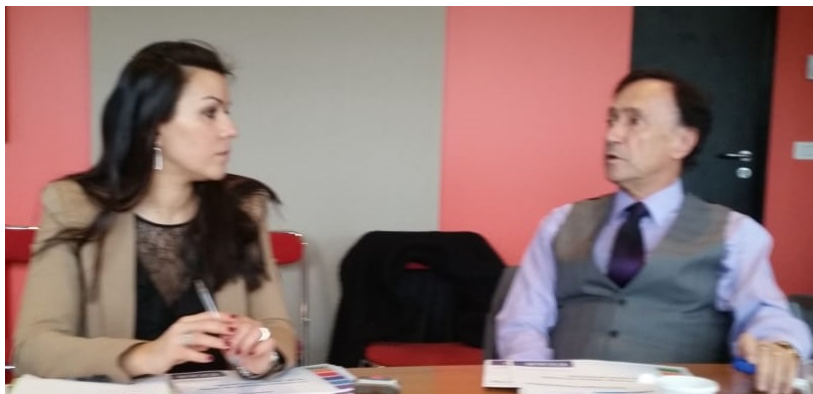


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Interview with Jean Max Trouillet – Advisor social policies CCAS of Marseille

THE FRENCH SYSTEM OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION - WHICH ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE FRENCH HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM?

The French Constitution recognizes the right to health and protection for all. The preamble of the Constitution of 27 October 1946 clearly reports that “the French nation shall guarantee to all, and particularly to the child, the mother, and the aged worker, protection of health, material security, rest, and leisure. Any individual who, because of his or her age, his or her physical or mental condition, or because of the economic situation, shall find himself or herself unable to work, shall have the right to obtain from the community the means for a decent existence.”



The French health system has to help workers and their families, evolving towards the universality of beneficiaries with a gradual generalization to all residents of the territory in a logic of solidarity for families, elderly and sick people.

WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT GUARANTEE THESE RIGHTS?

The “Social security” consists of representatives of employers and employees, the State, the Directorate of Employees and about 1000 social security agencies. The Central State appointed two Ministries: the Ministry of Solidarity and Health and the Ministry of territorial cohesion and Relations, politically responsible for the implementation of the policies and the fight against exclusion. The decentralized state is made by Departmental and Regional directorates without any relationship of authority between them. Local authorities, such as Regions, Municipalities and the CCAS, gave a strong contribution to the security sector. In fact, with the laws of decentralization (1982-1983), local authorities have become central actors in social protection and social assistance, in particular towards the poorest; decentralization has transferred most of social assistance to departments, and the social action varies depending on the wealth of the community. Even private commercials and non-profit organizations intervene according to the principle of subsidiarity; they are instruments adapted to the management of social problems. They often precede political decisions and follow them on experimental and expanding stage; their role is in continuous progression and their action is very important in volume.

HOW THESE ACTIONS ARE FINANCED?

In 2016, the social protection system has been able to count on a financial contribution of 758.7 billion euros, more than 30% of France’s GDP. 61% of the resources was based on social contributions and obligatory payments calculated as a percentage of the salary, thanks to the responsibility of the employers and the employees. 24% of the financial contribution were taxes (like ITAF), heritage taxes levy on income from capital and securities, and taxes on consumption of alcohol and tobacco. A 12% percentage were public contributions from the State and the local authorities.

THE FRENCH EDUCATION SYSTEM - WHICH ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE FRENCH EDUCATION SYSTEM?

The French Constitution of 27 October 1946 clearly reports that “the French nation shall guarantee equal access of children and adults to education, professional training, and culture. The establishment of free, secular, public education on all levels, shall be a duty of the State.”

WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT GUARANTEE THIS RIGHT?

The educational system appointed two Ministries: the Ministry of National Education and Youth, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation that sets the frame. The Municipalities, Departments and the Regions organize the schools and manage the financial expenditure. In 2017, France counts 15.7 million students (including high school apprentices) and enrolled students, 63406 schools, colleges, lyceums and universities (private and public), 1234512 personal teachers and an annual expenditure per student of 11.184 dollars.

DOES THE REPUBLICAN SCHOOL ACHIEVE ITS GOALS?

Essentially yes. In the last years we had a rise of the bachelors and a mass education of the citizens. Also, there is an increase in the length of studies. Unfortunately, despite positive adjustments and less discrimination, there are still inequalities of success between territories and social classes. In order to arrive at solutions, the education system should provide this right by personal training accounts and the continuing education of work assets; I would like to remark that the 12% of national diplomas per year are obtained in continuing education.