

THE CHALLENGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

By maintaining a comprehensive approach to the issue of the professional and social integration of young people in the Overseas Territories, by playing a role in their schooling, from infancy to higher education, and also in their group, cultural and sporting activities and in the conditions governing their integration within the employment market and within society, this ESEC opinion seeks to highlight the specific characteristics of the Overseas Territories and make a series of recommendations for the integration of young people in the Overseas Territories. In fact, their circumstances in terms of employment have been difficult for a number of years, and must be swiftly improved in order to safeguard their future and the social, cultural and environmental development of the Overseas Territories as a whole.

Principal recommendations of the ESEC

IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

To achieve this goal, the ESEC recommends:

- that the populations of Mayotte, Saint-Martin and Guiana be more accurately counted, particularly young people;
- that the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of National Education cover the Overseas Territories more extensively;
- that the work programme of the Centre for Study and Research on Qualifications once more include issues pertaining to the Overseas Territories;
- that the human and financial resources of the Youth Experimentation Fund (*Fonds d'expérimentation pour la jeunesse*) be stepped up for the Overseas Territories.

IMPROVE EDUCATION POLICY AND THE LEVEL OF TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- improving schooling conditions for children in the Overseas Territories aged two and above to facilitate the command of French in infancy;
- in the territories most directly concerned by these issues, such as Mayotte, Guiana and Saint-Martin, develop specific plans for the construction, renovation and handover of school buildings and land to the communes;
- testablishment of a unit within each Overseas Territory under the responsibility of the Education Board composed of university lecturers and secondary school teachers to improve guidance and counselling of students;

- that a regional trades and crafts university be established within the Overseas Territories possessing a university;
- that a preparatory year 0 ("*prépa année zéro*") be inserted between the *baccalauréat* and first year of health studies (PACES) on a voluntary basis for young people in the Overseas Territories wishing to study medicine;
- that healthcare provision for schools and universities be stepped up in the Overseas Territories;
- that all teaching staff in the Overseas Territories be required to undertake basic training prior to commencement of the school year in the main local languages and cultures;
- that teachers be provided with persons speaking both French and the local language to assist with teaching.



Eustase Janky

is a Professor of Medicine and Vice-President of the University of the French West Indies and Guiana. He sits on the ESEC Delegation for the Overseas and the Section for Social Affairs and Health where he represents the Overseas Group.

Contact:

eustase.janky@lecese.fr
+33 (0)1 44 43 60 36

ASSESS, PREVENT AND MORE EFFECTIVELY COMBAT ILLITERACY AND EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING IN THE OT

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- the setting in place of a mechanism to identify and support children in difficulty from primary school age by means of publicly funded homework assistance;
- that programmes for the prevention and combating of illiteracy be developed for New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Saint-Martin;
- that a line manager be clearly identified for each monitoring and support platform for early school leavers in the Overseas Territories; that the mechanism be implemented in Mayotte and that similar mechanisms be set in place in the the Overseas Collectivities and in New Caledonia.

BOOST THE MOBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

To boost the mobility of young people in the Overseas Territories, the ESEC recommends:

- that the cost of air travel be fully subsidised once again for one trip per year, for all young people in the Overseas Territories whose families meet the income criteria set out by the reform of the "study mobility passport" ("*passport mobilité études*");
- implementation by the Overseas Territories Mobility Agency (*Agence de l'Outre-mer pour la mobilité*), of support for students in the Overseas Territories receiving the "study mobility passport";
- that the Erasmus+ France/Education & Training Agency be provided with specific resources to carry out communications and information campaigns targeting the Overseas Territories and increase the inclusion of young people in the Overseas Territories within the ERASMUS+ programme;
- trialling, in one of the Overseas Territories willing to do so, a mechanism based on the ERASMUS+ model within the Overseas Territories Regional Area;
- that the France-Quebec Youth Office (*Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse*) should conclude mobility agreements with each of the Overseas Territories;
- formulation of training and research offers in fields in which the Overseas Territories have a comparative advantage.

IMPROVE INTEGRATION AND ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

To this end, the ESEC recommends:

- the creation within each Overseas Territory of a regional trades observatory and the setting in place of forward management of jobs and skills at territorial level;
- that Adapted Military Service (SMA - *Service militaire adapté*) be provided with the financial and human resources to receive young people and in particular that infrastructure and equipment investment loans, which are vital for its long-term continuation, be brought into line with actual requirements and stepped up where necessary;
- increasing the number of assisted contracts for young people in each of the Overseas Territories and assessing their use in order to remove obstacles to their implementation and verify their impact on the integration pathways of young people, particularly as regards training;
- that the "Youth Guarantee" ("*Garantie jeunes*") scheme be deployed in 2015 as rapidly as possible in Guadeloupe, Martinique and Guiana and that provision also be made for Mayotte;
- that civil society actors be clearly identified in each of the Overseas Territories, along with the potential they may yield in terms of strengthening the social fabric and the integration of young people, and that these be publicised and their actions and programmes supported;
- that civil service be the subject of a vigorous publicity campaign in the Overseas Territories;
- that certain key or future sectors with job-creation potential be promoted within the framework of a new development model for each of the Overseas Territories;
- that access by young people in the Overseas Territories to all public-sector jobs be facilitated through specific preparation for competitive testing and examinations;
- that the Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon Civil Service Observatory be made fully operational.