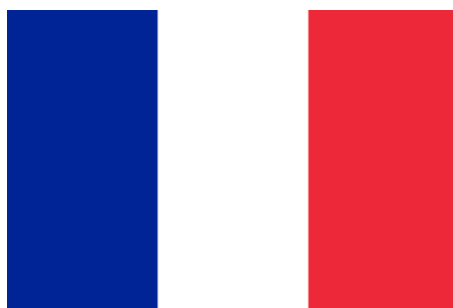


Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN FRANCE



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Disclaimer: The content of this document, commissioned by the EU-CoE youth partnership, is on the entire responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of either of the partner institutions (the European Union and the Council of Europe).

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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

Give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...) and mention determining external factors (if applicable, e.g. post conflict situation, socio-economic crisis)

There is no official definition of “youth” in France. However, public institutions which study demographics and statistics use the **16 to 25 years** age bracket. There is a tendency for this “25 years” upper limit to extend **to 30 years**, as young people are increasingly entering the labour market and finding stable employment later than in the past.

In the last decade, the conditions relating to the transition to adulthood changed dramatically, in particular because of the 2008 economic and financial crisis whose consequences made young people’s social integration more difficult. Some young people aged between 18 and 24 are faced with growing social insecurity, characterised by a poverty rate of 23% compared with 13.9% for the general population (the poverty threshold corresponds to 60% of the population’s median standard of living, i.e. €977 per month in 2011); it is also characterised by a late entry into the labour market and unstable living conditions. This situation exacerbates social inequalities and fosters a (social) fragmentation of French youth.

The main challenge for national youth policies is to help promote young persons’ autonomy, improve their living conditions and reduce existing disparities between them.

The current government has asserted its willingness to place an emphasis on “ordinary law for access to social rights”, “seek to ensure autonomy and secure life paths in all their aspects”, “fight inequalities and discrimination” and “encourage youth participation and the joint development of public policies” through a “Youth Priority” plan comprising 13 projects which should fulfil these aims.

The aim of the Youth Priority plan ([*Priorité jeunesse*](#)) which was put in place in 2013 is to develop all the relevant means of achieving this autonomy: first and foremost, employment, but also education, housing, health care, access to culture and leisure, mobility, citizenship, etc. Young persons’ place and role in society and their ability to act as citizens is also an important issue in national youth policies.

Education and employment are major areas of action in youth policies, in particular because they play a part in ensuring the social inclusion of French youth. One of the major challenges for public authorities is to fight school inequalities, to promote educational achievement for all young persons and to facilitate their access to employment.

These challenges are the result of several observations: the persistence of school inequalities and an unemployment rate which can be almost four times higher depending on the level of qualifications, approximately 10% for those with higher education qualifications as opposed to 37% for those without. Moreover, it is estimated that approximately 110 000 young people per year leave the school system without any qualifications (however, this number is lower than in previous years when it was in the region of 130-140 000). The percentage of young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs) among the 15 to 29 year-olds is on average 14.9% (Source: DARES 2011).

To address this situation, since 2013, several plans of action (derived from the Youth Priority plan) to promote young persons' (including NEETs) access to employment have been implemented. These include:

- The “Youth Guarantee” ([*Garantie Jeunes*](#)), specifically for young people who find it hard to get a job. This new scheme, introduced by the government and trialled by the Ministry in charge of employment ([Decree No. 2013-880](#) of 1 October 2013 concerning the trialling of the “Youth Guarantee”) is a support contract meant for 16-25 year-olds, who have few or no qualifications, are neither studying nor in training (NEETs) and whose revenue is no higher than the RSA ceiling (*Revenu de solidarité active*) (Active Solidarity Income) (€483). These young people are assisted by a local organisation which supports them in their social and vocational integration. They are given collective and intensive support over several months, spend regular periods in businesses (internships, apprenticeships, etc.) and receive a monthly financial allowance to help them seek employment.
- the “generation contracts” ([*contrats de génération*](#)) which enable young people subject to certain age conditions to be hired on an indefinite contract in parallel to maintaining older employees in employment or recruiting them in companies with fewer than 300 persons;

Alongside these measures, others, concerning the participation of young people in health care or housing have been put in place, such as the *Caution locative étudiant (CLE)* (Student Rent Deposit Scheme), for all students under 28 years as well as foreign doctoral and post-doctoral students whatever their age, who have an income but cannot present a guarantor; the state vouches for them.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

There is no official, objective and quantified definition of “youth” in France. Youth is described as a “transition period” made up of periods of “discontinuity and reversibility”. Moreover, the longer time spent in studies and the later entry into the labour market mean that “youth” now

tends to extend beyond the age of 25. In view of this lengthening of the youth period, public authorities prefer the concept of “path towards autonomy” to frame policies for young people. This is all the more important given that French youth policies are more generally characterised by the importance placed on the family in public policies for young people. This approach means that the state provides financial support for families to enable them to help their children, primarily granting young persons the status of “dependent child” in the context of social protection. In this path towards autonomy, young persons’ social integration and access to social rights (minimum wage, grants, financial assistance, etc.) are therefore a major focus of national youth policies.

Some measures in the Youth Priority plan adopted by the Youth Interministerial Committee (CIJ) of 21 February 2013, are a direct response to meeting the aims of promoting access to social rights and social integration; however, this plan has other, broader, dimensions. It is based on 13 priority projects to reduce the inequalities facing young people. The youth policies and the Youth Priority plan apply to all young people, irrespective of their standard of living and the path they have taken. Special attention is however paid by public authorities to the most disadvantaged young persons: young people in detention (project No. 7), young people with fewer opportunities (JAMO – project No. 10) and those living in areas which come within the remit of the “urban policy” (a policy of urban cohesion, and national and local solidarity towards disadvantaged neighbourhoods and their inhabitants), and finally young persons from overseas territories who have few opportunities for mobility and vocational integration.

The Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports is the main body in charge of the general task of defining the national strategy and regulations, and of monitoring youth policies. The remit of this ministry is set out in [Decree No. 2014-409](#) of 16 April 2014.

The Ministry comprises several administrative directorates including the Youth, Adult education and the Voluntary Organisations Directorate ([DJEPVA](#)) which frames and implements youth policies.

The [Decree of 24 December 2015](#) amending the Decree of 30 December 2005 sets out “the organisation of directorates and sub-directorates of the central administration within the Ministry in charge of Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations”.

The DJEPVA comprises:

- the Inter-ministerial Youth and Voluntary Sector Policies Sub-directorate;
- the Adult education Sub-directorate;
- the National Institute for Youth and Adult education (which has a [national remit](#)) under the responsibility of the Director of Youth, Adult education and Voluntary Organisations.

At local level, the French administrative system relies on both central and local government and accordingly this also applies to youth policies. They are framed and promoted by the Government and then implemented in the territories by decentralised departments (regional and département directorates in charge of youth, sports and social cohesion ([DR\(D\)JSCS](#)) and département directorates for social cohesion (DDCS) which represent the state, and local and regional authorities which are also important players as regards public youth policies. The various local authorities (regional, département, municipal and inter-municipal) also implement measures specifically for young people.

This public action at local and regional level is therefore based on a complementary approach, a shared governance between the Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports, the DR(D)JSCS and DDCS and on the various local and regional authorities.

2. Statistics on young people

Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 15 and 29 who live in the country

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies ([INSEE](#)), as at 1 January 2016, young people aged between 15 and 29 accounted for 17.7% of the total population.

In order to put in place coherent youth policies, the Ministry in charge of youth publishes "[The State of Youth](#)" an annual report outlining the social situation of young people in France and comprises a large number of statistical data concerning this group. The most recent report ([volume 2](#)) was published in 2014.

Number and Percentage of young people in global population :

As at 1 January 2015, the INSEE estimated that there were 22.55 million young persons aged between 3 and 30 out of a total of 66.32 million inhabitants, i.e. 34% of the population.

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population

Annual average of the total population in thousands, in 2014:

2014	Men	Women	Total
Total population	5 483	5 512	10 994
15-19 years	1 877	1 809	3 686
20-24 years	1 763	1 777	3 540
24-29 years	1 843	1 926	3 768

Source: INSEE survey on employment 2014; [DARES](#) calculations

A higher increase in the poverty rate among young people

- Between 2006 and 2012, the poverty rate among the under 18-year-olds increased from 17.7% to 19.6%. This 1.9 point increase in five years is even higher for the 18-24 age group (+2.2 points, from 21.1% to 23.3%) and for those aged between 25 and 34 (+2.3 points, from 10.8% to 13.1%)
- More than **20%** of those aged between 18 and 25 live below the poverty line (INSEE 2015)
- **23%** of under 24 who are capable of working are unemployed (INSEE 2015)

Source: *Rapport État de la jeunesse*, 2015 edition, Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports.

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports

Minister: The current Minister in charge of Urban Policies, Youth and Sports is Patrick Kanner. He was appointed on 26 August 2014.

Duration of mandate: since August 2014 -

Youth Department in the Ministry: Directorate of Youth, Adult education and Voluntary Organisations

Main tasks of the Youth department:

The DJEPVA supports the work of youth and adult education organisations, the main speaking partners of this directorate. It also oversees other bodies, such as the [Civic Service Agency](#) and it is the national body in charge of applying the European entitled "[Erasmus + Youth](#)" Programme. The DJEPVA provides input to the framing and implementation of the policy for developing the voluntary sector by ensuring the simplification of the legal framework pertaining to these organisations, promoting the action taken by associations, in particular voluntary work, and acknowledging the importance of association and adult education stakeholders, whom it also supports financially. In order to promote and develop volunteer work, this directorate ensures that civic service (for 16-25 year-olds) is rolled out on a broader scale.

The DJEPVA also ensures the security and educational quality of residential facilities attended by young people and implements territorial educational policies (PEDT) in partnership with local authorities, associations and schools.

Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: approximately 130 persons work in the Ministry's "Youth" Department.

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Jean-Benoît Dujol. The Director of the DJEPVA is also the "Interministerial official with responsibility for youth" (Decree No. 2014-18 of 9 January 2014). He co-ordinates the implementation of measures for young people carried out by the various ministries by ensuring that all the relevant ministerial players are included in the work of the Interministerial Youth Committee (CIJ).

Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy:

Pierre Montaudon, Head of the International Relations Office.

pierre.montaudon@jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr

Virginia Mangematin, Deputy in the International Relations Office and person responsible for liaison with the Council of Europe.

virginia.mangematin@jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr

Bureau des relations internationales

Direction de la Jeunesse, de l'Education populaire et de la Vie associative

Ministère de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports

95, avenue de France 75650 Paris cedex 13 – France

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:

National Institute for Youth and Adult education ([INJEP](#))

The INJEP is attached to the Director of DJEPVA as a department with a national remit which “conducts analyses through research, studies and evaluations, and produces statistical data in relation to the public statistics department, in the areas of youth, adult education, voluntary organisations and sport”.

The Experimental Youth Development Fund ([FEJ](#))

Section 25 of the [Law](#) of 1 December 2008 rolling out the Active Solidarity Income (RSA) is the basis for the FEJ, the purpose of which is to give financial support to experimental schemes for young people. The FEJ, which is managed within the INJEP, finances “innovative measures for young people, implemented on a limited scale and evaluated”.

[National Civic Service Agency](#)

The National Civic Service Agency manages the setting up and development of the civic service, a voluntary service scheme for young persons. It was established on 12 May 2010 and is under the supervision of the Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports. Since 1 January 2016, the Civic Service Agency has been in charge of implementing the youth component of the European Commission’s Erasmus + programme, and more specifically of the **European Voluntary Service (EVS)** which supports the sending and receiving of young volunteers to carry out work in the general interest.

Other Ministries: youth policies are interministerial in nature; all Ministries are involved in the framing of these policies:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of National Education
Ministry with responsibility for Educational Achievement
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Ministry with responsibility for Family Affairs
Ministry with responsibility for Persons with Disabilities and Combating Exclusion
Ministry for Territorial Equality and Housing
Ministry with responsibility for Urban Affairs
Ministry of the Interior
Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Energy
Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Industrial Relations
Ministry with responsibility for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Culture and Communication
Ministry of Higher Education and Research
Ministry for Women's Rights
Ministry of Agriculture, the Food Processing Industry and Forestry
Ministry with responsibility for State Reform, Devolution and Public Service
Ministry with responsibility for Overseas Territories
Ministry of Sports, Youth, Adult education and Voluntary Organisations
Ministry with responsibility for the Budget
Ministry with responsibility for the Social and Solidarity-based Economy
Ministry with responsibility for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, Innovation and Digital Economy

Offices:

- The Sub-directorate with responsibility for Interministerial policies for Youth and the Voluntary Sector
- The Sub-directorate with responsibility for Adult education
- The Division of Human Resources, Finance and Logistics and the Division in charge of Information Systems attached to the Head of Department
- National Institute for Youth and Adult education, which has a national remit, and is attached to the Director of Youth, Adult education and Voluntary Organisations

Various stakeholders (associations, local authorities, etc.) work in partnership and in a cross-sectoral manner with the various Ministries in order to implement youth policies and more specifically, the "Youth Priority" plan.

The Ministries meet within an "Interministerial Youth Committee" (CIJ) convened each year (under the aegis of the Prime Minister) by the DJEPVA and co-ordinated by the Interministerial Youth Director (DIJ). The Ministry with responsibility for youth is the lead

player in ensuring interministerial co-ordination, monitors the development of each of the measures adopted under the plan and ensures consistency between implementation of the plan and other ministerial policies.

Among the 24 Ministries involved in the plan of action, 11 ensure the implementation of the measures; they must all contribute to information feedback and to the drafting of documents in preparation for the interministerial meetings and must regularly attend the meetings organised by the DJEPVA.

Parliamentary committee in charge of youth issues: There is no “standing legislative committee” “in charge of youth” in the National Assembly. However, there is an “Education and Culture” committee and a “Social Affairs” committee, both of which deal with matters relating to young persons.

Name of chair: “Social Affairs”: Catherine Lemorton; “Education and Culture”: Patrick Bloche
role and competence: their role is to prepare the legislative debate in public sessions and to inform the Assembly.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Describe the structure of authorities at regional (or federal) level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relationship with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

Since the enactment of [Law No. 82-213](#) of 2 March 1982 on the rights and freedoms of municipalities, départements and regions the French state has furthered its devolution process by transferring part of its administrative attributions to the various local and regional authorities: the regions (13 regions in mainland France since January 2016), the départements (101), the municipalities (36,700) and inter-municipal bodies (2,600).

Regions

Between 2013 and 2014, every region drew up an action plan for youth comprising measures taken from the Youth Priority plan and actions arising from the work carried out at local level in accordance with regionally-defined priorities.

Because of their financial resources and attributions, regions are undoubtedly among the most important local authorities with regard to teaching and vocational training.

They are responsible for creating, building and maintaining upper secondary schools, and also for implementing vocational training for young people and apprenticeships. Since the year 2000 and the application of [Decree No. 2002-658](#) of 29 April 2002 on the regional co-ordination committee for employment and vocational training, regions, which are focused on the professional future of young persons in particular, have seen their powers and authority grow in the field of vocational training. In a context where young people’s vocational

integration is a priority at ministerial level, the role and remit of regions in this matter is becoming increasingly important.

Départements

Départements are responsible for so-called “solidarity” actions and specialised prevention (particularly with regard to minors accorded judicial protection).

These local authorities deal with the youth component through their role in the building and maintenance of lower-secondary schools, the framing of local social policies, in particular the implementation of the child welfare programme (the child welfare programme is a social measure put in place for families experiencing major economic hardship or significant difficulties in bringing up their children). Départements are in charge of implementing the plan of action for the RSA (Active Solidarity Income) which young persons may request as soon as they reach the age of 25; they are also in charge of occasional financial assistance which is earmarked for young people. Young persons aged between 18 and 25 who are going through social and financial difficulties may apply to the Youth Assistance Fund ([Fonds d'Aide aux Jeunes](#) (FAJ)). This département-level fund finances aid to promote the social and vocational integration of young persons facing economic hardship and, if need be, provides them with temporary financial assistance.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) and local level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

Municipalities and Inter-municipal bodies

The municipalities and inter-municipal bodies ([Inter-municipal bodies](#) are groupings of municipalities which join together in order to manage public services) are entities geared to the local community.

(Inter)municipal youth policies cover mainly social and educational action, preventing crime and promoting civic engagement. The municipalities' social services allocate, for example (with the agreement of the départements) the Youth Assistance Fund and can provide social support to young persons in great difficulty. Moreover, in the municipalities, young people may obtain information on existing plans of action concerning employment, health, housing, mobility or social rights in dedicated youth information agencies (such as the *Points Information Jeunesse*).

Municipalities must also put in place territorial educational projects (PEDTs) which offer quality activities to children at school and after school. The PEDTs, defined in [Article D.521-12](#) of the Education Code are based on a contract arrangement between the municipality, central government and youth and adult education associations, education players (both formal and

informal) such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports, and family allowances funds.

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

In France, social action is devolved and is based on a partnership between central government, all the local and regional authorities and other public and voluntary sector stakeholders.

1. National public stakeholders in the field of social action

The National Fund for Family Allowances ([Caisse nationale des allocations familiales](#))

The National Fund for Family Allowances (CNAF) is a major player in youth policies. It helps in the provision of diversified and high-quality recreational activities for young persons aged between 3 and 17. It focuses on young people's free time, and more specifically, the organisation of extracurricular time for the youngest, from nursery school to the end of lower-secondary school. The family branch of the CNAF also participates in the empowerment of young people aged between 16 and 25 by managing, for the state and the départements, the payment of minimum welfare allowances (guaranteed minimum income, housing benefits).

The [INPES](#)

The National Institute for Prevention and Health Education (*Institut national de prévention et d'éducation pour la santé*) is a public administrative institution created by the [Law of 4 March 2002](#) on the rights of sick people and on the quality of the health care system. The Institute is a major public health care player tasked with implementing the prevention and health education policies laid down by the government. Since 1 May 2016, the INPES and two other bodies (the InVS (*l'Institut de Veille Sanitaire*) and the EPRUS (*Etablissement de Préparation et de Réponse aux Urgences Sanitaires*)) have been amalgamated into one national public health agency.

Drop-in advice centres for young people ([points d'accueil et d'écoute jeunes](#) PAEJ)

These are community-based services for young people at risk which offer reception, advice, support, awareness-raising, guidance and mediation services. The PAEJ team comprises professionals from the youth work, education and mental health sectors. The users of the services are young persons aged between 16 and 25 who are in a situation of serious distress associated with social, psychological, educational, family, school-related or occupational difficulties.

Information service on drug and alcohol addiction ([Addictions drogues alcool info service](#))

This is the national information and prevention service on drugs and addiction. It is also tasked with compiling and updating the directory of all the bodies specialising in addiction prevention services. It is a public interest grouping (GIP) coming under the Ministry of Health and is under the authority of the National Institute for Prevention and Health Education (INPES). Members of its Board of Directors come from various ministries and national associations. It is chaired and financed by the INPES.

Youth Health Helpline ([Fil Santé Jeunes](#))

This is a remote-access help and information service for young people aged between 12 and 25. It comprises a team of adult professionals (psychologists, doctors) accustomed to answering young people's health questions regarding nutrition, rights, sexuality, lack of well-being, addiction and health. This is an anonymous and free service. It is financed by the INPES.

Adolescents' Centres (*Les Maisons des Adolescents*)

The aim of these public département-level bodies set up in 1999 is "to receive, listen to, inform and guide young persons by taking into account the specific nature of the period of adolescence"; they also aim to "guide, support those close to them and be a resource centre for professionals working with teenagers". They are to be found in 65 départements (mainland France and overseas territories). *Les Maisons des Adolescents* are grouped together in a federation ([l'association nationale des maisons des adolescents](#)). Some of them also offer medical treatment and advice for adolescents, as is the case in the [Maison de Solenn](#) in Paris, which is in a hospital complex and has a medical research centre specialising in disorders affecting adolescents.

2. Local and regional authorities

Départements have an important place among local and regional authorities as they are considered as "solidarity" authorities whose responsibilities are primarily social in nature. However, regions and municipalities also play a substantial role in the social protection of young people, in particular through some of their bodies (public establishments).

Départements

Since 2004, départements have played a leading role in the areas of social and socio-medical action. They are responsible for socio-medical prevention action in respect of children and families, child welfare (ASE) and the Youth Assistance Fund (FAJ) which provides financial assistance to young persons facing short-term financial difficulties.

Responsibilities in the area of child protection are shared between the département through child welfare services and the judicial authority to which the legal protection services for young people (PJJ) are subordinate.

The Child Welfare Service (ASE) is under the authority of the chair of the département council. Its tasks, laid down in Article L 221-1 of the Family and Social Action Code include:

- providing material, educational and psychological support to minors, their families, emancipated minors, adults younger than 21 who are facing social difficulties liable to seriously threaten their stability;
- carrying out urgent protection action for minors at risk;
- carrying out, in tandem with all the above, measures to prevent ill treatment of minors.

Municipalities

Municipalities or inter-municipal bodies may carry out the health and social welfare responsibilities assigned to a département or central government following the signature of an agreement. They may implement specific health programmes concerning the fight against contagious diseases and alcoholism and risk prevention among young people. Moreover, the municipalities have a municipal social action centre (CCAS) which is a public administrative establishment responsible for implementing the municipality's social policy targeting, in particular, young people in insecure situations. The CCAS runs social projects and activities, it may provide optional welfare benefits and is involved in the processing of requests for social welfare benefits (minimum social benefits) under the conditions set out in the [Family and Social Action Code](#).

Moreover, to the above should be added universities' social services, preventive medicine and health promotion and students' health insurance providers which manage their social security.

3. Voluntary-sector stakeholders

There is a vast number of national and local organisations whose purpose is to undertake social action for young people. Some do not specifically target young people but their actions may be relevant to them: these are traditional national charitable organisations which fight poverty: Secours Catholique, Emmaüs, les Petits Frères des Pauvres, ATD Quart-monde, le Secours populaire, etc. Others target young people and their specific problems more explicitly, as for example [Refuge](#) which provides support to young homosexuals and transgender persons whose ties with their families have been severed (living on the streets, social isolation) or who are the victims of violence and discrimination.

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

Mention and describe non-public actors/structures which are directly or indirectly involved in youth policies, and have an influence in the policy-making process and in the decision making process.

Public authorities, in particular the Ministry with responsibility for youth, work in partnership with youth associations, and bodies representing young people (regional youth councils, etc.) which participate in the joint framing of public policies.

3.3.1 Youth Councils

Describe the national youth council. Please refer to its role and objectives as well as to its composition (member organisations). Please mention if there are youth councils on other geographical levels and describe their role. Refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (and contact person).

The participation of young people and the joint framing of public policies are part of the government's approach as it wants young people to be decision-making partners of public authorities. Consultation is the 12th project within the Youth Priority plan, aiming to "enhance the representation of young people in the public arena".

There is no "national youth council", but there are several bodies representing young people. Programmes for youth participation have been put in place in all local and regional authorities, at all levels: municipalities, départements and regions.

At municipal and inter-municipal level: youth councils may give their opinion and make proposals either at the mayor's request or on their own initiative. Young people may be included in the decision making process for certain municipal projects.

At regional level, several opportunities for participation have been put in place by regional councils:

- consultations through which young people's advice is sought, these include, for example, the youth general assembly in the Hauts-de France region (previously the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region),
- consultations of youth organisations in the drawing up of the regional plan (the Bretagne region, Ile-de-France),
- participation in specific events, consultative bodies (regional youth councils) which provide young people with a permanent means of representation;

Voluntary-sector stakeholders promoting the development of youth participation and youth councils

- The French Youth Forum ([Le Forum Français de la jeunesse \(FFJ\)](#)) is one of the main players in the field of youth participation. It was established in 2012 and it is "a forum where young people are represented by their peers", it is autonomous and groups together the main bodies led by young people (organisations, trade unions, political parties' youth branches, health insurance providers for students). It has already issued five opinions on "youth representation in France", "new policies for young people",

“health”, “voting and participation of young people in France” “training and vocational integration of young people: the requirements for a chosen career path”. The FFJ which has modelled itself on the European Youth Forum is a recognised partner of the public authorities. Since 2013, the Interministerial official with responsibility for youth matters has had regular meetings with FFJ and CNAJEP representatives in order to work out common proposals.

Contact: Janice Morice, delegate general jmorice@forumfrancaisjeunesse.fr

- The National Children’s and Youth Councils Association ([l’Association nationale des conseils d’enfants et de jeunes \(ANACEJ\)](#)), set up in 1991, helps with the creation and development of local youth councils. It is a member of CNAJEP.
Contact: Frédéric Pairault, delegate general, frederick.pairault@anacej.asso.fr
- Since 2008, student societies and youth movements have been represented on the Economic, Social and Environmental Council ([Conseil économique, social et environnemental \(CESE\)](#)). In 2012, this group issued an opinion on young people’s access to their rights ([« Droits réels/droits formels: améliorer le recours aux droits sociaux des jeunes »](#)).

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Please mention the most relevant youth NGO’s which are not members of the national youth council. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (and contact person)

The Committee for National and International Relations of Youth Organisations and Adult education ([Comité pour les relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d’Education populaire \(CNAJEP\)](#)). This committee promotes the involvement of young persons in local and voluntary-sector actions. It brings together more than 70 youth movements and it ensures the representation of associations with the public authorities and on joint bodies. The CNAJEP is also a monitoring centre and a think-tank on young people, adult education and public policies, and a platform to dialogue with and convey its views to the public authorities on all these issues. The CNAJEP provides input to the joint framing of public policies and in this way oversees the implementation, at national level, of the “structured dialogue” decided by the Council of European Ministers which, on 23 November 2015, adopted a resolution on “encouraging young people’s participation in democratic life in Europe”.

Contact: Audrey Baudeau, delegate general, audrey.baudeau@cnajep.asso.fr

The French Youth Forum ([Le Forum Français de la jeunesse \(FFJ\)](#)) is one of the main players in the field of youth participation. It was established in 2012 and it is “a forum where young people are represented by their peers”, it is autonomous and groups together the main bodies

led by young people (organisations, trade unions, political parties' youth branches, health insurance providers for students).

The Education League ([La Ligue de l'enseignement](#)) is a confederation of more than 40,000 non-faith and adult education associations with approximately 2,500,000 members and hundreds of thousands of volunteers. It was established in 1866 and it is one of the oldest still active adult education organisations in France. It encourages and supports local initiatives which enable everybody to have access to "education and culture while recognising cultural diversity", and foster volunteering. It is a key point of contact for the public authorities.

[Animafac](#), set up in 1996, is a national organisation which supports students in carrying out their association-sponsored projects and encourages participation in higher education. It has a network of 5,000 student associations.

3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

If yes, give names and contacts and explain its structure. Please also explain your role within this network (as EKCYP correspondent). If no such network exists, please explain why and if there have been any attempts to set up such a network.

The National Institute for Youth and Adult Education (INJEP) is a government agency with a national remit, attached to the Director of DJEPVA; it is a key player as regards understanding and analysis of youth policies and "*a resource centre for youth, adult education and voluntary-sector stakeholders, parliamentary assemblies and bodies representing civil society*". The role of INJEP is to "*observe and analyse the situation of young people and youth policies at all levels, from local to European level*".

It has developed expertise on youth and popular education issues, based on research and experience in the field. It is the interface between policy-makers, voluntary organisations active in the youth field and the academic world, and in this way contributes to the development and maintenance of a national knowledge network. This network also has a European dimension as the INJEP is a member of various European networks carrying out research on youth issues including the [RAY](#) network which evaluates the ERASMUS+ programme. It helps produce the European magazine entitled [Perspectives on Youth](#), as a member of its editorial board. It also contributes to the [Euro-Med Mobilities](#) platform which proposes "an innovative approach to co-operation and mobility in the education, training and youth fields".

Contacts INJEP: Thibaut de Saint-Pol, Director of the INJEP

Francine Labadie, Head of the INJEP Observation and Evaluation mission,
Francine.LABADIE@jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr

As the EKCYP correspondent, my role is to use my academic knowledge of public action and youth issues, and to collect updated information on the living conditions of young French people and national policies for the DJEPVA (under whose responsibility I have been placed), which frames and co-ordinates the implementation of national youth policies; this enables me to respond to the various questionnaires and consequently to contribute to the development of knowledge on European youth and to the Youth Partnership which has been established between the Ministry of Youth and the Council of Europe.

Contacts: Janaina.PAISLEY@jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr

4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

National legislation on youth

France does not have a general law on youth, but it has specific laws of relevance to young people which have been drafted by several Ministries. The laws on youth address issues concerning protection, social inclusion, vocational integration and training.

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

- **The Family and Social Action Code**

This code, created by Decree No. 56-149 of 24 January 1956, comprises key texts from the Ministries with responsibility for youth, education and health matters.

It specifies and defines the main aims of social measures for, among others, “children and adolescents with disabilities”. It describes the various types of welfare benefits and social measures (Family associations, welfare benefits for families, education and family counselling, day-care facilities for young children, integration measures, plan of action for integration developed at département level, Fund for assisting young people in difficulty, etc.).

- **[Law No. 2016-41](#) of 26 January 2016 on the modernisation of the French health system**

The aim of this law is to “support young people to ensure equal opportunities in health care” and promote access to education. These measures for promoting health must began from the child’s earliest age and continue throughout school life, thereby constituting a real “educational path as concerns health”.

Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports

The Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports is responsible for regulations on care facilities for minors, who are taken care of outside the parental home and outside school hours. It ensures compliance with the legislation on the reception of minors. Many decrees, circulars and orders which are also included in the Family and Social Action Code lay down the regulations governing the protection of minors and establish security standards for care facilities for minors and young people. These include:

[Decree of 21 May 2007](#) (management of scouting’ activities);

[Decree of 25 April 2012](#) (management and organisation of certain physical activities);

[Decree of 12 December 2013](#) (management of extra-curricular activities);

[Decree of 3 November 2014](#) (declaration prior to the reception of minors).

Ministry of Justice

The main aim of the legislation which is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice is to protect young people, in particular minors, to combat juvenile delinquency and to promote the social integration of young offenders.

Juvenile justice has been a long-standing and constant concern for French political authorities which, in 1945, adopted an order on "juvenile offenders".

- [Order No. 45-174 of 2 February 1945](#) sought to limit punitive measures and replace them with educational ones. After 1945, many orders, decrees and laws on the protection of children and adolescents were passed, establishing the legal framework for the protection of minors.

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

- [Education Code](#)

One of the main body of laws on youth is the Education Code created by **Order No. 2000-549 of 15 June 2000**. This Code compiles all the laws and regulations in force in the field of education. It lays down the general principles on education, on the administration of education and on the organisation of teaching. It is divided into two parts, one legislative and the other regulatory.

The Education Code comprises the [Law on reform of France's Education System](#). The main aim of this law is to promote academic achievement for all pupils.

One of the main aims of the [Law of 22 July 2013 on higher education and research](#) is to contribute to the academic achievement of students and to enable 50% of each cohort to have a higher education qualification.

Regional and local legislation on youth

There are no regional or local laws on youth as laws are national in nature.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth.

Please outline their objectives and duration. If possible provide a link for further information.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

The National Youth Strategy currently being implemented is set out in the [Youth Priority plan](#) adopted by the Interministerial Committee for Youth (CIJ) on 21 February 2013, chaired by the Prime Minister.

This plan outlines the national strategy up to 2017 for young people, who are considered a priority by the Government. It is an **official “clear and assessable” road map** outlining the challenges for youth policies and the various measures which the public authorities must take to improve young people’s living conditions.

Aims:

This policy is based on five main lines:

- 1 Placing an emphasis on ordinary law with regard to young people’s access to social rights;
- 2 Promoting young people’s autonomy;
- 3 Combating inequalities and discrimination;
- 4 Encouraging young people to participate in the public debate;
- 5 Implementing priority measures for young people in the territories;

This policy defines **13 priority projects** initially subdivided into 47 practical measures:

1. [Creating a public information, support and advice service which meets the diverse needs of young people;](#)
2. [Promoting the academic achievement of all young people by combating school drop-out;](#)
3. [Improving young people’s health and promoting access to preventive measures and health care;](#)
4. [Facilitating young people’s access to housing;](#)
5. [Promoting young people’s access to employment;](#)
6. [Securing pathways to young people’s social and vocational integration;](#)
7. [Promoting the rehabilitation of young detainees or those subject to a judicial measure;](#)
8. [Promoting young people’s access to sports, art, culture and to high-quality audio-visual and digital material;](#)
9. [Developing young people’s digital literacy and promoting their access to new Internet jobs;](#)
10. [Increasing and diversifying the European and international mobility of young people;](#)
11. [Promoting and enhancing the status of young people’s active involvement;](#)
12. [Reinforcing young people’s representation in the public arena;](#)

13. [Strengthening ties between institutions and young people and fighting discrimination.](#)

Some of these [projects](#) specifically concern **disadvantaged young people**: this is the case of project No. 7 which concerns the social rehabilitation of young detainees.

Project No. 10 should “enable all young people to have access to mobility”, i.e., those who have fewer opportunities and have no or little access to mobility.

Another example: young people aged between 16 and 25 (or up to 30 for workers with disabilities) who have few or no qualifications and who are jobseekers benefit from special measures such as “jobs for the future” which should help the vocational integration of those experiencing difficulty in finding employment. These jobs fall within project No. 5 of the youth priority plan, which is “promoting young people’s access to employment”. They are also intended for young people living in disadvantaged urban areas which are a focus of the “urban policy”. This is one of the ministry’s spheres of action for young people.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

The youth sector is also the subject of interministerial and cross-sectoral action, which is also reflected on a budgetary level:

The cross-sectoral policy document to assist young people indicates the total amount of the investment made by the state (including ministries) for those aged between 3 and 30, which stands at **€84.85 billion** for 2015 and **€86 billion** for 2016.

This represents a 4% increase since 2012.

Out of this total investment, part of the amount is allocated more specifically to policies for young people and the development of the voluntary sector. This is the “163 youth and voluntary sector programme” representing **€237 million in 2015 and €391 million in 2016**.

Regional level

The regions’ budget (operation and investment) allocated to young people finances more specifically teaching and vocational training:

Teaching: €6.1 billion (2015)

Training and apprenticeship: €5.4 billion (2015)

(Source: [Association des régions de France](#), 2014 *rapport de l’observatoire des finances locales 2014*)

7. European Dimension of youth policy

This section should outline how European strategies, policy commitments and programmes are implemented at the national level.

7.1 Council of Europe.

Please describe how Council of Europe programmes or activities are implemented at the national level.

The DJEPVA contributes to and supports the Council of Europe's activities in the youth field. It also attaches great importance to the principle of joint decision-making between the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and youth organisations, and to the activities of the European Youth Centres which facilitate intergovernmental co-operation, which DJEPA highly values.

Does your country contribute to the European Youth Foundation?

France does not contribute to the European Youth Foundation.

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme

The "Youth in Action 2007-2013" programme, set up by the European Union, was implemented by the French agency for the youth in action programme (AFPEJA) which was established within the INJEP and was tasked by the European Commission with implementing and developing the European programme "Youth in Action". The INJEP evaluated the impact of the Youth in Action 2007-2013 programme through several surveys carried out among the project managers and beneficiaries. These surveys (quantitative and qualitative) were the subject of several [publications](#) and [reports](#) on the impact of the Youth in Action programme.

For the period 2014-2020, the European "Erasmus+" Programme replaced the "Youth in Action" programme. The aim of its youth component is to promote the mobility of young Europeans through several complementary plans of actions: European Voluntary Service, youth exchanges, mobility of professionals dealing with young people and strategic partnerships. It is targeted at all young people aged between 13 and 30 whether or not they have qualifications or have received training. It has a budget of €1.4 billion shared out among the participating countries for a period of 7 years. In France, it has been placed under the authority of the ministry with responsibility for youth affairs and is managed by the French agency for the Erasmus+ Youth and Sport programme (AEFJS) in the Civic Service Agency (ASC).

7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

Please describe if there is a national strategy for following up the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018).

The aims of the Youth Priority plan, co-ordinated by the ministry with responsibility for youth affairs, are the same as those found in the 2010-2018 European Union Youth Strategy: helping to secure equal opportunities and promoting participation, which is a priority issue for the French public authorities. In addition, the following eight areas of action of the European Union strategy are also those chosen by the Government to improve young people's living conditions and to fight the inequalities which they face: [education and training](#); [employment and entrepreneurship](#); [health and well-being](#); [participation](#); [voluntary activities](#); [social inclusion](#); [youth and the world](#); and [creativity and culture](#).

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in France

Please list relevant websites and print publications (not older than two years)

LABADIE,F., (dir.), *Inégalités entre jeunes sur fond de crise. Rapport de l'observatoire de la jeunesse 2012*, Paris, La Documentation Française, 2012.

INJEP, 2015, 2014 report, [État de la jeunesse pour le comité interministériel de la jeunesse](#), Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports.

<http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/>

<http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/actualites/zoom-sur/article/bilan-prioritejeunesse-4-ans-pour>

<http://www.injep.fr/>