategy on youth volunteering

Existence of a National Strategy

Promoting volunteering activities is a recurrent measure of youth policies especially because the NGOs that allow the development of volunteering are considered as both the “leaven of the social cohesion” and “major economic actors”^{*}.

Policies promoting community and volunteer work **are incorporated both in youth policies and, more often, in overall policies supporting community work.**

There is no strategy specifically dedicated to the involvement of young people in community and volunteer work as such. However, in 2018 the French government set out a roadmap for the development of community work that includes measures for growing involvement. Furthermore, it aimed to strengthen the civic service, which is one of the main institutional measures for involving young people in volunteer work. Lastly, in 2019 the government launched a forerunner to implementing the Universal National Service (SNU) for young people between 15 and 25 years old. One of its objectives was creating a culture of engagement. The intention was to gradually roll out this measure to an entire age group over the next few years (see 2.5).

The roadmap for the development of community work.

This roadmap consists of 15 measures, organised around three axes, to promote the development of community work.

1. “Structured and improved support for associations”.

2. “Enabling lifelong involvement for all”.

3. “Community development is everyone’s business”.

Site: “the government’s community policy”: <https://www.associations.gouv.fr/la-politique-associative-du-gouvernement.html>

The development of civic service

Civic service is an important policy tool for engaging young people in volunteer work (for more information see 2.5). Since its implementation in 2010, this programme, which allows young people to get involved in general interest projects, has continued to gain momentum and visibility. In 2021, 20,000 additional civic service projects will be implemented.

Scope and contents

The objective of “the roadmap for community development” is to create an “involved society”. While the measures outlined in the strategy may also relate to young people, they cover a broader spectrum. These measures are organised around three axes:

(List of indicative measures)

- **1. Structured and improved support for associations**

_Continuing the development of digital services to simplify approaches for non-profit organisations, such as being able to submit volunteer declarations as part of the civic engagement account, to fill out your financial report online or to request a multi-year subsidy, etc.

- **2. Enabling lifelong involvement for all**

_Enabling a larger number of volunteers to take on additional loans to earn training credits through the civic engagement account.

This account “aims to map and highlight civic activities” and also provide access to training under certain circumstances. As an example, people who carry out voluntary work (in civic

service) or are heavily invested in running non-profit associations (more than 200 hours per year) can receive 20 hours of credit towards a course.

_Updating all measures for volunteer sabbaticals in order to make it more comprehensible and accessible for those who want to be more involved in volunteering.

_Working with companies and civil service employers to extend measures that encourage ways of reconciling paid work and volunteering.

- **3. Community development is everyone's business**

_Developing relationships of trust between associations, companies, government and citizens through, for example, signing a charter of mutual engagement. _Developing a "French model of philanthropy".

Responsible authority

National (central) authority

Although the authority responsible for definition of [volunteering and bénévolat policies](#) is the **ministry in charge of youth policies**, such policies are not drafted within **the same administrative framework according to type of commitment: bénévolat "policies"** are not necessarily drawn up by the public authorities, which, out of respect for **non-profit organisations' independence**, only intervene to support them (financially) and promote *bénévolat* through various initiatives. "The State certifies, authorises, provides expert advice, accompanies, monitors and evaluates the action of non-profit organisations.

The situation is **different for the volunteering policies**, which are supported, defined, managed and controlled by the State and various ministries.

The DIJ is also the Director of the DJEPVA- Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations, under the aegis of the ministry in charge of Youth. In the commitment field, the Department (DJEPVA) develops and coordinates youth commitment (volunteering/*bénévolat*) projects, ensures they are properly implemented, and monitors various schemes.

The DJEPVA itself includes **two sub-directorates responsible (among other things) for management of actions promoting bénévolat and volunteering:**

- The Sub-directorate for Cross-Ministerial Youth and Voluntary Organisation Policies

It manages actions targeting youth when they fall within the scope of several ministerial departments. **It coordinates actions in favour of voluntary organisations, European and international youth mobility, volunteering and bénévolat work**, and is also responsible for strategic supervision of the Civic Service Agency

As such and in the field of volunteering and *benévolat*:

- It ensures in conjunction with the ministries concerned (finance, Interior, labour, ...) the development and monitoring of the regulations for NGOs;
- It follows and it implements the Government's policy on the development of associations and volunteering;
- It ensures the strategic supervision of the civic service agency, the main vector of volunteering in France.

- The Sub-directorate for Non-Formal Education (*Sous-Direction de l'Éducation Populaire*)

This **sub-directorate promotes and monitors non-formal education**. It contributes to the **development of educational practices and coordinates the network of decentralised services in the areas of youth, non-formal education and volunteer organisations**. In the context of volunteering and *bénévolat* policies, its role includes:

- Ensuring recognition of prior experience and development of the economic facilitation sectors;
- facilitating relations with federations and national organisations for youth and non-formal education as well as with correspondents in decentralised networks;
- providing the Minister with a list of national organisations likely to obtain youth and non-formal education approval;
- and managing, negotiating and assessing partnerships and objectives agreements with national youth and non-formal education federations and organisations.

Furthermore, as with other youth policies, implementation of youth policies on volunteering and *bénévolat* is based on **partnership and cross-ministerial work**. Other ministries contribute to the development of youth commitment, including the **ministry of the Interior for firefighter volunteering and the Ministry of National Education and the ministry in charge of higher education** which promotes youth commitment of young people through a range of schemes (including the National Education Civic Reserve (*Réserve Citoyenne National Education*) and educational validation of prior *bénévole* experience.

Among these ministries, the ministry in charge of foreign affairs plays an important coordinating role in implementation and management of **international solidarity volunteering (VSI) and international administrative volunteering (VIA)**. It is responsible for issuing authorisations to organisations implementing volunteering missions ([Law no.2005-159 of 23 February 2005 bearing on the contract for international solidarity volunteering](#)), and as such works in close partnership with the DJEPVA.

Local authorities

Youth policies **including those promoting commitment are also implemented by local authorities**, which contribute to the development of volunteering and *bénévolat* by promoting them *via* such local structures such as local missions, youth information offices and information points. **Some local authorities, particularly regions and départements, have their own international volunteering schemes.** They play an important role in mobility within a non-formal educational framework.

Revisions/ Updates

Promoting engagement remains a strong focus of youth policy, which can be seen in the creation of a new system of engagement in 2019, the “Universal National Service” (see 2.5), during which young people carry out volunteer work, and the strengthening of the civic service that took place in 2020 and 2021.

In fact, the French government announced a target of 100,000 additional civic service projects, or 20,000 in 2020 and another 80,000 in 2021. This increase is explained by the government’s desire to promote the social significance of this measure, which encourages diversity and social solidarity, as well as the acquisition of informal skills among young people in circumstances where their access to the job market is complicated by the impacts of the health crisis. This increase is in line with the government’s youth plan, which was unveiled in July 2020.

2.4 Youth volunteering at national level

National Programme for Youth Volunteering

As the State’s role is to financially support non-profit organisations in their actions and promote voluntary work, **there is no public national *bénévolat* programme.** Nevertheless, owing to their independence, non-profit organisations have the possibility of developing and implementing their own *bénévolat* schemes and programmes.

The situation is different for **volunteering programmes and schemes**, which are defined, developed and supervised by such public authorities as the ministry in charge of youth, the ministry responsible for foreign affairs.

Civic Service

Definition of the civic service

One of the key commitment programmes set up by the State is Civic Service ([Service Civique](#)). This cross-ministerial and crosscutting system plays a pre-eminent role in youth policy. Established by [Law 2010-2041 of 10 March 2010 bearing on civic service](#), enacted on 13 May 2010.

Civic Service is a programme designed to encourage civic commitment by young people **aged 16 to 25, as well as by young people with disabilities aged 16 to 30, without any qualification conditions**. Missions typically last between 6 to 12 months with at least 24 hours per week, for "**non-profit organisations or legal entities** governed by public law" **having received civic service approval** to accomplish general interest missions of educational, environmental, scientific, social, sporting, family or civil security or prevention, Francophonie and French language promotion, etc".

The commitment leads **to payment of an allowance of €473 net per month** paid by the State, and additional support in cash or kind paid for by the host organisation (€107,68). It entitles the volunteer to social protection funded by the State. The commitment is compatible with continuation of education or a part-time job.

Civic service missions are characterised by their great **diversity** in terms of location and activities on offer. Missions include (examples) :

- the organisation of the *Conference On Youth* (COY11) connected with the 2015 COP21 held in Paris,
- the facilitation of language support workshops in voluntary organisations,
- the support to elderly people losing their autonomy in hospital,
- the support for access to and development and promotion of women's sports.

The objective of civic service is to reinforce **national cohesion by encouraging youth commitment to general interest service**. It provides a new form of commitment whereby young people can increase their self-confidence, professional skills and experience citizenship. Civic service is promoted by the Government, in particular because it is considered as an instrument for cohesion and social diversity insofar as all young people, **regardless of their background and education, can benefit from it**.

The system fits in with the history of National Service and civic commitment. After [suspension of military service](#) on 28 October 1997 ([Law no.97-1019 of 28 October 1997 bearing on reform of national service](#), which came into full effect in the 2000s, various volunteering schemes made their appearance with the objective of integrating young people into society, including the voluntary civil service created in 2006 by [Law no.2006-396 of 31 March 2006 on equality of opportunities](#), which was open to all young people aged 16 to 25 who wanted to fulfil a general interest mission for a period of 6 to 12 months. Civil service has been replaced by Civic Service (Law no.2010-241 of 10 March 2010).

Governance

The authority that administers the commitment scheme is the Civic Service Agency (***Agence du Service Civique***), which is under the **supervision of the ministry in charge of youth**, which is a [GIP](#) (an organisation that brings together public and private partners that pool resources to implement general interest missions). The Civic Service Agency is tasked with defining, managing and monitoring civic service.

Since January 2016, the Agency for Civic Service is also:

- The French national agency for the Erasmus+ programme in its youth section

- The national point of contact for the Erasmus+ programme in its sports section
- The French national agency for the European Solidarity Corps programme (since October 2018).

The Civic Service Agency is chaired by a director and has a Board of Directors composed of representatives of the Ministry in charge of Youth, the *France Volontaires* non-profit organisation and qualified stakeholders from the field of volunteering.

It also has a Strategic Committee that includes representatives of host organisations, young volunteers and parliamentarians, whose role is to deal with all matters relating to development of Civic Service and provide the Board of Directors with guidance. Implementation of missions is based on partnership between public and non-profit stakeholders.

The development of the civic service

Since its creation in 2010, the civic service [has been extremely popular](#) with [non-profit associations](#) and young people. Since its creation in 2010, more than **200,000** young people have been involved in the civic service. The momentum of this increase has continued, leading to a target of having 145,000 young volunteers involved in a project in 2020 and eventually 150,000 volunteers per year. The youth plan announced in July 2020 increased this target to 100,000 volunteers for 2021.

Information and data on Civic Service

The Agency for Civic Service leads several studies and enquiries on its programme and, in particular, on its visibility in order to assess its development.

In 2018, for the third consecutive year, the IFOP institute carried out a study on behalf of the Agency for Civic Service in order to better understand the perceptions and expectations of the civic service, especially among young people between 16 and 25 years old, and human resources managers:

- “In 2017, 13% of young people between 16 and 25 years old were involved in some form of civic service and 93% had heard of this system, mirroring the 2016 numbers”.
- “Civic service is viewed positively by 9 out of 10 young people, primarily as a means of gaining experience, and then for getting involved in community projects”.
- “67% of young people who have never carried out civic service could do so”.
- “Among the means of improving the system, recognition of civic service by companies appears to be a priority [...]”.

Source: <https://www.ifop.com/publication/barometre-du-service-civique/>

Universal National Service

Universal National Service is aimed at all young people. Over time, it will take the form of a mandatory month between 15/16 and 18 years old, consistent with the civic route, followed by a longer commitment to volunteer work between 18 and 25 years old. Its implementation began with a pilot project that started in June 2019 and involved approximately 2,000 young people. The plan is to implement it gradually over the coming years.

The purpose of the Universal National Service is to:

- “assert the values of the French Republic to strengthen social and national cohesion”
- “lay the foundation for a culture of commitment”
- “raise awareness of major social and societal issues”

Universal National Service comprises in three stages. The first two will eventually become mandatory:

- **“a two-week residential project after fourth year of secondary school.** Groups of volunteers stay in a region of the country away from where they normally live. The volunteers are housed in various residential centres and supported by tutors throughout their stay and during the sports and academic activities. They also help with the upkeep of the centre and learn about the Highway Code and first aid”.
- **“a general interest project of 12 days or 84 hours minimum.** The general interest project can be carried out locally, where the adolescent lives. It is compulsory in the year following the residential project. It can be carried out in a non-profit association, uniformed service, public service, etc. Preparation for this is done during the residential project along with a tutor and the supervising staff who help the volunteer to define a specific project”
- **“if the volunteers choose to do so, they can then commit to volunteering over a period of three months to one year in the local area of their choice** between the ages of 18 and 25. The projects could focus on areas such as defence and security, helping people and preserving cultural heritage or the environment”.

Since its inception in June 2019, approximately 2,000 young people have participated in the SNU forerunner. In 2020, the SNU has adapted its continued its roll-out to the public health situation.

Site <https://www.snu.gouv.fr/>

The civic reserves

The **civic reserves** were created by [Law n°2017-86 “equality and citizenship” of 27 January 2017](#). It is a system offering general interest projects within non-profit associations and public bodies. It is organised according to specialised topics partly including those of the civic service: *solidarity, health, education, culture and sport, the environment, history and citizenship, international development, emergency interventions*.

It brings together existing citizen reserves (from defence, education and the police), as well as thematic areas yet to be defined. Since [Decree n°2020-922 of 29 July 2020 on various systems of Universal National Service](#), a “universal national service” reserve has been created. It allows young people from 15 years old to carry out casual volunteer work as part of a general interest project. Due to the public health crisis, specific projects have been created as part of the civic reserve to meet the needs created by the crisis.

Site: [Civic reserve](#)

Volunteering of young firefighters

In addition to Civic Service volunteering, young people also have the opportunity to be volunteer [Jeunes sapeurs-pompiers](#) (JSPs-Young firefighters). The volunteering status of firefighters is defined by the [Law no. 96-370 of 3 May 1996](#) and [Law no. 2002-276 of 27 February 2002](#), included in the *Code Général des Collectivités Territoriales* (General Local Authorities Code).

The scheme is designed for young people aged 11 to 18 who want to discover the profession of firefighter. They must have a medical certificate proving their fitness delivered by a fire service doctor, parental permission if they are minors, and a valid tetanus vaccination certificate. They receive training alongside their schooling, on rescue, firefighting and protection of property and the environment, as well as sports training. ([Decree no.2002-1480 of 20 December 2002 amending Decree no.2000-825 of 28 August 2000 bearing on training of young firefighters and organisation of the national fire service cadet diploma](#)). From the age of 16 onwards, JSPs have the opportunity to sit for the national young firefighters diploma, which is an asset for anyone interested in becoming a voluntary or professional firefighter. In January 2016, there were 27,800 young firefighters (JSPs) (girls and boys together).

The Ministry of the Interior manages the scheme in partnership with the ministry responsible for youth and non-profit partners: the [Unions Départementales et Régionales de Sapeurs-pompiers](#) (*Départemental* and Regional firefighter organisations)

Stand-alone law

Bénévolat and **volunteering** are not subject to the same legal framework.

Bénévolat

There is no specific legal framework for *bénévolat*, which, legally speaking, is a free commitment, implying that the *bénévole* does not benefit from social protection or have obligatory working hours. However, when volunteering is exercised within a voluntary organisation, ***bénévoles* act in the context of a specific organisation** which has its own rules, determined by the statutes and possible internal rules established by its governing body. ***Bénévoles* must respect the organisation's purpose and operating rules.**

If volunteers are members of an organisation, **the legal rules** for non-profit organisations set by the [Law of 1 July 1901](#) also apply to them: freedom of membership and participation in the operation, but also obligations which can be sanctioned (compliance with statutes, payment of membership fees, etc.).

Some organisations, such as France Bénévolat, advocate the signing of a "[Convention de Bénévolat](#)" between the *bénévole* and the organisation. **This is not a contract but a moral commitment**, a document that sets out the *bénévole's* rights and obligations (e.g. the right to be received and regarded as a colleague in his/her own right, to consider each *bénévole* as indispensable, the obligation to adhere to "the purpose and ethics of the organisation and meet its objectives").

The *France Bénévolat* organisation has developed two standard documents that can be used as the basis for clarifying the rules governing relations between *bénévoles* and organisations, and so enable development of best practices: the Charter of *Bénévolat* in the Association ([the Charte du Bénévolat dans l'Association](#))

Concerning young people, the law of 27 January 2017 on equality and citizenship clarifies and expands the conditions under which a minor can volunteer in NGOs :

- Before the age of 18, young people can freely join an association and invest in it on a voluntary basis;
- Before the age of 16, a minor may create or manage an association if he has a prior written authorization from his parents;
- Between the ages of 16 and 18, a minor may create or manage an association without prior authorization from his parents. However, its legal representatives must be informed by letter of this commitment by one of the members of the association.
- Young people under 18 have the opportunity to create a "junior association". This association does not have an administrative existence, but the national network known as "Juniors associations" provides support to young people who want to set up projects from the age of 12. It guarantees and facilitates the obtaining of an insurance and the opening of a bank account. 1000 "junior associations" are spread throughout France.

Volunteering

Volunteering is governed by a number legal frameworks, depending on type of volunteering.

Civic Service

Civic Service was created by [Law no.2010-241 of 10 March 2010](#) bearing on civic service, which is included in the [Code du Service National](#) (National Service Code).

Pursuant to Articles **L120-7, 9 and 15 of the National Service Code**, civic service contracts **exclude any subordination between host organisations and volunteers.**

However, volunteers are subject to the rules of the approved structure in which they perform their civic service. Volunteers must not replace employees, trainees or *bénévoles*, but be complementary to them. **The National Service Code** specifically states that tasks entrusted to volunteers shall not be performed by an employee of the structure within a year prior to the signing of the civic service contract.

In addition, the civic service contract must be concluded for a period of at least 24 hours per week, without exceeding 48 hours spread over a maximum of 6 days (Article L 120-8 of the National Service Code). For volunteers aged 16 to 18, contract duration cannot exceed 35 hours spread over a maximum of 5 days. Volunteers are entitled to 2 days' leave per month of service completed, 3 days a month for minors. Leave not taken does not entitle them to monetary compensation (Articles R.121-17 to 21 of the National Service Code).

Regarding social security, volunteers' social cover is fully supported by the State. The entire civic service period allows pension entitlements.

Hosting organisations also have **duties with respect to civic service volunteers**:

- they are obliged to appoint a mentor for the volunteer and organise a preparation phase for the mission,
- they must assist volunteers in definition of future projects to promote their employability at the end of their missions.
- They should also ensure that civic and citizenship training includes mandatory first aid training.

International solidarity volunteering

International Solidarity Volunteering is governed by [Law no.2005-159 of 23 February 2005](#) bearing on international solidarity volunteering, which stipulates that the volunteer **does not have the status of employee of the organisation since there is no work contract**. However, they do enjoy a certain number of rights recognised by the same Law.

They are entitled to:

- At least two days' leave per month;
- Social welfare. Under Article 5 of the Law of 23 February 2005, the association affiliates the volunteer to a social security system guaranteeing rights to a level identical to that of the **general French social security system** : the CFE – **Fund for French Citizens Abroad** system (*Caisse des Français de l'Etranger*). The social security scheme provides insurance cover for sickness, maternity, disability, death, old age, accidents at work and occupational diseases.
- **An allowance to enable them to accomplish their mission in decent living conditions.** This allowance is not a salary, nor is it subject to income tax or social contributions. The amount and conditions under which it is payable are set for each volunteer in their contract. It cannot be less than €100 per month (excluding housing and food).

It should be noted that **international solidarity volunteering is now one of the forms that civic service may take**. In this case, as provided for in Article 1 of the Law of 23 February 2005, the international solidarity volunteering contract "is a civic service performed abroad and governed by the rules of this Law".

International business and administrative volunteering

International Business Volunteering (IBV) and International Administrative Volunteering (IAV) are two International Volunteering schemes that, under certain conditions, enable young people to **carry out scientific, technical or commercial missions at a French business abroad** (IBV) or a **French Government department** located abroad (IAV). These schemes are regulated by several legislative texts including the [Law of 14 March](#)

2000 bearing on civil volunteering instituted by Article L.111 - 2 of the National Service Code and the [Decree in Council of State no.2000-1159 of 30 November 2000](#).

IBV and IAV **volunteers benefit from social protection** ([Decree no.2000-1160 of 30 November 2000](#) setting the conditions under which the State contributes to the social protection of civilian volunteers assigned through voluntary organisations) and annual leave ([Decree no. 2000-1161 30 November 2000](#) laying down the rules for volunteers' annual leave).

Other official documents containing guidelines on youth volunteering

The question of volunteering is not only limited to the domain of voluntary associations and youth. Other areas of public action participate in its definition and development. **The following documents also relate to volunteering :**

The Minister of National Education

The Minister of National Education's **Memorandum no.2015-077 of 12 May 2015** which contributes to development of *bénévole* commitment through creation of a "*Réserve citoyenne*" (Civic Reserve) in each education authority. Intended for schools, the text was sent to all public stakeholders in national education and higher education and stipulates the objectives of this pool of volunteers, who work alongside teachers and educational teams to transmit the Republican values of freedom, equality and secularism.

The Memorandum states that the Reserve is "complementary to voluntary work or civic service and is a means of reliably satisfying the many demands of citizens, men and women alike, members or not of non-profit organisations, wishing to share their professional and personal experiences and make a contribution to education for the transmission of the Republic's values". It is open to all adults, young people including students.

The Labour Code

The Labour Code, which includes major legislative and regulatory texts clarifying the situation of jobseekers who work as *bénévoles* in Article L. 5425-8 of the Labour. The Article states that "**any job seeker may perform *bénévole* activity. Such activity cannot be carried out with a previous employer or replace paid employment**, and must remain compatible with the obligation to find a job".

General Tax Code (Code Général des Impôts)

The **General Tax Code (Code Général des Impôts)**, which brings together all the provisions relating to tax law, states that volunteers can benefit from tax reductions under certain conditions: "Article 41 of Law no.2000-627 of 6 July 2000 amending Law no.84-610 of 16 July 1984 bearing on organisation and promotion of physical and sporting activities complements (1) of Article 200 of the General Tax Code by enabling *bénévoles*, under certain conditions, to **benefit from tax reductions** relating to donations, for expenses incurred by them personally in the context of their volunteer work activity". The costs incurred by *bénévoles* using their own vehicles, for example, may therefore, when not refunded by the organisation, be considered as donations and as such benefit from tax reductions.

The conditions enabling *bénévoles* to benefit from tax reduction for costs incurred by them were specified in the *Instruction Fiscale* (Tax Directive) of 23 February 2001, published in the [Official Tax Bulletin under reference 5 B-11-01](#).

Funding

National funding

The various financial efforts made by the State in implementing crosscutting (cross-ministerial) youth policy are the subject of a document appended to the annual draft Finance Law, with planned public expenditure and amounts of budgets allocated to the

various action programmes. This is the *Crosscutting Policy Document* provided for by [Article 128 of amended Finance Law no.2005-1720 of 30 December 2005](#).

Youth commitment programmes (volunteering and *bénévolat*) are funded by the "163 youth and voluntary organisations program". This includes a percentage of funding allocated to youth policies and development of voluntary organisations.

For the year 2020, **the program 163 finances up to 663 million** the following actions:

- "the development of civic service,";
- "the foreshadowing of the Universal National Service (SNU)";
- "action in favor of youth education and popular education(non-formal education)"
- "The development of voluntary organisations (non-profit sector)"

Actions in favor of volunteering to which funds are allocated:

1) Funds allocated to "Development of voluntary organisations"

It finances five schemes to promote and develop non-profit organisations including *bénévolat*:

1. the FDVA – Non-profit Organisation Development Fund.
2. CRIBs - *Bénévole* Resource and Information Centres.
3. support to national and regional federations (of organisations).
4. the support to non-profit organisation *départemental* delegates
5. national support to accredited Youth and Non-Formal Education non-profit organisations.

2) Funds allocated to "action in favor of youth education and *popular* education (non-formal education)"

It finances schemes, including international youth exchanges. The Ministry for Youth promotes international volunteering, intercultural exchanges and mobility of young people, mainly through the **OFAJ**– Franco-German Youth Office and the **OFQJ** – Franco – Quebecois Youth Office.

3) funds allocated for "developing Civic Service"

The budget amounts €508 million.

Source: [Draft finance law. Policies in favor of youth 2020](#).

European funding

France receives European funding under the European "Erasmus +" Programme 2014-2020 "Youth and Sport", managed by the *Erasmus + France Jeunesse & Sport* Agency. The youth component of [Erasmus+](#) is dedicated to development of **non-formal education activities including volunteering**.

In 2020, the total amount allocated foreseen to the [Erasmus + France Jeunesse et Sport](#) Agency by the European Commission to support its 3"key actions" is: €14.3 million

It funds the "Mobility projects for young people and youth workers" action (key action 1): €8.4 million

- youth exchanges: €5.8 million
- the mobility of youth workers: €2.5 million

The European Solidarity Corps programme

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC), which is also managed by the Erasmus + Jeunesse et Sports agency, is a volunteering mechanism. These European loans amount to more than €13 million for France (2020). They fund three aspects:

- Individual and community, national and European voluntary work

- Internships
- Employment

Characteristics of youth volunteering

The [National institute for youth and popular education](#) (INJEP), which is attached to the Ministry for youth, compiles and analyses statistical data on community and volunteer work among young people. This data, drawn from different ministerial statistical departments (SSM), makes it possible to create a report on the level of involvement (community and volunteer) among young French people, to identify the (social, etc.) characteristics of young volunteers and the interest raised by community and volunteer work.

The *Baromètre DJEPVA sur la Jeunesse 2019* report, which is carried out every year by INJEP for the DJEPVA in collaboration with CREDOC, is based on an annual survey of 4,500 young French people, between 18 and 30 years old, who are selected based on quotas (regions, size of urban area, age, sex, socio-professional category). This survey has highlighted in particular the characteristics of community and volunteer involvement by young people in France:

- **"Volunteer commitment**, with a little more than a third of young people involved (37%), remained the second most common form of involvement by young French people in 2019, which was a slight increase since 2016".
- "Several works establish that the rate of membership in an association has evolved (in what sense?) among young people to involve between 3 and 4 out of 10 young people over the last 40 years".
- "In 2019, **37% of young people stated that they spent** their time volunteering compared to 35% in 2016. This includes young people who have given their time over a year, or several hours each week or each month, or at a specific event or period".
- "More than a third of youth volunteers are involved in **sports projects, making it the preferred area of involvement for young French people**. This finding is consistent across numerous surveys in France".
- "Culture and leisure (21%) and youth and education (16%) are in second and third place respectively in the rankings of preferred fields for youth involvement
- "Integration, employment (5%), cultural heritage (5%) and emergency response (5%) continue to be the areas in which young people are least likely to volunteer. In addition, some fields also decreased in popularity in 2019, such as the social and solidarity field (-3 points compared to 2017) and anti-discrimination (-2 points between 2018 and 2019)".

"Those already involved in youth volunteering are motivated by **two primary objectives: to feel useful to society or others** (34%) and the desire **to take concrete action** (28%)"

- "Although young people are not giving more their volunteer time to environmental causes, for several years there has been an increase among those who **state that they are part of an environmental non-profit association**".

Source: [Baromètre DJEPVA pour la jeunesse 2019](#), INJEP. Notes & rapports/rapport d'étude.

Civic service

The Agency for Civic Service compiles its own statistical information (sex, age, etc.) that is collected in particular through the contract agreed between the young people and the receiving structure approved by the Agency or as part of annual surveys. This makes it possible to identify certain demographic, social and regional characteristics of young

people who take part in a programme, such as their average age or level of education (2019 data):

- The average age of young people involved in or volunteering as part of civic service is 21 years old
- 61% of volunteers in civic service are female
- 24% of the young people have not yet graduated obtained their baccalaureate
- Over the course of 2019, almost a third were involved in a project in the field of education for all, focusing specifically on combatting academic underachievement, or on extracurricular activities in schools or non-profit associations
- Projects in the field of solidarity are also common, with more than a quarter of volunteers working with vulnerable or isolated groups and those living in poverty.
- The fields of sport, culture and the environment represent a total of 30% of civic service projects.

In 2020, INJEP and the Agency for Civic Service published the results of a huge national statistical survey of former volunteers: The survey shows that: "although the civic service attracts all categories of young people, gaining initial professional experience and receiving an income are the primary motivations for volunteers: 53% stated that their motivation is to gain professional experience and 39% were motivated by income".

Source: <https://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/presse/portrait-des-jeunes-qui-choisissent-de-sengager-en-service-civique>

Support to young volunteers

Removing **obstacles** (economic and social alike) that prevent some young people from carrying out *bénévolat* work, and above all volunteer work, is a public goal which aims to increase volunteering of all young people, especially young people with fewer opportunities. When they exist, support measures for young people largely depend on type of commitment:

Bénévolat

There are very **few schemes designed to materially or financially** help young *bénévoles*, and none of them are mandatory. However, if volunteers are required to cover expenses themselves on behalf of the non-profit organisation, they may be reimbursed by the organisation responsible for defining the internal rules on **reimbursement** of expenses incurred by *bénévoles* (travel expenses). Non-profit organisations may reimburse expenses if they are:

- actual: the task must have been accomplished (no fictional assignments);
- supported by an invoice or miscellaneous receipts issued by retailers or service providers;
- proportional to the activity.

Faced with this situation, volunteers have two options: either they ask the organisation to refund expenses incurred or they decide to waive reimbursement and donate it to the organisation. Also, if a non-profit organisation has adopted the decision at a general meeting, it may give its *bénévole* staff special payment vouchers or meal vouchers "to enable them to fully or partly cover the cost of restaurant meals" ([Decree no.2006-1206 of 29 September 2006](#) sets the conditions for allocation of meal vouchers).

Bénévoles receive no social protection because they receive no financial compensation and do not contribute, unlike employees who benefit from the general social security scheme to which they are compulsorily affiliated. In the event of an accident occurring during their non-profit activity, the *bénévole* can claim "work accident" benefits

unless the organisation has taken out "work accident" insurance that includes [accident cover](#).

Civic Service

Civic Service commitment is eligible **for full social protection funded directly by the State**. Young volunteers can benefit from coverage of sickness. Furthermore, all completed Civic Service quarter-years are taken into account under pension insurance. The Civic Service does not provide entitlement to additional coverage for illness but, in order to facilitate access to voluntary supplementary health insurance, the Civic Service Agency has developed partnerships with two mutual benefit societies.

Volunteers receive a net minimum monthly allowance of €473.04 (1 January 2020). The host organisations should also give volunteers an allowance to cover their living expenses, amenities, accommodation and transport. The set minimum monthly allowance is €107.58. An additional, means-tested allowance of **€107.68 per month** may be awarded to young people in financial need (recipient of active solidarity income) or those who are recipients of a higher education grant.

If the volunteer is a jobseeker at the time of signing the contract and has acquired rights to compensation (aid to return to employment paid by *Pôle Emploi*, (the National Employment Agency) prior to the Civic Service, payment is suspended for the duration of the mission and resumes at the end of it. However, volunteers can stay registered at *Pôle Emploi* for the duration of their missions.

Other Volunteering schemes

As regards other voluntary schemes (VSI, EVS, VIA, etc.), **social security cover and gratuities are included** so there are no additional financial or material measures for young people experiencing financial difficulties.

Local authority aid

Some [local authorities](#) (local authorities are French administrative structures, separate from State administration whose representatives are elected and must uphold the interests of the local population) **have set up their own aid or support schemes for young people who want to commit**. They usually take the form of financial aid granted to young people in the context of an international mobility and solidarity project.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Bénévolat

In the case of *bénévolat*, there is no "quality assurance system" to assess a mission's success. However, some organisations have developed their own *bénévolat* charter, which every member must commit to. The [Petits Frères des Pauvres](#) organisation, which combats poverty providing social support to people in precarious situations, has defined a "voluntary pact" whereby it sets the rules *bénévoles* must follow to "implement the support relationship" specific to their mission. Among other things, *bénévoles* agree to "comply with the charter, participate in the life of the organisation and uphold freely agreed commitments, work as a team, agree to train to better fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to them, and carefully observe the rules of confidentiality", while the organisation undertakes to "recruit and guide *bénévoles* according to their desires and skills, define roles and coordinate actions." Non-profit organisations have the freedom to set up quality assurance systems, but this is not mandatory.

Civic Service

The situation is different for volunteering, and more specifically for Civic Service, which has a mission monitoring and evaluation (including qualitative) system that is implemented during the young person's commitment as well as the end of the Civic Service.

The Civic Service Agency seeks to track and monitor proper conduct of missions. The aim is to check:

- compliance of implementation of the Civic Service with current legislation (National Service Code, Law of 10 March 2010);
- compliance with the approved organisation's obligations;
- absence of a gap between actions performed and content of the approval;
- quality of programme implementation from the volunteers' point of view.

As regard the quality aspect, the aim is rather to assess:

- the value and utility of the mission to which young people commit, in particular its impact on their life projects and even on their social and professional inclusion;
- the value for organisations receiving volunteers and benefiting from reinforcement of their missions and general interest activities;
- the value for French society, as a whole, which ultimately benefits from general interest missions.

Quality assessment of the mission

During a mission, the young people involved are accompanied by a [mentor](#) the only person mentioned by name in the Civic Service agreement. The mentor must accompany the young people involved and facilitate their inclusion in the reception structure. The presence of a mentor is **a form of internal control**, to the extent that **he/she must ensure proper inclusion of young people in the structure** and accompany them on their mission.

In addition, organisations accredited under Civic Service commitment must provide and annual account of their Civic Service activities, in compliance with [Memorandum no. ASC/SG/2011/204 of 30 May 2011](#) bearing on the implementation of control under the provisions of Civic Service. **Their reports are submitted to the Civic Service Agency and to regional youth, sports and social cohesion departments** (See 1.3) and must describe missions carried out, their evolution and conditions of exercise. [These activity reports](#) must also enable Civic-Service approved organisations to indicate and identify difficulties encountered.

Quality assessment of missions is also carried out through distribution (by post or email) **of satisfaction questionnaires** to all volunteers at the end of their mission. **Questionnaires, which are disseminated by the Civic Service Agency, provide information as to the overall level of volunteer satisfaction with regard to fulfilment of their mission**, and the resulting feedback helps enrich Civic Service mission standards.

Regulations on standards of quality

Bénévolat

In the case of *bénévolat*, there is no official document establishing a list of quality criteria for *bénévole* missions, or setting strict standards on what a *bénévolat* mission should be.

Volunteering

The situation is different for Civic Service: the *Agence du Service Civique* (Civic Service Agency) has a [référentiel des missions](#) (mission standardss) for bodies wishing to set up a civic service mission and **illustrating what can be implemented in line with the scheme's principles**.

The standards were implemented in May 2010 following enactment of the Law of 10 March 2010 bearing on Civic Service. They indicate that a "compliant mission, whose design and drafting **respect the principles** set out in this document, is one of the fundamental keys to obtaining service civic approval, needed to receive volunteers". They

also remind interested parties what Civic Service consists of and specify what volunteers **"may or may not do"** depending on the 9 fields (themes) in which missions are performed:

1. **solidarity,**
2. **health and education for all,**
3. **culture and leisure,**
4. **sport,**
5. **environment,**
6. **memory and citizenship,**
7. **international development,**
8. **humanitarian action**
9. **emergency response.**

For example, the standards state that civic service missions must focus on one of the 9 priority themes set by the Board of Directors of the Civic Service Agency.

However, the **mission standards are not limiting and remain indicative**: activities can be added, detailed or removed by reception bodies, which must be fully cognisant of the document.

Target groups

One of the ministry in charge of youth's policies is to promote international mobility of young people through volunteering, and diversify beneficiaries, including increasing access **to young people with fewer opportunities**.

Voluntary work

Voluntary work is accessible to all, regardless of age or level of qualification and whether in employment or not.

Civic service

The civic service is a volunteering opportunity based on a principle of social diversity. It is accessible to all, from 16 to 25 years old (or up to 30 years old for those with a disability) with no need for a diploma, and also promotes the involvement of young people from rural areas for whom the offer of projects and receiving structures are insufficient, but also young people who live in disadvantaged urban areas that come under the jurisdiction of urban policy. The urban policy is "the national policy for urban cohesion and solidarity on a national and local level aimed at disadvantaged areas and their residents"

In 2019:

- 13% of civic service volunteers came from areas defined as "priority neighbourhoods" (QPV)
- 24% of volunteers came from low-density or very low-density municipalities
- 1.5% of volunteers had a disability

Civic service volunteer programme for refugees

In France, the [inter-departmental delegation for welcoming and integrating refugees](#) and the Agency for Civic Service manage a national volunteering programme for refugees called Volont'R.

This programme is based on a two-fold offer: on one hand, it allows young French people from 18 to 25 years old to become involved in a civic service project (volunteer work) to help refugees and, on the other hand, allows young refugees to take part in civic service projects that are adapted to their circumstances. These projects last for eight months, on average. The volunteer receives a monthly allowance. In order to ensure that mastery of French is not an obstacle to civic engagement, refugee volunteers take French language classes for the duration of their time volunteering.

The projects offered to benefit refugees could cover all topics in civic service (culture, sports, environment, etc.). Here are some examples of projects that are already offered: supporting asylum seekers and protected persons, promoting access to social and health-related rights for migrants, aiding literacy for French-speaking youth, etc.

2.5 Cross-border mobility programmes

Increasing and diversifying young people's European and international mobility is a recurrent youth policy stake. Mobility policies aim to enable all young people to gain experience abroad, whether **for training, study or engaging in solidarity projects**, especially as the French mobility offer is one of the broadest in the world but still lacks visibility for young people.

A **varied range of programmes** exists, including International Solidarity Volunteering, bilateral programmes, individual grants from local authorities and European schemes.

The ministry in charge of youth has introduced several instruments in order to achieve this objective:

- **at national level**, a Comité Permanent de la Mobilité Européenne et internationale des jeunes (**Permanent European and international Mobility Committee** – October 2013), which brings together all stakeholders involved in mobility: the State and its operators, local authorities, youth and non-formal education organisations, youth organisations and mobility programme beneficiaries.
- **at regional level**, *Comités Régionaux de la Mobilité Européenne et Internationale* (COREMOBs - **Regional Committees for European and International Mobility**), which are strategic and policy-making bodies involving all local stakeholders in youth mobility: decentralised State services, local authorities, non-profit organisations and young people. These regional committees are overseen and chaired jointly by representatives of the State within local authorities (Prefects and Chief Education Officers) and Presidents of Regional Councils. They base their decisions on prior territorial diagnoses.
- **regional platforms for European and international mobility** which are strategic tools at the service of the Regional Mobility Committees (COREMOBs), which coordinate all local mobility stakeholders. Specifically, these platforms are based on territorial analysis developed by COREMOBs and implement awareness-raising, information and training schemes for young people and youth workers.
- **the Internet portal "Découvrir le Monde"** (Discover the World), which targets young people and aims to "provide ideas, guide choices and help finalise projects to live abroad, including through volunteering".

EU programmes

European Solidarity Corps

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is a European Union initiative that aims to give young people aged 18 to 30 years old the option to volunteer or work on projects organised in their country or in an EU country or partner states.

The **Agency for Civic Service** is responsible for implementing the programme. The agency is responsible for providing pedagogical support to Erasmus+ projects. It is built on the decentralised services of the Ministry of National Education and Youth and on the Information Jeunesse network – Eurodesk.

The topics underpinning ESC projects stem from general interest: including, **welcoming and integrating refugees and migrants, citizenship and democratic participation, the environment and protecting nature, health and well-being, education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, creativity and culture, sport.**

- Volunteering projects last for 2 to 12 months for individuals and 2 weeks to 2 months for groups.
- Extracurricular internships last from 3 to 12 months full time.
- Jobs run from 3 to 6 months full time.

In 2019, 287 ESC projects were funded, involving 2,051 young people, of whom 50.3% were young people with fewer opportunities, in a range of intervention areas, such as including, welcoming and integrating refugees, citizenship, the environment and climate issues, health, employment and entrepreneurship, culture and sport.

The five main countries that partnered with French organisations were **Spain, Germany, Italy, Greece and Morocco**.

In France, the Agency for Civic Service is responsible for implementing ESC projects and thus their follow-up. In addition, the National institute for youth and popular education (INJEP) carries out studies on the mobility of young people, especially in Europe.

Other Programmes

Volunteering as part of non-formal education

Other volunteer programmes are offered to young people:

Programmes resulting from bilateral agreements

Programmes resulting from bilateral agreements such as those provided by the OFAJ–Franco-German Youth Office, which was set up by the Elysée Treaty in 1963. [The OFAJ](#) is an international organisation with headquarters in Paris and aims to support and develop all types of exchanges between young people from France and Germany, and to consolidate Franco-German relations through a **range of mobility and language exchange programmes for children and young people, including jobseekers**.

In 2018, the [OFAJ](#) supported the mobility of 7900 young people have participated to an exchange program. These were essentially collective exchanges managed by youth and non-formal education and sports organisations, etc.

Regarding young people with fewer opportunities, the OFAJ adopted a "diversity and participation" strategy in December 2015, which aims to increase social diversity of among OFAJ-scheme beneficiaries. The OFAJ has set a target of 20% of young people with fewer opportunities between now and 2020. In 2018, 18.32% participants were young people with fewer opportunities.

VSI – International Solidarity Volunteering

[Volontariat de solidarité internationale \(VSI – International Solidarity Volunteering\)](#) is a scheme governed by the Law of 23 February 2005. 29 [organisations](#) have received French government approval to deliver VSI.

It aims to carry out full-time public interest missions overseas in the fields of cooperation, development and humanitarian action. The contract constitutes a civic service performed abroad (Law of 10 March 2010 on Civic Service). **VSI is a contractual commitment mutually binding to sending organisation and volunteer alike**. Any adult with no professional activity can sign up for VSI. Missions must be organised with international organisations approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which helps coordinates this scheme.

Volunteers receive a monthly allowance, the minimum amount of which cannot be lower than €100, excluding paying for transport, accommodation and meals. The maximum amount for the allowance depends on the country where the project is taking place (living costs, type of project carried out, security conditions, distance, etc.). For example, it is €1,353.34 in Benin and €2,567.40 in Lebanon. This allowance is not the same as a salary or remuneration.

The host countries of volunteers are mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, with 45% of volunteers, followed by Asia, which hosts 30% of volunteers. International solidarity volunteers are characterized by being at a high qualification level (66% higher than BAC + 5). During their mission, they occupy 51% of the administrative and management functions, 12% of teaching and 11% of education missions.

In addition, solidarity programs are specifically dedicated to groups of young people :

"Jeunesse Solidarité Internationale" (International Youth Solidarity) is a international solidarity programme supporting short collective projects (maximum 3 weeks) for young people aged 16 to 25 and **"Ville Vie Vacances Solidarités Internationale"** is a program for young people who are residents in disadvantaged urban territories. These programs depend on the Ministry in charge of international affairs.

Vocationally oriented volunteering

International Administrative Volunteering (IAV) and International Business Volunteering (IBV) are other forms of international volunteering; they have a professional vocation rather than a citizenship or solidarity aspect. They fall within the scope of international volunteering (IV) as defined by [Articles L122-1 to L122-9 of the National Service Code](#), which cover "international volunteers involved in the action of France worldwide in culture and environment, technical, scientific and economic and humanitarian action". Every year, the operators and ministries that implement this voluntary work compile data on the number, profile and destinations of volunteers.

International Administrative Volunteering (IAV)

[International Administrative Volunteering](#) enables young people aged 18 to 28 to work abroad for French government departments. It can be performed in embassies, *Alliances Françaises*, research institutes, etc. Young people signing up for IAV receive allowances equivalent to compensation between €1,200 and €2,800 per month, depending on the country of assignment. Missions last between 6 and 24 months. On 31 December 2018, 1,165 VIAs were in post compared to 1,196 on 31 December 2017.

International Business Volunteering (IBA)

[International Business Volunteering](#) enables young people aged 18 to 28 to carry out professional missions abroad for periods of 6 to 24 months. Volunteers are paid between €1,200 and €3000 net per month, depending on the country. All professional sectors are concerned, including finance, marketing, IT, construction, agronomy, tourism, law and human resources.

The "quality" and more precisely the good functioning of these schemes are assessed by several mechanisms including the consolidation of statistical data on volunteers produced by the Ministry in charge of International Affairs. On 31 December 2018, 10,524 international business volunteering were in post in 129 countries around the world.

Legal framework applying to foreign volunteers

Foreign volunteers who want to carry out a volunteering project in France through a foundation or a recognised public interest association can request a temporary residence permit (APS) at the prefecture or sub-prefecture where they reside. The project has to meet certain criteria (social or humanitarian goal, general interest, etc.). The APS is issued for the same duration as the project.

Volunteer work in civic service

The civic service framework (Article L.120-4 of the National Service Code (*code du service national*)) has set parameters for hosting overseas volunteers.

A residence permit is not required for young people from within the European Economic Area (28 EU Member States, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland.

To be eligible, foreign candidates (excluding the EEA and Switzerland) must stay in France for more than one year under a [residence permit](#) which can be, for example (indicative list):

- A temporary residence permit that gives allows the holder to work (Article L. 313-10 of the Code on Foreign Entry and Stay and Rights to Asylum (*code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile*))
- A temporary residence permit that refers to "private and family life" (para 1 to 9 of Article L.313-11 of the aforementioned code)
- A multi-year residence permit that refers to "*passport talent*" (Article L.313-20 of the aforementioned code)
- A multi-year residence permit that refers to "having stateless status" or refers to "family member of a person having stateless status" (article L.313-26 of the aforementioned code)

The Agency for Civic Service has also published a document for associations that outlines how youth volunteer exchange hosting should work: <https://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/actualites/la-reciprocite-mode-demploi>

2.6 Raising awareness about youth volunteering opportunities

Information providers

Promoting *bénévolat* / volunteering is a major priority in the eyes of the public authorities, including the ministry responsible for youth. Several measures were implemented to meet this challenge, including informing young people on and educating them in all types of commitment throughout their education and outside formal education.

A number of public stakeholders, including the State (ministries) and local authorities, are involved in promoting volunteering and *bénévolat* opportunities for young people.

Information provided by the State

Institutional websites

The ministry in charge of youth and voluntary organisations plays a role in educating young people in volunteer work by centralising *bénévolat* offers and disseminating them through websites including: <http://www.associations.gouv.fr>, which provides news on voluntary organisations along with possibilities and conditions of *bénévolat* and volunteering, and refers internet users to websites of organisations that recruit and are looking for *bénévoles* or volunteers:

- <http://www.tousbenevoles.org/trouver-une-mission-benevole>
- <http://www.francebenevolat.org/benevoles>
- <http://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/>

On 8 October 2015, the Ministry of Youth launched an internet portal dedicated to European and international mobility: "[Découvrir le Monde](#)" (Discover the World) presenting mobility opportunities including those involving volunteering. Various volunteer missions (abroad) proposed by organisations and public institutions are described as well as how to apply. The portal comprises a search engine providing access to proposals.

Civic Service agency platform

The Civil Service Agency's role is to promote and make best use of the Civic Service "to the public concerned, youth reception and guidance organisations, educational institutions

and professional branches”, and it has its own resources for communication disseminating information on volunteering and commitment through Civic Service. Its "[jeunes / volontaires](#)" (youth / volunteer) platform lists all missions on offer from host bodies according to theme: culture and leisure, environment, education for all, health, emergency intervention, sports, memory and citizenship, solidarity, humanitarian and international development. Young people can choose missions according to their own criteria and apply directly through the platform.

Youth Information structures in local authorities

Dissemination of information on *bénévolat* opportunities and commitment is not only carried out *via* Internet; there is also a network of youth information points and offices (*Réseau Information Jeunesse* – Youth Information Network).

Youth information network

"Youth information" is a general mission guaranteed by the State, and as such, the ministry responsible for the youth coordinates and accredits information facilities in regions, *départements* and municipalities: the [Centre National d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse](#) (CIDJ-National Centre for Youth Information and Documentation) in Paris, Centres d'Information Départementaux et Régionaux Jeunesse (CRIJs and CIJs – *Départemental* and Regional Youth Information Centres) and [Bureaux information Jeunesse](#) (BIJs – Youth Information Offices) in municipalities. With these various amenities to hand, young people can find answers and information on *bénévolat* and volunteering.

Local missions

Also noteworthy is the role of local Missions, which serve as reception and information centres for young people living in municipalities, where they can benefit from personal monitoring of their efforts to find a job. Some local missions inform young people of Civic Service, as it can be a beneficial experience as far as future professional integration goes.

Key initiatives

Several major initiatives have been undertaken by public authorities with a view to popularising young people's commitment to *bénévolat* and volunteering.

The Report on associative and voluntary sector” For an ambitious association development policy and the elaboration of a society of commitment”.

On the 8th of June 2018, le “Mouvement associatif” which represents the NGO professional sector has given the Prime Minister, the report of the voluntary sector “For an ambitious association development policy and the elaboration of a society of commitment”.

This report is the result of a joint work between public authorities and the voluntary sector. It is used as a basis to create a strategy in favor of the development of the associative sector and the commitment in the society.

Civic service

The Civic Service Agency uses a range of tools to publicise its actions and promote civic service, including such social networks as *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Instagram*, *Dailymotion* and *YouTube*, which disseminate information and news on the civic service, and "[civic service recruitment forums](#)".

The presence of young Civic Service volunteers at cultural events such as music festivals, where they present the scheme, and at such national ceremonies as the [14 July](#) where they have paraded, contributes to knowledge of civic service.

Furthermore, every year the Agency for Civic Service launches a communication campaign to support the development of the civic service. To illustrate, in 2018, the "[Le pouvoir d'être utile](#)" ([The power to be useful](#)) campaign invited young people aged 16 to 25 years

old (up to 30 years old for young people with disabilities) to take part in civic service. The campaign involved creating films that introduce civic service and were broadcast on television or online, an advertising campaign in public places (metro stations) and organising a photo competition on social media.

2.7 Skills recognition

Policy Framework

Recognition of (*bénévole* / volunteer) commitment is a priority both for the public authorities and leaders of non-profit organisations calling for better understanding of capabilities and skills acquired during *bénévolat* or volunteering missions, which are regarded as **vectors of non-formal education, acquisition of knowledge and skills** for young people.

Associations play an essential role in improving volunteering skills, by producing the tools for evaluating volunteering skills, just as the ministry responsible for higher education has put in place policies adding value to community and volunteer work by students. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports also contributes to recognising the benefits of volunteering activities by promoting them and, in particular, carrying out studies and experiments.

Since 2012, the ministry for youth and the Youth Development Fund (see Glossary) have supported a number of trials aiming to improve the skills acquired. The latter consisted of "using an awareness campaign to promote better recognition amongst employers of the skills developed by young volunteers" and implementing "testing" campaigns to assess the perception of non-profit association volunteer work on a young person's CV. The results of the involvement testing were compiled and analysed in an [issue paper](#) published in 2012.

There are several volunteer **skills recognition schemes** that are defined and governed by legislative documents or charters drawn up by the public authorities, including ministries, in partnership with civil society stakeholders, among these documents:

Legislative documents and charters on skills recognition

_In 2001, [the Ministry of Higher Education's Memorandum on development of associative commitment and student initiatives](#) (no.2001-159 OF 29-8-2001) promoted recognition of students' voluntary commitments, which "help students set up and develop their projects", and set up an optional teaching unit "[that] is undoubtedly the best way to validate student action as part of training, and can also take the form of internships, a thesis or a report, a distinction or even a bonus."

_In addition, **article 29 of the law of 27 January 2017 on equality and citizenship generalizes** the mechanisms for recognizing student engagement in higher education institutions. Since the start of the 2017/2018 academic year, all higher education establishments must put in place a mechanism for recognizing skills and abilities acquired through voluntary activity within an association. These devices already exist in 70% of universities, in particular through the allocation of ECTS credits or bonus points. In addition, higher education establishments must allow the organization of the studies of students strongly invested in community life.

_An optional "civic engagement" course unit ([see Glossary](#)) in agricultural education was also created in order to promote (association-based or voluntary) involvement of pupils in agricultural education, both within or outside the institutions. This course unit is based on [the Decree of 13 June 2017](#).

_[Decree no.2011-1009 of 24 August 2011 pursuant to Section III of Article L. 120-1 of the National Service Code bearing on conditions for promoting Civic Service in post-baccalaureate training](#)" sets out conditions for promotion and validation of skills acquired during civic service by students.

Accreditation of volunteer experience (VAEb)

Accreditation of volunteer experience (VAEb), set out in [Law n°2002-73 of 17 January 2002](#), known as the “social modernisation law”, allows all people, regardless of age, level of education or status, to have their community or volunteer work accredited to receive a diploma, a professional qualification or certification or to access training without the required educational qualifications. The volunteer has to carry out three years of volunteer work in their given field before they are eligible for accreditation. Volunteer experience accreditation is granted by the institutions issuing the diplomas. The VAEb has been considered as a “quiet revolution” because it confirmed the fact that it is possible to gain skills outside a professional context.

Existing arrangements

Bénévolat recognition schemes and mechanisms are diverse and based on a partnership approach involving several ministries and public stakeholders:

Recognition of prior learning

In the context of VAE – accreditation of prior work experience (**validation des acquis de l'expérience**) candidates may obtain all or part of a certification: diploma, vocational or qualification certificate following evaluation by a jury of knowledge, skills and competences developed during such experience. There is a national directory of professional qualifications, ranking them by occupation and level, which lists qualifications that can be obtained through VAE. The VAE procedure involves a series of steps: definition of a project, advice from [advice relay points \(points conseil relais\)](#), certification bodies that inform and support candidates in preparing their application, submission of the application, preparation of the recognition, and final evaluation. *Bénévoles* and civic service volunteers are eligible for VAE.

Educational recognition of *bénévolat* and volunteering

Each higher education institution can choose how it implements educational recognition of commitments, based on its concerns, non-profit fabric, means and numbers of students enrolled. Some universities offer educational content that may involve the non-profit sector and which needs to be validated to obtain ECTS (European credit transfer system) units, a points system developed by the European Union to compare university courses in different European countries.

Educational recognition of commitment undergoes final evaluation based on the quality of a given submission, course attendance and the activities carried out within the organisation, and, above all, the investment made and personal benefits that the young person has gained from the experience.

Students completing a civic service mission enabling them to acquire knowledge and skills in the course of their studies can also **request recognition of their activities in order to obtain additional ECTS** units. To do so, they must provide their institution with a certificate of civic service delivered by the receiving organisation upon completion of their mission.

Skills portfolio

Another tool for recognition of *bénévolat* is the Skills Portfolio ([Portefeuille de Compétences](#)), a booklet designed **to help *bénévoles* materialise crosscutting skills**, gained from their volunteer experience. The portfolio is a self-diagnosis tool set up in 2011 by the ministry in charge of voluntary organisations workgroup composed of representatives of major organisations along with experts on recognition and promotion of *bénévoles'* skills and a sociologist. Public stakeholders such as *Pôle Emploi* (national service for employment) also participated. The Ministry of National Education coordinated the workgroup.

Any organisation (public or non-profit) can set up and customise its skills passport, but the skills are defined and formalised in 8 identical fact sheets :

1. Getting involved, taking a stance
2. Teamwork
3. Communicating
4. Organising
5. Demonstrating initiative and making suggestions
6. Directing and managing projects
7. Team leadership
8. Taking on responsibilities

The **skills portfolio should reflect the degree of qualification of *bénévolat***, helping *bénévoles* to identify and formulate the skills implemented during their missions, and should also help organisations in their role to support volunteers. The document is not mandatory when hiring, but can be useful when *bénévoles* / volunteers are interviewed by a certifying board or employer.

The *bénévole* passport

The France Bénévolat organisation has developed its own skills portfolio, the "[Bénévole Passport](#)", which helps "detailed description of all missions carried out on a *bénévolat* basis, have each organisation certify that the mission was well performed, describe the training procedure followed through reception organisations and tie all these elements to the volunteer profile". The **Passeport Bénévole** is supported by [Pole Emploi](#), **(a public body that helps jobseekers find employment and meet company recruitment needs)**, the Ministry of National Education, the ministry of health, and the ministry in charge of youth and is recognised as a supporting document in the context of the accreditation of prior work experience (VAE).

The civic service certificate

Under the provisions of Article L 120-1 of the National Service Code, each civic service volunteer must receive a civic service [certificate](#) at the end of their mission, along with an assessment of their activities, describing the skills acquired during their mission. It is the mentor's responsibility to assess the progressive acquisition of aptitudes and skills throughout the mission. The certificate may help a jobseeker find employment. Some companies have signed Civic the Service Certification Charter ([Charte de Valorisation de l'Engagement de Service Civique](#)).

The Civic Service Commitment Institute (Institut de l'Engagement du Service Civique)

The [Civic Service Commitment Institute \(Institut de l'Engagement du Service Civique \)](#) is an organisation that supports domestic and European service volunteers "**identified for their potential, quality of commitment and value** of their future project". Young people interested must submit an application in which they describe their project, their course and their expectations of the Institute. They are then invited for an oral interview which determines whether or not their application is successful. The Institute seeks to detect young talents and accompany them in their projects, towards three career paths in particular:

- **Training:** laureates are guided towards training courses at [partner institutions](#) that open specific paths for them.
- **Professional path:** laureates are accompanied in implementation of a professional project, with support from partner companies.
- **Business creation:** laureates who wish to create a non-profit organisation, business or project, receive special support.

Volunteering Management Training Certificate

Since 2008, any person of 16 and over engaged in a *bénévolat* activity who wishes to **receive additional training and recognition of their volunteer experience** can apply for a CFGA- Volunteering Management Training Certificate ([Certificat de Formation à la Gestion Associative](#)). Introduced by Decree no.2008-1083 of 1 October, the certificate is

delivered to people who have received theoretical and practical training in order to exercise *bénévolat* responsibilities in administrative, financial and human management in a non-profit organisation. The course consists of two phases:

- theoretical training of 30 hours minimum, supervised by a pedagogical Manager;
- at least 20 days' practical training, carried out under pedagogical mentoring in a declared non-profit organisation.

The certificate is awarded by training organizations authorized by the Prefect (Prefects are the custodians of State authority in Regions and Departements).

The Youthpass

Young people participating in European voluntary programmes such as European Voluntary Service (EVS) may obtain the [Youthpass](#) certificate, **which they partly complete themselves after self-assessment of their learning**. The certificate is a validation and recognition tool for skills acquired in non-formal educational settings. It can be useful when looking for a job or in vocational training, above all because it reflects the holder's qualities, their ability to adapt to intercultural environments, commit to a project and be mobile.

Digital tools

Digital tools make it possible to add value to the skills gained by the volunteer, like the "civic engagement" account (or volunteer account) implemented by the French government.

The civic engagement account (or volunteer account)

The [Civic Engagement Account \(CEC\)](#) was established by the Law of 8 August 2016, known as the "Labour Law" (*Loi travail*). This is a measure that aims to recognise and promote volunteer engagement for association managers. It gives those who are eligible access to additional training, which is credited to their professional training accounts. (See Glossary). Volunteers who want to take advantage of this measure should declare their activities on the remote service for declaring volunteer activities: "[the civic engagement account](#)".

2.8 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy development

The policies currently being developed are designed to increase rates of youth community volunteering by developing programmes such as the civic service and the civic reserves.

Universal National Service

The French president wanted to implement a [Universal National Service \(SNU\)](#) system, with the aim, amongst others, of "encouraging a culture of engagement among young people", "promoting citizenship and a sense of belonging to a community unified around its values" and "strengthening social cohesion".

Universal National Service is aimed at all young people between 15 and 25 years old and comprises three stages:

1. **a two-week residential project.**
2. **a general interest project** aiming to develop a culture of involvement and to encourage young people to take part in society.
3. **the option of a volunteering commitment of three months or more**, which aims to allow those who want to commit to taking part in existing volunteering projects: civic service, operational Army reserves and national gendarmerie reserves, volunteer firefighters, European Solidarity Corps, etc. This voluntary commitment can be undertaken between 18 and 25 years old.

Due to COVID-19, the structure of SNU has been modified for 2020:

- The first two stages have been switched and the general interest projects were started from July 2020.

The rise in civic service projects

In order to bolster youth volunteering and community engagement, the French government has planned 100,000 additional civic service projects (20,000 in 2020; 80,000 in 2021). Civic service is a volunteering measure that allows young people from 16 to 25 years old (or 30 years old in some cases) to participate in general interest projects in associations for 6 to 12 months.

The civic reserves

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the French government launched a campaign to recruit volunteers to specific projects as part of the “Civic reserve”.

The civic reserve was set up in 2017 and allows public bodies and associations to offer general interest projects. During the public health crisis, especially quarantine and post-lockdown, a **wider range of** civic reserve projects have been available on the [online platform](#). New projects have been suggested that involve staying in contact with vulnerable persons, providing food aid, making protective masks, providing remote support with school work and even helping to look after children.

Ongoing debates

The impact of COVID-19 on the non-profit sector

To mitigate the negative impacts of the health crisis on the non-profit sector, the authorities have put in place support measures for (employer) associations and non-profit employees, similar to those for companies. As an example, these measures are (non-exhaustive list):

- “Extensions in social and/or fiscal payment deadlines”
- “Loan mediation by the state and the Banque de France to negotiate with your bank on restructuring bank loans”
- “Maintaining employment in companies through simplified and increased furlough”
- “The French government acknowledging coronavirus as a case of force majeure for its public markets. As a result, for all state public markets, late payment penalties will not be applied”.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of non-profit associations have had to temporarily suspend their activities or postpone their projects, some of which are subsidised by public institutions.

On 6 May 2020, the Prime Minister distributed a [memorandum](#) to reiterate the *rules applicable to all administrative authorities and to define best practice for managing public subsidies* during a crisis. In addition, any association that committed costs before the pandemic, but was unable to implement their planning, will be able to either postpone or cancel the project. In neither case can an administrative body hold to account or impose sanctions against an association.

3. EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

According to the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), in the second quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate in **France was 7.1%**. The rate of unemployment dropped for all age brackets and more so for men than for women. However, this drop is in line with the specific context of the health crisis (COVID-19).

According to INSEE, *“this reduction in the unemployment rate results in a significant drop in the number of people without jobs who could be working or are actively looking for a job during lockdown. [...] in total, unemployment [...] is therefore lower during this lockdown period, without this translating into an improvement in the job market.*

Young people are particularly affected by unemployment with a **rate reaching 21 % for 15-24 year olds**. While professional inclusion is growing in time for young people, in the face of the labor market, young people are still **unequal**: young people with few or no qualifications are more likely to be unemployed, as are those living in disadvantaged urban areas.

The professional integration of young people is therefore a **crucial challenge** for public policy, which must meet several issues: **to reduce the youth unemployment rate and the existing gaps** with regard to young people with few or no qualifications also to facilitate the transition between school, higher education and employment and support young people in the creation of their company.

Furthermore, **the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic and social crisis has made it more difficult for young people to enter employment.**

As in the case of youth policies, employment policies are based on **inter-ministerial and intersectoral work** that mobilizes public operators, local authorities, associations and enterprises both in the development of employment policies than at the time of their implementation.

3.1 General Context

Labour market situation in the country

Evolution of the labour market

Over the last half century, the French labour market has undergone numerous far-reaching changes. Although employers and trade-union representations play preeminent roles in regulating the labour market by organising work relations, drawing up a regulatory framework and, in particular, through introduction and arbitration of rules and laws, the public authorities also play a part in regulation. Among other things, their position is expressed by **the promotion** of employment along with a **determination to limit** underemployment and unemployment.

The French labour market has seen a good many structural changes over the past 60 years, including an increase in numbers of salaried workers, major orientation towards the tertiary sector and a measure of feminisation.

Actually, **for example in 2020, employment has largely been salaried, 76.1% tertiary and is reaching equality, with female employment at 48.3%** according to [the 2020 issue of the “Tableau de l’économie française” \(Overview of the French Economy\)](#) by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, which produces and analyses statistics, especially those related to employment.

In addition, the emergence of persistent unemployment in the mid-1970s has meant young people have been significantly affected by [fluctuating conditions](#) making it more difficult for them to enter the labour market. When young people do have a job, it is most often temporary.

Young people and particular forms of employment

Types of contracts

“Special forms of employment” (fixed-term contracts, temping, subsidised contracts and apprenticeships) have been developed and are the main form of occupation for young people. At the present time, over half of all jobs occupied by the 15-24 y/o age bracket were [“special forms of employment”](#), compared with one in six jobs in 1982.

This French labour market is characterised by the presence of employees on “short” contracts and permanent contracts.

As a matter of fact, according to the INSEE article, [Short-term contracts: insecurity traps or springboards for a career?](#) (O. Bonnet, S. Georges-Kot and P. Pora) published in July 2019, “career paths for salaried employees show that the job market is divided between, on one hand, a majority of salaried employees with stable jobs in permanent contracts and, on the other hand, a growing minority of increasingly short contracts”.

N.B.

The employment rate measures the use of available workforce resources. It is calculated by dividing the number of employed workers by the working-age population. (OECD definition).

The labour force comprises employed workers and the unemployed.

The activity rate corresponds to the number of workers compared with the whole working-age population. The indicator is expressed as a percentage of each age bracket. (OECD definition).

The situation of young people in France

In the second quarter of 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 21% for 15-24 year olds, 21.4% for men and 20% for women. The employment rate for this age category was 26.6%.

Moreover, young people are not all faced with unemployment in the same way: those with few or no qualifications are a great deal more exposed to it, as are those living in disadvantaged urban areas.

According to [the 2019 report \(most recent data available\) by the National Observatory of Urban Policy \(Observatoire national de la politique de la ville\)](#), the unemployment rate for **15-29 year olds living in priority neighbourhoods in urban policy was 32.9%**. The [Urban Policy](#) (See [Glossary](#)) seeks to reduce territorial inequalities and develop currently disadvantaged urban areas.

In the face of changes in the labour market and the difficulty young people have in integrating into the world of work, their integration has become a major issue in public action, which must meet several challenges: **reduce the unemployment** rate among young people, **lessen existing gaps** with regard to young people with few or no qualifications and/or living in disadvantaged urban areas, and finally, make **the transition** between school (Higher education) and employment easier.

Furthermore, in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis, the authorities responsible for youth policy are taking care to reduce the impact of the crisis on the ability of young people to enter the labour market.

Studies on youth employment

Studies on the job market and the entry of young people into the workplace are regularly conducted by public institutions for statistics and policy evaluation, such as the [National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies](#), Department for the Organisation of Research, Studies and Statistics (*Direction de l'animation de la recherche, des études et des statistiques*) or the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (indicative list).

National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)

INSEE's objective is to collect, analyse and spread information about the job market. Every year, it evaluates the employment and unemployment rates in France, particularly by age group, and regularly produces national or regional data on the situation of young people and on dedicated youth employment policies.

Department for the Organisation of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES)

DARES is part of the Ministry of Labour and responsible for producing analyses, studies and statistics on labour, employment, vocational training and social affairs. Some of these works cover youth entry into the labour market.

National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (See chapter 1)

Professional integration, youth employment policies and reports on young people and work are the focus of studies and research by the National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP). The objective of INJEP is to “contribute to improving knowledge of these fields by producing statistics and analyses, observations, trials and evaluations”.

Main concepts

Several notions, concepts and economic sector enable better understanding of the youth labour market including: labour legislation and, more specifically, the French Labour Code (*Code du travail*), **the notion of support** and, to a lesser extent, the **vocational sector of the Social and Solidarity Economy**.

Labour legislation

The French labour market stands out for the **important role** played by **the law**. The provisions and rules governing employment and professional relations are grouped together in the Labour Code. Created by the Law of 28 December 1910, it comprises all legislative and regulatory texts applicable to labour law. Above all, it **organises individual and collective work conditions and relationships, social dialogue**, safety in the workplace, employees' health, and professional training, and, because it does so, is constantly evolving in line with changes in the world of work, incorporating new laws, in particular ones resulting from collective negotiations.

The Labour Code specifies, for example, that differences in professional “treatment” based on age “do not constitute discrimination when they are objectively and reasonably justified by a legitimate goal, in particular by a concern to preserve workers' health or safety or foster their professional integration [...]”.

By **setting minimum rights and “maximum” obligations** applicable to all employees, the Labour Code constitutes an essential and fundamental source of labour law.

Support (accompagnement)

Since the 2000s, this practice and concept have been used to draft employment policies targeting young people in particular. The notion of support covers a relationship with others whose aim is to foster the “socialisation” and the “empowerment”. Support for “young people” is most often provided at a specific time, a period of rupture, difficulty or challenge that requires **assistance** or **support** of some kind. It is expressed by **personalisation of treatment** of young jobseekers, through construction of personalised professional projects and monitoring of the young people concerned. Support is based on a **reinforced partnership** between public and voluntary actors. This practice is regarded as **having positive and significant effects** on return to work and entry onto the labour market. A wide range of support schemes are on offer to French youth, including:

- **Personalised Employment Access Projects** (*Projets Personnalisés d'Accès à l'Emploi*) run by the government employment service : Pôle Emploi, which jobseekers draw up with the help of their advisors, who are responsible for assisting them until they return to work.
- **Integration via Economic Activity Structures** (SIAEs – *structures d'insertion par l'activité économique*), which are designed to encourage return to work on the part of the most fragile people, those furthest removed from the labour market, by providing them with the possibility of concluding a work contract involving personalised accompaniment.

The Social and Solidarity Economy

The other notion that takes account of the evolution of the youth labour market in France is that of the **Social and Solidarity Economy** (Economie sociale et solidaire ESS) **an expanding economic sector** that is progressively arousing young people's interest and which is based on a number of important principles: "a purpose of general and **collective interest, democratic governance, free adherence, territorial anchoring**, citizen engagement and, above all, **limited profit motive**". Recognised by Law no.2014-856 of 31 July 2014 bearing on the SSE, the sector aims to develop jobs and participate in social cohesion. Surveys and **qualitative enquiries** show that young people believe in the values highlighted by the ESS, which is why the public authorities are keen to promote the sector in their eyes (See.3.11).

3.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Combating youth unemployment and facilitating young people's entry onto the labour market is one of the French State's **top priorities**, requiring the mobilisation of a range of parties. Policies bearing on the employment of young people are cross-ministerial, cross-cutting, multi-partnerial and territorial.

Governance of youth employment policies is **carried out via a cross-cutting partnership between the State (ministries), central administrations and their "decentralised departments", local authorities** such as Regions in particular, and non-public partners. The role played by each of these parties differs depending on their fields of action and competences.

The Public Employment Service (SPE - Service Public de l'Emploi) in the territories is managed by **the State** and representatives of the **main operators responsible for implementation** of employment policies at local level: the national employment service *Pôle Emploi*, Local Missions and bodies specialising in the professional integration of the disabled. It brings together all public and private actors responsible for implementing policies bearing on employment and vocational training. The SPE is under the aegis of the **ministry in charge of labour**, and more specifically under that of the **General Delegation for Employment and Vocational Training** (DGEFP - *délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle*). In addition, as designer and manager of employment policies, the **Minister in charge of Labour plays a key role in this governance**.

Main authorities responsible for youth employment policies

Ministry in charge of labour

Although the Ministry for Youth and the DJEPVA coordinate the youth policies, as designer of employment policies, the **ministry of labour** and its various departments are the main actors in youth employment policies. The ministry of labour's departments include:

- The General Delegation for Employment and Vocational Training (*DGEFP - délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle*), under the joint authority of the Minister for Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport and the Minister in charge of labour. The DGEFP draws up and implements government guidelines on employment and vocational training.
- The General Directorate for Labour (DGT - *direction générale du travail*), which "prepares, oversees and coordinates labour policy with a view to improving collective and individual work relations and conditions in companies as well as the quality and effectiveness of the laws that govern them" (*Decree no.2006-1033 of 22 August 2006*),
- **The Regional Directorates for Enterprises, Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs, Labour and Employment** (*DIRECCTEs - directions régionales des entreprises et de la concurrence, de la consommation, du travail et de l'emploi*), **which are**

decentralised State services acting as “single interlocutors at regional level for enterprises and socioeconomic actors (company heads, employees, social partners, jobseekers and consumers)”. They prepare regional employment strategies and ensure compliance with the provisions of the Labour Code.

Ministry in charge of education and youth policies

The ministry in charge of Education and youth **can participate to the elaboration of employment policies for young people.**

Apart from these State services, public stakeholders and operators also implement and coordinate employment policies designed for young people.

Other public actors: institutions, operators and local authorities

Pôle Emploi (National employment service)

Action on the part of the Ministry of Labour is **also relayed by public operators and institutions with national competence**, such as [Pôle Emploi](#), one of the **public employment service’s leading operators**. Pôle Emploi is tasked with helping jobseekers find work and meeting companies’ recruitment needs. It “registers jobseekers, pays out jobseeker allowances, and collects, processes, disseminates and makes available data on the labour market and jobseeker allowances”. Pôle Emploi is an active participant in the professional integration of young people with indirect obstacles in the way of their employment (mobility, accommodation, etc.), in particular in disadvantaged urban districts and rural areas, by assisting young people via professional integration schemes or company creation.

The National Agency for Territorial Solidarity

[National Agency for Territorial Solidarity](#) (*Agence nationale de la cohésion des territoires*, ANCT) Created by the law of 22 July 2019, the National Agency for Territorial Solidarity was established on 1 January 2020. The objective of this agency is to support territorial authorities in developing their territories.

The ANCT is also responsible for designing and implementing [urban policy](#) to reduce “gaps in development within cities” and rural areas. In this respect, it coordinates the implementation of measures that facilitate access to employment for young people in difficulty in disadvantaged urban areas known as “priority neighbourhoods” (*quartiers prioritaires de la ville*, QPV), as well as rural areas being revitalised.

France compétences agency

Created on 1 January 2019 by the [law for the freedom to choose a professional future of 5 September 2018](#), the [France compétences agency](#) aims to ensure the funding, regulation and improvement of vocational training and apprenticeships. It was placed under the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Vocational Training.

The France compétences agency is the only national body with governance over vocational training and apprenticeships. It is also the national authority that funds and regulates vocational training and apprenticeships.

Its strategic directions are determined by four-party governance composed of the State, the regions and trade-union organisations for employees and employers that are representative on a national and inter-professional scale.

Local authorities: the Region

Reduced to thirteen from 1 January 2016, the regions (local authorities) of mainland France have seen their scope of action redefined by [the law on the New Territorial Organisation of the Republic](#) (*Nouvelle Organisation Territoriale de la République*, NOTRe). They have competencies in implementing vocational training and guidance policies: integration of young people in difficulty, training for jobseekers or even the management of apprenticeships and the work/study system, for example.

Furthermore, the region participates in coordinating public service actors for employment in their territory, particularly in the context of regional public service for guidance and vocational training.

The Region along with local partners and State employment operators (Pôle Emploi) form **the Public Employment Service (SPE – service public de l'emploi)**, whose missions are defined by Article L5311-1 of the Labour Code, which specifies that "the Public Employment Service is responsible for reception, guidance, training and integration.

The law n ° 2018-771 of September 5, 2018 "for the freedom to choose one's professional future" has transferred to the Regions (local authorities) missions in terms of professional orientation, trainings for pupils, students and apprentices.

Non-public actors

Social partners

Among those involved in implementation of (general) employment policies, "**social partners**" in particular play a major role, in particular in the context of collective negotiations leading to collective conventions. The term "**social partners**" refers to **representatives of the main employees'** unions and employer organisations who participate in "social dialogue" in the professional world. [Social dialogue](#) is defined by the [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#) as "all types of negotiation, consultation or simply exchange of information between or among representatives of governments, employers and workers, on issues of common interest relating to economic and social policy". Social partners, then, intervene on questions concerning such matters as work conditions, ongoing training and wage standards.

Five union confederations are recognised in France and have the right to negotiate and conclude agreements in all professional sectors:

- the CGT – General Labour Confederation ([Confédération générale du travail](#)),
- the CFDT – French Democratic Confederation of Labour ([Confédération française démocratique du travail](#)),
- the CGC – General Confederation of management ([Confédération française de l'encadrement](#)),
- the CFTC – French Confederation of Christian Workers ([Confédération française des travailleurs chrétiens](#)),
- FO – Workers' Force ([Force ouvrière](#)).

At employer level, three unions are recognised as representative:

- the MEDEF – French Enterprises Movement ([Mouvement des entreprises de France](#)),
- the CPME – Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([Confédération générale des petites et moyennes entreprises](#))
- the U2P – (l'Union des entreprises de proximité)

Other unions also exist, but are not representative at national level.

It should be borne in mind that all these bodies are stakeholders in regulation of the labour market in general, **not only of the youth labour market**. They **do not carry out specifically youth-oriented actions**. Not many young people are union members. Young people's involvement in unions is little developed in France, while generational renewal of employee and employer organisations is of crucial importance to them. Such underrepresentation of youth may partly be explained by ignorance of the role played by unions. Most youth unions are student unions, the two main organisations being:

- the FAGE – Federation of General Student Associations ([Fédération des associations générales étudiantes](#)). Founded in 1989, it does not claim to be a union, but acts as a "loudspeaker" for student associations.

- the *UNEF – National Union of Students of France (Union nationale des étudiants de France)*, a longstanding union one of whose areas of commitment is employment.

Local Missions

Local Missions are leading public operators in the implementation of policies on integration and accompaniment of the most disadvantaged young people. There are **450** of them in all, located throughout France. **Local Missions** are “*Law of 1901*” associations, created on 1 April 1998. They welcome all young people over 16 and under 26 years of age who have been out of the educational system for a year or more, and carry out a public **service mission focusing on professional and social integration of young people**. Such so-called “**proximity**” public services were created by the *Order of 26 March 1982 bearing on measures intended to ensure young people aged between sixteen and eighteen obtain a professional qualification and facilitate their social integration*, in a context of economic crisis and rising unemployment among young people.

They are defined in Articles L5314-1 to 4 of the Labour Code. Local Missions assist young people by providing them with answers adapted to their situations, dealing with their social difficulties, and making them aware of the various schemes designed for them.

They form **part of the Public Employment Service (SPE - service public de l'emploi)**. At **local level, they contribute to the drafting of youth employment strategies and countering social exclusion**, in particular by monitoring jobseekers entrusted to them by Pôle Emploi.

Local Missions are financed by the State and local authorities and chaired by elected local government officials. Local Missions are represented by the National Union of Local Missions (*UNML - Union nationale et régionale des missions locales*).

Every year, **1.1 million young people are supported by local missions**. Almost 13,600 professionals support them in their search for employment.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

Cross-sector cooperation in the field of employment and training is made up of a range of mechanisms, as well as the creation of bodies for decision-making and reflection that bring together various actors who collaborate on questions of youth employment, such as the Advisory Council for Youth Policy (*Conseil d'orientation des politiques de jeunesse*), which is an advisory body dedicated to youth policies that is made up of institutional and non-profit actors and is an instrument for cross-sector cooperation.

The Youth Policy Orientation Council (COJ)

The *Youth Policy Orientation Council (COJ)* is an administrative advisory body placed under the authority of the Prime Minister, created by Decree No. 2016-1377 of October 12, 2016. This Council officially installed on January 26, 2017, illustrates the transversal nature of youth policies;

It establishes a permanent dialogue between the different actors concerned: The State, local authorities, associations, young people themselves, trade union organizations. The COJ has three main missions: it can be consulted on legislative or regulatory projects related to youth and consider any question of general interest in youth policy, it can address to the Government proposals to improve the situation of young people and finally, it must send each year a report of activity to the Government. It has two thematic commissions, one of which focuses on **the professional integration of young people**.

In August 2020, the Advisory Council for Youth Policy submitted the “*Les jeunes au coeur du futur service public de l'insertion*” (“Young people at the heart of future public service for integration”) report, which concentrates on the future service for the integration of young people, to the Secretariat of State of the Ministry of National Education. This report was requested by the Minister for Labour, the Minister for National Education and Youth and the Minister for Health and Solidarity in order for the COJ to propose public service organisation plans for integration that are aimed at young people. The *report* is also a

response to the COVID-19 health crisis, the effects of which will have a significant and long-lasting social and economic impact on young people.

Intersectoral cooperation in the field of employment and training takes the form of various mechanisms or structures bringing together different actors working together such as :

The Public Employment Service (SPE - *Service Public de l'Emploi*) in the territories is managed by **the State** and representatives of the **main operators responsible for implementation** of employment policies at local level: the national employment service *Pôle Emploi*, Local Missions and bodies specialising in the professional integration of the disabled. It brings together all public and private actors responsible for implementing policies bearing on employment and vocational training. The SPE is under the aegis of the [ministry in charge of labour](#), and more specifically under that of the [General Delegation for Employment and Vocational Training](#) (DGEFP - *délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle*). In addition, as designer and manager of employment policies, the **Minister in charge of Labour plays a key role in this governance**.

For more information [see section 3.4 Career guidance and counselling](#).

3.3 Skills forecasting

Forecasting system(s)

In the 1990s, the French public authorities started giving thought to companies' needs in terms of skills rather than simply in terms of employment; this led to creation of the "Forward-looking management of jobs and skills"(GPEC – *Gestion prévisionnelle des emplois et des compétences*) concept. GPEC is a human resources management tool that enables medium- and long-term (from 3 to 5 years) anticipation of the consequences of a company's strategic choices and changes in its payroll. It has a range of objectives:

1. Apprehending the company's demographic problems;
2. Encouraging qualification of employees;
3. Controlling the consequences of technological and economic changes;
4. Staying competitive.

GPEC, for example, can lead to implementation of individual and collective actions and programmes, training courses, mobility, and recruitment drives. The scheme is defined by Article L.432-1.1 of the Labour Code and [Article L. 5121-3 of the Labour Code](#), which specifies that employers in companies with fewer than 300 employees **are obliged** to negotiate implementation of a **GPEC plan every three years**. Companies with fewer than 300 employees may benefit from State financial aid in order to do so.

Such job management is based on a multi-stage approach:

- **"analysis of required jobs"**, which aims to take account of jobs the organisation has or will have need of,
- **"analysis of available skills"**, which makes a quantitative assessment of the resources the company has available (analysis of the age pyramid, etc.),
- **"analysis of gaps"** between jobs and skills,
- **"the action plan"**, which seeks to reduce gaps between the jobs an organisation needs immediately or in the future and available skills.

At employment-area level, GPEC serves as a tool for "forward-looking management of jobs and skills" (*gestion prévisionnelle des emplois et compétences territoriale*), with the aim of "encouraging and supporting projects focusing on securing the professional paths of employed workers" and "optimising local employment possibilities [...] and fostering sustainable socio-professional integration". At local level, GPEC is based on a framework agreement, signed between the State, social partners, company representatives, local authorities and Pôle Emploi, which sets out the objectives, contents, operator(s) tasked

with its implementation, and mode of management and evaluation selected for the agreement.

In addition to GPEC, there are other schemes anticipating professions, qualifications and skills, including “employment and skills development actions” ([ADEC – actions de développement de l’emploi et des compétences](#)) and the “forward-looking studies and technical support contract” (contrat d’études prospectives et appui technique), which are both based on agreements signed by the State (Ministry of Labour) and social partners.

Employment and skills development actions (ADEC) have four objectives:

1. “preventing risks of skills becoming obsolete;
2. supporting professional mobility and evolution;
3. maintaining skills development;
4. having access to a recognised transferable qualification”.

They are based on framework agreements and funding conventions signed by the State (minister or regional prefect) professional and union organisations, which undertake to set up employment and skills development projects.

The forward-looking studies contract (CEP – contrat d’études prospectives) is a contract signed between the State and professional and union organisations represented in one or more activity sectors in the area concerned. The contract involves the carrying out of forward-looking studies providing wider knowledge of professions, jobs, qualifications and skills, and studying their evolutions.

The CEP is governed by Articles [L.5121-1](#) and [L.5121-2](#), and [D.5121-1](#) to [D. 5121-3](#) of the Labour Code. It is also based on a framework agreement signed by the State and a convention concluded between the State and the intermediary body mandated under the conditions provided for in the framework agreement.

Skills development

Development of all young people’s **professional skills** is one of the **Public Employment Service’s missions** as well as the responsibility of the Ministry in charge of Education and Higher Education, which has been developing a focus on “skills” within its system for several years now, expressed by initiatives and implementation of schemes designed to raise young people’s awareness of the skills required for their social integration and helping them develop them at home. A distinction should be drawn **between “key” and so-called “basic” skills**: specific skills that correspond to professions and jobs, but both of which are the subject of different schemes.

“Common core skills”

In 2013, the Ministry of Education introduced the “common core of knowledge, skills and culture”, which redefined the “common core of knowledge and skills” established by [Framework law no.2005-380 for the future of schools of 23 April 2005](#). The **common core of knowledge brings together all skills, values and attitudes necessary to pupils’ personal development, sense of citizenship and social inclusion**. It is divided up into several skills, regarded as essential throughout life, and is incorporated into lower secondary and primary school curricula, with each pupil being provided with a personal skills booklet enabling them to monitor their progress and the validation of their skills.

The five fundamental competencies are:

1. “Languages for thinking and communicating”.
2. “Methods and tools for learning”.
3. “Personal and civic training: learning about life in society, collective action, citizenship”.
4. “Natural and technical systems: scientific and technical approach to Earth and the universe, which aims to develop curiosity, the ability to observe, and problem-solving skills”.
5. “Representations of the world and human activity”.

This foundation is acquired during compulsory education and mastering it is necessary to obtain a lower high school certificate. However, teaching and evaluation according to competencies continue in later high school years, although it is no longer a matter of the core curriculum in schools.

The common core is acquired during compulsory schooling and proficiency in it is required for obtainment of the *Diplôme National du Brevet* (General Certificate of Lower Secondary Education); nonetheless, education and assessment by skills continues during upper secondary education even though it may no longer be a matter of common-core skills and skills booklets.

"Key" competencies

As per the recommendation of the European Parliament and Council of 18 December 2006 on *key competencies* for lifelong learning, which was superseded by a Council recommendation of 22 May 2018, the Ministry of Employment also developed a policy in favour of the acquisition of "Key competencies", which is defined by the [DGEFP 2008 memorandum of 3 January 2008](#) on "the Ministry of Employment intervention policy on access to key competencies for those integrating into professional life". The key competencies are the following:

- Communicating in French;
- Knowledge of mathematics and basic skills in science and technology;
- Knowledge of digital technology;
- Learning how to learn;
- Communicating in a foreign language.

The different measures for acquiring these key competencies or basic skills are aimed specifically at the most disadvantaged groups who do not have diplomas and who struggle to enter the labour market; young people without qualifications will therefore have priority.

Special skills

The term "special skills" covers the knowhow and qualifications corresponding to a profession or specific training course. Several schemes and actors play an important role in the skill development :

Pôle emploi

Such skills are listed in Pôle Emploi's [Operational Directory of Trades and Jobs](#) (Répertoire opérationnel des métiers et des emplois). A little over 10,000 trade and job appellations are described via 531 career information sheets.

They are also to be found in the [National Directory of Professional Certifications](#) (See [Glossary](#)), which compiles updated information on professional diplomas and credentials as well as qualification certificates.

These directories, which are available to everyone, provide **full information on the skills** required to access certain jobs as well as on training courses enabling development of such skills (National Directory of Certifications). They also facilitate human resources management, GPEC and professional mobilities. For managers of vocational and education training courses, such skills enable definition of training-course content and knowledge, and their consequent development among young people. In-school and professional young people are increasingly required to make the utmost of the special skills they acquire during their higher educational studies or traineeships to ensure their professional integration.

In November 2015, Pôle Emploi also launched a series of online training programmes, of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), one of which, "constructing your professional project ([construire son projet professionnel](#))", focuses on making best use of professional

skills, and is designed to help people identify one or more professions in line with their skills and interests, as well as such professions' situation on the labour market.

Establishment of Higher education

Establishment of Higher education have also developed tools enabling young people to develop and make best use of their skills, including **Portfolios of Experience and Competences** (PECs – *portefeuilles d'expériences et de compétences*), which have been integrated into 28 French universities.

The PEC – **Portfolio of Experience and Competences** (*portefeuille d'expériences et de compétences*) is a digital tool that compiles and maps all the experience and skills of students. It also aims to make the utmost of their educational paths and training, and contribute to young people's career guidance. The PEC, which is used throughout a young person's training, enables young people to assess their knowledge (knowhow) and construct their career plans.

The portfolio is a personal and confidential interactive digital resource booklet set up on students' digital workspaces (ENTs – *espaces numériques de travail*) and composed of:

- A **full description of their experience** (vocational and academic training, salaried and leisure activities, etc.),
- A **database of their skills**, which they can modify, sort and hierarchize,
- **Documentary resources**: reflection sheets and project construction sheets,
- **Practical tools** to aid professional integration: CV models, interview guide, etc.

The PEC is a **project initiated by universities** (Grenoble 1, Poitiers, and Toulouse 1 and 3) and which has won support from such institutional bodies as the Youth Experimentation Fund (*FEJ – Fonds d'expérimentation pour la jeunesse*), which, in 2009, funded the experiment at thirteen universities in the context of a call for proposals. The FEJ has participated in the setup a number of experimental skills development schemes as well as in evaluation of the skills booklets introduced by the Ministry of National Education.

The non-formal education sector and skills development

Moreover, the education and non-formal/informal learning sector is progressively **implementing "socially" and potentially professional skills development programme projects**. This "approach by competence" (APC – *approche par compétence*) is given concrete expression through creation of skills repositories and booklets. For example, the [Animafac](#) students' association has introduced the "skills [portfolio](#)"; a tool enabling identification of skills acquired via voluntary experience and raising awareness of the contribution that voluntary commitment can make in terms of knowhow and "soft skills", which are useful in professional situations as well as when looking for a job.

Companies

Besides **schemes specifically designed for young people**, it is also possible for all employees to make "**skills audits**" (*bilans de compétences*). These are career development tools aiming to identify professional skills and take stock of an individual's professional development. A skills audit is requested:

- At the initiative of the worker committed to a professional development initiative;
- Or at the employee's initiative in the context of a special leave of absence (skills audit leave);
- Or at the employer's suggestion with the employee's agreement, in the context of a company training plan."

There are also measures that aim to encourage the development of skills through vocational training, for example, the professional/personal training account.

Personal Training Account

Set up at the beginning of 2015 and modified by the law n ° 2018-771 of September 5, 2018 for the *freedom to choose one's professional future*, the Personal Training Account is an account supplied in euros usable by any employee, any throughout his active life, to follow a qualifying training.

The Personal Training Account (CPF – Compte Personnel de Formation) is a new vocational training scheme enabling employees (under private law) and jobseekers to follow training programmes in order to develop new professional skills. All workers **aged 16 and over** have the use of a CPF account throughout **their careers; it is** provisioned with euros usable for attending training courses. Among other things, such courses, developed by social partners at interprofessional, national, regional and professional sector level, enable obtainment of a diploma, job title or certification attesting to crosscutting skills exercised in the context of a job.

Forum and events

Complementing these skills development schemes, a wide range of public events presenting vocational training offers, as well as different career paths and the special skills they require, are held throughout France, organised by employment operators such as Pôle Emploi.

Many of these forums are aimed at young people, such as the "[Salon Jeunes d'avenir](#)", ("Youth of the Future fairs") and the "journées jobs d'été" summer job fairs.

The 2018-2022 Skills Investment Plan

The Ministry of Labor has implemented the Skills Investment Plan (CIP) 2018-2022 which aims to fight against mass unemployment. The plan aims to train one million low-skilled young people and one million low-skilled, long-term jobseekers, through skills-building, including digital skills and the implementation of tools to develop training opportunities such as the call for projects "100% inclusion".

The call for projects 100% inclusion

The 100% inclusion call for projects was launched in June 2018 by the Minister in charge of Labor and the High Commissioner for Skills Transformation to support experiments for training the least qualified people, particularly in the territories marked by inequalities. It must foster new territorial partnerships, collaborations between training organizations, companies, associations and local authorities.

Both private and public structures can apply. Expected projects must implement "integrated pathways from "remobilization" of beneficiaries to access to employment or sustainable activity". Young people and low-skilled jobseekers, particularly residents in the most disadvantaged areas, as well as people with disabilities are a targeted public through the call for projects. The initial allocation for this call for projects is 40M €.

3.4 Career guidance and counselling

Career guidance and counselling services

Provision of information, guidance and accompaniment in the context of professional integration is a national and territorial (local authority) mission, defined by the State, coordinated by regions and implemented in local areas by a range of public operators and private partners (associations).

Since the [Law no.2009-1437 of 24 November 2009](#) "bearing on professional information, guidance and qualification" everyone has the right to be informed and advised on vocational guidance.

The article 1 of this law confirms the existence of "**a right to information**, guidance and professional qualification" aiming to "enable each person to acquire and update knowledge

and skills favouring their professional development". It confers French Regions with increased competences in the field of guidance and information, due in particular to their competences with regard to vocational and continuing training.

The Regional Public Guidance Service (SPRO - *service public régional d'orientation*)

The [Law no. 2014-288 of 5 March 2014](#) "bearing on vocational training, employment and social democracy " introduces the Regional Public Guidance Service (SPRO - *service public régional d'orientation*), which reaffirms the right of all people to be "informed, advised and accompanied throughout their lives with regard to professional orientation". The SPRO, which was introduced across the whole country on 1st January 2015, aims to simplify and clarify the various actors and offers of accompaniment and guidance towards employment, as France has a whole range of information structures and services that require greater visibility and coherence.

The [law n ° 2018-771 of September 5, 2018](#) "for the freedom to choose one's professional future" modifies the SPRO. It entrusts the regions with the organization of information actions on jobs and trainings at regional, national and European levels for students and their families, apprentices and students.

For example, the regional public advice service (*service public régional de l'orientation*, SPRO) of the Centre-Val de Loire region that is aimed at young people "in training, as well as employees, jobseekers and those changing career" brings together a variety of actors in professional integration:

- Pôle emploi (job centre),
- Cap emploi (national network of employment organisations that specialise in helping those with disabilities)
- Local missions
- Association pour l'emploi des cadres (Association for hiring executives, APEC),
- Centres d'information et d'orientation (Information and Advice Centres, CIO),
- Information jeunesse network (Youth information network, CRIJ, BIJ, PIJ),
- Services d'information et d'orientation des universités (University Information and Advice Services, SUIO),
- Centres d'aide à la décision des Chambres de Métiers et de l'Artisanat (Decision-Making Advisory Centres for Chambers of Trade and Craft Industries, CAD-CMA),
- Points Chambres de commerce et d'industrie (Centres for Chambers of Commerce and Industry, CCI),
- Points Information Conseil en Validation des acquis (Information Advice Centres for Accreditation of Volunteer Experience, PIC VAE),
- Centre Ressources Information Accompagnement pour le développement des compétences de base (Information Resource Centres for Support in Developing Basic Skills, CRIA).

Counseling in professional evolution

In addition, all the people in employment, irrespective of their status, and age, from entry into working life to retirement, can benefit voluntarily from the scheme of "**Counseling in professional evolution**" (CEP) implemented in 2014.

This is a free and personalized support measure that allows to build and formalize with the employee or the job seeker his project of evolution or professional transition. Four national operators deliver the CEP: Pôle Emploi, the network of local missions (See [Glossary](#)), Cap Emploi and APEC.

Career guidance for young people

The work of some professional support organisations is aimed specifically at young people. They can be part of organisational networks of regional public advice services;

The information and advice centres (CIO) are aimed at qualified young people as a priority. The CIOs report to the Ministry of National Education. They are established across the entire territory. The role of CIOs consists of promoting:

- "The welcome of all members of the public and, as a priority, young people of school age and their families"
- "Information on studying, vocational training, qualifications and occupations".
- "Bespoke advice".
- "The observation and analysis of local modifications in education systems and developments on the job market and the production of summary documents for educational teams or pupils".
- "Organising discussions and reflections between partners in the education system, parents, young people, local decision-makers and economic players".

University Information and Advice Services (SCUIO)

The SCUIOs are organisations established in universities that offer students essential documentation and a range of information services on university teachings, advice on course choice and help with entering work.

Local missions

Local missions are non-profit organisations that are responsible for helping young people between 16 and 25 years old. They help young people by offering them services related to employment, training, accommodation, health, sports and leisure. Local missions play an important role in the social inclusion of young people, especially those who are faced with financial and social difficulties.

Information Jeunesse youth information network

These 1,300 organisations provide information to young people on a national, regional and local scale with regard to all topics that concern employment (day-to-day life, training, employment, leisure, health, accommodation, etc.).

Guarantee for youth

In France, the " Guarantee for Youth " policy is therefore part of the dynamic of the European Youth Guarantee decided by the European Commission, which aims to rapidly propose solutions to young people coming out of the education system.

The [Guarantee for Youth](#) aims to support young NEETs in vulnerable situations by enabling them to gain professional experience over a 12-month period through training/support measures and a financial allowance. Support and counseling which are at the core of the scheme.

The French public employment service (Pôle emploi) works closely with local stakeholders to identify and select NEETs who would benefit most from taking part in the Guarantee for Youth. Young people who accept to take part in the measure are mentored by a dedicated counselor over a 12-month period in order to find appropriate workplace experience and improve their employability and workplace skills.

Funding

Depending on the type of organisation (associations) and measures, the employment information and support bodies for young people and pupils will use funding from the national government (Ministry of Employment, Education and Higher Education) and regional authorities, particularly the region, as well as European funds. This funding is

most frequently based on signed agreements between the State, the organisation and territorial authorities, such as local missions.

Local missions

The funding for local missions that support young people in difficulty, in particular, is provided by the State (Ministry of Employment) as part of signing the multi-year agreement of objectives. This type of funding is also supplemented by support loans for young people as part of the "Garantie Jeunes" guarantee. The "Garantie Jeunes" funding is also provided by the initiative for youth employment, which is a financial grant added to the European Social Fund.

Quality assurance

There are several methods for evaluating the measures and organisations for professional integration: internal administrative evaluations, studies created by study consultancies or academic laboratories, as well as satisfaction surveys created by (survey) consultancies. Evaluations are either regular or created on a more ad-hoc basis depending on the organisation. In most cases, these evaluations result in reports and studies that, in particular, tend to suggest improvements.

SPRO (regional public employment advice service)

The evaluation of regional public employment advice services (see SPRO 3.4) is given in the specifications established between the national government and the region (territorial authority). The evaluation should focus on the organisation plan, its management and its results. It must make it possible to identify levers for improving the service provided to actors and to SPRO beneficiaries, as well as realigning the SPRO organisation, if necessary.

Pôle emploi (job centre)

The Pôles emplois (cf. 3.2) also contribute to monitoring and better understanding professional integration policies by producing their own figures. It has an [evaluation committee](#), appointed from the board of directors at the Pôle emploi in compliance with [Law No. 2008-126 of 13 February 2008](#) on the organisational reform of the public employment service. Its task is to evaluate "the interventions, offer of services, supports and measures for companies, jobseekers and occupied persons" offered by the Pôle emploi and, more specifically, by assessing "their relevance, their effectiveness and their efficiency".

These evaluations focus on the activities, service offers, measures, benefits and organisations at the Pôle emploi, as well as on employers, workers and intermediaries in the labour market. The evaluations are the subject of publications that appear in collections such as "[Eclairages et synthèse](#)" ([Perspectives and summaries](#)) and "[Études et recherches](#)" ([Studies and research](#)).

These studies are carried out based on questionnaires that are aimed at jobseekers at several points in time:

- Following their registration interview;
- Following their first interview with their specialist advisor;
- Then regularly as part of the follow-up.

3.5 Traineeships and apprenticeships

Official guidelines on traineeships and apprenticeships

A number of training programmes combining practical experience at a company with more theoretical education are on offer to young people, who can opt for work/study courses or traineeships depending on their qualifications, diplomas and career choices. Such

programmes, enabling acquisition of professional aptitudes and skills along with theoretical knowledge, enable young people to integrate the world of work more rapidly.

Work/study

There are **two types of work/study contracts**: the apprenticeship contract and the professionalisation contract

1) The apprenticeship contract

Apprenticeship is a work/study programme combining practical training at a company with theoretical classes delivered by an Apprentice Training Centre (*CFA – centre de formation d'apprentis*). It is not compulsory, but is matter of choice. Apprenticeship is based on a work contract that binds an employer and an apprentice who, as he/she is paid a wage, is subject to the rules of the Labour Code and the same collective conventions as other employees.

As regards social cover, apprentices (16 y/o and above) are affiliated to the General Social Security Scheme (RGSS - *régime général de la sécurité sociale*). They also have the right to paid leave and maternity leave, and their pension and unemployment benefit rights come into effect.

Young people under 15 y/o can conclude an apprenticeship contract provided they have completed their lower secondary education. Over 25 y/o can also enter an apprenticeship under certain conditions, disabled young people in particular, for whom other provisions exist, including the "adjusted contract" (*contrat aménagé*), which facilitates their professional integration.

Apprenticeships are carried out in a wide variety of professional sectors, including foodstuffs, commerce, construction, the automobile industry and public works, as well as in service sectors. Apprenticeship is becoming increasingly important as a mode of training for careers in the tertiary sector. More than one in every two contracts prepares for a service profession.

During the programme, apprentices spend a third of their time at a CFA and the other two thirds at a company. CFA classes take up at least 400 hours a year, with apprentices following courses provided for and defined in school curricula. When at the company for which they work, apprentices are under the responsibility of a mentor who provides them with support and passes on his/her knowhow.

Reform the apprenticeship (See [Current debates and reforms](#))

The law n ° 2018-771 of September 5, 2018 for " the Freedom to choose one's professional future" modified in depth the system apprenticeship which was piloted by the regional authorities since the law of January 7th, 1983.

As of January 1, 2019, apprenticeship will now be piloted by the professional branches that will be involved in the construction of diplomas and will set the cost of apprenticeship contracts. In addition, the regions no longer decide on the opening of apprenticeship training centres (CFA).

The law provides in particular that:

- the apprenticeship age training limit goes from 25 to 30 years;
- the remuneration of apprentices increases;
- a new financing method is proposed: the financing of apprenticeship centres will be evaluated according to the number of contracts signed in 2020.
- the over 25s young people are paid at least at the minimum wage level;
- young apprentices whose contracts are interrupted during the course of the year may extend their training at the Apprentice Training Center for 6 months;

- young people have to benefit from several annual days of information on business sectors, apprenticeship jobs;
- pre-apprenticeship training is organized for young people wishing to move towards apprenticeship but lacking the necessary skills.

2) The professionalization contract

This is designed for a wider public than the apprenticeship contract. It is aimed at:

- young people 16-25 y/o;
- jobseekers 26 y/o and over;
- beneficiaries of the RSA – minimum income, ASS – special solidarity allowance (*allocation de solidarité spécifique*) or the AAH – disabled adults' allowance (*allocation aux adultes handicapés*);

Programmes last between 6 months and 1 or even 2 years. Remuneration of young people on professionalisation contracts varies according to level of initial training and age. Unlike apprenticeship contracts, the State, local authorities and their public administrative bodies may not conclude professionalization contracts.

Legal framework for work/study programmes

Work/study programmes are defined and regulated by a whole series of articles in the Labour Code which, among other things, stipulate:

- Taking of and preparation for exams: [Labour Code: Articles L6222-34 to L6222-36](#);
- Contributions and exemptions: [Labour Code: Articles L6243-2 to L6243-3](#);
- The remuneration provided for in the contract: [Labour Code: Articles R6222-2 to R6222-5](#);
- The reference rate compared with the SMIC: [Labour Code: Articles D6222-26 to D6222-35](#);
- Work prohibited and regulated for young people of at least 15 y/o: [Labour Code: Articles D4153-15 to D4153-37](#) ;

Traineeships

Students enrolled at higher education institutions can benefit from initial contact with the world of work via **traineeships, temporary periods of professional placement**, during which they acquire professional skills and use their learning outcomes with a view to obtaining a diploma or certification. When traineeships in a professional environment are incorporated into a training syllabus, they are compulsory; however, not all higher education courses require traineeship periods.

Traineeships are based on a compulsory tripartite convention between the student, the host organisation and the educational institution.

When they last more than two consecutive months, they are subject to a monthly bonus. Traineeships last for a maximum of six months. The bonus is set at 15% of the social security ceiling, i.e. €3.90 per hour worked; however, an activity sector convention or extended professional agreement may set a higher rate and pay out a larger sum in consequence.

Trainees do not enjoy employee status, in particular because they are not connected with host companies by a work contract.

Their experience in the public or private host organisation is gained for professionalising and educational purposes, even though they may carry out tasks of a professional nature. They are only at the company to learn and observe. No traineeship convention may be concluded for the carrying out of a regular task corresponding to a permanent position, seasonal job or replacement of an absent employee. During their traineeships, students

are subject to dual supervision, by a designated supervisor at their university (Professor) and a tutor at the host company. The latter is responsible for receiving and assisting the trainee. He/she acts as guarantor of compliance with the tripartite convention. As regards social security, trainees remain affiliated to the social security health insurance scheme they are already members of (student schemes).

Legal framework

Conduct of traineeships is defined and supervised by a whole series of articles in the Education Code and Labour Code

including:

- [Article L124-6](#) of the Education Code, *which governs bonus conditions*
- [The law of 10 July 2014 bearing on development and supervision of traineeships and improvement of trainee status](#) enacted on 26 October 2015, which complements trainees' rights and is intended to combat employers' abuse of traineeships. The law reinforces the educational aspect of traineeships along with trainees' status, in particular by increasing their monthly bonus (which was increased from €436 to €523 at the start of the 2015-2016 academic year)
- [Law no.2011-893 of 28 July 2011](#), known as the "Cherpion" law, on development of work/study programmes and the securing of vocational paths, which reinforces trainees' rights and protection by stating that "traineeships are only legal if they are the subject of a tripartite agreement between the trainee, the (public or private) host organisation and the higher education institute"
- [Law no.2013-660 of 22 July 2013](#) bearing on higher education and research, which reasserts the provisions of the "Cherpion" law and strengthens the legal framework, in particular by defining traineeships, their educational content, and bonuses involved.

Sequence of observation in professional environments for pupils in the final year of lower secondary education

Lower secondary students (11-15 y/o) get a **first taste of professional experience with the sequence of observation in professional environments** (séquence d'observation en milieu professionnel), which aims to "make pupils aware of the technological, economic and professional environment in conjunction with syllabuses". This short-term professional integration is compulsory for all pupils in their final year of lower secondary education, in application of the provisions of [Article D. 332-14 of the Education Code](#).

It may be carried out at **companies, associations, government agencies, public institutions or local authority** premises, in accordance with the conditions provided for by the Labour Code.

For pupils in their last year of lower secondary education preparing for vocational training ([troisième préparatoire à l'enseignement professionnel](#)), along with those in adapted general and vocational education sections (classes taking in pupils with major learning difficulties) and those benefiting from exemption schemes, it is incorporated into the placements in professional environments they have to carry out.

Where the sequence is carried out depends on the age of pupils concerned:

- Pupils aged 14 and over may carry out observation sequences in companies, associations, government agencies, public institutions or local authority premises (Article L. 4153-1 of the Labour Code)
- Pupils under 14 years of age cannot carry out observation sequences in establishments governed by private law, in compliance with Articles L. 4111-1 and L. 4153-1 of the Labour Code.

Article [L. 4153-5 of the Labour Code](#), however, provides for an exception: they are authorised to carry out observation sequences "[...] in companies where only family

members are employed, under the authority of the father, mother or tutor [...]”. Similarly, employers such as government agencies, public administrative institutions and local authorities can host pupils with no restrictions on age.

Sequences are organised within a legal framework defined by [Articles D. 331-1 of the Education Code](#) and the [Circular of 8 September 2003](#) bearing on ways of hosting minors under 16 y/o in professional environments. Observation sequences may last **for five consecutive days**. It is the pupils themselves and their families who look for and choose **observation sequence sites**; they can seek help in doing so from educational teams.

Pupil supervision and monitoring must be **specified in a compulsory convention** signed by the educational institution and the host company or organisation.

Legal framework

Observation sequences are governed by the Education Code, which specifies:

- Observation sequence objectives: Article D. 332-14 of the Education Code.
- Ways of organising and carrying out observation sequences: [Articles D. 331-1 to D. 331-4, D. 331-6, D. 331- 8 and D. 331-9](#)

Traineeships and Guarantee for Youth

Although higher education traineeships are intended for young graduates, **young people with fewer opportunities** and further removed from the labour market **are targeted by a number of work/study schemes**, such as professionalisation contracts, which are intended for beneficiaries of minimum social benefits with no required level of qualification. As regards the **Guarantee for Youth scheme, which aims to integrate young people in highly precarious situations**, professional placements of all possible kinds (traineeships and work/study programmes) are at its very heart. Young people benefiting from the scheme can also complete [“periods of placements in professional settings”](#), which are neither traineeships nor work/study programmes. They aim to enable young people to acquaint themselves with a profession or activity sector, or confirm a professional project.

During such periods, the young people concerned are not employed by the host organisations and therefore receive no payment from them.

The professional placements (PMSMP) have three objectives as defined by law:

1. Discovering an occupation or an industry
2. Confirming a career plan
3. Initiating a recruitment process

Promoting traineeships and apprenticeships

Work/Study

In addition, a number of [schemes assisting recruitment](#) of apprentices have been made available to companies with a view to promoting apprenticeship and work/study programmes; they include for example :

- Exemptions from social contributions and aid provided by [Agefiph](#), which works to foster professional integration of the disabled.

Since February 2018, in the context of transforming apprenticeships, the French government launched a new communication campaign [“Démarrer ta story”](#) (“Start your story”), which suggests that young apprentices create video accounts of their apprenticeship and publish them on social media.

This audiovisual campaign targeting young people consists of **disseminating the portraits of young apprentices** with a range of profiles and backgrounds. The campaign also **seeks to change the image** of apprenticeship in the eyes of young people and

guidance professionals, as work/study courses have long been looked down on. This campaign was implemented by creating a homepage for work/study programmes and professional training contracts that young people can use to learn about work/study programmes.

Among those involved in raising awareness of apprenticeship among young people, Local Missions play a key role, lending support to young people with fewer opportunities in their professional integration and orientating them towards such schemes as work/study and Youth Guarantee.

Traineeships

Traineeships incorporated into higher educational programmes have not been the subject of any special promotion, even though [the law of 10 July 2014 bearing on development and supervision of traineeships and improvement of trainees' status](#) **also aims to develop "quality" traineeships within training programmes.**

Recognition of learning outcomes

All these schemes aim to help young people familiarise themselves with the world of work, as well as develop professional skills and make the utmost of learning outcomes.

Work/Study

The [professionalisation](#) contract aims at acquisition of a recognised professional qualification (a diploma or professional title listed in the National Directory of Professional Certifications, a certificate of professional qualification (CQP) or a qualification recognised in the classifications of a collective national convention).

Apprenticeship enables preparation for a secondary education vocational diploma (certificate of professional aptitude, baccalaureate or *brevet professionnel* (vocational certificate)), a higher education degree or a professional title listed in the National Directory of Professional Certifications ([RNCP](#)). Training and contract duration may vary from one to three years.

Apprenticeship

Apprentices and students at technical colleges (*lycées professionnels*) can take advantage of European ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) measures, which enable those pursuing a professional education to gain recognition of what they learned during an internship or training in another European country. The measure is put into practice by signing a learning agreement between the French institute and the host institute, before the apprentice leaves to go abroad. In this contract, the institutes specify the learning process to be achieved and the conditions for their evaluation, accreditation and recognition.

Higher education traineeships

In the context of higher education traineeships, validation of a (Bachelor's or Master's) degree usually depends on the quality of the vocational thesis (*mémoire professionnelle*) or traineeship report that students have to produce. Such theses have to result from students' thoughts on their experience in professional environments. As a complement to examinations, they lead to validation of ECTS (European Credit Transfer and accumulation System) credits and consequent obtainment of their degrees. However, obtainment of ECTS credits through traineeships is by no means systematic and depends on institutions.

Sequence of observations in professional settings

As regards sequences of observations in professional settings carried out in the last year of lower secondary education, the pupils involved must write a report upon completion of their placements, which they hand in to their class teacher. They may also have to give an oral presentation during which they must share their professional experience. The report is marked, and the mark is included on the pupils' end-of-term report cards.

Funding

Apprenticeships

The [apprenticeship reform](#) implemented in 2018 has modified its funding system: they are now skills providers (bringing together professional sectors) that allocate their funds to centres for training apprentices (*centres de formation d'apprentis*, CFA). The CFAs are funded by contract, meaning according to the number of apprentices received. However, they can (depending on the criteria defined) receive regional investment grants.

European Structural and Investment Funds

France benefits from **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)**. For the **2014-2020** period, the State was allocated **€15.5 billion of structural funds** (European Regional Development Fund_ERDF and European Social Fund_ESF), including **6.03 billion euros from the ESF**.

Regional councils are responsible for the management of 35% of the national ESF budget, in particular for funding vocational training, apprenticeship and guidance. Regional programmes are mobilising €2 billion in ESF appropriations for the 2014-2020 period.

Source: [The European Social Fund 2014-2020 and the Youth Employment Initiative 2014-2015](#).

Traineeship

Funding of traineeships incorporated into higher educational programmes differs from that of apprenticeships: it is the bodies hosting the trainees that pay them a bonus. Although remuneration does not exceed the minimum hourly wage, it is exempt from social contributions on the part of the host organisation.

Since the end of 2013, several laws have brought major modifications to apprenticeships, particularly to the ways in which they are funded:

- [Law no.2013-1278 of 29 December 2013 bearing on finances for 2014](#);
- [Law no.2014-288 of 5 March 2014 bearing on vocational training, employment and social democracy](#);
- [Law no.2014-891 of 8 August 2014 bearing on rectified finances for 2014](#);
- [Law no.2014-1654 of 29 December 2014 bearing on finances for 2015](#).

Quality assurance

There are no systems or schemes for qualitative evaluation of traineeships except evaluations and monitoring of the legality of a trainee's work conditions, which are carried out by inspectors from the [Labour Inspectorate \(inspection du travail\)](#), which is under the aegis of the ministry in charge of labour and employment.

Associations can be involved in the qualitative evaluation of training for apprentices by teaching novel practices, for example, the *ApprentiScène* body that organises the "**Les ApprentiScènes**" campaign, which allows 350 young apprentices per year to develop and become more professional with the help of theatre training by professionals.

Furthermore, since the 2018 apprenticeship reform modified how centres for training apprentices (CFA) operate, particularly with regard to the quality of the training on offer, the CFAs have to publish information on the quality of their training, especially attainment rates for diplomas, training course completion and subsequent employment. The content of the information published and their means of circulation are determined by decree from the Ministries of Vocational Training and National Education.

The reform also introduced a certification system for training centres. Since 1 January 2020, every new centre for training apprentices must obtain a quality accreditation in order to open up training for apprentices.

The service providers who work with the CFAs must have a “quality” certification based on criteria defined by decree from the Council of State (Article L6316-1 of the French Labour Code (*Code du travail*)).

A national reference document outlining the “quality” criteria is determined by decree according to notice from the national France compétences agency, the national authority for funding and regulating vocational training and apprenticeships.

3.6 Integration of young people in the labour market

Youth employment measures

Youth employment is a constant concern for public authorities, especially as entering employment encourages independence for young people. The unemployment rate for young people between 15 and 24 years old remains high in France: it reached 21% in the second quarter of 2020, compared to 7.1% for the entire active population. Mass unemployment primarily affects less qualified young people: the unemployment rate for young people who do not have a diploma is more than twice that of the unemployment rate for young people who have a high school leaver’s certificate.

The challenges involved include reducing numbers of young jobseekers, in particular by reducing existing disparities between young people with few qualifications, those from disadvantaged urban districts and young graduates, and by taking prior action to remove the obstacles to professional integration met with along school and university pathways as well as in young people’s everyday lives.

In order to reduce unemployment among the least qualified and to boost long-term employability, several measures have been implemented or organised, **especially to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic impacts.**

Several youth employment policy schemes are aimed at the most fragile young people

“Employment” schemes for young people finding professional integration difficult because of their social situations.

- **The Skills Investment Plan (PIC)**

The Ministry of Labor has developed a plan for the period 2018-2022 to train young people especially low-skilled: the “Skills Investment Plan”.

The plan aims at training "one million low-skilled young people and one million low-skilled long-term jobseekers" through skills development, including digital skills and the implementation of tools and experiments.

At the territorial level, the PIC will be take the form of regional pacts signed between, the State and the voluntary Regions (local authorities)

The objectives assigned to the regional variations of the plan are, among others:

- The development of transversal knowledge training (acquisition of basic knowledge),
- Increasing the number of places on training scheme dedicated to young people with social difficulties,
- Strengthening the program of innovative training in targeted territories (disadvantaged area).

Local missions ([See Glossary](#)) play an important role in the implementation of PIC measures Because of their knowledge about low-skilled young people situation.

- [The Guarantee for Youth \(Garantie Jeunes\)](#)

The Guarantee for Youth is a one of the public authorities’ **key measures in favour of youth employment.** The scheme, introduced in January 2013, is France’s response to the Council of the European Union’s recommendation of 22 April 2013 to create a

“Guarantee for young people” consisting of providing “a quality job, continuing training, an apprenticeship or a traineeship [...]”, firstly to young people without qualifications and living in areas where the unemployment rate among under 25 y/o is over 25%.

In France, the “Garantie Jeunes” guarantee was achieved by implementing a one-year reciprocal contract of commitments between a young person (neither in employment nor in education or training, NEET) and a [local mission](#) that offers an **intensive and personalised** support programme and a guarantee of resources up to €492.

The Youth Guarantee is based on:

- Intensive collective support on the part of Local Missions;
- Repeated professional placement experiences taking a variety of possible forms;
- Individual accompaniment throughout the year;
- Monthly financial aid enabling young people to become more self-sufficient.

Its roll out across the entire country from 1 January 2017 has been recorded by Decree No. 2016-1855 of 23 December 2016 of the Law of 8 August 2016 on labour, the modernisation of social dialogue and safeguarding career paths. The law establishes a contractual framework for youth support provided by local missions: the additional contractual support pathways to employment and independence (*Parcours contractualisé d'accompagnement vers l'emploi et l'autonomie*, PACEA), of which the “Garantie Jeunes” is a part.

According to the statistical departments for the Ministry of Employment, 229,000 young people were included in the “[Garantie Jeunes](#)” between October 2013 and July 2018.

- [EPIDE](#) Training Programmes

Employment integration establishments (EPIDEs *Établissements Pour l'Insertion dans l'Emploi*) are responsible for accompanying young people in difficulty in their social and professional projects through adapted individualised programmes. They are under the triple supervision of the ministries responsible for defence, employment and urban affairs.

EPIDEs are designed for young people 18-25 y/o with no diploma or other qualification or on the verge of marginalisation. EPIDEs provide them with free residency training. They enjoy special status and sign a volunteer contract for integration over a period of 8 months. The average duration of contracts is 10 months and cannot be extended beyond 24 months. **Young people concerned receive a monthly allowance** of 210 euros;

- [Service Militaire Adapté](#)

Service Militaire Adapté (SMA – Adapted military service) is under the aegis of the ministry in charge of overseas French territories. It is a military scheme for socio-professional integration designed for young people 18-26 y/o who are the furthest removed from the world of work in Overseas France. Lasting for six to eight months and renewable, such service is attested by obtainment of certificate of professional aptitude (CAPI *certificat d'aptitude personnelle à l'insertion*). Young people concerned have the status of army volunteers and receive military mentoring that includes training in interpersonal skills in professional environments, “second-chance” education leading to acquisition of basic knowledge, and a qualifying training programme.

In addition to these recurring measures, **emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis have been taken by the French government to help young people as part of the “1 jeune 1 solution”** (A solution for every young person) plan that was presented in July 2020.

- **The “1 jeune, 1 solution” plan**

The COVID-19 health crisis has limited access to the job market for young people and made education and training more difficult for them. In order to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis, the government has developed the “[1 jeune, 1 solution](#)” plan, which

aims to support young people aged between 16 and 25 years old at the end of the COVID-19 crisis as the economic and social consequences affect young people most severely.

The plan largely focuses on getting young people into work and its measures based on three axes:

1. **Helping young people get a foot on the career ladder**
2. **Guiding and training 200,000 young people for the industries and professions of the future**
3. **Supporting young people who are not in the workforce by creating 300,000 customised paths for integration**

The measures include, among others, creating jobs, encouraging employers to recruit young people and strengthening measures, especially supporting those that exist (for the workplace) or developing subjects of employment;

Axis 1 “Helping young people get a foot on the career ladder” provides: (non-exhaustive list)

- “€4,000 in compensation for expenses for every young person recruited between August 2020 and January 2021”.
- “Special assistance of €5,000 to recruit someone under 18 years old who is on a work/study programme (apprenticeship or professional training contract) or €8,000 to recruit someone over 18 years old”.
- “100,000 additional civic service projects to get young people involved in non-profit organisations”.
- “2,000 FONJEP (Youth and Popular Education Cooperation Fund) jobs supporting non-profit organisations to build and grow”.
- “1,000 young people will be recruited in very small and small and medium businesses for occupations centred around the ecological transformation of economic models”.
- “2,500 young people will be oriented towards jobs in sport as part of the French National Sports Agency”.

Axis 2 “Guiding and training 200,000 young people for the industries and professions of the future” provides:

- “100,000 new training programmes providing, or working towards, qualifications for young people without qualifications or who have not completed higher education”.
- “16,000 training programmes in the care sector to double the capacity for training nursing assistants, nurses and personal care assistants over the next five years”.
- “35,000 digital training programmes for young people without qualifications in 2020 and 2021”.
- “Individualised pathways for 35,000 dropouts between 16 and 18 years old by the end of 2021”.
- “Doubling the number of pupils who are beneficiaries of agreements for success and routes to excellence”.

Axis 3 “Supporting young people who are not in the workforce by creating 300,000 customised paths for integration” provides:

- “120,000 additional measures for entry to employment: the job skills route (PEC) and the employment initiative contract (CIE)”.
- “50% increase in places in “Garantie Jeunes” schemes to reach 150,000 potential opportunities to provide support”.
- “80,000 additional contractual support paths to employment and independence (PACEA)”.

- “3,000 additional places in a support measure working towards professions in sport and entertainment”.

The “1 jeune, 1 solution” plan brings together the Ministries of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Integration, National Education, Youth and Sports, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Its development and implementation are based on cross-disciplinary and collaborative work, particularly between ministries and institutional actors in employment (social partners, public service for employment, state services in the territories, associations for youth and apprentices, associations for representing local elected representatives, etc.).

Flexicurity measures focusing on young people

Institutional actors for professional integration have put in place measures that enable an easier and more stable professional transition. However, the measures are not aimed specifically at young people, although they are also accessible to this age group. For example, the “[right to professional training](#)”, which comes under [the law on secure employment](#) of 14 June 2013 and necessitates the creation of a [professional training account \(CPF\)](#) that stays with the employee for their entire life or the [council for professional development \(CEP\)](#), a free and personalised support measure open to everyone who wants to review their professional situation.

Furthermore, the measures in the skills investment plan (see Measures for employing young people) aim to reduce unemployment for under-qualified young people and enable their long-term social inclusion. The regional implementation of this plan rests on the signing of regional agreements for skills investment between the State and regions for the 2018-2022 period. Some agreements expand on testing new practices, such as training in workplace situations or the introduction of virtual reality in teaching modules that are adapted to situations relevant to young people.

Reconciliation of private and working life for young people

In order to facilitate young peoples’ professional integration, measures have been introduced that aim to reconcile their professional and home lives, covering the fields of accommodation, healthcare and family life, and including:

- [The guarantee Visale](#) is a public scheme that allows students, without conditions of resources, to obtain a free rental deposit for any type of housing.
- Day nurseries to aid professional integration ([Crèches à vocation d’insertion professionnelle](#)), which provide support and childminding facilities, in particular for single mothers and parents who need time to look for employment;
- Young workers ([“Jeunes travailleurs”](#)) hostels: residences that rent out rooms to young people 16-25 (sometimes 30) y/o, in particular those in training programmes (apprenticeships, work/study or traineeships) and salaried students, those who are working their first (CDD/CDI) jobs or are looking for work following completion of their studies;
- Introduction of a gap year ([année de césure](#)), which allows students to suspend their studies for a period of between 6 months and a year in order to gain personal, professional or volunteer experience in France or abroad. Such “break” years contribute to maturation of career choices, personal development and acquisition of new skills.

Funding of existing schemes/initiatives

Dedicated loan funding for vocational training for the State is included in the finance laws (cf. Glossary) in programmes 102 “Access and return to work” and 103 “Supporting economic change and job development” that aim to “develop skills, especially for long-term jobseekers and young people without qualifications, to facilitate their access to jobs and to encourage growth that creates jobs”.

As an indication, the skills investment plan (PIC) was given almost €14 billion over the 2018-2022 period. The intention is for this plan to make it possible to train and support 2 million young people and jobseekers who have few or no qualifications, while contributing to the transformation of continuing professional development.

Source: *finance law 2020 "Travail et emploi" (Work and employment)*

European funds

France is also using European schemes to support its national employment policies : the Youth Employment Initiative one of the **main EU financial resources** to support the implementation of [Youth Guarantee](#) schemes (That is the *Guarantee for youth*) and the European Social Fund an another financial **instrument for supporting jobs**.

In 2014-2020, the [ESF](#) in France has a budget of 6 billion euros (24% of the total European structural investment funds), including 310 million euros dedicated to the Initiative for the youth employment.

Quality assurance

Checks and evaluations of the quality of employment measures, such as the "Garantie Jeunes", can be carried out by observatories, academic laboratories and study centres, as well as ministerial statistical departments: INSEE, the internal statistical department for the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP) or the Department for the Organisation of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES).

Department for the Organisation of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES)

The Ministry of Labour has its own statistics division, [the Department for the Organisation of Research, Studies and Statistics](#) (DARES). Its role is to produce studies on labour and employment that concentrate, in particular, on "employment, unemployment, occupations and qualifications, employee remuneration, working conditions, professional relationships, collective bargaining, training for workers and policies on employment, labour and professional training" and to provide expertise "in order to clarify the economic and social debate", which is conveyed by "the production of regular statistical information".

The DARES publications are based on an [annual programme](#) that works in tandem with administrations, study and research institutes and providers concerned with employment. One of the topics of the study is "training and integration for young people", for which DARES produces statistical analyses on the integration measures for young people and publishes an annual report on the current situation for young people aged 15 to 29 years old on the job market.

DARES coordinates the evaluation of "Garantie Jeunes" and evaluates measures aimed at supporting the development of apprenticeships.

In addition, it evaluates and estimates the impacts of policies to integrate young people into employment in partnership with other government statistical departments, including the [Directorate for Evaluation, Planning and Performance](#) (DEPP) in the Ministry of National Education, as well as the statistical departments of [DIRRECTE](#) (Department for Studies, Statistics and Evaluation, SESE) that it coordinates and that in turn conduct studies on public policy on employment and integration on a regional scale.

Guarantee for youth evaluation

The department has, for example, carried out an assessment of the implementation of "Garantie Jeunes". Its [assessment](#) was based on three questions: "Has the measure impacted its target audience? What were the support and professional integration routes for young beneficiaries? What has been the impact of "Garantie Jeunes" on the future of beneficiaries?"

The impact study by DARES shows that "employment is progressing among young people after registering with "Garantie Jeunes", especially in terms of long-term employment.

- "29% of beneficiaries are in work eight months after becoming part of the measure".
- "41% after 19 months".
- "the "Garantie Jeunes" would increase the employment rate of beneficiaries by 10 points 11 months after becoming involved in the measure. The effect continues in the months that follow leaving the support measure and correspond largely to an increase in the rate of access to long-term employment".

In addition to DARES and Pôle emploi, many other actors participate in the evaluation of youth employment policies, among which we can cite the work of the CREST.

[CREST](#), the Center for Research in Economics and Statistics, which is answerable to INSEE, is a laboratory for which one of the research topics is employment and integration for young people. It carries out randomised evaluations and contributes to producing evidence-based evaluations. The evaluation laboratory maintains strong relationships with INSEE, the network of ministerial statistical departments, such as DARES, and public bodies such as the *Pôle emploi*. It has recently published a report on "[strengthened support for young graduates](#)" and "[the impact of anonymous CVs](#)". When looking at the economic laboratories that contribute to measuring the effects of employment policies aimed at young people, the role of [CEREP](#) (Centre for Studies and Research on Qualifications), a public research body that studies questions related to advice, vocational training, integration and occupations, must be highlighted.

3.7 Cross-border mobility in employment, entrepreneurship and vocational opportunities

Programmes and schemes for cross-border mobility

France's young people can take advantage of programmes enabling them to work abroad. There are a number of institutional bodies to advise them on programmes and provide them with guidance in their search for employment abroad. They include:

- The ministry in charge of youth's "[Discover the world](#)" (*Découvrir le monde*) portal, which "directs [users] to bodies that can help young people define their projects, find funding and organise their departure" abroad. The website also lists opportunities for voluntary work and stays abroad;
- [Pôle Emploi International](#), which lists international job offers;
- The Ministry responsible for foreign and European affairs, which provides help with looking for employment via Consular Committees for employment and vocational training;
- The [Eures platform](#) for European mobility.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has offered assistance in employment research by means of the consular committees for employment and vocational training or through its "general delegation for foreign civil servants (DFI), who support and promote the French presence in international organisations (IO)" department by circulating job advertisements.
- The [European Solidarity Corps](#) is a European Commission measure that offers young people the opportunity to work or carry out an internship as part of general interest projects organised in France or abroad. In both cases, whether internship or job, the young person signs a contract (in compliance with the national legislation in place in the country) and is remunerated by the host organisation. At the end of their project, the young person receives a certificate of participation in the European Solidarity Corps that they can then include on their CV.

There is a varied range of professional mobility programmes, including professional volunteering, traineeships abroad and youth exchange schemes resulting from bilateral agreements with partner countries. The main public schemes are:

- **The VPT – Working holiday visa** (*Vacances-Permis-Travail*) programme, which provides young French people 18-30 y/o with the opportunity to leave France for a year to get to know and work in another country via a simplified visa; France has signed agreements to this end with Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Argentina.
- **The OFQJ – Franco-Québécois Youth Office** (See Chapter 2), which offers several mobility programmes to Quebec in a variety of professional fields (including the economic, cultural, IT and social sectors). Possibilities include carrying out a traineeship, taking a temporary job or fulfilling a training mission, bearing in particular on entrepreneurship. Young people involved must be between 18 and 35 y/o and their projects must have a professional objective of some kind.
- **The OFAJ – Franco-German Youth Office** (See Chapter 2), which provides grants to young people from 16 to 30 y/o for practical placements carried out in Germany in the context of an apprenticeship or vocational training programme. The OFAJ also provides grants for traineeships or missions in a twin city or region in Germany, in a German company, institution or government agency. The *Praxes* programme also enables French and German young people from 18 to 30 y/o to carry out a one- to six-month placement independently of their (general, vocational or higher education) training or professional activity. It is designed above all for young people wishing to make a career change.
- Students, young workers and apprentices can take advantage of the “**Erasmus+**” programme to develop new professional skills (proficiency in languages) during placements in Europe.
- **International Administrative Volunteering** (See Chapter 2) is intended for young people 18-28 y/o interested in working for government departments abroad.
- **International Business Volunteering** enables young people to carry out a mission at a French company abroad.

Legal framework

The Ministry of National Education has issued a guide to traineeships abroad, which details how traineeships and vocational training are carried out in other countries.

Trainees

Modalities for carrying out traineeships abroad may be governed by French legislation or by the laws of the countries in which they take place, in particular as regards conditions for entry and residence in the country, the social protection system, possible payment, and trainees’ specific rights and obligations.

In order for students to benefit from the application of French law, educational institutions are requested, under the terms of [Article L.124-19 of the Education Code](#), to propose to host bodies abroad that they apply the standard French traineeship convention. Traineeships abroad are systematically subject to prior exchanges between students’ educational institutions and host bodies, to negotiate and define the provisions governing them, which may be those of French or local regulations.

As concerns social protection, if the traineeship is carried out in a European Union or European Economic Area Member State, students benefit from social cover with regard to health insurance (students’ scheme, beneficiary of parents’ health insurance). They must also obtain a European health insurance card.

Apprentices

In the case of a placement in Europe, the terms of a placement agreement, known as a “mission contract” are defined by [Article R. 117-5-1-1 of the Labour Code](#), which allows an apprentice to carry out a training period at a company in a European Union Member State other than the signatory of the apprenticeship contract. As regards social protection, apprentices are obligatorily considered to be **seconded employees**. In addition to the **European health insurance card**, any company employing an apprentice should therefore be asked to obtain a secondment certificate.

Foreign trainees in France

European and non-European foreign students carrying out traineeships in France benefit from the same French regulations governing placements (tripartite convention, compensation, duration, etc.). Foreign students from the European Union can come to France in the context of [Erasmus+](#) and non-European students may obtain a [temporary residence permit marked “Trainee”](#) (*carte de séjour temporaire mention stagiaire*). In addition, foreign students who have graduated from a French higher educational institution with a *licence* (Bachelor’s degree) or equivalent may obtain authorisation for a 12-month stay if they undertake to stay in France throughout that time.

3.8 Development of entrepreneurship competence

Policy Framework

Regarded as one of the solutions to the employment crisis that young people are faced with, **entrepreneurship and initiative are promoted by public decision-makers** via a range of actions including programmes implemented at educational institutions and universities. Such actions, carried out to encourage entrepreneurship, are not limited to the single goal of creating activities, but also aim to help young people acquire skills connected with this particular economic sector.

Over the last ten years, public support for business creation and the entrepreneurial spirit have been **developed at all territorial levels**: regions, municipalities and intermunicipalities alike.

The determination to **develop young people’s entrepreneurial spirit is both national and international**, first of all in the context of the education and training 2020 strategy, which defines eight key skills, including “the spirit of initiative and enterprise”, described as “the ability to turn ideas into action: the ability to create, innovate, take risks, and programme and manage projects in order to achieve goals”, and finally the “Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan: Reigniting the entrepreneurial spirit in Europe” also recommended by the European Commission in 2013.

Encouragement of entrepreneurial skills is expressed by a whole range of public initiatives, including setting up experiments in the context of calls for proposals supported by the FEJ – Youth Experimentation Fund (See [Chapter 1](#)), which has funded and evaluated experiments seeking to renew pedagogical approaches to raising awareness of entrepreneurship among young people and accompanying their entrepreneurial initiatives. The FEJ has measured the effects of providing young people with assistance in company creation by evaluating two schemes: “*CréaJeunes*” and “*Groupelements de créateurs*”.

Formal learning

Higher education

Teaching of entrepreneurship at university level has been progressing over the last few years, in particular with creation of PEPITEs – Student centres for innovation, transfer and entrepreneurship ([Pôles Etudiants pour l’Innovation, le Transfert et l’Entrepreneuriat](#)), which not only provide students with entrepreneurial paths in higher education but also help improve recognition and accompaniment of projects promoted by students and young

graduates. PEPITES, which were introduced by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), aim to universalise dissemination of a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation among young people in higher education, and foster commitment to entrepreneurial action by students and young graduates interested in creating businesses.

PEPITES enable young graduates wishing to set up their own businesses to acquire [student entrepreneur](#) status (*statut d'étudiant entrepreneur*). To do so, they must prepare the *diplôme d'étudiant entrepreneur* (D2E – student entrepreneur diploma), which confers student status upon them along with the social protection that goes with it.

The PEPITES have a reference document for skills that is the result of a working group that includes the Conference of University Presidents (CPU), the General Directorate for Higher Education and Professional Integration of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), the MEDEF network of businesses in France and Agence France Entrepreneur.

There are more than 30 student employment centres (PEPITES) in France.

Secondary education

The Ministry in charge of education has also launched a number of entrepreneurial skills development initiatives in secondary schools, and has set up cooperation actions with its professional partners in the context of [“Entrepreneurial spirit” partnerships](#). In addition, various **National Education programmes and reference frameworks** incorporate the entrepreneurial spirit and company creation. This is particularly the case for vocational training and apprenticeship specialities and diplomas: in vocational *lycées*, **the multidisciplinary vocational project** is a lever for entrepreneurial spirit. It consists of total or partial creation of a product or service and aims to develop initiative, creativity and assumption of responsibilities within a team.

Every year for the last 10 years, the Ministry of National Education and the MEDEF have organised a School-Business Week (*Semaine école-entreprise*) in all local education authority areas, with pupils visiting debate companies, getting to know their environments and how they operate, and holding debates.

[Mini-enterprise](#) creation projects also introduce lower and upper secondary students to technological and vocational paths to company creation. They are set up in the context of a partnership between the Minister of National Education and the *“Entreprendre pour apprendre-France”* (Entrepreneurship as a way of learning – France) association, and bring together volunteer pupils under the supervision of a teacher and professional advisor from the *“Entreprendre pour apprendre-France”* association. They develop a product or service to be marketed. A championship rewards the best European, national and local education authority area Mini-enterprise projects.

Non-formal and informal learning

The [social modernisation law of 2002](#) instituted VAE - accreditation of prior work experience (*Validation des acquis de l'expérience*), enabling recognition and accreditation of informal and non-formal learning outcomes as counting totally or partly towards the obtainment of a certification listed in the RNCP – National Directory of Professional Certifications. Such certifications are the same and have the same value as if they had been obtained through a formal learning path.

Various experiments have been carried out, including the “experimental competences booklet” (*livret de compétences expérimentales*) following the [cross-ministerial circular 2009-192 du 28-12-2009](#) which launched a call for proposals among lower and upper secondary schools and apprentice training centres, in order to test out an “experimental skills booklet” differing from its predecessors because it included skills acquired outside school.

In addition, a number of universities have instituted *portefeuilles de compétences* (skills portfolios: see 3.2), which can also help young French citizens to complete the [Youthpass](#) certificate they may wish to obtain.

Educators support in entrepreneurship education

The [Agence France Entrepreneur](#) (AFE) has introduced a range of tools, including courses on raising awareness of entrepreneurship intended for teachers, in particular the OPPE – Observatory of pedagogical practices in entrepreneurship ([observatoire des pratiques pédagogiques en entrepreneuriat](#)). Set up by the public authorities in April 2001, the OPPE initially met a need for knowledge of entrepreneurial schemes incorporated into the secondary and higher education system. These days, it acts as a “tool for pooling, promotion and discussion of methods of teaching entrepreneurship, at the service of education institutions, teachers, students and networks accompanying business creation”. Agence France Entrepreneur also makes downloadable teaching aids available free of charge.

None of these courses on the entrepreneurial spirit or dedicated tools are compulsory components of training programmes for teachers and facilitators; they are all the result of spontaneous initiatives.

3.9 Start-up funding for young entrepreneurs

Access to information

There are currently over 10,000 startups in France. In the face of such entrepreneurial enthusiasm, which is especially evident among young people, the public authorities have also introduced measures to maintain it, by stimulating entrepreneurs’ initiatives and facilitating access to information on this economic sector and investment funds.

French tech

In 2013, the Ministry in charge of the economy, launched an initiative seeking to promote development of startups: “[French tech](#)”, whose aim is to improve “the clarity and coherence of public action in favour of startups” as well as to put “the front of the national and international scene the collective of French start-ups”. It works in collaboration with the ministries of the Economy’s and Finance’s Directorates (General Directorate for Enterprises and General Directorate of the Treasury), the ministry responsible for foreign affairs, and the Commissariat-General for Investment, all of which support growth of startups. Its partners are mainly national operators, including the Caisse des Dépôts, Bpifrance and Business France. Its role is to bring together networks of startups, speed up their development and promote their reputations.

It has a range of schemes and programmes at its fingertips:

The “**accélérateur de start-up**” fund, which provides startups with services, bringing them “industrial” and sometimes financial resources enabling them to grow more rapidly and be competitive at international level. As regards available financial resources, the State may co-invest up to a total of 200 million euros in private initiatives’ equity or quasi-equity

The Bourse French Tech (French Tech Grant) scheme, which enables young startups to cover their initial expenses. It totals between 10 and 30 thousand euros.

The Pass French tech, which enables “hyper-growth” companies to benefit from public support for company development, accelerated evaluation of projects, and membership of a nationally and internationally recognised network.

Higher education

The Ministry of Higher Education is also responsible for promoting startups via the [I-LAB](#) scheme, which supports creation of innovative companies and is made up of two

components: the *Concours national d'aide à la création d'entreprises de technologies innovantes* (national competition for assistance to creation of innovative technological companies) and the Prix PEPITE, *Tremplin l'Entrepreneuriat Etudiant* (Springboard for student entrepreneurship: see 3.8).

In addition, several universities have created their own startup programmes and incubators, including the University of Saclay, which launched “[Startup Heroes](#)”, a web series promoting student entrepreneurship, and the University of Orleans, which has its own incubator, the [Polytech Startup Lounge](#).

Local authorities

A number of regions and municipalities promote creation of startups on their territories by accompanying young entrepreneurs, providing them with financial support and informing them on existing networks. As an example, the Rhône-Alpes region and DIRECCTE finance [Gate 1](#), a resource centre for innovative young companies and startups, providing them with assistance and advice.

The “1 jeune, 1 solution” plan

[The “1 jeune, 1 solution” plan](#), which aims to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the entry of young people into employment (see 3.6), plans to boost access to training that provides qualifications in digital technology-related occupations.

Access to capital

The public authorities have introduced programmes and tools designed to facilitate the initial fundraising startups require; many of them are implemented via the Banque Publique d'Investissement (Bpifrance), which can both invest in and fund company projects.

Bpifrance

[Bpifrance](#) plays a key role in supporting startups by providing such funding solutions as:

- **The (startup loan (*Prêt d'amorçage*))**, applicable to small innovative companies (with fewer than 50 employees and balance sheet or turnover under 10 million euros) less than 5 years old, in startup phase and having benefited from public support for innovation. The loan is between 50,000 euros and 100,000 euros if it is made by Bpifrance alone, but can run as high as 300,000 euros in the event of a commitment from the Region.
- **The “innovation advance (*Avance innovation*)**, made to SMEs and companies with fewer than 2,000 employees and consisting of a participation in funding the project, in the form of a recoverable advance or a zero-interest loan.

Other schemes facilitating access to funds (non-exhaustive list)

The ministries responsible for the economy also act to promote startup creation, in particular through encouraging private individuals to invest in startups. Such initiatives include the [PEA – Share savings plan \(*plan d'épargne en actions*\)](#) enabling obtainment of a portfolio of shares in European companies while, under certain conditions, benefiting from tax exemption.

In addition, setup of business-angel groups and business-angel investment companies has been facilitated by relaxing the tax system applying to such bodies. In the same way, the legal framework governing participative funding has been relaxed so that startups can access it, all the more important as this type of funding is particularly well adapted to innovative companies.

Finally, innovative young companies carrying out research and development projects and enjoying “young innovative company” ([jeune entreprise innovante](#)) status can benefit from exemption from taxes on profits and social contributions.

3.10 Promotion of entrepreneurship culture

Special events and activities

Various institutional bodies promote entrepreneurial culture, including the Ministry of National Education, the ministry in charge of Higher Education, the ministry responsible for the economy, the France Entrepreneur Agency, associations and local authorities, in particular the Regions and municipalities that carry out actions in favour of entrepreneurship and innovation.

A whole **multitude of events and activities focusing on the “entrepreneurial spirit” have been organised** by the main associations working in the field of youth entrepreneurship and the concerned ministries :

Competitions

They hold **competitions** to spread the word on young entrepreneurs, and help them get experience with presenting their projects and meet other entrepreneurs and potential financial and commercial partners. Competitions may be at national or regional level. A number of such initiatives are intended to promote entrepreneurship among women (*Créatrice d'avenir*, etc.) and the disabled persons. They target specific sectors (environment, technological innovation, etc.) and are usually held annually. Prizes consist of financial endowments and assistance from experienced professionals.

Incubators

Other initiatives are designed to spread the word on entrepreneurship among the uninitiated; they include business incubator “open house” days for young people and students, women’s entrepreneurship weeks, startup weekends, the “*24h chrono pour entreprendre et innover*” for students and doctoral students, and BarCamps.

Call for proposals

Organisation of calls for proposals on development of entrepreneurship helps promote it.

Partnerships with the Social and Solidarity (ESS) Economy Partners

The public authorities pay special attention to the promotion of social entrepreneurship; they collaborate with the ESPER – Social Economy Partner of the Republic NGO (*Economie Sociale Partenaire de la République*), as well as with various representatives of the **SSE (Social and Solidarity Economy)**, with a view to promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy’s values in the eyes of France’s young people. Their collaboration is expressed by initiatives at schools and universities throughout the Republic. The ESPER has created a free “Understanding the SSE” (*Comprendre l’ESS*) exhibition kit available to schools and Regions, as well as a complete kit for schools to use, enabling pupils to set up their social and solidarity enterprises in class.

Events

National and regional SSE (social and solidarity economy) fairs such as “SSE Month” (*Mois de l’ESS*), which takes place in November, are held every year. They usually include “jobs dating” and lectures along with a variety of other activities.

There are annual national and regional fairs for the social and solidarity economy (SSE) including the “Mois de l’ESS” (SSE month), which takes place in November. During these fairs, speed recruitment, conferences and other events are frequently organised. SSE is also promoted through the Avise website, which is the development portal for the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

Networks and partnerships

There are **numerous young entrepreneur networks seeking to promote youth entrepreneurship** developing at all territorial levels, national, regional and local alike, many of them instigated by the public authorities. Some of them specialise in specific

economic sectors and are based on partnerships between public operators and private bodies (associations, companies, etc.) :

The [Programme Jeun'ESS](#) was launched in June 2011 in the context of a Public/Private Partnership bringing together the State, the Caisse des Dépôts, and six Social and Solidarity Economy companies and foundations. It aims to promote youth entrepreneurship and the SSE and create a network of stakeholders.

The National Confederation of Junior-Enterprises (aims to **develop the entrepreneurial spirit and** organise and disseminate young people's knowledge and feedback. It acts as a facilitator, bringing together all active and associate members, in particular through organisation of regional and national events. The Confederation has numerous public partners, including the Ministry of Higher Education.

The [AFE \(Agence France Entrepreneur\)](#) seeks **to strengthen and better coordinate national and local policy-making in favour of entrepreneurship**, above all in such fragile areas as Urban Policy priority districts (See [Glossary](#)), rural revitalisation areas and Overseas France. Its founder members are the State, among the [ARF](#)_National Regions Ngo (*Association des Régions de France*), the CSOEC – Higher Council of the Order of Qualified Accountants (*Conseil supérieur de l'Ordre des experts-comptables*), CCI (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) France and the [APCMA](#) – Permanent Assembly of the Chambers of Trades and Crafts (*Assemblée permanente des Chambres des métiers et de l'artisanat*).

A number of regions are provided with regional *social solidarity economy* resource centres.

3.11 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Draft finance law 2021

Every year the French government presents its draft finance law (PLF) in the autumn. It is a single document setting out all of the government's income and expenditure for the coming year. This draft law proposes the amount, nature and allocation of government resources and outlays. The PLF takes into account the strategic axes of public policies developed by the government.

For 2021, the draft finance law plans to fund, among others, the following axes related to employment:

- **"Improving the effectiveness of measures for integrating vulnerable groups into the workplace".**

This action will be implemented by boosting budgetary loans dedicated to supporting young people and integration through economic activity (IAE). The measures for integrating those with disabilities into the workplace will also be strengthened.

- **"Continuing investment in skills".**

To improve access and return to work for those who have been out of employment, long-term jobseekers and young people, the national government has put in place the plan to invest in skills (PIC).

In 2021, the PIC funding will continue to rise with a new commitment of €3.3 billion.

As part of the economic relaunch resulting from the health crisis, approximately €0.5 billion will be allocated to fund a plan to digitalise training by the PIC. The crisis has actually shown the low level of digitisation in vocational training, as well as a digital divide.

Source: [PLF 2021 La relance. Projet de loi de finance 2021](#)

Ongoing debates

The “France relance” plan

On 3 September 2020, the Prime Minister presented the **“France relance” (Relaunch France) plan, a roadmap for “the economic, social and ecological reconstruction of French society in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis.”** The plan includes a youth section (“1 jeune, 1 solution” plan) that “with the aim of sparking new opportunities for young people and those who want to switch careers or learn new skills”. The funding by the French government and Europe totals €100 billion. For the 2020-2022 period, €6.5 billion will be dedicated to the “1 jeune, 1 solution” plan, part of which is included in the 2021 draft finance law.

This plan has generated much debate and discussion, especially between experts (economists, public policy specialists) who have analysed the potential impact of this plan.

Source : <https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-relance>

4. SOCIAL INCLUSION

While the economic context is still relatively inefficient following the 2008 global financial crisis, French young people face many obstacles that make their journey towards **autonomy more difficult and longer** and reduce their ability to act in the society. The social inclusion is even more difficult for young people with less opportunity, from underprivileged backgrounds, or with few or no qualifications.

Social action policies dedicated to young people aim at facilitating **vocational integration, improving living conditions and reducing social disparities between young people**. They rely on **joint work** between public authorities (State and local authorities), which, among other things, elaborate and regulate policies and the association sector which both implements social policies but also performs mediation functions between the publics (young people), schemes and social action structures.

4.1 General context

Main challenges to social inclusion

Whereas the economic context remains lacking in dynamism following the world financial crisis of 2008, young French people are dealing with several obstacles that make theirs a long and difficult journey towards independence, and that affect their ability to take their place and to act in society. The main challenges facing them include their professional **insertion, improving their living conditions, and reducing (social) disparities between young people themselves**. The situation of young people varies according to their level of education, their social category, and their home environment.

Inequalities between young people and the gradual precarity of their living conditions are thus **crucial challenges** for public authorities, which must respond to social emergencies and act on several levers (health, housing, education, employment, etc.) to enable better social inclusion of all young people, especially the most vulnerable.

The Covid-19 health crisis (since March 2020) and its economic and social consequences have had a particular impact on youth. It has increased the difficulties youth already face with regard to professional and social integration, as well as financial autonomy.

Annual data produced by the ministerial statistics and research services and observatories recognised by the public authorities help characterise the situation of poverty that affects youth in particular.

According to the inequalities observatory, an independent body recognised by the public authorities, "France has 5.3 million poor if the poverty threshold is set at 50% of the average standard of living and 9.3 million if the 60% threshold is used, according to 2018 Insee data (last year available). One child in ten lives in a poor household, most often with unemployed or inactive parents and in single-parent families extremely vulnerable to poverty. Among the five million poor, close to a third are children and adolescents and over half are less than thirty years old.

Poverty affects the young first of all: "in first place, young adults (from 18 to 29 years of age), which constitutes the age group that has shown the greatest increase in the last fifteen years: their poverty rate grew from 8.2% to 12.6% between 2002 and 2017, which is a 50% increase".

According to the observatory, the situation of young adults (18 to 29 years of age) who no longer live with their parents is "concerning": 22% are among the poorest.

The main reasons for this situation are "the extent of unemployment and low wages especially among the youth with few qualifications" who have precarious jobs.

The poverty rate is twice higher among non-graduates (10.8%) than for baccalaureate + 3 or more graduates (4.8%). Over 80% of poor people have the baccalaureate level of education at most, and just under a third have no diploma.

As there is no data after 2018, it is difficult to know whether the improvement of the employment situation in recent years has succeeded in having an impact on the situation facing young people.

In any event, the health crisis has resulted in the sudden disappearance of unskilled jobs and "odd jobs" that hire young people. According to INSEE (National institute of statistics and economic studies), 9% of 15 to 24 year-olds have lost their job during confinement.

Source: Report on poverty in France, 2020-2021 edition. Inequalities observatory

Main concepts

The concepts and principles that govern policies on social inclusion include two principles that enable a more specific characterisation and understanding of measures of social inclusion: support and the principle of common law.

Support ([cf. Chapter 3 Employment and partnership](#))

Support is also a matter that has been implemented as part of the professional insertion of young people, and it constitutes a principle that especially characterises the policies of social inclusion. Support is part of a process of social intervention with the objective of helping people in difficulty and establishing with them a relationship based on listening, advice, and mutual help, in a relationship based on reciprocity as well as involvement, but also making the person helped an actor who plays a part in putting together and implementing her/his own life plan. That notion is at the heart of social work, and it refers to professional practice and approach in which social workers (educators, social workers, and youth workers) must support young people in coming out of precarity and, more generally, in moving towards independence. That principle takes the form of a number of social-inclusion arrangements within which professionals support young people along their insertion pathway, along the lines of the [Youth Guarantee](#).

"Common law"

The notion of **"common laws"** describes the set of legal rules that apply to all situations that are not covered by special or particular rules. Common-law arrangements can then be used by all beneficiaries without distinction. Young French people benefit from several common-law arrangements that play a role in their social insertion (housing benefits, etc.), but it is most often the case that young people are unaware of those arrangements, which accounts for a significant proportion of **non-use of entitlements**. Encouraging young people's access to common-law arrangements is a recurrent challenge in youth policies.

4.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Social-inclusion policies are aimed at the entire French population, not just at young people. Hence, their governance is based on intervention sectors that go beyond that of youth, as well as on a large number of actors, including local authorities as well as associations, which play a major role in implementing social-inclusion policies.

The State plays a number of **roles essential to social inclusion**, in partnership with local authorities, social security bodies and operators. Its primary role is to **enact the fundamental legal standards** for social action: individual rights, risks, protective systems, aid schemes, creation and abolition of services and institutions, levels of social benefits and **distribution of roles among the various stakeholders**, in particular between State and territorial authorities. The State also has a monitoring role **with regard to the legality of local authorities' accounts and decisions**, and conditions under which aid and social action policies are implemented. Monitoring is carried out by the IGAS - General Social Affairs Inspectorate (Inspection générale des affaires sociales).

Implementation of aid and social action is shared between the State, local authorities, public bodies, associations, and other private entities (foundations, etc.). The **State may intervene via its deconcentrated departments and specialised national agencies** ensuring coordination of actions between the various stakeholders (national agencies, territorial authorities, etc.).

The State also **provides expert assessment of action and social inclusion** through evaluation, analysis, observation and production of knowledge on social policies. Work carried out by the INJEP – National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut national de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire), the DREES – Directorate for Research, Studies, Assessment and Statistics (Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques), and the INSEE contributes significantly to knowledge on social inclusion policies.

To fight poverty and social exclusion, the Government can also revive the **CILE – Cross-Ministerial Committee on the Fight against Exclusion (Comité Interministériel de Lutte contre les Exclusions)**. Defined in the [Social Care Code \(Code de l'Action Sociale\)](#) by [article R115-2](#), the committee is tasked with drawing up, **co-ordinating**, and **monitoring the Government's policy on preventing social exclusion**. On request from the Prime Minister, it examines draft legislation and regulations on the fight against poverty. It rules on action programmes implemented by the various ministerial departments concerned.

Governmental actors

The Government, under the responsibility of the Prime Minister, is the initiator of policies for vulnerable populations, in particular the national strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty. It follows the implementation and impact of these policies which are implemented by different actors, public operators and associations and territorial authorities (*regions, communes, departments*) which have competences in the social sphere.

Ministry in charge of social affairs and health

The ministry in charge of social affairs and health ([Ministère de la santé](#)) initiates and implements the government's policy in the areas of social affairs, solidarity, social cohesion, and health. It draws up and implements programmes to fight against poverty, and, in conjunction with other ministries, it takes part in public action in matters of social assistance, economic and social insertion, and social innovation. Jointly with other ministries, it has authority over several institutions that are themselves actors in social-inclusion policies.

These institutions are:

- **The DGS – Directorate General for Health** ([Direction Générale de la santé](#))

The DGS – Directorate General for Health (Direction Générale de la Santé) draws up the policy on public health and contributes to its implementation. Its action pursues 4 objectives: “reserve and maintain the state of health of members of the public, protect the population from health threats, guarantee the quality, safety and equality of access to the health system, and mobilise and co-ordinate partners”.

- **The DGCS – Directorate General for Social Cohesion** ([Direction Générale de la Cohésion sociale](#))

The DGCS – Directorate General for Social Cohesion (Direction Générale de la Cohésion Sociale) is tasked with designing, proposing, and implementing policies to support vulnerable people. Hence, it intervenes in policies on solidarity, social development, and promoting equality (women’s rights).

- **The DREES – Directorate for Research, Studies, Assessment, and Statistics** ([Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l’Évaluation, et des Statistiques](#))

The DREES – Directorate for Research, Studies, Assessment, and Statistics (Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l’Évaluation, et des Statistiques) is part of the public statistics department. Its priority mission involves observation, drawing up expert reports, and assessment concerning policies on social inclusion.

- **The IGAS – Inspectorate General of Social Affairs** ([Inspection Générale des Affaires sociales](#))

The IGAS – Inspectorate General of Social Affairs (Inspection Générale des Affaires Sociales) is a inter-ministerial verification body that checks, audits, and assesses structures and policies relating to social inclusion. It also acts as an advisor to public authorities.

The decentralised departments of the ministry

2019 saw the beginning of a reorganisation of local and regional services brought about by way of a circular issued by the Prime Minister dated 12 June 2019.

The reform, which is set up in 2021, creates the **regional departments responsible for economy, labour, employment and solidarity (DRETS)**.

These new decentralised departments combine the social integration powers of the former regional departments for youth, sports and social cohesion (DSRJSCS) and competences regarding employability of the regional departments for enterprise, competition, labour and employment (DIRECCTE). They implement public insertion services, social and professional insertion policies and emergency housing policies.

The implementation of health policies also falls within the sphere of **regional health agencies (ARS)**. The ARSs are public, financially autonomous, establishments, placed under the responsibility of ministers in charge of social affairs and health. They pursue two main objectives: the management of the public health policy and the regulation of the regional provision of health services.

Local authorities ([cf. 1.4](#))

The *département*

Since 2004, the *département* has been the local-authority leader in the field of social and medico-social action. It is responsible for medico-social prevention work for children and families, the ASE – Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l’Enfance), and the FAJ – Youth Assistance Fund (Fonds d’Aide aux Jeunes), which gives financial help to young people dealing with one-off financial difficulties.

In the field of child protection, competences are shared between the *département* through the departments of the ASE and the legal authority of the State, which covers the

departments of the PJJ – Legal Protection of Young People (Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse).

The ASE – Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l’Enfance) comes under the authority of the *Département* Council. Its missions are defined by the [Social Action and Family Code](#). One of those missions is to provide material, educational, and psychological support to minors and their families, to emancipated minors, and to adults under the age of 21, who are dealing with social difficulties that are likely to seriously compromise their stability.

Public operators

National Family Allowances Fund (Caisse Nationale des Allocations Familiales)

The [CNAF – National Family Allowances Fund \(Caisse Nationale des Allocations Familiales\)](#) is a major actor in policies on national solidarity. Present in each *département* in the form of a CAF – Family Allowances Fund (Caisse d’Allocations Familiales), the structures work on behalf of the State and the *départements* to deal with making minimum social payments (housing benefits, benefits for disabled adults, and the minimum wage). That provides help for persons who are in precarity, who are isolated, or who are disabled, and makes their insertion easier. CAFs support families by paying them benefits to help them finance their children’s education and leisure. In addition, CAFs implement arrangements for social actions, such as facilitating access to social entitlements; they organise prevention, information, and education actions aimed at families, and they organise meetings with social workers. By helping families, the CAF helps young people and contributes to their independence through arrangements like the Working Tax Credit.

The CNOUS – National Centre for University and School Services (Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires) and its CROUSs – Regional Centres for University and School Services (Centres Régionaux des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires)

The [CNOUS – National Centre for University and School Services \(Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires\)](#) and its network of CROUS – Regional Centres for University and School Services were established by the law of 16 April 1955. There are 27. They are national public establishments that are overseen by the Ministry for Higher Education, and their mission is to improve living conditions for students by “giving all students the same opportunities for access and income in higher education”. The CROUSs support students in all aspects of their lives (housing, leisure, finance, health, etc.) through specific services and arrangements.

Local missions

Local missions are front-line public actors in implementing policies for inserting and supporting the most vulnerable young people. For further information on local missions, please [see 3.2 Main actors](#).

NGOs

There is a multitude of national and local associations that have social action as their objective. They may not specifically aim at young people, who may nonetheless be concerned by their actions. Those associations include historic national charitable associations that fight against poverty: [Secours Catholique](#), [Emmaüs](#), the [Petits Frères des Pauvres](#), [ATD Quart-monde](#), and [Secours Populaire](#).

Others are involved in child protection and in the social inclusion of young people, like [the Apprentis d’Auteuil](#), a foundation that has been recognised as being “of public utility” and of which the hostels accommodate minors placed there by the ASE – Child Welfare Service. It also does prevention work, and supports young people in their social and professional insertion. The association also accommodates unaccompanied minors, and supports them through the process of regularising their administrative situation.

Some thematic associations work more specifically with young people. A number of associations are targeted more directly at youth, victims of violence and discrimination (such as homophobia, for example) to prevent their social marginalisation.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

Intersectoral cooperation, or more precisely “interterritoriality”^{*} – i.e. coordination and cooperation between the various territorial levels (national and local) – is of major importance to implementation of social inclusion policies, above all those concerning youth.

A number of youth-related social policies and schemes (such as the Garantie Jeunes / Youth Guarantee – see **4.3 Strategy for social inclusion of young people**) are based on a multi-partner, intersectoral approach that mobilises local missions.

Social inclusion policies require coordinated responses between the State’s various departments, including ministries, deconcentrated departments and the public operators concerned. Such coordination is given concrete form by the **CILE – Interministerial Committee to Combat Social Exclusion (Comité interministériel de lutte contre les exclusions) created by the Law of 29 July 1998**. The CILE is responsible for defining and coordinating the Government’s policy on preventing and combating social exclusion.

- It ensures coherence of government action by fostering mobilisation of the various ministerial departments concerned and development of crosscutting actions.
- At the Prime Minister’s request, it may also be asked to draft government strategy for combating poverty, budgets required to combat exclusion and provisional legal and regulatory texts.

The **CILE is a policy instrument for coordination, concertation and management of crosscutting actions**. Such work should result in development of a comprehensive multi-year policy strategy.

However, the way a CILE is organised and run is not systematic, and is subject to the Government’s will. It last met on 21 January 2013, leading to the adoption of the Multi-year Plan against Poverty and for Social Inclusion (2013-2017).

The cross-sectorial approach in social inclusion policies can be also materialised in the creation of council:

CNLE – National Council on Policies for fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion (Conseil National des Politiques de Lutte contre la Pauvreté et l’Exclusion Sociale)

Established in 1988 by law no. 88-1088 of 1 December 1988 on the minimum wage, the **CNLE – National Council on Policies for fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion (Conseil National des Politiques de Lutte contre la Pauvreté et l’Exclusion Sociale)** is another actor in inclusion policies. The Council is a place for exchanges and consultations between public actors and actors involved in the fight against social exclusion. The CNLE takes part in the process of debates and in drawing up national action plans. The body comes under the responsibility of the Prime Minister, and its mission is to:

- give an opinion to the government on all matters relating to the fight against poverty and social exclusion
- ensure consultation between public authorities and associations that work in the field of fighting poverty and social exclusion
- on request from the Prime Minister, issue an opinion on draft legislation or regulations, and on action programmes relating to social insertion

- propose to public authorities measures that could improve the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

The members of the [CNLE](#) are appointed by the Prime Minister. It is made up of:

- Eight elected officials and representatives of territorial social action;
- Eight representatives of legal persons, other than the State and local authorities, contributing to the fight against exclusion, appointed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister responsible for social affairs;
- Eight representatives appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendation of national unions of employees;
- Eight personalities appointed based on their competences in matters of the fight against poverty and social exclusion;
- 32 beneficiaries of social policies joined one of the panels of the council in late 2019.

A [decree of October 22, 2019](#) carries out a major reform of the National Council by increasing the number of people experiencing poverty from 8 to 32.

4.3 Strategy for the social inclusion of young people

Existence of a National Strategy on social inclusion

On 13 September 2018, the President of the Republic presented [the national strategy for preventing and combating poverty](#), which is based on “urgent findings”. The strategy is mainly coordinated by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health, by an interministerial delegate to preventing and combating poverty among children and young people. It targets families as well as young people but nonetheless has a major “youth” component. The strategy includes a number of measures designed to reduce and contain poverty among the young people and provides a comprehensive preventive approach that does not only target people in the most precarious situations.

The strategy is partly the result of consultations held between January and March 2018, including several territorial meetings, [an online public consultation](#) and six workgroups.

Their results were presented in the presence of all interest parties: State departments, social bodies, community actors, qualified individuals and the people heard. The online public consultation attracted 7,200 respondents.

The strategy is still in progress.

Strategy website: <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/lutte-contre-l-exclu...>

Scope and contents

The strategy is organised around 5 focuses, termed “Commitments”

- [Commitment no. 1](#): “Equal opportunities from the very start in order to break the cycle of poverty”
- [Commitment no. 2](#): “Guaranteeing children’s fundamental rights on a daily basis”.
- [Commitment no. 3](#): “Guaranteed training pathways for all young people”.
- [Commitment no. 4](#): “Towards more accessible and equitable social rights providing greater incentives to activity”.
- [Commitment no. 5](#): “Investing in order to ensure that everyone finds employment”.

Each focus is based on observation of an existing inequality (statistical data) and comprises a series of measures. Focuses 1, 2 and 3 specifically concern children and young people. The measures presented will be implemented in the course of the coming year.

Focus 1: “Equal opportunities from the very start in order to break the cycle of poverty” takes account of the importance of education from early childhood onwards as a lever for reduction of inequalities connected with social origin. The Focus’ measures seek to improve the way children are received, through:

- Drafting of a training plan and a new professional reference framework in order to foster children’s development and learning of the language before they enter nursery school.
- Implementation of a “Social Mixity” financial “bonus” system for institutions taking in disadvantaged children.
- Development of modes of reception for very young children, in particular in territories with marked inequalities, with creation of a “territories bonus”.
- Creation of 300 new social centres in priority territories.

Commitment no. 2: “Guaranteeing children’s fundamental rights on a daily basis” This Focus aims to “halve the material deprivation rate among poor children by 2022”, *via* the following measures:

- Institution of free breakfasts in territories with marked inequalities, implementation of more affordable school canteen prices and of child nutrition access programmes.
- Organisation of joint State/Child welfare outreach programmes focusing on child protection.
- Consolidation of healthcare access missions entrusted to PMIs – Mother and Child Protection Services (Protection maternelle et infantile), and support to community medicine in carrying out school health missions, in the context of 0-6 y/o children’s health pathways.
- **Preventing and combating over-indebtedness** *via* deployment of 400 “Budget advice points” across the territory and introduction of a cap on bank charges.

Commitment no. 3: “Guaranteed training pathways for all young people”

Focus 3 measures are designed to combat school failure and foster young people’s professional integration. They are also in line with the reforms of work, vocational training and apprenticeship undertaken by the Government, pursuant to [Law no.2018-771 of 5 September 2018 pour on the freedom to choose one’s professional future I](#).

The national strategy for preventing and combating poverty introduces **an obligation to ensure training for all young people up to the age of 18**. This measure helps identify a pathway towards the monitoring and training of young people at risk of social marginalisation.

Commitment 4 : “Towards more accessible and equitable social rights providing greater incentives to activity” aim to reform access to social rights through:

- Creation of a “universal activity income” based on a merger of several minimum social benefits (See [4.8 Current debates and reforms](#))
- An increase in the prime d’activité (employment bonus).
- Reform of **access to complementary health insurance**: an aid to payment for complementary health insurance (ACS) will be integrated into complementary universal health cover (CMU-c)

“Commitment no. 5” measures: “Investing in order to ensure that everyone finds employment” consist of:

- **creation of an “Activity Guarantee” combining reinforced social accompaniment with integration into employment for 300,000 beneficiaries a year.**
- **consolidation of the integration by economic activity sector in order to foster the most fragile individuals’ return to employment.**

- **dissemination of such** experiments as “Zero long-term unemployment territories”. This experiment was launched in 2016. It aims to bring concrete responses to problems encountered by individuals who have been unemployed for over a year, in particular by fostering **employment of the long-term unemployed under open-ended contracts (CDIs) in social and solidarity economy companies, funded by the State and local authorities.**

Responsible authority

The national strategy for preventing and combating poverty is based on multi-partner work overseen by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health. It mobilises various parties working in the field with the most vulnerable sectors of the population: people concerned, territorial authorities, associations, researchers and the public authorities. The strategy **is monitored on two levels:**

- National, via the CNLE – National Council on Policies for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (Conseil national des politiques de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale), whose missions and composition will be revised in the coming months;
- Territorial, *via* governance at regional level mobilising the voluntary sector and representatives of territorial authorities.

The strategy is based on a contractual approach: its goals and modes of implementation, assessment of results achieved and financial resources must form the content of contracts between territorial authorities and the State.

Delegation for preventing and combating poverty among children and young people

In order to manage the strategy, a Delegation for preventing and combating poverty, in particular among children and young people, was created by Decree on 24 October 2018.

It is placed under the joint authority of the Minister for Solidarity and Health and the Minister for Labour and Employment.

The Delegation has been entrusted with a threefold mission:

1. **organising** concertation between the main operators involved in preventing and combating poverty and all government departments and administrations concerned, territorial authorities, the voluntary sector and socially disadvantaged individuals themselves.
2. **coordinating** preparatory work on the strategy and drafting of the texts organising its implementation.
3. **over the years to come**, ensuring monitoring of the strategy's implementation and assessment of

The inter-ministerial delegation for the prevention and combat against poverty has a triple mission: to organise dialogue, coordinate the preparation of a poverty strategy and follow up its implementation.

The Delegation **runs the Scientific Council and manages the Social Investment Fund**, which is intended to finance calls for projects on the following themes: development of young children, high-quality educational territories, integration of young people and combating non-take-up. The Delegation is headed by [an Interministerial Delegate to preventing and combating poverty among children and young people](#), appointed by the Council of Ministers upon recommendation by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health,

Revisions/Updates

The effects of the (Covid-19) health crisis on the strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty

In order to limit the negative effects of the coronavirus crisis in particular, the increase in precariousness caused by the loss of income and difficulty in finding a job, the Government in March 2020 established a number of measures aimed at the maintenance of economic activity: a partial activity policy and financial assistance measures (State-guaranteed loans, solidarity funds ...) as well as a plan to relaunch the economy from summer 2020, including integration and youth employment measures.

A number of measures have been taken to prevent and fight serious poverty, set around three major priorities:

1. Sustain the purchasing power of persons in a precarious situation and those on a low budget and providing them with day-to-day assistance.
2. Promote a way out of poverty by developing inclusion and activity solutions for the unemployed.
3. Secure adapted housing and accommodation conditions and prevent unpaid rents.

Source: <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/lutte-contre-l-exclusion/lutte-pauvrete-gouv-fr/rua/>

4.4 Inclusive programmes for young people

Programmes for vulnerable young people

Within the scope of the national strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty, *Garantie jeunes* (Youth Guarantee) is one of the social inclusion programmes for the most vulnerable youths.

The Youth Guarantee (*Garantie Jeunes*)

Garantie jeunes is the French answer to the European recommendation of Youth Guarantee. It is intended for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 in a precarious situation who have no job, no training, no studies (NEET) and have a very low income. In order to prevent social exclusion and to favour their integration in employment, the young people are intensively and collectively supported and benefit from vocational training, as well as financial assistance (497 euros) to facilitate their search for employment.. This programme is run by the ministry responsible for employment via local missions.

The Youth Guarantee

The *Garantie Jeunes* (Youth Guarantee) is based on:

- Intensive collective accompaniment on the part of local missions;
- Repeated professional simulation exercises under several possible forms;
- Individual accompaniment throughout the year;

Monthly financial aid providing the young people concerned with increased autonomy.

According to the report ***Garantie jeunes: which youth and what will be he situation in five years?***, published in 2019: between October 2013 and July 2018, 229,000 youths were included in *Garantie jeunes*. In accordance with the target of the measure, these youth with no job, no studies, no training at the time they were admitted to *Garantie jeunes* were suffering from a precarious economic and social situation and presented significant obstacles to employment. They had no qualifications (half of them had not finished their vocational training levels CAP-BEP) and most of them were already being supported by the local mission at the time they were admitted to *Garantie jeunes*”.

The government expects to support 200,000 youths within the framework of *Garantie jeunes in 2021*.

In addition to *Garantie jeunes*, the national strategy for the prevention and combat against poverty consists of several measures that are also for youths in a very precarious situation: A contractual agreement between the State and the departments will be implemented to ensure youths between 18 and 21 years old supported by the youth welfare office (ASE) do not leave the ASE without a solution.

The **National strategy** includes a number of measures specifically targeting young people in situations of extreme precarity:

- improvement of access to rights and social services with universalisation of the “unconditional social reception” scheme; the “Zero non-take-up territories” experiment and introduction of a digital safe so that each and every citizen who so wishes has a secure storage space for their personal data;
- automatic renewal of complementary universal health coverage (CMU-C) for recipients of the RSA – Earned Income Supplement (Revenu de solidarité active);
- creation of 100 nursing homes and health centres in priority territories;
- implementation of a “100% Health” full reimbursement for spectacles, hearing aids and dental work;

Furthermore, since the summer of 2020 and within the framework of the plan to relaunch the economy in response to the effects of the health crisis, the government has started up a programme aimed at youth integration and employment, **Plan 1 youth, 1 solution**.

Plan 1 youth, 1 solution.

The plan 1 youth 1 solution, launched on 23 July 2020 activated a number of different integration measures such as hiring subsidies, training, programmes to support young people in difficulties. (See. [Chapter 3 Employment and Entrepreneurship](#))

Funding

Youth Guarantee

Local missions receive financial support from the State enabling provision of assistance to young people in the frame of the Youth Guarantee.

The scheme is mostly funded by the State, with European cofinancing (YEI-ESF).

In 2021, the overall resources proposed to be allocated to *Garantie jeunes* total an amount of 516.4 million euros.

Source: Finance law 2021, Work and employment.

National strategy for preventing and combating poverty and for social inclusion

The total cost of the National strategy for preventing and combating poverty and for social inclusion (taking all measures together) comes to 8.5 billion euros:

- 2.1 billion euros devoted to social investment and prevention of poverty.
- 2.5 billion for assistance in finding employment.
- 3.9 billion for revision of the Employment Bonus.

Source: <https://www.gouvernement.fr/action/strategie-de-prevention-et-de-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete>

In order to deal with the Covid-19 crisis in 2020, the Government added over **1.8 billion** euros to the budget of the strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty.

Quality assurance

The Youth Guarantee (Garantie Jeunes) programme was subjected to an evaluation that enabled, in particular, the conditions for its general application to be determined. That [evaluation](#) provided for by decree no. 2013-880 of 1 October 2013, and it is done under the aegis of a scientific committee chaired by a university professor. The quantitative evaluation is supplemented by qualitative field surveys with actors and young beneficiaries.

Finally, with the support of [France Stratégie](#), a public body dedicated to studies and forward-planning, a **Poverty Strategy Assessment Committee** is tasked with analysing the impact of all measures on the living conditions of disadvantaged individuals. It may be mobilised as an assessment body in the context of calls for projects, in particular those financed by social investment funds.

Calls for projects bear on **four themes**:

1. "full development of children from early childhood to 6 y/o";
2. "reinforced educational support during compulsory schooling";
3. "ensuring solvency of the integration pathways of young people 16-25 y/o";
4. "access to rights and services, in particular for young people ("Zero non-take-up territory")

4.5 Initiatives promoting social inclusion and raising awareness

Intercultural awareness

Several actors such as ministries and organisations are involved in raising awareness of tolerance and of intercultural dialogue for young people but more generally for everybody.

Institutional actor

The mission of the inter-ministerial delegation for the combat against racism, antisemitism and anti-LGBT hatred (DILCRAH), placed under the authority of the Prime Minister is to establish regular actions to combat acts of discrimination, antisemitism and those made against the LGBT community. The delegation has drawn up a national action plan for equal rights, against hatred and acts of anti-LGBT+ discrimination 2020-2023 aimed at fighting discrimination, violence and anti-LGBT hatred. The aim of the plan is "to guarantee that equality for lesbians, gays, bis and trans people is true and effective."

It is based on 4 axes:

1. The acknowledgement of the rights of LGBT+ people;
2. The reinforcement of their access to rights;
3. The combat against anti-LGBT+ hatred;
4. The improvement of their day-to-day lives.

It consists of 42 objectives with new or partially implemented measures. These measures concern every area of the lives of LGBT+ people: their family environment, school, university, work, health, sport, etc.

Among the plan's 42 measures is for example, "The development of continuous training of LGBT+ focal points in police and gendarmerie stations".

The implementation of these 42 measures will involve all State services as well as local authorities, associations and companies from the private sector.

Between 2018 and 2020 DILCRAH also coordinated a plan against racism and antisemitism, certain measures of which are still being implemented. The plan comprises 4 axes:

1. **Combating hate on the Internet**

2. **Educating against prejudices**
3. **Protecting citizens and assisting victims**
4. **Investing in new fields of mobilisation**

This plan consists of a number of measures specifically geared towards youth (non-exhaustive list):

- The organisation of interventions in schools to raise the awareness of youths about the combat against LGBT hatred and discrimination, in partnership with LGBT associations (SOS Homophobie...;)
- The creation of an "education focal point" against racism, antisemitism and discrimination for education staff and volunteers of associations, in partnership with institutions (universities, associations...)
- Creation of a national "Ilan Halami" Prize rewarding actions combating racism and anti-Semitism carried out on behalf of young people.
- Reinforcement of existing partnerships on the memory of the Shoah and places of remembrance and history, and with community actors in the fields of culture and collective memory with regard to slavery, colonisation, immigration and "forgotten" memories.
- Encouraging development of partnerships between schools and places of remembrance and history.

Association

Non-formal education association and youth movements also **play an important role** in raising awareness of tolerance and respect and in the promotion of interculturalism. They train and inform young people during **workshop outside school time**.

For example, the parisian federation of the "[ligue de l'enseignement](#) " which is a non-formal education association, undertakes to fight against discrimination by offering training to all audiences in which a non-formal pedagogy is used. The association organizes events in cultural centers to raise awareness among young people and the general public.

Another example, [the Leo Lagrange Federation](#) non-formal education association has proposed as part of the prefiguration of [the universal national Service](#) ([See 1.9 Current debates and reforms](#)) training on the fight against discrimination for future supervisors and youth workers of the universal national service .

This training was aimed at:

- "Understand the mechanisms of constructing prejudice and discriminatory behavior and know the means of action to fight against racism and discrimination".
- "Master the methods of active and participative pedagogy to address this important issue for our society".
- "To be able to lead 4h anti-discrimination and anti-racism education modules for young people ".

Young people's rights

Communication with young people concerning rights and responsibilities is a significant strand of public policies, in particular the ministry in charge of Youth (Ministry of National Education), as well as the Rights Defender (Défenseur des Droits).

The ministry in charge of youth has published the menu items "[Living Together \(Vivre-ensemble\)](#)" and "[Rights and Responsibilities \(Droits et Devoirs\)](#)" on its web site. Those items promote events and (public) campaigns organised to fight intolerance, and they restate the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Furthermore, several structures overseen by the ministry, as well as independent structures, have the role of promoting knowledge of rights to all young people. Such as **PAD Jeunes – Youth Access Points to the Law**

(Points d'accès au droit Jeunes) and IJ – Youth Information (Information Jeunesse) facilities. Intended for young people under 30 y/o, PADs are reception, information and assistance facilities providing information and legal advice on asserting your rights: conflict with an employer, unpaid fines, difficulties obtaining a residence permit, family litigation, etc. Interviews are free of charge and confidential, and no appointment is needed. IJs are generalist amenities tasked with informing and assisting young people to encourage their take-up of rights.

The Rights Defender is an independent association, whose mission is to provide information and defend rights.

The mission of the Rights Defender (Défenseur des Droits) is to provide information about rights and to defend rights. That independent institution organises debates, especially work in schools, and "Film – Youth – Justice" ("Ciné – Jeune – Justice") meetings that aim at facilitating understanding of justice and democracy through film screenings and a debate ([for further information, please see 5.8](#)).

Youth compass

Youth compass (Boussole des jeunes) is a project run by the Directorate of youth, popular education and the voluntary sector (DJEPVA) of the National Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. It is a digital platform (boussole.jeunes.gouv.fr), the purpose of which is to link young people between the ages of 16 and 30 to services able to support them and meet their requirements in different areas. The youths who wish to know about the mechanisms and rights to which they are entitled are put in touch with local professionals who can answer their questions and support them in their approaches and projects.

The services proposed by Boussole concern employment, training, housing, health, international mobility and even hiring.

Key initiatives to safeguard democracy and prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism

Public authorities are concerned by the rise in extremism and radicalisation. In the face of a growing phenomenon, several measures have been put in place:

- a facility to listen out for and to report radicalisation has been put in place with the setting up of a freephone number. The facility enables families to benefit from an answering service and from advice on the approach to take, as well as from psychological support;
- an on-line campaign and information site have been launched: stop-djihadisme.gouv.fr. The site is dedicated to prevention and to fighting against terrorism. It is aimed at the general public, at people who are close to young people undergoing radicalisation (e.g. teachers and associations), and at young people themselves. It is educational in character and provides practical tools (infographics, testimony videos, and placards) to better grasp and act against the phenomenon.

National plan for prevention of radicalisation, "Prévenir pour protéger" (Prevent to protect)

Since 2018, the Government has adopted a [national plan for prevention](#) of radicalisation, "**Prévenir pour protéger**" (**Prevent to protect**), resulting from wide-ranging consultations carried out by the General Secretariat of the CIPDR – Interministerial Committee for the Prevention of Crime and Radicalisation (Comité interministériel de prévention de la délinquance et de la radicalisation), which mobilised 20 ministerial departments. It sets out 60 measures for reorientation of the prevention policy, organised into 5 focuses:

1) Protecting minds against radicalisation

2) Adding to the detection / prevention network

3) Understanding and anticipating the evolution of radicalisation

4) Professionalising local operators and assessing practices

5) Adapting disengagement

Besides the national plan for the prevention of radicalisation, **the Government drew up the “national strategy for the prevention of delinquency 2020-2024”**. It comprises 40 measures that meet 4 objectives:

1. [The prevention of delinquency in younger children up to the age of 12](#)
2. Protection of vulnerable people at as early a stage as possible:
3. Very strong involvement of the population and civil society
4. Renewed governance by adjusting it to each territory

This strategy is based on a dialogue between different types of structures, such as the associations of local authorities. It mobilises services pertaining to the State, regional and local authorities and networks of voluntary bodies.

Source: <https://www.cipdr.gouv.fr/prevenir-la-delinquance/20202024-2/>

Moreover socio-educational concepts have also been launched to fight against violent extremism, especially concepts that develop values of living together and of citizenship:

- a guide entitled [“Actors in sport and facilitation: better knowledge, better understanding, and better prevention of radicalisation phenomena \(Acteurs du sport et de l'animation: mieux connaître, mieux comprendre et mieux prévenir les phénomènes de radicalisation\)”](#) was drawn up by a working group steered by the ministry in charge of youth. The guide is intended for actors in the areas of sport and facilitation (youth and sports officers, sports educators, facilitators, sports leaders) in order to support them in grasping radicalisation phenomena and the means for effective prevention or reaction.

"Walker of the Net project"

In 2016, the **Family Allowances Fund**, the Agricultural Social Mutuality Fund, the Ministry of National Education and Youth, as well as the Ministry in charge of Family and Women's Rights, launched the project "Walker of the net" ("Promeneurs du Net"), an educational presence on the Internet". A Walker of the Net is a youth professional, educator or animator, who gets in touch with young people on the Internet and social networks in order to make them more accessible. listen to them, advise them and accompany them in carrying out their projects. The "Promeneurs du net" action, launched in a few departments in France, will be rolled out across the country. This new mode of social intervention with young people can participate in the prevention of extremism, in particular by reducing the risks of social disruption through dialogue, exchange and accompaniment.

Website: <http://www.promeneursdunet.fr/>

4.6 Access to quality services

Several facilities that encourage social inclusion, especially through access to public services (health, housing, etc.), have been put in place or renewed by the political authorities such as the "Young people's Compass".

"Young people's Compass" (Boussole des Jeunes)

In 2017, in order to facilitate young people's access to their rights, the Ministry responsible for youth affairs, via the DJEPVA – Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative) developed the [“la Boussole des jeunes”](#) (Young People's Compass), a digital platform providing young people with knowledge of the various rights and schemes that they might lay claim to depending on their situations and where they live. It facilitates access to the services available from public service professionals in the area they live in.

The platform's service offers are organised by theme, provided by professional bodies and financed or cofinanced by the public authorities.

Housing

According to the INSEE – National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques), over the last twenty-five years, the proportion of young people in social housing stock and the percentage of young owners have fallen. On average, young people use between 18 and 22 % of their resources for housing, as opposed to 10,3% for the rest of the population. Given that finding, the objective of public authorities is to facilitate access to housing that is tailored to the needs of young people and to their resources. In response, the State, in partnership with institutional and voluntary actors, has put in place a "youth housing" strategy that has led to the implementation of several facilities aimed at:

1. Easing access to rental housing through:

The LOKAVIZ mark

The [LOKAVIZ](#) mark is awarded to (private) student housing by the CNOUS and CROUSs. It enables students to be guaranteed decent housing and it enables owners to find tenants easily, in particular through the dedicated [LOKAVIZ web site](#), which lists all charter-marked housing. The mark is awarded based on regulatory criteria for decent and for the energy performance of buildings, the amount of rent and charges, compliance with best practice between lessor and tenant, as well as location, taking account of the closeness of higher-education establishments, journey times by public transport or bicycle, as well as sports and cultural facilities.

The Visale facility

Young employees entering work can use the [Visale – Visa for Accommodation and Work \(Visa pour le Logement et l'Emploi\)](#) facility to guarantee payment of their rent arrears in the private housing sector. It involves young people between the ages of 18 and 30 regardless of their professional situation and any wage earner over the age of 30, from an agricultural company or a company from the private sector (or holder of an offer of work).

2. Facilitate access to ownership by:

- Le [PTZ – Zero-Rate Loan \(Prêt à Taux Zéro\)](#) has been reformed for first-time buyers (the reform came into force on 1 January 2016). It enables them to finance up to 40% of their housing on an interest-free basis. The loan can be used anywhere in France for buying a new-build or older property, and it can run for 20 or 25 years. The PTZ consists of a deferred-payment of between 5 and 15 years, during which the young person makes no monthly payments towards her/his loan.

The interest-free loan is a loan assisted by the State for first-timer buyers.

3. Encourage access to housing by young people who are disadvantaged or who are in dire poverty

Providing better support for young people, especially the most disadvantaged, is also an essential challenge. Hence, young people placed under legal control are given individual support by a single reference person, the [Insertion and Probation Adviser \(Conseiller d'Insertion et de Probation\)](#), who is tasked with monitoring the young person and with supporting her/him in access to housing.

To those recent initiatives must be added traditional social-action facilities such as [housing assistance](#).

Young people can also benefit from **ALS – Social-Housing Benefit (Allocation de Logement à Caractère Social)** as well as APL – Personalised Housing Assistance (Aide Personnalisée au Logement) granted to tenants in subsidised housing (housing that is the subject of an agreement between the State and the housing owner). Those benefits are

paid and overseen by the [Family Allowances Fund](#) (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales) on a means-tested basis. There is no minimum age requirement for applying for those benefits.

These various social aid schemes (Social Housing Benefit / Personalised Housing Benefit) **are set to be reformed in 2020** ([see 4.8](#))

In addition, young people aged 16 to 30 who are in employment, on placement, in an apprenticeship, or looking for work can use [youth hostels](#), also called “young employees’ hostels or youth housing”, which provide them with temporary accommodation (for a maximum of two years).

Social services

When young people suffer financial difficulties, they can turn to a number of social services. Those social services include some that are dedicated specifically to young people, whilst others deal with the public as a whole.

Social services aimed at young people

University social services

Higher-education establishments have their own social services co-ordinated by the [CROUS – Regional Centres for University and School Services](#) ([Centres Régionaux des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires](#)). CROUSs have their own social-service offices.

Within those services, young people can request [specific help](#): either **one-off help** in the case of serious financial difficulties, or an **annual benefit** (over 10 months) when they experience long-term financial difficulties and they do not receive any grants based on social criteria. That help is aimed at students under the age of 35 who are in financial difficulty. There is no age limit for disabled people.

Furthermore, the handicapped or people with health problems can benefit from scholarships from university foundations such as the GIVEKA foundation overseen by the CROUS. These scholarships are for students who, due to an **accident or illness**, cannot **afford to begin or continue their studies**.

All those requests for specific help are examined by a commission chaired by the CROUS Director.

Local missions

Local missions ([cf. 4.2](#)) can support young people when the latter are faced with serious difficulties, in particular by giving them access to the [FAJ – Youth Assistance Fund](#) ([Fonds d'Aide aux Jeunes](#)). The FAJ is a facility for providing temporary financial help that is managed and financed by the *départements*. It is aimed at young adults (aged 18 to 25) who are experiencing social difficulty, and it includes three types of assistance:

- **temporary help:** exceptional financial help to deal with an emergency (food purchases, transport costs, healthcare expenditure, etc.) or with emergency housing
- **financial help with an insertion project** (placements, etc.)
- **financial help lined to support action:** long-term support (health, etc.).

That help is given after a request is made to local missions, and it is means-tested as well as status-based. The amount given varies by *département*.

Social services for the general public

Young people can also use more general social services, such as the Family Allowances Fund and the social-action centres of their *communes*.

The CAF – Family Allowances Fund (See [Glossary](#))

Several [CAF](#) facilities and services are offered to people to ease their insertion into society and to bring them out of their financial and social difficulties:

- the [Earned Income Supplement \(Revenu de Solidarité Active\)](#), which supplements low earnings in order to provide a minimum income. The facility was established by [law no. 2008-1249 of 1 December 2008](#), and carries on from the RMI – Job-Seeker’s Allowance (Revenu Minimum d’Insertion, set up in 1988), by providing a minimum income to the very poorest people. Entitlement to the RSA begins at age 25; however, since 1 September 2010, it has also been available to young working people aged under 25 ([decree no. 2010-961 of 25 August 2010 on extending the Earned Income Supplement \(Revenu de Solidarité Active\) to young people aged under twenty-five](#)) if they meet certain criteria. On 1 January 2016, the government established “Work Credit (Prime d’Activité)”, which merges “work” RSA and “employment credit”, which was an income supplement paid by the State to employees whose income did not exceed a certain amount.
- [Work Credit \(Prime d’Activité\)](#), partly aimed at young working people (from age 18 onwards). Its aim is to “encourage a return to professional work”, in particular by supplementing the income of workers of modest means. Its amount is calculated on the basis of the composition and resources of the household, and on the basis of the beneficiaries’ income level. **A reform of the "Work Credit" is currently underway.**
- [Family Support Allowance \(Allocation de Soutien Familial\)](#), which is paid to bring up a child who does not receive help from either or both of its parents, or to top up a low-amount maintenance allowance
- [AAH – Disabled Adults’ Allowance \(Allocation aux Adultes Handicapés\)](#), to provide a minimum income for disabled people. The AAH is financed by the State and paid by the CAF – Family Allowances Funds (Caisses d’Allocations Familiales).

Social-action centres

Communes have a CCAS – Communal Social-Action Centre (Centre Communal d’Action Sociale). That administrative public establishment is tasked with putting in place the *commune*’s social policy, and it is aimed particularly at young people in precarity. Its mission is to help poor people with administrative formalities and with completing applications to receive medical help, social housing, and financial help.

The context of the Coronavirus health crisis

The anxiety and isolation arising from the health crisis enhances the psychological frailty of students. In order to support young people in this difficult context, the ministry of higher education has launched a platform which lists the social integration initiatives and the assistance, material, administrative and psychological support mechanisms established within the establishments.

Furthermore, the ministry has a number of freephone services to respond to the questions on emergency assistance generated from the Crous (public university services) as well as numbers and internet sites of university health services and psychological support: **soutien-etudiant.info**

Health care

As part of the Priority Youth Policy (2013-2017), improving the health of young people and encourage access to prevention and care, took the form of various measures, including the drafting of legislation on the health of young people. The first chapter of the [law on modernising the health system](#), which was promulgated on 26 January 2016, states that it provides “Support for young people in equality of health opportunities”. The law encourages, amongst other things, access to health entitlements and services through various initiatives that facilitate access to care and prevention:

Access to care

- Young people under the age of 16 can benefit from a medical reference person in the shape of the physician chosen by the family.

- The validity period of medical certificates has been reformed, making it easier for young people to obtain a medical certificate to practise a sport.
- Measures enabling young people to have better financial cover for their healthcare expenditure, such as the general application of the system of third-party payment and simplifying access to [ACS – Help with paying for additional Health Insurance \(Aide du paiement à une Complémentaire Santé\)](#).
- Students who have experienced family breakdown and who receive specific help can make an application for ACS – Help with paying for Additional Health Insurance (Aide du paiement à une Complémentaire Santé), and benefit from [CMU-C – Additional Universal Health Insurance \(Couverture Maladie Universelle Complémentaire\)](#). CMU-C is free additional health insurance aimed at facilitating access to care for people living in France on a stable basis and who are of modest means.

Preventing risks

Initiatives on **sexual health** have also been implemented by school nurses providing **emergency contraception**, and by **free access** for minors aged at least 15 to reimbursable contraceptives as well as to medical consultations and examinations needed for those contraceptives to be prescribed.

Measures for preventing risky behaviour have been reinforced in partnership with school and higher-education establishments:

- (secondary-) school establishments can set up campaigns to prevent [addictive behaviour in a school setting](#): pupils are informed of the dangerous nature of products (tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs) and their effects, as well as of current legislation
- in order to provide training in the problems of addictive behaviour, school establishments, DGESCO – Directorate General of School Education and [MILDECA – Cross-Ministerial Mission on the Fight against Drugs and Addictive Behaviour \(Mission Interministérielle de Lutte contre les Drogues et les Conduites Addictives\)](#) have produced a [guide for people working in a school setting](#).
- Each higher-education establishment has an [inter-university department of preventive medicine and student health](#) with the role of advising and guiding young people, as well as carrying out actions on prevention and information for health. Several actions for preventing risky behaviour have also been set up within those structures, such as the appointment of “[health relay](#)” students. The role of those young people is to **inform and guide their colleagues** in relation to health problems. They are the interface between medical and social professionals, university institutions, and students.
- **Young adult detainees** also benefit from prevention programmes. They are individually monitored by a single reference person, the **CPIP – Prison Insertion and Probation Adviser (Conseiller Pénitentiaire d'Insertion et Probation)**, who supports them in formalities relating to health centres, the local mission, etc.

National Health Strategy 2018-2022

In addition, in December 2017, the Government adopted the **2018-2022 national health strategy, which contains a number of measures targeting children and young people.**

- Introducing a health pathway for 0 - 6 y/o;
- Preventing child obesity;
- Stepping up promotion of health in schools;
- Improving healthcare provision in Overseas France by creating a hundred or so “overseas” specialist assistant positions and improving the job status’ attractiveness;
- Preventing hearing loss among young people;

- Testing out the “Pass préservatif” (Condom Pass) scheme for under 25 y/o: a sexual health information and awareness-raising programme targeting young people and including introduction of a card giving free access to condoms;
- Increasing interventions in the context of the “Consultations jeunes consommateurs de drogues” (Young drug-user consultations) scheme;
- Systematically providing specialised assistance to young people admitted to emergency departments or hospitalised following a bout of binge drinking;
- Training students taking first-aid courses in mental health.

The context of the Coronavirus health crisis

The anxiety and isolation arising from the health crisis enhances the psychological fragility of students. In order to support young people in this difficult context, the ministry of higher education has launched a platform which lists the social integration initiatives and the assistance, material, administrative and psychological support mechanisms established within the establishments.

Furthermore, the ministry has a number of freephone services to respond to the questions on emergency assistance generated from the Crous (public university services) as well as numbers and internet sites of university health services and psychological support: **soutien-etudiant.info**

Financial services

Young people faced with financial difficulties can have access to specific help by applying to social services, but they can also turn to arrangements and facilities for providing financial help, which help them with their insertion into society. Those facilities include:

Work Credit (Prime d'Activité)

Young job-seekers can also receive [Work Credit \(Prime d'Activité\)](#). Set up on 1 January 2016, the credit **enables support to be given to the activity and buying power of employees in precarity**; Students and apprentices can also be entitled to it if they show sufficient earned income.

Help with looking for a first job

At the start of the 2016 academic year, the Government set up ARPE – Help with Looking for a First Job (Aide à la Recherche du Premier Emploi). ARPE is paid each month for 4 months to young graduates (from CAP – Certificate of Competence (Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle) to Master's level), in order to provide financial support during the period of professional insertion that runs from the end of studies to starting one's first job. ARPE is reserved for young people who received an educational grant during the final year of studies leading to a qualification via the school or university route.

Grants based on social criteria

Depending on their parents' income, the number of children, and the distance from their place of study, students aged under 28 can be entitled to a [grant based on social criteria](#) that can enable them to meet their expenses and follow their academic curriculum. Grants are paid for 10 months. The amount paid varies according to the level of each student (the level is defined on the basis of social criteria), from 0, which grants exemption from [university registration fees](#) and from [payment of student social-security contributions](#), to 7.

Merit-Based Help (Aide au Mérite)

Student can obtain other types of help, such as [Merit-Based Help](#) (Aide au Mérite), an supplement to the grant based on social criteria for higher-education students who obtained a “Très Bien” (“Very Good”) grade in their *baccalauréat* (a national qualification issued at the end of secondary studies). In addition, students who prepare for one or more civil-service exams can, depending on the results obtained in their previous studies,

receive the [Civil Service Diversity Allowance \(Allocation pour la Diversité dans la Fonction Publique\)](#), which stands at 2,000 euros.

Arrangements for banking inclusion

In order to reduce the risks of over-indebtedness, especially for disadvantaged people, the Multiyear Plan against Poverty and for Social Inclusion includes several measures relating to **banking inclusion and preventing over-indebtedness**, such as a ceiling on commission and the legal obligation for credit establishments to put in place mechanisms for the early detection and processing of their clients' difficulties.

All those measures are part of the [banking law of 26 July 2013](#), as well as the establishment of the [Observatory on Banking Inclusion \(Observatoire de l'Inclusion Bancaire\)](#) (decree no. 2014-737 of 30 June 2014 on the Observatory on Banking Inclusion (Observatoire de l'Inclusion Bancaire)), which has the task of monitoring the practices of credit establishments in matters of banking inclusion, in particular with regard to populations in **financial fragility**. The Observatory must provide public authorities as well as all actors involved (banks and credit companies) with objective data that allow practices and their developments to be evaluated, and ways of improvement to be put in place. It draws up an annual report that lists the actions taken in the fight against banking exclusion.

In addition, in September 2018, The Ministry of Economy and Finance reached an agreement with the banking sector **limiting bank charges for account holders with social problems** who have bounced cheques, largely due to such charges.

Help with driving licences

It has been made easier for unemployed young people aged 15 to 25 to undertake driver training, in particular by relaxing the terms and conditions for the [Driving Licence at One Euro per Day \(Permis à Un Euro par Jour\)](#). The maximum amount of the loan granted to young people to finance the driving licence is 1,200 euros.

Quality assurance

There is different approaches for evaluating the quality of those various services.

It is also important to distinguish between the evaluation of the impact of facilities on young people from checking the quality of services offered (reception arrangements, support, etc.). The former can be the subject of an internal evaluation (via ministerial statistics departments) and/or a qualitative evaluation by external actors (e.g. an academic laboratory or an evaluation agency); the latter can be the subject of a satisfaction survey or of surveys put in place by the structure itself.

Satisfaction survey

As an example of satisfaction survey, the Family Allowances Funds (Caisses d'Allocations Familiales) can carry out their own [surveys](#). The CROUSs (See. 4.7), a student public services also carry out annual surveys on the quality of their services, especially university catering. In order to improve their services on campus, anticipate student expectations and modernize their structures, the CROUSs regularly conduct satisfaction surveys. In 2016, [two large-scale surveys](#) were conducted on catering and housing.

Furthermore, [the Observatory of Student Life](#) (Observatoire de la Vie Étudiante) carries out surveys every three years on students' living conditions, in order to provide information to public authorities and improve students' living conditions.

Policies evaluation

The evaluation of the effects and impacts of social policies is recurrent. Some evaluation are archived by inspectorate services as the [cross-ministerial inspectorate of the social sector](#) which carries out monitoring, audit and evaluation missions. The [Department of research studies, evaluation and statistics \(DREES\)](#) is a directorate of the ministry in charge of health and social affairs. Its role is also to contribute to the evaluation of social

policies and produce synthesis work (living conditions of young adults, the state of population health in France, social protection schemes...).

4.7 Youth work to foster social inclusion

In France, **two types of youth work** have to be distinguished: the socio-educational youth work intended for all young people and the other aimed at **young people in difficulty and aiming to integrate them socially**. This form of youth work is associated to the protection of minors and young people. This chapter focuses on young people facing social difficulties (young offenders, homeless youth, etc.).

Protecting young people in danger is a long-standing concern of French public authorities, which, through the [order of 2 February 1945 on juvenile delinquency](#), stated the need to set up a justice system specifically for children, based in particular on the **primacy of education over repression**. That legislation has undergone many changes since then. Nonetheless, it constituted the basis for the system of justice for minors, for policies on protecting the most vulnerable young people, and for preventing delinquency.

Young people are deemed **vulnerable** and in danger when they are mistreated or when their living conditions prevent their proper physical and psychological development. Young people in danger can benefit from:

- legal protection

PJJ – Legal Protection of Young People (Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse) has the task of protecting and educating minors in danger or under legal control. That protection must encourage their educational, social, and professional insertion through **educational actions** that take a variety of forms (support, etc.). In some cases, adults aged under 21 can also come under the competence of the Children's Judge.

- administrative protection

That is provided by the *département* Council and by the ASE – Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance), defined by [article L221-1 of the Social Action and Family Code \(Code de l'Action Sociale et des Familles\)](#). The service works to care for children (placements in with foster families or children's homes) and carries out "specialist" prevention work.

Specialist prevention is an educational action aimed at enabling young people undergoing marginalisation to **break away from isolation and to restore social links**. That approach is also used in preventing mistreatment, delinquency, and risky behaviour.

Main inclusive Youth-Work programmes and target groups

The 2018 national strategy for preventing and combating poverty

The national strategy for preventing and combating poverty includes a range of measures targeting the most vulnerable young people ([See 4.4](#)), such as organisation of joint State/Child Welfare outreach programmes to prevent begging and helping families with children.

The "Action Programme for Young People exposed to Delinquency" ("Programme d'Actions à l'intention des Jeunes exposés à la Délinquance")

The [Secretariat General of the Cross-Ministerial Committee on Preventing Delinquency \(Secrétariat Général du Comité Interministériel de Prévention de la Délinquance\)](#) sets the guidelines of government policy in matters of preventing delinquency, and ensures that they are implemented. The committee presided by the Prime Minister (and by delegation, the minister of the interior) may adopt a national strategy for the prevention of delinquency, similar to the "National strategy or the prevention of delinquency 2020-2024".

One of the measures of that strategy is the implementation of a **"programme of actions aimed at young people exposed to delinquency"** (Priority 1). That programme must

avoid having “young people (adolescents and young adults) tipping over into and becoming rooted in” delinquency by using specialist prevention, the fight against dropping out of school, educational action, etc. Its measures respond to two objectives: **preventing the initial move into delinquency, and avoiding recidivism**. [Practical sheets](#) specifying objectives and target groups are made available to youth professionals.

The programme is implemented in partnership with mayors, the Prefect, the State Prosecutor (*cf.* [Glossary](#)), and the departments of justice, national education, and the police.

The programme is financed through the FIPD – Cross-Ministerial Fund for Preventing Delinquency (Fonds Interministériel de Prévention de la Délinquance).

Examples of social-inclusion measures for vulnerable young people

Young people placed with the Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance).

Child welfare (ASE) is defined by Article L221-1 of the Social Action and Family Code. This service carries out actions whereby children are taken into care (placed in foster homes, shelters for children) and has “specialised” preventive actions.

Specialised prevention is an educational action aimed at allowing youths on the verge of being marginalised to **put an end to isolation and restore social links**. This approach also works well in the prevention of abuse, delinquency or high risk behaviour.

Young people placed with the Child Welfare Service can benefit from the young-adult contract, which **extends the help** they received whilst minors. That help can take several forms, e.g. accommodation, psychological and educational support, a financial benefit, etc.

Main structures for the social inclusion and the protection of young people

As part of social work with vulnerable young people, voluntary actors work in close partnership with public authorities, including the Ministry of Justice (Ministère de la Justice), the Ministry of National Education and Youth, and the Ministry of the Interior (Ministère de l'Intérieur), as well as local authorities, especially the *Département*, which plays a significant role in financing those social-inclusion structures.

The main structures for the social inclusion and the protection of young people are:

Children's homes

Département children's homes offer permanent reception facilities for minors who are in difficulty and who need emergency help. Within those homes, professionals have the task of observing and evaluating children during their stay, in order to start **educational work** with them. Children are placed there by the *département* Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance) or by the Children's Judge, as part of administrative protection or legal protection for childhood in danger ([article 375 of the Civil Code](#)) for juvenile delinquency (order of 2 February 1945). Children's homes are generally managed by the *département*, either directly or in the form of a public establishment.

MECS – Social Children's Homes (Maisons d'Enfants à Caractère Social)

MECS – Social Children's Homes (Maisons d'Enfants à Caractère Social) offer reception arrangements for stays of variable length to children and young adults whose families are experiencing temporary or long-term difficulties and can no longer take care of their children's education. Children are also placed there by the *département* Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance) or by the Children's Judge. MECSs are managed by associations or other private, non-profit bodies.

Prevention clubs

Prevention clubs and teams carry out educational action, termed specialist prevention, that aims at facilitating better social insertion and preventing young people from becoming

marginalised. They seek out (in the street) young people who are alone or in groups, who are in difficulty or who have broken away from their environment. Their places of intervention are disadvantaged urban areas. Prevention clubs and teams are made up of educators, facilitators, mediators, and volunteers who are competent in prevention matters. The educational action of those bodies is carried out in collaboration with *département* social services (Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance)).

Reception Centres and Living Areas (Lieux de Vie et d'Accueil)

LVA – Reception Centres and Living Areas (Lieux de Vie et d'Accueil) are **non-traditional** reception structures that offer family-type care by taking in at least three and at most seven young people. Through ongoing, educational support, they aim at encouraging the social insertion of the young people accommodated there.

AEMO – Educational Action in an Open Setting (Action Éducative en Milieu Ouvert) and AED – Educational Action at Home (Action Éducative à Domicile) services

The aim of those services is to provide **home-based monitoring** of minors and their families and to provide them with educational and psychological support, in order to overcome the material or psychological difficulties that they encounter and to support the parents in developing their parenting skills. Monitoring measures are of two types:

- **AEMO – Educational Action in an Open Setting (Action Éducative en Milieu Ouvert)** is a restraint measure ordered by the Children's Judge if the health and safety of a minor are at risk
- **AED – Educational Action at Home (Action Éducative à Domicile)** takes place on request or agreement from one parent, when so required by the latter's health, safety, or education.

Adolescent Homes

The *département* public structures were set up in 1999. Their aim is to "receive, listen to, inform, and guide young people, taking account of the specificities of the special period that is adolescence; guide and support the individuals around those young people; and be a resource centre for professionals who work with young people". There are adolescent homes in 65 *départements* (Mainland France / Overseas *Départements* and Territories). Adolescent homes are grouped into a federation, the National Association of Adolescent Homes (Association Nationale des Maisons des Adolescents). Some of those structures are also places for providing healthcare and consultations to adolescents; that is the case of the [Maison de Solenn](#) in Paris, which is part of a hospital complex and which has a medical research centre specialising in the problems of adolescence.

Source: DREES – Directorate for Research, Studies, Assessment, and Statistics (Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l'Évaluation, et des Statistiques). Working document, statistics series. 2012. [Les établissements et services en faveur des enfants et adolescents en difficulté sociale](#) (*Establishments and services for children and adolescents in social difficulty*), no. 173.

Public fundings of these policies

It is not easy to summarise the amount and the modes of public financing of the various actors (structures, bodies, and associations) involved in social work with young people, especially because that financing varies with their legal status (association or public body), and because they mobilise several partners, such as ministries and local authorities, especially the *département*. The whole set of social-inclusion arrangements does not depend on the same budgets and financial programmes.

As an example, the National Strategies on Preventing Delinquency are financed by the FIPD – Cross-Ministerial Fund for Preventing Delinquency, whilst some measures for the legal protection of young people come under the Ministry of Justice (Ministère de la Justice). Similarly, the Child Welfare Service (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance) is financed by the *départements* (local authorities).

4.8 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

The increase in poverty caused by COVID-19 has made social inclusion harder and a longer process for both people in difficulty and young people. In March 2020, the Government put measures into place aimed at limiting the effects of the crisis, through emergency measures. For example, partial activity measures and various financial support schemes (government-guaranteed loans, solidarity funds, etc). A recovery plan was also presented in September 2020. In particular, measures have been taken to prevent and fight against severe poverty. These measures are built around three main priorities:

1. Supporting the purchasing power of people in difficulty and lower income earners, by providing them with daily support.
2. Encouraging a way out of poverty by developing integration and employment solutions for unemployed people.
3. Ensuring suitable housing and accommodation conditions and prevent unpaid rent.

More than 1.8 billion euros have been allocated in total to finance new measures to fight poverty.

<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/lutte-contre-l-exclusion/lutte-pauvrete-gouv-fr/rua/>

Current debates and reforms

The impact of COVID-19 on the social conditions of people, especially the youngest, has brought about many reflections, analytical works and discussions among professionals in the field of social inclusion (associations, institutions, committees, etc.). One example of this is the Evaluation Committee of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Poverty (comité d'évaluation de la stratégie nationale de prévention et de lutte contre la pauvreté), which published a coronavirus crisis progress score.

The evaluation committee relied on testimonies conducted since the start of the coronavirus crisis. It also consulted the association made up of vulnerable people or people in poverty of the CNLE – National Council for Policies to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion (Conseil national des politiques de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale) and a citizens' panel.

The score reviews the effects of the current economic and social crisis on poverty and on the situation of those in difficulty and recommends focal points as to how to respond. It highlights that the health crisis has particularly affected the most disadvantaged who have encountered significant difficulties in terms of their livelihood, health or even access to distance learning during lockdown. In addition, the score highlights that the economic and social crisis "will certainly have an intense effect on poverty which will continue to manifest itself at different points in time.

The Evaluation Committee of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight Against Poverty made recommendations to the Government, particularly with regard to young people:

- "Recommendation 4: Young children and children are major victims of the crisis, especially those from poorer backgrounds. Lockdown turned their entire life into a family environment, while the strategy is geared towards bringing children together to fight social inequalities. [...] We have to devote sufficient resources to them and act quickly to make up for these shortcomings, both for academic achievements and for extracurricular activities (games, sports, artistic expression, etc.)."
- "Recommendation 5: School dropouts have increased since lockdown. Immediate implementation of compulsory education for 16-18 year olds is necessary and its effectiveness must be monitored, involving all the stakeholders concerned as of today".

Source: <https://www.strategie.gouv.fr/publications/lutte-contre-pauvrete-temps-c...>

5. PARTICIPATION

As an instrument of **citizenship and autonomy**, the participation of young people contributes to the consideration of their places and their roles in society. Encouraging the contribution of young people, in particular to the development of public policies, is an old concern of the French public authorities and a recurrent demand from the citizens' associations and movements of youth.

Through the support to the creation of **youth-led associations**, as well as the development of **participation mechanisms**, the public authorities intend to encourage the participation of young people in the "life of the city".

However, the participation of young people is more **effective and active at the local level** (municipalities) rather than at the national level where it is done in a more punctual and fragmented way. Moreover, political and associative participation more generally are marked by a strong social reproduction resulting in the accentuation of inequalities between young people.

Encouraging the **participation of all young people regardless of their social conditions and levels of training**, reducing barriers to participation and recognizing new forms of youth involvement appear to be some of the challenges of public action for participation of young people

5.1 General context

Main concepts

Several definitions and concepts enable the political participation of young French people to be understood and characterised. It is important, on the one hand, to speak of the notion of "commitment", and, on the other, of the notions of "intermittent participation" and "protest commitment".

Commitment

By definition, commitment is "the action of binding oneself through a promise or an agreement"; that implies not only a commitment to others, but also to oneself. The notion of commitment that lies at the heart of participation has a moral connotation that is still compelling today, including when we speak of political commitment. Commitment is seen as a civic duty, which partly explains the calls to commitment aimed at young people by public authorities.

According to several surveys (the annual DJEPVA (Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation - (Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative)/INJEP (National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education - Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) Barometer on youth published in 2020), young French people's **commitment is driven by the desire to help others, to defend a cause, to make themselves useful within society, as well as to train and assert themselves as individuals and citizens.**

Polls and surveys also show that young people are not interested in traditional forms of commitment, i.e. membership of a party, trade union or association, and in particular in political commitment. This situation does not, however, indicate a lack of interest in politics, as young people's involvement takes varied and new forms. The preferred methods of participation for young people today are **more informal, ad hoc and spontaneous**, which can also be observed in the area of political involvement, but also when it comes to electoral participation.

Intermittent participation

Generally speaking, young people are more likely to abstain from voting than adults. However, young people's political (electoral) participation varies according to their age range as well as the challenges and the intensity of campaigns; abstention is not a practice that is specific to young people. Young people's behaviour increasingly takes the form of **"intermittent participation"** characterised by a **selective approach** to voting. Some researchers even speak of a "civic moratorium" to describe the attitude of young French people to voting, an attitude that involves not wanting to take part in certain elections.

Protest commitment

This selective commitment on the part of young French people does not necessarily imply depoliticisation since, in spite of intermittent participation, young people feel more concerned by politics compared to preceding generations. Furthermore, the choice to abstain can appear as a political act in itself. A study carried out in 2010 by the [INJEP – National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education](#) highlights rising politicisation amongst young people, especially the development of "protest commitment" (Roudet, B.: "Des jeunes davantage impliqués et plus protestataires", "Young people are increasingly involved and more inclined to protest"), *Jeunesses études et synthèses*, no. 2, November 2010). That expression reflects the forms of action and of political participation that young people prefer nowadays. Petitions and demonstrations as well as modes of mobilisation via social networks and other digital tools make up some of those "protest" practices and arrangements that are renewed by young people and popular with them.

Digital participation

Digital tools and social networks are playing an increasingly important role in the ways in which young people participate. In 2019, according to the DJEPVA (Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation - (Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative) barometer on youth by the National Institute for Youth and Non-formal Education and [CREDOC](#) (Research Centre for the Study and Observation of Living Conditions, Centre de recherche pour l'étude et l'observation des conditions de vie), "signing a petition or defending a cause via the internet, a blog or a social network" is the **most cited form of participation by 18-30 year olds, ahead of bénévolat, collective action or, even more so, activism. Moreover, online participation is constantly increasing.**

According to a report by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP - Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) by researcher Julien Boyadjian, **this digital participation 'contradicts, or at least qualifies, the media and political discourse describing young people as "disengaged, apolitical, individualistic and apathetic"' (Becquet, Goyette, 2014). Despite their lower electoral participation** (Muxel, 2002), young people are in fact no less interested in politics [...] and social media with forms of action that are more in line with their ideals'.

Source: Boyadjian J., 2020, *La participation politique en ligne des jeunes à travers le prisme des inégalités socio-culturelles* [Youth political participation online through the prism of socio-cultural inequality], INJEP, Notes & rapports/Rapport d'étude.

Becquet V., Goyette M., 2014, "L'engagement des jeunes en difficulté", *Sociétés et jeunesses en difficulté* [The commitment of vulnerable young people], no 14, (<https://journals.openedition.org/sejed/7828>).

Institutions of representative democracy

Political regime

The political regime that is currently in force in the French State is the Fifth Republic, of which the functioning is organised and defined by the [Constitution of 4 October 1958](#).

The Fifth Republic is a **semi-presidential** regime in which the President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term. The regime is a hybrid one that

combines features of the parliamentary regime and of the presidential regime. Executive power is dual in nature, and is personified by the President and the Prime Minister, who work in conjunction with the legislative power.

The Head of State appoints the Prime Minister, chairs the Council of Ministers, and promulgates laws; in addition, she / he can dissolve the National Assembly. In the event of a serious crisis, the Head of State can exercise exceptional powers (article 16 of the Constitution).

The Prime Minister is responsible to Parliament in accordance with [article 20 of the Constitution](#), which means that a Prime Minister who no longer enjoys the confidence of Parliament is required to resign. The Prime Minister's role is to direct government action and ensure that laws are properly applied (article 21 of the Constitution).

The political organisation of the French State is characterised by a certain amount of centralisation. However, over the last 30 years, it has undergone a process of decentralisation during which the State has gradually transferred its competences to [local authorities](#): *départements*, regions, municipalities, and EPCI – Public Establishments for Intermunicipal Co-operation (*Établissements Publics de Coopération Intercommunale*), which have their own decision-making bodies.

Representative bodies

Under the Fifth Republic, the principal democratic and, especially, legislative body is the (bicameral) Parliament, which is made up of the [National Assembly](#) and the [Senate](#). The two assemblies enjoy equal rights when it comes to legislative procedures. However, as a last resort, if there is a conflict with the Senate, the Prime Minister can ask the National Assembly to determine the matter.

- The [National Assembly](#) is made up of 577 members elected by **direct universal suffrage for a five-year term**.
- The [Senate](#) is made up of 348 senators **elected by direct universal suffrage for six-year terms** by a college of about 150 000 electors (of whom 95% are delegates from municipal councils). Half the Senate stands for election every three years, unlike the National Assembly, which is elected in full.

Other democratic (non-legislative) assemblies:

- The [Département Council](#) is the **deliberative assembly of the *département***. Each of the 101 *départements* of France has a *Département* Council, which deliberates to regulate the affairs of the *département* **in the areas of authority defined in law**.
- The [Regional Council](#) is the deliberative assembly of the region. Each of the 13 regions has a Regional Council, which deliberates to regulate the affairs of the region, of which the competences are defined in law.
- [The Economic, Environmental and Social Council](#) (Conseil économique, social et environnemental EESC) is the third constitutional assembly of the Republic. In 2021, the EESC Economic, Environmental and Social Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental) underwent a major reform that marks a historic turning point for the institution. It increases the role of civil society in the development of public policies, and makes the EESC Economic, Environmental and Social Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental) the crossroads of public consultations and a benchmark institution for citizen participation.

The **Act of 15 January 2021** radically reforms the EESC's mission and operation, which have remained unchanged since the constitutional revision of July 2008 ([Article 71 of the Constitution \(new window\)](#)). This law aims to substantially incorporate new themes into its work. The reform is due to take effect in April 2021.

It provides for:

- **a tighter composition of the EESC** Economic, Environmental and Social Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental), from 233 members to 175 members as of its next renewal (52 representatives of employees, 52 representatives of businesses, farmers, craftsmen, the liberal professions, mutual societies, cooperatives and consular chambers, 45 representatives for social and territorial cohesion and associative life and 26 representatives in connection with nature and environmental protection);
 - **the creation of a code of ethics** applicable to its members but also to external persons participating in its work;
 - **the possibility of wider consultation** of the EESC Economic, Environmental and Social Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental) in the exercise of its powers;
 - **simplification of referrals to the EESC** Economic, Environmental and Social Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental) **by means of petitions** (with, in particular, a reduction in the time limit to six months for issuing opinions and a reduction in the number of petitioners required from 500,000 to 150,000 signatures, as well as lowering the age limit to 16 years for petitioning);
 - **the possibility of drawing lots** to determine the participants in the Council's work.
- In addition, a new measure encourages the participation of young people: **being able to refer matters to the Council using a petition is now open to young people.**

The conditions to be met in order to refer an economic, social or environmental issue to the Council by a petition have been considerably reduced:

- **Petitions submitted by electronic means** will now be admissible;
- The minimum age for **supporting or initiating a petition is lowered to 16**;
- The threshold for triggering a referral to the Council is lowered to **150,000 signatures**.

This modernisation of referral to the EESC Economic, Environmental and Social Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental) by petition is a decisive step for citizens who, from the age of 16, will be able to make their voices heard. This development is fully in line with the EESC's mission of actively listening to society's expectations, which it has been working on for several years through its [petitions monitoring system](#).

Forms of elections

Regardless of elections, electoral participation (voting) is **non-compulsory, free, secret, strictly personal and by universal suffrage**.

Presidential election

- Elections are held every five years by direct universal suffrage, using a single-member, majority-vote system over two rounds.

Legislative elections

- Elections are held every five years by direct universal suffrage, using a single-member, majority-vote system over two rounds.

Senatorial elections

- Elections are held every three years by direct universal suffrage, using a majority-vote system over two rounds or a list-vote system depending on the number of senators to be elected from each *département*. In each *département*, the electors are the members of the National Assembly, regional councillors, *département* councillors, and delegates from municipal councils.

Municipal elections

- Elections are held every six years by direct universal suffrage to appoint members of the municipal council, who will, in turn, elect the mayor (and her / his deputies).

Département elections

- Elections are held every six years to appoint members of the *département* council, who will, in turn, elect a president of the *département* council by a two-member majority-vote system over two rounds for a six-year term.

Regional elections

- Elections are held every six years for regional councillors, who, in turn, elect a president for a six-year term. Elections are on the basis of direct universal suffrage using a list-vote system over two rounds.

5.2 Youth participation in representative democracy

Young people as voters

In France, the voting age (for all types of elections) is 18, i.e. the age of majority ([Law no. 74-631 of 5 July 1974 setting the age of majority at eighteen](#)).

Each young French person who has completed “[citizen census](#)” formalities at the age of 16 and who has reached the age of majority is automatically added to the electoral registers ([Law no. 2016-1048 of 1 August 2016 renewing the terms and conditions for entry in the electoral registers](#)).

The electoral participation rate of young French people varies according to elections: municipal, *département*, and European elections bring out fewer voters than the presidential election, which attracts out young voters in the greatest numbers, as it does for the rest of the population.

Presidential elections

During the 2017 presidential election, according to the Government, in the second round of the election the turnout for [entire France is 74, 56 %](#).

According to [Ipsos /Sopra Steria survey](#) nearly 30% of the under-35s (29% of those aged 18-24, 28% of the 25-34 year-olds) did not vote for the first round of the 2017 presidential election.

According to INSEE “**Voting during the two rounds of presidential elections and abstaining during legislative elections** is a choice made more frequently by young electors than by older electors [...] Between the ages of 18 and 34 , three registered voters in ten only vote during the two rounds of presidential elections. For these elections, the number of voters who only vote during one of the two rounds is also highest in younger voters: 8% of registered voters aged between 18 and 29 only voted during the first round and 5% only voted during the second, compared with 3% and 2% respectively for registered voters of 55 years old and over”.

Municipal elections

The first round of municipal elections took place on 15 March 2020. The second round, scheduled for 22 March, was postponed to 28 June 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to the Ministry of the Interior, the final turnout for the second round of the 2020 municipal elections was 41.6%.

The abstention rate was 58.4% for all age groups.

According to an [estimate by the Ipsos-Sopra Steria polling institute](#), abstention reached 72% in the 18-34 age group.

Source: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Archives/Archives-elections/Elections-municipales-2020/Resultats-et-suivi-des-taux-de-participation-au-second-tour-des-elections-municipales-et-communautaires-2020>

Source: <https://www.ipsos.com/fr-fr/municipales-2020>

European elections

In the 2019 European elections, the overall [turnout](#) was 50.2% (up from 2014). According to the [IFOP polling institute](#), the turnout among 18-34 year olds was 40%, compared to only a quarter in the previous election in 2014.

Source: https://www.ifop.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/116339-Rapport-JDV-COMPLET-d%C3%A9tail%C3%A9_2019_05.27.pdf

Young people as political representatives

There is no particular legislation covering the representation of young people in assemblies, or their place and role within [political parties](#).

The minimum age for membership (of political parties) is set by the parties themselves. According to [article LO.127 of the Electoral Code](#), "on the date of the first round of voting, any person who meets the conditions to be a voter [...] may be elected to the National Assembly". The conditions for being a voter are set by [article L.2 of the Electoral Code](#), which states that all French people who have reached the age of 18 and who enjoy civil and political rights can be voters.

5.3 Youth representation bodies

Youth parliament

There is no youth parliament in France.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

The main advisory boards on which young people sit are local councils, the student-organisation and youth-movement group of the CESE - Economic, Social, and Environmental Council ([See Glossary](#)), the student colleges of higher-education establishments, and *lycée* (senior secondary school) bodies.

- *Institutional instances*

Two councils were created respectively in 2015 and 2016 to contribute to the policies of childhood and youth:

-Council for Children and Adolescents (*Conseil de l'enfant et de l'adolescence*) of the High Council for Family, Children and Age (*Haut Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance et de l'âge*).

Article 69 of the Act of 28 December 2015 on adapting society to ageing introduced this High Council and placed it under the Prime Minister's authority, to promote the continuity and complementarity of policies in favour of families, children and adolescents, retirees and the elderly.

It is a reflection and guidance body that produces reports, issues opinions and makes recommendations. The High Council is comprised of a Council for children and adolescents, within which sits a college of children.

Twelve children and adolescents, with an equal number of boys and girls from different geographical areas and social demographics comprise the college of children. It is regularly involved in guiding national public policies. This body **provides its expertise on topics** under discussion within the Council.

The Order of 28 October 2016 sets out the conditions for the formation and organisation of the College of children and adolescents:

"The formation specialised in children and adolescents within the High Council of Family, Children and Age shall consult the associated college of children and adolescents at least three times per year. It shall inform it of any works it carries out and shall request its opinion on their progress."

-Advisory Council on Youth Policies (*Conseil d'orientation des politiques de jeunesse, COJ*)

At national level, in 2016, the Advisory Council on Youth Policies (*Conseil d'orientation des politiques de jeunesse, COJ*) was created by Decree no. 2016-1377 of 12 October 2016. It is an administrative advisory body, placed under the authority of the Prime minister.

The COJ has three main missions:

- it can be consulted on legislative or regulatory drafts relating to youth and may examine any general interest matter relating to youth policy;
- it can send the Government proposals to improve the circumstances of young people;
- every year, it must send the Government an activity report. .

This Council is comprised of 79 members including youth representatives and youth organisations.

- *Local councils*

Since 1970, local authorities have been involved in young people's participation in local democracy. The authorities (regions, *départements*, and municipalities) have a certain amount of freedom in setting up youth-representation bodies, which leads to **diversity** in the design, frequency, and practice of setting up those councils. Local youth councils are gathered together in a network, the [ANACEJ - National Association of Children's and Youth Councils \(Association Nationale des Conseils d'Enfants et de Jeunes\)](#).

- *The student-organisation and youth-movement group of the CESE*

Structure: The CESE is made up of [eighteen representation groups](#) in which members are distributed according to their professional affiliations. The student-organisation and youth-movement group represents the interests of young people and students.

Composition: It is made up of members drawn from the voluntary sector and from the student-union sector:

- [UNEF – National Student Union of France \(Union Nationale des Étudiants de France\)](#)
- [FAGE – Federation of General Student Associations \(Fédération des Associations Générales Étudiantes\)](#)
- [FFJ – French Youth Forum \(Forum Français de la Jeunesse\)](#)

Role and responsibility: The group expresses ideas on environmental, social, and economic matters. Some of its members belong to the **nine sections** of the ESEC, of which the role is to **carry out studies and draw up draft opinions**. In addition, group members also vote on opinions presented by the sections during plenary assemblies.

1. Sustainable Territorial Planning;
2. Economy and Finance; Education,
3. Culture, and Communication; Environment;
4. Agriculture,
5. Fishing, and Food;
6. Economic Activities;
7. European and International Affairs;
8. Social Affairs and Health;
9. Labour and Jobs.

Financing: The budget of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (Conseil Économique, Social, et Environnemental) is financed by the State. Parliament votes on it each year, as part of the law on finance, as required by the "State Control and Advice" mission. Each member of the ESEC receives an allowance.

Higher-education establishment bodies

Universities have several consultative and decision-making bodies within which students can have a presence, thus taking part in the management of their establishment. Those structures include:

- The boards of governors of the **CROUS - Regional Centres for University and School Services (Centres Régionaux des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires)**

Structure: The CROUS were set up by the [law of 16 April 1955](#). They are public establishments that come under the oversight of the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education, and Research (Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur, et de la Recherche). Their aim is to improve the conditions in which students live and study, in particular by providing services and benefits under ministerial guidelines. France has 28 CROUS centres forming a national network, the CNOUS - National Centre for University and School Services (Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires).

Each CROUS has a board of governors, which acts as a deliberative and decision-making body with young people amongst its members.

Composition: The Board of Governors is made up of 24 members, including 7 elected student representatives as well as a deputy chairperson elected by the board of governors. Elections for student representatives on the Board of Governors are held every two years. Those student representatives are often members of student unions or student movements.

Role and responsibility: The Board of Governors sets out general policy, and votes on the CROUS's budget. As with other members, student representatives play a part in drafting projects that relate to areas such as university life, [jobs](#), and [cultural life](#). They take part in making decisions and they make proposals to implement students' requests.

Financing: CROUS centres are considered to be operators tasked with implementing policies defined by the Ministry of Higher Education. In that regard, they receive public grants (from the State and from local authorities). Their partnership with universities is based on performance agreements. Part of the CROUS's budget is allocated to boards of governors.

Students also have the chance to take part in university debates and in the life of their establishment by participating in elections and by sitting on the various councils of their establishment. Higher-education establishments are required to train student representatives. [Law no. 2013-660 of 22 July 2013 on higher education and research](#), more specifically [article 116](#), defines and sets the composition of those various central councils, which are:

- **The university's board of governors**

The board of governors defines the university's policies.

Role and responsibility: It examines and approves the establishment contract, votes on its budget, and determines job allocation based on proposals from the vice-chancellor of the university.

Composition: five students sit on the board of governors (five postholders and five substitutes).

- **The academic council's CFVU – Commission on Training and University Life (Commission de la Formation et de la Vie Universitaire)**

Role and responsibility: The CFVU – Commission on Training and University Life (Commission de la Formation et de la Vie Universitaire) is consulted on all matters relating to studies and university life (university programmes, teaching, testing arrangements, and creating qualifications). In particular, it adopts rules relating to exams, as well as measures on student guidance and on validation of knowledge acquired, as well as cultural, sports, social, and community activities, etc.

Composition: The CFVU has forty members, including student representatives (fourteen on average).

Lycée bodies

From the *lycée* stage onwards, young people can take part in the democratic life of their establishment by sitting on *lycée* bodies: class councils, CVL - Councils of delegates on *Lycée* Life (Conseils des délégués pour la Vie Lycéenne), CAVL - Academic Councils on *Lycée* Life (Conseils Académiques de la Vie Lycéenne) and the CNVL - National Council on *Lycée* Life (Conseil National de la Vie Lycéenne).

- **Class councils are defined by article 33 of decree no. 85-924 of 30 August 1985 on local public education establishments.**

Role and responsibility: Class councils deal with educational matters relating to life in class and to organising the personal work of pupils; in addition, they draw up pupils' school reports. They also issue an opinion on wishes for guidance expressed by families and pupils.

Composition: Within establishments, each class must elect two titular delegates for the school year. Those delegates are pupils' spokespersons to educational teams, especially in [class councils](#). They can inform educational teams of all matters relating to class organisation as well as guidance. All pupils can vote and stand for election. Candidacies are individual. Pupils who have not submitted their candidacies can be elected if they receive enough votes. Elections are by secret ballot using a single-member vote over two rounds. Class delegates take part in the general assembly of delegates, which meets at least twice a year and is chaired by the head of the establishment.

- **The Higher Council for Education (Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation)**

Set up pursuant to [law no. 89-486 of 10 July 1989 on guidance in education](#), the CSE - Higher Council for Education (Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation) is a consultative body chaired by the Minister of National Education, and has **97 members**.

Role and responsibility: The Council is a consultative body that is called upon to issue opinions on:

- the objectives and functioning of the public education department
- the regulation of syllabuses, exams, and the issuing of qualifications
- matters concerning private educational establishments and the staff of those establishments working under contract
- all matters of national interest concerning teaching and education.

Composition: It is made up of **97 titular members** and their substitutes, who represent:

- staff: teachers; guidance, educational, management, and inspection staff; administrative, technical, blue-collar, and service staff
- users: pupils' parents, students, and *lycée* students
- State partners in education: local authorities, extracurricular associations, and family associations.

The members hold office for a four-year term, except for representatives of users and *lycée* students, who hold office for two years.

- **The CVL - Council of delegates for *Lycée* Life (Conseil des délégués pour la Vie Lycéenne)**

Role and responsibility: The CVL is a body for dialogue and for exchanges between *lycée* students and adults. Half of its membership is made up of elected student representatives, and the other half is made up of adult members of the educational community. Elected *lycée*-student representatives can freely express their expectations and concerns, and give opinions. The CVL must be consulted on matters relating to:

- organising sports, cultural, and extracurricular activities
- health, hygiene, and safety, as well as laying out areas for the use of *lycée* students
- organising studies, school time, the school project, and the rules of procedure
- organising personal work, support and help for pupils, language and cultural exchanges in partnership with European and foreign educational establishments, etc.
- information on guidance as well as school and university studies.

Composition: The CVL is chaired by the head of the establishment. It is made up of 10 *lycée* students elected by direct universal suffrage for 2-year terms, with half the posts being open to election every year; 5 teachers; and 3 members of administrative staff. Adult members of the CVL have a consultative role, and cannot vote.

- The **CAVL - Academic Council on Lycée Life (Conseil Académique de la vie Lycéenne)**

Composition: The CAVL – Academic Council on *Lycée* Life (Conseil Académique de la Vie Lycéenne) is defined by [decree no. 91-916 of 16 September 1991, as amended, on the setting up of academic councils on lycée life](#), and [circular no. 2002-065 of 28 March 2002 on academic councils on lycée life](#). It is made up of a maximum of 40 members, half of whom are *lycée* students, holding two-year terms of office. It is chaired by the Chief Education Officer, whose role is to appoint the adult members of the council.

Role and responsibility: The CAVL drafts opinions on the school life and work of *lycée* students. It is the body for dialogue between *lycée*-student representatives and the Local Education Authority so called : *académies** In order to fulfil their mission, elected members must be in regular contact with the CVL's *lycée*-student representatives.

**Académie*: Administrative district of the Ministry of Education (Ministère de l'Éducation)

- The **CNVL - National Council on Lycée Life (Conseil National de la Vie Lycéenne)**.

The role and functioning of the council is defined by [decree no. 95-1293 of 18 September 1995, as amended, on the setting up of the National Council on Lycée Life \(Conseil National de la Vie Lycéenne\)](#), circular no. 2000-150 of 21 September 2000 on the composition and functioning of the National Council on *Lycée* Life (Conseil National de la Vie Lycéenne), and circular no. 2010-128 of 20 August 2010.

Role and responsibility: The Council meets twice a year, and gives its opinion on matters relating to school work and to social, sports, and cultural life in *lycées*.

Composition: The Council is chaired by the Minister of National Education (Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale) or her / his representative, appointed by ministerial ruling. It has 33 members elected for two-year terms. Each of the thirty *académies* has one representative on the CNVL, who is elected for a two-year term by *lycée*-student representatives of the CAVL. The three *lycée*-student representatives of the CSE – Higher Council for Education (Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation) are also members of the CNVL.

Financing: Those various *lycée* bodies are subsidised by the *Lycée* Life Fund (Fonds de la Vie Lycéenne), which was set up to support pupils' initiatives in "the life of their establishment" ([Circular No. 2001-184 OF 26-9-2001](#)). The fund is financed by the annual academic endowment for public secondary education, "Educational and Operating Grants".

Middle schools council

Decree No. 2016-1631 of 29 November 2016 establishes a school life council, a body for dialogue and exchange, in all middle schools.

It is made up of student representatives, at least two staff representatives, including one teacher, and at least one parent representative.

The challenge for the middle school is to mobilise the educational community around a civic body and to establish a new role for pupils in the life of their school by developing social skills. This approach should contribute to the adoption of the common base and the implementation of the citizen's pathway.

Eco-delegates

Middle and high school classes elect eco-delegates to participate in the implementation of sustainable development in their schools. Through these elections, students become full-fledged stakeholders in making their schools spaces of biodiversity.

In addition, at least one of the three annual meetings of the Conseil à la vie académique lycéenne (CAVL - The Committee for academic life at high school) and the Conseil national de la vie lycéenne (CNVL - The National Committee for life at high school) is devoted to sustainable development. The elected high school representatives are involved in the implementation of this issue and participate in the evaluation of projects developed by the eco-delegates in the schools. The elected high school representatives are ex officio members of the academic steering committees for education for sustainable development.

Consultative bodies within ministries

With a view to renewing democratic life and to encouraging the participation of young people, various ministries have been able to put in place **ad hoc or one-off arrangements** aimed at encouraging young people to speak out and at gathering their proposals regarding specific policies and programmes. By way of example, the Ministry in charge of Labour, has set up a cross-ministerial working group called "Youth Guarantee" ("Garantie Jeunes") to set up the arrangement of the same name, which it has put together with fifty participants, including five young community representatives

Jean-Claude Richez, a researcher at the INJEP – National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire), wrote a report, published in 2014, on those various participation arrangements, *État des lieux des dispositifs de participation des jeunes dans les départements ministériels* [Situational analysis of arrangements for youth participation in ministerial departments]. In that report, he highlights the variety of those modes of participation, which contribute to better "making young people part of the public arena".

Higher education student union(s)

From a strictly legal perspective, there are no student unions in France. The latter are in fact representative student associations or organisations that define themselves as unions. The description of "representative student organisation" was created by the Jospin Law ([framework law no. 89-486 of 10 July 1989 on education](#)).

In article 13, the law specifies: "Representative bodies are student associations that have the objective of defending the collective and individual material and moral rights and interests of students. In that regard, they sit on the National Council on Higher Education and Research (Conseil National de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche) and on the National Centre for University and School Services (Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires)." Those organisations receive help with training elected officials, and they receive, *pro rata* to their number of elected officials, a significant portion of their financing and grants made for the purpose of training elected officials.

Only 1% of French students are unionised, and less than 8% of students take part in union elections. Nonetheless, student unions have substantial influence over the life of their establishment and, more generally, over higher education. French students can choose between several unions and movements. Nonetheless, the UNEF - National Student Union of France (Union Nationale des Étudiants de France) and the FAGE – Federation of General Student Associations (Fédération des Associations Générales Étudiantes) are the main unions recognised by the public authorities.

- The **UNEF – National Student Union of France (Union Nationale des Étudiants de France)**

The UNEF was set up in the 19th century.

Composition: The UNEF claims to have 19 000 members, including elected student officials.

The UNEF is organised both nationally and locally; the union has local sections: *Associations Générales des Étudiants* (AGE – General Student Associations) that are present in each university town / city. Each AGE is run by a bureau made up of a chairperson, a general secretary, and a treasurer, who are elected every two years at a local congress during which AGE members also vote on the UNEF's focus.

The UNEF's main body is the National Congress, which meets every two years to elect the Administrative Commission, which is responsible for electing the National Bureau; the latter is the UNEF's executive body, and it implements decisions taken by the National Congress. The National Bureau is made up of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the General Secretary, and the National Treasurer.

Role and responsibility: The UNEF's mission is to defend the rights and interests of students, as well as to express their wishes and opinions on all matters relating to student life: vocational and academic training, student accommodation, health, culture, etc.

Financing: Like all student organisations and student unions, the UNEF is an association. Its financing rules are the ones that apply to associations, and its resources can be drawn from public grants, membership fees, private donations, etc.

- The **FAGE – Federation of General Student Associations (Fédération des Associations Générales Étudiantes)**

The FAGE was founded in 1989, and brings together almost **2 000 associations and unions**. The FAGE has been recognised as a representative student organisation by the Ministry of Higher Education (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur), and it is also accredited by the Ministry of Youth. The FAGE is independent of parties and of employees' unions.

Composition: The FAGE functions as an association. It is made up of a Board of Governors which brings together **some fifty federations** (territorial and sectoral) and associated members. The role of the Board of Governors is to set define strategic guidelines and take decisions. It meets once every two months.

Role and responsibility: The FAGE's fields of action cover several subjects like independence, **academic success, improving living and studying conditions for young people**, as well as defending their rights and **their democratic representation**. It plays a role as student spokesperson, and it is an instrument of citizenship that enables young people to debate, to undertake projects, and to take on responsibilities in society.

Financing: *Lycée*-student and other student organisations that describe themselves as unions are constituted as associations; their financing rules are the same as those that apply to associations. Their budgets are drawn from their own resources (membership fees, private donations, etc.) and from public grants, such as credits from the FSDIE – Solidarity and Development Fund for Student Initiatives (Fonds de Solidarité et de Développement des Initiatives Étudiantes). The FSDIE is a fund that is mainly aimed at financing projects implemented by student associations.

School student union(s)

Structure: As with student unions, organisations that represent *lycée* students are governed by the law of 1 July 1901 (i.e. they are non-profit associations); they are not employees' unions. There are several "student unions", not a single organisation representing *lycée* students. Some of those unions are the *lycée* sections of student unions. They can be apolitical, independent, or affiliated to a political party. Those

organisations include the [FIDL – Independent Democratic Federation of Lycée Students \(Fédération Indépendante Démocratique Lycéenne\)](#), the SGL – General Union of Lycée Students (Syndicat Général des Lycéens), and the [UNI National Inter-University Union \(Union Nationale Inter-Universitaire\)](#).

Composition and role: *Lycée*-student organisations are managed by *lycée* students themselves, with their elected officials representing all *lycée* students, especially during negotiations and discussions within National Education bodies (CVL, CAVL, CNVL). Their role is to organise themselves as well as to promote and defend the rights and demands of *lycée* students, and to enable them to exercise citizenship by allowing them to express themselves on education-related matters: academic pace, reforming educational syllabuses and the educational system, etc., as well as societal challenges (jobs, social inequalities, pension reform, refugees, etc.).

Each *lycée*-student organisation defines its mode of organisation and functioning: those organisations can bring together federations, act at several levels (local and national), and have committees. Like student unions, they have sympathisers who cannot vote, unlike members who can elect their representatives. *Lycée*-student unions follow a variety of modes of organisation. They can also play a role as information points for *lycée* students seeking answers regarding their education (the matter of exams, etc.).

Financing: Student unions are associations, so their rules of financing comply with [rules and laws that apply to the community sector](#). Their resources can be drawn from:

- subscriptions paid by members
- grants made by the State, regional councils, *département* councils, municipalities, public establishments for intermunicipal co-operation, and any other public structures
- donations and legacies
- various items of income from their activities, to the extent that they are not contrary to current laws and regulations.

Other bodies

France does not have a national youth assembly, but there are associations that have the aim of representing young people as well as defending their right and their place in society, especially in democratic bodies, such as the CNAJEP – Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations (Comité pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Éducation Populaire) and the FFJ – French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse).

- Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations (Comité pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Éducation Populaire)

The [CNAJEP](#) is a non-profit association set up in 1968 under the law of 1 July 1901; it is a platform for youth and public-education associations. It is made up of 70 national movements that bring together 90 000 local associations and have 500 000 young people engaged in youth projects. It covers the whole of French territory, thanks in particular to a network of 23 regional committees (CRAJEP - Regional Committees of Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations (Comités Régionaux des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Éducation Populaire)) and at European level, through the European Youth Forum.

The role of the CNAJEP (Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations - Comité pour les relations nationales et internationales des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire) is to ensure its members are represented before the public authorities and within the bodies of associative life. It defines itself as a "force for advocacy", hence its positions on "the creation of a right to lifelong learning with resources from the age of 18" or on the co-construction of public policies with associations. The CNAJEP (Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations - Comité pour les

relations nationales et internationales des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire) **is also in charge of the coordination of the "EU Youth Dialogue", formerly "Structured Dialogue"** (started by the European Commission).

- **The FFJ – French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse)**

The FFJ was set up in 2012. It is an independent assembly that has the aim of being a national forum for young people to be represented "by themselves", as well as for exchanges and work on various societal challenges (ecology, youth representation, employment, health, etc.).

The FFJ's instruments for action are issuing opinions, observations and proposals on societal debates and challenges, making referrals on those challenges to public authorities, action to recognise organisations managed by young people (with an average age of under 30), and monitoring youth matters. The [members](#) of the French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse) must meet certain criteria: the average age of the management of those associations must be less than 30, their functioning must be democratic, and they must be national in dimension.

The FFJ is made up of 16 associations gathered into 4 "colleges": student, *lycée* student, supporter, and community. It has a facilitation committee made up of 4 titular representatives (and 4 substitutes), as well as a team of paid workers who co-ordinate and support the FFJ's activities.

The French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse FFJ) represents youth organisations managed by young people to the public authorities, within bodies or associative groups.

The French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse FFJ) actively supports the development of youth participation through the establishment of "training, information and experimentation places", to "facilitate the steps to encourage young people to express themselves" and to renew the democratic bodies.

In 2020, in the context of the Covid-19 health crisis, the French Youth Forum (FFJ - Forum Français de la Jeunesse) wanted to contribute to the debate on the impact of the crisis on youth and to deliver a set of proposals "achievable in the short, medium and long term" in the service of young people. The French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse FFJ) member organisations worked collectively on a **"global plan for young people"** aiming to:

- **Deal with the emergency and fight against the precariousness of young people;**
- **Promote the integration of young people into employment;**
- **Support pupils and students;**
- **Support the commitment of young people.**
- **"Free Youth Parliaments" ("Parlements Libres des Jeunes")**

Free Youth Parliaments (Parlements Libres de Jeunes) are the outcome of an experiment carried out in Rhône-Alpes region in 2013, on the initiative of a local association ([Aequitaz](#)), and which was subsequently spread across Ile-de-France region.

The parliaments **generally bring together young people aged 18 to 30 from a range of social backgrounds and from several territories**; they meet over two days to debate a variety of topics. Those deliberative fora are based on an elaborate procedure: young people issue opinions and action plans within thematic commissions that are then voted on by all the "parliamentarians" (young people) at a plenary session. The various young people are chosen by the network of organiser associations. **The parliaments are self-financing, and organisers work on a *pro bono* basis.**

The objective is to encourage the acquisition of civic skills, increase young people's empowerment, and have them experience democracy. In his article entitled 'Convergences

and divergences amongst young people in a deliberative experiment: the case of "Free Youth Parliaments" (*"Convergences et divergences des jeunesses dans une expérience délibérative. Le cas des "parlements libres des jeunes"*) published in 2016, INJEP researcher Régis Cortesero described these parliaments as "a deliberative pathway that leads from expressing 'the dreams and the anger' of young people to co-constructing proposals [...]."

Free parliaments are based on principles of organisation :

"It starts with the broad span of young people's **dreams and angers**. This determines the topics for discussion in parliament. Then, it is a question of analysing who can intervene on the problems that have been chosen, of organising a dialogue with decision-makers and of formulating proposals (prejudices to be countered, collective actions to be taken, laws to be changed). These are voted on by the young people who meet in a free parliament".

During the 5 free parliaments of Rhône-Alpes organised since 2013, more than 500 young people have asserted their citizenship, their convictions and formulated proposals "for a better world". These parliaments have also led to the creation of awareness-raising tools such as the [red card to fight against sexist comments](#) or the [booklet on the rights of young people with the police](#).

Since 2019, the Aequitaz association has entered into a partnership with the CNAF (National Family Allowances Fund - Caisse nationale des allocations familiales) to help develop free parliaments and support networks and young people who wish to set up free parliaments.

Source: <https://www.aequitaz.org/projets/parlement-libre-des-jeunes/>

5.4 Young people's participation in policy-making

Formal Mechanisms of Consultation

French public authorities **have had a long-standing concern over young people's participation in drawing up public policies**. However, that approach is most often followed at local level within local councils: participation is more effective and active in local democratic bodies (municipalities) than in national bodies, where it occurs on a more one-off basis. Since the 1970s, local authorities have worked at promoting young people's participation in local democracy.

Several initiatives have been launched recently, for example the creation of the **Advisory Youth Council** comprised of youth organisation representatives.

Local authorities in particular are committed to youth participation in the local democracy. Local authorities have a measure of freedom in the setting up of youth representative bodies, which has led to **considerable diversity** in such councils' design, frequency of meetings and implementation.

Young people are consulted on **a wide variety of themes**, not only those that concern them directly. In the case of local councils (regional and municipal alike), consultations may have bearing on local life, in such topics as participatory *lycée* budgeting, mobility, the environment and access to culture.

There are just as many questions raised at national level, where they are a matter for ministerial action. Themes tackled arise from ministries' areas of concern: healthcare, accommodation, professional integrations, political representation of young people, civic commitment, mobility, etc

In 2017, a law aimed at creating a "culture of lifelong commitment" was enacted: the Law No. 2017-86 of 27 January 2017 on equality and citizenship. Article 54 of the law sets up a structured dialogue between young people, representatives of civil society and public authorities:

I. - The public policies for young people conducted by the State, the regions, the departments, the municipalities and the territorial authorities with special status shall be the subject of an annual process of structured dialogue between young people, representatives of civil society and the public authorities. This debate focuses in particular on the establishment of strategic orientations and the articulation and coordination of these strategies between the different levels of territorial authorities and the State.

There are no any specific texts that legally govern and define young people's participation in drawing up public policies. Young people's participation is based on general texts, such as the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and the Council of Europe's [European Charter on the participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#).

Associations for promoting political participation by young people and local youth councils can draw up their own guides and charters. [The ANACEJ - National Association of Children's and Youth Councils](#) (Association Nationale des Conseils d'Enfants et de Jeunes) has drawn up reference guides and texts that set out the operating procedures of youth councils, such as [Our Agreement 2 \(Notre Accord 2\)](#). That text was adopted on 26 June 2013, and it reaffirms the value and significance of participation by children and young people, especially as a tool for "education in citizenship aimed at improving the local authority as a whole".

Levels of participation

At municipality and intermunicipality level, youth councils may give opinions and make suggestions either upon the Mayor's request or on their own initiative. Young people may therefore be involved in decision-making for certain municipal projects.

At regional level, a number of participation initiatives have been developed by Regional Councils, including:

- ad-hoc consultations giving the floor to young people's opinions; for example, the "*États Généraux*" (Hauts-de-France region), consultations with youth organisations during development of the Regional Plan (Bretagne regions);
- event-type participation;
- consultative bodies (regional youth councils) serving as permanent youth representation;
- involvement in development of such policies as participatory *lycée* budgeting.

At national level, the Cross-Ministerial Committee for Youth ([CIJ](#), [see 1.3](#)) "encourages and supports dialogue with young people with a view to regarding them as stakeholders in and providers of solutions on matters that concern them". Ministries concerned may introduce various forms of youth participation in development of public policies. There exist, however, three main types of ministerial consultations:

- approaches encouraging young people's presence in the public areas of institutional policy debates.
- consultations based on dialogue with youth associations;
- schemes for the co-development of policies with young people. Such co-development is based on partnership work and horizontal dialogue between young people, associations and the public authorities.
- an online consultation which is based on dialogue with youth associations;

It is important to specify that all **those actions aimed at having young people take part in the development of their territory are not necessarily carried out on a regular basis; they can also be one-off actions.**

Online consultations

Ministries involved in youth policies can set up online consultations to gather young people's opinions on ministerial policies or projects currently being implemented. These

consultations are open to all young people. For example, the [National Student Consultation](#) launched by the French Network of Students for Sustainable Development - REFEDD in partnership with, among others, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition. This consultation launched in 2019 aimed to measure:

- The level of student commitment to sustainable development,
- The degree of confidence of students in politics, companies and the media.

EU Youth dialogue (formerly the Structured Dialogue)

At the European level, the European Commission and Member States initiated the Structured Dialogue in 2006, which aims to support the participation of young people in youth policy-making, to "give [young people] a voice and allow them to actively participate in democratic decision-making processes by proposing innovative ideas and recommendations on policies" that affect them. Structured dialogue refers to a participatory process of organising existing spaces for debate and participation. This method has been "institutionalised" at European level mainly in the youth field, but can be transferred to other levels of policy action.

The new EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 has changed the terminology of the Structured Dialogue to EU-Youth Dialogue

Provox, the EU Youth Dialogue platform in France.

In France, the EU-Youth Dialogue is organised and facilitated by the Cnajep (Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations - Comité pour les relations nationales et internationales des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire) (see actor sub-chapter), through the Provox platform, which brings together over 70 youth and popular education movements. Provox's goal is to drive the contributions of young people in France at the European level.

The platform organises EU-Youth dialogue campaigns at national level. "These include consultation phases, the organisation of youth-electoral debate events, support for structured dialogue stakeholders in France, participation in political meetings and European youth conferences, and the implementation of the campaign results".

The 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue took place from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021 under the Three-Presidency team of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia and focused on European Youth Objective N°9 "Space and participation for all", which is part of the eleven European youth goals under the European Youth Strategy 2019-2027

The 9th cycle will take place under the EU Presidency of France, the Czech Republic and Sweden, from 1 January 2022 until 30 June 2023. The future trio of the EU Presidency has chosen a joint priority with two of the eleven European objectives for youth: Objective 10 "Sustainable green Europe" combined with Objective 3 "Inclusive societies".

Main source: <https://provox-jeunesse.fr/propos-du-dialogue-structur%C3%A9>

Pledge weeks

Pledge **weeks** give students the opportunity to become aware of all forms of commitment inside and outside the school. They usually take place between **September and October each year**. Elections for school bodies (elections to the council of delegates for school life) are organised during these weeks.

Actors

There are many bodies involved in youth participation. Distinctions should be made between institutional stakeholders (ministries), youth association federations, youth representative bodies and associations.

Main stakeholders in youth affairs include:

Youth movements

(The structures listed here are the main partners of the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation. They are listed for information only).

- the Comité pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Éducation Populaire ([CNAJEP](#) – Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations). The CNAJEP contributes to co-construction of public policies, managing national implementation of the “structured dialogue” decided upon by the Council of European Ministers, which adopted a resolution on 23 November 2015 aiming to “improve youth political participation in democratic life in Europe”.
- the Forum Français de la Jeunesse (FFJ – French Youth Forum)
- The Association Nationale des Conseils d'Enfants et de Jeunes (ANACEJ – National Association of Children's and Youth Councils) has existed since 1991 and helps set up and develop local youth councils. It is a member of the CNAJEP.
- [Young Europeans-France](#) brings together young people aged between 16 and 35 who wish to defend “the European project”. Their objective is to promote Europe among young people in a transparent manner. The association has 1,200 members in 30 local groups and a network of 30,000 young people throughout Europe. Indeed, JEF France is the French branch of JEF-Europe (Young European Federalists - Jeunes Européens fédéralistes).

Specific target groups

Although mainstreamed youth participation is promoted by public and community stakeholders, they are as yet no special practices or schemes designed to foster consultation of or participation by the most socially disadvantaged young people.

Despite such advances in youth consultation, and NGOs' and the public authorities' determination to implement best practices, a number of obstacles to youth participation still remain. **One of the major problems is the lack of “social diversity” due to under-representation of the more disadvantaged young people in youth representative bodies**, and a contrasting over-representation of young graduates proficient in the codes of political participation. The lack of generational renewal of members of associations and institutional bodies may also have an influence on French youth representativeness.

Public authorities

- All ministries take part in developing youth participation. However, the leading authority in the organisation of consultation is the ministry in charge of youth, which works in partnership with the CNAJEP/ANACEJ and the FFJ.
- Since 2008, student organisations and youth movements have been represented as a group in the [Conseil Économique, Social et Environnemental \(CESE](#) – Economic, Social and Environmental Council).
- The Conseil d'orientation des politiques de jeunesse COJ (For more information on the COJ see [chapter 5.3 Youth representation bodies](#))
- Local authority officials responsible for youth affairs can also organise and administer local youth councils; usually local authority employees also manage municipal youth councils.

Additional stakeholders

In addition to the French public authorities, such international organisations as UNESCO also promote youth participation and consultation in France through the “UNESCO Youth” programme and UNESCO Youth Forum.

Information on the extent of youth participation

The National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP) collects annual data (produced through surveys) on the level of participation of young people, particularly with regard to engagement activities (bénévolat, volunteering, etc.). This data is compiled in the "DJEPVA Barometer" report on youth, commissioned by the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation (Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative DJEPVA) and carried out in partnership with the Research Centre for the Study of the Conditions of Life (CREDOC). The fifth edition of the [DJEPVA DJEPVA \(Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation - \(Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative\)/INJEP \(National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education - Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire\) barometer on youth](#) (2020) shows that young people's commitment increased during the COVID-19 health crisis:

In April 2020, in the midst of lockdown, more than one in ten young people (12%) felt that the involvement of certain citizens in associations was the element that contributed most to strengthening social cohesion (from a list that included school, social protection, public services or family mutual aid).

In addition, INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) has also published myriad articles and reports specifically dedicated to the participation of young people in the construction of public policies, both at the regional and national levels, as well as on the ways in which public authorities consult young people. In Laurent Lardeux's *Les dispositifs de participation des jeunes au niveau des conseils régionaux* (2015) and Jean-Claude Richez's *L'État des lieux des dispositifs de participation des jeunes dans les départements ministériels* (2014), INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) researchers highlight the diversity and specificity of the mechanisms set up by public authorities to consult young people.

More recently, INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) published an article in 2021 on the relationship between young people and democracy: [La démocratie à l'épreuve de la jeunesse. Une \(re\)génération politique ?](#) (L.Lardeux, V.Tiberj, 2021). The article reports on the progression of the relationship between young citizens and democracy, as well as "the new aspirations of young people towards greater horizontality and global justice".

Outcomes

This approach based on co-construction with young people is most often placed in the public domain by ministries, which, where appropriate, provide the (youth) associations with which they have worked with information on changes to policies and projects.

As an example, the [ministry of youth \(Ministère de la Jeunesse\)](#) has provided public information on co-constructing public policies in conjunction with young people as part of the Priority Youth Policy in 2012-2017 (Plan).

The study report *"État des lieux des dispositifs de participation des jeunes dans les départements ministériels"* (Inventory of youth participation schemes in ministerial departments), published by INJEP in 2014, highlights a number of "best practices" in youth consultation introduced by the authorities, including:

- "young people are involved in monitoring implementation of the policy decided upon";
- "young people are represented in sufficient number in workgroups";
- "young people are kept informed and receive work documents upstream";
- "young people's proposals are incorporated by the workgroup when they form the subject of an agreement, and are mentioned and indicated as coming from young people".

Young people's and youth organisations also play a part in drafting ministerial texts, by producing analyses and making proposals upstream in the form of contributions.

Large-scale initiatives for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people

As part of the establishment of **National universal service** (Service national universel, SNU), a new commitment scheme that is part of the civic path of youths aged over 16 (See 5.5 Existence of a national strategy to increase young people's political participation), the Government has organised several consultation events, some of which including youths.

National consultation was carried out in three stages: a phase of consultation with some youth organisations, student unions, parent representatives and association stakeholders followed by a phase for consultation with youths in territories and an on-line consultation, carried out in October 2018.

A "Hackathon" of the National universal service was organised. During this event, the Minister of National Education and Youth, and the State Secretary, were able to speak with participants, who were invited to imagine their future experience of the SNU through creative tools and workshops.

The Ministry of National Education's consultation received 30,334 responses, including 25,349 young people under the age of 26. 51% of the young people were in favour of the SNU (Universal national service - service national universel); 27% did not wish to undertake it. 50% had questions about the conditions for carrying out the SNU (Universal national service - service national universel), particularly the first phase in shared accommodation. The stated goals of the SNU (Universal national service - service national universel) included increasing knowledge of rights and duties (77%) and meeting other young people from different regions and social backgrounds (76%).

Launch of a citizen consultation on discrimination

In April 2021, the Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Equality between Women and Men, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, and the Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Relations with Parliament and Citizen Participation launched a [citizen consultation on discrimination, which will be held in June 2021](#).

5.5 National strategy to increase youth participation

Existence of a national strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation

Strictly speaking, there is no new strategy to develop youths' participation. However, the Government - and other public authorities - **implement and consolidate programmes and schemes the purpose of which is to increase the civic participation of young people**, by following the example of the strengthening of civic service and of the creation of the National universal service, which is one of the pivotal measures of the current Government's youth policies. More generally, these two commitment schemes are in keeping with the "Civic Path" (« Parcours citoyen ») programme which constitutes a policy for youth participation and commitment.

National universal service (Service national universel)

The [National universal service](#) scheme is an important governmental measure. It is a national commitment scheme, the purpose of which is to « promote the sentiment of national unity around common values ».

The Civic Path / Parcours citoyen (See 5.7, Formal learning)

The [Civic Path](#) is a cross-disciplinary educational and civic programme that starts from the beginning of secondary education. Its purpose is to inform and raise students' awareness

of their rights and duties, but also to develop a culture of commitment in youths: of *bénévolat* and of volunteering. The National universal service scheme is a new stage in this “civic path”.

Scope and contents

National universal service (Service national universel, SNU)

The Universal National Service is aimed at all young people aged 15 to 17 and beyond for the 3rd stage. It is structured in three key stages:

- a two-week cohesion stay aimed at transmitting a republican foundation based on community life. This stay is carried out in collective accommodation, in a department other than that of the volunteer's residence. During this stay, the young volunteers take part in various collective activities and receive individual assessments (illiteracy, digital skills in particular);
- a mission of general interest aimed at developing a culture of commitment and promoting the integration of young people into society. These missions can be carried out in various ways: 84 hours over a short period of time or spread throughout the year. During this mission of general interest, depending on their situation, volunteers can also be supported when developing their personal and professional project;
- the possibility of a voluntary commitment of at least 3 months, aimed at enabling those who wish to do so to make a more permanent commitment to the common good. This commitment is based on existing forms of volunteering: civic service, operational reserves of the Armed Forces and the national gendarmerie, voluntary firemen, the European solidarity corps, etc., as well as *bénévolat*. This voluntary commitment can be made between the ages of 16 and 30.

In addition, the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP), commissioned by the government to evaluate the preparation of the universal national service (SNU), published an evaluation report in 2020 on the implementation of the universal national service: [*Evaluation of the preparatory phase of the universal national service - Lessons from the study of cohesion stays in June 2019.*](#)

The report aimed to:

- “analyse how this system was received by the different stakeholders”;
- “Report on the different ways in which this national scheme was implemented in the territories”;
- “Find out about the profile and characteristics of the first volunteers in this preparation phase”;
- “question the main objectives of the scheme, namely social diversity, cohesion and commitment”.

Civic service

The Government also wishes to strengthen civic service, considered an instrument for commitment.

The civic service scheme (See Chapter 2 *Bénévolat and volunteering activities*) is a volunteering scheme, the founding principles of which are accessibility, social diversity and general interest. Its aim is to create a culture of commitment. In order to enable every youth wishing to perform a civic service to do so, a target of 145,000 youths in civic service was set for 2020.

Young civic service volunteers can take part in the implementation of other existing public services, for example the “homework done” (“devoirs faits”) scheme which provides homework assistance offered by *bénévoles* to children.

On 14 July 2020, the President of the Republic announced the creation of 100,000 new Civic Service missions, in addition to the 140,000 missions carried out by young people aged 16 to 25 (30 years for young people with disabilities) each year since 2018.

In 2019, more than 140,000 young people were effectively involved in a mission of general interest with 10,500 approved organisations, bringing the number of young people involved since 2010 to **more than 435,000 volunteers**.

Other schemes

In addition to the SNU and the strengthening of civic service, other measures encouraging youth participation and having been implemented under previous strategies (2013-2017) are still in force (See *Revisions and updates*). For example, Act “**no. 2017-86 of 27 January 2017 on equality and citizenship**” introduced several schemes encouraging youths’ commitment such as:

- The recognition of student commitment, through the validation of skills and knowledge acquired through *bénévole* activities in higher education curriculums;
- The generalisation of civic reserves throughout life. Civic reserves concern all adults or individuals above the age of 16 who wish to carry out general interest projects”;
- The right for underaged individuals to take part in the creation of an association and its administration, under certain conditions.

The Civic Reserve

In the context of Covid 19, the government launched a campaign to recruit volunteers for specific missions in the framework of the "Civic Reserve". New missions have been put forward for actions to maintain links with vulnerable people, food aid, the production of protective masks, distance learning support and childcare.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The various national schemes for youth participation or engagement are steered and regulated by the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport. However, the coordination and implementation of policies are also the responsibility of the directorates or agencies concerned (e.g. the Civic Service Agency).

The implementation and objectives of these schemes are analysed and evaluated in particular by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP). Participation (civic, commitment) is one of the central themes of the work of the INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire), which has published a range of analyses on public policies relating to youth participation, changes and its challenges, as well as on participation and commitment schemes, including civic service.

In addition to the academic work of the INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) and the statistics of ministerial departments, youth associations committed to participation, particularly civic participation, such as the FFJ (French Youth Forum) and the National Association of Children's and Young People's Councils, also produce resources (articles and reports) on this subject.

Revisions/Updates

Youth participation has been the subject of two « works » of the Priority Youth Policy (Plan priorité jeunesse) implemented between 2013 and 2017 which focused on two aims: “promote and enhance youth commitment” and “strengthen youth representation in the public sphere” through several measures, described below, which are still in force :

- “inform and raise youths’ awareness of all types of commitment, during their entire school career and outside of formal education”;

- “promote youth commitment, a line of focus that is particularly promoted in 2017 the year of associative commitment”;
- “promote the recognition and value of association, union and political experiences by capitalising on acquired knowledge and taking them into account in school careers and professional integration”;
- “encourage youth participation in associative, political and union movements”;
- “encourage the development of youth organisations led by youths”;
- “perform a situational analysis of youth dialogue and participation in the public sphere”;

5.6 Supporting youth organisations

Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations

The Ministry in charge of youth actively supports the development of youth associations, which is one of the ministry’s areas of action and competence. Youth organisations are associations of which the functioning is governed by the law of [1 July 1901](#), which defines an association (*cf.* [2.1](#)).

One of the departments of the ministry in charge of youth, the DJEPVA - Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education, and Voluntary Organisation (Direction de la Jeunesse, de l’Éducation Populaire, et de la Vie Associative), is tasked with supporting associations through grants, as well as providing them with **“youth and non-formal education” accreditation, in accordance with article 8 of the law of 17 July 2001** as well as [Decrees nos. 2002-570 and 2002-571 of 22 April 2002, as amended](#).

Accreditation can be given to associations that have been duly registered for at least three years, that have an activity in the field of youth and non-formal education, and that “satisfy requirements relating to respect for freedom of conscience, the principle of non-discrimination, democratic functioning, transparency in their management, equality of access for men and women, and access for young people to their governing bodies.”

Public financial support

The financing arrangements for youth associations / movements and unions (*cf.* [5.3](#)) comply with the same principles and laws as govern the financing of all types of associations, including the law of [1 July 1901](#), which stipulates that “any duly registered association may, without any special authorisation, hold and administer [...] State grants.”

The ministry in favor of youth makes grants to accredited youth and public-education associations that carry out **actions accessible to all members of the public, contributing to the general interest and to strengthening social links**. Examples of projects supported are: access to artistic practices, holidays and leisure, education in independence and citizenship, youth mobility, etc.

Youth associations that make an application must meet the conditions for those grants to be made, i.e.:

- the association must be registered
- only the governing bodies of the association can request the grant
- the grant must be used to set up **a project of general or local interest** or a training programme for volunteers
- the public authority must **“establish an interest”** in the project, which must come solely from the association.

In addition, the Government supports youth organisations and citizen commitment through several actions, including:

- the development of *bénévole* training via the **Fund for the development of associative sector** (Fonds de développement de la vie associative, FDVA), which contributes towards financing association training plans,
- The development of training for volunteers via the Fund for the Development of Associative Life (FDVA - Fonds de développement de la vie associative), which contributes, among other things, to financing training plans for associations, [with a budget of €8.1M in 2020](#),
- the implementation since 2018, of the **citizen commitment fund** (Compte d'engagement citoyen, CEC). The CEC lists individuals' bénévolat and volunteer activities and allows them to acquire training hours that are transferred to their personal training account (Compte personnel de formation, CPF).

The health crisis and the development of youth associations

As a result of the Covid-19 crisis, numerous associations – including youth associations and associations for young people – were forced to suspend their activities or postpone projects, some of which are subsidised by the state and local authorities.

To limit the financial impact of the cessation of activities brought about by the crisis, the government has implemented an exceptional assistance and support package for employer associations and their employees, as well as state-guaranteed loan systems, solidarity funds and the deferred payment of rents and charges.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participants

Numerous studies have shown that political and associative participation is closely associated with a high level of education and membership of a higher socio-professional category, a situation which youth professionals wish to remedy.

In order to develop the involvement in civic and solidarity-based activities of young people who are furthest away from them, the Youth Experimentation Fund (FEJ - fonds d'expérimentation pour la jeunesse) (see 1.7), created in 2009, has launched several experiments on youth involvement and participation aimed at developing and strengthening the mobilisation of young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities. Including :

_The ["In a rural setting, come up with a mobilising organisational model that is managed and facilitated by young people"](#) (*En milieu rural, penser un modèle d'organisation mobilisatrice, gérée et animée par des jeunes*) project, backed by the MRJC – Rural Movement for Christian Youth (Mouvement Rural pour une Jeunesse Chrétienne). The aim of the project was to support the setting up, development, and structuring of organisations managed and facilitated by young people in a rural setting. The project intended to "strengthen the capacity for young people in rural areas to act and to get involved in the public debate."

_A [project](#) in Martinique (an overseas region), launched in 2018, which involves creating a television medium for young people, "LuminaWebTV. This "WebTV of youth commitment" should serve to create a media and digital showcase to highlight the commitment actions of young people as well as to encourage commitments.

The objectives of this experimentation are:

1. to set up a local media for young people.
2. to promote the commitment of young people in Martinique, in Martinique and in the world.
3. to develop of vocations among other disadvantaged young people or those facing social difficulties
4. to strengthen the commitment of associations throughout the country.

Other public **commitment schemes aim to encourage the development of civic participation** (volunteering, associative participation, etc.) among all young people,

particularly minors, who are not very aware of volunteering or young people with fewer opportunities, such as the Volont'R programme of the civic service agency and the Junior Associations scheme.

The Civic Service's Volont'R programme

Volont'R is a civic service programme launched on 26 October 2018 by the interministerial delegation for the settlement and integration of refugees (Diair - délégation interministérielle pour l'accueil et l'intégration des réfugiés) and the civic service agency (ASC - agence du service civique).

It has a double-pronged approach whereby it is aimed at:

1. The civic service commitment within the framework of the great program "Volont'R" offers the possibility to any young person between 16 and 25 years (or up to 30 years for the young people in situation of disability) to carry out missions with the refugees.
2. Young refugees. Any refugee between 16 and 25 years old (or up to 30 years old for young people with disabilities) can engage in a civic service mission. The civic service missions offered to refugees allow them to immerse themselves in French society. So that mastery of the French language is not an obstacle to civic engagement, refugee volunteers carry out adapted missions and take French lessons throughout their engagement.

Junior Associations

The "junior association" scheme was created in 1998, on the initiative of the public authorities (ministry in charge of youth) and various associative groups concerned with developing young people's capacity for action and associative initiatives, as well as making it easier for young people to fulfil the projects themselves.

A "junior association" **is a mechanism that allows young people under 18 years of age, who have a project (in a wide variety of fields: sports, culture, access to citizenship, etc.), to come together to implement this project with the support of a contact person** in each department. A junior association can include adults, but there must be a majority of young people aged under 18 and minors in a position of responsibility.

The "junior association", despite its name, is not an association as such pursuant to the law of 1 July 1901: it is a "label" that allows it to benefit from a certain number of advantages.

In addition, the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP - National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) published an article on the mobilisation of young people who are furthest away from commitment, *"Engagement: What levers can be used to mobilise young people who are not involved?" (INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) analyses & syntheses n°3, 2017).*

5.7 "Learning to participate" through formal, non-formal and informal learning

Policy Framework

Learning civic skills is at the heart of public policies on youth and popular (non-formal) and formal education.

The desire to increase the significance of participation by young people, especially as regards their learning about citizenship. This is achieved by teaching moral and civic education (EMC - éducation morale et civique), with curricula defined by ministerial decrees. (Orders of 17-1-2019 published in the BO (Bulletin Officiel spécial - Official special

newsletter) n° 1 of 22 January 2019 and of 19-7-2019 published in the BO spécial (Official special newsletters) n° 8 of 25 July 2019).

Formal learning

Education in citizenship and acquiring civic skills constitute a long-standing challenge for formal education, which has always given importance to developing pupils' knowledge of citizenship, as well as to going beyond the mere framework of citizenship, by developing actions in which pupils can experience citizenship.

Schools and educational institutions are effectively considered as places for "individual and collective learning about the democratic exercise of political citizenship."

This learning is ensured through programmes such as the **Civic Path** (*Parcours citoyen*):

The Civic Path is **a multi-disciplinary educational and civic programme** mainly led throughout secondary school (*collège* to *lycée*). Its purpose is to teach and raise student's awareness of their rights and duties.

Leaning on lessons, in particular Civic and moral education (*enseignement moral et civique*, EMC), and media and information education (*éducation aux médias et à l'information*, EMI), it contributes towards transmitting the values and principles of the Republic by broaching the main topics of civic education:

- secularism,
- equality between men and women and mutual respect,
- the fight against all types of discrimination,
- the prevention of and fight against racism and antisemitism, against LGBT discrimination
- education on the environment and sustainable development, the fight against harassment.

Circular no. 2016-092 of 20-6-2016 establishes the Civic Path (*Parcours citoyen*) during which "the student becomes a citizen who progressively gains awareness of his/her rights, duties and responsibilities [...], tests his/her ability to act and collaborate through contact with others, to exercise such rights, duties and responsibilities and improve them through different activities. The journey also allows the student to learn to accept the diversity of opinions and disagreements, by promoting listening and debates. It provides him/her with the means to behave thoughtfully and responsibly and to develop his/her critical thinking abilities."

The civic path **relies on the mobilisation of educational teams, associations and other stakeholders within the school's territory.**

Learning to participate also takes shape through educational actions and teachings such as Moral and civic education (*Enseignement moral et civique*, EMC) or class councils:

Those programmes and actions include:

- EMC – Moral and Civic Teaching (*Enseignement Moral et Civique*), set up by the [programming and framework law of 8 July 2013 on refoundation the *École de la République*](#). EMC's aim is to bring together "the training of future citizens and the formation of their critical reasoning", to have secondary-school students and *lycée* students acquire "**a moral conscience that enables them to understand, respect, and share humanist values of solidarity, respect, and responsibility.**" [Teaching EMC](#) must be cross-cutting and interdisciplinary. In practical terms, it must include **specific educational activities** (regulated debates, student councils, etc.) and **co-operative projects** (artistic, cultural, etc.) that question democracy. That teaching is part of the student's *citizen pathway* (*parcours citoyen*), defined by [circular no. 2016-092 of 20-6-2016](#). In that *citizen pathway* (*parcours citoyen*), students [take part in](#)

[actions](#) that encourage the training of the future citizen (EMC, media-education courses, Defence and Citizenship Day, etc.).

- Class councils and the delegate elections ([cf. 5.2](#)) also take part in experiencing democracy, especially through voting, debating, exercising representation, and deliberating.
- The citizenship pathway also links formal education with popular (non-formal) education, since commitment schemes such as the Universal National Service (see 5.5 Existence of a national strategy to develop the political and civic participation of young people) or international volunteering programmes for young people (of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs) are also part of this citizenship pathway, which can last a lifetime.

Non-formal and informal learning.

Learning to participate and acquiring civic skills are also objectives of non-formal education, known as "people's education" in France, whose values include emancipation, solidarity and the exercise of citizenship

Developing links and exchanges between formal, informal, and non-formal education, based on young people learning about citizenship, mainly takes the form of a range of initiatives and programmes put in place by public institutions in partnership with associations. Those actions include some that aim at:

- Strengthening participatory bodies within school establishments ([cf. 5.3 councils and youth bodies](#))
- Reinforcing the participation of young people in the decision-making of schools
- Encouraging young people's involvement in civil society by implementing the [Citizen Reserve \(Réserve Citoyenne\)](#), which aims at encouraging the driving forces of civil society to become involved beside educational teams, or putting a gap year into academic careers. The gap is defined by [circular no. 2015-122 of 22-07-2015](#); it involves students suspending their studies for a period of between 6 months and one year, in order to undergo a period of personal experience, professional experience, or commitment, either in France or abroad.
- The implementation of the Wednesday Plan (*Plan Mercredi*) enabling volunteer local and regional authorities to offer each child educational, artistic and also civic activities during extracurricular time.
- The development of awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development. In 2019, the Ministry of National Education generalized "eco-delegates" in secondary classes. These eco-delegates will be elected by the authorities of their school. The role of eco-delegates is to promote environmentally friendly behavior at school (switching off lights, reasoned use of energy, selective sorting, etc.) and to propose any initiative contributing to the protection of the environment. environment in his school.
- Support experiments on the acquisition of social and civic skills through non-formal learning. Several experiments supported financially by the public authorities, in particular those set up under the Youth Experimentation Fund (see **Initiatives to strengthen the diversity of participants**), have enabled young people to become involved and to value the benefits of this involvement.
- Develop tools for valuing social and civic skills acquired through civic participation (bénévolat, volunteering, etc.), such as skills portfolios (see Chapter 2.7 Skill recognition) or the "Aki" application developed by the Franco-German Youth Office. This application makes it possible to recognise the cross-cutting skills developed in particular during international mobility.

The tool is based on a questionnaire that aims to value the following skills ("soft skills");

- Adaptation to change
- Self-confidence
- Open-mindedness
- Interpersonal skills
- Sense of responsibility

Quality assurance/quality guidelines for non-formal learning

Associations that hold Youth and Non-Formal Education (Jeunesse et Éducation Populaire) accreditation (*cf.* 5.6) and receiving grants by reasons of that special partnership enter into an agreement that set out the objective of actions and results indicators. That procedure enables a watch to be kept on the quality of projects undertaken by the associations.

Educators' support

Several initiatives have been put in place to support and strengthen training in the development of civic skills of staff working in the youth field (teachers, youth workers, educators, etc.).

The Ministry of National Education makes its own tools and educational supports relating to education in citizenship, such as the CANOPE network, which lists works published on the subject. In addition, educational documentary resource centres (at national, regional, and *département* level) offer documents in different forms that concern teaching staff and pupils. Each establishment has a documentation and information centre containing resources on the topic. The web site of the Ministry of National Education, <http://eduscol.education.fr>, "informs and supports" education professionals; it has a section on [education in citizenship](#), where teachers can find topic sheets.

As regards training for teaching staff, training arrangements exist at various levels: national, LEA-level, and *département*. The initial training of supervisory staff and teaching staff makes those members of staff increasingly aware of civic challenges. Education in citizenship is part of the list of requirements for training teachers at the University Teacher-Training Institute (Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres) ([Official National Education Bulletin, Bulletin Officiel de l'Éducation Nationale of 19 December 2006](#)). The promotion of civic values by stakeholders in education is done in partnership with an association network, including the [civic information centre](#) (CIDEM – Civics and Democracy) which has an educational-resource portal on citizenship.

In addition to teachers, facilitators and "youth workers" can receive training in citizenship. The various training bodies that offer access to professions and qualifications in the field of facilitation offer sessions on that topic. They are available for all qualifications in "voluntary" facilitation (Certificate of Competency to work as a facilitator in collective reception centres for minors, Brevet d'Aptitude aux fonctions d'animateur en accueils collectifs de mineurs) and "State qualifications" (**Professional Certificate in youth, non-formal education, and sport**). For example, the so-called "[CEMEA \(Centres for Training in Active Education Methods, Centres d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Éducation Active\)](#)" offers training in [Education in citizenship and Collective reception centres for minors \(Éducation à la citoyenneté et Accueils collectifs de mineurs\)](#) to facilitation professionals.

The Ministry for Sport also participates in promoting citizenship through the use of sport and the development of practical guides for sports educators.

As part of its campaign to prevent harassment and sexist and sexual violence in sport "#TousConcernés", the Ministry of Sports has developed the third edition of the "[Petit guide juridique](#)" which aims to better understand the consequences of "incivility, violence and discrimination"

The tool is structured in 4 parts:

1. "What the law says about discrimination, incivility and violence in sport";
2. "What the law says about racism, LGBT+ hate, sexism, hazing or religious discrimination in sport";
3. "What the law says for each actor in case of discrimination, incivility or violence in the field of sport";
4. "Legal protection of victims in cases of discrimination, incivility or violence in sport".

For more information on support to educators, [see 10.3](#).

5.8 Raising political awareness among young people

Information providers / counselling structures

One of the main strands of public action aimed at young people is to inform them of their own rights as well as their capacity to act as citizens in society.

Information providers, counselling structures

Young French people can get information on their civic rights at a number of reception centres, or directly from institutions. Furthermore, the Ministry responsible for Youth plays an essential role in promoting young people's knowledge of their civic rights, and of democratic values more generally. Thus, young people can access information on their rights and defending those rights on the web site of the Ministry in charge of youth under the heading "Citizenship": <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/>.

Information provided by structures aimed at youth

The Youth Information Network (Réseau Information Jeunesse)

The [Youth Information Network \(Réseau Information Jeunesse\)](#) is France's leading reception and information network for young people. The network is made up of over 1 500 structures across the whole of national territory, and receives over 5 million young people each year. Those structures are awarded certifications and grants by the ministry in favor of youth, the authority responsible for "youth information". The national Youth Information network is made up of:

- a national centre, the CIDJ - National Centre for Youth Information and Documentation (Centre National d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse)
- CRIJ – Regional Youth Information Centres (Centres Régionaux Information Jeunesse), which facilitate, in their respective regions, a network of BIJs and PIJs that receive, inform, and support users at local level
- BIJ – Youth Information Offices (Bureaux Information Jeunesse)
- 1 300 PIJ – Youth Information Points (Points Information Jeunesse)
- 25 Youth Info Buses (Bus Info Jeunes) in rural areas.

The CIDJ provides information via its [web site](#), by telephone, through the on-line forum at cidj.com, and via social networks. The web site also lists and locates all the network's local structures so that young people can reach them.

As an example, the [Youth Information Office \(Bureau Information Jeunesse\) in Perpignan](#) has a "Citizenship" department where young people can get information on the legal means available to fight against discrimination. On the web site, young people can access a sheet that defines discrimination, and a list of associations that work in the field of defending basic rights.

Youth and cultural Centres (Maisons de la Jeunesse et de la Culture)

MJC – Youth and Cultural Centres (Maisons de la Jeunesse et de la Culture) were set up in 1948 with a view to democratising culture and making citizens more independent; thus, they were part of the founding principles of non-formal education. Those structures offer

young people activities, especially based on citizenship (debates, discussions, etc.). They come under the Ministry of Youth (Ministère de la Jeunesse), which awards them partial grants. According to the [Federation of Youth and Cultural Centres \(Fédération des MJC\)](#), the structures are “areas of liberty, debate, and democratic investment that offer their inhabitants the change to take part in the institutional life of the association, take part in decisions, and become fully-fledged stakeholders in the territory in which they live. That education [...] enables everyone, especially the youngest, to become active citizens.”

The Rights Defender (Défenseur des Droits)

The [Rights Defender \(Défenseur des Droits\)](#) is an independent constitutional authority set up by [Organic Law no. 2011-333 of 29 March 2011](#), and appointed for a 6-year term by the President of the Republic. The authority’s task is to ensure that rights and freedoms are respected by State administrations, local authorities, public establishments, and any entity tasked with a public-service mission.

She / he is also tasked with defending and promoting the higher interest and the rights of the child, as enshrined in law. In that context, the Rights Defender (Défenseur des Droits) is tasked with ensuring that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is properly applied. She / he offers educational tools aimed at staff working in education and with children: the teaching kit that makes it easier for children to understand and appropriate their rights, **the educational poster that is aimed at children aged 9 to 14 and that sets out the 12 fundamental rights of the child** (to be displayed in establishments), and the card game Happy Families (Jeu des 7 Familles), **which aims at familiarising children with children’s rights**.

In addition, the Rights Defender also offers education stakeholders an on-line training module, “Promoting equality in education” (“Promotion de l’égalité dans l’éducation”), which makes it easier to promote rights and equality and to prevent discrimination in the school context.

Information provided by the Ministry of National Education and youth

The Ministry of Education plays an important role in awakening an awareness of citizenship and human rights, as well as the democratic values of young people (*cf.* 5.7), through national actions that touch all young French people, such as [commitment weeks \(semaines de l’engagement\)](#) organised in establishments.

Experimented in 2013, “commitment weeks” (“semaines de l’engagement”) were trialled in establishments in order to train *lycée* students in the principles of democracy and encourage them to take part in the electoral process. these weeks are now organised annually. Over an awareness-raising period of at least one hour, **lycée students learn of their rights and duties**, as well as getting to know the functioning of *lycée* bodies and the life of the establishment. They meet and hold exchanges with their *lycée*-student representatives. That arrangement has been made long-standing.

Information provided by the ministry in charge of defence

The ministry responsible for defence is responsible for implementing the “[JDC - Defence and Citizenship Day](#)” (“[Journée Défense et Citoyenneté](#)”, which is part of the “**citizenship pathway**” (“**parcours de citoyenneté**”) of young French people. The JDC is compulsory, and it usually takes place **before the age of 18**. However, young people can take part in that day until the age of 25. It is the opportunity to inform young people of their rights and duties as citizens, and about institutions and their functioning. The programme for the day includes, amongst other things, training modules based on the rights and duties of citizens and on the challenges of defence (of national territory).

Youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values

Several information campaigns on civic rights and raising awareness of democratic values are organised annually within secondary schools and higher-education establishments, in partnership with associations that work to defend human rights.

Every 20 November, France commemorates the signing of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child by organising the [International Day of the Rights of the Child \(Journée Internationale des Droits de l'Enfant\)](#), which is the opportunity to make young people aware of the matter of respect of children's rights. On that day, educational teams are asked to carry out actions aimed at facilitating understanding of the bases and provisions of the Convention, and to develop a thought process on the subject.

Particular emphasis is placed on protecting children and adolescents against all forms of violence. Article [L. 542-3 of the Education Code \(Code de l'Éducation\)](#) stipulates that at least one **annual session** to provide information on and to raise awareness of child abuse should be made part of the timetable of pupils in primary schools as well as students in secondary schools and students in secondary schools and *lycées*.

Young people (secondary and *lycée* students) are also made aware of international solidarity through International Solidarity Week, which is co-ordinated each year by the [CRID - Research and Information Centre for Development \(Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement\)](#) in partnership with volunteer establishments and teachers, who are invited to build and to implement projects on international solidarity.

To those events, one must add the many and regular competitions and prizes on the theme of citizenship and human rights organised in schools, e.g. the [Let's discover our institutions \(Découvrons nos institutions\)](#) competition, which promotes knowledge of the Republic's institutions, and the ["No to bullying" prize](#), which enables pupils and students aged 8 to 18 to express themselves collectively on bullying by creating a poster or a video that will act as a communication support for their establishment.

Several history competitions are also offered to establishments, with a view to contributing to building a collective memory based on shared values, like the [National Competition on the Resistance and on Deportation \(Concours National de la Résistance et de la Déportation\)](#), of which the organisation is determined by the [decree of 23 June 2016, published in the JORF – Official Journal of the French Republic of 28 June 2016](#), and the ["Flame of Equality" \("Flamme de l'Égalité"\)](#) competition, defined by [new academic year circular no. 2016-058 of 13 April 2016](#), for which pupils (secondary school pupils) are invited to carry out a project on the history of slavery, the slave trade and its abolition, which is the subject of a school curriculum.

In addition to these events, there are numerous regular competitions and prizes on the theme of citizenship and human rights organised in schools: the ["Découvrons notre constitution"](#) (Let's discover our constitution) competition, which promotes knowledge of the institutions of the Republic, and the ["Non au harcèlement"](#) (No to harassment) prize, which enables pupils aged 8 to 18 to express their views collectively on harassment through the creation of a poster or video used as a means of communication in their school.

Promoting the intercultural dialogue among young people

It is important to point out that the definition of the concept of "intercultural dialogue" differs according to the stakeholders who use it and implement it. In France, the notion of "intercultural dialogue" refers above all, in terms of public action, to actions aimed at encouraging tolerance between people, regardless of their origins (including social origins), religion, and convictions, as well as developing "living together" and affirming **respect for the equal dignity of human beings**.

Anti-Racism and Anti-Semitism Education Week

The Ministry of Education launches annually events based on the fight against racism and discrimination, especially the [Anti-Racism and Anti-Semitism Education Week \(Semaine de l'Éducation contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme\)](#). It brings together the entire educational community, including students' parents and student organisations, as well as education partner associations. That week is a "main federating event" of which the aim is to **make primary pupils as well as secondary and lycée students aware of preventing racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of discrimination.**

"Ilan Halimi" prize

The Ministry of Culture launched the "Ilan HALIMI" prize in 2018 dedicated to the fight against racist prejudice and as part of the national plan to combat racism and anti-Semitism. This prize is supported by the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Interministerial Delegation for the Fight against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Anti-LGBT Hatred (DILCRAH - Délégation interministérielle à la lutte contre le racisme, l'antisémitisme et la haine anti-LGBT)

This national prize rewards initiatives carried out by groups of young people under the age of 25 that contribute to reducing racist and anti-Semitic prejudices and stereotypes. The projects selected can be carried out in a school or non-school context and can be cultural, artistic, sport-related or digital.

For example, in 2021, the Grand Prize of the 3rd edition of the Ilan Halimi Prize was awarded by the Prime Minister to the awareness-raising campaign entitled "All equal under the mask" created by five high school students.

Promoting transparent and youth-tailored public communication

The French public authorities have not drawn up a specific "transparent" communication plan tailored to dialogue with youth. In addition, there is no programme for training in "youth-tailored communication" aimed at political decision-makers.

5.9 E-participation

According to a survey by the [CREDOC - Centre for Research and Documentation on Living Conditions \(Centre de Recherche pour l'Étude et l'Observation des Conditions de Vie\)](#), 99% of 12- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 24-year-olds are web users across all types of connection.

A survey steered by the INJEP / DJEPVA and carried out by the CREDOC in October 2016 emphasises **the high level of involvement of young people in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and social networks . The survey underlines** the rise of forms of mobilisation, such as signing an on-line petition, which is an indication of that interest in new technologies.

Furthermore, in 2020 the INJEP National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire) published an article on youth political participation: *La participation politique en ligne des jeunes à travers le prisme des inégalités socioculturelles* [Online participation of young people through the prism of socio-cultural inequality]. The analysis highlights that:

Digital and social media appear to be the main bases and vectors of youth political participation today. "Having signed a petition or defended a cause via the internet, a blog or a social network" is 2019, the most cited form of participation by 18-30 year olds, ahead of bénévolat, collective action or, even more so, partisan activism (CRÉDOC, 2019).

In recent months, the 'global climate strike' or the Gilets jaunes [yellow jacket] movement - two advocacy actions that have strongly mobilised young people, or more precisely some of their components (Collectif d'enquête sur les Gilets jaunes, 2019 [Collective for the investigation of the Yellow jackets]) - have highlighted the importance of digital tools in

collective mobilisation. This digital participation, which is constantly increasing (CRÉDOC, 2019), therefore contradicts, or at least nuances, the media and political discourses describing youth as "disengaged, apolitical, individualistic and apathetic" (Becquet, Goyette, 2014)

Faced with the ubiquity of the Internet and digital tools in the daily lives of young people, the public authorities are encouraging the use of ICT and education in these new means of communication, which contribute to the development of youth participation.

Digital consultations and participation

- In October 2018, the Government organised an online consultation on the « National universal service » (*Service national universel*) commitment scheme. This consultation targeted youths in particular to encourage their participation in the development of this scheme concerning them.
- In 2019, on the 30th anniversary of the [International Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#) and in order to carry out his mission to follow up on the recommendations of the [United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), the ombudsman created a national consultation mechanism. Its objective was to collect the thoughts, proposals and recommendations of children regarding the implementation of their rights in France. In order to include as many children as possible, including the most vulnerable ones, the Defender of Rights mobilised nearly 50 associations fighting for the respect of children's rights in France: 2,200 children, from 4 to 18 years of age (with a large majority of 8-14 year olds) were able to participate.
- The Ministry of National Education also supported the launch of the [Isoloir.net](#) project in partnership with other stakeholders, including the European Commission, Île de France Region, and associations from the digital field. That **digital arrangement aims at encouraging awareness and citizen action among young people aged 14 to 18**, and placing in the public arena young people's opinions on the great debates of society. Isoloir.net is an active-education tool that is part of the trend of "Serious Games", applications developed from video-game technologies but that do not aim at providing only entertainment.

In parallel with digital participation, the public authorities, especially the Ministry of Education and the INJEP - National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education, have carried out several studies and a significant amount of research on the use of new technologies by young people, and on "digital citizenship".

5.10 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Developing youth engagement through Olympism

The Government wants to get the general public involved in the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is achieved by implementing measures aimed at "*developing bénévolat charity work opportunities for people with disabilities in major sporting events*".

Several actions have been taken, including training 3,000 volunteers with disabilities. This measure is aimed in particular at permanently changing "discriminating social representations of disability, strengthening social ties and offering new meeting places"; as well as "boosting and diversifying sports bénévolat in France".

In addition, initiatives aimed at strengthening youth participation have also been launched:

The preparation for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games is indeed seen as a special opportunity to develop youth engagement. With a view to the 2024 Games, civic service missions, which will be geared towards preparing for and supporting this event, will be developed by the Civic Service Agency and French athletes.

In the SNE – national universal service (service national universel) system, sport is one of the 7 thematic modules provided during the cohesion residential trip. Young people will therefore be able to take part in sports while also being made aware of the values of Olympism.

Between 2020 and 2024, the Government wants more than a million young people to have been made aware of Olympism.

Source: <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2019/1...>

Ongoing debates

The recommendation of the CESES – Economic, Social and Environmental Council (Conseil économique, social et environnemental): encourage civic engagement and citizen participation in sustainable development

The Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) is the third constitutional assembly in France after the National Assembly and the Senate. A consultative assembly alongside the public authorities, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) promotes dialogue between the different components of civil society and political decision-makers.

In October 2020, the "Education, Culture and Communication" section of the CESE took the initiative to produce an advisory notice and 18 recommendations on "citizen participation in sustainable development", which applies to young people in particular.

The objective of this advisory notice and the 18 recommendations is "to help all citizens, whether children, young people, adults or seniors, be able to build themselves up as *eco-citizens/responsible citizens*, i.e. those who inform themselves, educate themselves and/or train and act, in a responsible manner, throughout their life, in support of sustainable development".

These 18 recommendations should advance the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The recommendations are based on three main focal points:

1. Producing, promoting and spreading knowledge on sustainable development;
2. Better education and training to implement sustainable development goals;
3. Improving the tools and mechanisms for citizen participation in favour of sustainable development.

6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The education and training of young people are **major recurrent** concerns in the eyes of the public authorities and, more generally, French society as a whole, whose expectations in this regard are many and varied, and go beyond the simple issue of education itself.

The French educational model has undergone far-reaching changes enabling it to be characterised by **the ongoing spread of mass education** since the 1950s, accompanied by a lengthening of the duration of schooling and a form of "**democratisation**" expressed by access to high levels of qualification on the part of a significant percentage of the population, the less privileged social categories in particular.

However, as several reports issued by the Ministry of National Education (including the report *La massification scolaire sous la Vème République. Une mise en perspective des statistiques de l'éducation nationale (1958-2014)* [Mass education in the Fifth Republic. An appraisal of national education statistics (1958-2014)] as well as international assessments (in particular PISA 2018)) show, **inequality of prior learning and educational and social trajectories** between schoolchildren and students are still significant and persistent, as school success is very much conditioned by the socio-economic status of the families. According to the 2018 PISA study, France is one of the

OECD countries where school inequities between pupils are the most significant: The study notes a difference of 107 points between pupils from an advantaged background and those from a disadvantaged background. This “difference is significantly greater than that observed on average” in OECD countries.

Therefore, inequity reduction and the success of all pupils including students, emerge as one of the major challenges of school and higher education. More generally, strengthening the education system is a crucial issue for the public authorities.

Indeed, the results of the 2016 PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) survey held every five years, led by the IEA (International Association for the Evaluation of Education Achievement) which assesses the reading literacy performance of pupils at the end of their fourth year of compulsory schooling (CM1 for France) and compares education systems, have shown that the performance of French pupils has been gradually decreasing since 2001, in particular compared to that of the other European countries participating in the survey:

- “With a score of 511 points, France is above the international average (500 points) but below the European average (540 points) and the OECD average (541 points)”.
- “Since the 2001 PIRLS survey, overall French performance has been decreasing at each assessment. In 2016, the difference is significant and represents - 14 points over the 15-year period”.

Source: <https://www.education.gouv.fr/pirls-2016-evaluation-internationale-des-eleves-de-cm1-en-comprehension-de-l-ecrit-evolution-des-11429>

Furthermore, the development of apprenticeship and lifelong training and its accessibility are also issues for the public authorities, particularly for the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion.

6.1 General context

Main trends in young people's participation in education and training

Recent developments and challenges

The impact of the health crisis on pupils and students

The Covid-19 crisis had a significant impact on learning among children and young people by profoundly changing learning practices and access to knowledge.

In order to assess the impact of the health crisis and especially the lockdown period on learning, the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP) of the Ministry of Education, conducted a survey work that aimed at **“documenting the differences observed according to the socio-demographic situations of the stakeholders, pupils and their families, and the characteristics of their schooling context”**.

One of the studies focused on educational continuity during the schools’ closed period in spring 2020. The Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP) interviewed a representative sample of families of secondary level pupils in May-June 2020. This survey shows that **the school engagement of secondary level pupils is differentiated** in particular according to their educational level.

The study highlights that :

- “During this period, almost four in ten pupils at the secondary level reported to have devoted, on average, at least three hours a day to their school work.

- “Girls, and pupils from the most privileged backgrounds, worked more. Besides the quantity, the nature of the work performed also differed according to the educational level.
- “A quarter of the secondary level pupils were completely autonomous in their work and among those who were not, the majority was helped by their family (85 %)”.
- “In the absence of autonomy, parental support with homework was more prevalent among pupils with learning difficulties (92 %) than among pupils with an excellent level (79 %), among boys (69 %) than girls (58 %), and to a lesser extent, among pupils from advantaged backgrounds (89 %) than among those from disadvantaged backgrounds (81 %)”.
- “Girls also better adapted than boys to the new way of working, but boys encountered fewer difficulties directly related to the accomplishment of their school work”.

Source: <https://www.education.gouv.fr/la-depp-et-l-impact-de-la-crise-sanitaire-305177>

Tackling early school leaving

Tackling **early school leaving** is an important and recurring issue for school authorities.

The Government has made the fight against early school leaving a national priority and a European issue which is part of the “Europe 2020 Strategy”. This strategy is based on a partnership policy for tackling early school leaving, involving all the stakeholders and structures mobilised for the training and integration of young people.

In 2020, early school leavers were 80,000 in France compared to 98,000 in 2016.

In order to tackle early school leaving, the Ministry of National Education has initiated important developments, particularly in the legislative sphere: **the right to re-enter education and training for all the young people who have left the education system without a diploma or sufficient level of qualification (article L-122 of the French Education Code) and the training obligation** for young people between the ages of 16 and 18 (*article L-144 of the French Education Code*).

For more information on the policies against early school leaving, see **6.3 Preventing early leaving from education and training)**

The development of apprenticeship

Over the last decade or so, the development of apprenticeship has been a central policy for the vocational integration of young people. Apprenticeship was initially developed to allow young people with little or no qualifications to access training and give them a first professional experience, and now concerns more and more young higher education graduates. As at 31 December 2020, apprentice training centres served 629,600 apprentices, a 31.5 % increase compared to 2019. This is a historic rise since the early 2000s.

According to an “ [Information note](#) ” by the DEEP (statistics department of the Ministry of Education) published in July 2021, apprenticeship has gone through different phases of evolution in the last fifteen years: a sustained growth between 2003 and 2007, then a stagnation until 2012, with the decrease in secondary education being compensated for by the increase in higher education.

Moreover, the “**share of girls in apprenticeship numbers has gained 4.1 points** compared to 2019 and reached 37.1 % in 2020. It varies according to the level of the diploma prepared, in connection with the training specialities. Indeed, while there is near gender parity in the services area, **the production area is overwhelmingly male**”.

Key figures

• **The number of pupils with disabilities**

The number of children with disabilities attending school in mainstream education has increased from 361.200 at the start of the 2019 school year to nearly 385.000 at the start of the 2020 school year, a 7% increase.

• **The proportion of Baccalaureate holders**

Since 1970, the proportion of Baccalaureate holders in a generation has gained more than 60 points. This significant increase is the result of the growth of the general branch and the significant development of the vocational branch since its first session in 1987.

The gender gap is close to 10 points in favour of girls.

In 2021, 732,800 candidates sat the Baccalaureate exams: 53.7 % in the general series, 19.8 % in the technological series, 26.5% % in the vocational branch.

93.8 % of candidates were admitted (to the session of June 2021), i.e. 687,200 Baccalaureate candidates.

• **Mobility among pupils and students**

Pupil mobility covers stays outside of France for individual or grouped pupils, for educational, professional, linguistic or cultural purposes.

The European and international openness of establishments is an educational measure implemented by the Ministry of National Education, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

45.1% of schools have at least one foreign partner (establishment).

Germany is the first partner of French establishments: at the beginning of the 2017 school year, more than 33 % of French establishments had a German partner, followed by Spain (14 %) and Great Britain (12 %).

Incoming and outgoing student mobility

According to Campus France, France which “welcomed 229,623 students in 2018” is also the 6th country of origin of diploma mobility students in the world”. In 2018, nearly 99,448 French students went to study abroad, 10,000 more students than in the previous year (+10%).

Source:

https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/chiffres_cles/fr/chiffres_cles_2021_fr.pdf

Organisation of the education and training system

In France, school education is compulsory and free of charge from the age of 6 to 16. The education system is organised into 3 periods (cycles or levels):

1. First level (or Primary): the first level education brings together in primary schools, the pre-elementary education provided in nursery schools and elementary education in primary schools.
2. 2nd level: four years at [lower secondary school \(collège\)](#) followed by 3 years at [upper secondary school \(lycée\)](#)
3. Higher education. Access to higher education is determined by success in the [Baccalaureate](#)., a State examination providing a nationally recognised qualification

It is also worth mentioning pre-primary (nursery) education, which is particularly well organised and developed in France in comparison with other European countries. The nursery **school is a specific institution of the French education system.** It is an essential step in pupils’ educational experience. **It is free and organised into three**

sections: youngest, mid-range and older; children are taken in from the ages of three to the age of six, subject to the number of places available.

For further information, see Eurydice [2.3 Organisation of the Education System and of its Structure](#).

Compulsory education

Education is compulsory for all French and foreign children, from the age of 3 years to 16 completed years of age. Compulsory education from the age of 3 years recognises the fundamental role that nursery schools play in children's learning - including social learning.

Indeed, the **nursery school is a specific institution of the French education system**. It is an essential stage of the pupils' school career. It is free and divided into three sections: the young, middle and older section. Children may attend nursery school from the age of three to the age of six, subject to places being available.

Text: [Education code: articles L131-1 to L131-13](#)

Training obligation

Since the start of the 2020 school year, compulsory education or training has been extended to the age of 18.

This concerns **any minor between 16 and 18 years old**:

- **who is out of the school system;**
- **with or without a diploma** and who is not in employment, education or training

The training obligation makes it possible to identify and integrate professionally young people at risk of social exclusion. The local missions (see Glossary) control compliance with the training obligation.

Text: [Decree no. 2020-978 of 5 August 2020 on the training obligation for young people aged 16 to 18](#)

Main concepts

Among the concepts enabling at least partial understanding of the French education system are the notions of the **republican model** and **priority education**.

The republican school

The French education and teaching system is a "**republican**" (in reference to the **French political system**) **model** based on a number of founding principles:

- [Freedom of choice](#)
- [Free Provision](#)
- [Neutrality](#)
- [Secularism](#)
- [Compulsory schooling](#)

For further information, see Eurydice [2.1 Fundamental Principles and National Policies](#).

Priority education

The priority education policy is based on a map of the networks of primary and lower secondary schools.

Two types of networks have been identified: the **REP+** which concern isolated neighbourhoods or areas with the highest concentration of social difficulties with a strong impact on school success and the **REP**, which have a greater social diversity but encounter more significant social difficulties than those of the primary and lower secondary schools located outside education priority.

All the priority education networks conceive an educational project based on the [reference framework for priority education](#) which takes into account all the factors contributing to pupils' success. Furthermore, in order to improve learning conditions, classes of the final year of nursery school, as well as CP (1st grade) and CE1 (2nd grade) classes have been split in recent years, resulting in a reduction of class sizes.

Source: <https://eduscol.education.fr/1028/la-politique-de-l-education-prioritaire-les-reseaux-d-education-prioritaire-rep-et-rep>

6.2 Administration and governance

Cross-sectorial cooperation

In order to implement the different strategies, in particular for school success, and the education policies and programmes, the Ministry of National Education works together with many institutional and community-based stakeholders, as well as other educational institutions, particularly foreign ones, and local authorities (see Governance / governances of the ministries, public institutions, companies and associations).

These partners intervene according to their spheres of action, some of which correspond to those of the school programmes such as sport, professional integration, memory and citizenship, culture or ecological transition.

Various mechanisms in the field of extracurricular and out-of-school time education specifically based on cross-sectorial cooperation exist, such as the Territorial Education Projects (Projets éducatifs territoriaux, PEDT), the "Plan Mercredi" (Wednesday plan) or the "colonies apprenantes" (learning summer camps).

Territorial Education Project (PEDT)

Since 2013, the **Territorial Education Project** (Projet éducatif territorial, PEDT) has been set up as part of the evolution of school time. The PEDT is a **local cooperation tool** that can bring together all the stakeholders involved in the field of education: the decentralised services of ministries, including the ministry in charge of education and youth, family allowances funds (see Glossary), associations, sports clubs, etc.

In 2018, the Ministry of National Education announced the inauguration of a "Wednesday Plan" (Plan Mercredi).

- The Wednesday Plan

Introduced at the start of the 2018/2019 school year, the **Wednesday Plan is a scheme by which local authorities organise extracurricular recreational activities on Wednesdays for children from nursery school up to the last year of primary school age**. Like the Territorial Educational Project (PEDT – Projet éducatif territorial) of which it is part both legally and administratively, the **Wednesday Plan is based on partnerial work between local authorities, State departments (the Ministry of National Education in particular), Family Allowance Funds (CAFs – Caisses d'allocations familiales), youth associations and the sports and cultural sectors**. The Wednesday Plan seeks to develop the quality of the extracurricular offer, consolidate the educational character of Wednesday activities, and reduce social and territorial divides.

A "Wednesday Plan Quality" (Qualité Plan Mercredi) Charter organises Wednesday activities around four principles:

1. "extracurricular activities should complement time with family and time at school"
2. "recreational activities should be accessible to all children wishing to participate, particularly children with disabilities";
3. "extracurricular activities should be coherent with the region and with its stakeholders";
4. "rich and varied cultural, sports and nature activities should have the aim of a final project (artwork, show, exhibition, tournament, etc.)".

The learning summer camps

Holidays called “Colos apprenantes” (learning summer camps) are **offered by the organisers of summer camps**: non-formal education associations, local authorities, private structures, as well as works councils. They benefit from a certification granted by the State and offer programmes combining learning enhancement and leisure activities around culture, sports and sustainable development. They enable children and young people to “enhance their knowledge and skills in a fun environment and to prepare for the upcoming school year in good conditions.

State aid that can reach 80 % of the cost of the stay (subject to a ceiling of €400 per minor and per week) is offered to the co-partner communities of the scheme (20% of the funding). This aid can reach 100% when the stays are organised directly by associations. These certified stays are also open to all families, which can benefit from community rights aids (Family Allowances Fund vouchers, community aids, holiday vouchers).

Outside the context of PEDTs and Wednesday Plan, the Ministry of National Education also forms partnerships with a variety of operators:

- Partners in the field of sport

In order to encourage physical and sporting activities among schoolchildren, the Ministry has developed [partnerships with various stakeholders in the world of sport](#), including school sports associations and federations and sports federations and clubs approved by the [Ministry responsible for sport](#). School sports federations are:

- [the Primary Education Sports Union \(USEP – Union sportive de l’enseignement du premier degré\)](#) for elementary schools
- [the National School Sports Union \(UNSS – Union nationale du sport scolaire\)](#) for lower and upper secondary schools
- [the General Sports Union of Private Schools \(UGSEL – Union générale sportive de l’enseignement libre\)](#), a sports federation for the private education sector.

In September 2013, the Ministry of National Education signed [a framework agreement](#) with the French National Olympics and Sports Committee (CNOSF - Comité national olympique et sportif français) and the Ministry responsible for sport. The signatories undertook to **promote the educational values of sport and Olympism** and collaborate to foster **access to community sports programmes**. [19 \(non-scholastic\) French sports federations](#) also signed a framework agreement with the Ministry. The agreements were co-signed by the two main school sports federations, USEP and UNSS.

- Partners in the professional world

The Ministry of National Education has formed ties with companies and [professional organisations](#) in all sectors. Such links are expressed by a wide range of actions **targeting pupils, families and the educational community alike**: talks to schools given by economic operators, entrepreneurs in particular, visits to companies, job shadowing, and organisation of fairs and events such as “Industry Week” and “Company Week”.

In the context of vocational education (see Eurydice [6 Secondary and Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary Education](#)), **representatives of vocational sectors** are participating in the creation and renewal of vocational qualifications (CAP, professional baccalaureate, BTS, etc.).

- Partners in the field of artistic and cultural education

The Ministry of Education has joined forces with the [Ministry of Culture and Communication](#) in order to develop artistic and cultural practice as well as access to cultural structures, facilitate encounters with artists and artworks, and improve teacher training. This leads them to lend support to [associations and bodies specialising](#) in culture and which develop **actions designed for schoolchildren**, such as the “Springtime of Poets”

([Printemps des poètes](#)), the [Avignon Festival](#) and the [Jeunesses musicales de France association](#), which promotes music among the young.

Such cooperation aims to develop activities complementing artistic and cultural education and takes a variety of forms: **classes involved in artistic and cultural projects (PACs - projets artistiques et culturels)**, film projects, **art workshops**, **artists' residencies** and scientific and technical workshops.

- Partners in the field of scientific culture

As regards scientific culture, the Ministry works in close collaboration with such **scientific culture institutions** as [the Académie des Sciences](#), [the Académie des Technologies](#) and the [Cit  des Sciences et de l' Industrie](#).

- Partners in the field of citizenship education

In the context of citizenship education, the Ministry of Education carries out a range of educational actions in collaboration with remembrance foundations and associations as well as other institutions and/or ministries, such as the **Committee for the Memory and History of Slavery (CPMHE - Comit  pour la m moire et l'histoire de l'esclavage)** and the Ministry of Defence, which implements **educational actions** focusing on the memory of contemporary wars and conflicts and funds educational projects on the memory of war (First World War).

- European partnerships

Besides such cross-sectoral cooperation, the Ministry of National Education has also developed international partnerships, above all with other European countries, as is shown by schools' participation in the Erasmus + "Education" and "Youth and Sport" programmes and by mobility among schoolchildren (school trips, etc.) (For further information, see [Eurydice 13.5 Other Dimensions of Internationalisation in Higher Education](#)).

In addition, a number of "partner" European associations take an active part in raising pupils' and teachers' awareness of their European identity through a range of actions. They include

- [the European Association of Teachers \(AEDE – Association Association europ enne des enseignants\)](#)
- [ESHA - European School Heads Association](#)
- [ VEIL \(association\)](#)
- [GE21 – Generation Europe 21](#)
- [Maisons de l'Europe](#)
- International partnerships

The Ministry of National Education has a longstanding partnership with UNESCO, expressed in concrete form by **the network of schools associated with UNESCO** and such schools' network of UNESCO Clubs

The network was set up in 1953 in order to promote UNESCO's ideals; it is present in **over 180 countries**, comprising **almost 11,000 schools** from nursery to post-baccalaureate level.

In 2018, the French network comprises **135 schools** across Metropolitan and Overseas France.

UNESCO-associated schools are institutions that have defined a **three-year** interdisciplinary educational project with wide international openness and focus on UNESCO's priorities (sustainable development; heritage advocacy; global citizenship; intercultural dialogue; promotion of peace and human rights; international solidarity, etc.).

- **network of UNESCO Clubs funded by the Ministry responsible for youth**

UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs are groups of volunteers of varied ages and socioprofessional status, voluntary activists at the service of UNESCO's ideals.

Established with the authorisation of [UNESCO National Commissions](#), Clubs are grouped into national and international networks, their goal being to engage in fieldwork in UNESCO's areas of competence. More than 65 years after the creation of the first UNESCO Association in Japan in 1947, the movement numbered some 4000 UNESCO Centres, Associations and Clubs in over 100 countries across the world.

The UNESCO Clubs network which is financed in part by the Ministry in charge of youth affairs. In France, Clubs have the status of association (law of 1901). They are characterised by the nature and purpose of their activities but are all closely linked to the civil society in its diversity. Each Club can implement local or international projects thanks to partnerships in France and with the Clubs of other countries, organise visits, excursions, study trips, exchanges, set up conferences and debates, participate in symposiums, international Days, Weeks, Years, and Decades proclaimed by the United Nations and UNESCO (culture of peace, education for all, heritage conservation, sustainable development...).

In 2021, the French network has around a hundred clubs.

Moreover, schools and higher education institutions can also build partnerships with European and international schools as part of the implementation of mobility policies and educational cooperation projects. These partnerships can take different forms: they are intended to form part of "existing European and bilateral programmes [and] thereby contribute to the overall coherence of the international cooperation policy of France and the academy". (See 6.5)

Governance

The [Ministries responsible for National Education](#) and [Higher Education and Research](#) draft, oversee and coordinate education policies resulting from work in partnership involving the ministries' various departments and directorates, along with general inspectorates and related and advisory bodies. The Ministry of Education also cooperates with other ministries, including the Ministries of Agriculture, the ministry of social affairs and health, and the ministry responsible for defence, all of which contribute to public education.

In addition, since the 1980s, the education system has been **partially decentralised**, with local authorities assuming responsibility for the operation of educational institutions: Municipalities are responsible for primary schools, *Départements* for *collèges* and Regions for *lycées* and specialised institutions (agricultural schools, etc.). However, the State (Ministry) continues to be responsible for pedagogy (i.e. teaching methodology) and for definition of national curricula and programmes, teaching organisation and content, and delivery of national qualifications. In the same way, assignment of university grades and titles and management of staff recruitment are the prerogatives of the Ministry of Higher Education and its departments.

For further information and details see [Eurydice 2 Organisation and Governance, 2.6 Administration and Governance at Central and/or Regional Level](#) .

The role of local authorities in education and training

The municipality

The municipality is responsible for the **public schools (nursery and elementary) established on its territory**. It owns the premises and undertakes their construction, reconstruction, extension, and major repairs. It manages the budget for the equipping, operation and maintenance of the schools. It can organise complementary **educational, sports and cultural activities** within the school.

The department

The department is responsible for lower secondary schools. As such, it undertakes their **construction, reconstruction, extension, major repairs, equipping, and operation.**

The Region

The region is responsible for upper secondary schools, special education institutions and maritime vocational schools. As such, it undertakes their construction, reconstruction, extension, major repairs, equipping and operation. It can organise educational, sports and cultural activities.

Moreover, the region defines and implements the regional policy on apprenticeship and vocational training for young people and adults seeking employment or a new career direction.

6.3 Preventing early leaving from education and training (ELET)

National strategy

The prevention and reduction of early school leaving is a major theme of national and European educational policies. This being so, France is in line with the Europe 2020 strategy against early leaving from education and training which aims at halving the number of young people leaving the education system each year without a diploma, and limiting inequities in terms of access to knowledge while increasing the level of qualification and skills of the whole school population.

In France, this strategy focuses on prevention and remediation and is based on an inter-ministerial partnership work, particularly between the ministries in charge of National Education, labour, agriculture, health and overseas affairs, but also with local authorities, associations involved in the field of education, as well as families (of pupils) and representatives of the professional world. Local authorities and specifically the Regions also have a prominent role to play in the prevention of school failure, in particular because their competences in the area of early school leaving and vocational guidance have been reinforced by the public authorities.

This prevention plan is based, inter alia, on data and analyses produced by the ministerial studies services: the Centre for Studies and Research on Qualifications (CEREQ) under the joint authority of the ministries in charge of education and labour and [the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring](#) (DEPP) of the Ministry of National Education.

The political strategy against early school leaving has been subject to an assessment by the "Policy-making Modernisation" (Modernisation de l'action publique, MAP), with the publication in 2014 of a final [diagnostic report](#).

This preventive policy against early school leaving pursued since several years, is producing effects today with the decrease in the number of young people leaving school each year without a qualification. This decrease is due to a better identification of the young people and to the mobilisation of all the stakeholders at the heart of the prevention strategy.

Reference texts

- [Back-to-school 2020 circular dated 10 July 2020](#) (§ II -C: tackling early school leaving);
- [law n° 2018-771 of 5 September 2018 for the freedom to choose one's professional future](#)

Education code:

- articles [L122-2](#) (entitlement to qualifying training) and [L313-7](#) (obligation to provide the contact details of the young people who are no longer engaged in a training cycle).
- [Article L114-1](#) (training obligation for young people between 16 and 18 years old) ;

Formal education: main policy measures on ELET

Formal education plays a key role in the “[Everyone mobilised against school dropout](#)” plan, in particular due to the fact that teachers are in a position to detect pupils experiencing difficulties.

A **training programme on prevention and detection** of early signs of dropout was organised for teaching staff, who had already been made aware of the importance of teamwork and working with parents. “School dropout advisors” acting under the aegis of school heads were added to school staff ([Circular no.2013-035 of 29 March 2013](#)).

Other measures contained in the plan were implemented by the Ministry of National Education including:

- **Creation of a body** of National Education **psychologists**;
- **Organisation of “educational alliances”** bringing together a range of stakeholders, including parents, and coordinating interventions by various professionals in the field of education and external partners;
- Setup of “**parent spaces**”, consisting of regular meetings with parents, particularly those whose children are in danger of dropping out of school;
- Implementation of an “**Opening the school to parents** for successful integration” scheme, designed for allophone pupils and aiming to develop French-language acquisition;
- Annual organisation of “**Perseverance Week**” at all local education authorities*, providing an occasion to promote preventive actions and schemes implemented in schools (*the local education authority is the Ministry of National Education’s reference administrative district);
- Development of school/company actions;
- Creation of **information centres** for 16-25 y/o who have left the school system and wish to resume their education: website reviensteformer.fr and hotline.

Within the Ministry of National Education, a specific mission to tackle early school leaving with personnel and resources is implementing target actions: the **mission to tackle early school leaving (mission de lutte contre le décrochage scolaire, MLDS) aims to prevent early school leaving, facilitate access to a diploma and qualification for early school leavers, and secure training paths.**

The missions and skills of the staff involved in the MLDS are defined by a national framework of activities and competencies.

- The prevention activity is conducted in schools by “early school leaving prevention groups” (GPDS).
- An “early school leaving referent” is responsible for coordinating the activity and support actions of the GPDS.

The fight against early school leaving is given concrete expression through:

- A tool; the **inter-ministerial information exchange system (système interministériel d’échange d’informations, SIEI)** enables a detection of early school leavers based on the cross-use of the databases of the Ministry of National Education and its partners (agriculture, apprentice training centres, employment) as part of annual identification campaigns

• **Platforms for follow-up and support to early school leavers (plateformes de suivi et d'appui aux décrocheurs, PSAD)**, responsible for contacting the young people identified by the SIEI to offer them an interview and an individualised solution for their re-entry into education / training or vocational integration.

In addition, the Ministry of National Education also works jointly with community-based stakeholders in order to implement this strategy. For example, since 2010, it has been leading a partnership with the [Fondation de France](#), the first French philanthropy network to tackle early school leaving.

Addressing ELET through non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Since the 2020 new school year, measures against early school leaving have been reinforced by article 15 (entry into force at the start of the 2020 school year) of the law no. 2019-791 of 26 July 2019 which imposes a training obligation for all 16 to 18 year olds. **The targeted audience is young people who are not in education, training or employment, "NEET"**.

The training obligation goes beyond formal education, as well as the right to re-enter education or the entitlement to vocational training: it includes other situations such as employment, the civic service (public volunteering scheme) and engagement in a support or social and vocational integration mechanism. This measure is aimed at an out-of-school audience and mobilises stakeholders outside the vocational field of formal education such as local missions (see Glossary) which are responsible for ensuring compliance with this training obligation, in close cooperation with the other stakeholders: schools, information and guidance centres, Pôle emploi (see Glossary).

Other partners are involved:

- the **structures of the Youth Information network and information tools for young people**
- the **youth legal protection services**
- **associations specialising in the field of disability**
- **sports associations** which can help identify the public concerned by the training obligation.
- **associations with a Youth and Non-formal Education authorisation** involved in many areas of youth work ("animation"), collective reception of minors, socio-education, specialised prevention, such as [La ligue de l'enseignement \(the Teaching League\)](#), [AFEV](#), the [Civic Service Agency](#) or [UnisCité, Booster programme](#).

Besides the partnerships, institutional schemes which are not part of formal education aim to reduce and prevent early school leaving:

Second chance schools (E2c)

Second chance schools (Ecoles de la deuxième chance, E2c) offer specific courses for early school leavers at the infra-V level with 6 month programmes for updating basic knowledge at the end of lower secondary school and promoting social and vocational integration with significant periods of in-company placements. E2c serve 15,000 young people and form a network of 46 schools on 110 sites spread across the country.

The Epide

The public establishment for integration into employment (établissement public d'insertion dans l'emploi, EPIDE) welcomes 3,000 young "dropouts" with no qualification or diploma and offers them sessions lasting on average 8 months in internship where re-socialisation is the main objective. This organisation has 20 centres in Metropolitan France. The trainees

attend refresher courses there. The scheme has a military dimension even if the young people do not necessarily join the army.

Source: [Epidé](#)

The adapted military service (SMA) and the voluntary military service (SMV)

Under the Ministry of Overseas affairs, the adapted military service (SMA) is a military socio-professional integration scheme for young people between the ages of 18 and 25 who are remote from the labour market. The aim is to provide young people with a 6-12 month route to employment, within specific military units. The programme is organised around two pillars: training in community life and vocational training. SMV is the extension of SMA to Metropolitan France.

[Website of the adapted military service](#)

The Youth Guarantee

The Youth Guarantee scheme, aimed at 16-25 year olds with little or no qualifications, who are neither enrolled in a cycle of studies, nor in training or employment, operates **alongside** all the measures established to prevent early school leaving. The Youth Guarantee **limits the casualisation of young** so-called “dropouts” and is intended to lead these young people in very precarious situations toward independence and support them in their socio-vocational integration. Furthermore, the Youth Guarantee, which is also a multi-partnership and cross-sectoral scheme (see Youth Wiki 3.6 Integration of Young people in the labour market) acts complementarily, particularly as a result of its target audience (age group) of 16-25 year olds, whereas the schemes for preventing early school leaving are most often aimed at a younger audience, in particular children in primary and secondary schools.

For more information on the prevention of early school leaving, see Eurydice [“Tackling early leaving from education and training in Europe”](#).

Cross-sector coordination and monitoring of ELET interventions

The early school leaving prevention plan is a multi-partnership and cross-sectoral plan, initiated and coordinated by the Ministry of National Education, mobilising various stakeholders: ministries, local authorities, institutions, public operators, associations and companies. This mobilisation translates into several initiatives and the creation of structures and tools including [the follow-up and support to early school leavers platforms \(PSAD\) which are at the heart of this policy against early school leaving](#): “the coordination tool for all the local stakeholders involved in the phases of identification, support and follow-up of the young people who have left the education system with no diploma or qualification.”

These platforms integrate in particular the Training Qualification Employment (FOQUALE) networks, which are deployed throughout the country and bring together the establishments and schemes affiliated to national education. There are today around 380 PSAD.

“Dropout” monitoring and support platforms

Such platforms are a way of coordinating local stakeholders in the training, guidance and integration of young people. They aim to provide rapid personalised answers to any young person over 16 years old who has left the education system unqualified and with no professional certification. They are coordinated by regional authorities (Chief Education Officers, Regional Prefects and Presidents of Regional Councils). Such platforms include Information and Guidance Centres (CIOs – Centres d’Information et d’Orientation) and local missions that receive and inform young people. (For information on CIOs and local missions, see [Youth Wiki 3.4 Career Guidance and Counselling](#)).

Platforms may bring in the following interest parties to assist their operation (non-exhaustive list):

- Actors in education: schools, school heads, etc.;
- Actors in employment: local missions, Pôle Emploi (Job Centres), training bodies, companies, employers organisations, etc.;
- Actors in healthcare: social workers, representatives of associations, child welfare services, etc.;
- Actors in youth volunteering schemes: Civic Service Agency ([see Youth Wiki 2.2 Administration and governance of Youth Volunteering: main actors](#)).

A guide on implementing platforms has been drawn up: [Guide des Plates-formes de suivi et d'appui aux jeunes en situation de décrochage](#) (Guide to platforms for monitoring and support of early school leavers).

6.4 Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning

Several arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning outcomes have been introduced by the public authorities; some of them validate skills acquired during **volunteering experience**, such as “bénévole passports” and skills portfolios, which are intended in particular for the students described in the chapter on [2.8 “Skills recognition”](#) others **validate professional experience**, such as the “Accreditation of prior work experience” (VAE - Validation des acquis de l’expérience) scheme.

This tool (skills portfolio) helps volunteers who so wish to identify and formulate the skills implemented through their experiences, and to build upon their learning achievements in their associative, educational or career paths.

The VAE is defined by Article 133 of [Law no.2002-73 of 17 January 2002](#), which stipulates that “anyone in the labour market has the right to have their prior work experience accredited” in view of obtainment of a professional qualification listed in the National Directory of Professional Certification (See [RNCP glossary](#)).

The **VAE** is overseen by the Ministry of Labour, but its practical implementation depends on the institution responsible for delivering the qualification (Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forests, Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs, Ministry of National Education, etc.). Anyone, whatever their age, nationality, status or educational level, who can show proof of at least one year’s experience directly connected with the qualification sought after may apply for the VAE, as [Article L613-3](#) of the National Education Code confirms.

Digital tools

Some public institutions have developed digital tools for validating skills as part of non-formal education, for example open badges.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food offers Agricultural Education students who have shared an international mobility experience the chance to build on their skills with digital Open Badges: “Reporter” and “Ambassador” #Moveagri. [MoveAgri](#) is a website which operates like a social network, dedicated to agricultural education teachers and learners, to help prepare and build upon mobilities abroad. These **badges** recognise the young person’s commitment and enable him or her to make visible the abilities developed during this mobility experience.

For further information, see Eurydice [8.5 Validation of non-formal and informal learning](#).

Information and guidance

In order to make known the mechanisms for validating learning achievements in a non-formal learning setting, the ministries concerned and associations develop tools and implement promotion campaigns.

Portfolio of volunteer skills

The France Bénévolat association, in partnership with Pôle Emploi (see Glossary) and the ministry in charge of youth and community life development, has built the skills portfolio. It is a tool presenting skills demonstrated and acquired through voluntary experience that can be identified and recognised as qualifications by employer structures.

This booklet is in open access on the website "association.gouv.fr" of the ministry in charge of community life development.

Associations and non-formal education structures provide information on their validation mechanisms through their communication channels: website, social networks, online platforms, etc.

VAE advice relay points (PRCs – points-relais conseil) have been set up at regional level at such public operators and associations as Pôle Emploi and local missions. Local VAE branches and offices have been set up in higher education and training institutions, providing information on qualifications accessible via the VAE.

The [National Committee for Professional Certification \(CNCP - Commission nationale des certifications professionnelles\)](#) keeps such information bodies' contact details updated and makes them available on its website.

Quality assurance

Since its creation in 2002, the VAE scheme has been the subject of [several reports](#), drawn up by such ministerial statistics and studies departments as the Centre for Studies and Research on Qualifications (CEREQ – Centre d'études et de recherches sur les qualifications) and the [General Delegation for Employment and Vocational Training \(DGEFP - Délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle\)](#).

The VAE (accreditation of prior work experience - validation de l'acquis de l'expérience) scheme is the subject of many analyses and assessments which are listed on a [dedicated resource website](#) (Vae.gouv.fr). It includes over 500 selected references of books, journal articles, official texts, and theses. Videos of testimonials from VAE professionals (consultants, accompaniers...) are also offered. The references are listed in chronological order. These various resources address adjustments to the scheme, its application in companies and its impact.

An evaluation of the VAE system (2015) was launched by to a General Inspectorate of Social Affairs (IGAS), the General Inspectorate of National Education (IGEN) . This assessment made it possible to identify 20 measures to transform the VAE system aimed at improving the system, including :

- shorter waiting times for candidates";
- "simplified administrative procedures and formalities to be complied with to engage in the scheme";
- "a reinforced guidance to enable the best guarantee of success for candidates, targeting of the VAE as a priority towards audiences that are unemployed or at risk of losing employment, in promising sectors or particular territories (in keeping with urban policies for example) in order to make VAE a tool for employment policy";
- "development of collective VAE projects in connection with employment areas".

6.5 Cross-border learning mobility

Policy framework

European and international openness is a priority for all schools. In March 2009, as part of the "Europe 2020" strategy, the Council of the European Union set goals for "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". Mobility is one of these major goals for the coming

decade. The Government would like **training periods abroad - both in Europe and in the rest of the world - to become the rule, not the exception.**

Considered as a driver of school success, mobility is promoted by public authorities and education authorities through programmes and mechanisms with multiple objectives: **training citizens of the world, facilitating post-secondary studies** in another country, and allowing pupils and students to have **access to a wider labour market.**

This mobility policy is based not only on the [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+, the Union's programme for education and training, youth and sport, and repealing the regulation \(EU\) no. 1288/2013](#), but also on national texts such as the circular no. 2011-116 of 3 August 2011 on [Management of European and international mobility in lower and upper secondary schools](#) or the instruction No. DJEPVA/BRI/2016/18 dated 14 January 2016 on [international mobility of young people and European and international cooperation](#).

It is also accomplished through various actions: the building of **partnerships between public authorities, institutions**, and through **bilateral or multilateral cooperation.**

School and international higher education partnerships

Partnerships between establishments enable the whole education community (teachers, administrative staff, pupils and students) to gather around **specific, sustainable and multidisciplinary projects. They strengthen knowledge production as well as the international visibility of establishments**, above all higher education and research institutions.

Within the framework of secondary education, pupils are also called upon to individually relay these partnerships and create links and distance exchanges with their correspondents by using information and communication technology (visioconferencing, IT tool, radio programmes...).

International and European mobility grants

In order to support international mobility for all young people, departure grant schemes have been set up in particular by higher education establishments.

International mobility aid is intended to support the international mobility of students who wish to undertake a higher education course abroad **within the framework of an exchange programme or to carry out an international internship.** This course or internship must be part of their course of study.

It takes the form of an additional grant to the bursary awarded on social grounds, for the students benefiting from it. **The monthly instalment is 400 euros.** The length of the student's aided stay abroad cannot be shorter than two months or longer than nine consecutive months.

The beneficiaries of this aid are selected by the higher education establishment they depend on.

Other grants and bursaries can be offered by Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by local authorities (regional councils, municipalities...).

Mobility grants for French overseas young people

Within the framework of the policy of the Ministry of Overseas France in favour of Ultramarine youth, the State has set up a fund the purpose of which is to contribute to the financing of expenditure relating to transport costs in the context of educational, cultural and sports exchanges: the Educational, Cultural and Sports Exchange Fund (Fonds d'Echanges à But Educatif, Culturel et Sportif, FEBECS).

This fund is based on article 40 of the Overseas Guidance Law No. 2000-1207 of 13 December 2000).

The FEBECS makes it possible to participate in the coverage of expenses related to the transport costs of young people under 30 years of age in the context of trips occasioned by cultural events or trips, language trips, competitions or sports events.

The fund is intended exclusively for the financing of travel to Metropolitan France and to the regional environment (neighbour departments and countries in the area).

Main cross-border mobility programmes for students in formal education

Among the learning mobility programmes and schemes, a distinction can be made between those aimed at pupils and students and those reserved for teachers.

Exchange and mobility schemes are many and varied: some are part of a European programme (Erasmus+, ...), of a bilateral programme or a specific awareness-raising campaign. They can be individual projects or collective projects within the framework of exchanges, partnerships or travels. The most important programmes include those of the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ) and those of the Erasmus + Education/training programme.

A few examples of mobility programmes (the projects described here are indicative)

“Programme Brigitte Sauzay” of the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ)

Through the Brigitte Sauzay programme, the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ) encourages lower and upper secondary pupils (from grade 8 to 11) to take part in an individual school exchange. Participants spend 3 months in a host family in Germany and host their correspondent for the same length of time in France. Each pupil attends the school of the partner for at least 6 weeks.

The programme makes it possible to experience a genuine immersion both into the school system and into the daily life of the neighbour country. It facilitates the learning of the German language and the development of social and intercultural skills. The financial support consists of a flat-rate amount for travel expenses.

Website: <https://www.ofaj.org/>

“London” bursaries programme

The so-called “London” bursaries offer French upper secondary school pupils the opportunity to spend a school year (second or final year of upper secondary school) in one of the six French establishments abroad: London, Vienna, Munich, Barcelona, Madrid and Dublin. This programme is aimed at pupils enrolled in an upper secondary school in France in the tenth and eleventh grade to spend the eleventh or twelfth grade year in a French high school abroad.

It is a grant covering 100% of the cost of schooling and expenses related to schooling abroad (except travel expenses between France and the high school); the amount of the grant is established according to the income of the pupil’s parents. A host family is provided for.

Erasmus + programmes 2021-2027

The Erasmus+ programme + 2021-2027 is an important instrument to build the [European space of education by 2025](#). It contributes to the implementation of the [new European strategic framework in the field of education and training](#), to advance cooperation on youth policy.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Erasmus+ programme implements the following actions:

- Key action 1 - Mobility for education and training purposes;
- Key action 2 - Cooperation between organisations and institutions;
- Key action 3 - Supporting policy making and cooperation;

- Jean Monnet actions.

The Erasmus+ programme + 2021-2027 continues to cover all the sectors of education and training: school education, higher education, vocational education and training and adult education, as well as the sports and youth sectors.

International students in France

The “bienvenue en France” (welcome to France) strategy

Announced by the Prime Minister in November 2018, the “Bienvenue en France” strategy aims to achieve the target of 500,000 international mobility students in France in 2027.

This new strategy for higher education attractiveness is based on the improvement of conditions for receiving international students.

Several measures concern the issuance of visas, in particular “**harmonising and simplifying** the documents necessary for student visa applications”.

The strategy focuses on the development of a real **culture of hospitality** with the wish to generalise all the good practices already existing within French establishments. The measures provide for:

- **“The creation of a “Bienvenue en France” label** attributed by Campus France to establishments that tangibly improve the reception of international students.
- Systematising **single reception desks** for foreign students
- The supervision of each foreign student by a **referent**,
- **Facilitated access to housing** with access to the **Lokaviz platform** in English language and the creation of a **Maison des étudiants francophones (House of French-speaking students)** at the Cité Internationale Universitaire in Paris,
- The doubling of the **French as a foreign language (Français Langue Etrangère, FLE)** courses and the **training courses taught in English”**.

<https://www.campusfrance.org/fr>

Promoting mobility in the context of non-formal learning, and of youth work

As for the formal education programmes, the mobility policies in the non-formal field are based on **legislative frameworks, partnerships between public authorities and community-based stakeholders** and take shape through **cooperation** between States or between European and international institutions.

Moreover, since 2018, the legislative and regulatory framework has been supplemented in higher education with the Decree 2018-372 of 18 May 2018 on the **temporary suspension of studies in public institutions delivering higher education initial training courses**.

This decree recognises the possibility for any student to suspend their studies once during the university cycle for a period ranging from six months to a year, to gain a personal or professional experience, either on their own or under the supervision of a host body in France or abroad. Such time off is at the student’s own initiative and cannot be made compulsory in the course the student is taking. This decree enables students to experience mobility outside a formal setting.

Stakeholders in the fields of youth work and non-formal education, in partnership with the ministries responsible for youth policies (National Education), offer a **range of non-formal mobility schemes designed for young people**. Fostering access to such schemes for young people from **disadvantaged backgrounds** is one of the challenges taken up by the public authorities and youth mobility operators.

The main non-formal mobility schemes are:

- The programmes organised by [the Franco-German Youth Office \(OFAJ - Office Franco-allemand\)](#) and the Franco-Quebecois Youth Office (OFQJ – Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse)
- International civic service set up by [the Civic Service Agency](#)
- Mobility actions (European voluntary service, youth exchanges, etc.) included in the Erasmus + programme
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Youth Solidarity- City Life Holiday" (JSI-VVSI – Jeunesse Solidarité-Ville Vie Vacances) programmes
- International Solidarity Volunteering (VSI – Volontariat de solidarité internationale)

The Youth Wiki chapter "[2.6 Cross-border mobility programmes](#)" describes these various schemes.

Moreover, the **Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) launches annually calls for "youth" projects** designed to support decentralised cooperation projects involving French and foreign young people mobilised in the context of volunteering schemes or vocational training courses.

The calls have enjoyed technical support from the Ministry of National Education (Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and NGOs (DJEPVA – Direction de la jeunesse, de la vie associative et de l'éducation populaire)), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Department for Culture, Education, Research and Networking (DCERR – Direction de la culture, de l'enseignement, de la recherche et du réseau)), France Volontaires, the Civic Service Agency (ASC – Agence du Service Civique) and the two Erasmus+ Agencies, and the support of the Schneider Electric Foundation.

Fostering mobility for socially disadvantaged young people

Apart from these schemes, there are the non-compulsory actions implemented by local authorities (Regional Councils and municipalities) to foster non-formal mobility, in particular on the part of young people experiencing economic difficulties or with fewer opportunities :

Young people from Overseas France

For young people from Overseas France, the Exchange Fund for Educational, Cultural and Sports Purposes (FEBECS – Fond d'échanges à but éducatif, culturel ou sportif), set up in the context of the Framework Law for Overseas France of 13 December 2000, helps cover transport costs for young people under 30 years of age in the context of educational, cultural and sports exchanges (to "Metropolitan" France or the regional environment (neighbouring territories)).

It supports mobility on the part of young people from the Antilles-Guyana area, Reunion Island, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Wallis-et-Futuna, and Mayotte to Metropolitan France.

Quality assurance

In order to assess the impact of mobility on the schooling, vocational and social integration of young people, the ministries concerned and student and pupil mobility operators regularly carry out a quantitative and qualitative data production work.

The assessments of the schemes also aim to improve them.

These assessments are designed by ministerial statistics and studies departments such as the [Centre for Studies and Research on Qualifications](#) (CEREQ) under the joint supervision of the ministries in charge of labour and national education, the **Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP) of the Ministry of National Education** and the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut national de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire, INJEP), which regularly conduct [studies](#) on the mobility scheme in a formal and non-formal educational setting.

Mobility operators such as the Erasmus+ Agency and the Franco-German Youth Office also assess their own mobility schemes and their effects on youth.

Mobility and safety

Other **monitoring processes** aiming at controlling the smooth and proper implementation of mobility are also set up by the Ministry of National Education and its ministerial partners (Ministry in charge of foreign affairs).

6.6 Social inclusion through education and training

Educational support

Inclusive education

Enabling School to be fully inclusive is a strong ambition of the Government which has made the schooling of pupils with disabilities a priority of the five-year term. [The law no. 2019-791 for a "school of trust" devotes its chapter IV to this subject](#). The aim is, within the framework of a public service of inclusive school, to ensure a quality schooling for all pupils from nursery school to upper secondary school and the consideration of their particular educational needs.

Inclusion actions are based on the [back-to-school 2019 circular - Inclusive School](#) (BO of 5 June 2019) the purpose of which is to specify the actions and means to be implemented from the 2019 school year to introduce in each academy and in each department a public service of the Inclusive School:

1. "Establishing an Inclusive School departmental service
2. Organising local inclusive support centres
3. Better receiving parents and better schooling pupils
4. Recognising the work of teachers, supporting them and deploying an accessible training offer
5. Strengthening the affiliation of Pupils with disabilities with the educational community
6. Simplifying procedures for all
7. Better monitoring the inclusive paths and assessing the quality of actions".

Pupils with disabilities can stay on a full-time or part-time basis in a medico-welfare establishment or be schooled in [Local Units for School Inclusion \(Unités localisées pour l'inclusion scolaire, ULIS\)](#) which enable the enrolment in primary and secondary schools of a group of pupils with cognitive or mental function disorders (specific language, learning, motor function, hearing and eyesight disorders, multiple disabilities or disabling illnesses).

A [guide for the schooling of children and adolescents with disabilities](#), designed to inform the families, was developed in 2018 in partnership with the MAIF (Mutual benefit organisation).

Measures for pupils with severe difficulties

Organising teaching in Segpa

At lower secondary school, adapted general education and vocational training sections (Segpa) welcome pupils with severe and persistent educational difficulties.

The specific organisation of the schooling of lower secondary school children benefiting from the adapted general education and vocational training section (Segpa) is characterised by teaching within the Segpa, learning sequences with the pupils of other classes and the implementation of common projects between the Segpa classes and lower secondary school classes.

The Segpa involves **comprehensive care** in the context of adapted education, based on an analysis of the pupils' potential and difficulties. "Adapting the teaching provided to

pupils implies arrangements for learning situations, materials and paces, and the adjustment of pedagogical and didactic approaches”.

Enrolling newly arrived allophone pupils and children from non-sedentary families at school

The implementation of Inclusive School for allophone pupils recently arrived in France (élèves allophones nouvellement arrivés, EANA) and children from non-sedentary families (enfants issus de familles itinérantes et de voyageurs, EFIV) is an important issue for the national education which has set up programmes for the inclusion of these more vulnerable pupils.

These programmes are based on **principles shared by all the stakeholders in education**:

- **“The professional posture and ethics** necessary for taking into account the particular needs of the pupil;
- The implementation of a **collective project** within the school or the establishment, mobilising the whole school community and local partners;
- The development of a **personalised path**, allowing the pupil to undergo school education in his ordinary class, with his peers, by benefiting from the pedagogical support he needs;
- The **renewal of pedagogical practices**, to better understand learning processes, adapt the teaching contents, implement a differentiated and positive assessment;
- The attention paid to **dialogue with the parents** to facilitate the follow-up of their child’s schooling;
- **Long-term follow-up of the pupils** to foster learning continuity”.

Academic centres for the education of newly arrived allophone children (centres académiques pour la scolarisation des enfants allophones nouvellement arrivés, CASNAV)

Academic centres for the education of newly arrived allophone children and children from non-sedentary families are responsible for providing their advice and pedagogical expertise to the various stakeholders concerned by the schooling of these pupils. They organise and facilitate training actions concerning these audiences and also support educational teams in schools and educational establishments.

The missions of the CASNAV are as follows:

- **“An educational expertise mission** which contributes to the management, organisation and monitoring of academic systems, and to the [statistical monitoring of EANA](#), in conjunction with the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP);
- **A body for cooperation and mediation** between the academic and departmental services, the municipalities, social services, associations and families;
- **A resource and training centre** for the staff, schools and establishments through initial and continuing education activities, the coordination of pedagogical working groups, the publication and dissemination of teaching materials”.

Indeed, various specific resources such as audio and audiovisual resources and bilingual welcome booklets, are produced to welcome allophone pupils.

For further information, see Eurydice [12 Educational Support and Guidance](#)

The chapter 12 of **Eurydice [12 Educational Support and Guidance](#)** describes the various social inclusion measures implemented by stakeholders in education.

Providing financial aid

Depending on what resources they have available, schoolchildren and students can benefit from financial aid, **school and university grants** in particular. Grants are awarded for an academic year. There are three levels, depending on the resources of the person or people taking responsibility for pupils in question, and the number of children involved.

In addition, municipalities, *départements* and regions may also award grants to schoolchildren and students on their territory. Such financial assistance depends on the policies implemented by local authorities: they therefore vary from one municipality to the next and from one region to another.

In the event of financial problems, schoolchildren and students can benefit from exceptional financial aid financed by **their institution's social fund** (lower secondary, upper secondary or student social funds)

For further information see Youth Wiki [4.6 Access to quality services](#)

Facilitating the schooling of disabled children

Schooling for disabled children has been a legal principle since the Law of 11 February 2005. A range of measures facilitate their inclusive education, financial aids among them: **the Disabled Child Education Allowance (AAEH – Allocation d'éducation de l'enfant handicapé)**, the **Disability Compensation Benefit** (PCH – Prestation de compensation du handicap), the **Disability Card** (Carte d'invalidité) and provision of specialised transport. In addition to such assistance, pupils can stay fulltime or part-time in a medicosocial institution or be schooled at **Local Units for Educational Inclusion (ULISs - Unités localisées pour l'inclusion scolaire)**, which provide primary and secondary education for groups of children with cognitive or mental disorders (specific language and learning disorders, motor function, auditory or visual disorders, multiple disabilities or disabling illnesses).

For further information, see Eurydice [12 Educational Support and Guidance](#)

Schooling allophone children

Schools' intake obligations apply as much to allophone [children newly arrived in France](#) as they do to other pupils. Special resources such as bilingual welcome booklets are provided and educational inclusion projects created to help cope with allophone pupils.

For further information refer to Eurydice [12 Educational Support and Guidance](#).

Social cohesion and equal opportunities

Several information campaigns on civic rights and raising awareness of democratic values are organised at secondary schools and higher education institutions on a yearly basis, in partnership with human rights defence associations. They aim to foster and reinforce tolerance and successful coexistence. For further information [see 5.9 Raising awareness among young people](#).

See also:

- Eurydice report, [Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education](#).
- Eurydice chapter [Promoting Equity, Social Cohesion and Active Citizenship](#).
- Eurydice report [Citizenship Education in Europe](#).

6.7 Skills for innovation

Innovation in formal education

In the National Education, innovation is associated with experimentation, but also with scientific research and international comparisons. It is a lever for progress for the education system. It also plays a key role in the school's capacity to adapt, including in the Covid-19 health crisis.

The "Common Core of Knowledge and Skills" ([Socle commun de connaissances et de compétences et de culture](#)) ([Decree no.2015-372 of 31 March 2015](#)) represents everything that children between 6 and 16 y/o must know and have mastered by the end of compulsory schooling. It includes all knowledge, skills and values required for a pupil's success at school, in their personal lives and as citizens. At primary and lower secondary school, all subjects taught have a role to play in acquisition of the common core, including artistic, cultural and sports activities.

A new common core of knowledge, skills and culture was introduced at the start of the 2016/2017 school year. It is organised around [5 domains](#):

1. **languages for thinking and communicating;**
2. **methods and ways of learning;**
3. **forming the person and the citizen;**
4. **natural systems and technical systems;**
5. **representations of the world and human activity.**

The new common core reinforces and reasserts the need to master certain "basic" areas of knowledge (languages, mathematics, etc.) and also strengthens various skills connected with innovation, such as use of digital technology in Domain 2 "Methods and ways of learning".

In primary and secondary schools, digital technology is incorporated in the programmes for each discipline. The aim is to train pupils in the use of digital tools, equip them with the skills required for their future professional life, develop their critical thinking and provide them with the codes necessary to master the new means of communication and use responsibly the new media, including the Internet.

These skills are assessed as part of the common core of knowledge, skills and culture at primary and lower secondary school. For pupils in the ninth grade, digital skills are assessed as part of the French certificate of general education (diplôme national du brevet): the written test in mathematics, science and technology now includes a computer programming exercise.

In addition, the PIX online platform for digital skills assessment and certification makes it possible to assess the pupils from the grade 8 upwards. In upper secondary school, the pupils' digital skills are assessed as part of the computing and Internet certification (brevet informatique et internet, B2i), the purpose of which is to certify the proficiency level of the pupils in Internet and multimedia tools.

Apart from the programmes themselves, innovation also concerns teaching practices and methods. **The right to try out new teaching methods** was instigated by the Ministry of National Education in 2005. Within schools, teachers may draw support from the "Research, Development, Innovation and Experimentation Department" (DRDIE – Département recherche-développement innovation et expérimentation). The department's role is to foster innovation and carry out research in the field of education.

Resources and tools are made available to teachers so that they can try out innovative approaches, such as [the "experiment library" \("expérithèque"\)](#), which lists all innovative and experimental projects implemented in schools. 5000 projects are listed in it. Some of them may be rewarded during [Innovation Days](#) in which innovative educational actions implemented in the context of calls for projects are rewarded and receive "Innovation Prizes". Teachers can also receive further training during "Innovation Days", which

organise professional training modules for participants as well as conferences bringing together researchers, education professionals and school partners.

Teachers have resources and tools to test innovative approaches, such as [the “Innovating and experimenting” section of the information platform Eduscol](#), [the ‘innovathèque’ \(innovation library\)](#) which lists the innovative and experimental projects implemented in schools. 5,000 projects are listed there. This list of innovative and experimental actions makes all the projects conducted at the academic, inter-academic and national level known to the general public and the staff of the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports.

The “innovathèque” also offers the possibility for innovative teams to be **advised and supported by the academic units for research, development, innovation and experimentation (cellules académiques de la recherche, du développement, de l’innovation et de l’experimentation, CARDIE)** which help them refine their project or give shape to their actions.

Teachers can also be trained during the “national day of innovation” which offers participants professional training modules as well as conferences mobilizing researchers, education professionals and school partners. Indeed, the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports annually organises the National Day of Innovation. **The eleventh edition was held on 7 April 2021.**

This event aims to promote the research and innovation capacity of the education system and its stakeholders. During this day, professionals (inspectors, trainers, teachers, head teachers, directors) and researchers are invited to share their vision and experiences, for the benefit of all.

Fostering innovation through non-formal and informal learning and youth work

The Ministry of National Education has set up a programme of “educational actions” ([actions éducatives](#)), defined as actions “**in continuity of and complementary to educational action in the classroom, [promoting] collective and individual initiatives, [encouraging] crosscutting approaches and [contributing] to the development of partnerships**”. Educational actions under [the Circular bearing on the 2016/2017 Programme of Educational Actions in the Bulletin Officiel of 22 September 2016](#) are very much at the crossroads of formal, informal and non-formal education.

The educational action offer is organised into nine themes:

- Scientific, technical, industrial and entrepreneurial culture;
- Education in citizenship;
- Artistic and cultural education;
- Education in the environment and sustainable development;
- Media and information literacy;
- Language, literature and philosophy;
- History and memory;
- Sport, healthcare, safety and responsibility ;
- Research, innovation, experimentation, use of digital technology.

Implementation of such actions may rely on members of the [Ministry of National Education’s “Citizen Reserve” \(Réserve citoyenne\)](#), which is made up of bénévoles. They are carried out through organisation of competitions, multi-partner events such as the [“French young mathematicians tournament \(TFJM², Tournoi français des jeunes mathématiciennes et mathématiciens \)”](#). the “Fête de la Science” (Science Festival) or the [“Cosmos à l’École” \(Cosmos at School\) project,](#) the result of a partnership between the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS – Centre national de

recherche scientifique), the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (EONR) and French teachers.

Education actions can take practical form through the organisation of competitions, multi-partnership events, such as the “Fête de la science” (Science Festival), or the “**Cosmos à l'École**” (Cosmos at School) project resulting from the partnership between the National Centre for Scientific Research (Centre national de recherche scientifique, CNRS), the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (Organisation européenne pour la recherche nucléaire, CERN) and French teachers.

Édu-up scheme

Furthermore, the Ministry of National Education supports the production of innovative digital solutions thanks to the Edu-up scheme which consists of a subsidy of up to €70,000. This scheme is based on a partnership between stakeholders in national education and those involved in digital technology or in the field of non-formal education.

It is aimed at any private or public company, as well as start-ups, associations, foundations and public interest groupings (groupement d'intérêt public, GIP). It subsidises (up to 50% of the budget) an innovative project for the creation of high value-added contents and services for the educational environment. The digital solutions should concern educational, technological, economic and organisational uses and must be inclusive.

The solutions produced under this scheme are made available to teachers and their pupils, in most cases in free access. For example, one of the innovative projects supported is the “**Dédys**” project: a tool for inclusion, intended for children with dyscalculia and all young children, for whom images can be used as a learning enhancement tool.

Site: https://eduscol.education.fr/2258/des-ressources-numeriques-innovantes-et-adaptees-grace-au-dispositif-edu?menu_id=2811

6.8 Media literacy and safe use of new media

National strategy

Enabling pupils to exercise their citizenship in a society of information, forming enlightened citizens capable of analysing and criticising the media and its content is one of the aims of the **Ministry of Education**, which has introduced “Media and information literacy” (EMI – Education aux médias et à l’information). The subject is incorporated into compulsory schooling programmes at primary and lower secondary schools – i.e. at cycles two, three and four ([Special Bulletin Officiel of 26 November 2015](#)). In its 1st section, the **Framework Law on the Future of Schools (loi d'orientation et de programmation pour la refondation de l'école de la République)** of 8 July 2013 (see [Eurydice Overall national education strategy and key objectives](#)) defines media literacy as scholastic training that “develops the knowledge, skills and culture required for the exercise of citizenship **in the contemporary society of information and communication** [...]”.

In a digital revolution context and in response to the dissemination of false information, media and information literacy (éducation aux médias et à l’information, EMI) is becoming a necessity. It aims at developing a critical appropriation of the media in a school setting to allow the young audience to make responsible use of the media and perceive its interest as well as its limitations and dangers. The aim is to “allow pupils to exercise their citizenship in an information and communication society, and to train active, enlightened and responsible “*cybercitizens*” of tomorrow”.

Media literacy is based on **training in the use of digital tools and resources and raising awareness of rights and duties connected with use of the internet and social networks**. Skills acquired in the context of such education should be assessed progressively.

Among those involved in media literacy, the [Centre for Media and Information Literacy](#) (CLEMI - Centre pour l'éducation aux médias et à l'information), an operator under the Ministry of National Education, is tasked with implementing training actions promoting the use of information resources in education with a view to fostering pupils' better understanding of the world around them.

The **Canopé** network, an operator under the Ministry of National Education, provides teachers with a range of training courses and teaching resources in the fields of media and digital education, as well as "cybercitizenship".

Moreover, the use of social networks by young people is regularly studied by the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP), a department attached to the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation (DJEVPA), which has published various articles and reports on [young people's use of digital technology](#).

Media literacy and online safety through formal education

The main instrument made use of by the Minister of National Education, which aims to teach children how to decode information and show proof of vigilance with regard to media and the internet, is the **Media and information literacy (EMI – Education aux médias et à l'information) programme**, which aims to create "cybercitizens". **EMI is not a completely separate discipline but a cross-cutting training that teachers are encouraged to provide, with teacher-librarians as referents.**

The objective of media and information literacy is to:

- Develop pupils' **critical spirit and judgement**,
- Familiarise pupils with the world of media,
- Open pupils up to current affairs and the world,
- Have them discover **media diversity and plurality**,
- Teach them to process and **"decode" information**,
- Introduce them to **creating their own media**.

The themes tackled by media and information literacy are many and varied, as can be seen in the best practices listed by [institutional educational networks](#). For example:

History/geography classes in schools under the Dijon (city) Education Authority studied:

- ["Does the web participate in democracy?"](#) (Le web participe-t-il à la démocratie?)

In language classes, themes dealt with include the "dangers" of the internet:

- ["Harassment over the internet"](#) (le harcèlement par internet)
- ["Media addiction"](#) (l'addiction aux media)
- ["Internet safety, social networks and harassment"](#) (Sécurité sur internet, media sociaux, harcèlement)

Teachers can obtain **training in media literacy**, which is now incorporated in disciplinary programmes. Various online schemes and resource centres have been set up, such as the [Parcours M@gistère](#), a tutored interactive ongoing training scheme intended for secondary school teachers and [MOOCs](#) (Massive Open Online Courses) on media literacy.

In addition, the Centre for Media and Information Literacy (CLEMI - Centre pour l'éducation aux médias et à l'information) provides several types of educational interventions and accompaniments: teacher training, 5-day courses on media and information literacy, talks, activities and advice, roundtables devoted to media and information literacy, etc. As regards the dangers connected with internet use, teachers have an information and resource portal devoted to the subject available to them: ["Responsible Internet"](#) ([Internet responsable](#)), which, among other things, lists the regulatory texts on data protection, internet law, cyber-harassment, etc.

The Week of the press and media at School is one of the tools for information education. It aims to help pupils from nursery school to upper secondary school to: understand the media system, develop their critical judgement, develop their taste for news, and forge their citizen identity. The teachers in the registered primary and secondary schools participate with their pupils in this operation organised by the Centre for Media and Information Literacy (Centre pour l'éducation aux médias et à l'information, CLEMI)

Promoting media literacy and online safety through non-formal and informal learning

As Ministry of National Education partners, operators in non-formal education also foster media and information literacy via various initiatives. Associations have set up digital education projects in the context of Territorial Educational Projects ([PEDTs – see 6.2 Cross-sectoral cooperation](#)). Not all such initiatives have been inventoried but, as an example, the [Ligue de l'Enseignement \(Education League\) association](#) (in Loire-Atlantique) organises workshops on the internet and coding and has mounted an exhibition on the subject of image manipulation.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture also promotes media education through a call for projects aimed at youth workers, educators, librarians, journalists, and civic service volunteers. The purpose of this call for projects is the design and development of training offers for trainers or interveners as well as the production, dissemination and enhancement of quality teaching tools.

The aim of this initiative is to:

- “provide the keys to understanding scientific method and reasoning”;
- “strengthen the capacity to analyse the information circulated (by the media, Internet and social networks)”;
- “develop critical thinking, which is essential for the dual development of a scientific and technical culture and an information culture”;
- “decode fake news, deconstruct conspiracy theories and hateful content, while understanding the journalistic work, the functioning of media and digital ecosystems”.

Apart from this initiative and via the Youth Experimentation Fund (FEJ - Fond d'expérimentation pour la jeunesse, see.1.7 Evidence-based youth policies), the Ministry of Youth Affairs launched a call for projects on “**Non-Formal Education for and by young people: Digital practices, innovative places and youth media**” with a view to fostering “cyber-citizenship” and creation of innovative places and youth media. 334 projects were presented by associations, local authorities and public institutions. [52 projects](#) were selected.

Raising awareness about the risks posed by new media

Preventing the risks posed by new media is an action focus of media and information education.

The CLEMI has listed online resources providing advice to **adolescents on the social networks**. These resources are intended for **teachers, adolescents, as well as their parents**.

Resource website: <https://eduscol.education.fr/2682/safer-internet-day>

Campaigns against cyber-harassment have been launched by the Ministry of National Education in partnership with the [e-Enfance](#) association, of recognised public interest and approved by the Ministry of National Education. This association raises young people's awareness on best practices in digital technology and advises parents and education professionals on the uses of digital technology. The association offers a free helpline and interventions in secondary education establishments and launches annually a campaign against harassment, in particular cyber-harassment.

Moreover, since 2016, Family Allowances Funds and their partners, the Mutualité sociale agricole (Msa) and the ministry in charge of youth, have launched across the country a scheme entitled “Promeneurs du net, une présence éducative sur Internet” (Web walkers, an educational presence on the Internet). **A Web Walker is a youth professional, educator or facilitator, who in addition to his work in a structure, enters into contact with young people via the Internet and the social networks to support them in their use of Internet and raise awareness of risks.** Applying a logic of prevention, he listens, advises and supports them.

Moreover, each year in February, [the Safer Internet Day](#) is organised and coordinated by [Safer Internet France](#). This awareness-raising day, deployed in 150 countries, promotes a better Internet for young people. It is a not-to-be missed event in the area of prevention and digital awareness intended in particular for pupils and education professionals.

In 2021, the theme of this day is “the use of digital technology and screens: supporting young people in times of Covid-19”.

6.9 Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Information providers / counselling structures

In France, the term “youth work” does not have a single definition and refers to a variety of actions and administrative contexts. Non-formal education is in most cases associated with youth work or “animation” (facilitation), the definition of which is not unequivocal.

According to the professional nomenclature established by the **National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques)**“

According to the **National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE - Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques)**, youth work “*aims to bring about the social integration of certain categories of the population [including young people] and improve social relations between their members, and, more generally, promote cultural life in a community*”.

The **youth work sector has seen many changes over the years**, in particular as regards the **training and qualification** of youth workers, accompanied by greater visibility of the youth work sector.

Specialised websites and facilitator forums as well as institutional websites, such as those of local authorities or ministries, promote activities and training courses in the field of non-formal education.

They disseminate information on the programmes, schemes and opportunities in this area which is complementary to formal education.

Vocational and educational information, counselling and guidance structures such as the [National Office of Information on Studies and Profession \(Office national d'information sur les enseignements et les professions, ONISEP\)](#), also provide information about the professions and programmes of non-formal education.

Among institutional websites, the website [jeunes.gouv.fr](#) promotes activities and schemes in the field of non-formal education (for example holiday camps) as well the Facilitator's Certificate of Aptitude (Brevet d'Aptitude aux Fonctions d'Animateur, BAFA), a non-professional diploma required for the supervision of children and adolescents during their holidays or leisure time (and the management of structures for the Director's Certificate of Aptitude (brevet de directeur, BAFA)).

In addition, in order to provide information on the possibilities of youth work (animation) and non-formal education, the ministry in charge of youth supports the Centre for Youth

Information and Documentation (Centre d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse, CIDJ), a youth information space which welcomes all young people, whatever their situation, without an appointment and free of charge.

The CIDJ informs and advises young people in all areas including non-formal learning (volunteering, youth work / animation, etc.). This centre is part of a national network composed of +1,000 Info Jeunes (Youth Information) structures.

Awareness raising initiatives

Awareness campaigns on informal and non-formal training are generally implemented by associations and operators in this field who thereby make their activities known.

However, the ministry in charge of youth has created the [BAFA - BAFD \(Director's Certificate of Aptitude\)](#) mobile site for tablets or smartphones on which 800,000 candidates have registered and 13 million views have been recorded. This website is designed for young people wishing to work in the non-formal education sector, in particular youth work / animation (supervision of holiday and leisure centres during school holidays or out-of-school periods). It provides information on animation professions.

For further information on the promotion of animation and non-formal education, see Chapter 10 and 10.7.

6.10 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

New school year and Covid-19: the new health protocol in primary and secondary schools.

In the context of the health crisis, the Ministry of National Education wished to give priority to face-to-face teaching, while limiting the spread of the virus in schools and educational establishments. A new health protocol for the 2021-2022 school year was made public in the summer 2021. This protocol provides for a scale of measures according to the epidemic situation.

A four-level scale has been created:

- level 1 / green level;
- level 2 / yellow level;
- level 3 / orange level;
- level 4 / red level.

The applicable level is established according to the epidemic situation. The level 2 has been applied for the 2021 school year (except in Overseas territories).

Ongoing debates

School assessments

Since 2018, the Ministry of National Education has decided to organise standardised assessments of pupils at different education levels: CP (1st grade), CE1 (2nd grade), sixth grade and tenth grade in order to "[have indicators for measuring the performance of the education system \(temporal trends and international comparisons\) at the national level](#)".

These assessments which will take place at the start of the September 2021 school year regularly stir up debate and reflection, particularly on the part of the education community and pupils' parents.

7. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

11-30 year olds in France are in **good health overall**. This is what the young people themselves claim, according to the public survey on youth health, *Health behaviour of young people. Analyses of the 2010 Health Survey (Les comportements de santé des jeunes. Analyses du Baromètre santé 2010_*latest survey dedicated to the health of young people specially).

But although this population considers itself to be in good physical and mental health, young people's health is still a **concern** for the public authorities, not least because adolescence and young adulthood are a pivotal time when physiological and mental changes are taking place and **new behaviours and practices** are taking hold – including at-risk ones that are likely to become difficult to shake off.

A range of stakeholders are involved in public youth health policies in France (such as national and local public authorities, professionals in the health, education and social action spheres, associations aimed at combating social exclusion and youth-oriented centres), which usually form part of **comprehensive public health policies** but address issues that are specific to young people.

Mental health, preventing addictive behaviours, sexual health and accessing rights to health are the public authorities' main fields of action in terms of youth health.

Increasing the well-being of all young people and reducing health inequalities between them, **fostering access to rights** to health and improving **prevention policies**, when French public health policies have tended until now to give precedence to the **curative approach**, are all examples of challenges to which the national authorities and other youth advocates need to find answers.

7.1 General context

Main trends in the health conditions of young people

For more than twenty years, the aim of the French "Baromètre" surveys has been to monitor the main behaviours, attitudes and perceptions associated with risk-taking and the health of the French population: smoking, alcoholism, illegal drug use, nutrition, quality of life, etc. A specific version of this **extensive scientific survey**, conducted through interviews, has been produced on the subject of young people's health.

The study entitled "**Youth health survey 2010**" (Baromètre santé Jeunes 2010) by the agency **Santé publique France** is the largest ever study to have been carried out to date in terms of data on young people's health. It is based on a sample of 6,000 young people and gives an idea of the behaviours evident among 15 to 30 year olds – in all their diversity.

The survey shows that young people's health **differs depending on their social background, gender and age group** – but that 96% of 15-30 year olds claim to be in good health. Among other things, the survey describes health behaviour trends as regards diet, mental health, alcohol, smoking and drugs.

Dietary habits

Data from the study of the last "Nutrition survey 2008" (Baromètre nutrition 2008_Last survey available on nutrition) shows that, when compared with adults, young French people **eat more or less healthily**; that said, distinct characteristics can be observed in terms of their dietary habits, which differ depending on their social background and gender. Young people consume a lot more drinks that are high in sugar – one of the factors associated with obesity – than adults do. What is more, obesity and overweight rates are still high despite having levelled out. According to the *Bulletin épidémiologique*

hebdomadaire [Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin/BEH] published in June 2017, the prevalence of obesity was 16% among boys and 18% among girls.

On a final note, obesity is higher among low-income families. What is clear from the data is that social inequalities have consequences on dietary practices: the children of blue-collar workers and employees do not eat fruit and vegetables as often as those born into higher socio-economic categories.

Mental health

Regarding mental health, according to the [Health youth Survey 2010](#) (Baromètre Santé 2010 last study specifically on youth available), almost one young person in ten (9%) admits to have suffered about of depression.

- 3.4% of 15-30 year olds claim to have considered suicide over the past twelve months.
- 0.9% of 15-30 year olds (0.5% of men and 1.3% of women) have attempted to commit suicide over the past twelve months. This makes **this age group the most concerned** by suicide – for women in particular. These figures have remained stable since 2000, however.

Alcohol

Alcohol consumption studies show that **consumption goes up with age**, and becomes more of a regular occurrence. Only 2.5% of 15-30 year olds drink alcohol on a daily basis. That said, between 15 and 30 years of age, monthly, one-off consumption rates and episodes of drunkenness during the year are very high – 25.5% and 38.6% respectively. Alcohol consumption appears to be **most common among males**. But the trends concerning all of the indicators are pointing to increasingly similar consumption between men and women. Similar levels are now particularly evident among the 20-25 year-old age group.

Smoking

According to the [European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs – ESPAD 2015](#), France ranks alongside those European countries with the highest smoking rates.

According to the [Health Survey 2017](#) (Last data available) *Baromètre Santé 2017*, 18-34 year olds smoke the most.

In 2017, 32.1% of 18-24 year olds and 36.5% of 25-34 year olds were smokers. However, the prevalence of smoking in this age group decreased in 2017.

The barometer shows that:

- "Smoking has decreased among adolescents in France, at all ages: among middle and high school students and among 17-year-olds, among whom daily tobacco consumption has dropped from 32% in 2014 to 25% in 2017".
- "the prevalence of daily smoking has decreased by about 10 points since 2000 among 18-24 year olds, men and women"

Smoking is also increasingly coming across as a **social marker**. **However**, in 2017 according to the [2017 Health barometer](#), on the contrary, The prevalence of daily smoking decreased among people with a diploma below the baccalaureate, (29.3% in 2017). "Entre 2016 and 2017, social inequalities in terms of smoking were stable in 2017".

Drugs

According to the report *"Jeunes et Jeunes addiction"* [Young people and addiction] by the [OFDT - French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction \(Observatoire Français des Drogues et des Toxicomanies\)](#), published in December 2016 (data still available), cannabis is far and away the most commonly tried and consumed illicit substance among the French population – young people in particular. It is widely available to adolescents, since 28% of 15 year olds and half of 17 year olds (47.8%) claim to have already smoked it. Cannabis use is higher among boys than girls. Other illicit psychotropic substances (such as

amphetamines, cocaine or ecstasy for example) tend to be used in the latter years of adolescence and among young adults. The data shows that, among 18-25 year olds, ecstasy is the second most commonly consumed illicit substance (3.8%), after cannabis and ahead of cocaine (3.1%). More generally, as we get older such **drugs are used more seldom and for only limited periods of time**.

In addition, according to the report, *Drugs and Addictions, Essential Data - 2019 Edition*, "the ages of experimentation with the main psychoactive substances have been characterized by relative stability since 2000, and even marked a significant decline since 2014"

Sources:

- ["La santé des 15-30 ans. Une lecture du baromètre santé"](#) [*The health of 15-30 year olds. An analysis of the health survey*] *Agora débats/jeunesses* [debates/youth forum] 2013/1 (No. 63) INJEP, SciencePo Jeunesse.
- [Baromètre Santé 2017, volet tabagisme](#)
- [European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs – ESPAD 2015](#)
- [Drogues et addictions, données essentielles - Édition 2019](#)

Physical exercise

Young people are the age group who do the most exercise, with 15-29 year olds exercising more than their elders: 46% of them play sport more than once a week, compared with 39% among 30-49 year olds. The most popular sports among young people are: swimming, football, cycling and jogging.

Main concepts

Several concepts and notions help to gain a clear idea of public health policies, particularly those focusing on young people. The notions of "Public Health", "general law" and "access to healthcare" define and characterise the French public health system.

Public Health

Youth health policies normally fall within the **Public Health** sphere – which goes beyond the scope of curative medicine and encompasses all the factors which contribute to the development and determination of individuals' health: including the social environment and living conditions (housing, employment, recreation, etc.). Part of the objectives of Public Health is **to limit health risks**, guarantee the very best quality of care and ensure the **greatest possible equality** among the population in terms of health. Public Health forms part of a general law health service.

General law health service

The French health service is governed by **general law**, which designates all of the health service to which any resident must have access, pursuant to the "right to health protection" as recognised by the [Preamble of the 1946 French Constitution](#). Since health comes under the general law system, it is therefore accessible to all; but the population is first required to become a member of a Compulsory Health Insurance Scheme: in this way they benefit from basic social cover. The range of available general law medical care is provided by both public facilities (hospitals, health centres, mother and child protection centres, etc.) and liberal medical practice (private clinics, physicians, etc.). In the general law health service, everyone is free to choose where they want to be treated.

"Access to health care"

Although health education and prevention do feature in the policies that the public authorities put into practice, the French health service is primarily based on a **curative approach** and access to health care. **Access to health care** means an individual's ability to access health resources and services.

It is influenced by social, economic (level of education, etc.), geographic, cultural and organisational factors which can either help or hinder a person in accessing such services. It is closely tied in with the notion of accessibility, which refers more **to the reimbursement of services**, but also the proximity or distance of healthcare services (medical cover, insurance, doctor's surgery, health centre, etc.). **Unequal access and accessibility** in terms of health care are issues that the public authorities need to address.

7.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Various stakeholders at various levels are involved in the governance of health policies.

1. At national level

The State is responsible for improving the population's health, particularly among its youngest citizens. It must do its utmost to ensure equality of people when it comes to health, to improve the quality of care and to promote public health. Several government departments play a part in drawing up and rolling out health policies: those responsible for health as well as labour, the economy and the budget.

Ministry for Solidarity and Health

At national level, it is [the Ministry for Solidarity and Health](#) which “drafts and implements Government policy in terms of solidarity, social cohesion, public health and organisation of the health service”. This Ministry is responsible for organising prevention and medical care. In liaison with the other competent departments, it writes and applies the rules governing the health protection policy.

Directorates of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health

This ministry is composed of several directorates/bodies whose remits may have to do with young people's health (list not exhaustive):

- The [DGS - General Directorate for Health \(Direction générale de la santé\)](#);

The DGS draws up, assesses and helps to deliver public health policy. With a sub-directorate for population health and chronic disease prevention, the DGS is particularly instrumental in designing youth health policy.

It has four main missions:

1. Preserving and improving the health of the population.
2. Protecting the population from national or international health threats.
3. Guaranteeing quality, safety and equality when accessing the health service.
4. Coordinating, overseeing and initiating networks of partners of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health.

- [DGOS - General Directorate for Healthcare Services \(Direction générale de l'offre de soins\)](#);

The DGOS organises the range of available medical care based on health policy objectives and priorities.

- [DGCS - General Directorate for Social Cohesion \(Direction générale de la cohésion sociale\)](#);

The DGCS is tasked with designing, managing and assessing public policy bearing on solidarity, social development and promoting equality. It coordinates **7 thematic public policies**:

1. Preventing and combating exclusion and poverty, developing social inclusion and the integration of people in vulnerable circumstances.
2. Housing and access to housing for homeless or inadequately housed people.

3. Independent living for disabled people.
 4. Independent living for elderly people.
 5. Family policy and protection of children and vulnerable persons.
 6. Women's rights and gender equality.
 7. Promoting innovation and social experimentation, particularly as part of the social and solidarity economy.
- [DREES - Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics \(Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques\)](#)

The DREES is part of the public statistics service. It is tasked with producing and disseminating knowledge about health policy and with guiding research policy. The DREES conducts surveys at regular intervals on young people's health and social conditions.

- [IGAS - General Social Affairs Inspectorate \(Inspection générale des affaires sociales\)](#);

The IGAS inspects, audits and assesses structures and policies.

- [SGMAS \(General Secretariat of Ministries of Social Affairs\)](#)

The General Secretariat of the Ministries of Social Affairs is responsible for the coordination of services and social public policies. It coordinates the joint work between the ministries and the territorial administrative services : (Regional Health Agency (ARS), Regional Directorate of Youth, Sports and Social Cohesion (DRJSCS) and Regional Directorates businesses, competition, consumption, labor and employment (DIRECCTE).

The General Secretariat is organized into four directorates, three delegations and an office. It has authority over the cross-cutting functions:

- The Finance, Purchasing and Services Department (DFAS),
- the Human Resources Department (HRD),
- the information systems department (DSI),
- the Directorate of Legal Affairs (DAJ),
- the Delegation for European and International Affairs (DAEI), for the fields solidarity - health and work
- the Delegation to information and communication (DICOM) for the solidarity - health and work fields
- the Office of Communication of Youth and Sports (BCOMJS) for the sports field
- the Delegation to the health information systems strategy (DSSIS) for the solidarity - health field.

The Ministry for Solidarity and Health undertakes partnerships with different operators and structures dedicated to health which play a part in crafting and delivering youth health policies. These operators take diverse legal forms (Agencies, associations, etc.).

Operators of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health contributing more specifically to the drafting and implementation of youth-oriented policies (non-exhaustive lists).

- The agency Santé publique France

[Santé publique France](#) is France's national public health agency, whose supervising Minister is the Minister for Solidarity and Health. The Agency was set up on 27 April 2016 by the [Law for modernising the health service](#). Its purpose is to protect the health of French citizens through epidemiological surveillance, general surveillance and prevention. It seeks to "know, explain, safeguard, protect and promote the population's health better" and has the status of being a centre of expertise in public health.

The Santé publique France agency came about through the merging of 3 public institutions: [InVS - the French Institute for Public Health Surveillance \(Institut de veille sanitaire\)](#), [EPRUS - the French Establishment for Public Health Emergency Preparedness](#)

and Response (Établissement de préparation et de réponse aux urgences sanitaires) and INPES - the French Institute for Health Education and Prevention (Institut national de prévention et d'éducation pour la santé).

It plays a key role in the planning stages of youth health policy by conducting studies and statistical qualitative surveys on youth health, among them "the youth health survey" (*baromètre santé jeunes*) which sheds light on the health of young French citizens (See 7.1 General context).

- HCSP - French High Council for Public Health (Haut Conseil de la santé publique)

The HCSP was founded by the Law of 9 August 2004 on public health policy, set up in 2007. It is able to issue opinions and recommendations on young people's health and well-being. It may be consulted by ministers and the chairpeople of Parliament's competent commissions.

The HCSP is tasked with:

1. "contributing to the drafting, annual monitoring and multiannual assessment of the National Health Strategy;
 2. providing the public authorities, in liaison with the health agencies, with the necessary expertise for managing health risks and designing and assessing health security and prevention strategies and policies;
 3. providing the public authorities with foresight and advice on public health issues;
 4. helping to craft a comprehensive and concerted children's health policy".
- MILDECA - Cross-government mission for combating drugs and addictive behaviours (Mission interministérielle de lutte contre les drogues et les conduites addictives)

Reporting to the Prime Minister, the MILDECA oversees and coordinates the **Government's action on combating drugs and addictive behaviours**. In this regard it shapes the Government's action plan against drugs and drug addiction and keeps an eye on its implementation. The MILDECA also devises schemes and policies for preventing and screening for *addictive behaviours in young people*.

- PAEJ - Drop-in advice centres for young people (Points d'accueil et d'écoute Jeunes)

PAEJs are centres **for adolescents** and young adults (10-25 year olds) who are struggling socially and mentally vulnerable. They have a **preventive role** to play by welcoming, listening to, supporting, guiding and carrying out mediation with young people in at-risk situations. These centres must give young people the chance to talk about their problems and concerns and to gain the capacity for personal initiative and action again. They are merely **an intermediary** between the young person and the **general law** facilities of the health service (hospitals, child psychiatry, etc.). There are three types of drop-in centres:

1. Reception facilities for young people;
 2. Reception facilities for runaways and housing for minors;
 3. Reception facilities for vulnerable youths.
- SUMPPS - University Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Service (Service Universitaires de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé)

The SUMPPS is a free university medical service available across all higher education institutions and open to all students.

Its purpose is **to ensure the physical well-being** of students throughout their studies. In addition to the medical check-up stipulated in the *Decree of 7 October 2008*, its remit covers the whole of the prevention spectrum. In this respect, the SUMPPS conducts and organises health promotion, prevention and information campaigns with the focus on developing them jointly with students.

Students can come in on a one-to-one basis for **advice and information**, to check they are up-to-date with their jobs or to get a medical certificate. The service can also arrange **specialist (smoking, diet) and psychologist appointments**.

It is placed under the **authority of university bodies** (Boards of Trustees, Vice-Chancellor of universities). The SUMPPS mainly gets its funding from the State (Minister for Higher Education) and through the fees paid by students enrolled at the university, included in their tuition fees.

1. At regional level

Health policies are also governed at regional level. Over the past thirty years, several regional bodies have joined the healthcare system. This regionalisation process has been shored up by the [Law on reforming hospitals and on patients, health and local areas of 21 July 2009](#), known as the "HPST" Law.

- ARS - Regional health agencies (Agences régionales de santé)

The HPST Law of 21 July 2009 created [ARS - Regional Health Agencies](#), which are the authorities with overall responsibility for the health service at regional level. They are also tasked with: organising the range of available medical care in line with the population's needs, improving the coordination of care and setting up public health policies at regional level – particularly those aimed at young people. There are three activity strands involved in managing public health policy at regional level:

1. **"Health security and surveillance**, as well as health observation;
2. **Defining, financing and assessing** health promotion and prevention initiatives;
3. Anticipating and managing health emergencies.

Although they are required to implement national policy, ARSs can also, depending on the needs of their local populations, carry out regional projects and action plans for the benefit of young people.

Associations specialising in young people's health and well-being

Associations working to prevent risk behaviours and educate in health as well as medical-social facilities for young people play an instrumental role in governing youth health policy. Among these stakeholders, Centres for adolescents (Maisons des adolescents) and Family Planning (Planning familial) help to welcome and support the most vulnerable youths. (Non-exhaustive list)

- Centres for adolescents

Some medical-social facilities have been set up specifically to address youth well-being, one example being Centres for adolescents (See [4.7 Social Inclusion: Youth work providers in the field of social inclusion for young people](#)). These public facilities belong to the [National Association of Centres for Adolescents](#) (Association nationale des maisons des adolescents) and are committed to: "welcoming, listening to, informing and guiding socially struggling and mentally vulnerable youths". Some of them also provide medical care and appointments for adolescents, such as the [Maison de Solenn](#) in Paris, which is part of a hospital group and has a medical research centre specialising in common adolescent problems. Centres for adolescents are on the frontline when it comes to applying youth mental health policies.

- Family planning

Founded in 1956 initially as "La maternité heureuse", the association, which in 1960 became the "Mouvement Français pour Le Planning Familial" (MFPF), more commonly known as "[Le Planning Familial](#)", is a longstanding advocacy movement which "takes on board all sexual orientations and champions the right to contraception, abortion and sexuality education". **Accredited by the Ministry of National Education**, the association is a highly reputed partner that campaigns in secondary schools and sixth-form colleges (lycées). Pursuant to its [framework agreement](#) signed with the aforementioned Ministry, the association is tasked, among other things, with:

- "Delivering, in partnership with National Education staff, sexuality education and information sessions in schools;

- Developing programmes aimed at preventing sexist and sexual violence in schools by delving into the theme of relationships between girls and boys;
- Offering gynaecological appointments, contraception prescriptions, guidance, one-to-one sessions and monitoring on abortions and preventing STIs;
- Putting on training programmes on sexuality and gender-related issues for professionals in the health, social and educational sectors. This association is a member of the [International Planned Parenthood Federation \(IPPF\)](#).

Cross-sectorial cooperation

A range of different stakeholders are involved in the public health sphere: agencies, health insurance, health watchdog and private-practising professionals.

Implementation of youth health policy is therefore reliant on **intersectorial and interministerial cooperation** between the Ministry for Solidarity and Health and the other sectorial ministries, such public operators as Santé publique France, devolved ministerial departments, local authorities, associations and health facilities, as well as other partners. This cooperation can take official form by way of signed agreements between stakeholders (State and associations) for example and/or participation in workgroups.

The key role played by the [Ministry of Sport](#) in crafting policy aimed at promoting physical well-being must be highlighted, but the **Ministry of National Education** is also instrumental in this interministerial partnership and the roll-out of youth health policy. [Law No. 2016-41 of 26 January 2016 on modernising the French health service](#) underscores the role that schools and higher education institutions play in youth health policy by maintaining that: "[The mission of promoting health in schools] is carried out, across all educational institutions, ... by the local education authorities in liaison with the regional health agencies... " (Article 3)".

The **DJEPVA - Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative)** (See 1.3 National Youth Strategy), currently under the Ministry of National Education's authority helps to develop information for young people on health matters via its Youth Information (Information Jeunesse) network.

Other institutions, like **the Regional health agencies** (see above [7.2 Governance](#)) can also put specific health policies into practice which call on the various stakeholders operating in their local area.

Moreover, territorial authorities (Regions, *Départements* and municipalities) also take action as regards public health through projects as well as medical-social facilities, **health centres and community clinics** or **partnership-based platforms**, one example being the [City-Health Workshops \(Ateliers santé ville\)](#), which bring together diverse health operators. These Workshops are local public initiatives seeking **to reduce social and territorial health inequalities** and to improve the health of **residents living in deprived urban neighbourhoods**, by facilitating the involvement and coordination of different stakeholders (associations, etc.) through the setup of medical social networks. Underpinning them is a partnership between the State, local authorities and Regional Health Agencies.

7.3 Sport, youth fitness and physical activity

National strategy(ies)

The drafting and implementation of health and well-being policies usually lead to **national plans being drawn up** that set out the **Government's priorities** in terms of health.

The draft National Health Sport Plan 2019-2024 is most often part of the overall orientations of the National Health Strategy. Its goal is to promote physical activity and

sport as "a determinant, in its own right, of health and well-being for all, all throughout life".

This strategy is articulated with other plans. The aim is to promote sport to all audiences, with a special focus on reducing social inequalities in access to physical activity and sport and the development of physical activity.

The [National Sport-Health Strategy 2019-2024](#) is more generally articulated around different axes:

- Promoting health and well-being through physical activity and sports
- The development and use of physical activity adapted to therapeutic aims
- Protecting the health of athletes and strengthening the safety of practices and practitioner

These multi-year strategies are then implemented at the regional level in partnership with the Regional Health Agencies.

Promoting and supporting sport and physical activity among young people

No programme has been set up to date that specifically encourages physical activity among young people. That said, there are schemes for developing sports practice among women and residents living in deprived urban neighbourhoods, set up by the Ministry of Sport in 2012.

Encouraging women to take up sport

In France, men have twice as much access to a sports pastime as women in some local areas. According to [the 2015 report](#) of the National Observatory for Urban Policy (Observatoire national de la politique de la ville), in deprived urban neighbourhoods where there are urban policy (politique de la ville) measures in place, the proportion of members of sports clubs is lower than in other urban neighbourhoods – especially where women are concerned: this proportion **exceeds 4%** for male members, **but is less than 3%** for female members.

To address this situation, in 2012 the Ministry of Sport organised a policy to develop sports practice among women – especially in deprived areas. **This policy still relevant** has resulted in **support being lent to associations** that promote sport and in the development of **community facilities**.

Encouraging sport practice in deprived urban neighbourhoods

In 2015, the Ministry of Sport launched the ["Citizen of sport" \(Citoyen du sport\)](#) scheme geared towards promoting **the benefits of sport in terms of citizenship**, preventing all forms of violence, antisocial behaviour and discrimination in sport and increasing access to regular sports practice, not least among young people who are the furthest removed from any access to sport as well as those living in deprived urban neighbourhoods.

Moreover, the Ministry in charge of sports implemented the program ["I'm learning to Swim" \(J'apprends à nager\)](#), which provides free swimming lessons in deprived urban neighbourhoods and rural areas for children before they join secondary school. 70,000 children have been able to benefit so far. This program is part of the interministerial plan "Aquatic ease". It allows children to discover and evolve the aquatic environment safely.

This program has several objectives:

- understand the aquatic environment from 4 years;
- know how to swim when entering the 6th grade;
- practice aquatic and nautical activities in complete safety;
- prevent drowning.

Physical education in schools

Considered to be a factor that contributes to both social inclusion and to better health, sport is a **compulsory subject in school**, where it is known as EPS - physical education (éducation physique et sportive) in France. It is tailored to the different levels of schooling. Physical education is specified and defined in the official education programme of the consolidation cycle (last two years of primary school and first year of secondary school, programme officiel d'enseignement du cycle de consolidation) set out in [the Ruling of 9-11-2015 – French Official Journal \(Journal Officiel\) dated 24-11-2015](#), as well as the [Guidance and Planning Law no. 2013-595 of 8 July 2013 for restructuring French schools](#).

Teachers have a wide range of digital teaching aids for drawing up their lesson plans, including [the Ministry of National Education's Eduscol website](#) dedicated to EPS, which compiles information about competitions, programmes and news concerning physical education.

Primary education

In infant and primary schools, 108 hours a year are devoted to physical education, which equates to an average of three hours a week. EPS is intended to meet five learning outcomes (champs d'apprentissage):

1. Developing motor skills and learning to express yourself using your body;
2. Learning how to use methods and tools via exercise and sport;
3. Sharing rules and taking on roles and responsibilities;
4. Learning to keep fit through regular exercise;
5. Adopting an artistic and sporting physical culture.

Over and above developing motor skills and improving health, EPS must also play a part in ensuring the social inclusion of children by:

- Contributing to health education and enabling pupils to become more familiar with their own bodies;
- Contributing to "safety education" through controlled risk-taking;
- Teaching accountability and independence and passing on such ethical and social values as respecting rules, yourself and others.

Secondary schools

All secondary school pupils attend **compulsory weekly physical education classes** for four hours in total in Year 7 (first year) and three hours in all the other years. These classes are **assessed as part of the DNB - national general certificate of secondary education (Diplôme national du brevet)** via coursework.

Pupils can practise a range of activities out of a choice of 26 physical, sporting and artistic activities defined at national level. Under the Common Base of Knowledge and Skills (see [Eurydice: Introduction](#)) for example, all pupils must take swimming, or more specifically "learn how to swim".

At secondary-school level, physical education also serves a number of educational purposes:

- Following rules;
- Embarking on a project-based approach;
- Taking on responsibilities;
- Knowing and looking after yourself.

Sixth-form colleges (lycées)

All sixth-formers follow 2 hours of compulsory physical education (EPS) lessons a week. The EPS syllabus for general and technological lycées includes aspects relating to [the](#)

[Guidance and Planning Law for the Future of Schools no. 2005-380 of 23 April 2005](#). It is intended to follow on from the syllabus taught at secondary school. EPS is assessed as part of A Levels (the Baccalauréat) via CCF – coursework (contrôle en cours de formation) during the final year. In addition, if students would like to devote more time to sports training, they have the possibility of choosing:

- Optional EPS lessons for 3 hours a week during all three years spent at lycée in France (equivalent to the last year of secondary school/Year 11 and the two years of sixth-form college), focusing on two activities;
- Exploratory lessons for 5 hours a week in Year 11, possibly then followed by additional teaching for 4 hours a week during the final cycle.

Collaboration and partnerships

Physical education (EPS) is underpinned by a partnership between the Ministry of National Education, various sports associations and the local authorities who lend their support in a variety of ways, such as through grants for school associations and assistance with the running of sports facilities. This intersectorial collaboration takes shape particularly through "extracurricular sport" (sport scolaire).

Extracurricular sport

Over and above physical education, which is taught during national school hours and lessons, pupils are able to take **additional sports activities** on an "**extracurricular sports**" basis. This is organised by school-based sports associations that have been given a public service mission **for educational and social purposes**. Their role is clarified in the agreements they sign with the Ministry of National Education. These school partner associations are as follows:

- At primary level, the USEP – Sports Education Union for Primary Education (Union sportive de l'enseignement du premier degré);
- At secondary level, the [UNSS - National Union for Extracurricular Sport \(Union nationale du sport scolaire\)](#).

An extracurricular sports association must be set up in each secondary school and lycée. An integral component of the institution's strategic plan, it must **contribute towards a thriving academic scene within the school**.

It gives pupils the chance **to play one or more sports**, for 3 hours **each week**, all year round. This is in addition to physical education lessons. What is more, pupils are encouraged to get involved in the life of the sports association and in organising events and competitions. **School-based sports associations are federated within the UNSS.** This association had over a million members and 9,561 associations. More than 33,000 physical education teachers are involved in running it.

Extracurricular sport at school level also provides opportunity to forge international partnerships and organise myriad cultural exchanges, particularly through exchanges with sports teams from institutions in other countries.

Sports academy (section sportive scolaire)

Sixth-formers attending lycée who are keen on taking their sports practice to another level, all the while following a regular academic curriculum, can choose to enrol in a sports academy. Students are selected on the basis of a sporting and academic application.

7.4 Healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition

National strategy(ies)

The national strategies drawn up by the Government and, more specifically, the health authorities, address health issues or problems that concern all French citizens: **sexual**

health, smoking, nutrition and chronic illnesses. Whilst they are not specifically aimed at young people, more often than not they comprise measures or actions in favour of youth health. Several multiannual strategies or programmes seeking to improve the health of the general population, young people in particular, are under way. These deal with tobacco control, sexual health and cancer.

National programme for reducing smoking 2014-2019

Coordinated by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health, this programme is primarily aimed at: reducing daily smoking rates and **creating a smoke-free generation.**

The programme is rolled out by the ARS - regional health agencies on the basis of scientific studies and datasets provided by the [MILDECA - Cross-government mission for combating drugs and addictive behaviours](#) (mission interministérielle de lutte contre les drogues et les conduites addictives), Santé publique France agency and [OFDT - French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) (Observatoire Français des Drogues et des Toxicomanies).

The programme's actions are organised around three key priorities:

1. "Protecting young people";
2. "Helping smokers to stop";
3. "Acting on the tobacco economy".

The [national programme for reducing smoking](#) sets out a number of measures aimed at protecting young people, including:

- Creation of a plain pack with larger health warnings. Since 1 January 2017, sales of cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco have only been authorised in plain packaging;
- Certain additives and flavours are banned;
- Tobacco product advertising at sales outlets is now prohibited;
- All customers must now be asked to show a form of ID that proves their age before buying tobacco;
- Prohibition on establishing new tobacconists around public and private schools alike, training centres and leisure centres for young people;
- Increase in the price of tobacco.

National sexual health strategy 2017-2030

The Ministry for Solidarity and Health has launched a comprehensive strategy to improve and promote the sexual health of French citizens, young people among them.

Between now and 2030, the measures outlined in the National sexual health strategy ([Stratégie nationale de santé sexuelle](#)) are aimed at:

- **"Making sexual health and sexuality education of the youngest generations a central feature of their health education pathways"**. Knowledge about biology as well as psychosocial skills (giving thought to mutual respect, gender equality between girls and boys, reciprocity and consent in relations with others) must be passed on to young people. Particular attention should be paid to under 15 year olds, 20% of whom are already sexually active;
- **"Strengthening the provision of prevention, screening and treatment services regarding sexual health around primary care professionals"**. This especially entails promoting the consultation on contraception and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for underage girls and boys;
- **"Keeping** a particularly close eye on vulnerable groups of people or those more exposed to HIV"
- **"Improving and diversifying** the prevention of STIs and HIV";

- **"Promoting research** in sexual health".

Cancer plan 2014-2019

The **Cancer plan 2014-2019** is the third plan to be devoted to this disease which affects some 355,000 people every year. The plan focuses on the importance of screening and prevention as well as the fight against inequalities in terms of treatment. The Cancer plan is a governmental initiative, coordinated by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health in partnership with a number of other health institutions including the National Cancer Institute (Institut national du cancer).

The plan sets out objectives bearing on young people:

- Adapt treatments for children, adolescents and young adults;
- Allow sufferers to continue their schooling and education;
- Meet the needs of children, adolescents and young adults suffering from cancer.

Encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition for young people

Young consumer consultations

Since 2005, a network of **consultations** has been set up across all French *départements* on the initiative of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health as part of the fight against drug addiction. These **consultations are free and anonymous**. They are intended for young consumers of psychoactive substances (such as cannabis, alcohol, tobacco, synthetic drugs and cocaine) as well as those showing signs of substance-free addictive behaviour (video games for example).

Some 30,000 people a year attend these consultations, three quarters (23,000) of whom are substance consumers and a quarter are family members or friends of consumers.

ARS – Regional Health Agency programmes

Apart from the initiatives making up national and comprehensive health strategies (nutrition, healthy lifestyles, etc.), health programmes specifically geared towards young people are set up at regional level by Regional Health Agencies, which can take action on a multiannual basis.

In 2016, in partnership with the Regional Health Agency, the **Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine Region** supported health prevention and education schemes for young people by launching a call for proposals called "Work on your health" (Travaille ta santé). The purpose of this was to improve quality of life for under 25s – not least their knowledge of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and diseases.

Funding

The Ministry for Solidarity and Health grants appropriations to the FIR – Regional Intervention Fund (Fonds d'Intervention Régional) for financing measures and trials that have been approved by the Regional Health Agencies. The FIRs are the latter's financial management instruments. Their resources come from an endowment provided by:

- the State;
- Basic compulsory health insurance schemes;
- the CNSA – National Solidarity Fund for Independent Living (Caisse Nationale de Solidarité pour l'Autonomie).

Health education and healthy lifestyles education in schools

Schools have **a twofold mission: surveillance, monitoring** of pupils' health as well as providing them with **health education** and teaching them to take responsibility in light of the risks.

Citizenship and health education committee

In secondary schools, the [CESC - citizenship and health education committee](#) (comité d'éducation à la santé et à la citoyenneté) implements health education and measures on preventing violence in schools. This committee forms part of the overall governance of each secondary school institution pursuant to the provisions of [Articles R 421-46](#) and [421-47](#) of the Education Code (Code de l'éducation). It is chaired by the school head or principal and can be made up of a number of different members: representatives of teaching staff, parents and pupils, representatives of the municipality and local authority, institutional partners (police or gendarmerie for example) and partner associations.

Health education at school is also achieved through the health education pathway.

The PES - health education pathway (parcours éducatif de santé)

This initiative is part of the [legislation for restructuring French schools](#) and has been reaffirmed by the [legislation for modernising the French health service](#). It has been implemented since the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year and is explained in a "brief document that can be understood by all stakeholders" indicating what steps are being taken as regards pupils' health from primary school right through to sixth-form college (lycée). This document is also shared with families.

The [PES](#) is a three-pronged approach:

1. Health education;
2. Prevention, which bears on the risks and situations which children and adolescents might encounter depending on their age (addictive behaviours, diet, exercise, sexuality education, sexist and sexual violence, etc.);
3. Protection, in order to create an environment that is conducive to well-being.

A [Support Guide for the Health Education Pathway](#) has been drawn up by the Ministry of National Education for schools.

Health education

Health education is organised around priority themes:

- A healthy lifestyle, education in healthy eating and sport;
- Sexuality education, access to contraception and prevention of STIs and AIDS.
- Prevention of addictive behaviours;
- Prevention of "dangerous games" and contribution to the prevention and tackling of bullying at school;
- Prevention of mental health problems;
- Sexuality education in light of the risks.

Health education forms part of the Common Base of Knowledge and Skills and must be officially documented in the school's strategic plan. National health education guidelines are defined by [Circular no. 2011-216 of 2 December 2011, published in the BOEN - National Education Official Bulletin \(Bulletin officiel de l'éducation nationale\) no.46 of 15 December 2011](#).

Sex and relationship education

Sexuality education in secondary schools and sixth-form colleges (*lycées*) is defined by Circular no. 2003-027 of 17 February 2003 entitled "[Éducation à la sexualité dans les écoles, les collèges et les lycées](#)" [education in primary schools, secondary schools and sixth-form colleges]

At lower and upper secondary level

At least **three annual sexuality education sessions are organised** in secondary schools and sixth-form colleges (lycées). These tie in with and round off the various subjects taught in lessons, **biology in particular**.

Their learning outcomes are as follows:

- "Provide pupils with objective information and scientific knowledge;
- Identify the different dimensions of sexuality: biological, emotional, cultural, ethical, social and legal;
- Develop critical thinking skills;
- Encourage responsible individual and collective behaviour (prevention, protection of yourself and others, the right to privacy and private life);
- Raise awareness of the specific information, aids and guidance available in and outside the school".

This education forms part of a **public health approach**:

- To prevent and reduce risks: unwanted early pregnancies, forced marriages, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS;
- To crack down on homophobic and sexist behaviour as well as sexual violence;
- To promote gender equality.

Preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is a key priority of sexuality education.

Prevention of STIs, HIV/AIDS in particular, involves informing adolescents about the risks they run and what they can do to protect themselves.

It can be addressed during:

- Earth and Life Science lessons;
- the annual sexuality education sessions;
- educational actions enabling a cross-cutting approach to be taken to AIDS prevention.

Partnerships with associations are set up with a view to running information campaigns, for example with the association [Sidaction](#). [1 December, World AIDS Day](#) is another opportunity for staging prevention initiatives. What is more, there is at least one **condom vending machine** in every sixth-form college (lycée).

Initiatives to protect young people against sexual violence may also be organised in the context of this sexuality education, through awareness-raising actions.

Teaching aids

There is a range of resources to help teachers plan their sexuality education lessons: [the Sexuality Education portal on Éduscol](#).

Peer-to-peer education approaches

The peer-to-peer approach to health prevention **is gradually gaining ground** in France. It not only concerns young people but also the elderly and disadvantaged groups of people. It is an approach favoured by the voluntary organisation sector, but public actions aimed at promoting it have been carried out.

The "student-Health relay" (étudiant-relais Santé) scheme

This peer-to-peer approach has been materialised through the "student-Health relay" scheme introduced by the SUMPPS - University Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Services (Services Universitaires de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé) in

higher education institutions. The "**student-health relay**" is involved in prevention measures at university level. It provides information about health issues and refers its peers to the relevant points of contact. It represents the interface between the health and social workers, university institutions and students.

The "Onsexprime" website

In addition to the "student-Health relay" scheme, the website "**Onsexprime**", run by the agency Santé publique France (a public institution supervised by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health), has been designed on the basis of this peer-to-peer prevention approach. Onsexprime.fr seeks to paint a **reassuring picture of sexuality for adolescents and enable them to grasp the importance of prevention**.

The website publishes testimonies and retranscriptions of other adolescents' experiences. This content is supervised and approved by the website administrators, and some content is fictional. The website also has a forum where young people can chat and post comments on the subject of sexuality (these discussions are also moderated by the hosting website).

Assessing the peer-to-peer health education approach

The peer-to-peer education approach and initiatives using this practice **are not systematic**. But its impact and merits have been analysed by scientific research for all that. The INJEP - National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (Institut national de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire) has written up studies and reports on the subject: "**L'éducation pour la santé par les pairs : une autre façon de prendre sa place dans la société**" [Peer-to-peer health education: another way of finding one's place in society], supervised by Yaëlle Amsellem-Mainguy and Éric Le Grand. These studies show that the key to successful peer-to-peer health education is the "complementary" combination of peer education (between young people) and more "traditional" education involving health professionals (adults). Other studies look into the role and importance of the Internet in peer-to-peer education.

Collaboration and partnerships

Health policies within schools rely on collaboration between multiple partners: teaching staff, institutions and associations as well as pupils' parents. Health and social workers (school doctors or nurses for example) are also called on to help deliver these projects. The citizenship and health education committee is tasked with organising these partnerships.

External professionals can also share their expertise by developing initiatives in schools and producing educational resources: the Agency Santé publique France, MGEN - General Mutual Health Insurance Fund for National Education (Mutuelle générale de l'éducation nationale), the Red Cross, Planning familial, National Anti-Smoking Committee (Comité national contre le tabagisme), Crips - Regional AIDS prevention and information centres (Centres régionaux d'information et de prévention du sida), CPAM - Primary Health Insurance Fund (Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie), Anpaa - National Association for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Addictions (Association nationale de prévention en alcoologie et addictologie), Sidaction (HIV prevention, etc).

When such experts are to hold regular **sessions** in school settings, an agreement must be signed. These partnerships are formally established, perhaps through a framework agreement. To give an example, in 2010 the agency Santé publique France signed a five-year framework agreement with the Ministry of National Education.

Raising awareness on healthy lifestyles and on factors affecting the health and well-being of young people

With a view to raising young people's awareness of risk factors and behaviours for health, the public authorities use a variety of tools to promote physical and mental well-being. This advocacy work can be carried out via structures dedicated to informing young people and national or local campaigns.

Information providers/counselling structures

Information providers and counselling structures belonging to the [Youth Information Network](#) (Réseau Information Jeunesse) (See 5.8 Information providers/counselling structures) help to raise young people's awareness of addictive and risk behaviour. These community structures are located in municipalities where youngsters can go directly without needing an appointment. They are coordinated at regional level by the CRIJ - regional youth information centres (centres régionaux de l'Information Jeunesse), which are subsidised by the devolved departments of the ministry in charge of youth and by the Regional Councils.

Some of the network's resources can be accessed on the website of the [Youth Documentation and Information Centre](#) (Centre d'information et de documentation Jeunesse), the central resource centre for the whole of the Youth Information network as well as the CRIJ for the Ile-de-France (Parisian) region.

All of the organisations working in favour of youth health (See 7.2 Governance), such as the associations partnered up with public authorities (**maisons des adolescents, missions locales**) **as well as SUMPPS**, placed under the authority of the Ministry of Higher Education, play a part in raising young people's awareness.

These structures pass on and disseminate information about the health schemes available to young people and promote access to rights to health.

In some municipalities there is a **Youth health centre (Espace santé Jeunes)**. This is somewhere 11 to 25 year olds can come for advice and guidance on health and well-being issues. It is **free of charge, freely accessible** and guarantees **confidentiality** and **anonymity for the young people who come**. It is also a resource centre where young people can get information **about nutrition, contraception methods, infectious diseases (STIs), addictive substance consumption and suicide prevention**. Youth health centres can be set up by local authorities (Municipalities, *Département*) in partnership with associations.

Campaigns geared towards young people

Santé publique France is tasked with launching national risk behaviour prevention campaigns and screening campaigns. In 2015, the Agency and the Ministry for Solidarity and Health decided to launch [their HIV and STI screening campaign](#) "Screening is a way of taking care of your future" (Se faire dépister, c'est prendre soin de son avenir) on World AIDS Day. This message, which was as much for the wider community as it was for young people, was broadcast across several types of media: television, posters (seven visuals) and web banner ads. Events were also organised in connection with the campaign at eight busy train stations.

The Ministry of the Interior put together **a road safety campaign** to tackle **drink driving**: [Sam, "whoever's driving doesn't drink"](#) (Sam, celui qui conduit c'est celui qui ne boit pas). Launched in 2016 for the attention of young people, this campaign involved **the production and broadcasting of the short film "Samvenger"** about Sam (which stands for No Fatal Accidents/Sans Accident Mortel), a recurring character created in 2006 symbolising the young driver who decides not to drink on a night out and commits to driving his or her friends back home. This film was released on 3 August 2016 and shown at more than 2,600 cinemas as well as on the YouTube channel ["Sam, the designated driver"](#) (Sam, le conducteur désigné).

In 2018, this campaign was renewed.

Social network: <https://www.facebook.com/samleconducteurdesigné/>

7.5 Mental health

National strategy(ies)

The action plan "in favour of youth health and well-being"

The most recent governmental plan aimed at fostering **good health and well-being among all 11-21 year olds** was launched in **2016**. It sought to prevent mental health problems and suicides during teenage, a common period for depression and suicidal thoughts. Some of the **plan's measures** are still in progress.

The [action plan "in favour of youth health and well-being"](#) (en faveur du bien-être et de la santé des jeunes) was **drawn up jointly by the different government departments concerned**, including the [Ministry for Solidarity and Health](#), Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Sport,

It pursued four main thrusts:

1. "Enable professionals to better identify the signs of mental health problems or suffering in adolescents or young adults, and help these professionals to address such situations;
2. Find ways to ensure young people feel more supported and heard;
3. Guide young people more effectively towards the competent professionals, facilitate early advice and action and diversify and improve available treatments whilst reducing the inequalities in this area;
4. Develop shared monitoring of these problems and the emerging symptoms of contemporary adolescence."

Several key principles formed the cornerstone of this action plan:

- **"multiple perspectives"**, in other words multidisciplinary collective efforts;
- **"consideration of the potential of young people** (the pupil) and their family";
- **"early advice and action"**;
- **"adaptation to different local areas"**.

Institutional framework

Several government departments as well as a range of institutional stakeholders and associations working in the health sphere rallied to the cause of this plan, which was coordinated by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health overall. This **interministerial and intersectorial cooperation** particularly took shape in the signature of framework partnership agreements between centres for adolescents (See [7.2 Administration and governance](#)) and the Ministry of National Education, which also signed an agreement with the Ministry for Solidarity and Health. The point of these agreements was to define the principles underpinning the cooperation developed as well as the plan's implementation in the local areas between the regional health agencies (ARS) and administrative national education bodies (local education authorities).

Assessment

As part of the drafting process for the "Youth health and well-being" plan, [a report](#) entitled "Mission Bien-être et santé des jeunes" [Youth health and well-being mission], presenting health policy analyses and outlining **recommendations** for developing youth well-being and management of the plan in favour of health and well-being, was also written up. Some of the initiatives arising out of the trials of the "health & well-being" plan have been assessed.

Improving the mental health of young people

The plan in favour of youth health and well-being set up the following initiatives:

- trial [of reimbursement for psychologists for 16-21 year olds](#).

This concerns a free series of appointments with psychologists, which is being trialled for a three-year period. A doctor can decide to suggest the series to young people, up to a limit of ten sessions including two assessment sessions. It is reimbursed on behalf of the young person. The purpose of this initiative is **to bring mental health therapy within reach of the wider community**.

- geo-localised information portal

A "thematic section" for young people is set to be added to the [Santé.fr portal](#), the public health information service currently being developed. This will be an online portal where young people can access reliable, geo-localised health information.

Not only that, but a number of trials aimed at fostering and nurturing well-being at school have been rolled out in secondary schools and sixth-form colleges (lycées) by teaching staff in liaison with their local education authority and regional health agencies in particular. These trials are listed in the **Directory of educational trials (Bibliothèque des expérimentations pédagogiques), "l'expérithèque"**.

Several guides have also been produced by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health and Ministry of National Education: "*Une école bienveillante face aux situations de mal-être des élèves - Guide à l'attention des équipes éducatives des collèges et des lycées*" [A caring school environment to address pupils' mental health problems - Guide for the attention of lower and upper secondary teaching staff]; "*Souffrances psychiques et troubles du développement chez l'enfant et l'adolescent - Guide de repérage à l'usage des infirmiers et assistants de service social de l'Education nationale*" [Mental suffering and developmental disorders in children and adolescents - Guide to detection for use by National Education social service assistants and nurses]; as well as the guide "*Agir sur le climat scolaire au collège et au lycée*" [Acting on the school climate at secondary school and sixth-form college].

7.6 Mechanisms of early detection and signposting of young people facing health risks

Policy framework

Youth health policies harnessing **mechanisms of early detection and signposting of mental problems or illness** primarily concern **children** which, over the **first six years of their life**, benefit from [compulsory prevention examinations](#) that are paid for by the French health insurance system (Assurance Maladie). The results of these examinations are recorded in the **personal health record** (carnet de santé) which is issued free of charge to all children when their birth is registered so as to keep track of their medical follow-up. Some of these compulsory examinations are organised at school (infant, primary or secondary school) with nurses, doctors, teachers and school counsellors **working together**.

The compulsory screenings and medical reviews stipulated in [Article L. 541-1 of the Education Code \(Code de l'éducation\)](#) take place during the child's **sixth and twelfth year**.

Health review: at age 6

When pupils turn 6, they must attend a medical check-up that tests for and diagnoses anything which might impact their learning capacity (cognitive, physical, linguistic or mental problems). This compulsory examination is stipulated in the [Public Health Code](#) (Code de la santé publique) and in [the Law of 5 March 2007 on child protection](#).

Health review: at age 12

The screening appointment in the child's twelfth year (by the nurse) includes:

- An interview with the adolescent particularly about his or her living conditions, perceived health, any difficulties, mental suffering and his or her pubertal development;
- Consideration of any comments gathered from parents and teachers;
- Verification that the child is up-to-date with his or her jabs;
- A growth & development examination;
- Screening of any sight problems;
- Screening of any hearing problems;
- Oral & dental health check;
- Recommendations and advice for the child, tailored depending on his or her questions and the examination's data.

Health review: for students

During their studies at a higher education institution, students may be asked to attend a compulsory prevention appointment organised by the SUMPPS - University Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Service (Service Universitaires de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé) at their institution, [in accordance with the law](#). Organisation of this check-up, which covers medical, psychological and social aspects, **is not systematic** but depends on higher education institutions.

Stakeholders

A great many stakeholders are involved in youth screening and appointment programmes and they usually work together through partnerships. Among the institutions and organisations, it would be worth highlighting the role played by the PMI - Mother & Child Protection (Protection maternelle et infantile) services, by school medical teams and preventive medical teams in higher education institutions (governed by the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Higher Education) and by the prevention associations with support from the regional health agencies, which set up measures for screening and signposting mental problems and illness.

The PMI - Mother & Child Protection services

The PMI was created by [the Order of 2 November 1945](#) to combat maternal and infant mortality. Its services can be found in each *département*, managed by the local authority, the General Council (Conseil général). They deliver health protection for mothers and infants up to 6 years of age and can provide advice to future parents.

Medical care at school

The remit of National Education doctors is defined in [Circular no. 2001-013 of 12-01-2001](#). They organise individual prevention through health reviews as well as monitoring of school children with special needs. They provide advice about the schooling of disabled children.

Preventive medicine in higher education establishments

Health protection, screening and appointments for students are all carried out by the SUMPPS (see 7.2 [Cross-sectorial cooperation](#)) and help in particular to identify students with disabilities, enabling them to be offered assistance where necessary.

Regional health agencies and associations

Regional health agencies play a role in screening and signposting illness by rolling out national health plans across the regions as well as by supporting and financing prevention associations which promote and organise screenings. One such association in France is [Sida info service](#), which provides advice and information about sexual health, the risks and protection methods.

Local missions (missions locales)

Local missions are community-based public service centres. They are committed to helping 16 to 25 year olds integrate professionally and socially. These structures are recognised by the Law of 26 January 2016 on modernising the French health service as playing a role in identifying young people in particular need of support. Local missions must advance access to social rights, prevention and health care.

These structures are gathered within the National Union of Local Missions (UNML) whose mission is to represent the national network and to form the union of employers of the branch of Local Missions, reception centers, Information and Guidance (PAIO) and other social inclusion organizations.

Guidance to stakeholders

The public authorities carrying out youth advocacy missions produce an array of tools and guides for youth public health stakeholders, similar to the tools of the agency Santé publique France, such as the website [Fil santé jeunes](#) and its [Youth health portal](#) which provide answers to any health questions young people might ask. The portal brings together practical advice, useful addresses and telephone numbers enabling young people to talk anonymously with professionals, some examples being "Ecoute Cannabis", "Ecoute Alcool" and "Suicide écoute" – hotlines to discuss cannabis, alcohol or suicide concerns respectively.

The Youth health portal also refers to all of the institutional health and well-being promotion and education websites designed particularly for young people, including "[Drogue info Service](#)" (drugs) or "[Onsexprime](#)" (sexuality).

What is more, the agency Santé publique France also helps to develop associations' communication and promotion tools by subsidising some of their websites - "[Sida info service](#)" for example.

The Youth Compass

In order to facilitate young people's access to their rights and public services, the Government has formally launched in 2018 to develop the "[The Youth Compass](#)", a digital platform that will eventually enable young people to know the different rights and services available to them, social devices they can claim in their (geographical) environment.

The purpose of this tool is to inform and encourage young people to use their rights and the services, including health services intended for them.

Target groups

The compulsory health reviews and screenings delivered by the public authorities are **for all children and young people** attending school, even if more regular attention and monitoring are ensured for children suffering from chronic diseases and young people with disabilities. Screening for sexually transmitted infections is offered **to young prisoners** because of their increased vulnerability, especially since several Santé publique France [epidemiological reports](#) show that the prevalence of such infections seems to be higher among young prisoners than in the general population.

Funding

State-run public health policies are financed by a ministerial budget that has to **pass through Parliament**. This is the "health safety and prevention" programme overseen by the General Directorate of Health. Health policy funding is mainly provided by **health insurance, the State and local authorities** including the *Département* (county-level), which is instrumental in financing screening and consultation actions for children.

The three areas of the "health security and prevention" programme to which funding is allocated are:

1. Population health: reimbursement of contraception, support for national associations working to improve the health of the most vulnerable groups of people, etc.;
2. Prevention of chronic diseases and quality of life of patients: tackling addictive practices, youth mental health policies, support for sick children, etc.;
3. Prevention of environmental risks: nutrition, preventing hearing loss or lead poisoning for example.

Every year the regional health agencies (ARSs) launch **a campaign for drawing up contracts** and funding prevention action plans fronted by a variety of operators (associations, public institutions, local authorities, etc.). The ARSs allocate their resources chiefly to action plans that are geared towards **priority target groups** on the wrong side of the inequalities regarding access to medical care and health.

*Source: *Document de politique transversal. Projet de loi de finance*

7.7 Making health facilities more youth friendly

Apart from **structures** that are specifically dedicated to **welcoming young people**, along the lines of the Local missions, SUMPPS (See [7.2 Cross-sectorial cooperation](#)) or centres for adolescents, there are no policies or programmes with the specific aim of making health facilities more youth friendly.

7.8 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Fighting addiction through the national action plan against addictions 2018 - 2022 (alcohol, tobacco, drugs, screens)

Launched in 2018, the national plan to fight addictions is currently being implemented. The objectives of this plan aim in particular to inform people of the risks associated with the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis among young people, as well as of the excessive use of screens and video games.

It has 6 key points and 19 priorities, which are broken down into 69 objectives, some of which concern young people:

1. Protect from an early age;
2. Better respond to the consequences of addictions for citizens and society;
3. Improve the effectiveness of the fight against trafficking;
4. Strengthen knowledge and encourage its widespread distribution;
5. Strengthen international cooperation;
6. Create conditions for effective criminal proceedings across the country.

Developing sporting activity among young people

Presented on 25 March 2019, the **National Sport Health Strategy (Stratégie Nationale Sport Santé) 2019-2024** revolves around 4 points, the first of which is "the promotion of health and well-being through sports and physical activity" and particularly concerns young people. This national plan is also part of the organising strategy for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Among the actions aimed at young people (indicative list):

- Promoting physical and sporting activities (PSA) among public schools and students, in particular by relying on the network of youth health ambassadors.
- Promoting the practice of PSA among young people, followed by the judicial protection of young people in order to support them in their integration project,

- Developing health sports centres throughout the country. These centres will be open to everyone, especially young people, who require a (re)introduction to practicing PSA for the purposes of well-being and health.

Ongoing debates

Impact of the health crisis on the well-being and health of young people

A parliamentary commission "of inquiry to measure and prevent the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on children and youth" was created in June 2020 in order to measure **the psychological and health impacts of the pandemic and lockdown on children, adolescents and young adults**. The commission wants to look at "the prolonged stress caused by the fear of infection, boredom, the absence of relations with friends, the absence of hobbies and extracurricular activities, relations of different kinds with parents, the lack of space at home" caused by the health crisis.

As part of its investigative work, the commission organises meetings with institutional bodies and associative partners of children and youth policies such as human rights defenders, the President of the Childhood-Family-Youth Commission of the Uniopss - National Interfederal Union Of Private Nonprofit Health And Welfare Organisations (Union nationale interfédérale des œuvres et organismes privés non lucratifs sanitaires et sociaux) the heads of local authorities or the Secretary of State to the Minister of National Education and Sports (ministre de l'Éducation nationale et des Sports), in charge of Youth and Engagement.

Source: http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/15/textes/l15b3068_proposition-res...

8. CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

Democratising access to culture and artistic practices is the **major thrust underpinning** cultural youth policies aimed at **encouraging cultural participation on the part of young people**, which might be defined as the possibility of accessing culture, practising arts and expressing one's creativity; in other words, of being a cultural spectator, beneficiary and stakeholder all at once. These policies also set out to **familiarise** them with national heritage as well as to recognise and adapt **to new uses and cultural practices** among youngsters, particularly in the wake of the technological revolution.

These objectives are not just being pursued by the government departments concerned, particularly the **Ministry of Culture** which is instrumental in developing cultural initiatives for young people, but also by **local authorities, associations and cultural institutions** (such as museums, libraries and theatres) which play no small part in the cultural participation of youth through the development of initiatives and projects, financial assistance and building of cultural facilities. Policies bearing on creativity and culture involve **all sorts of stakeholders** with differing areas of expertise who usually work together, in a complementary fashion.

8.1 General context

Main trends in young people's creativity and cultural participation

The most recent major surveys on the cultural participation of young people reveal certain cultural behavioural trends among French youngsters:

Young people and the reading

The **CNL – National Book Centre (Centre national du livre)**, a public institution of the Ministry of Culture, conducts annually a national survey on young people and how they

relate to books and reading. In 2018 the main findings of this study show that reading is **appealing and a regular activity**: 77% claim to enjoy reading, 78% read because they want to and devote around 3 hours a week to it for recreation. The study demonstrates **the impact of the family environment** on reading practices: the children who read the most have parents who are regular readers themselves and have a high level of education.

The datasets show that:

- Most young people read, particularly because they want to, even though the majority of them read in the context of school, university or work.
- Wide disparities exist between young adult women and men: women read more readily because they want to compared with men, reading for an additional 1 hour 40 min a week and 3 more books a year.
- The family context influences how young people relate to reading: 15-25 year olds whose parents read regularly for themselves or for their children clearly read more than others.
- Digital activities leave a small amount of room in the day for reading*.
- Reading in "paper" format is favoured, even though other ways of reading are also popular among 15-25 year olds.
- 15-25 year olds mainly read novels. Fantasy, crime and science-fiction are primarily the most popular genres. Many young people also read graphic novels, comics and manga.

Source: **Study carried out on behalf of the CNL by Ipsos**: A. Vincent-Gérard and B. Vaysettes, *Les jeunes adultes et la lecture [Young adults and reading]*.

Young people as "cultural omnivores"

The survey, *Barometer DJEPVA 2019 on youth* carried out by the National Institute of Youth and Non formal Education in partnership (INJEP) with CREDOC- Research Center for the study and observation of living conditions shows the existence of a great diversity of cultural practices among young people. The study distinguishes several families of **cultural practices: "traditional", "artistic creative" and "digital"**.

The survey shows a dynamism and diversity of cultural activities among young people:

- "91% of young people thus have **creative amateur activities** implying an active posture and often social interactions.
- "young people have passion for the realization of manual work or decoration (65% of young people) and the production of photo and video (60%)".
- "Dance (48%) and singing (48%) concern one in two young people".
- "18% of young people have at least seven different artistic hobby practices".
- "Almost all (95%) of young people have done traditional cultural activities and outings in the last twelve months, with a certain taste for cinema (83%) and reading (78%)".
- "Next come digital cultural activities (86% of young people), where the practice of streaming is the dominant practice: 81% say they watch movies or series in streaming and 76% listen to streaming music."

Indeed, the category of 18-30 year olds **multiply more than all French people cultural activities**: they combine them, then presenting **themselves as cultural "omnivores"**. This situation goes against the prejudices against the young people described as passive consumers. On the contrary, the survey highlights the fact that 18-30 year olds are by far the most active and creative age group.

Source: Baillet J., Brice-Mansencal L., Hoibian S., Bene J., Dahan C., Timoteo J., *From spectators to creators: multiplicity of cultural and artistic practices of young people*. INJEP analyzes & summaries, December 2019.

The datasets from these surveys yield an insight into the challenges to be addressed by cultural public youth policies: **removing these barriers** by sparking interest, making cultural facilities and practices more accessible and developing and promoting cultural opportunities.

Main concepts

Of the concepts most strongly characterising cultural public policy, it would be worth mentioning: "cultural democratisation", the notion of "heritage" and the concept "of cultural exception".

Cultural democratisation

"Cultural democratisation" defines the fact of making culture accessible to as many people as possible. This ambitious idea forms one of the cornerstones of cultural public policies – those of the Ministry of Culture more specifically. Ever since it was first created back in 1959, the latter has been "tasked with making the key works of humanity, and of France first and foremost, accessible to as many French citizens as possible [...]" in the words of the writer André Malraux, *ministre d'État*, who was entrusted with founding the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

For fifty years, this principle has long been the subject of debate: two approaches to democratisation have thus been pitted against each other, one so-called **"elitist"** approach which involves fostering access for all to "classical" or "erudite" culture, and the other involving **broadening the notion of culture** and **recognising cultural plurality** and equality (rural or urban culture for example). These debates have shaped and organised the crafting and implementation of cultural policy. Against this backdrop, some have preferred to talk of the concept of **"cultural democracy"** rather than of cultural democratisation. By cultural democracy, we mean the recognition **"of the diversity of aesthetic experiences"**, cultures and the lack of any hierarchy between the latter.

These days, the various cultural stakeholders, the Ministry of Culture included, are seeking a **balance between these approaches**, especially when it comes to developing cultural youth policies. Cultural democratisation and the recognition of new cultures (such as digital for example) remain at the heart of cultural youth initiatives.

Heritage

In a similar way to cultural democratisation, the notion of **"heritage"** is one of the **linchpins** of French cultural public policy. Heritage defines "the common legacy" of a society. For a long time confined to monuments and museums, the notion of heritage has since broadened to encompass intangible cultures. According to the [Ministry of Culture](#), these concern, for example "oral, musical or choreographic traditions, languages as vehicles of these traditions, traditional sports and games, festive events, local craft know-how and knowledge linked to what we know about nature or the universe". Heritage forms a distinct sector in its own right of cultural initiatives and policies, particularly those aimed at young people. Such initiatives set out to help young people to get personally to grips with heritage themselves.

Cultural exception

The notion of **cultural exception**, promoted by France since the 1980s, is based on the idea that culture is not **a commercial product like any other**. Although its economic dimension does need to be taken into account, the role that culture plays in the personal development of each citizen as well as that of society means that this economic sector is a common good; this then requires the public authority's involvement to ensure there is an ongoing cultural offering that is of high-quality, varied and accessible to as many people as possible.

8.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Cultural policy, particularly when geared towards young people, calls on a number of different stakeholders who may either work separately or, on the other hand, closely together. The main bodies involved in advocating culture are the **government departments and their devolved departments, public cultural institutions, local authorities and associations.**

1. Stakeholder

Government departments

Two government departments are particularly active in drawing up and delivering cultural policy for all young people: the [Ministry of Culture](#) and the Ministry of National Education and Youth through **the DJEPVA - Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations** (Direction de jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative) in particular (which is placed under the authority of the Ministry of Education). Although they may participate in different ways through different activities, a good number of these activities rely on a cross-government, complementary partnership.

Other government departments also get involved alongside the Ministry of Culture in crafting policies or specific initiatives aimed at certain groups of youths: the **Ministry of Agriculture**, which sets up schemes for students at rural agricultural schools, and the **Ministry of Justice**, which comes up with programmes for young prisoners.

Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Culture's overarching mission is **to foster access to culture, the development and dissemination of cultural creation and to showcase French artistic creations.** That said, the Ministry is not the only key stakeholder in youth policies – it contributes jointly to them with the other government departments concerned with developing creativity and cultural participation among children and young adults.

The [Ministry of Culture](#) is composed of a central administration, and has three types of institutions and decentralized services to carry out its action: the regional directorates of cultural affairs, public institutions and services with national competence.

Within the central administration, the Minister of Culture has authority over several large entities:

- The General Directorate of Heritage is divided into four departments: architecture, archives, museums and heritage. Its general mission is to protect cultural property through a policy of conservation and restoration of tangible and intangible heritage.
- The General Direction of the Artistic Creation defines the artistic policy concerning the plastic arts (painting, sculpture, etc.) and the live show (dance, music, theater).
- The Directorate General of Media and Cultural Industries (DGDMIC) conducts the Government's policy in the field of communication and media.
- The regional directorates of cultural affairs (DRAC) which are responsible for implementing, under the authority of the regional prefect and departmental prefects, the cultural policy defined by the government.
- the general delegation to the French language and languages of France's mission is the preservation and enhancement of French throughout the world.

The Ministry has a [SCPCI - Service for the Coordination of Cultural Policies and Innovation \(Service de la coordination des politiques culturelles et de l'innovation\)](#) attached to the General Secretariat (Secrétariat général), which is in charge of **cultural democratisation and artistic and cultural education, as well as of developing cultural practices for different population groups including young people.** The projects and policies

initiated by the SCPCI are rolled out across the regions by the devolved departments: the [DRACs - Regional Departments of Cultural Affairs \(Directions régionales des affaires culturelles\)](#)

Under the authority of the Regional Prefect and *Département*-level Prefects, the latter departments have responsibility over the cultural policy defined by the Government within the Regions (local authority).

The regional directorates of cultural affairs (DRAC)

The DRAC play an important role in the implementation of cultural policies for youth at the local level. The DRAC especially intervene through partnerships with NGOs, cultural institutions and the Ministry of national education.

They ensure the conduct of the actions of the State, develop cooperation with local authorities to whom they can provide their technical support. The regional cultural affairs departments **ensure the coherence of the action** carried out in its area by the national departments of the Ministry of Culture and the public institutions under that Ministry.

It should be noted that the DRACs do not all carry out the same cultural projects for young people, the latter depending on the territories

Ministry of National Education and Youth

Together with the Ministry of Culture, the [Ministry of National Education](#) contributes to schoolchildren's **artistic and cultural education** particularly through artistic teaching content as well as the promoting of art and culture to school groups.

DJEPVA - Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (Direction de jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative)

The [DJEPVA](#), which reports to the Ministry of National Education, plays a key role in promoting **the associative initiative**, especially in terms of non-formal education, by financially supporting associations and facilities that carry out cultural projects for **young people**. As such, the DJEPVA reaches out to a wide section of the public, beyond pupils and students alone, and (indirectly) supports a range of cultural youth projects.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

The Ministry of Agriculture is something of a forerunner in terms of cultural youth policy, if you consider that, since the 1960s, agricultural learning paths taught "sociocultural education" (ESC), a multidisciplinary approach stemming from Non-Formal Education whose learning outcomes are open-mindedness, developing an inquisitive mind and independent thinking in young people.

Associations (NGOs)

Associations form **the cornerstones** of cultural youth policy. They put the democratisation of culture into practice, by organising cultural activities and familiarising youngsters in cultural and artistic practices. There are more than 260,000 associations with a cultural purpose (for all audiences) in France.

Cultural associations play an active part in rolling out youth policies under partnership agreements and contracts with the State (government and devolved departments) and local authorities. They also develop their own cultural and artistic projects.

Local authorities

In France, local authorities (Municipalities, Regions and *Départements*) are instrumental in cultural initiatives, for they consider such initiatives to form **a crucial part** of local development while also contributing to **social cohesion and territorial appeal**. What is more, they can make choices at their respective levels, on the basis of their remit in terms of cultural policy:

- Managing and financing libraries,

- Managing museums and giving grants to cinemas,
- Developing artistic education,
- Watching over and preserving movable cultural objects which are listed as historical monuments,
- Preserving and showcasing archives and organising archaeological departments.

With regard to cultural youth policies, the local authorities carry out and can bolster activities developed by the State (government and devolved departments), but they can also develop cultural strategies specifically tailored to the reality of their local areas.

2.Organisation of responsibilities

The Ministry of Culture may well be the **key impetus and decision-maker** behind national cultural initiatives, but it does not have the monopoly over cultural policy for all that: local authorities and associations alike play an equally important role in putting together and carrying out cultural youth projects and can also develop their own strategies for action. Cultural policy is also based on a number of partnerships between these different operators, however, who work together in setting up and regulating cultural youth initiatives.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

Cross-sectorial cooperation is put into practice through the joint implementation of cultural youth projects between different ministerial departments. This may entail partnership agreements or agreement protocols:

The agreement between the DRACs - Regional Departments of Cultural Affairs (Directions régionales des affaires culturelles) and DRAAFs - Regional Departments of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (Directions Régionale de l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et la Forêt).

These culture/agriculture agreements have a long history, since the first agreement was signed on 17 July 1990. It had two key objectives: "facilitate creation, dissemination and cultural and artistic practice in rural areas" and "enable rural populations to personally get to grips with the benefits of showcasing their heritage...".

The DRAC and DRAAF have run a joint artistic and cultural education policy at regional level through the "culture-agriculture" agreement. Signed for a three-year period, the "culture-agriculture" agreement sets out to develop cultural action and artistic education in rural and peri-urban areas. It encourages cultural facilities and local authorities to get involved in artistic and cultural projects conducted with the **public agricultural schools**. Such projects are primarily organised in connection with sociocultural education.

The strategic objectives of the agreements include:

- Fostering cultural and artistic education,
- Promoting new forms of cultural mediation,
- Supporting cultural and artistic creation.

For example, the DRAAF (Regional Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry) and DRAC (Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs) of the Occitanie region signed on July 12, [2019 a three-year agreement](#) (2019-2022) which aims to promote cultural action in rural areas.

As part of this convention, several projects are and will be developed in Occitanie around contemporary dance, digital arts and photography.

The objective of the convention is to develop a shared strategy for **the democratization and development of cultural action in rural and peri-urban** areas with local authorities and actors.

The Ministry of Culture also conducts inter-sectoral co-operation with the Ministry of Education in the framework **of educational continuity policies and artistic and cultural education** (See [8.3 National Strategy on creativity and culture for young people](#)).

These interministerial cooperations which also mobilize associations and state operators are concretized by the signing of agreements like the **Local Contract of Artistic and Cultural Education (CLEAC)**.

Local Contracts of Artistic and Cultural Education (CLEAC).

CLEACs are essential levers of arts and cultural education policy, which is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Culture.

These are renewable 3-year contracts, signed at least between a municipality, the DRAC and the National Education. They allow **to build a coherent course of artistic and cultural education for all young people**. They can also address the entire population and help the development of cultural structures.

For example, the CLEAC implemented in the city of Tourcoing in the Hauts-de-France region consists of a scheme for raising awareness of art and culture for young people from 3 to 25 years old and educational actors.

The Cities of Roubaix and Tourcoing, the DRAC (Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs) as well as the Rectorate of the Lille Academy and the Departmental Services of National Education have joined to pool their resources in favor of cultural action **in order to reduce the inequalities of access to art and culture..**

Source: <https://www.tourcoing.fr/Mes-loisirs/Culture/Le-CLEA-Contrat-Local-d-Education-Artistique>

Framework Convention Culture at the University

In accordance with the law ([Code of education, article L.123-6](#)) higher education institutions must implement university cultural policies. These cultural policies must be in line with the policies of the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Culture can sign partnership agreements with the ministry in charge of higher education. However, these conventions are not systematic. These conventions respond to objectives of democratization to access culture. For example, they can commit to:

- **"Intensify artistic and cultural practices of students and, more broadly, of the university community"**
- **"Strengthen exchanges between universities and their environment so as to make them places of culture "**
- **"Energize partnerships with arts and cultural institutions"**
- **"Valorize the architectural, scientific, technical, artistic, landscape and linguistic heritage of universities and promote the meeting between the university and artistic creation".**

These conventions are multipartenarial and mobilize various public actors: the regional directorates of cultural affairs, the rectorates of academy of the universities, the universities, public operators of the university and the local authorities.

Source: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid73014/signature-de-la-conventio...>

8.3 National strategy on creativity and culture for young people

Existence of a national strategy

The role of the Ministry of Culture is to initiate, regulate and support cultural programmes, initiatives and policies aimed at young people, such as the Artistic and Cultural Education policy which is one of the Ministry's priorities, at the centre of cultural policies in favor of youth. The Artistic Cultural Education is covered by a [Charter for Artistic and Cultural Education \(charte pour l'Éducation artistique et culturelle\)](#). This policy is based on an approach involving multiple partners, calling on the **Ministry of National Education**, local authorities and associations. It is aimed at fostering equal access for all schoolchildren to art through creative practice and the acquisition of an artistic culture.

Artistic and cultural education is now compulsory since the Guidance and Planning Law of 8 July 2013 for restructuring French schools. It is also enshrined as one of the fundamental missions of certified facilities under agreement with the Ministry of Culture (Law No. 2016-925 of 7 July 2016 on the freedom of creation, on architecture and on heritage).

The Government continues since 2018 to strengthen artistic and cultural education by implementing a joint action plan between the Ministry of National Education and Youth and the Ministry of Culture: **the plan for "Arts and Culture in Schools" (plan À l'école des arts et de la culture) aims to provide children and young people between the ages of 3 and 18 with an artistic learning path.**

The plan should make arts and culture a key focus in schools as **"this enables pupils to develop each of their five senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste) as well as their practical understanding of reality"**. The intention, therefore, is to provide an artistic, cultural and sensory education - EACS (éducation artistique, culturelle et sensorielle) at the different times in a child's day: at school, at after-school and during extracurricular activities.

The implementation of the plan will continue in 2021.

Scope and contents

More broadly speaking, cultural youth policies are aimed at **democratising culture and cultural practices**, and at helping young people **to get personally to grips with their cultural heritage**.

The purpose of the Artistic and Cultural Education policy is "to foster, for each child, access to the arts and culture in all their forms, to help to build personal judgement and awareness with a view to developing critical thinking, and to endeavour to pass on the basics of a genuine humanist culture likely to open minds up to the diversity of arts and thought".

Plan for "Arts and Culture in Schools"

The plan sets out to expand:

- children's artistic knowledge,
- artistic practice,
- encounters with artists and artworks.

It also sets out to reduce inequality of access to artistic practices for children. **Access to cultural activities is highly unequal and is partly conditioned by the social environment and places where children and young people live.** According to the Government, "developing the arts in schools and during after-school time falls under the requirement for Republican equality".

To achieve these objectives, the Ministries of Culture, and National Education and Youth, have identified three practices to be developed as a priority in primary and secondary schools:

1. musical practice,
2. reading (books),
3. the theatre.

Primary school

Each year, in primary schools, schoolchildren will have:

- devoted 10% of their school time to artistic learning and practices,
- experienced at least two cultural highlights: - a visit to a cultural establishment (museum, cinema, etc.), - a show (theatre, dance, concert, opera, circus arts), - a visit to a heritage monument (castle, church, washhouse, statue of Jesus on the cross, industrial heritage, etc.) - an encounter with a designer or performer,
- borrowed books from a school or community library each week,
- sung in their school choir.

Secondary schools

Each year, in lower secondary school, students will have:

- followed lessons in artistic education,
- taken a weekly oral skills class, which will help kick-start new momentum for drama groups to become widespread,
- experienced at least two cultural highlights: a visit to a cultural establishment (museum, cinema, etc.), a show (theatre, dance, concert, opera, circus arts), a visit to a heritage monument (castle, church, washhouse, statue of Jesus on the cross, industrial heritage, etc.), an encounter with a designer or performer,
- benefited from a workshop on media and information literacy,
- if they wish, sung in a choir and attended a weekly screening of a heritage film.

Each year, in upper secondary schools (*lycées*), students will be able to:

- take part in a research and creativity workshop (music, dance, theatre, etc.) in partnership with cultural networks,
- attend a weekly film showing.

In addition, as part of the [Wednesday Plan \(plan Mercredi\)](#), primary schoolchildren can benefit from cultural activities. The Wednesday Plan aims to provide children and families with a wide range of extracurricular activities and to **support the development of high-quality after-school clubs run by willing local authorities.**

Willing local authorities can organise "Wednesday Plans based 100% on Artistic and Cultural Education". In such cases, local authorities must ensure, for example, that all students receive the equivalent of 2 hours' artistic practice by developing an artistic learning path during after-school and extracurricular time that is in line with the school schedule.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The responsible authorities depend on the initiatives or projects being rolled out for young people: they may be the Ministry of Culture, local authorities or may involve shared responsibility between the stakeholders concerned (See 8.2 [Cross-sectorial cooperation](#))

The Artistic and Cultural Education policy comes under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of National Education. The **HCEAC - High Council for**

Artistic and Cultural Education (Haut Conseil de l'Éducation Artistique et Culturelle) also has a role to play.

Set up in November 2005 with a view to **promoting the arts** in schools, the HCEAC's missions encompass advice, discussions and foresight. Its role and members are defined by the [Decree of 28 August 2013](#). It now has 24 members appointed by ruling for a three-year term: representatives of government departments, local authorities (associations of elected representatives) and specialists appointed on account of their expertise (from the education or culture spheres for example).

The Council is chaired by the Minister of National Education and the Minister of Culture.

One of the Council's missions is to monitor the development and roll-out of artistic and cultural education policies in their various dimensions (educational, budgetary and partnership aspects).

Revisions/updates

In July 2017, the Government (formed on 21 June 2017) confirmed its commitment to giving 100% of children access to the artistic and cultural learning path. The Ministries of Culture, Education and Higher Education have underscored [the importance of artistic and cultural education](#) at all levels of education – from infant school right up to doctoral level – and above all their intention to draw particular attention to music, to promote the importance of books and reading in learning matters and to better factor in art and culture in teacher training courses.

The President of the Republic has committed to ensuring that all children benefit from a "coherent and challenging cultural learning path", and to fulfilling the target of 100% that he would like to achieve through the gradual implementation of the plan over the five-year term.

8.4 Promoting culture and cultural participation

Reducing obstacles to young people's access to culture

Democratising the cultural participation of young people is a key priority of the State-led policies and policies run by local authorities and private not-for-profit structures alike (associations, foundations, etc.).

With a view to reducing obstacles to cultural access and participation, the Ministry of Culture has drawn up a **pricing policy and schemes for freely accessing the permanent collections of 50 national museums and national monuments**. Applicable since 4 April 2009, this measure applies to young EU residents under 26 years of age, as well as the whole of the educational community.

Cultural democratisation forms the backbone of what the Ministry of Culture does in a bid to reduce barriers to cultural access through "[cultural development](#)", a policy which results both in support for the cultural offering in its diversity and in actions that make culture more accessible to youngsters. Cultural development also extends to people who, because of their social situation, find themselves the most removed from culture: prisoners or socially or geographically excluded people for example. Disabled people and hospital patients also form target groups for cultural development policies.

Cultural development relies on **the partnership between** the Ministry of Culture and its deconcentrated directions, other government departments concerned, the artistic public institutions, cultural facilities, associations and non-formal education networks. It is materialised through an array of measures:

- Support for trials aimed at diversifying the ways in which culture can be accessed (*creative digital practices, amateur practices*);

- **Plan for Artistic and Cultural Education (plan pour l'éducation artistique et culturelle)** launched in 2008 renewed in 2019 and 2020;
- **Setup of partnerships with the endowment fund InPACT** (*Initiative for sharing culture [Initiative pour le partage culturel]*) in March 2012, bringing together a dozen businesses and sponsors. InPact supports innovative cultural initiatives aimed at people who are the furthest removed from culture.

InPACT works in close collaboration with the services of the Ministry of Culture and more specifically with the DEDAC (Department of Education and Arts and Cultural Development) at the central level, and the DRAC (Regional Directorates of Cultural Affairs) at the regional level. The DRACs support InPACT in its mission of observing the initiatives carried out within the territories by providing expertise regarding artists, artistic projects, social and territorial issues. They can also be solicited to allow the networking of structures, associations, artists, institutions, etc.

The various ministerial initiatives aimed at **reducing barriers to access to culture are financed by public funds**, voted by parliamentarians. These actions are financed under various budget programs, including the 224 program "Transmission of knowledge and democratization of culture", one of whose objectives is to "promote access to culture throughout France, particularly through the development of artistic and cultural education"

In 2019, this program's appropriations totaled 541 million euros.

The action "Support for democratization and arts and cultural education" in program 224 is aimed specifically at reducing inequalities in access to culture: it amounts to € 199 million (2019).

In particular, it finances arts and cultural education (EAC), organized around five main axes

1. artistic practice at school and out of school;
2. book and reading
3. image, media and information education
4. Training of actors in arts and cultural education
5. strengthening partnerships with local and regional authorities to improve the coherence of arts and cultural education policies.

Source: [2019 Finance Bill Mission Culture](#)

Culture Pass (Pass Culture) for young people

In 2018, the Government launched the [Culture Pass](#) (Pass Culture) scheme for young people;

This project has three objectives:

1. Facilitate access for all to culture,
2. Promote cultural diversity,
3. Foster independent thinking in young people towards culture, 18 year olds in particular.

To put the project into action, the Ministry of Culture has developed **a digital platform for cultural mediation in the form of a mobile app with a number of features, which provides a national calendar of cultural opportunities** while also suggesting specific, location-based opportunities for 18 year olds. Each resident who is 18 years old will receive credit worth €500 in goods or services which can be put towards a whole range of cultural activities. A trial run is being carried out in some départements in 2018 and 2019 before the scheme is rolled-out fully.

Disseminating information on cultural opportunities

The various stakeholders advocating cultural participation among young people promote cultural opportunities through a range of actions: events, national campaigns and use of information dissemination tools.

Internet users can find out what's on culture-wise on the institutional websites:

- The website <http://www.culture.fr/> of the Ministry of Culture gives the lowdown on cultural events in France and is also a resource base on art.
- The website <http://www.culture.fr/Juniors> shows what cultural events are happening for young people: family outings, exhibitions, performances for children, workshops in museums, releases of new cultural digital apps and so on.
- The DJEPVA website, <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/interministeriel/loisirs/culture/>, also provides information on schemes for accessing culture that are particularly geared towards youngsters.
- The **Culture Pass** (Pass Culture) website, which is linked to an application enabling young people to find out about existing cultural activities taking place where they live.

In addition to websites, so-called "general public" events are also put on to promote existing cultural opportunities.

Since 2015, for example the nationwide annual book festival for youngsters, "**Partir en livre**", has been organised by the CNL - National Book Centre (Centre national du livre) with input from the Youth Press and Book Salon (Salon du Livre et de la presse jeunesse). This free festival sets out to pass on enjoyment for reading as well as familiarise young people with the people and places involved in the book industry as a whole. Over 3,000 free events are held throughout mainland France and overseas territories as part of this festival.

Moreover, **youth information facilities**, forming as they do a France-wide Youth information network (See 2.7 *Information providers* in *Raising awareness about Youth Volunteering Opportunities*) and under agreement with the Ministry of Youth, also play a part in promoting the national and local provision of cultural activities. These facilities (offices, youth information points) may sell tickets, give out **invitations and offer discounts for cultural events**.

Knowledge of cultural heritage amongst young people

Raising young people's awareness of cultural heritage is one of the objectives of cultural associations and institutions, not least the Ministry of Culture which, through various initiatives, educates youngsters in history and history of art or in vocational training in the heritage occupations.

Such actions are run all year round. They aim at raising young people's awareness of the history of their society and of their living environment (heritage, architecture, landscape, etc.) through diverse approaches: **tours, workshops, encounters and personal accounts, local arts and craft practices, etc.** These projects may be embarked on during school time, initiated by teachers, or during children's free time, with their family or while attending holiday clubs and other "youth" facilities (Youth and cultural centres [Maison des jeunes et de la culture], etc.).

A whole host of stakeholders are involved in this education and promotion of heritage for young people: heritage sites, heritage advocacy associations, volunteering programmes (chantiers de bénévoles, see below) or [the network of Towns/Cities and Regions of Art and Culture \(Villes et pays d'art et d'histoire\)](#), etc.

These stakeholders jointly with the Ministry of culture implement initiatives for accessing cultural heritage. Some examples include:

- **"That's my heritage!" (C'est mon patrimoine !)**

"That's my heritage!" ([C'est mon patrimoine](#) !) is an initiative that has been organised by the Ministry of Culture for 6 to 18 year olds from deprived backgrounds since 2005.

It seeks to open children's and adolescents' eyes up to the sheer range of heritage out there through multidisciplinary extra-curricular activity programmes: workshops, dramatised tours, treasure hunts, readings, dance, performances or digital art practice. The activities put on are the result of a [call for proposals](#) for the attention of cultural stakeholders. Their project proposals can be legally overseen by a heritage institution or association.

This scheme is overseen by the Ministry of Culture and [CGET - General Commission for Territorial Equality \(Commissariat Général à l'égalité des territoires\)](#), in partnership with social centres, youth and culture centres, holiday clubs and rural development associations (foyers ruraux). It is also rolled out via national or local partnerships with the CMN - Centre for National Monuments (Centre des monuments nationaux) and diverse institutions across the heritage spectrum. Local authorities can also get involved in this project, either by stumping up funding or by fronting projects.

In 2019, nearly 60,000 children and adolescents from 6 to 18 years old, two-thirds of whom came from disadvantaged urban cities took part in this event.

- **Heritage volunteering programmes (chantiers patrimoniaux de bénévoles)**

Several associations that protect and promote heritage, including [Rempart](#) and the [CHAM - Chantier Histoire Architecture Médiévale](#)), subsidised by the Ministries of Culture , organise international heritage restoration programmes on a volunteering basis (*bénévolat*).

- **Family visits**

With a view to helping the most deprived families to enjoy heritage visits, the Ministry of Culture has published, with input from its General Directorate for Heritage (Direction générale des patrimoines), a guide on cultural family sightseeing: [Visiter en famille, socialisation et médiation des patrimoines \[Family sightseeing, socialisation and mediation of heritage\]](#) for the attention of cultural mediation professionals.

- **Europe-wide events**

Over and above these national initiatives, some heritage promotion events have a European dimension, such as the [European Heritage Days](#), launched by the Council of Europe and organised annually jointly with the European Union.

In France, the European Heritage Days are organised by the Ministry of Culture. They call on the CMN, the network of Towns/Cities and Regions of Art and History, the Heritage Foundation (Fondation du Patrimoine) and heritage preservation associations present.

Funding

Heritage is the subject of a budget program: the 175 "Heritage" program. These funds finance, in particular, the protection and restoration of heritage.

Source: <https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Nous-connaître/Decouvrir-le-ministère/Budget...>

8.5 Developing cultural and creative competences

Acquiring cultural and creative competences through education and training

Formal education

Formal education plays a prominent role in the acquisition of artistic and creative competences as well as cultural knowledge (history of art), particularly through artistic teaching content on the core curriculum up to lower secondary school level, which forms

part of the broader programme of **artistic and cultural education**, implemented by National Education together with the Ministry of Culture.

This policy is enshrined in the [Guidance and Planning Law of 8 July 2013 for restructuring French schools](#), which provides that artistic and cultural education in schools comprise "a learning path for all schoolchildren throughout their schooling", which is "implemented at local level" and in which "cultural and artistic stakeholders along with associations can [...] be involved". **The importance of artistic and cultural education has been firmly established with the plan for "Arts and Culture in Schools** (plan À l'école des arts et de la culture). See **8.3 National strategy on creativity and culture for young people**

The learning outcomes of **artistic and cultural education** are to:

- Enable all schoolchildren to forge a rich and coherent personal culture throughout their schooling;
- Develop and increase their artistic practice;
- Enable encounters with artists and artworks and attendance of cultural venues.

This programme entails creating a **PEAC - artistic and cultural learning path** (parcours d'éducation artistique et culturelle) for primary and secondary schoolchildren. The point is to create complementary links between their different **educational moments: while at school, at after-school or holiday club and during extracurricular activities**. Three pillars underpin the learning path:

1. Artistic learning (part of the core curriculum up to lower secondary school level); musical education, visual and plastic arts (primary).
2. Encounters with artists and artworks through partnerships.
3. Artistic practices which may be hosted in establishments and be built on outside the establishment.
4. Monitoring of the child's artistic and cultural learning path *via* a digital platform: [FOLIOS](#) which enables formal documentation of learning paths, from primary school through to upper secondary schools (*lycées*). Schoolchildren have a [personal online section](#) on this platform, which teachers can access to update throughout their learning paths.

Other **actions** forming part of artistic and cultural education also foster the acquisition of creative and cultural competences. These include:

The culture correspondent (référent culture)

In each upper secondary school (*lycée*), a teacher can put him- or herself forward for the position of school **culture correspondent (référent culture)**. In this capacity, s/he is responsible for the school's cultural life and for coordinating partnerships. These correspondents keep an eye on and implement the cultural aspects of the school's strategic plan.

Partnership between the CNC - National Cinema Centre (centre national du cinéma) and National Education

The partnership between the CNC, Ministry of National Education and local authorities has been running for some twenty years now. It takes concrete form through the projects **"Primary school and the movies" (Ecole et cinéma)**, **"Lower secondary school at the movies" (Collège au cinéma)** and **"Upper secondary school students at the movies" (Lycéens au cinéma)** which, for the past twenty years or so, have given pupils and students the chance to watch high-quality heritage and contemporary films chosen with the CNC at partner cinemas. (This partnership is not systematic across all schools).

History of art lessons

History of art lessons are taught to all schoolchildren from primary school right through to upper secondary school level. They give the children insight into artworks from different artistic movements, periods and civilisations and, through a multidisciplinary approach,

can be **taught by all willing teachers in the form of shared projects**. At lower secondary school, these lessons are delivered by history-geography, plastic arts and music teachers. Pupils also have digital resources to hand for rounding off or advancing their knowledge of history of art. Examples of such websites are:

- <http://histoiredesarts.culture.fr/>
- <https://www.monuments-nationaux.fr/>

Sociocultural education in agricultural schools

Students attending agricultural schools attached to the Ministry of Agriculture are able to attend "sociocultural education" (ESC) classes bearing on several spheres including the "cultural and artistic sphere".

The learning outcomes of classes in the "cultural and artistic sphere" are to nurture creativity and judgement and to educate in the different forms of expression and communication. The ESC teacher must give students the opportunity of studying works and of trying their hand at artistic techniques.

Cultural and artistic education can, in practice, involve:

- Implementing a range of individual and collective practices, giving precedence to the sensitive approach and work using the imagination;
- Developing projects incorporating the work of artists;
- Devising a cultural programme for the association of students or the school which fosters artistic mediation.

Non-formal education

Non-formal cultural education and action associations develop their own artistic and creative training programmes and projects. There is no system-wide programme or framework bearing on the development of cultural and creative skills.

Specialised training for professionals in the education, culture and youth fields

Teachers

Training for "plastic arts and choir singing and music education" teachers is regulated by National Education. During their vocational training and study for the CAPES - postgraduate certificate in secondary teaching (certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement du Second degré), "Plastic Arts" or "choir singing and music education" specialism, candidates must acquire both practical and theoretical knowledge. The training and certificate arrangements are defined by legislation:

- [Ruling of 19 April 2013, amended](#)
- [Ruling amendment of 30 March 2017](#)

Plastic arts

The learning outcomes of the plastic arts teacher training certificate (occupation) are to:

- Become well-versed in the history of artistic movements and techniques;
- Harness artistic culture and knowledge of plastic art;
- Situate and compare works of different kinds, from diverse periods, cultural and geographic areas;
- Analyse and explain changing practices in the plastic art sphere.

In addition, the examination for the certificate includes an artistic test aimed at "testing the candidate's artistic commitment, [...] inventiveness and creativeness [...] and know-how in terms of expression with plastic means".

Choir singing and music education

The CAPES - postgraduate certificate in secondary teaching, "Choir singing and music education" specialism has similar learning outcomes to the plastic arts specialism. The candidate must become well-versed in musical culture and technique and be able to pass musical knowledge on to students as well as develop a musical project.

Digital resources

Plastic arts, history of art and music teachers have all kinds of teaching aids to hand for drawing up their art lesson plans and learning how to teach their subjects. These resources can be found on the National Education website, [EDUSCOL](#), which, for each subject, outlines the learning outcomes and suggests teaching content.

What is more, when the teacher is also his or her school's **culture correspondent (réfèrent culture)**, s/he receives specific training in **three main areas**: knowledge of the artistic and cultural education environment, proficiency in the partner-based project methodology and making optimum use of shared resources.

Cultural facilitators and educators

Training in the cultural facilitation occupations is overseen, for the administrative aspects, by the Ministries of Sport and Youth, which award the facilitation diplomas.

"Cultural facilitation" is defined by [the framework \(référentiel\)](#) of the BPJEPS - Vocational Certificate for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (brevet professionnel de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport), "cultural facilitation" specialism, which clarifies the role of the cultural facilitator.

This role must come within a non-formal education approach and foster "development of community ties", particularly for the people furthest removed from culture because of their social situation. In this regard, the facilitator designs and leads, completely independently, cultural events and projects with four key activities in mind:

1. Cultural guidance;
2. Organising group activities, developing expression and creativity;
3. Participation in implementing local partnerships in the realm of cultural facilitation;
4. Supporting amateur cultural practices and projects.

On the subject of **developing creativity**, the facilitator must carry out appropriate educational initiatives using technical tools and media that s/he is familiar with (in terms of their characteristics) thanks to the training modules.

The involvement of facilitators does not replace the need for artistic initiatives – rather, this should be complementary and serve as an invitation to take part in artistic and cultural practices.

Cultural sector professionals

The cultural sector spans several different occupations which can come under the private or public sector. Regarding cultural occupations coming under the administrative remit of the Ministry of Culture, these are listed in a [directory \(répertoire\)](#) of occupations of the Ministry of Culture, which describes all of the occupations practised by ministerial staff according to activity and competence.

In the same way as central government across France does, the Ministry of Culture primarily recruits civil servants through **competitive examinations**. Fixed-term contracts are also available.

The **competitive exams are annual** and prepare candidates for occupations in different **sectors** (administrative, documentation, education, research, technical aspects and surveillance, art occupations). Examples of the types of occupation accessible *via* the competitive exams of the Ministry of Culture are:

- State architect and urban planner
- [Chief Architects of historic monuments](#)
- [Librarian](#)
- [Heritage curator](#)
- [Library stack staff](#)
- [Heritage and cultural services engineer](#)
- [Professor of national graduate schools of art](#)

The courses giving candidates access to these occupations can be taken in universities and public or private higher education institutions.

Providing quality access to creative environments

The creation of places, spaces of creativity is most often carried out at the scale of the territories, on the initiative of the local authorities, especially the municipalities in partnership with the deconcentrated services of the Ministry of Culture.

Microfolies

The public establishment of the Parc de la Grande Halle at La Villette has created the "Micro-folies" which constitutes "**flexible spaces of cultural democracy and playful access to the oeuvres of national museums**". It is mobile structures backed by an existing cultural structure (media library or hall of a town hall in the absence of a cultural venue) which integrate a digital museum and a Fab-Lab.

The micro-folies mobilize among others 12 major operators of the Ministry of Culture : The Louvre museum, the Georges-Pompidou museum, the Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac Museum, the RMN-Grand Palais, the Palace of Versailles, the Museum Picasso, Universcience, the Philharmonie of Paris, the Orsay Museum, the National Opera of Paris, the Institute of the Arab World and the Festival of Avignon.

Since 2018, 200 "Micro-Folies" have been installed throughout France, targeting in particular territories with less cultural facilities. These Micro-Folies can be installed perennially or be on "tour" in several cities by stationing 6 months in each city. The state pays a part of the costs to support cities that want to install a Micro-folie in their municipality.

For more information on micro-folies see [8.6 Developing entrepreneurial skills through cultural activities](#).

The 104

For example, the Paris City Council has founded the artistic public institution [104](#), which is a centre for residencies, production and dissemination for the general public and artists from all over the world. As somewhere to come and give free rein to artistic practices, the 104 also hosts exhibitions, concerts and performing arts shows (dance, theatre, circus, etc.). This unregulated [open venue](#) can be accessed freely with no booking required by young people keen on practising their art with no restrictions. The 104 is financed by public funding, which includes grants allocated by the City of Paris, the institution's own income and an endowment fund relying on contributions from the institution's partner sponsors.

MJC - Youth and culture centres (Maisons de jeunes et de la culture)

MJCs are [symbolic venues](#) in terms of the cultural participation of young people. Set up in the postwar era, they really came into their own in the 1960s-'70s with the development of the non-formal education movement to which they still belong to this day.

Youth and culture centres are facilities open to all youths for practising cultural, artistic and recreational activities, developing their own artistic sensitivity and expression and forge their own identity as citizens. According to the confederation principles of MJCs, their

role is "to help each [young person] to develop their sensitivity and intelligence and provide them with the cultural means necessary for them to thrive."

Indeed, **MJC - Youth and culture centres (Maisons de jeunes et de la culture)** are actually **Non-formal education** associations gathered within a [confederation](#). They can be found all over France, across more than 700 branches. They rely on contributions from their members as well as public subsidies (municipal and ministerial). They have been [accredited](#) by the Ministry of Youth as their work is recognised to be in the public interest. These centres also receive funding from **local authorities** *via* Multiannual objectives and resources agreements.

8.6 Developing entrepreneurial skills through culture

Developing entrepreneurial skills through cultural activities

In the context of some courses for cultural occupations, students are able to hone their business skills through cultural and creative activities. This is particularly the case for courses which prepare for the commercial cultural sectors (book, press, audiovisual and multimedia).

For example, [Paris Fashion School](#), a co-creation of [the ENSAD - National Graduate School for the Decorative Arts \(Ecole nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs\)](#), which is a public higher education institution coming under the Ministry of Culture, the [Ecole des MINES ParisTech](#) and [Paris-Dauphine University](#), offers courses combining "creativity, strategy and innovation". The Master's programmes include modules on production of materials and textiles, artistic and creative skills, marketing, strategy and start-ups as well as production, law and new materials. During their training, students take part in workshops with guest designers and also learn during placements.

It is worth mentioning that there are a large number of courses blending cultural practices with the development of business skills, but it is not possible to go into them all here, given their sheer number and diversity. Moreover, such courses are not all taught by the same establishments (private or public for example) and do not all have the same learning outcomes.

Support young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors

The Ministry of Culture and its DGMIC - General Directorate for Media and the Cultural Industries (Direction Générale des Médias et des Industries Culturelles) have helped to finance the setup of a collaborative platform "[www.entreprendre-culture.fr](#)", developed by the cultural entrepreneurship association MERCI - Undertaking in the Culture and Innovation Networks Mission (Collectif Mission Entreprendre dans les Réseaux de la Culture et de l'Innovation), founded in 2014. The members making up its network include structures which offer guidance to project leaders and entrepreneurs in the cultural sector.

The website [www.entreprendre-culture.fr](#) is a collaborative tool providing cultural entrepreneurs with a discussion forum and resource base on cultural entrepreneurship.

This tool offers a database which lists the cultural entrepreneurship guidance structures funded by the public authorities.

Through this database, it is possible to:

- Raise the profile of [project leaders](#) and cultural entrepreneurs in existing guidance structures in France,
- Promote the guidance schemes provided by the [guidance structures \(incubators\)](#).

The website also has an information section on cultural entrepreneurship, an events calendar, a newsletter for project leaders and cultural entrepreneurs and a professional area for the guidance structures.

In addition to the website, the Ministry of Culture has also set up an "[Undertake in Culture in 2018](#)" [Forum \(Forum Entreprendre dans la Culture en 2018\)](#), hosting conferences, workshops and an incubator for students, entrepreneurs and professionals in the Culture sector.

8.7 Fostering the creative use of new technologies

New technologies in support of creativity and innovation

All of the stakeholders working for the cultural benefit of young people, whether public (cultural institutions, local authorities, schools, etc.) or private (associations, businesses, etc.), bear in mind the central, regular role played by technology in the cultural practices of youngsters, who are now digital natives. Young people's use of technology is bringing with it far-reaching cultural change: different relationships with space and time and the transformation of cultural venues and devices, which are becoming ever more hybrid. Cultural stakeholders must therefore adapt to these upheavals, all the while encouraging wider use of these new technologies.

There is currently no single political strategy aimed at developing the practice and use of new technology in young people, or financial programme specific to the development of cultural practices with regard to technological innovation. The initiatives are led by a range of operators that can work jointly.

Ministry of Culture

The recognition and development of new technologies for disseminating cultural creation is one of the missions of the Ministry of Culture, which has a [Digital Innovation Department \(Département de l'innovation numérique\)](#) tasked with supporting trials bearing on digital technology, culture and heritage. These trials are rolled out through calls for innovative digital service proposals not specifically intended for young people. One of the flagship projects seeking to develop the creative, enjoyable use of new technologies is the deployment of "Micro-folies" – cultural venues which combine social settings with places for disseminating cultural content and hosting creation workshops.

Launched in 2017 Micro-folies are original, **hybrids**, **"adaptable and hyperconnected"** cultural venues that can be laid out around modules (spaces): **a digital museum** displaying 250 works from national collections, in digital format, **a stage** where artists, associations and amateurs can come and rehearse and perform, **an eatery**, organised in liaison with local associations and **a workshop area**, equipped with 3D printers, computerised sewing machines and computers. Such spaces have been designed for children, as well as designers, artists, students and all local residents.

Led by the Ministry of Culture and coordinated by La [Villette](#), a cultural public institution supervised by the latter Ministry as well as the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Micro-folies can be rolled out across all territories by adapting to local contexts and relying in particular on local intermediaries in the territories (local authorities, associations, schools). Project leaders looking to set up Micro-folies are supported by La Villette.

These alternative cultural venues have been set up in deprived urban areas or areas requiring regeneration (deprived neighbourhoods or former mining towns). The point of Micro-folies is to democratise digital and technological culture by bringing it right to the doorstep of local populations and young people, as well as encourage their participation and awaken and acknowledge their creativity.

After the deployment of 200 Micro-Folies in 2018 throughout the country, the Ministry of Culture wants to implement 1,000 Micro-Folies by 2022.

Ministry of National Education

Since the 1990s, National Education has been developing programmes on information and communication technology (ICT) in education for teachers and students alike. The latter

take media and information lessons in this respect (see [6.8 Media literacy and online safety through formal education](#)). Furthermore, digital skill acquisition schemes have also been set up:

- The B2I - IT and Internet Certificate in upper secondary schools (Brevet informatique et Internet au lycée), which is aimed at certifying students' Internet and multimedia literacy;
- **PIX**, a public service for testing and certifying digital skills, which has been freely accessible since 2017 to Year 9 and 10 (third and fourth year of secondary school) students, upper secondary school students and higher education students, as well as any other person who might be interested.

Initiatives for delving deeper into the creative practice of new technologies in particular have also been rolled out:

- organisation of the "European coding week" for promoting computer programming learning and discovery actions.
- the launch by some local education authorities of competitive examinations for schools on the creative and enjoyable use of digital technology.
- Beginner's classes in computer programming with "Scratch programming software" that can be used from primary school.

Participation in these initiatives is neither systematic nor compulsory, but depends on the school and their strategic plan.

Community and associative initiatives.

Local authorities have the possibility of shaping their own programmes and facilities bearing on developing the creative use of new technologies for young people. It would also be worth highlighting the role that associations play in developing cultural projects spanning new technologies, innovation and design, much like some *Fab labs* (shared workshops dedicated to digital fabrication). Moreover, these projects are usually **carried out jointly between local authorities, associations and institutional partners of the Ministry of Culture.**

Facilitating access to culture through new technologies

The use of technologies, particularly IT, as cultural participation tools, is promoted by the Ministry of Culture, which has put together a cultural mediation offering making use of new communication technologies:

- Such websites as [l'Histoire par l'image](#), [EduThèque](#) run by the Ministry of National Education,
- The portal www.histoiredesarts.culture.fr,
- Apps enabling [virtual tours](#) edited by the ministry in charge of culture,
- Digitisation of collections and their availability online via "[Joconde](#)"
- Visitors' aids that can be downloaded from computers or on smartphones, or the use of social media websites as mediation channels.
- The history of arts tool for organising and sharing research, [Renkan](#), which can be used to view, on knowledge maps, historical chronologies across some twenty artistic fields as well as thematic pathways with regard to an artist, an artwork, an art movement, a technique and so on.
- The [Culture Pass](#) (Pass culture)

The culture pass

The Culture Pass (Pass Culture) seeks to help young people to visit artistic venues and buy cultural objects. It consists of a location-based mobile app which a young person can

use to see all the cultural events available in their area: a dance or drama class, an exhibition, a guided tour, a film showing, a concert, a book, or an archaeological excavation.

This is an innovation in the cultural sphere, developed according to the State Start-up (Start-up d'Etat) method in conjunction with young people, cultural stakeholders and local authorities.

New technologies in support of creativity and innovation

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This is an innovation in the cultural sphere, developed according to the State Start-up (Start-up d'Etat) method in conjunction with young people, cultural stakeholders and local authorities.

8.8 Synergies and partnerships

Synergies between public policies and programmes

The implementation of cultural policies aimed at young people is most often based on joint work between the Ministry of Culture, its directorates including deconcentrated, cultural institutions (museums, libraries ...), the Ministry of Culture National Education and Youth, other relevant ministries and other non-state actors including associations. These synergies materialize in different areas.

Here are some examples of transversal cultural policies for youth :

Culture and education

The Charter for artistic and cultural education (Charte pour l'éducation artistique et culturelle)

The production of the **Charter for artistic and cultural education (Charte pour l'éducation artistique et culturelle)** by the HCEAC - High Council for Artistic and Cultural Education (Haut Conseil de l'Éducation Artistique et Culturelle) presented in July 2016 is a clear sign of the intention to foster a **synergy, a complementary approach** between youth policies, particularly educational ones, and cultural policies in particular.

This [charter](#) brings together the stakeholders and institutions involved in artistic and cultural education around ten guiding principles for artistic and cultural education. It thus specifies that artistic education is not limited solely to the cultural sphere, but must also contribute to the "shaping and empowerment of the person and the citizen" and "factor in all of the stages in a young person's life" through an overall approach involving [joint responsibility](#) between the stakeholders delivering this education (local authorities, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Culture, etc.).

Twinning of cultural structures-schools

Twinning is not a "scheme", but a partnership project between a school and a cultural institution. It is a flexible framework, conceived jointly by the two partners, who jointly carry out actions that meet pedagogical and cultural objectives. A school can engage in twinnings with several cultural partners such as museum, music academies.

Twinning can lead to the establishment of a cultural place and resources within the school.

Culture and Health

For more than two decades now, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Culture have been running a joint policy bearing on access to culture for the whole hospital community: patients, elderly people, families, health workers and social workers. This is called the **"Culture and health" (Culture et santé)** programme.

In the regions, the interministerial partnership is materialised through agreements signed between the DRACs - Regional Departments of Cultural Affairs (Directions régionales des affaires culturelles) and the [ARS - Regional Health Agencies](#) (Agences régionales de la santé).

For example, [a new 2019-2023 agreement](#) has been signed between the Parisian Region ([Ile de France](#)) DRAC and ARS.

This agreement aims to continue the development of a cultural and artistic policy towards people in health facilities in the Paris region, their relatives and the staff.

The objectives of this agreement are (incomplete list):

- Promote and support quality cultural and artistic actions in health care settings;
- Encourage health facilities;
- Structure relations with local partners involved or involved in the system (sponsors and other funders, local authorities, etc.);
- Strengthen the visibility of the Culture & Santé program in Île-de-France and promote the actions carried out;
- Foster new forms of cooperation between health structures and their links with the different cultural structures of their local area;
- Strengthen the quality of artistic proposals involving health structures;
- Develop new fields of action, especially for early childhood and disability structures, or more broadly, at all stages of childhood.

Culture and justice

See sub-chapter Cultural participation of young people under justice in *8.9 Facilitating social inclusion through culture*.

Partnerships between the culture and creative sectors, youth organisations and youth workers

Cultural youth action is usually reliant on teamwork between various stakeholders: artists, cultural institutions, local and national authorities as well as associations. These partnerships are formally documented in contracts or agreements. It exists several types of contracts.

The CLEA - Local Artistic and Cultural Education Contract (Contrat local d'éducation artistique et culturelle) also referred to as the Territorial Artistic and Cultural Education Contract (CTEAC - Contrat territorial d'éducation artistique et culturelle)

CLEA/CTEA - Local or Territorial Artistic and Cultural Education Contracts (Contrats locaux ou territoriaux d'éducation artistique et culturelle) are contractual arrangements drawn up by the Ministry of Culture for three years, renewable, aimed at setting up and strengthening local artistic and cultural education policies. They are signed between local government (whether the Region, *Département* or municipality), the DRAC and the Ministry of National Education; other stakeholders can also climb aboard (foundation, association, holiday club, sociocultural centre, etc.).

CLEAs are tasked with helping children and young people in the local areas concerned to benefit from an artistic and cultural learning path.

They must enable children and young people (as well as the rest of the population) to:

1. Encounter artworks, artists and cultural venues
2. Try their hand at an artistic practice
3. Get personally to grips with artworks, resources and cultural venues in their community

Through CLEAs, **all of the partners** are invited to bring their **skills, remit** and resources to bear on organising a shared project with the aim of making artistic and cultural education **widely available**.

Artist-in-residence programmes

A school (whether at primary, lower secondary or upper secondary level) may host artists as part of residence programmes with a view to facilitating encounters with artwork and an artist. The **residence in schools** (circular no. 2010-032 of 5 March 2010) must also enable students to develop their own artistic practice and **shape their aesthetic**

judgement. Further, it must also encourage them to find out about and visit places of creation.

These artist-in-residence programmes are grounded in partnerships and in signed agreements (at the very least) between the school head or chief education officer, director of the national education *département*-level services, artist or head of an artistic team, and the head of the cultural structure.

As an example, the City of Clichy-sous-Bois and the City of Montfermeil located in suburban area of the Paris , with the "[Medicis atelier](#)", a cultural structure and the Regional Directorate for Regional Affairs have launched in 2019 a [call for applications](#) in the direction of artists or artistic teams residing in France, for a "Residence-mission: artistic creation and youth". The working theme proposed to the candidates is: "youth in original version subtitled".

8.9 Enhancing social inclusion through culture

Fostering equality and young people involvement through cultural activities

Democratising participation in culture is a key principle of the Ministry of Culture's policies which, through partnerships and funding for associations, helps to reduce the cultural access inequalities facing young people in difficult social circumstances.

Scholarships for higher education Culture

"Higher Education Culture" refers to the network of about 100 educational institutions (mostly public) in the fields of architecture, heritage, visual arts and design, live performance, cinema and audiovisual sector. These institutions prepare for the various professions of arts and culture. In order to facilitate access to these schools for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds or facing economic difficulties, the Ministry of Culture allocates scholarships based on social criteria. These scholarships are awarded according to the same criteria and conditions as those in force in the Ministry of Higher Education. International mobility aids may be also granted to students who are staying abroad as part of their studies.

"Merit grant"

the Ministry of Culture may give "merit grant support" to students receiving a scholarship on social criteria and holders of the honours " Very Well" for their baccalaureate.

The National Emergency Fund (FNAUAC)

The National Fund of emergency annual help culture (FNAUAC) makes it possible to grant an emergency aid annual to the students who meet perennial difficulties "attested by the social services of the CROUS (operator of the ministry in charge of higher education), but who can not benefit from a scholarship on social criteria.

Document:

- [Student Scholarship Circular 2019-2020](#)
- [Circular Student Assistance FNAUAC](#)

Cultural participation of young offenders under the Judicial Protection of Youth

Since 2009, together with the Ministry of Culture, the Minister of Justice has undertaken cultural and artistic initiatives in PJJ - Judicial Youth Protection (Protection judiciaire de la jeunesse) institutions, on the basis of an agreement protocol (30 March 2009) bolstering the partnership between the two institutions. This was updated with the "[circular of 3 May 2012 on the implementation of cultural projects](#) for prisoners and minors under protection". The young prisoners are 16-25 year olds subject to a restriction or deprivation of freedom measure in a penal institution.

The measures carried out in this context also set out to promote **citizenship and respect for oneself and others**. A great many projects all over France, including in its overseas territories, on a variety of themes (such as films, the plastic arts or theatre for example) have been rolled out.

Some examples include:

Parcours image Des Cinés, la vie !

Since 2006, young people living in the Parisian area or overseas, in the company of PJJ - Judicial Youth Protection (Protection judiciaire de la jeunesse) and film professionals get to attend workshops and watch a selection of short films on a given theme, talk about them and vote for the film of their choice. A ceremony is then organised at the Cinémathèque française so as to reward the director of the youngsters' favourite short film.

Alongside other stakeholders, [the CNC - National Cinema Centre](#) (centre national de la cinématographie), [the Passeurs d'images association](#), the Directorate of Judicial Protection of Youth (PJJ) of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Culture are involved in this project, which encourages the young participants to debate the societal issues and themes touched on in the films (relationships within the family, at work, with others, with one's own body, adolescence, or violence for example).

For the 2019-2020 edition, a selection of 12 short films about the theme "Geography (s)" will be screened and analyzed by young people. The prize will be awarded to the director of the winning film during a ceremony in 2020 at the Cinémathèque française in Paris.

Bulles en fureur

Since 1992, the annual operation "[Bulles en fureur](#)" has got youngsters and professionals of judicial protection and documentation alike thinking about comics, writing and imagery. This is a literary prize awarded by adolescents during the Angoulême international comic festival. At the same time, adolescents have the possibility to compete for the "young designers" (jeunes créateurs) prize by coming up with an artistic creation inspired by the selected comics.

The purpose of this project is to:

- "(Re)acquaint youngsters with the enjoyment of reading;
- Develop reading and proficiency in the written and spoken language;
- Spark discussion around questions to do with health, citizenship and otherness;
- Encourage youngsters to share their opinion on a work, compare it with others, hone their critical thinking and make choices;
- Combat illiteracy."

This national event is promoted by the inter-regional director of judicial protection of the region Grand-Ouest in partnership with the City of Rennes, the International City of Comics and Image (CIBDI) of Angoulême and the regional directorates of cultural affairs (DRAC) of the Ministry of Culture as well as library and bookseller networks.

Combating discrimination and poverty through cultural activities

A whole host of initiatives aimed at combating inequalities are conducted by stakeholders actively involved in promoting cultural youth policies, the ministries, their departments and cultural institutions (private or public), jointly with the associations and social structures.

Public initiatives (non-exhaustive list)**"A day off at Versailles" (Une journée de vacances à Versailles)**

Public heritage institutions put on their own cultural access schemes for people from all walks of life, in keeping with the recommendations of the Ministry of Culture and its cultural development policy.

For instance, in 2016 the institution of Château de Versailles and Emerige Group (Sponsor) devised "[A day off at Versailles](#)" (Une journée de vacances à Versailles), an initiative giving Parisian children who don't get to go on holiday the opportunity to visit Château de Versailles in a special and altogether unprecedented way: actors in period dress, storytellers and mediators facilitate their visit. The children come face to face with heritage but also the contemporary showpieces in the Château. Based on a partnership with the holiday clubs across the Parisian municipalities, this initiative annually welcomed 2,500 children between the ages of 6 and 13 years-old

"Concerts de poche"

Travelling concerts with awareness-raising workshops to begin with are organised for pupils from deprived school neighbourhoods or from rural areas. This initiative is run by the association "[Les Concerts de Poche](#)" together with the Ministry of National Education, with support from the DRACs - Regional Departments of Cultural Affairs (Directions régionales des affaires culturelles).

The mission "Community living" (Vivre ensemble)

Since 2003 the Ministry of Culture has had a **"Community living" (Vivre ensemble) mission** for which 32 cultural institutions have clubbed together to reach out to groups of people who have little experience of cultural institutions. The aim is to turn culture into a tool for tackling exclusion, thereby playing a role in cultural democratisation.

To benefit the most vulnerable people (in social terms), the mission's institutions have chosen to work with intermediaries, who may be volunteers (*bénévoles*), social workers, educators or facilitators.

This mission achieves its aims by:

- Appointing a correspondent in each institution who forges personalised ties with these intermediaries,
- Hosting free discovery, awareness and training sessions,
- Carrying out appropriate mediation,
- Distributing visit preparatory and help guides,
- Adjusting rates.

The institutions and intermediaries meet at regular intervals to work on common subjects. They have particularly drawn up a joint charter for improving access to cultural institutions. Every year, they get together at a forum where they can chat and define new project priorities.

Associative initiative

Financed by the Ministry of Culture, [Culture du Cœur](#) works in favour of the cultural social and professional inclusion of people who are in socially vulnerable situations or excluded from society, by advocating the sharing of "common goods": culture, sport and recreation.

What Culture du cœur aims to do is: enhance access for vulnerable people to cultural, sporting and recreational amenities; with culture seen as a means for thriving on a personal level and becoming better integrated socially and professionally.

The association has a foothold all over France and relies on more than 5,000 cultural and sporting partners who cater for people on the sidelines by extending them invitations and/or offering awareness-raising and training actions: tours, encounters, debates and

specific workshops for example. According to the association, some 600,000 invitations are up for grabs nationwide.

8.10 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Strengthen critical thinking education for young people

In the midst of a health crisis (COVID-19) marked by increased circulation of false information and conspiracy theories, the Ministry of Culture wanted to reaffirm the importance and the need to develop critical thinking in young people by strengthening media and data education, particularly in science.

The objectives of this policy are:

- "To decipher [false information], particularly in the scientific and medical field, analyse images, know how to navigate the different sources of information, understand the mechanisms of influence that are at play";
- "To fight against hateful content, and deconstruct the conspiracy theories spread widely online, especially on social networks";
- "To provide the keys to understanding how to prevent separatism or radicalisation";
- "To encourage a better understanding of journalistic work, of how the media and social networks operate, in a context of mistrust towards traditional media and massive circulation of false information";

Source: <https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Presse/Communiqués-de-presse/Renforcer-l-esp...>

Culture Pass

The Government has launched the Culture Pass, an application dedicated to culture which is currently being tested (*See: Fostering the creative use of new technologies*).

The "Culture Pass", available since June 2019 in 14 French departments, enables access to culture for 18 year olds by offering them a wide range of art forms and cultural experiences. The application will be extended to all of France in January 2022.

The "Culture Pass" has a total value of €500. It can be used once or multiple times. It allows you to participate in cultural activities or outings (cinemas, museums, lessons, workshops, etc.) or to purchase digital materials and goods (books, music downloads, films, etc.).

Ongoing debates

There are currently no ongoing debates relating to cultural policies aimed at young people.

9. YOUTH AND THE WORLD

International cooperation through voluntary commitment and participation in the political process on the part of French youth has a long history, beginning after the Second World War and still very much alive today in a context of globalisation and far-reaching economic, social and environmental change where there are no few challenges to be met at world level, including climate change, inequalities in development between States and respect for international humanitarian rights.

Young people's interest in such global challenges is most often expressed by **international mobility** and their **participation in transnational citizenship and solidarity movements**, two forms of action encouraged by the public authorities, which

intervene by developing international volunteering schemes and educational programmes in international solidarity, lending financial support to youth movements and, in certain contexts, fostering youth participation and involvement in the drafting of international policies.

Because it develops a sense of belonging to a global community, the public authorities also see international engagement as an instrument for social cohesion with ramifications at local and global levels alike.

However, there are still inequalities among France's youth as regards international engagement, which mostly concerns young people from more affluent backgrounds or who have received higher education. This being so, facilitating access to international engagement and volunteering for young people with fewer opportunities is an important issue in the eyes of public authorities (Ministries, local authorities, etc.) and associations (non-governmental organisations, youth movements, etc.) active in fostering international youth engagement.

9.1 General context

Main concepts

The policies aiming to encourage young people to get involved in international development policies and strategies, and in solving global issues, are not based on specific national concepts.

Youth interest in global issues

Recent research on young French people has allowed us to identify and describe how much this age group knows about and is interested in global issues.

Data from: *"French people and the development aid policy / les Français et la politique d'aide au développement"*.

The [French Development Agency / Agence Française de Développement](#) (AFD) implements the government's development aid policy, and conducts a yearly survey on "French people and the development aid policy".

The 2019 survey (latest data available) was carried out by the Ipsos research institute for AFD. It assesses the degree to which French people, and notably young people, agree with public development aid. It also looks at the knowledge and perception they have of certain global issues, such as inequality between countries and climate change.

This study found that 79% of French people agree with the idea of helping developing countries. However, although French people support the policies to help transition countries, there is room for improvement in their knowledge of how these work and of the political stakes involved in development policy. Indeed, only 23% said they were well informed about French development policy.

67% of French people believe that events in developing countries in the next few years in terms of economy, climate and population, etc., could have an impact on their life in France.

French people also question whether the development aid is effective: 31% believe it to be effective, but 61% think the opposite.

The study shows that young French people are increasingly committed: 79% of French 15- to 25-year-olds are involved in or would like to get involved in a cause or project aiming to help others. Their preferences are for causes relating to the environment and sustainable development.

Source: <https://www.afd.fr/fr/ressources/barometre-afdcsa-2019-les-francais-et-la-politique-daide-au-developpement>

Climate issues

According to a [study carried out](#) in 2019 by Crédoc (Research Centre for the study and observation of living conditions / Centre de recherche pour l'étude et l'observation des conditions de vie), climate change is a problem that worries young French people.

In 2019, this anxiety about climate change and the environment was channelled into the School Strike for Climate, led by the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, and the global demonstrations by young people for the climate. It was also reflected in the high levels of young people who voted for the ecologist parties in the European elections in May 2019.

The study highlights a paradox: although young people are worried about the climate, their daily habits are not any better for the environment than older people's.

It shows that:

– “The environment is the biggest worry for 18- to 30-year-olds (32%), coming above unemployment (17%).”

– **“The commitment of 18- to 24-year-olds to protecting the environment is growing:** 12% were actively involved in an association in 2019, compared to 3% in 2016.”

– “But there are less of them who recycle their rubbish, buy local and seasonal vegetables or try to reduce their electricity consumption.”

However, **young people are more environmentally friendly in their transport than older people:** less of them own a car, and many tend to walk, cycle or use public transport or car-sharing. They are also more open to alternative ways of consuming (buying second hand, renting, borrowing, reselling, bartering, etc.).

The CREDOC study thus demonstrates the need to raise awareness in young people of climate change and also encourage them to change their behaviour.

Environmental issues

In October 2020, the Ministry for Ecological Transition published the results of a study entitled, “French people and nature: frequentation, representations and opinions / *Les Français et la nature : fréquentation, représentations et opinions*”. This looked into the role played by nature in the daily lives of French people.

The study shows that overall, French people feel “connected” to nature but are not all able to access it as much as they would like. They have noticed a deterioration in natural environments in the last few years, but remain nevertheless convinced that it is not too late to act. On this point, they believe they are “doing as much as they can” or are waiting to be given the means to do more. The study shows that the opinions of French people are highly varied and that they also vary depending on their age:

When questioned about how much they know about nature in general, the under 25s were the age group who most often replied that they “are not interested in” the subject.

Source: https://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2020-10/datalab_essentiel_227_francais_nature_octobre2020_0.pdf

The DJEPVA Barometer of Youth 2020 / *Baromètre DJEPVA sur la Jeunesse 2020* (annual report on young people) stresses that:

“between environmental impetus and resignation, awareness of the impact of our ways of life and fascination with technological products (with high environmental impacts, life cycle, recycling, energy), young people, like the rest of the population, find themselves caught between the future world that must be built and a devotion to consumer culture”.

However, it found that at the start of 2020, “concern about the environment continued to grow in 18- to 30-year-olds and in the population as a whole, rising by 5 points. That year, the number of French people who were worried about environmental damage reached its highest level in 30 years. The same trend can also be observed in young people.”

The study also shows that “the fight against climate change is at the heart of the population’s environmental concerns:

“55% of young French people (and 52% of over 30s) rate this as one of the most important environmental issues, behind air pollution and in front of the decline or disappearance of species and natural ecosystems, which is a worry for half of French young people (51%). This age group is also more concerned about pollution from agriculture (47% for over 30s compared to 31% of under 30s). A large majority of young people say they are aware of the environment.”

Additionally, “young French people, like young Europeans, believe that citizens in general are not doing enough to protect the environment (64%). And more than two thirds (67%) of them believe they can play a role in protecting the environment (Graph 85).”

Source: [Baromètre DJEPVA sur la jeunesse 2020, INJEP, Notes & rapports/rapport d'étude, 2020](#)

There are other data available, particularly statistical, to shine light on how young French people interact with international issues:

Data on young people’s involvement in international issues in particular

More generally, there are other studies that show that young French people are interested in volunteering and ‘bénévolat’, such as the 2019 Barometer from the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation / *Direction de la jeunesse, de la vie associative et de l’éducation populaire pour la jeunesse* (DJEPVA). The DJEPVA requested the Research Centre for the Study and Observation of Living Conditions / *Centre de Recherches pour l’Étude et l’Observation des Conditions de vie* (CREDOC) to produce this barometer in collaboration with the National Institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education / *Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l’Éducation Populaire* (INJEP). **In 2019, 37% of 18- to 30-year-olds were willing to give up their time for a voluntary activity.** The study also makes clear that this degree of commitment in young people is stable. This interest in bénévolat is also expressed through international volunteering.

Data on international youth volunteering

In 2017 (last data available), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which funds several international volunteering schemes, published a briefing note on statistics relating to the various forms of volunteering schemes supported by the Ministry in charge of foreign affairs:

- "The distribution between men and women was 40/60%".
- "While 39% of volunteers were over 30 years old, most of them were young people, young women in particular. This distribution has not significantly changed compared with previous years".
- "90% of volunteers were French nationals, with the rest coming from around 50 different countries".
- "Volunteer host countries were mainly located in Sub-Saharan Africa, with 45% of volunteers, while 30% were hosted in Asia and the rest in America and North Africa".
- "Where the academic profile of international solidarity volunteers is concerned, 66% were educated to Master’s level or above, which is a high level of education".

For further information on youth engagement, see [Chapter 2 Voluntary activities](#).

Data on young people abroad

According to the figures in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ 2020 Register of French Expatriates that is managed by the consulates, on 1st January 2020, the number of French people registered as living abroad totalled 1 775 875.

The register states that “the age structure of the French expatriate community remained stable compared to the preceding year. 34.5% of those listed are under

25, 49.3% are between 25 and 60 years old and 16.2% are over 60". **The gender ratio of French expatriates has also remained stable in the last few years.** 50% the expatriates listed in the register in 2019 were women.

"The 5 countries that host the largest numbers of French expatriates are the same as in preceding years. They are, in order, Switzerland, United States, United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany".

9.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Many organisations are involved in the projects and policies encouraging young people to take an interest in the global issues and challenges of tomorrow. These include the government ministries (Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, etc.), public bodies and local authorities, as well as associations, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and movements involved in international development and international solidarity education. Often, the work done by these groups is complementary, especially as regards running international volunteering schemes and building programmes for international solidarity or sustainable development education. These activities constitute the main policy themes aiming to get young people involved in global issues .

Public stakeholders

Various government authorities are active in the field of youth engagement in international solidarity, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, all of which play a particularly active role as they are responsible for developing, promoting, implementing and supervising international solidarity schemes and, more specifically, international youth volunteering schemes.

1. Ministries

Ministry for Ecological Transition

The Ministry for Ecological Transition / *ministère de la transition écologique* prepares and enacts government policy in the fields of sustainable development, the environment, especially protecting and enhancing the value of nature and biodiversity, green technologies, the energy transition and energy. It designs and enacts policies to combat climate change and atmospheric pollution, and promotes the sustainable management of rare resources. The Ministry is responsible for international climate relations, and for promoting and developing the Social and Solidarity Economy.

The Ministry acts to support young people by helping to organise events, programmes and education schemes on sustainable development in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Official document : [Décret n° 2020-869 du 15 juillet 2020 relatif aux attributions de la ministre de la Transition écologique](#)

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also plays a key role in encouraging international citizenship in young people and provides financial support for such projects. As such, it acts through the different departments and organisations. These include the Department for United Nations, International Organisations, Human Rights and Francophonie / *Direction des Nations unies, des organisations internationales, des droits de l'Homme et de la francophonie*, which is responsible for matters dealt with within the United Nations, its subsidiary bodies and specialised institutions, as well as the *Organisation internationale de la francophonie* and the Council of Europe.

The Ministry is involved in designing the international action schemes for young people such as international volunteering, notably through its **General Directorate for Globalisation, Culture, Education and International Development** / *Direction générale de la mondialisation, de la culture, de l'enseignement et du développement international* (DGM) and its Delegation for External Action by Local Authorities Délégation pour l'action extérieure des collectivités territoriales (DAECT). DAECT encourages collaboration between French and foreign local authorities to put in place cooperation projects in the fields of culture, sustainable development, education, youth and economic development. It is supported by the National Council for Decentralised Cooperation / Conseil national de la coopération décentralisée which facilitates communication between the local authorities and the Ministries concerned. The aim being to enable these entities to share a common vision of the internationalisation of local authorities.

The Ministry does not directly fund the volunteering missions but it does provide financial support through several volunteering schemes:

- International solidarity volunteering / *volontariat de solidarité internationale*: grants allocated to the associations that send these young volunteers abroad. It covers their initial training, social security, supervision and support, and provides funds to help them reintegrate when back home.
- Youth work camps / *chantiers de jeunes*: grants for projects proposed by the associations with their Southern partners.

The relationship between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the volunteering associations is based on a Charter signed in 2009 between the state and several associations. This is known as the Common Charter for International Volunteering Exchange and Solidarity / *charte commune au volontariat international d'échanges et de solidarité (VIES)* (.pdf, 186 Ko).

The text sets out the main types of international volunteering and also states the **common values** shared by the associations and the volunteers they work with:

- Respect for rights, cultures and needs,
- Partnership and reciprocity when carrying out development projects,
- Promoting commitment to volunteering,
- Taking the most disadvantaged into account.

Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **issues authorisations to the associations that send out volunteers;**

These authorisations allow them to send volunteers abroad in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian action and to receive funding to do so. For the volunteers, the association's authorisation provides them with legal protection (social cover, allowance, holidays, help to reintegrate when back home, etc) and offers guarantees that the missions will be well run (preparation before leaving, support during the placement, support for professional reintegration when back home).

Other than providing support for international volunteers, some of whom are young people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also plays a role of **dialoguing with civil society**. In France, there are around 3 000 Civil Society Organisations / *Organisations de la Société Civile* (OSC) actively working to promote international solidarity.

A discussion and decision-making body has been created to facilitate this dialogue with the Civil Society Organisations, following the example of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity / *Conseil National du Développement et de la Solidarité Internationale* (CNDSI).

The National Council for Development and International Solidarity

The CNDSI – National Council for Development and International Solidarity (*Conseil national pour le développement et la solidarité internationale*) – provides a framework for

dialogue and regular concertation between all development and international solidarity stakeholders on guidelines for development policy.

The 53 prominent figures that make up the CND SI are divided into groups representing the various components of civil society: NGOs, unions, employers, businesses, members of parliament, local authorities, universities and research centres. An eighth group composed of prominent foreign figures rounds out the Council, which is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry of National Education and the Ministry in charge of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The Ministry of National Education and the Ministry responsible for Higher Education help arouse young people's interest in global issues through school programmes and materials as well as by enabling young people to experience international mobility via the [European Erasmus +](#) programme in which they participate.

This agency has also been given responsibility for implementing the new European Solidarity Corps programme.

The Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs' DJEPVA – Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (*Direction de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative*)

The **DJEPVA**, which is attached to the Ministry of National Education (see Chapter 1.4 Youth policy decision-making), fosters the development of bilateral exchanges and multilateral cooperation programmes in favour of youth, in particular through provision of funding and development of mobility projects. It also oversees the activities of bilateral youth offices (the Franco-German Youth Office and the Franco-Quebécois Youth Office) and participates in the drafting and implementation of cooperation policies in the field of youth.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition

Agricultural education, which comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, encourages international youth engagement and cooperation through international student exchange policies, drawing in particular on the world's geographical networks: 12 networks in all facilitate cooperation with the countries of the Maghreb, America, Africa and Asia.

Depending on the global issues involved, other ministries may participate in the drafting of international youth engagement policies, including the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, which implements government policy on sustainable development, the environment (protection and promotion of nature and biodiversity in particular) and countering global warming.

2. Public operators

The different operators act to promote international action, particularly in young people, and to address global issues, following the example of:

The French Agency for Development

The AFD – French Agency for Development (*Agence française de développement*), is a public institution that plays a key role in France's cooperation policy. It is under the joint supervision of the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Ministry for Overseas France. The AFD is tasked with promoting economic and social development in the so-called Southern countries and French Overseas territories. It funds projects, programmes and studies and lends its support to partner countries in the implementation of projects combating poverty and promoting economic development, education, etc.

France Volontaires

Set up in 2009, [France Volontaires](#) is a platform for international solidarity volunteering schemes, which promotes, develops and implements the various forms of engagement involved in VIEs – international exchange and solidarity volunteering schemes (*volontariats internationaux d'échange et de solidarité*). The platform also acts as an international volunteering observatory and is tasked with finding opportunities for and providing information and guidance to those wishing to volunteer.

The French Institute

The French Institute (*Institut Français*) comes under the aegis of the [Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs](#) and the [Ministry of Culture](#). It is responsible for developing French cultural action on the international scene via a range of actions including:

- Promoting international artistic exchanges;
- Supporting cultural development in Southern countries;
- Encouraging dissemination and learning of the French language;
- Developing dialogue between cultures via organisation of “seasons”, “years” and “festivals” in France and abroad;
- Fostering international mobility on the part of creators;
- Coordinating and encouraging international action with French local authorities;
- Acting on behalf of cultural diversity at European level through European and multilateral partnerships.

The Civic Service Agency

[The Civic Service Agency \(Agence du Service Civique\)](#) is a public operator under the aegis of the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs; it provides all young people between 16 and 25 y/o, and up to 30 y/o for the disabled, with the opportunity to commit themselves, if they so wish, to a general interest mission in France or elsewhere. Civic service may be carried out in France or abroad.

The Erasmus+ France / Education and Training Agency

The Erasmus+ France / Education and Training Agency is responsible for promotion and management of a number of European programmes and schemes, including Erasmus+ education and training components. The agency comes under the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and the Ministry of Labour.

The main aims of such European programmes are to enable young people to contribute to multilingualism and European citizenship. By 2020, over 500,000 French citizens and four million Europeans should have benefited from individual mobilities or strategic partnerships in the context of Erasmus+.

The Agency is the national representative for the [Europass](#), [AEFA – European Agenda for Adult Education and Training \(Agenda Européen pour l'Education et la Formation des Adultes\)](#), [Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe \(EPALE\)](#), and [ECVET](#) (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) schemes. It is also acts to provide information within the [Euroguidance](#) network.

Erasmus+ Youth and Sports Agency

Just like its counterpart devoted to education, the Erasmus+ Youth Agency participates in creation of European citizenship and links between the youth of member States contributing to non-formal education, and also intended for vulnerable sectors of the public.

To meet these objectives, the Agency runs two European programmes: ERASMUS's Youth programme + the European Solidarity Corps aimed at 13- to 30-year-olds, but also at the

associations, local authorities and any organisation working in the field of youth. The Agency's main types of action are:

- **Youth exchanges**: to foster encounters between European youth groups around a range of topics
- European volunteering: to support the sending and hosting of young volunteers working on individual or collective general interest projects
- **Mobility among youth operators**: to develop cooperation between youth professionals
- **Strategic partnerships**: to share experiences and innovative practices between bodies in different countries active in the fields of education, training and youth
- **Participation and structured dialogue**: to lend support to debate between youth and decision-makers on the major themes that concern them.

Bilateral offices

Since the 1960s, France has hosted two international youth offices that organise international mobility programmes, mostly in the fields of solidarity and environmental protection: the **OFAJ – Franco-German Youth Office** (*Office franco-allemand de la jeunesse*) develops a Franco-German volunteering programme, while the **OFQJ – Franco-Quebecois Youth Office** (*Office franco-québécois de la jeunesse*) seeks to contribute to bringing French and Quebecois youth together. Although OFQJ schemes essentially focus on vocational training, some of its projects bear on such global issues as **climate change** and water.

In 2018, for example, On the occasion of the international conference of young francophones in Geneva, the OFQJ supported 13 young professionals engaged to lead workshops or participate in round tables on the theme of the economic inclusion of young people and women in the French-speaking world.

For further information on these offices and their programmes, see *Chapter 2 2.6 Cross-Border Mobility Programmes*.

3. Local authorities

Local authorities (Regions, *départements*, municipalities and intermunicipalities) play a leading role in implementation of international civic engagement projects for young people, in particular because international engagement helps foster civic awareness and self-sufficiency among the nation's youth while contributing to local authorities' international influence.

Such authorities intervene via financial support for mobility programmes, as well as through organisation of local events related to international solidarity or sustainable development (forums, encounters, etc.). They may also lend direct or indirect support to international youth engagement, in particular through grants aiding mobility or creation of solidarity and citizenship projects. They may also develop their own projects or invest in partnerships with associations.

In addition, they may implement projects related to policy on local authorities' decentralised cooperation – i.e. external action based on agreements with local authorities in other countries. The **Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs** lends its support to implementation of **AECT – external action of local and regional authorities** (*action extérieure des collectivités territoriales*), with combating climate change and environmental questions among its priorities. Decentralised cooperation projects involving young people are given concrete expression by the hosting of young people from other States and sending young French citizens to partner local authorities.

Non-public stakeholders

1. Associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the field of international solidarity

Associations play a major role in youth engagement, enabling young people to experience international solidarity for themselves through international volunteering or community service. It would be impossible to mention all the associations and movements active in the field of international youth engagement as they are simply too numerous and too varied. Such associations and NGOs usually act in partnership with public operators, in particular ministries and local authorities, which may also lend them financial support.

In addition, a number of such associations may be accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, enabling them to receive financial support and send out volunteers on missions in the field of humanitarian action and cooperation.

These accredited associations are for example: (non-exhaustive list)

- [ACF – Action against Hunger \(*Action contre la faim*\)](#)
- [Agronomists and Veterinarians without Borders \(*Agronomes et Vétérinaires sans frontières*\)](#)
- [ASMAE – Sister Emmanuelle Association \(*Association Sœur Emmanuelle*\)](#)
- [ATD Fourth World – Land and People for Tomorrow \(*ATD Quart-Monde – Terre et Homme de demain*\)](#)
- [CRF – French Red Cross \(*Croix-Rouge française*\)](#)
- [EDM – Children of the Mekong \(*Enfants du Mékong*\)](#)
- [EED - Children and Development \(*Enfants et développement*\)](#)
- [EMI – International Medical Assistance \(*Entraide médicale internationale*\)](#)
- [GER – European Guild \(*Guilde européenne du raid*\)](#)
- [MDM – Doctors of the World \(*Médecins du monde*\)](#)
- [Samusocial International](#)
- [SIF – Islamic Relief France \(*Secours islamique France*\)](#)

None of the above associations have volunteering as their primary focus, unlike other associations specialising in sending young people abroad such as France Volontaires. Set up in 2009, France Volontaires is the leading operator active in sending out volunteers in the field of development. Its role is to promote and develop various forms of voluntary and solidarity engagement abroad.

2. Youth associations and movements

Some associations and youth movements founded and run by young people are themselves involved in the public debate on global issues, by promoting and running solidarity and international citizenship actions

NB.: the list is non-exhaustive and indicative).

Committee for National and International Relations between Youth and Non-Formal Education Associations / *Comité pour les relations nationales et internationales des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire (CNAJEP)*
(See Chapter 2)

For the Youth and Non-formal Education associations, the CNAJEP provides a space for dialogue, consultation and representation with the public powers on issues concerning youth and non-formal education.

It “enriches the European and international domains in a cross-cutting way by building bridges with the national and regional authorities to cover all issues relating to youth and

non-formal education.” In France, it runs the European Structured Dialogue programme and has set up a consultation process for young people known as “ProVox”. As an example, CNAJEP works to lobby for sustainable development and actions to help the climate.

“Committed and determined”

The “Committed and determined / Engagé.es et déterminé.es” (E&D) association is a national body for international solidarity and non-formal education that facilitates a network of associations seeking to create solidarity links at international scale. It is made up of associations run by young people and/or students. E&D is also present internationally (through the different [multi-actor programmes](#), among others) and aims to:

- **“Encourage meetings and discussions** on practices, skills and knowledge between young members of associations from different countries”,
- **“Promote citizen commitment** in students and young people across the world,
- “Enable young members of associations from different countries to **form partnerships** to build international solidarity projects together.”
- **“Strengthen the capacities of the associations,** coordinators and networks for collectives of active young people.”

3. International organisations.

French youth can also participate in schemes set up by international organisations of which France is a member, such as the UN, UNESCO and La Francophonie

The United Nations (UN)

France is one of the founder members of the United Nations (UN), whose mission it is to respond to such international issues as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, terrorism, and humanitarian and health crises. It is also represented in the other main and subsidiary bodies of the UN (it is an elected member of the Human Rights Council, for example). The UN has developed programmes in which young French citizens can participate, including the [United Nations Volunteers \(UNV\)](#), [UNV Youth](#) and [UNV Specialists](#) programmes, and the [Young Experts](#) programme.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO aims to build peace through international cooperation in education, science and culture. The UNESCO programmes contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals as defined in Agenda 2030, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. France is one of the founding members of UNESCO. Some UNESCO programmes encourage young people to get involved in building international policy. This is the case for the UNESCO Youth Forum which was created in 1999 to enable young people to voice their concerns and ideas to the Member States and thus contribute to shaping how UNESCO is managed.

International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)

[The OIF](#) is an institution that fosters cooperation between French-speaking countries. A number of its missions concern global issues such as promotion of peace, democracy and human rights, and development of international cooperation at the service of sustainable development. The OIF intervenes via aid to financing and support for implementation of solidarity projects. It launches public calls for projects every year, funded by the Organisation’s budget as well as by voluntary contributions from member States and governments.

The OIF has also developed a [VIF – Francophonie International Volunteering programme \(Volontariat international de la francophonie\)](#). Based on the values of solidarity, sharing and commitment, the programme provides young French-speakers aged between 21 and 34 y/o with the opportunity to make their knowledge, knowhow and soft skills available to a development project for a 12-month period and experience international mobility in a

French-speaking area. Such volunteering missions are carried out at French-speaking institutions wishing to benefit from the help of volunteers in implementing their projects.

4.Companies

Company foundations may also participate in development of international solidarity projects focusing on young people. In particular, they are regular partners in calls for proposals for young people, implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as the Schneider Electric Foundation.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

The policies encouraging young people to get involved in international solidarity and global issues mainly rely on multi-sector partnerships involving different stakeholders: associations, public institutions, government ministries, young people active in these projects, local authorities, businesses etc. This cooperation can take the form of creating discussion and advisory organisations as well as decision-making bodies that bring together the Ministries, public operators, associations, and businesses (non-exhaustive list):

The Cross-Ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID)

The Cross-Ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development / *comité interministériel de la coopération internationale et du développement* (CICID) was created by Decree n° 98-66 of 4 February 1998. It defines France's policy directions for international cooperation and development aid.

It is presided by the French prime minister and brings together the ministers mostly directly concerned with the issues of development. CICID has met 11 times since its creation. The minutes of the CICID meeting of 8 February 2018 conclude that "[CICID] is launching a renewal of France's international development and solidarity policy so that we can build a better world together. It should mobilise both public and private stakeholders and be built in a spirit of shared responsibility and thus of greater expectations as concerns the beneficiaries, by mobilising young [French] people on the principle of reciprocity. It should also be better aligned with [the] international and local partners.

The National Council for International Development and Solidarity (CNDSI)

The National Council for International Development and Solidarity / *Conseil national pour le développement et la solidarité internationale* (CNDSI) is a consultation forum held on a regular basis for all stakeholders in international development and solidarity. For more information on CNDSI, see the "governance" sub-chapter.

The Regional Committees for European and International Mobility

The COREMOB were created in 2015 and are the regional version of the CPMEI. These regional committees bring together all the stakeholders in youth mobility, both elected officials and beneficiaries. Their aim is to facilitate the coordination and networking of the partners. Also, each regional committee must seek to diagnose any problems and establish a (triannual) mobility plan.

[Cross-ministerial circular no.djepva/mcejva/dreic/dgefp/dger/2015/54 of 23 February 2015 bearing on setup of regional committees on European and international mobility for young people](#) defines the role played by such committees.

Regional Multi-Actor Networks

In addition to the COREMOBs, cross-sectorial cooperation between parties involved in promoting solidarity and international cooperation may take the form of an RRMA – a [Regional Multi-Actor Network \(*Réseau régional multi-acteurs*\)](#). In the 1990s, on the initiative of the State, local authorities and associations, a number of French regions set up such regional multi-actor schemes for exchange, support and concertation in the field of international cooperation.

Such networks have **3 specificities**:

1. "Their action is rooted in the regional territory";
2. "Their aims are to improve international cooperation and solidarity actions and contribute to inhabitants' international openness";
3. "They facilitate a multi-actor network (associations, local authorities, educational institutions, non-formal education bodies, public institutions, economic actors, etc.) in a dynamic of exchanges, collaborative work, concertation and subsidiarity".

Their main activities are:

- Identifying the stakeholders;
- Providing information (monitoring, producing and disseminating information);
- Supporting project holders (training, methodological support);
- Facilitating discussions between stakeholders (capitalising on experience, mutualising, organising meetings, creating partnerships).

The RMMAs aim to:

- Act as an intermediary between the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the regional interest groups,
- Contribute to building regional strategies in terms of international cooperation and solidarity,
- Federate all the public and private stakeholders in their areas,
- Contribute to the development of global citizenship education by raising awareness as widely as possible on development issues, promoting citizen and solidary action and developing synergies and partnerships.
- Encourage commitment to the SDGs at global scale.

9.3 Exchanges between young people and policy-makers on global issues

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the domestic level

Exchanges between young people and professionals in the field of international relations **are not systematic** nor are they the subject of any national strategy; nonetheless, through **ad hoc or annual events**, young people have the opportunity to find out about global issues as well as receive training from professionals in their own countries.

The Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs' "Ambassadors' Week"

Ambassadors' Week (*Semaine des ambassadeurs*) is an annual event which, among other things, helps the public discover what ambassadors do and better understand major diplomatic issues and topics.

It provides an occasion for French ambassadors to debate with elected representatives, experts and representatives of civil society and the private sector. The general public is also given the opportunity to meet diplomatic staff and attend roundtables.

The Convergences Forum

The Convergences Forum / *Forum Convergences* is an annual, multi-party event that promotes the Sustainable Development Goals and the fight against poverty and climate change in countries dubbed "Northern and Southern". More than 200 partner organisations from civil society and the non-governmental, public and private sectors take part every year. The French Development Agency / *Agence française du développement* (AFD) is the main partner of this forum. It is also supported by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign

Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment. The forum brings together international participants, including political decision-makers and students, who meet to build common solutions to social and environmental issues and to strengthen the international partnerships formed to promote the powerful idea of “zero exclusion, zero carbon, zero poverty”.

The Climate Change Conference COP and the Conference of Youth for the Climate

The aim of the **Conference of Youth for the Climate** is to arrive at a set of clear rules for applying the Paris Agreement, which was negotiated in 2015 during the COP21 on the climate. The COY (Conference of Youth) was held before the COP and brought together several thousand young people from across the world to debate, discuss and find solutions to climate change.

Every year, young French people take part in the COY, particularly through the associations involved in fighting climate change.

The Conference of Youth that took place in November 2015 (COY 11) during the COP 21 (Paris Climate Conference) provided the opportunity for international decision-makers to meet young people.

The European Convention for the Climate

The Citizens’ Convention for the Climate was a unprecedented participative experiment that took place in France. It aimed to give voice to citizens in order to “accelerate the pace of the fight against climate change”. The convention was asked to come up with a set of measures that would enable us to achieve a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990). It was made up of 150 people, including young people (16 years or above), all selected at random.

After an initial discussion with the French president on 10th January 2020, the members of the Citizen’s Convention were invited to return to the Élysée presidential offices on Monday 29th June to present their proposals.

The idea is that the 149 proposals made will be submitted for consideration by the government or the parliament, or directly to citizens via a referendum.

<https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr>

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the international level

The meetings at the summit between young people and political decision-makers are not intended to result in specific and systematic policies or schemes. However, the young people can take part in international conferences addressing global issues where the different stakeholders meet to debate and construct policies and decisions collectively. These include the public decision-makers, associations, non-governmental organisations, businesses and civil society.

Youth Ambassadors for Community Service

The United States Embassy introduced a programme in 2008 to invite young people to the United Nations headquarters for a two-week programme known as “Youth Ambassadors for Community Service”. This is aimed at secondary school pupils who are actively involved in an association (paid or voluntary). The initiative aims to encourage youth participation in the political process, strengthen civic engagement and develop intercultural dialogue.

During their stay, the youth ambassadors are invited to represent France in the United States and exchange viewpoints on such subjects as cultural diversity, equal opportunities and community service.

French youth delegations at international summits

Francophonie summits

Every two years, delegations of young French-speakers take part in the Francophonie summit that brings together the heads of state and government of the French-speaking nations. In particular, they are invited to attend the **international conference of young French-speakers**, specifically for them. During this event, the young people are invited to reflect on the themes of the summit.

For example, during the 17th Francophonie Summit in Erevan on 11 October 2018, 500 young people from five continents got together to discuss the theme of "living together in solidarity, sharing humanist values and respecting diversity as a source of peace and prosperity for the French-speaking world". They also discussed the ways and means of supporting "the economic and financial inclusion of young people".

Additionally, during this summit, the young people were asked to present a **Declaration of Young French-speakers** which emphasised the important role played by young people in finding solutions to global issues (solidarity, peace, protecting the environment, etc.) and crises.

In 2018, these young French-speakers recommended that the "operators of the French-speaking world, the international institutions and States and Governments" should:

1. Guarantee quality education for all;
2. Combat unemployment and promote professional insertion for young people;
3. Protect the environment and biodiversity and combat climate change;
4. Contribute to promoting the idea of Living together, building peace and the other values upheld by the French-speaking world.

United Nations Climate Action Summit

There is also space for young people to take part in international events such as the UN Climate Action Summit, on 23 September 2019. On this occasion, CNAJEP, which unites over 70 non-formal education movements, sent a youth delegate to the summit. Notably, he was invited to form part of the cross-ministerial team for climate change negotiations for France.

9.4 Raising awareness about global issues

Formal, non-formal and informal learning

Formal learning

Formal education plays an important role raising awareness and understanding of global issues such as **global warming, inequalities in development between States, and international cooperation**.

Since the publication of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including "Quality education for all", by the United Nations in 2015, these goals have been adopted nationally in the form of the **"2030 Agendas"** by local authorities, associations and also by the Ministry of National Education.

Education on sustainable development

From primary school onwards, pupils' attention is drawn to the question of sustainable development through a range of projects and concrete actions. Such cross-disciplinary education continues over the four years of lower secondary school through the study of scientific notions (such as globalisation) and social phenomena (such as demographic growth and inequalities in development) at a variety of levels: local, regional, European and international alike.

Education on sustainable development was introduced into primary and secondary curricula by two successive circulars:

- The Circular of 8 July 2004: Universalisation of EEDD – Educating for the Environment and Sustainable Development (*Education à l'environnement pour un développement durable*)
- Circular no.2007-077 of 29 March 2007: EDD – Educating for Sustainable Development (*Education au Développement Durable*)
- In 2013, the law to reform schools brought such cross-cutting education within the Education Code. In the same year, a labelling scheme, "E3D", for schools and educational establishments taking a global approach to sustainable development was introduced.
- In 2015, during the hosting of COP 21, the Ministry of National Education reinforced the widespread implementation of education on sustainable development.
- In 2019, the creation of eco-delegates;

In primary and secondary education, sustainable development is **a major theme which is tackled in an interdisciplinary and cross-cutting way, involving learning such as: development and international solidarity education, health education and artistic and cultural learning.**

In lower secondary schools, Interdisciplinary Practical Lessons (Enseignements Pratiques Interdisciplinaires) including "Ecological transition and sustainable development" allow for sustainable development issues to be considered.

Furthermore, local education authorities (decentralised departments of the Ministry of National Education) are encouraged to organise, among other things, debates on the relationship between sustainable development issues and climate change, educational projects, scientific workshops on these topics, in particular in cooperation with local stakeholders involved in sustainable development and environmental education.

Sustainable Development and Education (SDE) is embedded in all school subjects, throughout the different stages of schooling

SDE is incorporated:

- **into the existing subjects:** issues of sustainable development are introduced into the curriculum and teaching through themes such as water and energy;
- **into the national and academic training programmes on offer;**
- **into the school and educational establishment projects;**
- **into the production of teaching materials;**
- **at specific times:** outdoor nature classes, educational actions led by partners, etc.

Sustainable development education in the curriculum

In its guidance and proposal note published in December 2019, the High Council for school curricula / *Conseil supérieur des programmes* emphasized various different aspects:

- **"an approach that encompasses all disciplines** to include teaching content on sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity, to train pupils in the scientific mindset and develop their awareness of and relationship with the world".
- **"the importance of basing ones thinking on observation,** the starting point of the scientific approach".
- **"the need to develop a rational attitude in pupils** in their approach to environmental issues."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' volunteering schemes

In addition, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs funds "Youth programmes" designed to train international cooperation professionals. Such programmes are intended for students in their second year of study for a Master's degree who are interested in international relations and global issues (inequalities in development, global warming, etc.) and would like to work in an international organisation.

Programmes and positions associated with them are as follows:

- [The United Nations Volunteers \(UNV\) programme: Youth Volunteers and Volunteer Specialists](#)
- [Jeune Expert Associé \(JEA\)](#) or Junior Professional Officer (JPO), at the United Nations.
- [Jeune Expert Associé](#) at the [World Bank](#) or Junior Professional Officer at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe ([OSCE](#)).
- Junior Professionals in Delegations (JPD).

Non-formal and informal learning

The structures and associations working in the field of international solidarity play a key role in educating about global issues. Some work together with public institutions and ministries to run programmes for young people, such as the international travel and volunteering schemes.

Volunteering and international mobility schemes

International volunteering plays a key role in raising young people's awareness of global issues and international solidarity. It is very much encouraged by the public authorities, which develop and oversee international volunteering schemes. Through missions in developing countries and youth projects, volunteering makes young people aware of global issues so enabling them to take part in the public debate.

VSI – International Solidarity Volunteering (*Volontariat de solidarité internationale*)

VSI is [governed by Law no.2005-159 of 23 February 2005 bearing on the VSI contract](#). It enables any association accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send volunteers on missions in the field of humanitarian cooperation and action.

VIA – International Volunteering in Administration (*Volontariat International en Administration*)

Intended for young people between 18 and 28 y/o, [VIA](#) gives young people the opportunity to work in consulates, embassies or French cooperation and cultural action services. VIA postings last for an average of 18 months. There are over a thousand volunteers in VIA posts every year.

VIE – International Volunteering in Business (*Volontariat International en Entreprise*)

Introduced by the [Law of 14 March 2000, this scheme](#) gives young people between 18 and 28 y/o the opportunity to carry out a professional mission abroad for a period of 6 to 24 months. Although this kind of volunteering has no direct bearing on international solidarity or global issues, there is a wide range of missions, which may be commercial, technical or scientific.

The "Working Holiday" Visa

The ["Working Holiday" Visa \(WHV\)](#) is intended for young people between the ages of 18 and 20 who wish to spend a maximum of one year in a partner country for tourism or cultural purposes, and also have the opportunity to work in the country they go to.

The programme is based on bilateral agreements concluded between France and the scheme's partner countries: Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Russia,

Argentina, Hong Kong, Chili, Colombia, Taiwan, Uruguay and Mexico (entry in force on 1 September 2016).

For further information on volunteering schemes, [see Chapter 2 Voluntary activities](#).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' calls for projects

Every year, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs launches calls for projects aimed at local authorities. Some of these calls for projects are part of the decentralised cooperation strategy /*stratégie de coopération décentralisée* (for regional authorities). They aim to promote international travel for young people, such as the "Youth / *Jeunesse*" call for projects which has been providing financial support since 2015 for international travel projects that involve international solidarity training and action. The "Youth" call for projects enables regional authorities to open up to the world through youth exchange schemes. It also contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 17. The 17th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) relates to "partnerships to meet the goals". This is a separate goal in Agenda 2030 which concentrates on the means required to meet the 16 other SDGs.

For further information on these schemes, [see 9.6 Intercontinental youth work and development cooperation](#).

The call for International Solidarity Initiatives (ISI)

Due to the current circumstances where cross-border travel is restricted by the Covid-19 crisis, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) has adapted its "International solidarity Initiative (ISI)" from June 2019. This call for projects will now allow young people to continue to get involved in solidarity actions and to "contribute to the development of global citizenship".

The ISI scheme is supervised by the Cooperation Funds for Youth and Non-formal Education / *Fonds de coopération de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire* (FONJEP). It is based on national and regional multi-partner work involving non-formal education and international solidarity associations.

The ISI aims to provide financial support for intercultural exchanges and the involvement of young people in international solidarity projects. It does this by experimenting with new means of action (not involving travel), such as setting up online projects, virtual discussions and in-person discussions in France in small groups (of young people from France and elsewhere).

This call for initiatives aims to:

- "Encourage young people to get involved and discover the world, particularly those with less awareness and less access";
- "Allow young people to explore the world differently without crossing borders, by becoming involved in shared solidarity projects that enable them to meet up, discuss and act together";
- "Encourage experiments into new ways of experiencing international solidarity, through sustainable, solidary and collective actions, relying on innovative responses to the current international crisis";
- "Allow associations whose daily work does not involve intercultural and international solidarity issues, nor involve young people in particular, to launch their first projects in this area";
- "Lay the first milestone on the young people's journeys into international action. This can range from raising awareness of and educating about citizenship and international solidarity (*éducation à la citoyenneté et à la solidarité internationale*, ECSI), to the young people building common international solidarity projects themselves (JSI-VVSI), or following this, taking on a more long-term engagement with international issues (civic service, international solidarity volunteering)."

Festivals and participative events

Public and community operators active in promoting international solidarity also raise young people's awareness of global issues via the organisation of participative events and festivals, such as the Festival of Solidarity (*Festival des Solidarités*) and forums and encounters organised by local authorities.

The Festival of Solidarities

For the last 20 years, the [Festival of Solidarities](#) has been organised by a range of stakeholders engaged in solidarity action on a daily basis: associations, schools, local authorities, sociocultural bodies and citizens. The event brings citizens together and provides them with an opportunity to give collective thought to a fairer, more united and more sustainable world. Themes tackled correspond to global issues defined by the United Nations. The festival is supported by a variety of institutional partners including the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs, and the Ile-de-France Region.

Science Festival (Fête de la science)

Established in 1991, the [Science Festival \(Fête de la Science\)](#) is organised each year by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation to give people the opportunity to discover the world of science and meet scientists. This event features thousands of free events open to everyone, including students (primary school children and lower and upper secondary school students). All fields of science are represented, including "sustainable development". During this festival, events (such as exhibitions, conferences and debates) are held to raise awareness of sustainable development issues and to highlight the role of research in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

As an example, during the 2020 edition of the Fête de la Science, held online for that year, the [Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon](#) organised a stand to help people discover the 17 SDGs.

International solidarity forums organised by local authorities

Local authorities (municipalities) may also organise their own international solidarity and cooperation forums, during which associations present their activities and get the opportunity to meet with volunteers.

Educators'support

Young people and professionals in education or youth work who want to train or deepen their knowledge of global issues and international solidarity have the opportunity to follow, according to their statutes, training offered by international solidarity associations or training offered by the National Education.

The "E3D" scheme

The E3D scheme is a means of certifying schools that initiate actions falling under the general sustainable development approach.

The targets of the "E3D" label are to:

- improve the SDE projects (Sustainable Development Education) already in place by anchoring them in a overarching policy for the establishment as a whole;
- Develop partnerships, particularly with the regional interest groups.

All educational establishments running a sustainable development project based on the 4 themes listed below can be considered as a "E3D - School/Establishment working towards sustainable development / E3D - *École/Établissement en démarche de développement durable*":

1. Teaching
2. School life
3. Management and maintenance of the building

4. Opening up to the outside world through a partnership

The “E3D” approach can be combined with cross-cutting themes, such as health education, development and international solidarity education, media education or art and culture education. The “E3D” label makes it possible to involve all the school or establishment stakeholders (administration, teachers, staff, pupils, parents) and the project partners, particularly regional authorities.

Source: “E3D” circular of 29 August 2013

Training courses provided by the National Education service

The [EDUSCOL](#) website, which brings together a number of sites and services providing information and support to professionals working in education, provides teachers with educational resources relating to education on sustainable development.

The open access website compiles information on the themes, issues, tools and partnerships, as well as the teaching methodologies and techniques that teachers can use within the context of education on sustainable development. What is more, educators have the opportunity to receive training on sustainable development through their institution, at the request of the teaching team.

Additionally, National Education service staff also have access to a national resource and skills hub (online) dedicated to development education which differs from EDUSCOL: the website: <https://crdp.ac-amiens.fr/edd/index.php/accueil/pole-national-competence-edd>

Through this online portal, they can find "information necessary for integrating Sustainable Development into their lessons and school projects". A news section is regularly updated with information on the constant developments in research, teaching practices and events related to this theme.

Youth-targeted information campaigns on global issues

Campaigns on global issues for youth are mainly about the environment and global warming. For example, the Ministry of National Education organizes "Climate Week" which is part of the desire to mainstream education for sustainable development. Launched in 2015 as part of the COP21, [Climate Week](#) mobilises subject-based disciplines, especially the sciences, as well as cross-curricular disciplines, in particular **education on sustainable development, scientific and technical culture, moral and civic education, development and international solidarity education and health education**.

The Climate Week

The [Climate Week](#) was launched in 2015 during the COP21. It mobilises subject teaching, particularly of scientific subjects, as well as cross-disciplinary teaching, notably **sustainable development education, scientific and technical culture, moral and civic education, development and international solidarity education and health education**.

It aims to **address climate change through scientific and civic issues** and constitutes a response to the **Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals**, where goal 13 is to “combat climate change”. It involves organising debates, events and simulations of international negotiations on climate change. These debates are organised with regional partners, and with environmental education and sustainable development associations.

Moreover, young people seeking to be educated in or improve their knowledge of global issues and international solidarity can enrol in training courses organised by international solidarity associations. There is a fee for such courses which are designed to inform participants on development aid policy, participation in solidarity action and the issues involved in cooperation with Southern countries. There are a great many associations organising short courses on global issues, and more specifically on inequalities in development, non-violence and peace.

List of associations organising courses (incomplete list)

- [Coordination SUD](#)
- [Bioforce](#)
- [Humacoop](#)
- CEFODE – Cooperation and Training in Development – North-South Area (*Coopération et Formation au Développement, Espace Nord-Sud*)
- [URD – Relief, Rehabilitation and Development](#) (*Urgence réhabilitation développement*)
- ICP – French Committee for Civil Peace Interventions (*Comité français pour l'intervention civile de paix*)
- MAN – Movement for a Nonviolent Alternative (*Mouvement pour une alternative non violente*)

Additionally, the multi-actor regional networks / *réseaux régionaux multi-acteurs* (RRMA) (See Cross-sectoral Cooperation), whose aim is to improve international cooperation actions, can offer training in sustainable development or international solidarity education. These training programmes can be for both International Solidarity professionals and young people.

The RRMA's are supported in their missions by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and by the Regional Councils. 12 RRMA's exist in France today.

Information providers

Youth-targeted campaigns on global issues essentially concern questions of the environment and climate change. The Ministry of National Education, for example, organises "Climate Week", an expression of the wish to universalise education on sustainable development. Launched in 2015 in the context of COP21, [Climate Week](#) gives free rein to various educational disciplines, the sciences in particular. It takes the form of debates, activities and simulations of international negotiations on climate change. Debates are organised with local partners, associations involved in education on the environment and sustainable development.

Associations

EDUCASOL

Associations play a key role in raising awareness of international solidarity and global issues. Some are partners of public institutions, including the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, one such being EDUCASOL, the French platform for education in citizenship and international solidarity. [Educasol](#) provides an open space for promotion of the activities of educators in development and international solidarity. The association also promotes education in development and international solidarity in institutions.

Engagé-e-s et Déterminé-e-s, (E&D / Committed and Determined).

Many youth associations are involved in informing and training people about global issues, such as the network of youth associations for international solidarity known as *Engagé-e-s et Déterminé-e-s, (E&D / Committed and Determined)*.

E&D is a national association for international solidarity and non-formal education that facilitates a network of associations seeking to create solidarity links at international scale. It is made up of associations registered under the law of 1901, led by young people and/or students who have chosen to act in a network. E&D is open to all youth and/or student organisations whose work fits with the E&D charter.

The E&D network includes around sixty associations of young people committed to International Solidarity:

The themes are:

- Citizenship and International Solidarity Education
- health and education
- culture
- renewable energies and the environment
- the social and solidarity economy or entrepreneurial economy
- migration and interculturality
- agriculture and food sovereignty

The national association [Erasmus Student Network](#)

The national association [Erasmus Student Network](#), IXESN France, fosters civic engagement and cooperation between international students via two **theme-based** actions:

- **Hosting of international students**, making use of a sponsorship system between international and French students;
- **Promoting international youth mobility.**

Biodiversity Centres (*Maisons de la Biodiversité*)

In addition to formal education, public events and campaigns launched by the ministries concerned and bodies devoted to the protection of nature may also play a role in awareness-raising on global issues. A number of local authorities possess resource centres devoted to nature, such as [Maison Paris nature](#), which holds discovery workshops on the French capital's flora and fauna with a view to involving its inhabitants in their preservation. Such centres can also take the form of "*Maisons de la biodiversité*". Located in public gardens or regional nature parks, these bodies organise educational activities (walks, exhibitions, etc.) connected with nature and designed to raise awareness on its protection.

Comité 21

Comité 21 is a French association for sustainable development whose aim is to transform society into a sustainable model based on Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Comité 21 is developing a network which now includes more than 400 members (businesses, regional authorities, associations, institutions, teaching and research establishments, citizens and the media). Comité 21 is a partner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Key initiatives

Many, mostly annual, initiatives are organised by associations, NGOs and public authorities to inform and raise awareness of global issues, such as the fight against climate change and international solidarity and interculturality.

The Solidarity Festival

The [Solidarity Festival](#) / *Festival des Solidarités* has been running for more than 20 years. It is an **international meeting point to promote and celebrate international solidarity**.

Each year in November, associations, local authorities, schools, socio-cultural organisations, stakeholders in the social economy and citizen collectives organise more than 4 200 events to **instil in citizens "of all ages the desire to act for a fair, solidary and sustainable world"**. These events take place across France as well as in other countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Togo, etc.)

Cultural Seasons:

The cultural seasons / saisons culturelles are organised by the Ministry of Culture, in line with the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and are run by the Institut Français. These cultural events have been part of the policy to support cultural diversity since 1985.

The 2020 cultural season honours the African continent.

The French president announced the Cultural Season "Africa 2020" in November 2017. The event is intended to be multidisciplinary and multifaceted, and will take place across France. The aim is to raise awareness of contemporary Africa and how it was created, by emphasising the role of young people and emerging talents. The season should make it possible to form strong partnerships in several different artistic disciplines, and to encourage cultural entrepreneurship.

The Africa 2020 season also has an educational aspect. It provides an opportunity to work with schools and classes on forming **"a modern, dynamic and constructive image of contemporary Africa"**.

Source: <https://www.saisonafrika2020.com/fr/edito>

Digital resources

In September 2017, the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition published a leaflet on biodiversity and its protection entitled *La biodiversité s'explique* (Biodiversity Explained), which followed on from other leaflets designed to raise the general public's and young people's awareness on environmental protection and ecological challenges. Such informatory resources are also compiled in the Ministry's webzine "*Changeons de regard sur la biodiversité*" (Let's change our views on biodiversity), which reports on the wealth of biodiversity in France, in particular in its Overseas territories.

Furthermore, the website and social networks of the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition present the various government strategies to tackle global warming, in particular through animated films, such as its [strategy to combat deforestation](#) included in the Climate Plan.

Ministry of National Education and youth websites

The Ministry of National Education **has several websites** with resources for education on sustainable development: such as the "Discover the World" portal. Dedicated to international youth mobility, in particular for solidary purposes, [Découvrir le monde](#) (Discover the World) is a platform created and run by the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs; it provides young people with information on the possibilities and various aspects of international mobility in general (Erasmus+, the Franco-German and Franco-Quebecois Offices, etc.) and international volunteering in particular.

Teachers and young people have also access to resources available for education for sustainable development provided by the Ministry in charge of education and partners for education for sustainable development :

website [Eduscol](#)

[CANOPE - Pôle national de ressources pour l'éducation au développement durable](#)/ National resource center for education for sustainable development

Other institutional sites:

Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition/ [Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire](#)

Ministry of Agriculture and Food/ [Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation](#)

Unesco and education for sustainable development/ [Unesco et éducation au développement durable](#)

9.5 Green volunteering, production and consumption

Green volunteering

Volunteering and eco-volunteering are promoted and implemented by a great many associations, which may receive financial support from the public authorities or such bilateral offices as the [Franco-German Office](#) (OFAJ) which organises VEFAs – Franco-German ecological volunteering schemes (*volontariats écologiques franco-allemand*).

VEFAs provide young people between 18 and 25 y/o with the opportunity to carry out a year's volunteering in Germany, with a view to acquiring skills connected with environmental protection while learning or improving their German. The scheme is funded by the Ministries responsible for Youth Affairs in the two countries involved.

The Civic Service Agency, which oversees youth volunteering missions, also organises [eco-volunteering missions](#) in partnership with environmental protection agencies (*see Chapter 2 Voluntary activities. Stand-alone law*). A number of such projects focus on raising inhabitants' awareness of and lending support to their eco-responsible initiatives, as well as raising awareness on water-related environmental actions.

Green production and consumption

The Ministry initiatives to promote a more sustainable and eco-responsible way of life (aimed at young people) mainly deal with food systems and diet.

The Ministry of Agriculture runs various actions (campaigns, schemes, etc.) to promote sustainable agriculture and the consumption of organic and local produce. Some of these actions are run by the young people themselves or are intended specifically for them. Campaigns for a young audience to promote local and sustainable agriculture are thus organised on a regular basis. What's more, [anti-food waste campaigns](#), particularly [visual campaigns](#) are run in participating secondary schools.

The European "Fruit and Vegetables at School" and "Milk and Dairy products at School" programme

The Ministry of Food and the Ministry of National Education have been involved in the European "Fruit and Vegetables at School" and "Milk and Dairy Products at School" programme since 2016.

The aim of this European Union-funded programme is to encourage the distribution of quality products and to link this to educational action. The idea is to improve the eating habits of pupils and build their knowledge of agricultural and agrifood systems and products. The programme aims to reach the target of 50% quality or sustainable products in collective catering by 2022.

<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/le-programme-europeen-fruits-et-legumes-lecole-et-lait-et-produits-laitiers-lecole>

The Semaine du goût / Week of Taste

Learning about taste and "eating well" starts at a very young age. Each year, for one week, Taste Lessons take place at schools so as to teach children about taste and "eating well". 250 000 children in pre-school and primary classes take part annually.

Many chefs and professionals from the agricultural and food sectors are also involved.

Since the creation of the Taste Lessons in 1990, they have reached more than 5 million pupils.

[The "Canteen Pleasure" Charter](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture's "Pleasure in the Canteen" (*Plaisir à la cantine*) programme has existed since 2010. It is intended for all lower and upper secondary schools and is based on a Charter co-signed by the school principal, representatives of the local authority (region or municipality) and the DRAAF – Regional Directorate for Food,

Agriculture and Forestry (*Direction régionale de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la forêt*) – a deconcentrated directorate under the Ministry of Agriculture. The "Pleasure in the Canteen" Charter's objectives include:

- "Breathing new life into canteens by acting on their food offer in order to make it more attractive while guaranteeing compliance with regulations on meal quality";
- "Giving new meaning to the act of eating by combining its nutritional aspect with the aspects of taste, sociability and mealtime ritual".

Students at schools that have signed the Charter also take part in cookery workshops run by their institution's school catering professionals.

Teaching aids and resources

The Ministry of Agriculture has developed a range of teaching aids to help teachers create their own activities: getting nursery and primary school pupils acquainted with local and seasonal products and getting them to understand what eating is all about. Such tools are particularly useful in "[taste classes](#)" (*classes des goûts*), a sensory awakening programme. "Taste classes" are dispensed to primary school pupils by teachers or facilitators who have received special training. Resources employed in their training include a booklet entitled "[Programme de formation des enseignants sur les classes du goût](#)" (Training programme for taste class teachers).

9.6 Intercontinental youth work and development cooperation

Intercontinental youth work cooperation

Several international solidarity schemes for young people promote international cooperation between young people, but also between youth professionals in France and other countries

The international Solidarity scheme

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been running the [VVV/SI – City-Life-Holiday/International Solidarity](#) (*Ville, Vie, Vacances/Solidarité Internationale*) scheme since 1991, and the [JSI – Youth, International solidarity](#) (*Jeunesse, Solidarité Internationale*) scheme since 1997. The program targets youth groups of 15 and 25 y/o and preferably of mixed gender wishing to carry out projects (cultural, entrepreneurship, environmental protection) in partnership with young people of their age from other countries. The projects put forward under these schemes must be led by young people and must help young people from Northern and Southern countries to come together to work on international solidarity projects, both abroad and in France.

The two sponsorship schemes are based on partnerships between the public authorities such as the ministries in charge of youth and the ministry of foreign affairs and associations (NGOs) that develop solidarity projects.

The VVV/SI programme is also intended for young people with fewer opportunities living in disadvantaged urban areas

Young French people who apply for these call for projects must be supported by a sponsor, an association governed by the French law of 1901 belonging to one of the seven groups of international solidarity associations recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Since their creation, the schemes have enabled the cofinancing and completion of over 600 international solidarity projects realised by young people in over 35 different countries and in France.

For further information on such schemes, see [Chapter 2 Voluntary activities. Stand-alone law](#).

International solidarity initiatives

The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) has adapted its “International Solidarity Initiative (ISI)” from June 2019. This call for projects will now allow young people to continue to get involved in solidarity actions and to “contribute to the development of a global citizenship”, in a context where cross-border travel is limited by the Covid-19 crisis. The ISI aims to provide financial support for intercultural exchanges and the involvement of young people in international solidarity projects. It does this by experimenting with new means of action (not involving travel), such as setting up online projects, virtual discussions and in-person discussions in France in small groups (of young people from France and elsewhere).

Development cooperation activities

The action to support the French-speaking world at international level is run within the institutional context of the **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)**: 56 member states and governments and 19 observers, of which France is a member. The main instrument to promote cooperation for young people (and sports) is the **Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers of Francophonie / Conférence des ministres de la Jeunesse et des Sports de la Francophonie** (CONFEJES).

The CONFEJES plays the role of a permanent ministerial conference responsible for identifying policy directions for young people. It is also involved in running the action programmes to support young French-speakers in Southern countries. In particular, France supports the Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme / *Programme de promotion de l'entrepreneuriat des jeunes* (mainly micro-enterprises) for young people from “Southern” French-speaking countries.

The OIF study report on youth policies in the French-speaking world.

The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie publishes a study report on youth policies, drafted in close collaboration with CONFEJES and with the support of Quebec. This makes an inventory of the public policies to support youth in 29 States and governments in the French-speaking world and documents their practices (governance structure, good practices, programme design and implementation, etc.). It outlines the challenges faced by the member countries and makes recommendations.

Multilateral cooperation (between states) to support young people

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ calls for Youth projects

Fostering greater cooperation between States is achieved through various schemes, including the calls for projects which give young French people the chance to experience professional mobility or international solidarity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ [calls for “Youth” projects](#) comprise a programme fostering intercontinental cooperation involving young people. It is intended for local authorities and results from a determination to encourage youth *internationalisation* and support local authorities’ commitment to international youth mobility in the context of their external action. In 2015, the Ministry launched **an initial call for projects in support of decentralised cooperation, “International Youth Mobility 2015-2016”** (*Mobilité internationale des jeunes 2015-2016*).

This call for projects is now in its seventh edition.

This call for projects aims to develop decentralised cooperation partnerships. The themes of the projects are those the local authorities traditionally manage (environment, culture, heritage, tourism, etc.), but they also cover citizenship and international solidarity education (ECSI), in order to raise awareness in the regional populations of global issues and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The projects are aimed at all 16- to 30-year-olds, including those with fewer opportunities. This call for projects programme has enabled more than 320 young people to travel in Europe and internationally since its launch in 2015.

Bilateral cooperation

The offices supporting young people

Apart from these Ministry of Foreign Affairs programmes and schemes, the bilateral offices such as [the Franco-German Youth Office](#) / *Office franco-allemand de la jeunesse* (OFAJ) and the Franco-Québécois Youth Office / *Office franco-québécois* (OFQJ) are also involved in this interstate cooperation, via actions to support young people and youth exchange programmes.

Franco-German Youth Office / *Office franco-allemand de la jeunesse* (OFAJ)

he OFAJ aims to promote exchanges between young people and youth workers. It supports around 8 000 projects by and for 190 000 young people per year.

Franco-Québécois Youth Office / *Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse* (OFQJ)

The OFQJ aims to develop relationships between young French people and young Quebecois, to promote an opening up of these relationships to the whole French-speaking world and to contribute to promoting this. Since its creation, more than 150 000 young people have taken part in actions initiated by the Office.

(For more information on OFAJ and OFQJ see *Chapter 2.6*)

Franco-Tunisian cooperation

The AFD – French Development Agency (Agence française de développement) has entrusted the online associative platform, Solidarité Laïque, with managing a Concerted Multi-stakeholder Programme (Programme concerté pluri-acteurs) for Tunisia. This programme, called "Let's get active" (Soyons Actifs/Actives), aims to strengthen Tunisian civil society's ability to reduce inequalities in access to rights in particular.

This triannual programme (2019-2021) is based on different themes, including:

- supporting social innovation projects run by civil society in education, socio-professional insertion and the Social and Solidary Economy (ESS),
- strengthening the capacity of civil society
- enhancing the influence of civil society on public policies

9.7 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Launch of the International Solidarity Initiative

In a context of travel restrictions imposed by the coronavirus crisis, the MEAE – Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères) has launched an International Solidarity Initiative (ISI – Initiative en faveur de la solidarité internationale) allowing young people to continue engaging in solidarity initiatives and to "contribute to the development of world citizenship". The International Solidarity Initiative (ISI) has been put in place by an operator, the FONJEP – National Institute for Youth and Non Formal Education (Fonds de coopération de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire). It aims to support intercultural exchanges and the engagement of young people in international solidarity projects, by experimenting with new ways of acting, such as the creation of online projects, exchanges in France between small groups or even virtual exchanges.

Source: <https://www.fonjep.org/solidarite-internationale/initiative-pour-la-soli...>

Ecological Transition Contracts

The Ecological Transition Contracts / *contrats de transition écologique* make it possible to accompany and support the ecological transformation of the regions. They are not specifically aimed at young people, but “they also aim to turn citizens and young people into involved and aware actors in projects undertaken to help the ecological and solidary transition in their area”. The Ecological Transition Contracts are built jointly by the local authorities, the state and the socio-economic stakeholders of the area. They aim to:

- “Demonstrate through action that ecology can be a driving force of the economy, and develop local job opportunities for the ecological transition (structuring the channels, developing new training programmes).”
- “Act alongside all the regional players, in both the public and private sectors, to make the ecological transition a reality.”

“Provide operational support when an area is undergoing industrial reconversion (professional training, reconversion of sites).” The regions participating in the Ecological Transition Contracts do so voluntarily. In 2020, 100 regions representing more than 200 inter-municipal associations were involved in the Ecological Transition Contracts scheme.

Ongoing debates

Draft constitutional law to complement the 1st article of the Constitution and relating to environmental conservation.

The government has drafted a constitutional law to incorporate environmental conservation into the 1st article of the constitution, as proposed by the Citizens’ Convention for the Climate. This constitutional revision is set to be put to referendum in 2021.

10. YOUTH WORK

In France, youth work does not have a strict definition and refers to different realities and professional practices. However, it is more generally associated with the sector of “sociocultural animation” on which this chapter will focus on.

The socio-cultural animation sector is part of the non-formal education sector. In recent years, it has undergone many changes both professionally and legislatively: professionalization and progressive institutionalization in a context of increased needs for animation, involving new issues and also changing professional practices.

10.1 General context

Historical developments

“Youth Work” has a long and moving history which reflects both developments in how young people are seen, and changes in policy towards young people. Although there is no “official” definition of youth work, its history is linked to that of non-formal education.

Non-formal education is itself difficult to define and date precisely. It has its roots in schools of thought dating back to the Revolution of 1789, which promoted the collective experience of citizenship, the empowerment of individuals through education, the development of critical thinking and the democratisation of culture. In the 19th century, these ideals led to the creation of secular associations that promoted adult education in the form of the first evening classes and public libraries.

The years 1940-1950 marked a new turning point for non-formal education; it was institutionalised by the State and became an area in which action was devoted to young

people in particular. This included the setting up of summer camps (*colonies de vacances*) and sports and leisure activities. In 1943, the Ministry for Youth created “**Youth and Popular Education Accreditation**” (“*l’agrément jeunesse et éducation populaire*”) for the youth and non-formal education associations and movements that were developing rapidly during this period; this showed that (gradually) **public services for young people** were being developed. From the 1950s up until today, social and educational work with children and young people, known as “**socio-cultural (or socio-educational) activities**” (“*animation socio-culturelle (ou socioéducative)*”) have become increasingly important within non-formal education, particularly as a result of its institutionalisation.

National definition or understanding of Youth Work

In France, there is no clear or “official” definition of youth work. It refers to various working practices and realities involving young people. However, it is very often limited to the field of “**socio-cultural/educational activities**” (“*animation socio-culturelle/éducative*”), which itself partly results from “non-formal education”. In fact this movement partly defined the principles and values of socio-cultural activities: the principles of empowerment, citizenship, self-development and the building of social connections.

There is also no agreed definition of socio-cultural activities. On the one hand, according to the [INSEE](#) (the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies) list of occupations, *sociocultural and leisure activities (l’animation socioculturelle et de loisirs)* “develop and introduce projects for activities, often within institutions [...] organise or help to organise activities designed around: **either the social inclusion of certain population groups and the improvement of social relationships between their members; or, more generally, promoting cultural life within communities.**”

Providing socio-cultural activities, which is currently known as “facilitation”, genuinely supports individual and collective development and social inclusion. Through non-formal activities and educational, cultural, leisure as well as preventive practices, facilitation fosters social connections and provides training for other types of learning, particularly of a non-formal nature.

Since the 1950s, the facilitation sector has gradually become professionalised until, in the 1980s, it became an occupational sector with its own system of certifications and qualifications. Its role as a sector that serves social, cultural, educational and leisure interests was then clear.

Facilitation relates to a number of fields (health, culture, leisure, social inclusion, etc.) and applies to the whole population: adults, the elderly, children and young people. However, the **children and youth sector is one of the main areas where facilitation takes place.**

Youth workers known as “facilitators” work with children and young people, for whom they develop and carry out activities. They work within associations and organisations in the field of (informal) “youth and non-formal education”, and also within the State-regulated ACMs “Community Centres for Minors” (“*accueils collectifs de mineurs*”) which operate outside school hours (during holidays and in leisure time), and are provided by the public authorities.

10.2 Administration and governance of youth work

Governance

“Youth work” and, more specifically, socio-educational activities (See 10.1) are structured around the State, local and regional authorities, non-formal education federations and associations, and professional facilitation sectors. Each of these different stakeholders plays a different role within this governance. The State’s task is to develop policies, impose regulations and establish facilitation qualifications. It finances and co-manages the training

and occupations that are supervised by the ministries concerned. It also plays a regulatory role by passing laws on the arrangements for introducing these facilitation activities, the level of skills required from facilitators and the safety of youth and children's centres. It also puts strategies in place for developing activities for young people.

Four ministries play a particularly important role in implementing socio-educational (socio-cultural) facilitation policy: the Ministry for Youth and Voluntary Organisations (*ministère chargé de la jeunesse et de la vie associative*), the Ministries of Sport and Agriculture and the Ministry for Cultural Affairs.

The Ministry of Youth and its decentralised services

Under the Ministry of Youth and National Education, the DJEPVA - Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (*Direction de la jeunesse, de la vie associative et de l'éducation populaire*) is tasked with developing youth policy. Consequently, it is a **major stakeholder** in "youth work" in its broadest sense but also more specifically in socio-educational facilitation (the main focus of this chapter).

The DJEPVA imposes a [framework of rules](#) that apply to the field of youth facilitation. It lays down the conditions for access to the posts of facilitator and director. It sets out the legal framework for community centres for minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) and ensures that this is in place, which includes carrying out checks and assessments. One of its tasks is to provide protection for the minors who attend these centres (day care centres (*accueils de loisirs*), organised holiday centres (*séjours de vacances*), etc.) and promote high standards in the activities they offer.

The decentralised departments of the Ministry of Youth, based within each region, can carry out checks at these centres at any time. They also advise the organisers and management team.

In addition, a group of officials working for the Ministry of Youth are responsible for developing and implementing youth policy: they are known as CEPJs - Youth and Non-Formal Education Advisors (*Conseillers d'éducation populaire et de jeunesse*), and generally work alongside IJSs - Youth and Sports Inspectors (*inspecteurs de la jeunesse et des sports*).

CEPJs - Youth and Non-Formal Education Advisors (*Conseillers d'éducation populaire et de jeunesse*)

Strictly speaking, Youth and Non-Formal Education Advisors (*conseillers d'éducation populaire et de jeunesse*) are not facilitators or facilitation professionals themselves; however, their occupation also relates to youth work. These are category A officials who work for the Ministry of Youth within the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (*Direction de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation Populaire et de la Vie Associative*) or within its decentralised services. They help the State implement its youth policy, which is specifically designed to:

- Foster independence and a sense of responsibility in young people through commitment and volunteering, and via international mobility;
- Improve access to high-quality recreational education and to relevant information;
- Support the development and dynamism of voluntary organisations and help provide vocational training and professional qualifications within the voluntary sector;
- Provide access to informal education and lifelong learning for as many people as possible.

Ministry of Sport

The Ministry of Sport and the Ministry for Youth, along with their decentralised services, organise training and the awarding of vocational State qualifications in socio-cultural and sports facilitation.

The Ministry for Cultural Affairs

Under the Ministry for Cultural Affairs, and alongside the Ministry of National Education's services and other government departments including local and regional authorities, the DRACs - Regional Departments for Cultural Affairs (*Directions régionales des affaires culturelles*) lead educational and cultural initiatives that promote **artistic and cultural education**, particularly within youth and children's centres and outside the school environment. The DRACs implement the national plan for artistic and cultural education. Their artistic and cultural education advisors are responsible, amongst other things, for providing the organisations that implement artistic and cultural education with support and information.

The Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture has its own teaching body composed of socio-cultural studies tutors who have specifically taken over from the socio-cultural facilitators' organisations. These teachers also act as facilitators. They design their institution's cultural development project.

Local and regional authorities

The local level plays an increasingly important role in the implementation of policies involving socio-cultural activities. Local and regional authorities have an important role to play in terms of facilitation since they (and particularly the municipalities) are largely responsible for setting up the Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) where the youth work takes place (socio-cultural activities) and recruiting the staff who provide the activities (directors, facilitators). The local and regional authorities work alongside the decentralised services of the Ministry for Youth to set up Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*).

In addition, they are also responsible for developing projects for educational activities, as well as regional education projects that bring together all those involved in the field of education in order to create a youth and children's policy that is consistent with education policy (formal education). At the same time, they also co-fund a large number of socio-educational organisations, especially associations, such as social centres, youth and cultural centres, etc.

Cross-sectoral Cooperation

Socio-cultural facilitation (or youth work) often relies on partnerships and cross-cutting work between various stakeholders in different fields: ministries, government agencies, local and regional authorities and often associations or organisations from the fields of socio-cultural facilitation, sport, health and culture. All these stakeholders are particularly committed to specific measures based on multi-partnership cooperation involving the relevant ministries, government agencies and associations.

PEDTs - Territorial Educational Projects (*Projets Éducatifs territoriaux*)

Introduced in 2013, [territorial educational projects \(*projets éducatifs territoriaux*\)](#) mobilise a region's entire resources in order to provide educational continuity between primary and secondary school projects and the activities provided for children outside school hours. They must provide extra-curricular activities (non-formal education) that extend and complement the public education service. PEDTs must help implement policies that encourage **educational achievement and reduce educational inequalities** or provide access to recreational education.

They take the form of a **contract** between local and regional authorities, government agencies and other partners (associations, non-formal educational organisations, etc.).

Within PEDTs, activities available to children outside school hours come under socio-cultural activities (youth work). They are provided by facilitators and associative movements (youth and non-formal education movements, local sports movements, cultural institutions, local associations, etc.). These activities may also involve volunteers

(*bénévoles*) and parents' associations. Mayors may also use volunteer teachers to supervise children outside school hours.

Territorial educational projects (*projets éducatifs territoriaux*) incorporate existing extra-curricular activities and may be based on the various schemes already in place within the *communes* involved.

Therefore they may be based on PELs - Local Educational Projects (*projets éducatifs locaux*) and on CELs - Local Educational Contracts (*contrats éducatifs locaux*).

PEL - Local Educational Projects (*Projets éducatifs locaux*) and CEL - Local Educational Contracts (*contrats éducatifs locaux*)

PELs - Local Educational Projects (*projets éducatifs locaux*) and CELs - Local Educational Contracts (*contrats éducatifs locaux*) were introduced in 1998. These schemes predate the PEDTs; however, they have a number of points in common.

CELs/PELs organise and set out the legal framework for the **extra-curricular** (Wednesdays, weekends and holidays) **and after-school** (immediately before or after school) **activities for children aged 3 to 16** provided within a region. CELs vary between regions, in terms of the ages catered for and the sectoral policies they reflect: certain CELs/PELs introduce initiatives for providing parental support and employment for young people aged 16 to 25, for example. In addition, in certain CELs/PELs residents play a greater role in the choice and development of projects. This involves organisations or services that are not directly concerned with youth policy.

The plan Mercredi (Wednesday Plan)

The *Wednesday Plan (Plan mercredi)* was launched in June 2018 as an aid to organising extracurricular activities, particularly within the context of the 4-day school week. It allows voluntary local and regional authorities to obtain support and funding from the State and from social agencies for the provision of Wednesday after-school facilities for children in kindergarten and primary school. The Wednesday Plan (*Plan mercredi*) involves stakeholders in education, youth and childhood policy.

The Wednesday Plan (*Plan mercredi*) is designed to help restructure children's timetables by **improving the links between time spent in the classroom and time spent on extra-curricular and after-school activities**. It aims to improve the quality of extra-curricular activities and create a framework of trust for families.

This scheme, which must be backed up by a PEDT, is based on the legal framework for Community Centres for Minors (*accueil collectif de mineurs*), which is governed by the *Social Action and Family Code (Code de l'action sociale et des familles)*. Communities that set up a Wednesday Plan (*Plan mercredi*) must comply with **the quality charter's** three priorities for providing facilities for children on Wednesdays:

1. "Ensure that from an educational point of view, time spent on extra-curricular activities on Wednesdays must complement time spent with the family and in the classroom";
2. "Guarantee inclusion and accessibility for all children wishing to attend after-school facilities, particularly children with disabilities";
3. "Extra-curricular activities should be consistent with a region and with its stakeholders";
4. "Offer rich and varied activities, including educational outings, with the aim of a final project (performance, exhibition, sports tournament, etc.)".

Certain cross-sectoral youth work schemes focus specifically on arts education and culture.

CLEA - Local Arts and Cultural Education Contract (*Contrat local d'éducation artistique et culturelle*)

The CLEA – Local arts and Cultural Education Contract (*contrat local d'éducation artistique et culturelle*) is a 3-year renewable contract, signed between a community and the services of the Ministries of Culture and National Education. According to their skills, responsibilities

and resources, all partners are invited to work towards organising a shared and unifying project, the aim of which is to extend artistic and cultural education. Shared projects may relate to:

- the applied arts
- circus skills
- photography
- digital art
- the cinema and audiovisual media
- music
- heritage
- the theatre
- dance
- fine art
- reading and writing

CLEAs bring in, amongst others, youth workers (facilitators, tutors, etc.) and professionals from the world of art and culture (artists, heads of organisations, programming teams, etc.).

ACMs - Collective Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs des mineurs*)

Cross-sectoral cooperation is also involved in the setting up of **ACMs - Collective Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*)**, which comes under Youth Work (socio-educative activities).

ACMs are organised during leisure time and in the holidays (extra-curricular and out-of-school hours). They give children and young people the chance to take part in a variety of educational and recreational leisure activities within the framework of educational projects that are “specific to individual organisers and pedagogic projects that are specific to individual management teams”.

ACMs are State-regulated and must be registered with the Ministry for Youth. They are organised by non-profit associations and local authorities, particularly where after-school facilities are concerned. They may also be organised by works councils, commercial enterprises or individuals.

Various stakeholders — institutions, policy makers and associations — are involved in ACMs; they work together but have different roles — monitoring, organisation, facilitation and assessment.

The three most commonly available types of facilities are:

- organised holiday centres (*séjours de vacances*) (holiday centres and holiday camps (*colonies de vacances*))
- day care centres (*accueils de loisirs*) (leisure centres and outdoor activity centres (*centres aérés*))
- scout clubs, organised by scouting associations with national Ministry for Youth “youth and non-formal education” certification.

10.3 Support to youth work

Policy legal framework

Public authorities, including the Ministries for Youth and Sports as well as local and regional authorities, have been involved in introducing socio-cultural activities (youth work) within an occupational sector that has its own legal framework and systems for employment and training. (See 10.1 Historical developments)

The role of the State

The Ministry for Youth and its decentralised services

Via its Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations, the Ministry for Youth imposes a framework of rules within the field of facilitation (youth work).

It lays down the conditions for access to the posts of facilitator and director of activity centres. It establishes a **legal framework for Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*)** and ensures that this is in place, which includes carrying out **checks and assessments**. The Ministry for Youth's task is to provide protection for the minors who attend these centres (leisure centres with or without accommodation (*centres de loisirs sans hébergement ou avec hébergement*)), also known as holiday camps (*colonies de vacances*), and **promote high standards in the activities provided**.

Ministry for Youth's decentralised departments, based within each region, can carry out checks at these centres at any time. They also advise the organisers and management team (facilitators and directors).

The regional level

Since the start of the gradual decentralisation process, which began in the 1980s, the facilitation professions have become regionalised; in other words, the local level (regional authorities and more precisely the *communes* or inter-communal institutions) plays an important role in the introduction of activities and also in the management of the facilitation professions (the recruitment of facilitators and the directors of organisations).

In fact, municipalities can choose to **directly manage** the activities it provides, i.e. via a **public service delegation** within the framework of a public contract, which means that facilitators are recruited through associations. In the case of direct management, facilitators or youth workers are directly employed by *communes* and form part of municipal staff.

Funding

Socio-educational activities and youth work training are often funded through co-financing schemes involving public social action organisations, such as the Family Allowances Fund (*caisses d'allocations familiales*), local and regional authorities, and associations.

The State's "Youth and Voluntary Organisations" ("*jeunesse et vie associative*") financial programme includes a portion of the funds allocated to Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations.

In 2020, this programme mainly funded three initiatives: **"The Youth and Non-formal education"** ("*les actions en faveur de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire*"), **"Developing Community Service"** ("*développement du service civique*") and **« Developing « universal national service »**.

The budget for the "Youth and Non-Formal Education" ("*en faveur de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire*") initiative amounts to over €71 million. Some of these funds are "allocated to providing leisure activities and to developing organised holiday centres (*séjours de vacances*) and day care centres (*accueils de loisirs*), particularly within the context of education policies developed by local authorities".

Source: PLF 2020 - extract from the Budget Blue for the Sport, Youth and Voluntary Organisations (*sport, jeunesse et vie associative*) mission

Regional authorities

Included in this budget is non-State funding and funding from institutions, such as that provided by regional authorities — including municipalities (*communes*) — which set up and manage sports and cultural facilities and also subsidise organisations that provide leisure, sports and/or cultural activities. Municipalities (*communes*) also employ facilitators and other youth work professionals.

The French National Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*)

In addition the [French National Family Allowances Fund \(*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*\)](#) (see Glossary) contributes to the development of day care centres (*accueils de loisirs*) and before and after school activities for minors (aged between 3 and 17) by also subsidising associations and social centres. Via its CAFs - Regional Family Allowance Funds (*caisses territoriales d'allocation familiale*) the French National Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*) helps fund activities and youth work activities within the framework of partnership agreements.

This conditional support takes the form of providing services for [day care centres without accommodation \(*accueils de loisirs sans hébergement*\)](#). These services are only available to day care centres (*accueils de loisirs*) that are registered with State services and that promote **social diversity and affordability** for families as part of specific **educational projects**, by introducing income-based pricing.

Agreements for providing services to [day care centres without accommodation \(*accueils de loisirs sans hébergements*\)](#) impose commitments on their “managers” (associations or local authorities):

Regarding the general public

- “Openness and access for all in order to foster social diversity”;
- “Affordability for all families through income-based pricing”;
- “The setting up of organisations that are tailored to the needs of local areas”;
- “An obligation to produce an educational project”;
- “The introduction of a variety of activities, excluding specific courses and lessons”.

As regards the rules relating to Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*)

- “For the period of the agreement, the manager agrees to abide by the rules and legal requirements that relate to Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*). The service will be suspended and fees paid will be reimbursed if any inspections carried out by the State’s services, including a *département’s* youth services, find that the rules relating to Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) have not been complied with”;
- “The manager agrees to inform the CAF about any changes in the operation of the facilities”.

Source: [Specific terms and conditions. Provision of services to day care centres without accommodation \(*accueil de loisirs sans hébergement*\) No. 20_CAF](#). January 2016.

Specific aid for organised holidays

Various organisations may offer different types of aid to families that wish to send their children to organised holiday centres (*séjours de vacances*) (general list):

The CAF - Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse d'Allocations Familiales*)

The CAF funds these holidays by awarding the AVE - Child Holiday Assistance benefit (*aide aux vacances enfants*) to families claiming benefits. The AVE is awarded to families claiming benefits with children aged between 7 and 16.

The ANCV - National Holiday Voucher Agency (*Agence Nationale pour le Chèque-Vacances*)

The National Holiday Voucher Agency (*Agence Nationale pour le Chèque-Vacances*) aims to promote holidays for all. It offers two types of assistance for funding these holidays: the Holiday Project Allowance (*Aides aux Projets Vacances*) and the BSV - Solidarity Holiday Grant (*Bourse Solidarité Vacances*).

The CEs - Works Councils (*Comités d'Entreprise*)

All organisations with over 50 employees have a Works Council. They offer various forms of holiday assistance including coupons and holiday vouchers (*chèques-vacances*) and through their pricing policy.

The MSA - Mutual Agricultural Fund (*Mutualité Sociale Agricole*)

The MSA provides social assistance to enable children to go on holiday. Its members receive holiday vouchers (*chèques-vacances*) or coupons (valid for 1 year). Farming families and farm employees accompanied by children aged between 2 and 16 (or 20, depending on the Region) are entitled to this benefit.

Holiday Organisers

Organisers may offer various solutions such as the option of paying in instalments, for example.

Communes

Communes may offer financial support to families and young people in training via the CCASs - Municipal Social Action Centres (*Centres Communaux d'Action Sociale*), youth services or local social services.

Aid for funding youth work training

Certain organisations offer conditional or unconditional financial assistance (*Family Allowances Fund (Caisse d'allocations familiales)*), Regional Councils, *Pôle emploi* (the national public employment service), etc). With regard to the funding of training for professional facilitators' qualifications, local and regional authorities (including Regions) are the main funders of training in socio-cultural facilitation.

For example, The City of Paris has introduced the "BAFA Citizen" ("*BAFA Citoyen*") scheme which allows young people to set the cost of their BAFA training (formation BAFA) (Facilitator's Certificate of Proficiency (*Brevet d'Aptitude aux Fonctions d'Animateur*)) against 30 hours of working locally as a *bénévole* (voluntary and unpaid work).

Cooperation

Providing socio-educational activities, and more specifically schemes involving youth work, is based on cooperation between various institutions and associations: the Ministry of National Education and Youth's decentralised services, local and regional authorities, movements and federations of associations including non-formal education, and public social action organisations such as the Municipal Social Action Centres (*centres communaux d'action sociale*), local missions for social and professional inclusion, and the CAFs - Family Allowances Funds (*caisses d'allocations familiales*) (see Glossary). Such cooperation may involve other partners as well, including institutes for youth policy studies or research.

Such cooperation often takes the form of agreements or contracts signed by the various partners, setting out objectives and arrangements for introducing activity schemes aimed at young people.

Cooperation within PEDTs - Territorial Educational Projects (*projets éducatifs territoriaux*)

Territorial Educational Projects (*Projets éducatifs territoriaux*) agreements (see 10.2 *Cross-sectoral Cooperation*) are signed by the mayor, the Prefect and the National Education academic services, as well as by the Director of the CAF - Family Allowances Funds (*Caisse d'allocations familiales*) when they include plans for day care centres (*accueils de loisirs*) which are eligible for the support and services provided by the Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse d'allocations familiales*). The other partners involved in a PEDT, in particular other local and regional authorities and associations, may also sign the agreement. Signatories of the agreement must agree on the nature of the activities, decide how they will be organised and ensure that they are suitable for the children for whom they are intended.

Cooperation within arts and cultural education projects

The introduction of an arts and cultural education policy is also based on multi-annual agreements between local and regional authorities, the various decentralised State administrations and, in particular, the DRACs - Regional Directorates for Cultural Affairs (*Directions régionales des affaires culturelles*), school boards, the DRAAFs - Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (*directions régionales de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la forêt*), and the regional institutions and associations involved (artists, cultural and socio-cultural organisations, those involved in youth work, those with an interest in solidarity, etc.). These agreements can be linked to PEDTs - Territorial Educational Projects (*projets éducatifs territoriaux*).

10.4 Quality and innovation in youth work

Quality assurance

The organisation of “youth work” activities especially within Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs des mineurs*) is based on a framework of rules, the purpose of which — apart from guaranteeing the safety and protection of minors and compliance with staff/child ratios — **is to ensure that the activities these centres offer are of a high educational and quality standard** and that **the youth workers have the required competences**.

Youth workers professional standards

In order to ensure the quality of youth work, the ministry in charge of youth has developed training (certifying or non-certifying) for youth workers (socio-educational facilitator). These trainings allow them to acquire the required skills.

More generally, a youth worker is expected to be able to:

- design and implement an educational project that takes into account the educational needs of children in their leisure time,
- lead and support a team around a collective and socially useful project.
- forge relationships with the various educators of children (especially parents) and with the environment of collective reception of minors (centre),
- create the conditions for a reception that guarantees the well-being, development and safety of children and adolescents.

Among these youth work training and certifications there is the **BAFA**.

The BAFA - Facilitator's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions d'animateur*)

The Facilitator's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions d'animateur*), known as the **BAFA**, is a non-professional qualification required for the supervision of

young people within Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*), and holiday and leisure centres.

BAFA training prepares its students for 5 areas of responsibility:

- 1) "guaranteeing the physical and moral safety of minors";
- 2) "as part of a team, helping to introduce *projets pédagogiques* that are in line with *projets éducatifs*, in accordance with the rules governing ACMs";
- 3) "taking part in activities, communications and the development of relationships between all those involved";
- 4) "supervising and coordinating the daily routine and the activities";
- 5) "helping minors to complete their projects".

In addition, the training aims to develop four skills:

- 1) "the sharing and passing on of the Republic's values, including secularism";
- 2) "the making of a commitment appropriate to the social, cultural and educational context";
- 3) "The building of strong individual or collective relationships with members of the team of instructors and with the minors, and helping to prevent all forms of discrimination";
- 4) "where necessary, being able to provide appropriate solutions in situations involving minors".

For more information on the youth worker trainings and certifications see [chapter 10.5 Youth workers](#).

In addition to the trainings of the youth worker/ Socio-educational facilitators, the quality of the youth work also rests on the elaboration and the **evaluation** of educational projects (*projets éducatifs*) and pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*).

Evaluation of youth work activities

High educational standards are achieved through educational projects (*projets éducatifs*) and pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*); these are central to the provision of activities, and are covered by the [CASF - Social Action and Family Code \(Code de l'action sociale et des familles\)](#)

According to the [guide to educational projects \(Projets éducatifs et pédagogiques\)](#), produced by the Ministry of Youth: "an educational project (*projet éducatif*) reflects an organiser's commitment, his/her priorities and his/her principles".

Such projects define the meanings behind initiatives and set out guidelines and details of the resources that can be used to introduce them. They are usually multi-annual and formalised by a document. They are aimed at the teams providing the activities and also at families; such projects help them to understand the goals of the organisers who look after their children.

They allow:

"Educational teams to become familiar with an organiser's priorities and with the resources he/she provides in order to achieve them"

"Officials under the authority of the Ministers of Youth and Sports:

- to identify the educational aims being developed within each centre,
- to monitor possible deficiencies and inconsistencies between the running of the centre and its stated objectives,
- to create links with other schemes (Local Educational Contracts (*contrats éducatifs locaux*), Leisure Contracts (*contrats temps libre*), Jobs for Young People (*emplois jeunes*), etc.)".

An educational project (*projet éducatif*) is usually developed by its organiser: an elected representative, a local or regional authority's Youth Liaison Officer, directors of children's activity centres or leaders of non-formal education federations. It sets guidelines for a local or regional authority's, association's and/or independent organisation's socio-educational (socio-cultural) policy. It serves as a working document for the development of the **pedagogical project (*projet pédagogique*)** which is the concrete version of the educational project (*projet éducatif*).

An educational project (*projet éducatif*) is shared by all the centres that are run by a single natural or legal person. Its development may take account of observations made by other partners, chief among which will be the legal representatives of minors, by an association's elected representatives and members, and by the facilitators. In fact certain educational projects (*projets éducatifs*) form part of a participatory approach.

The assessment of educational projects (*projets éducatifs*)

An educational project (*projet éducatif*) also specifies the arrangements for assessing a Community Centre for Minors (*accueil collectif de mineurs*) (Articles R227-23 to R227-26 of the Social Action and Family Code (*code de l'action sociale et des familles*)). An educational project (*projet éducatif*) must include a 3-year assessment of the extent to which its objectives have been met. This forms part of quality development. The standard of the activities is indeed one of the categories assessed; this includes compliance with regulations, and relevance to the needs of all the children, young people and families in the area (municipality (*commune*)).

These assessments can be carried out by non-formal education associations, in partnership with communities and social agencies (CAFs) in a participatory and multi-partnership approach that involves all those concerned (local or regional authority services, facilitators and associations, etc.). Methods used in the assessments may consist of semi-direct interviews (parents, teachers, municipal staff, etc.), on-the-ground observations and the collection of statistical data.

Pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*)

Directors of Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) and their teams implement educational projects (*projets éducatifs*) by means of **pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*)**. These documents are specific to the characteristics of each centre and are the result of a team effort. **Pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*)** are not programmes of activities; they describe the educational goals of the proposed activities. However, they do specify the type of activities proposed, according to the type of facilities provided and, when physical or sports activities are involved, the conditions under which they are to take place.

According to an [information sheet \(*fiche méthodologique*\)](#) issued by the Region of Occitania's Regional Directorate for Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion (a decentralised directorate attached to the Ministry of Youth), a **pedagogic project (*projet pédagogique*)**: "is designed as **a contract between an educational team, staff, parents, and minors, concerning the operating conditions; it serves as a reference throughout the initiative**. It gives meaning to the **activities proposed and to daily activities**. It helps to build educational approaches. It identifies an organiser's concerns".

Directors of Centres for Minors (*accueils de mineurs*) develop their **pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*)**, in consultation with **their management teams (*facilitators*)**. Minors who attend these centres may be involved in the development of these projects in ways that are appropriate to their ages.

A pedagogic project (*projet pédagogique*) contains a number of different elements:

- _ Initial diagnosis: children using the centre, environment, resources, etc.
- _ Summary of the organiser's educational goals

- _ The pedagogic goals
- _ Concrete ways to achieve these pedagogic goals and also to guarantee the safety of minors
- _ The type of activities proposed, according to the type of facilities provided and, when physical or sports activities are involved, the conditions under which they are to take place
- _ A description of the building and the spaces used
- _ The activity time/rest time ratio
- _ The ways in which minors can participate
- _ Where necessary, plans for minors with health problems or disabilities
- _ How the team — the director, facilitators and the other staff at the Centre for Minors (*accueil des mineurs*) — will operate
- _ The arrangements for assessing the centre

Source: http://occitanie.drjscs.gouv.fr/sites/occitanie.drjscs.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/6_projet_educatifet_projet_pedagogique.pdf

ACM Quality Charters

Other tools — modelled on charters — for developing the quality of youth work, such as “quality charter” labels, may be introduced by State services (the decentralised departments of the Ministry for Youth), in partnership with local or regional authorities, the Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse d’allocations familiales*), and associations.

For example, the Community Centre for Minors (*accueil collectif de mineurs*) Quality Charter is a **voluntary** partnership arrangement; it aims to guarantee and improve the standard of the activities offered at the centres. Use of this tool (the charter) for improving Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) is neither automatic nor obligatory.

Research and evidence supporting Youth Work

Extensive research and analysis is being carried out on the impact of Youth Work and the socio-cultural activity professions; this is being led by the various stakeholders who are involved in Youth Work: the Ministries’ assessment services, academic (higher education) laboratories, social action agencies and non-formal education associations, some of which have their own resource centres.

General list of organisations carrying out research on Youth Work

The INJEP - National institute for Youth and Non-Formal Education (*institut national de la jeunesse et de l’éducation populaire*)

The activity sector is one of the subjects being studied at [the National Institute for Youth and non-Formal Education \(*institut national de la jeunesse et de l’éducation populaire*\)](#), which organises seminars and lectures on the subject and regularly carries out research on the impact of Youth Work on young people and on the coordinators themselves, as well as on developments in the activities being provided.

A number of the Institute’s [publications](#) focus on the facilitators’ training and professional careers as well as on descriptions of the ACMs – Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) where the activities take place. The Institute is, in fact, responsible for producing annual statistics on Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*). These statistics provide details of the centres’ activities: how many there are, the numbers of children enrolled, their purpose, and the type and length of stays in centres where accommodation is provided.

The INJEP’s work schedule for 2019-2020 has included, for example, plans to carry out research on the “impact of holiday camps (*colonies de vacances*) on young people’s development”.

The CNAF - National Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*)

Further research is being carried out by the CNAF - National Family Allowances Fund (*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*), which implements family and social policy and provides funding for Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) (out-of-school activity centres) and training courses for facilitators.

The CNAF has a [research policy](#) that results in the publication of a number of resources including a newsletter, "*l'e-essentiel*", that presents summaries of studies and new data, "[research papers](#)" that address specific topics (births in reconstituted families, youth culture, etc.) and a scientific journal, "*Politiques sociales et familiales*" ["Social and Family Policy"] that presents researchers' work. The organisation also routinely collects [statistical data](#).

Youth Policy watchdogs

In addition, various public and community watchdogs on extra-curricular policy —such as the POLOC – the watchdog on Local Education Policy and Educational Success (*Observatoire des politiques locales d'éducation et de la réussite éducative*) and the OVLEJ – the watchdog on Holidays and Leisure for Children and Young People (*Observatoire des Vacances et des Loisirs des enfants et des jeunes*) — help to analyse the impact of youth work, both on young people and on community development (municipalities (*communes*)).

The POLOC - the watchdog on Local Education Policy and Educational Success (*Observatoire des politiques locales d'éducation et de la réussite éducative*)

The IFÉ – [French Institute of Education \(*Institut français de l'Éducation*\)](#) and the [Triangle](#) research unit at the Higher Education and Research Institute (*École Normale Supérieure*) in Lyon were responsible for setting up the POLOC watchdog, which specialises in the study of regional educational policies. This watchdog is "a centre for resources, exchange and the analysis of regional public policies and schemes for equality in schools and education". It is based on a partnership between the Ministry of National Education, communities and community associations, non-formal education federations and professional associations. One of the subjects being studied by the POLOC is "[educational complementarity](#)", in other words the relationship between Youth Work schemes and formal education policies.

The OVLEJ – the watchdog on Holidays and Leisure for Children and Young People (*Observatoire des Vacances et des Loisirs des enfants et des jeunes*)

The OVLEJ – the watchdog on Holidays and Leisure for Children and Young People (*Observatoire des Vacances et des Loisirs des enfants et des jeunes*) is an association created by the main voluntary sector organisations involved in the field of holidays and group leisure activities. It currently includes the [JPA – Youth Outdoors \(*Jeunesse au Plein Air*\)](#) and the [UNAT - National Union of Outdoor Tourism \(*Union Nationale des Associations de Tourisme plein air*\)](#). Every other year, the OVLEJ produces a national study and a barometer of "public expectations regarding leisure centres and summer camps (*colonies de vacances*)".

The OVLEJ is tasked with carrying out qualitative and quantitative studies on topics which include:

- children and young people's leisure time practices and issues
- the impact of public policy.

It is difficult to measure how much this research into activities actually influences the development of youth policy, particularly at a national level. At a local level (municipalities (*communes*)), assessments of educational projects (*projets éducatifs*) and pedagogical projects (*projets pédagogiques*) (see Quality Assurance) aim to measure the difference between setting targets (pedagogic) and taking action, and should help to improve youth policies introduced by local and regional authorities.

Participative youth work

At a national level, young people are not automatically involved in policy-making relating to “Youth Work”.

Taking part in discussions on Youth Policy

However in 2018, the Council, which answers to the HCFEA - [High Council for the Family, Childhood and Age \(*Haut Conseil de la Famille de l'Enfance et de l'Âge*\)](#) (see Glossary) and consists of a panel of twelve children and teenagers, has recommended various measures regarding extra-curricular and out-of-school activities in a report entitled [The third times and places of children and teenagers outside home and school \(*Les temps et les lieux tiers des enfants et des adolescents hors maison et hors scolarité*\)](#).

A number of the Children’s Council’s measures recommend reducing inequalities regarding access to activities outside of school hours. These measures focus on 5 priorities:

1. “Including children with disabilities and long-term illnesses”,
2. “Removing the financial obstacles that prevent children from the poorest families from taking part in the Wednesday Plan (*plan mercredi*) and extra-curricular and out-of-school activities in general”,
3. “Holidays: reducing social inequalities and fostering social diversity”,
4. “Reducing regional inequalities”,
5. “Reducing the segregation experienced by learners”.

Organisations that involve young people

In addition, **children and young people from the local area may take part in** the development (by local and regional authorities and/or associations) of educational projects (*projets éducatifs*) for Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*); this decision is left to the organisers of individual Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*).

Local and regional authorities (municipalities (*communes*)) may set up “Youth Spaces” (*Espaces Jeunes*) consisting of facilities and “outreach” centres where educational leisure time, workshops (multimedia, for example), educational support sessions, and artistic and cultural activities are provided and coordinated by youth workers. The activities on offer at “*Espaces jeunes*” may also be chosen by the young people who use these spaces. Youth spaces may also be used as “youth information” centres, forming part of the youth information network introduced by the Ministry for Youth.

In Paris, for example, the 12 *Espaces Paris Jeunes* are local spaces which provide free activities and services for young people. The teams of youth workers at the *Espaces Paris Jeunes* are tasked with:

- “Catering for young people in an informal way”;
- **“Co-building and supporting youth projects”;**
- “Suggesting activities”;
- “Informing and guiding young people”,

Smart youth work: youth work in the digital world

The use of new digital technologies leads to many discussions and a revival in the use of socio-educational facilitation by associations and institutions involved in youth work. Their interest in digital “youth work” is reflected in their creation of digital tools for young people and professionals, their creation of centres and facilities, and their production of a number of resources (booklets, articles, information sheets, etc.) on the use of digital technology in facilitation. It is difficult to identify all the initiatives submitted by associations and non-formal education movements and by local and regional authorities, since there are so many of them.

For further information, see **6.8 Media education and the correct use of new media.**

At a national level, the State has led various initiatives. (non-exhaustive list)

The BAFA/ BAFD app

The Ministry of Youth has created an internet portal linked to a mobile app to make it easier to sign up for the BAFA/ BAFD training and non-professional qualifications for facilitators.

The BAFA-BAFD app is part of a move to simplify administrative procedures. It allows people to manage all the procedures relating to these qualifications including:

- Enrolling and tracking their progress on the BAFA and/or BAFD training course online;
- For students who have passed the BAFA qualification, enrolling for additional qualifications (sailing, canoeing/kayaking, leisure activities, etc.);
- For students who have passed the BAFD qualification, renewing their licence;
- Renewing their BAFA "Lifeguard" qualification (every 5 years).

The D-Clics numériques project

Other initiatives provide training in digital technology for young people and facilitators, such as the "D-Clics numériques" digital group project.

This project was set up by the French Education League (*la Ligue de l'enseignement*) association and seven partners in education including non-formal education associations (*Franças, Ceméa, Animafac, Jets d'Encre*), the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (*centre de recherche interdisciplinaire*) (Paris-Descartes University) and the National Education research network *Canopée*. It provides training in digital technology for facilitators and *bénévoles* (volunteers) and its purpose is "to help create an emerging generation of creative and critical citizens who use digital technology responsibly".

At the end of the *D-clics numériques* course, facilitators who have access to the website's resources should be able to:

- "Assess educational issues associated with digital technology"
- "Create a set of 7 to 12 activity sessions based on one of the courses offered (from creating video games to constructing online radio stations)"
- "Use basic techniques required in the teaching process"
- "Coordinate " Common Core" discussion sessions with groups of children and young people"
- "Encourage children and young people to make use of content and use their own initiative"
- "Appreciate what children and young people suggest and produce"
- "Offer children and young people innovative and fun activities, and help them acquire the skills needed by citizens of the 21st century".

Activities offered at the City of Science and Industry (*Cité de la Science et de l'Industrie*)

Created by decree on 3 December 2009, **the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie is an EPIC – Public Industrial and Commercial Institution (*établissement public à caractère industriel et commercial*)**, which is **jointly supervised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (*ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation*) and the Ministry of Culture**. As part of its "**Digital Crossroads**" ("*Carrefour numérique*") programme, this institution is offering a number of activities dedicated to the digital sciences, and workshop space dedicated to digital technology with various events related to digital culture and a *Fab Lab*.

Fab Labs are **free**, unsupervised, **shared** design and manufacture **workshops**; they are **open to everyone** and are equipped with the **appropriate tools**: (3D printers, laser cutters, etc.), so that people can complete projects on their own (*do-it-yourself*) or with

others (*do it with others*). *Fab Labs* are gradually being developed throughout France, usually through the joint efforts of associations and local and regional authorities.

10.5 Youth workers

Status in national legislation

N.B. This chapter will focus on socio-educational/socio-cultural facilitators; in France, these come under the definition of “youth workers”, which is more widely used than that of “facilitator”.

The status of facilitators may vary, and may not be equally recognised. Facilitators may be volunteers (*bénévoles*), employees or local officials. Their status is defined by the qualifications they hold. The training system is based on three types of qualification: non-professional, professional and academic qualifications.

It must be stressed that qualifications are not required for socio-educational activities. In fact the law allows employers to recruit unqualified staff; however, they must ensure that 80 % of supervisors “have degrees, qualifications or certificates that appear on the list drawn up by the Minister for Youth”.

Non-vocational qualifications

Non-vocational qualifications relate to voluntary activities. Nevertheless, they play an essential role in terms of access to the professional activity sector.

Non-professional certificates: Most of the facilitators’ qualifications awarded by the Ministry of Youth consist of **the BAFA - Facilitator’s Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d’aptitude aux fonctions d’animateur*) and the BAFD - Director’s Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d’aptitude aux fonctions de directeur*)**. Around 50,000 BAFA qualifications are awarded each year; this number has remained the same for 20 years. Fewer BAFDs are awarded; in 2018, there were 2,344. These qualifications are **mostly awarded to women**, who made up roughly 70% of those who obtained the BAFA/ BAFD in 2016.

The BAFA - Facilitator’s Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d’aptitude aux fonctions d’animateur*)

The Facilitator’s Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d’aptitude aux fonctions d’animateur*), known as the BAFA, is a non-professional qualification required for the supervision of young people within Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*), and holiday and leisure centres.

BAFA training prepares its students for 5 areas of responsibility:

- 1) “guaranteeing the physical and moral safety of minors”;
- 2) “as part of a team, helping to introduce *projets pédagogiques* that are in line with *projets éducatifs*, in accordance with the rules governing ACMs”;
- 3) “taking part in activities, communications and the development of relationships between all those involved”;
- 4) “supervising and coordinating the daily routine and the activities”;
- 5) “helping minors to complete their projects”.

In addition, the course aims to develop four skills:

- 1) “the sharing and passing on of the Republic’s values, including secularism”;
- 2) “the making of a commitment appropriate to the social, cultural and educational context”;

3) "The building of strong individual or collective relationships with members of the team of instructors and with the minors, and helping to prevent all forms of discrimination";

4) "where necessary, being able to provide appropriate solutions in situations involving minors".

The BAFD - Director's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions de directeur*)

The BAFD – Director's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions de directeur*) allows holders of the BAFA to **supervise** children and teenagers at holiday and leisure centres.

BAFD training prepares **directors for carrying out** the following duties:

- "along with his/her team of facilitators, developing and introducing pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*) that are in line with educational projects (*projets éducatifs*), in accordance with the rules governing Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*), including catering for minors with health problems or disabilities";
- "making a commitment appropriate to the social, cultural and educational context";
- "coordinating and training a team of facilitators";
- "directing staff and managing a centre";
- "developing partnerships and communication".

Texts

[Article D 432-10 et seq of the CASF – Social Action and Family Code \(*code de l'action sociale et des familles*\)](#)

[Order of 15 July 2015 relating to certificates of aptitude for the duties of facilitator and director at Community Centres for Minors \(*accueils collectifs de mineurs*\)](#)

On the other hand, certain facilitators' qualifications **are vocational qualifications**.

Vocational certificates for coordinators

The CPJEPS – Vocational Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*certificat professionnel de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*) is a new qualification.

Legal texts

Reference of Decree No. 2004-893 of 27 August 2004 taken for the application of Article L. 363-1 of the Education Code, repealed by Decree No. 227-1133 of 24 July 2007 and codified).

[Art.D.212-11 to D.212-19 of the Sports Code](#) (reference of Decree No. 93-53 of 12 January 1993 relating to the creation of an Assistant-Facilitator Technician's Vocational Certificate of Aptitude in Youth and Sports, repealed by Decree No. 2007-1133 of 24 July 2007 and codified)

[Art. A.212-2 to A.212-16 of the Sports Code](#) (reference of the Order of 19 January 1993 relating to the organisation and conditions for preparing and delivering the Assistant-Facilitator Technician's Vocational Certificate of Aptitude in Youth and Sports, repealed by the Order of 28 February 2008 and codified)

The CPJEPS is a vocational qualification that is listed in the RNCP - National Register of Vocational Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certification Professionnelles*); it is listed under Level 3 in the list of levels of qualification drawn up in accordance with [Article L. 6113-1 of the Labour Code](#). It proves that a qualification has been obtained in a professional activity which has an educational or social purpose, in the fields of physical, sports, socio-educational or cultural activities.

The qualification mentioned in Article 1 certifies that its holder can:

- Take part in a project and in the life of an organisation;
- Facilitate the daily routines of groups;
- Design group activities;
- Facilitate group activities.

The title “Facilitator of activities and daily routines” (“*animateur d’activités et de vie quotidienne*”) on a Vocational Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport certifies that its holder may act as a facilitator of activities and daily routines. Facilitators of activities and daily routines can mainly be found in Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) (extra-curricular facilities, leisure centres, organised holiday centres (*séjours de vacances*)). They can also be found at any centre that provides leisure or socio-cultural activities.

Holders may also sit the regional civil service examinations for the post of Principal Assistant Regional Facilitator (2nd class) (*adjoint territorial d’animation principal de 2^{ème} classe*).

Legal texts:

[Decree No. 2019-144 of 26 February 2019](#) relating to the creation of the vocational diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*certificat professionnel de la jeunesse, de l’éducation populaire et du sport*)

[Order of 26 February 2019](#) relating to the organisation of the vocational diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*certificat professionnel de la jeunesse, de l’éducation populaire et du sport*)

The BPJEPS - Vocational Certificate in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Brevet professionnel de la jeunesse, de l’éducation populaire et du sport*)

The BPJEPS is a vocational qualification that allows its holder to work in an educational or social capacity within the fields of sport, social education or culture. The certificate offers two specialisms: facilitator and sports instructor. A number of different options are available within each specialism, such as: “Leisure for All” (“*Loisirs Tous Publics*”), “Social Activities” (“*Animation Sociale*”), “Cultural Activities” (“*Animation Culturelle*”) and “Physical Activity for All” (“*Activités Physiques pour Tous*”).

[The Order of 18 July 2016, which provides details of the specialism “Leisure for All” \(“*loisirs tous publics*”\) within the Vocational Certificate in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport \(*brevet professionnel de la jeunesse, de l’éducation populaire et du sport*\)](#), specifies (in Article 2) the skills required from a facilitator with a BPJEPS qualification:

“Possession of a qualification containing the title [...] certifies that, in his/her work as an independent instructor, the holder applies the following skills:

- “Supervising members of the public at any location and within any centre, based on public demand and the local area”;
- “Designing and introducing projects for activities that form part of a centre’s projects”;
- “Leading initiatives to promote activities that fall within the scope of “Leisure for All” and managing an ACM - Community Centre for Minors (*accueil collectif de mineurs*)”;
- “Using non-formal education approaches in his/her facilitation of exploratory, scientific and technical, cultural and expression-based activities, and physical leisure activities”;
- Helping members of the public to use digital technology, as part of a public-spirited and inclusive approach.

Legal text

[Decree No. 2016-527 of 27 April 2016 relating to the Vocational Certificate in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport \(*brevet professionnel de la jeunesse, de l’éducation populaire et du sport*\)](#);

DEJEPS - State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Diplôme d'État de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*)

The DEJEPS's specialism in socio-educative and cultural activities is available in two versions: "Social Activities" ("*animation sociale*") and "Developing Projects, Regions and Networks" ("*développement de projets, territoires et réseaux*"). The DEJEPS prepares its students for careers as facilitators within associations or companies.

Possession of this qualification with the title "Social Activities" ("*Animation Sociale*"), is proof of the following skills:

- using a non-formal educational approach to designing activities within centres providing social services;
- working as part of a team with professionals with different qualifications and work cultures;
- taking individuals into account in community initiatives, and providing a social service which includes individual support for members of the public who are excluded or isolated socially or at work;
- coordinating projects for activities which take account of the requirements of disabled, dependent or excluded members of the public;
- leading training initiatives with other professionals and volunteers (*bénévoles*).

Possession of a diploma with the title "Developing Projects, Regions and Networks" ("*développement de projets, territoires et réseaux*") is proof of the following skills:

- managing the introduction of projects for activities based on the values of non-formal education;
- supporting a team in its work;
- organising partnerships;
- introducing inclusive approaches to non-formal education;
- supporting the involvement of volunteers (*bénévoles*);
- organising the use of resources;
- providing training courses for his/her team.

Legal texts

Council of State Decree No. 2015-1527 of 24 November 2015 relating to the Vocational Certificate, the State Diploma and the Higher State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport.

Amended Order of 20 November 2006 on the organisation of the State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport with the specialism "Socio-Educational and Cultural Activities" ("*animation socio-éducative ou culturelle*").

DES JEPS - Higher State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Diplôme d'État supérieur de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*)

Coordinators wishing to manage community centres or coordinate activity projects may take managerial training courses, including the Higher State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Diplôme d'État supérieur de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*). Holders of the DESJEPS with the title "Management of Centres and Projects" ("*direction de structure et de projet*") act as independent supervisors, employing the technical support and policy defined in their specialism.

Possession of the Diploma is proof of the following skills within the field of socio-educational and cultural activities:

- bringing together the various partners to design development projects linked to the values of non-formal education;
- designing inclusive approaches and approaches that involve non-formal education;
- assisting elected bodies in formalising development projects;
- analysing regional issues so that they are reflected in a centre's initiatives;
- designing training priorities for all those involved in a centre or a development project;
- organising training initiatives for instructors via an organisation's professional networks.

Legal texts

[Council of State Decree No. 2015-1527 of 24 November 2015](#) relating to the Vocational Certificate, State Diploma and the Higher State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport.

- Order of the 27 April 2007 on the creation of the DES JEPS option "Management of Centres and Projects" ("direction de structure et de projet")

Education, training and skills recognition

Training courses that lead to professional qualifications relating to the duties and profession of facilitator are organised by training organisations that have been approved by the Ministries for Youth and Sport's decentralised services. These organisations are authorised by the government to run training courses that lead to State Youth and Sports qualifications, including facilitator' qualifications (BAPAAT, CPJEPS, BPJEPS, DEJEPS, DESJEPS).

The organisation of these training courses and the approval and certification process are covered by Articles R.212-10-1 to R.212-10-19 of the Sports Code.

The training organisations that prepare students for all these qualifications (vocational and non-vocational) may be private, voluntary — such as [the Francas and the CEMEAs](#) (non-formal education movements) — or public, such as the CREPSs – Centres for Expertise and Sports Performance Resources (*centres de Ressources d'Expertise et de Performance Sportive*) which are attached to the Ministry of Sport.

Non-vocational certificates

The BAFA – Facilitator's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions d'animateur*)

No previous qualifications are required for the BAFA. Students must be 17 or over to enrol on a course; these are provided by training organisations that have been approved by the Ministry of Youth.

The BAFD – Director's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions de directeur*)

Candidates for the BAFD must be aged 21 and must hold the BAFA or a diploma, title or certificate of qualification that allows them to work as a facilitator at a Community Centre for Minors (*Accueil Collectif de Mineurs*) (list drawn up by order of the Minister); this qualification must also prove that they have spent at least two periods, amounting to at least 28 days overall, working as a facilitator during the two years immediately before enrolling on the course, at least one of which must have been spent at an Community Centre for Minors (*Accueil Collectif de Mineurs*). The course is organised in five stages over a period of 4 years.

Vocational facilitators' qualifications

Training courses for vocational facilitators' qualifications are based on a system in which a student's time is divided between a training centre and a host company. The courses leading to these qualifications are provided by public and private training centres that have been approved by the Regional Directorates for Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion

(*directions régionales de la jeunesse, des sports et de la cohésion sociale*). Depending on the qualification applied for, there may be certain requirements for acceptance onto a course.

Learners are assessed during qualifying situations laid down in the certification benchmark lists specified in the qualification order, and referred to by a panel composed of instructors, technical staff (at least half of whom are government officials), and employees' and employers' representatives.

These courses may take the form of either initial (in this case, trainees are apprentices within the meaning of the Labour Code) or ongoing training. At the start of the training programme, following positioning, courses are determined by the training organisations. Positioning makes it possible to tailor the content and length of courses to suit individual candidates.

The Vocational Diploma of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*certificat professionnel de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*)

The CPJEPS is listed in the National Register of Vocational Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles*); it is listed under Level 3 in the list of levels of qualification drawn up in accordance with Article L. 6113-1 of the Labour Code. It was created by Decree No. 2019-144 of 26 February 2019.

When this course is taken as part of initial training, its minimum length is 700 hours, 400 of which are spent at a training centre.

The BPJEPS – Vocational Certificate of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Brevet professionnel de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*)

The BPEJPS is a vocational qualification with Level 4 status in the list of levels of qualification contained in the RNCP – National Register of Professional Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles*). These courses are open to individuals aged 16 and over since, according to the Labour Code, this is the age at which individuals become eligible for work/study courses. On this course, a student's time is divided between a training centre and a host company. It can be taken in the form of initial training or continuing professional development, or as an apprenticeship. In the form of initial training, a minimum of 600 hours is spent in a training centre.

The DEJEPS – State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Diplôme d'État de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*)

This is a professional qualification with Level 3 status in the list of levels of qualification. This qualification is listed in the RNCP - National Register of Professional Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles*). The course is taken as part of initial training; its minimum length is 1,200 hours, 700 of which are spent at a training centre. On this course, a student's time is divided between a training centre and a host company.

The DE (S) JEPS - Higher State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Diplôme d'État supérieur de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*)

Coordinators seeking to manage community centres or coordinate activity projects may take managerial training courses, including the DESJEPS - Higher State Diploma in Youth, Non-Formal Education and Sport (*Diplôme d'État supérieur de la jeunesse, de l'éducation populaire et du sport*). The DES JEPS is a vocational qualification with Level 2 status in the list of levels of qualification. This qualification is listed in the RNCP - National Register of Professional Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles*).

The Validation of Learning through Volunteering

There are other ways of obtaining training and gaining facilitator's qualifications.

Through *bénévolat* work with young people, a coordinator may ask for a validation, an acknowledgement of his/her experiences as a volunteer which may give him/her access to a training course (or on parts of these courses). This scheme is used in the BAFA. For example, in partnership with [the IFAC](#) – Training, Facilitation and Consultancy Institute (*institut de formation, d'animation et de conseil*), a national association, Paris City Hall has set up the “BAFA Citizen” (“BAFA citoyen”) scheme; this scheme gives young people the opportunity to trade 30 hours of *bénévolat* for part of the BAFA course.

The Validation of Learning through Volunteering (*Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience Bénévole*), established by Law No. 2002-73 of 17 January 2002, allows anyone, regardless of age, education or status, “to validate their experience of *bénévolat* or volunteering for the purpose of obtaining a diploma, qualification or vocational certificate, or to gain access to training without having to provide proof of a required level of education”.

VAE The Validation of Learning through Experience (La Validation des acquis de l'expérience)

The Validation of Learning through Experience (*validation des acquis de l'expérience*) is an individual right that is listed both in the [Labour Code \(Code du travail\)](#) and in the [Education Code \(Code de l'éducation\)](#): “anyone who works has the right to have their professional experience validated, for the purpose of obtaining a diploma, a professional title or a certificate of qualification.”

It is thus aimed at anyone who wishes to have his/her professional achievements or experience as a *bénévole* recognised in the form of a qualification or professional title. The VAE is open to everyone, regardless of age, status (employees, artisans, *bénévoles*, the self-employed, temporary workers, etc.) or required levels of training. The only requirement is proof of at least one year of experience which is directly related to the content and level of the qualification a person wishes to obtain.

Only vocational qualifications listed in the RNCP - National Register of Professional Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles*) can be obtained via the VAE.

Mobility of youth workers

Facilitators, particularly those with BAFA or BAFD qualifications, may benefit from the training courses or experience abroad offered by facilitator training centres (associations and companies) that use the Erasmus+ Youth and Sport scheme, and specifically the “Mobility of individuals for education and training purposes (*mobilité des individus à des fins d'éducation et de formation*)” component of the European scheme.

These training centres offer to “develop” the BAFA and BAFD abroad; the aim is also to train facilitators to be able to “facilitate a holiday abroad” and in particular handle the intercultural aspect of events involving young participants of different nationalities.

The Franco-German Youth Office (*Office franco-allemand pour la jeunesse*), for example, offers the “BAFA-JuLeiCa” training scheme, intended for those who wish to become facilitators of youth events; it is recognised both by the BAFA and by its German equivalent, the *Jugendleiter/In-Card*. This course complies with existing regulations in both countries and therefore leads to a dual qualification.

10.6 Recognition and validation of skills acquired through youth work

Existing arrangements

Schemes that allow young people to validate skills acquired through youth work also apply to informal education. For further information (see 6.4. *Validation des apprentissages formels et non-formels*)

However, regarding activities specifically designed for ACMs – Community Centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*), the activities offered meet **educational goals** determined by teams at centres that cater for children and young people. So each centre decides which skills they wish to develop or help children discover, based on an **educational project (*projet éducatif*)** and a **pedagogic project (*projet pédagogique*)** (See 10.4 *Assurance qualité*).

These goals are set out in the pedagogic project (*projet pédagogique*) which is then assessed by the director and a team of facilitators. These assessments help to improve certain activities, and to decide whether or not others should be continued. Various tools are used to design pedagogic projects (*projets pédagogiques*) and their assessments – such as tables, questionnaires, various types of monitoring and quantitative data.

For example, the community centre (*accueil collectif*) (leisure centre) in [Bièvres](#) in the Ile-de-France Region, which caters for children aged between 3 and 14, has designed its pedagogic project (*projet pédagogique*) for 2019-2020; its goals are:

1. “To develop the concept of community”.
2. “To develop independence”.
3. “To respect each other’s differences”.
4. “To strengthen relationships with families”.
5. “To develop a unifying theme for the year: Nature and Environment”.
6. “To establish the day care centre (*Accueil de Loisirs*) as a centre for recreation and recovery”.

Source: [BIÈVRES ACCUEIL DE LOISIRS. Pedagogic project \(*Projet pédagogique*\), 2019-2020](#)

Skills

Through youth work and more specifically through socio-educational activities, children and young people can acquire the “life skills” they need for their own personal development and social inclusion. These “life skills” and lessons (social and relationship-based) are not set out in official guidelines or laid down in a legal text, but they underlie the principles and values of socio-educational facilitation. The educational advantages of youth work and more specifically the facilitation of activities usually relate to the following “life skills”: (Mignon J-M., *Les métiers de l’animation. Environnement et métiers. Formation et outils. Législation* [Careers in Facilitation. Environment and Tools. Legislation.], *Dunod*, 2012)

- *Learning how to play* (Developing the imagination, respecting the rules of the game, enjoying playing, etc.),
- *Taking risks* (The principles of risk and precaution, preventing risks, etc.)
- *Living together* (Mutual respect in social diversity, solidarity, lessons in citizenship, tolerance, etc.),
- *Developing curiosity, a willingness to explore,*
- *Empowerment, accepting authority,*
- *Respecting intimacy* (respecting other people’s bodies, our own bodies, each other’s beliefs, etc.),
- *Fostering a sense of civic responsibility.*

10.7 Raising awareness about youth work

Information providers

Public institutions and associations undertake various initiatives to promote youth work, both amongst young people and their families and also amongst youth workers. These forms of promotion target different audiences and have different aims. Promotion aimed at young people is designed to provide them with information about activities that are available and in which they can take part. Awareness- raising amongst youth workers is designed to stimulate their desire to work in this field, and provide information on training for a career as a facilitator (youth work).

Information for young people

Websites and social networks

The ministries involved in youth work (see 10.2 The Administration and Governance of Youth Work (*Administration et gouvernance du travail de jeunesse*)) have introduced various tools and initiatives for promoting youth work amongst young people. Some of these tools and initiatives promote one-off events; others, on the contrary, promote well-established youth policy schemes.

The Ministry for Youth's websites are linked to [social networks](#) where it can promote activities and events related to youth work.

The <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/> website has various sections, two of which provide information on youth work schemes open to young people. These sections describe the schemes and may also provide advice or publish testimonies or lists of centres that offer activities (sports, cultural and artistic activities, etc.).

The "Leisure activities" ("*Loisirs*") section on the <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/> website, for example, provides information about the *Plan Mercredi* schemes, and about camps (*colonies*) and Community centres for Minors (*accueils collectifs de mineurs*) where youth work is being developed (see 10.2 *Administration et gouvernance du travail de jeunesse*).

The Ministry of Youth's websites and networks

- https://twitter.com/Jeunes_gouv
- <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/>

Youth Information (Information Jeunesse) network centres

In addition to internet tools, the IJ - Youth Information (*information jeunesse*) network's public organisations help to promote and raise awareness amongst young people regarding youth work activities. The IJ Network is made up of 1,500 national, regional and sub-regional (municipal) organisations that provide both physical and online centres for young people who are looking for general information on careers and education as well as daily life (accommodation, law, health, leisure, culture, international mobility, etc.).

These centres provide information, meeting and work spaces for young people's associations; they also advertise socio-cultural (socio-educational) activities.

For example, the [information centre in Lorient](#) in Brittany caters for young people who are looking for information on cultural activities. In addition, a section on the centre's website – "Spotlight on Activities" ("*Zoom sur l'animation*") – describes how to prepare for the BAFA – Facilitator's Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d'Aptitude aux Fonctions d'Animateur*) and provides a list of the organisations that run the courses and the funding available to help young people prepare for the BAFA.

Local and regional authorities

Local and regional authorities (municipalities (*communes*)) can also advertise the activities they offer *via* their official websites or, where relevant, at young people's activity centres, commonly known as "Youth Forums" ("*espaces jeunes*").

Information on the (vocational) activity sector

To provide information about working and careers in the activity sector, the Ministry of Youth has set up the [BAFA – Facilitator’s Certificate of Aptitude \(*Brevet d’Aptitude aux Fonctions d’Animateur ou d’Animatrice*\)](#)/[BAFD – Director’s Certificate of Aptitude \(*le brevet d’aptitude aux fonctions de directeur*\)](#) [mobile website](#). This mobile website has been designed for young people who might be interested in occasional work as a supervisor at an organised holiday centre (*séjour de vacances*) or a day care centre (*accueil de loisirs*) during the school holidays or outside school hours, or in a career as a facilitator or director of an activity centre. The app allows students to register for the courses and track their personal files; it also provides a list of approved training organisations and information about BAFA/BAFD work placements.

In addition, the [jeunes.gouv.fr](#) website has a section [dedicated to training as a facilitator](#), where young people can find educational resources (guides).

Public organisations that provide information and career advice, such as the [ONISEP – National Office for Education and Career Information \(*Office national d’information sur les enseignements et les professions*\)](#) also provide information on careers in the activity sector.

Local and regional authorities may also provide sections on their official websites containing information on opportunities and options for training as a facilitator, and updates on careers in youth work (vocational examination schedules, funding, etc.).

Associations

Non-formal education associations — some of which also run facilitators’ training courses — also lead their own initiatives for raising awareness about activities via events (meetings, conferences, forums, etc.) and their websites which are also facilitators’ resource websites, providing young people and youth workers with a number of technical and educational tools. The non-formal education movement Céméa - Centres for Training in Active Education Methods (*Centres d’Entraînement aux Méthodes d’Éducation Active*) has set up an online media library dedicated to informal education and facilitators: [Yakamédia](#). This media library contains educational resources and is available to trainees who are taking or who have taken a course at a Ceméa. It is generally intended for voluntary and professional facilitators, tutors and all those involved in the world of activities and education.

Key initiatives

The Ministries for Youth advertise certain youth work schemes at particular times of the year; for example, each year they promote [summer camps \(*colonies de vacances*\)](#) and summer cultural events offered by the Ministry of Culture via national advertising campaigns.

Campagne COLO/ the COLO campaign

In 2019, the “COLO” advertising campaign was launched to promote and enhance the appeal of organised holidays known as “summer camps” (“*colonies de vacances*”). This [includes a communications kit](#), which contains posters and also visual tools for social networks. This campaign still exists in 2021.

It’s My Heritage/C’est mon patrimoine

The Ministry of Culture is leading the operation [It’s My Heritage \(*c’est mon patrimoine*\)](#) in partnership with other public institutions. It aims to raise awareness of heritage and history via various multidisciplinary activity programmes which offer new ways to make heritage more accessible: arts workshops, readings, dramatised tours, treasure hunts, dance, performances and digital arts.

The programme is intended for young people from deprived urban areas and also rural areas. Each year, several tens of thousands of young people who are registered at social

centres, youth and culture centres (*maisons des jeunes et de la culture*), leisure centres and rural cultural activity centres (*foyers ruraux*) take part. Organised outside school hours, *C'est mon patrimoine* has hosted over 470,000 young people since 2005.

This event uses various communications tools: a website which lists all the [programme's initiatives and activities on an interactive map](#); it also provides postcards, posters to colour in, and invitations.

10.8 Current debates and reforms

The occupational field of facilitation is currently undergoing profound changes; this is resulting in a broadening of the field in which facilitators operate and changes in how they work. These changes are redefining the role and functions of youth facilitators.

Forthcoming policy developments

Universel National Service

The Government is leading a new volunteering scheme: the SNU - Universel National Service (*Service national universel*). Its aims are: "social and territorial cohesion, creating awareness within each generation of the issues of defence and national security, and developing a sense of commitment". Currently being rolled out throughout France following its announcement in 2019, the SNU will eventually become compulsory and involve an entire age group, i.e. around 800,000 young people per year.

The scheme consists of two initial phases: the first of these includes a period spent in shared accommodation, during which young people live communally and attend training modules (introductions to the Highway Code, self-defence, etc.) and presentations (how national and European institutions operate, etc.) mainly given by youth workers, with additional support. The second phase consists of a mission that serves the public interest. A third phase entails a longer voluntary commitment.

A number of non-formal education associations have signed partnership agreements with the Ministry of National Education and Youth. These associations are using their expertise to help develop the scheme along the lines of the student association network [Animafac](#) and the [Network of Junior Associations \(réseau Junior-association\)](#), which seek to promote the creation of youth associations by young people themselves, within the framework of the SNU.

Recent educational and Youth Policy reforms — such as the reform of educational rhythms (*réforme des rythmes éducatifs*) and the creation of "Educational Cities" ("*cités éducatives*") — have had an impact on the youth work sector.

Educational Cities (*cités éducatives*)

Launched in 2018 by the Government and supported by the Ministry of the City and Housing, [Educational Cities \(*cités éducatives*\)](#) are intended for the residents of deprived urban areas covered by City policy (see Glossary). These are close partnerships between various State services, communities, associations and residents designed around providing educational support for children and young people aged between 3 and 25 "before, during, around and after school". They aim to strengthen cooperation and coordination between an area's various stakeholders in order to attain the status of "Area of High Quality Education" ("*Territoire à haute qualité éducative*"). Their 3 main aims, which can be broken down into various measures, are:

1. **Strengthening the role of schools**
2. **Promoting educational continuity**
3. **Opening up the field of possibilities**

The scrapping of the BAPAAT - Assistant Technical Facilitator for Youth and Sport Certificate of Aptitude (*brevet d'aptitude professionnelle d'assistant animateur technicien de la Jeunesse et des Sports*)

The Assistant Technical Facilitator for Youth and Sport Certificate of Aptitude (*brevet d'aptitude professionnelle d'assistant animateur technicien de la Jeunesse et des Sports*) is open to anyone aged 16 and over; no previous qualifications are required. The BAPAAT has Level 3 status in the list of levels of qualification contained in the RNCP – National Register of Professional Qualifications (*Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles*). Training takes place between training centres and the workplace and includes 1,500 to 2,000 hours of general, technical and vocational education.

Ongoing debates

Initial remark: the debates presented here are just examples.

A fall in the numbers of children attending summer camps (*colonies de vacances*)

For a number of years, the take-up of holidays that provide accommodation, including holidays known as “summer camps” (“*colonies de vacances*”), has been falling. 1.4 million children and teenagers go on these holidays each year, compared to almost 4 million children in the 1960s. This fall in numbers is even more significant given that 3 million children do not go on holiday at all. This [decline in numbers](#) is due to various political, cultural, economic and social factors, including **a decline in the number of infrastructures** that cater for children and young people and are owned by local and regional authorities and associations, and the **development of a commercial holiday camp (*colonie de vacances*) market** which has resulted in an increase in the price of such holidays. There are other reasons for this fall in numbers, such as reductions in the allowances paid to families and the fact that certain families prefer family holidays. Overall, rising costs have made it harder — and in some cases, impossible — for children from poorer families who do not receive financial support to go “off to camp”.

At the same time, the number of places available at scouting centres has greatly increased, reaching over 132,000 new places in 2018-2019 (+ 27% in 9 years).

To address this fall in the number of children going off “to camp” (“*en colonie*”), in 2015 the Ministry of Youth launched an annual awareness and information campaign on the subject of the camps, which included a summary of the security arrangements on these holidays.

It is worth mentioning that between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 there was a slight increase in the take up by minors of holidays that provide accommodation (including organised holidays (*séjours de vacances*)).

Source: BACOU, M. and RAIBAUD, Y. *Les jolies colonies de vacances, c'est fini ?* [Are the wonderful summer camps over?] *CNRS le Journal*, 2016. <https://lejournale.cnrs.fr/billets/les-jolies-colonies-de-vacances-cest-fini>

The casual status of jobs in the activity sector

The lack of recognition and appreciation of professions in the activity sector is the subject of debate amongst facilitators themselves. The latter — and more specifically those without professional qualifications* — are protesting against their casual status, due mainly to the unstable nature of their work and their low pay. Most jobs in the activity sector are “low paid”; this is highlighted in [a report](#) on the activity industry that was published by the [Higher Council for the Territorial Public Service \(*Conseil supérieur de la fonction publique territoriale*\)](#) in 2016. This demand for appreciation and professionalisation may conflict with certain demands from non-formal education federations who are seeking to reform the status of facilitators by bringing it closer to that of volunteers.

Indeed, the issue of the [status of voluntary facilitators*](#) is also the subject of debates within non-formal education federations, some of which are calling for voluntary facilitation to be recognised, and demanding the creation of volunteer status within facilitation, far removed from labour law, as highlighted by recent research (M. Bacou, C. Dansac, P. Gontier & C. Vachée, 2014)

*Voluntary facilitators generally hold “non-vocational qualifications” such as the BAFA – Facilitator’s Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d’Aptitude aux Fonctions d’Animateur*) and the BAFD – Director’s Certificate of Aptitude (*Brevet d’Aptitude aux Fonctions de Directeur*).

GLOSSARY

Draft public finance law (Projet de loi de finances)

The draft public finance laws are a category of financial norms introduced in the Constitution, article 34 in the constitutional revision of 23 July, 2008. They are part of an approach to public finance management spanning several years, aimed at balancing the budget.

Excerpt from <http://www.vie-publique.fr/decouverte-institutions/finances-publiques/ressources-depenses-etat/budget/0405-qu-est-ce-qu-loi-programmation-finances-publiques.html>

Civic Service

Civic Service is a voluntary commitment public scheme in the service of the general interest, open to all young people aged 16 to 25, without qualification requirements, extended up to 30 years old for young people with disabilities.

The Civic Service, compensated 580 euros net per month, can be carried out with NGOs, local authorities (municipalities, departments or regions) or public establishments (museums, colleges, high schools ...), over a period of 6 to 12 months in France or abroad, for a mission of at least 24 hours per week.

WEBSITE: <https://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/>

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It was founded in 1949. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The Council of Europe promotes human rights through international conventions and it monitors member states' progress in these areas, making recommendations through independent expert monitoring bodies. The Council of Europe advocates freedom of expression and of the media, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities, among other key human rights.

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/glossary>

Course unit

Course units (CU) are the individual elements of an academic course. **Each course unit is worth a certain number of ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer System). This means a student will receive the full ECTS credits for each course unit they pass. They are divided into two categories: **compulsory units and optional units**.

Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (Conseil Économique, Social, et Environnemental CESE)

The Economic, Social and Environmental Council was established in 1958. Its primary mission is to advise the public authorities on economic, social and environmental matters. It is mandatory to consider economic, social and environmental programming plans or bills. It may be seized by the Government of any bill or decree falling within its jurisdiction. The Council has no decision-making power. It is composed of representatives of the various professional categories

<https://www.lecese.fr/>

Evidence-Based Youth Policies

Evidence-based youth policies are youth policies that are not only based on political and moral objectives, but also on accurate empirical information on the social situation of young people across the society and their changing expectations, attitudes and life-styles. One important source of information is independent, objective and professional research and statistics. Furthermore, reliable empirical information on the implementation of policies is needed to learn from experiences and further develop goal setting, the policy approaches and youth work methods and activities.

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/glossary>

Family Allowances Fund (Caisse d'allocations familiales)

Established in 1945, the Family branch is one of the four components of the general social security system, with Sickness, Old Age and Recovery. The Family branch is organized in a network of 103 family allowance fund(Caf) covering the entire french territory, with a National Fund for Family Allowances (CNAF. Its objective is to propose a global offer of social services as close as possible to the inhabitants, by fighting territorial and social inequalities.

The Family branch of the social security a two primary missions:

- Helping families in their daily life, facilitating particularly the conciliation between family and professional lives;
- Developing solidarity with the most vulnerable, including people with disabilities.

In order to fulfill these missions, it relies on two levers

- Payment of financial benefits to families (family and social benefits, housing subsidies and social minimums such as assistance for adults with disabilities and income from active solidarity);
- Support for families and the setting up or co-financing of various services and public facilities for them (such as the crèches).

Excerpt from *La branche famille de la sécurité sociale*

IGAS - General Social Affairs Inspectorate (Inspection générale des affaires sociales)

The general social affairs inspectorate is a cross ministerial body of control. IGAS audits, monitors or evaluates policies and structures. It intervenes on the request of ministers or on the basis of its programme. It deals with issues concerning the life of every citizen: employment, work and training, health, social and family policy, public or private social insurance schemes;

Excerpt from <http://www.igas.gouv.fr/>

Local authorities (Collectivités territoriales)

Local authorities are legal entities separate from the State and for this reason they enjoy legal and patrimonial autonomy. Municipalities, *départements* and regions have the status of local authorities (Constitution, art.72).

According to paragraph 3 of the Constitution, article 72, local authorities freely administer themselves in the conditions provided by the law. They only hold administrative powers which prevent them from exercising state powers such as enacting autonomous laws or regulations, benefiting from powers of jurisdiction or acting independently in the conduct of international relations.

Excerpt from <http://www.vie-publique.fr/decouverte-institutions/institutions/collectivites-territoriales/categories-collectivites-territoriales/qu-est-ce-qu-collectivite-territoriale-ou-collectivite-locale.html>

Local mission (Mission locales)

The 445 local missions are present throughout the national territory and carry out a public service mission in order to enable all young people aged 16 to 25 to overcome the difficulties that impede their professional and social integration. For more than thirty years, the local missions have developed a global accompaniment towards the young people. They deal with all the difficulties of social inclusion in: employment, training, guidance, mobility, housing, health, access to culture and leisure. This comprehensive approach is the most effective way to remove barriers to integration into employment and working life.

Excerpt from <http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/ministere/acteurs/service-public-de-l-emploi/article/missions-locales>

Metropolitan France / Hexagonal

"Metropolitan" France or "Hexagonal France", or French France refers to the territory located in Europe. It includes its continental territory and the islands near the Atlantic Ocean, the Channel and the Mediterranean Sea, like Corsica. Metropolitan France thus differs from **France overseas**, ie the French Republic territories that are precisely outside the European continent.

Prefect (préfet)

The prefect is the "depository of the authority of the State in the department". He remains responsible for public order: he has police powers which make him an "administrative police authority". He is the direct representative of the Prime Minister and of each minister in the department. It implements governmental development and spatial planning policies at the departmental level.

Excerpt from <http://www.vie-publique.fr/decouverte-institutions/institutions/collectivites-territoriales/principes-collectivites-territoriales/quelle-est-fonction-prefet.html>

Professional training account (CPF)

The CPF lists:

- the entitlements acquired by the employee throughout their employment and until they leave or retire
- the training that the employee can personally undertake

This includes training that makes it possible, in particular:

- to obtain a qualification (diploma, professional certificate, etc.)
- to obtain [the foundations of professional expertise and competencies](#)
- to be supported in the [accreditation of volunteer experience \(VAEb\)](#)
- to carry out a skills assessment
- to create or restart a company
- for volunteers in civic service, to gain the skills necessary to carry out their projects

The professional training account is accessible on the website [My training account](#).

RNCP National Directory of Professional (Certification Répertoire national des certifications professionnelles)

The National Directory of Professional Certification is aimed at informing constantly people about professional and vocational diplomas and qualifications certificates. It contributes to facilitate the labour market access, the management of human resources and professional mobility.

Excerpt from <http://www.cncp.gouv.fr/repertoire>

State prosecutor (Procureur de la République)

Magistrate, member of the state Prosecutor's Office, the state prosecutor represents the public ministry before all the courts of justice. The public ministry is all the magistrates responsible for representing the interests of society and ensuring the observance of public order and the application of the law. It is placed under the authority of the Attorney General (Head of the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Appeal) and the Minister of Justice. He is appointed by decree of the President of the Republic on simple advice from the Superior Council of Magistracy. The public prosecutor intervenes on the information of the police, but also the State services or following a complaint by an individual, when an offense is committed within the jurisdiction of the court of in which it performs its functions.

Excerpt from http://www.justice.gouv.fr/_telechargement/doc/Presentation_du_metier_de_procureur_de_la_Republique.pdf

Urban Policy (Politique de la Ville)

The Urban policy aims to reduce urban development gaps in disadvantaged urban areas and to improve the living conditions of their inhabitants. In order to respond to the combination of difficulties affecting these territories, the Urban policy mobilizes all common law policies and public services and has specific means of intervention. The **CGET General Commission for Territorial Equality** is responsible for the design and the implementation of this public policy at the cross-ministerial level, as well as the management of the corresponding resources.

Excerpt from <http://www.ville.gouv.fr/?l-essentiel-de-la-politique-de-la>

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- [Ministère de l'Education nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports \(Education\)](#)
- [Agence du Service civique](#)
- [Ministère des Sports](#)
- [Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation](#)
- [Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères](#)
- [Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé](#)
- [Ministère du Travail, de l'emploi et de l'insertion](#)
- [Ministère de la Culture](#)
- [Ministère de la Justice](#)
- [Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation](#)
- [Ministère des Outre-mer](#)
- [Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire](#)

ARCHIVE

Information from previous years can be accessed and freely downloaded through the PDF files below.

2020

[France 2020.pdf](#)

2019

[France 2019.pdf](#)

2018

[France 2018](#)

2017

[France 2017](#)