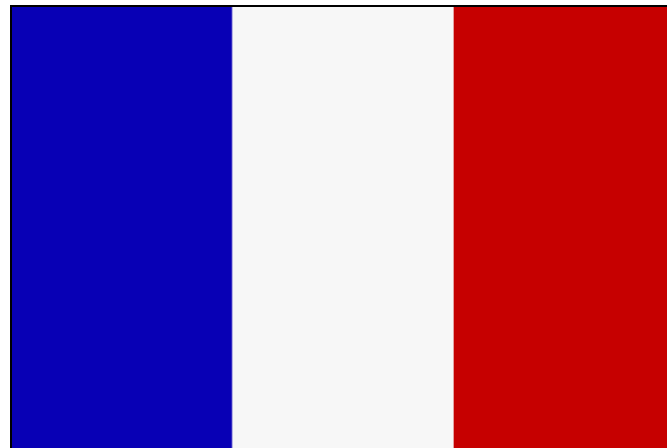




YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN FRANCE



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



Education and Culture DG



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: www.youth-partnership.net

Table of contents

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) Risk of poverty..... | 3 |
| 2) Social Subsistence/Protection | 3 |
| 3) Equal opportunities | 4 |
| ANNEX 5 | 5 |
| ANNEX 6 | 7 |

1) Risk of poverty

| | % | Age rank | Source | Date |
|--|-------|--------------|--|------|
| At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers) | 14,00 | Less than 18 | Eurostat | 2006 |
| Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income | 46,00 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158 | 2005 |
| Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit | 6,70 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158 | 2005 |
| Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance | 17,70 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158 | 2005 |
| Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless | 25,00 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166 | 2005 |
| Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job | 55,00 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166 | 2005 |
| Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job | 39,00 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166 | 2005 |
| Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless | 3,00 | | Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166 | 2005 |
| Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers) | 29,00 | | Eurostat | 2006 |
| Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers) | 13,00 | | Eurostat | 2006 |
| Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers) | 13,00 | | Eurostat | 2006 |

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

France has a highly developed social welfare system. The social security fund is financed by contributions from both employers and employees, calculated on percentages of wages and salaries, and are partially subsidized by the government. Disability insurance pays a pension to compensate for the loss of earnings and costs of care. Survivorship payment recipients must be at least 55 years old and married for two years if there are no children. Unemployment insurance is provided for all workers. Workers' medical benefits are paid directly for all necessary care. Family allowances are paid to those with children and earnings of less than 55% of the minimum wage. There is a child-rearing allowance for those who quit work to raise a second or subsequent child until that child reaches three years of age. There is an allowance for employed parents to pay for child care in their home. Benefits also go to those paying for accredited child care. Special payments are available for caring for a seriously ill or handicapped child. Monthly benefits are paid to families having at least two dependent children and single-parent families. Maternity benefits are payable for six weeks before and 10 weeks after

the expected date of childbirth for the first and second child. (<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>)

The French scheme of social security can be divided into 5 groups. First is the general scheme which covers most of the employees and for example students, who have been included into the general scheme in the course of the years, and all residents in the case of family benefits. Secondly the special schemes for employees of which some cover all risks and others only cover old-age, with the general scheme providing coverage for the other risks. Third is the agricultural scheme which includes all risks with two different administrative bodies for farmers and employees of the agricultural sector. Fourth are the schemes for self-employed persons: one scheme for sickness insurance and three schemes for old-age insurance. Fifth are the unemployment schemes. These different schemes are placed under the supervision of the ministers in charge of social security, of agriculture and of employment.

The general scheme is organised in four branches: 1. the branch for sickness, maternity, invalidity and death, 2. the branch for employment injuries and occupational diseases, 3. the branch for old-age and 4. the family branch. The National Sickness Insurance Fund for Employees (*Caisse nationale d'assurance maladie des travailleurs salariés, CNAMTS*) is in charge of the first two branches. At local level and supervised by the *CNAMTS*, there are two types of bodies which do not have any hierarchic connection. These are the regional Sickness Insurance funds and the primary Sickness Insurance funds. The family branch is administered by the National Family Allowance Agency (*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*) which is the supervisory body of the family benefits funds. At the local level the collection of contributions is carried out by the union for the collection of social insurance and family benefit contributions (*unions de recouvrement des cotisations de sécurité sociale et d'allocations familiales URSSAF*) which is subordinate to the Central Agency of the Social Security Organisations (*Agence Centrale des Organismes de Sécurité Sociale, COSS*). The *ACOSS* has the task to follow the finances of each branch as regards planning and implementation. The traditional scheme of unemployment insurance is administered by parity organisations, namely by the Associations for Employment in Industry and Commerce (*associations pour l'emploi dans l'industrie et le commerce, ASSEDIC*) with the National Union for Employment in Industry and Commerce (*Union nationale pour l'emploi dans l'industrie et le commerce, UNEDIC*) at the national level. (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/organisation_en.pdf)

Sources:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/organisation_en.pdf

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>

3) Equal opportunities

Equal pay for equal work is mandated by law, although this is not always the case in practice. Men continue to earn more than women and unemployment rates are higher for women than for men. Sexual harassment is illegal in the workplace but the laws are limited and the penalties are modest. Rape and spousal abuse laws are strictly enforced and the penalties are severe. Shelters, counselling, and hotlines are available to victims of sexual abuse and violence. Religious freedom is provided for by the Constitution. However, large Arab/Muslim, African, and Jewish communities have been subject to harassment and prejudice. Extremist anti-immigrant groups have increasingly been involved in racial attacks. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, language, religion, or social status is prohibited. (<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>)

Living conditions of young people

The biggest part of young population share good health conditions. But the age group of 12-25 years old, a peculiar age of transition, presents specific health problems which must be afforded in the appropriate way. The most common diseases are ophthalmologic, dental, respiratory and dermatology problems. The most striking data is given by the figures of mortality for accidents, which represents the 48,7% of the deceases between 15 and 19 year olds. Among these, the 82% are crash accidents with a mortality range higher for the men. Suicide is the second principal death cause of young people, far more frequent than in the adult population: 11% of the death causes of 15-19 year olds and 17% of the death causes of the 20-24 year olds. (<http://www.injep.fr>) In 2008 (04/2008) rate of 18-24 years old women living underneath the poverty threshold (60%) was 18,6% when among the same age men the rate was 16,4%. (www.insee.fr)

Equality in Practicing Sport

Practicing sport depends above all on socio-cultural background of young people. More than two thirds of young people aged from 12 to 17 practice sport a part from the gym at school. Practicing a sport is more common for boys (77%) than for girls (60%). The lower the socio-economic background of young people is the fewer the possibilities are to practice sport. Youngsters attending lyceum do practice more sport than their peers at vocational schools. (http://www.jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/statinfo_1103-2.pdf).

Disabled Workers

In 1998, 12,000 workers with disabilities found jobs; an increase of 20% over the preceding year. In 1999, the number of disabled job seekers fell - for the first time in 15 years - from 149 900 to 145 500. This downward trend has continued in 2000. At the end of June 2000, the number of disabled job seekers stood at 131 500 or 6% of the total number of job hunters. Nevertheless, on average, the disabled remain unemployed for twice as long as their able-bodied counterparts. Over the past ten years, unemployment among the disabled has increased two fold, whereas the overall rate has only risen by 20%. (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/diversity/index.htm>)

Sources:

<http://www.injep.fr> Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Education Populaire
www.insee.fr Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/organisation_en.pdf
<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/diversity/index.htm> European Industrial Relations Observatory Online

ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTANCE/PROTECTION

France has a highly developed social welfare system. The social security fund is financed by contributions from both employers and employees, calculated on percentages of wages and salaries, and are partially subsidized by the government. Disability insurance pays a pension to compensate for the loss of earnings and costs of care. Survivorship payment recipients must be at least 55 years old and married for two years if there are no children. Unemployment insurance is provided for all workers. Workers' medical benefits are paid directly for all necessary care. Family allowances are paid to those with children and earnings of less

than 55% of the minimum wage. There is a child-rearing allowance for those who quit work to raise a second or subsequent child until that child reaches three years of age. There is an allowance for employed parents to pay for child care in their home. Benefits also go to those paying for accredited child care. Special payments are available for caring for a seriously ill or handicapped child. Monthly benefits are paid to families having at least two dependent children and single-parent families. Maternity benefits are payable for six weeks before and 10 weeks after the expected date of childbirth for the first and second child. (<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>)

The French scheme of social security can be divided into 5 groups. First is the general scheme which covers most of the employees and for example students, who have been included into the general scheme in the course of the years, and all residents in the case of family benefits. Secondly the special schemes for employees of which some cover all risks and others only cover old-age, with the general scheme providing coverage for the other risks. Third is the agricultural scheme which includes all risks with two different administrative bodies for farmers and employees of the agricultural sector. Fourth are the schemes for self-employed persons: one scheme for sickness insurance and three schemes for old-age insurance. Fifth are the unemployment schemes. These different schemes are placed under the supervision of the ministers in charge of social security, of agriculture and of employment.

The general scheme is organised in four branches: 1. the branch for sickness, maternity, invalidity and death, 2. the branch for employment injuries and occupational diseases, 3. the branch for old-age and 4. the family branch. The National Sickness Insurance Fund for Employees (*Caisse nationale d'assurance maladies des travailleurs salariés, CNAMTS*) is in charge of the first two branches. At local level and supervised by the *CNAMTS*, there are two types of bodies which do not have any hierarchic connection. These are the regional Sickness Insurance funds and the primary Sickness Insurance funds. The family branch is administered by the National Family Allowance Agency (*Caisse nationale des allocations familiales*) which is the supervisory body of the family benefits funds. At the local level the collection of contributions is carried out by the union for the collection of social insurance and family benefit contributions (*unions de recouvrement des cotisations de sécurité sociale et d'allocations familiales URSSAF*) which is subordinate to the Central Agency of the Social Security Organisations (*Agence Centrale des Organismes de Sécurité Sociale, COSS*). The *ACOSS* has the task to follow the finances of each branch as regards planning and implementation. The traditional scheme of unemployment insurance is administered by parity organisations, namely by the Associations for Employment in Industry and Commerce (*associations pour l'emploi dans l'industrie et le commerce, ASSEDIC*) with the National Union for Employment in Industry and Commerce (*Union nationale pour l'emploi dans l'industrie et le commerce, UNEDIC*) at the national level. (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/organisation_en.pdf)

Sources:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/organisation_en.pdf

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>

ANNEX 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Equal pay for equal work is mandated by law, although this is not always the case in practice. Men continue to earn more than women and unemployment rates are higher for women than for men. Sexual harassment is illegal in the workplace but the laws are limited and the penalties are modest. Rape and spousal abuse laws are strictly enforced and the penalties are severe. Shelters, counselling, and hotlines are available to victims of sexual abuse and violence. Religious freedom is provided for by the Constitution. However, large Arab/Muslim, African, and Jewish communities have been subject to harassment and prejudice. Extremist anti-immigrant groups have increasingly been involved in racial attacks. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, language, religion, or social status is prohibited. (<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>)

Living conditions of young people

The biggest part of young population share good health conditions. But the age group of 12-25 years old, a peculiar age of transition, presents specific health problems which must be afforded in the appropriate way. The most common diseases are ophthalmologic, dental, respiratory and dermatology problems. The most striking data is given by the figures of mortality for accidents, which represents the 48,7% of the deceases between 15 and 19 year olds. Among these, the 82% are crash accidents with a mortality range higher for the men. Suicide is the second principal death cause of young people, far more frequent than in the adult population: 11% of the death causes of 15-19 year olds and 17% of the death causes of the 20-24 year olds. (<http://www.injep.fr>) In 2008 (04/2008) rate of 18-24 years old women living underneath the poverty threshold (60%) was 18,6% when among the same age men the rate was 16,4%. (www.insee.fr)

Equality in Practicing Sport

Practicing sport depends above all on socio-cultural background of young people. More than two thirds of young people aged from 12 to 17 practice sport a part from the gym at school. Practicing a sport is more common for boys (77%) than for girls (60%). The lower the socio-economic background of young people is the fewer the possibilities are to practice sport. Youngsters attending lyceum do practice more sport than their peers at vocational schools. (http://www.jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/statinfo_1103-2.pdf).

Disabled Workers

In 1998, 12,000 workers with disabilities found jobs; an increase of 20% over the preceding year. In 1999, the number of disabled job seekers fell - for the first time in 15 years - from 149 900 to 145 500. This downward trend has continued in 2000. At the end of June 2000, the number of disabled job seekers stood at 131 500 or 6% of the total number of job hunters. Nevertheless, on average, the disabled remain unemployed for twice as long as their able-bodied counterparts. Over the past ten years, unemployment among the disabled has increased two fold, whereas the overall rate has only risen by 20%. (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/diversity/index.htm>)

Sources:

<http://www.injep.fr> Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire

www.insee.fr Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/organisation_en.pdf

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-SOCIAL-DEVELOPMENT.html>

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/diversity/index.htm> European Industrial Relations Observatory
Online