



2018 Country Report for France

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- The unemployment rate declined from 10.4 % in 2015 to 9.5 % in 2017.
- Remaining challenges concern the still high level of unemployment (especially for younger and lower-skilled people) and the segmentation of the labour market.
- The new government is following an ambitious labour market reform agenda, beginning with a new reform of the labour law.

II. Education Policy

- **Educational inequalities remain high.**
- Aggregate data hide considerable disparities given the strong correlation between the socioeconomic background and students' educational performance.
- New measures have been adopted to reduce educational inequalities linked to socioeconomic background.
- The low number of experienced teachers in schools in deprived areas and the insufficient support to teachers through continuous training to deal with children with a migrant background represent some of the obstacles to provide more opportunities for those born in France to foreign-born parents.
- France performs well with respect to the Europe 2020 headline targets on education and skills.
- The percentage of French people aged 30-34 with tertiary education was 43.6 % in 2016, well above the EU average of 39.1 %.
- Aside the intended higher allocation for priority education and disadvantaged schools (*éducation prioritaire*), the distribution of resources remains unequal.

III. Social Policy

- **France's social protection system performs overall well.**
- In 2016, the poverty rate remained unchanged at 13.6 %, 3.7 pps below the EU and euro area averages.



- The rate of those at-risk of poverty or social exclusion rate increased to 18.2 % in 2016, up from 17.7 % in 2015, but it remains below the EU level of 23.5 % in 2016.
- Employment status strongly impacts the risk of poverty although to a lesser extent than at EU level.
- As of 2018, the specific minimum incomes for elderly and disabled adults will be gradually increased by EUR 100 per month.
- Access to healthcare is good, although the distribution of healthcare professionals is uneven across regions (mainly rural areas face challenges in attracting physicians.)
- The percentage of people reporting unmet need for a medical examination is on average low, at 1.2 % of the population compared to the EU average of 3.2 %.

IV. Anything else?

- France has a low gender employment gap.
- The income inequality is relatively low.
- The number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion has also been rising, even if it remains at a relatively low level.
- For immigrants to France, a reform of the integration policy is expected to take place in 2018.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [France](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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