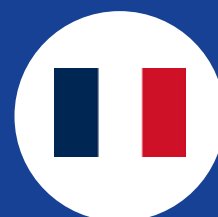


# THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



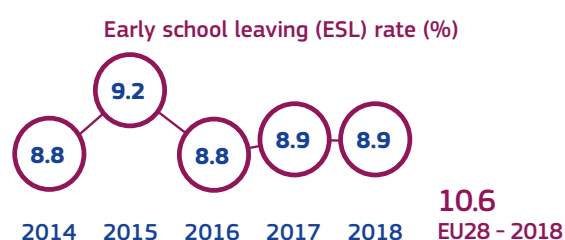
## Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

FRANCE

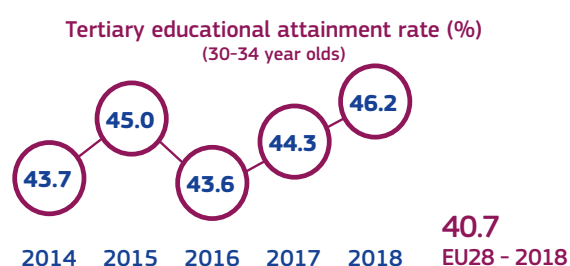
### SUMMARY

ESF Thematic Objective 10 funding is used to support education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning. Over 3 billion euro has been allocated to such operations in France, with 500 827 participations having taken place by the end of 2018. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far in the use of this funding in France.

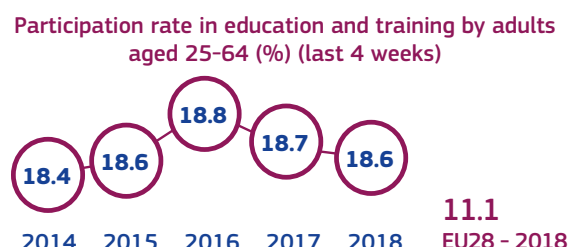
### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES



► The **early school leaving** (ESL) rate in France is stable at 8.9%, below the EU28 average of 10.6% and the EU target of 10%. There are, however, issues relating to gender (the rate for men is 10.8% in 2018, compared with 6.9% for women) and regional disparities: for example, the ESL rate in Corsica is 23% and the average for overseas regions and departments is 20%.



► The **tertiary educational attainment rate** is 46.2%, which is above the EU28 average of 40.7% and the EU 2020 headline target (40%). The rate is growing relatively slowly, however, and it may be difficult to reach the national EU 2020 target of 50%. This target has already been reached in the case of women (51.2%), although men lag further behind, at 41% in 2018.



► France has relatively high levels of **participation of the adult population** in education and training, at 18.6% in 2018, compared with the EU28 average of 11.1%. Improving lifelong learning for all age groups, including those with low levels of education, is an area of focus for all regional OPs in France.

► A key challenge for France is improving the **integration of young people into the labour market**, in particular by reinforcing apprenticeships and other types of vocational training, and targeting in particular the least qualified, those from disadvantaged groups, and employees of small and medium-sized enterprises. National policy also aims to strengthen regional public training services.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

**ESF** European Social Fund

**TO10** Thematic Objective 10

**OP** Operational Programme

**IP** Investment Priority

\* Figures present the situation for ESF operations under Thematic Objective 10 and its four Investment Priorities (IPs) for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to the end of 2018, as reported on 1 October 2019. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage, or have only recently started.

\* As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time, the number of participations is reported. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

\* Where the breakdown of participants according to employment status, age, and level of education does not add up to 100%, it means that it was not possible to include characteristics of a number of participants in some OPs.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

## ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS IN FRANCE

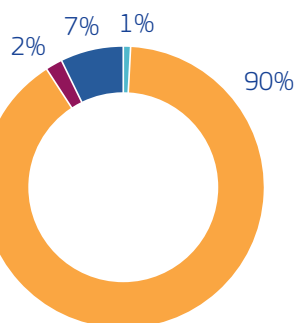
- ▶ There is **one** national OP and **30** regional OPs operating in France (and its overseas territories) which focus on ESF T010.
- ▶ As shown in the graph below, IP10.iii receives 90% of T010 funding in France. This reflects the priorities of the national and regional OPs, which are:
  - ▶ To **strengthen regional public training services** in order to increase access to training, raise the skills levels of the population throughout their lifetime and to respond to the skills needs of regional economies. In particular, jobseekers, apprentices, those furthest away from employment, NEETs and older people are targeted.
  - ▶ To **strengthen the quality of initial and lifelong vocational training systems**, in particular through the mobilisation of digital services and content, and the development of innovative pedagogical and educational devices, especially for students at risk.
- ▶ To **reduce early school leaving** and targeting of actions to prevent and combat illiteracy.
- ▶ To develop **stronger partnerships and networks** between schools, universities, vocational training institutions and local and regional employers.
- ▶ To **improve transitions between higher education and the labour market**, particularly in the case of students from disadvantaged categories.

32% of total ESF funding<sup>1</sup>...

€3 105 653 063

...is allocated to the following T010 investment priorities: **early school leaving (7%), access to quality tertiary and equivalent education (1%), enhancing access to lifelong learning (90%), and improving the labour market relevance of education and training (2%).**

Allocation of ESF T010 funds



- Reducing and preventing early school leaving - IP10.i
- Improving quality and access to tertiary education - IP10.ii
- Enhancing access to lifelong learning - IP10.iii
- Improving the labour market relevance of education and training - IP10.iv

## STATE OF PLAY

76% of planned resources under T010 had been allocated in 2018, with 26% spent.

Number of overall participations in T010 operations by the end of 2018:

500 827

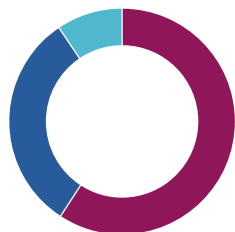
- ▶ **79 829** participations in operations to reduce and prevent early school leaving
- ▶ **1 680** participations in operations to improve the access to, and quality of, tertiary and equivalent education
- ▶ **404 703** participations in operations to enhance access to lifelong learning
- ▶ **14 615** participations in operations to improve the labour market relevance of education and training

<sup>1</sup> This includes EU-only funding and co-financing from the Member State.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

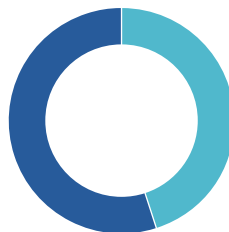
## PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT

Employment status



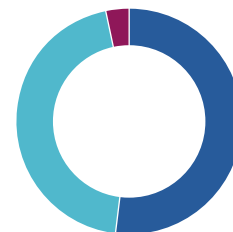
**58% (291 501)** Unemployed  
**31% (154 628)** Inactive<sup>2</sup>  
**9% (45 098)** Employed

Sex

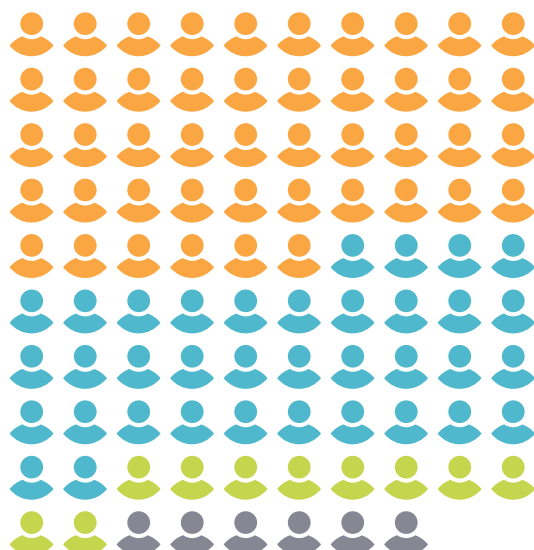


**45%** Women  
**55%** Men

Age



**51% (254 646)** <25 years  
**44% (220 843)** 25-54 years  
**3% (15 738)** >54 years



46%

Primary (ISCED 1) or lower  
secondary (ISCED 2) education<sup>3</sup>

36%

Upper secondary (ISCED 3) or  
post-secondary education  
(ISCED 4)

10%

Tertiary education  
(ISCED 5-8)

6%

No education  
(no ISCED)

**112 734**  
Migrants

**141 230**  
Other disadvantaged

**34 732**  
Participants with  
disabilities

**11 051**  
Homeless

**Key achievements to date** of ESF T010 activities in France include<sup>4</sup>:

- ▶ **366 200** successful results have been achieved to date following participation in an activity funded by ESF T010, of which:
- ▶ **23 852** inactive participants went on to engage in job searching
- ▶ **72 976** participants went into education or training
- ▶ **193 237** participants gained a qualification
- ▶ **76 135** participants moved into employment upon leaving

- ▶ The focus on IP10.iii is having an impact on the provision of training and qualification measures across France. It is supporting job seekers and young people in terms of basic skills training, and the acquisition of specific skills through apprenticeships and other targeted operations. Partnership arrangements are also providing good alignment with regional training strategies.
- ▶ Concrete results include the Pays de la Loire regional programme, where there have been excellent results in terms of job seeker qualification success rates (78%), apprentices (85%), and participants in key skills learning operations (72%). Further, in the Rhône Alpes regional programme, 61% of participants and 42% of older participants in qualifying courses were in employment six months after the end of the training.

<sup>2</sup> The inactive population can include pre-school children, school children, students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working and not available or looking for work.

<sup>3</sup> ISCED is the UN reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields.

<sup>4</sup> Participants' data are collected when starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared.

## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

### ► Positive impact of training and lifelong learning operations

The emphasis on IP10.iii actions has significantly increased opportunities for job seekers and young people in terms of finding employment. This is particularly the case for those who are furthest away from the labour market or those who are returning to work after a break, for example for childcare.

### ► Improvements in vocational learning

Vocational learning through apprenticeships is underdeveloped in France. As this is the most effective way to help young people to acquire the right skills to enter the labour market, almost all regions in France have used ESF T010 funding to improve learning through apprenticeships.

### ► More work to be done on ESL

Lowering early school leaving rates through initiatives such as second chance schools is a policy focus throughout France. However, this is having mixed results due to difficulties in implementation and some resistance from education institutions.

### ► Challenges in coordination

There remains some difficulty in terms of coordination between operators involved in active inclusion, under T09 and T08 (e.g. support provided by the French PES Pôle Emploi), and those who manage training operations under T010. Progress is being made with the development of partnerships, but the pace of change is relatively slow.

### ► Effective targeting

T010 operations, mainly under T010.iii, effectively target the unemployed, and particularly the long-term unemployed. They also effectively target people in disadvantaged categories and those with disabilities. Promoting gender equality remains a challenge, as does reaching older and inactive people.

### ► Challenges in implementing other IPs

The focus on IP10.iii is having a positive impact on lifelong learning in France. However, it is proving more difficult to implement operations under the other three IPs, both at the regional and national level. This is largely due to coordination difficulties between different parties, such as the education services, universities and other private and public sector bodies.

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

### ► Academy of academic success and “micro-college” Academy

The academy of academic success operation is specifically aimed at young people in the Brittany region who are at risk of failing academic qualifications or failing the vocational baccalaureate (“Bac Pro”). It offers participants three-month “flash” preparation modules with individualised support and individualised course modules.

The “micro-college” academy operation, also in Brittany, offers disadvantaged young people the support of a psychologist who works alongside the teaching team and a school project. This operation has supported 15 participants, all of whom have gained the baccalaureate qualification.

### ► Development of the quality of apprenticeship training

This operation, running under IP10.iii in the Pays de la Loire region, focuses on improving the quality of learning through individual support for the learner. The operation supports individuals by linking with the company where their work and study programme will be carried out and providing online support during the work and study programme. It offers extra support for more vulnerable young people. This operation has provided support to 3 000 young people and a further 250 vulnerable young people.

### ► Training courses in industrial skills

The engineering employers’ body UIMM (Union of metallurgical and mining industries) offers training courses in Brittany in a range of technical professions, in partnership with other training organisations. This operation receives funding under IP10.iii. The ISCED 2 and 3 training courses are in fields such as welding, boiler making, cold chain processes and industrial maintenance. The courses meet a need for regional qualifications, in the context of a resurgence in industry in the region in recent years. The courses seek to recruit people who are far from the labour market, including long-term unemployed people (40% of the unemployed workforce), and people with disabilities.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

List of national and regional ESF evaluations: <http://www.fse.gouv.fr/evaluations>

European Commission, Study supporting the evaluation of ESF support to education and training (Thematic Objective 10)

The ESF in France: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=380&langId=en>

Website of the ESF in France: <http://www.fse.gouv.fr/>

