



BERLIN

May 4-5 2017

Maryse BASTIN JOUBARD

CEO OF ESSE

MEMBER OF NATIONAL BOARD OF SOLIDARITY ACTORS
FEDERATION

Le sémaphore - CP 320 - 20 rue de la Claire - 69337 Lyon cedex 09

Tél. : 04 78 83 40 88 - Fax. : 04 78 64 64 29

contact@esse.fr - www.esse.fr

20 years
European Profile
at Pestalozzi - Fröbel
- Haus

DEALING WITH SOCIAL INEQUALITY



European living standards

They are very different from one country to another.

If we compare, we can say that between 2008-2015 :

- ❑ One tenth of the poorest French people were on the highest level in Europe (except : SUEDE, NETHERLANDS).
- ❑ In 2015 : FRANCE regressed but the poorest level remains at the top.
- ❑ The fall is amazing, for example : in GREECE , SPAIN, ITALY and UK.
- ❑ In 2015 : FRANCE was the first country where the richest people stayed at the top. However, as the richest are less than one thousand people, social inequalities remain stable.



France compared to other European countries

One in every ten poor French person
had a better quality of life
than those in other European countries
thanks to a specific social system



European agenda by 2020

First goal hoped to be achieved :

- ❑ Poverty reduction for 20 thousand people.

In fact, in ATKINSON's opinion :

- ❑ Poverty and inequality are very close.
- ❑ One of the "big reason of inequalities " is the persistence of poverty in rich countries.

For example, we can easily observe the increasing number of shanty towns.

So he suggests that :

- ❑ EMPLOYMENT is the key (main priority) to improve the way of life.
- ❑ "Maybe, it would be essential that the European central bank deals mainly with employment rather than inflation ", he stated.



On the European scale

It would be very interesting to provide a “minimal income” for every European child :

- It would be an investment for the EU, a small contribution to equity between generations.
- A means to reduce inequalities between men and women.



How can we deal with social inequality in FRANCE ?

- ❑ 8,8 million French people in 66 million inhabitants live under poverty level.
- ❑ 4 million people are badly accommodated.
- ❑ 2,5 million people have been unemployed for a long period of time.



French Social system

HOWEVER

Our French social system has had a good effect absorbing this crisis, but it can't prevent poverty :

- One French person in seven is considered to be poor in France.
- 3 million children (one child in every 5) live in poverty.

Therefore, in order to deal with social inequality we have to **STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY**.



Solidarity

It doesn't cost much.

It's a social INVESTMENT



Fields of solidarity intervention

Firstly, in order to boost this solidarity, we have to take into consideration :

- EARLY childhood
- SCHOOL system
- SOCIAL system



Fields of solidarity intervention

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- We have to create more places at day care centers for children who are under 3 years of age.



Fields of solidarity intervention

SCHOOL SYSTEM

- We have to introduce free canteen services for each family that lives below the poverty line.
- We have to take a close look at the French school system because it's not adapted to the lower classes.



Fields of solidarity intervention

SCHOOL SYSTEM

- ❑ In France, particularly, the education system is victim of political disagreements.
- ❑ A consensus doesn't exist so programs could be changed every five years, by no means a good way to improve this system.
- ❑ A positive point : school enrollment is free for young children from 2 years old.



Fields of solidarity intervention

SOCIAL SYSTEM

- We have to provide more specifically maternal and early childhood programs.
- We have to enhance accommodations for single mothers.
- In France, 25 % of single mothers live under the poverty line.



Fields of solidarity intervention

SO we have to

- guarantee a right to education or training for the duration of one's life.
- to forge a link between young people under 18 years old and those who have adult status.



Reducing inequalities in EUROPE, in FRANCE

**To reduce inequalities in EUROPE, in FRANCE
access to common rights is essential**



Non take up social benefits

The “Non-take up social benefits”, phenomena is a real worry for modern democracies.

What are the forms of “non-take up”?

- NO KNOWLEDGE : The offer is unknown.
- NO PROPOSAL : The person can pretend to be admitted but the public or private services don't propose this offer.
- NO RECEPTION : The offer is known but it is not used by (asked for) the persons.
- NO ANSWER : The offer is known but not asked, forsaken or a right is opened but the benefit is not used by the person.



Last statistics in Europe (2011)

- ❑ 16,9 % of Europeans that is to say 84 million people live below the poverty line.
- ❑ Norway, Netherlands and Denmark are the countries where poverty is the lowest.
- ❑ The poverty level in France (2015) is approximately 14,1% ; in Greece it is about 23 %.



INEQUALITIES are a threat to democracy

CONCERNING the “non-take up of social benefits”, the more you select the persons, the more you create this phenomena.

ARE the non-wastings out going to be a real national economy ?

NO, OF COURSE !

- On A SHORT TERM, it's just obviously a contribution to reducing public deficit.
- IT'S a short term solution.**



Some figures

- ❑ 60% of people that are eligible, give up their rights ! Mainly regarding health and unemployment.
- ❑ In France, 40% of people who suffer from chronic disease take their treatment.
- ❑ The complications linked to the non treatment cost the welfare social system around 9 billion a year. And on the other hand, it can be estimated that another 9 billion are not given, allocated specifically to health problems !



Unemployment in European countries

- ❑ Unemployment is one of the greatest causes of poverty and inequality.
- ❑ France created more jobs between 1995/2015 than European area but French people are too productive :
 - + 11% if we compare with German people
 - + 9 % if we compare with English people
- ❑ And mainly French demography has an evident consequence : active people (+ 9,6%) are more important than in others countries, so unemployment increases at the same rate.
- ❑ On the contrary, in GERMANY where the growth of active population is slow (+ 4,7%) unemployment level can decrease more easily.
- ❑ GERMAN miracle doesn't exist (☺)it's just an effect of depressive demography.



CONCLUSION

**COMBATING NON -TAKEN UP OF SOCIAL BENEFITS
IS AN ESSENTIAL TARGET
TO PRESERVING SOCIAL COHESION**



Bibliographic Resources

- Le non-recours aux politiques sociales, *Philippe Warin, Presses universitaires de Grenoble, octobre 2016*
- Reconstruire la solidarité, *Les dossiers d'Alternatives Economiques n°9 – mars 2017, dossier en partenariat avec la Fédération des acteurs de la solidarité*





**Thank you
for your attention**

