



Priorité
Jeunesse

Priority: Youth

Summary

**French Cross-ministerial
Committee for Youth**

21 February 2013

Coordinated by the Minister for Sports, Youth, Non Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations



CONSTRUISONS
ENSEMBLE
LE NOUVEAU MODÈLE
FRANÇAIS



IN BRIEF

The new policy “**Priority: Youth**” was adopted by the *Comité interministériel de la Jeunesse* (CIJ - French Cross-ministerial Committee for Youth) at its meeting on 21 February 2013 chaired by Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

This roadmap encompasses **47 concrete measures ordered into 13 priority objectives**. Implementation will begin in 2013.

It will introduce substantial reforms in the government’s programmes for youth while responding to 4 fundamental priorities:

1. **Give priority to common law in all actions relating to youth’s access to their social rights**, in order to end the accumulation of derogatory or incomprehensible programmes;
2. Encourage **youth empowerment** through training, accommodation, health, mobility, etc.;
3. **Attack social injustice** and discrimination;
4. Encourage **the participation of youth in public affairs** and give substance to a shared and effective approach to the development of government policy.

CONTINUITY AND COHERENCE IN GOVERNMENT ACTION

The measures included in the “Priority: Youth” roadmap continue in the same vein as existing Government actions introduced since May 2012. This new political action seeks to improve the situation of youth, in terms of training, prevention of school dropouts, employment, autonomy, accommodation, health and the valorization of youth commitment.

This new policy, transversal and in partnership, will focus on **long-term actions and will be evaluated on a regular basis**.

A NEW WAY TO INSPIRE AMBITIONS

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND PILOTING THE NEW GENERATION “YOUTH” POLICY

In order to reaffirm the Government’s commitment to youth, **the Prime Minister will deliver an annual report to Parliament** in which he will review the programmes introduced for youth and announce plans for the coming year.

This formal presentation will provide an objective analysis on the basis of a selection of indicators measuring progress in the implementation of the 13 priority objectives identified at the CIJ meeting on 21 February 2013. The indicators will be provided by the *Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l’Éducation Populaire* (INJEP - National Institute for Youth and Non Formal Education).

A POLICY DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH YOUNGSTERS, NGOs, SOCIAL PARTNERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The *Conseil national de l’éducation populaire et de la jeunesse* (CNEPJ - National Council for Non formal Education and Youth) and the *Conseil national de la jeunesse* (CNJ - National Youth Council) will merge their activities and create the **Conférence nationale de la jeunesse** (National Youth Conference), as a forum for regular discussions amongst all actors: youngsters and youth organizations, local and regional authorities, youth and non formal education NGOs, social partners, etc.

In order to **reinforce consultations with young people**, an open conduit for debate and ideas will be established, taking into account past experience and best practices in other countries. The principal, but not exclusive, partner will be the **Forum Français de la Jeunesse** (the French Youth Forum) created in June 2012 as an autonomous forum in which France’s youth can express their ideas.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS NEW POLICY

- The establishment of an cross-ministerial youth delegate

A **permanent cross-ministerial coordination** will be established. The coordinator will monitor the coherence of actions launched by the ministries, examine progress in the inclusion of youth priorities by ministries and Government agencies, and will guarantee that a strategic approach is adopted by all ministries.

- A priority implemented at local and regional level

Regional prefects will organize thematic **Comités administratifs régionaux** (Regional Governmental Committees - CAR) which will discuss issues of interest to youth and monitor implementation of government measures for youth at a local level and their effectiveness in liaison with local actors and territorial authorities.

NEW POLICY, THE “PRIORITY: YOUTH”

OBJECTIVE 1

To create a renovated public orientation service providing information and counselling corresponding to the wide range of youth expectations

THE CURRENT SITUATION: Of young people in the 15-26 age bracket with university degrees, 9% are unemployed whereas the rate rises to 46% for non-graduates.

At the same time, we are seeing a “scar effect” (perpetuation of unemployment): 22% of youth who were unable to find work on entering the job market in 2007 had still not found employment 5 years later.

Today, career options are determined more by the jobs on offer than by personal choice. As a consequence, young people have little confidence in the tools provided for career orientation.

THE ISSUE: To facilitate career orientation and reorientation (training and choice of profession) in order to ensure better inclusion.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 1 – A new public orientation service (POS) will be created in the new phase of decentralisation to provide every young people (pupils, apprentices, students, young jobseekers and trainees) with the right to **a free life-long information service** on professional training programmes, job opportunities and professional inclusion. Each young person will be offered a personalized counselling service for developing their professional career, entering training programmes and ensuring their insertion.

This counselling service will remove the obstacles to social inclusion and, in particular, to access to accommodation, health services, mobility... Implementation of this new public service will be the responsibility of the French regions, in order to ensure that solutions correspond to the local situation and to employers' expectations in terms of qualifications.

Pilot tests for the new POS began in January 2013, in order to ensure a wider implementation in 4 to 6 regions, on a voluntary basis, in September 2013.

Measure 2 – Youth Information services will be reviewed in order to offer a broader range of good quality neighbourhood services that are appropriate to the needs of territories and of their publics.

OBJECTIVE 2

**To seek success for all young people
by reducing school drop-out rates**

THE CURRENT SITUATION: In France, it is estimated that between 130,000 and 140,000 young people leave school without qualifications, i.e. one in six. The 16-18 age group represents nearly 57% of drop-outs.

THE ISSUE: To halve the number of young drop-outs by 2017, specifically through the creation of “Regional Pacts for Educational and Professional Success for Youth”.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 3 – “Ambition Training-and-Job” Networks will be established in each Regional School District and will offer a tailored-made training solution for each school drop-out.

Measure 4 – 3,000 young drop-outs will be eligible for a combined **training / volunteer service programme (*Service Civique*)** in 2013.

Measure 5 – Each Regional School District will engage in **preventive actions** through the creation of return-to-school programmes (micro-high schools, high school innovation poles, etc.) in collaboration with local public schools.

Measure 6 – Flexible school programmes will be introduced in order to increase the level of higher education diplomas **in each age group to 50%**. To overcome the problem of students leaving university without a diploma, proposals for a return to vocational training and life-long education will be developed through the **establishment of links between training and reorientation options**.

Measure 7 – The possibility to let the **parents choose for their child’s orientation at the end of “collège”** will be experimented.

OBJECTIVE 3

**To improve youth health and ensure access
to prevention and health services**

THE CURRENT SITUATION: 33% of students do not make use of health services as they cannot afford them and 18% do not have complementary health insurance (according to statistics provided by student health insurance companies).

THE ISSUE: To help young people to take advantage of national health services and notably by making them eligible for the Universal Sickness Cover (CMU-C) programme and helping them take out complementary health insurance (ACS).

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 8 – A major student awareness campaign will provide youth with more legible and informative documentation on complementary health insurance.

Measure 9 – The new **national health strategy**, to be introduced in 2014, will include specific initiatives on these issues for under-26-year-olds.

Measure 10 – The number of **university health centres will increase from 14 to 30** in 2015. They will be able to issue prescriptions for medical care, which represents a major step forward.

OBJECTIVE 4

To facilitate youth access to rental accommodation

THE CURRENT SITUATION: Youth is the age group with the highest financial efforts to provide for accessing rental accommodation. At the same time, only a quarter of young people under 30 are currently living in social housing and this figure is falling. 53% of youth live in private rental accommodation and are therefore hard hit by rent increases.

THE ISSUE: To remove the specific barriers to youth in obtaining rental accommodation.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 11 – The introduction of a **universal guarantee for housing leases** will allow people unable to produce guarantees of solvency or rental deposits to have access to the private rental market, a particularly common problem for youth.

Measure 12 – **Tighter regulations** will facilitate access to rental accommodation for everyone (fixed rents, tighter landlord/tenant contracts, stricter regulations for real estate agents). Particular attention will be paid to improving access to social housing for young people, which has fallen regularly over the last 10 years.

Measure 13 – **Access to accommodation for youngsters in work / study training programmes** will be improved and the number of places for youth will be increased.

OBJECTIVE 5

To encourage the access of young people to the job market

THE CURRENT SITUATION: 740,000 young people enter the job market each year. In France, since mid-2008, youth employment rates have fallen more than the rest of the market. Today, almost one in four young people is a jobseeker.

THE ISSUE: To improve coordination and distribution of youth employment programmes.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 14 – The **Contrat de Génération (Generation Contract - subsidy to companies hiring young employees while keeping older ones)**, which is intended to cover all young people and all companies, will help increase the number of young people with long-term job contracts and encourage the transmission of skills by older employees.

Measure 15 – **Creation of youth enterprise**, in particular in the social and inclusive economy (third sector economy), will be encouraged through access to microcredit systems, loans, and guarantees from the Public Investment Bank, together with the creation of a resource centre.

Measure 16 – **Partnerships involving higher education institutions, the National Job Agency and the business sector** will be strengthened in order to ensure better professional insertion for young people.

Measure 17 – **Social charges will be reduced for 2,000 jobs** as part of a three-year test programme in 10 areas for combatting discrimination against young people from designated priority areas.

OBJECTIVE 6

To guarantee the social and professional inclusion of youth

THE CURRENT SITUATION: Under-30 year olds represent 50% of people living below the poverty line. The risk of poverty rises when people have difficulty finding work and the jobs available are increasingly precarious.

THE ISSUE: To reconsider student aid and other benefits for young people experiencing difficulty in inclusion.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 18 – The “Youth Guarantee” programme will be launched in September 2013 in 10 pilot territories. As a contract between young people experiencing difficulties in inclusion and the National Job Agency, it will provide young people with a comprehensive counselling service offering opportunities for training and employment adapted to their needs, together with an allocation equivalent to the *Revenu de solidarité active* (RSA - Active Solidarity Income) in return for a commitment to enter a training programme.

Measure 19 – Discussions on a **means-tested study and training grant** will be initiated in order to reduce the number of university students obliged to work in order to pay for their studies. These discussions will begin in spring 2013.

Measure 20 – Experiments will be carried out on counselling services for the more vulnerable youth who are already in **apprenticeships** and their employers, the objective being to reduce the rate of dropped out apprenticeships. A budget of €2 million will be allocated from the National Fund for the Development and Modernization of Apprenticeships.

Measure 21 – To avoid excessive recourse to internships, a more structured framework and improvements to the status of interns will be introduced. They will be given greater protection and more efforts will be made to create a clear distinction between internships and permanent employment.

OBJECTIVE 7

To improve reinsertion rates for young convicts and persons subject to judicial orders

THE CURRENT SITUATION: 75% of convicted minors are condemned to new prison sentences after their release, nearly 7 in 10 to unconditional imprisonment. The level of repeat offenders is particularly high in the first months after release. 80% of minors in prisons are school drop-outs.

THE ISSUE: To improve rates of professional inclusion for young convicts through stronger programmes offering access to qualification.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 22 – To reinforce access to training, career orientation and skill's validation, a number of measures will be introduced in order to facilitate access to professional training for young convicts, improve literacy rates and enrol young people in training programmes.

Measure 23 – To encourage young people in remand, they will be allowed to become eligible for “Emplois d’Avenir” (subsidised jobs for young people without qualification) and “Youth Guarantee” programmes.

Measure 24 – To improve access to health care and accommodation, the links between the *Protection judiciaire de la jeunesse* (Youth Judicial Protection Service) and Regional Health Agencies will be reinforced. An cross-ministerial observatory that will monitor the health of youth in the judicial system will be established.

OBJECTIVE 8

To encourage youth access to sport, the arts, culture and quality audio-visual and digital services

THE CURRENT SITUATION: Despite mass education, access to artistic, cultural and sports activities remains linked to social status, on which depend opportunities for higher education and employment.

THE ISSUE: To reduce unequal access to cultural, sporting and other educational leisure activities to all young people regardless of social background or employment status.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 25 – In order to **guarantee equal access to sporting activities** for all young people, greater attention will be paid to training in physical and sport education in the future *Écoles Supérieures du Professorat et de l'Éducation* (Schools for Advanced Studies for Teachers and Education). Support will be available for sporting associations offering specific youth programmes and, in particular, for underprivileged youth. Sports will also be included in youth counselling services provided by the “Missions Locales” (local youth job agencies).

Measure 26 – Territorial educational projects should include a wide variety of cultural and sporting activities similar to those offered by youth and non formal education NGOs.

Measure 27 – The National Cultural and Artistic Education Project will offer a wide range of activities accessible to young people in each territory. Skills and attitudes acquired by youth through these activities will be recognized through the National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) programme.

Measure 28 – In the near future, the government will announce reforms **of the public digital audio-visual services for the 6-30 age group**.

OBJECTIVE 9

To develop the digital environment and open up access to new Internet professions to young people

THE CURRENT SITUATION: The ‘digital divide’ is still present and use of the Internet is far from universal. People with higher degrees are more likely to use Internet-based educational tools (91%) than those with lesser or no diplomas (55%).

THE ISSUE: To give young people greater access to digital information services so that they can benefit culturally, socially and financially.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 29 – The activities offered by **5,000 public cyber-spaces** will be extended in order to offer new services for youth, in particular in terms of digital production technologies. Inter-regional resource centres will be created with access to equipment, training in cyber-space management and counselling for local projects.

Measure 30 – “*Emplois d’Avenir*” (subsidised jobs for young people without qualification) will be deployed in public cyber-space activities over three years.

OBJECTIVE 10

To increase and diversify European and international mobility

THE CURRENT SITUATION: France has one of the widest ranges of opportunities for mobility in the world, yet despite the diversity of choice, the various programmes available are often difficult to comprehend. For this reason, only well-informed candidates can take advantage of them.

THE ISSUE: To open up opportunities for mobility to all young people.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 31 – The number of young people taking up opportunities for European international mobility will be increased: whether for studies, professional training, internships or other projects, including programmes organized by NGOs. **Additional resources made available by the European Commission** for the period 2014-2020 and the funding from French and German Youth Office (+ €1 million from 2013) will be used for this purpose.

Measure 32 – A coordinated national mobility strategy, including **regional development plans**, will be introduced and monitored by the regions and regional departments responsible for youth, sports and social cohesion (DRJSCS).

Measure 33 – A **promotional campaign for mobility** will be launched endorsed by young people with mobility experience and actors involved in youth activities.

Measure 34 – **An cross-ministerial fund will be created** to overcome unequal access to mobility for young people living in French overseas territories.

OBJECTIVE 11

To promote and recognize the commitment of youth

THE CURRENT SITUATION: Youth involvement and interest in social questions are important, but are often marked by substantial social inequality. Nearly one in two young people having completed their studies by the age of 22 takes an active role in at least one NGO.

THE ISSUE: To recognize and valorize youth's involvement in NGOs, trade unions and political organizations.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 35 – **Information and youth awareness campaigns** on the various forms of social involvement will be increased and greater support will be given to organizations encouraging political and social commitment.

Measure 36 – Experience obtained through involvement in NGOs, trade unions and political organizations will be recognized for the **National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) programme**.

Measure 37 – Greater involvement of **youth in volunteer fire services** will be encouraged with particular emphasis on young people with less opportunity.

OBJECTIVE 12

To strengthen youth representation in public affairs

THE CURRENT SITUATION: France has a low level of youth participation and commitment in public affairs compared to other European countries.

THE ISSUE: To renew democratic action, encourage youth involvement in public affairs and recognize their status as political actors in their own right.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 38 – Participation of youth in trade unions, political organizations and NGOs will be encouraged. A campaign promoting involvement of young employees in trade union activities will be implemented.

Measure 39 – A youth counselling service will be created at the Ministry for Youth in order to facilitate the development of youth organizations run by young persons.

Measure 40 – *Conseils économiques, sociaux et environnementaux régionaux* (CESER - Regional Economic, Social and Environmental Councils) will be invited to set up “Youth Colleges”.

Measure 41 – A study of good practices developed by public administrations, in terms of youth participation, will be carried out and the results will be published.

Measure 42 – The Decree of 8 February 2007 will be reactivated to make more effective **the holding of citizenship ceremonies** as a solemn recognition of youth’s entry into adult life and the acquisition of their civil rights.

Measure 43 – For all elected mandates, whether political, trade union, or professional, the responsible authorities will launch awareness campaigns to ensure that **all voters, regardless of age, can stand for election**.

OBJECTIVE 13

To strengthen the links between public institutions and youth and to reinforce the combat against discrimination

THE CURRENT SITUATION: Young people have very poor knowledge of the role of state agencies. On the other hand, the image of young people, with employers, landlords, funding agencies and institutions, is particularly detrimental and this leads to inappropriate, and often prejudicial, behaviour towards them.

THE ISSUE: To fight against prejudice on both sides and to strengthen the links between youth and institutions.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Measure 44 – To increase the number of **delegates for police-population cohesion (DCPP)** and in particular in designated priority areas.

Measure 45 – Ethical measures will be introduced in order to **reduce the number of identity controls that are clearly discriminatory**.

Measure 46 – A new initiative for creating **diversity in recruitment to the public service** will be launched in Spring 2013. Preparatory classes on “equal opportunities” will be created in all national professional academies under the responsibility of the Ministries of Justice and the Interior.

Measure 47 – A “testing” policy in terms of access to training, accommodation, internships, employment and leisure will be introduced. An annual report on the results of this policy will be published in due course.