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**Federation of Franco-Turkish Entrepreneurs**

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## The integration of young migrants into a diverse society: the role of the education system in France

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On 24th Mars 2021, the [Federation of Franco-Turkish Entrepreneurs](#) (Fedif France) organised the second session of its online Diversity Dialogue Fora to discuss the integration of young migrants into a diverse society. In this DDF, we focused on the role of the education system.

In the context of education, Fedif has created a partnership with the other actors on the ground, especially on the education sector, who were invited to this join discussion. Representatives of French national education programmes, principals of schools, municipality representatives, and participants from different associations as well as students of migrant background came together on that occasion.

We launched our second DDF in MAX project with Yannick Thomas. Mr Thomas is the principal of the *Lycée des Métiers* Arthur Rimbaud and a referent for trainee management staff in the Ministry of Education. He did presentation about the evolution in the process of welcoming young migrants within national education. He explained in detail the main steps for newcomer students and how they can successfully be integrated in the French education system. After his presentation, we passed the question-and-answer part, during which they were a particular interest from the parents of the students who wanted to know how they could be a more active part of their child's education and theirs school lives.

Secondly, Gaetan Gislais, principal education advisor in high school, and Veronique Llorens, English teacher, took the floor to explain an exemplary project for newcomers, MODAP. In brief, this programme concerns young migrants who still have a low level of French but need orientation for a future profession. This section closed with the testimony from Oumy Fall, a

student at the Lycée des métiers Arthur Rimbaud who has participated in the MODAP programmed and achieved the school carrier she wanted to persuade.

This session of the DDF also had the presence of representatives from different French municipalities to discuss the important role they play in favouring job seeking opportunities for youngsters. Madame Sonia Mendes, director of cabinet of childhood-youth-citizenship policies of the city of Garges-lès-Gonesse was participated as a panellist. She presented the services of municipality for accompaniment of youngsters aged 16-25 year old.

During the second part of the DDF, we had the opportunity to hear from the actors on the ground working on associative initiatives. Yusuf Develi, a schoolteacher and volunteer from the association La Jeune'S, participated from Strasbourg and he presented the activities of the association. They organised meetings and seminars for the newcomer families. In these encounters, they made a presentation about the French educational system. A number of parents remarked that these kind of initiatives are enormously helpful for both parents and students. They also attend schools meetings to support newcomers families, organise online meetings via their YouTube channel (great vehicle to reach out to the young target audience), or organise professional orientation programmes at La Jeune'S. They always try to use both French and the family origin language to make the programs more efficient.

For concluding the DDF, we invited also a parent who is active community member helping the newcomer families. Aubépine Dahan, from the 10th arrondissement of Paris, is a member of association Paris Exil that gives different service to the newcomer families. She presented the difficulties families who have just settled in Paris normally face. Aubephine said that with respect to the student language, this is actually not a problem after 3 months, since children easily adapt fast to a new environment, but it is not same for the adults.

Fatih, a young student who arrived in France when he was 17 years old shared how only in 3 years' time he achieved to be accepted to study at a prestigious Parisian university in the domain of Physics and Chemistry. During his time in high school, he always had a good level in mathematics, physics and chemistry; but had some difficulty in French. To overcome this, he studied French with the supervisors in his school.

Mojtaba Walizadeh came from Afghanistan when he was 10 years old. Mojtaba is nowadays in his second year as student at Sciences Po Paris. He advised to young newcomers never give up and keep going on their paths of education, even if we sometimes fail or feel lost, we can change that path and keep going to follow our goal.

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