

French statistics in education : the purpose and the role of the Directorate for evaluation (DEPP)

Summary

- Who we are...
- What we do and how we observe phenomena...
- Where you can find our work...



Who we are... A dual position – an asset

The *Directorate of Evaluation, Forward-Planning and Performance-Monitoring* (Depp) is both...

- ... a **directorate of the Ministry in charge of Education**

- Close to policy maker : knowledge of the priority areas; ability to help to steer the system
- Common culture with other ministerial departments

and

- ... the **ministerial statistical service (SSM)** in charge of education statistics

- Part of French and European official statistics
- Compliance with the "European Statistics Code of Practice": independence, integrity, objectivity, accountability, quality assurance...
- Its activities are supervised by the Official Statistics Authority

What we do...

- **Statistics and studies** on the education system in order to contribute to
 - Contribute to a **quality public debate** on education
 - Contribute to **steer the education system**
 - Contribute to **evaluate of the education system** in all its dimensions
- Coordination and promotion of **research**
- Education statistics **network**
- **European and international** activities.

Contribution to public debate on education

- Provide **evidence** : relevant, objective and documented information,
- Publish online free of charge so that **all audiences can use it**
- **Current context** : data proliferation → need for official statistics, to enlighten public debate and collective choices

Contribution to the management of the educational system

Evidence needed to **adequately inform policy making**

- Forecasting of student enrolment trends...
- Production of indicators...
- Construction of decision-making tools...

Contribution to the evaluation

- **Evaluation in all its dimensions:**
 - evaluation of the education system
 - evaluation of public policies, measures or experiments
 - evaluation of schools
 - evaluation of territories (commune, department, académie, region, etc.)
 - evaluation of students' skills: national and international, on sample or exhaustive

- **Member of the newly appointed School Evaluation Council**

Coordination and promotion of research

- **Support for researchers in the field of education**

- Provision of data (under appropriate conventional framework)
- Provision of logistical and/or financial support to researchers (e.g. sampling)
- Role of a trusted third party (secure storage of data)

- **Transfer of research results to both the general public and policy makers**

- To enrich the diagnosis of the educational system
- To contribute to the evaluation of systems
- To identify avenues for action.

Coordination of national statistical network and contribution to international networks

- **National statistical network : Depp and statistics in *académies***
 - **Data** collection, common **methodologies** → need for quality and **consistent and harmonized statistics throughout the country**
 - Provision of **tools adapted** to territorial specificities → need for steering the system at the deconcentrated level of governance
 - Share nationally **tools developed by territorial units**
 - Need to work **together**, to develop a **collective dynamic**
- **European and International networks**
 - Expertise in statistics, indicators and studies on education (e.g. INES-OECD, Eurostat-EU).
 - Operator in France of international surveys on students (PISA-OECD, TIMSS/ PIRLS-IEA) or on teachers (TALIS-OECD).

What does the Depp observe?

▪ **Different observation units**

- Students and apprentices (pathways, diplomas, skills and competences, well-being....)
- Staff (profiles, career paths, remuneration, practices, access to training, opinions...)
- Schools (profiles of the students enrolled, training offer, their geographical location, characteristics of the staff, the resources, the equipment, their “added value” ...)
- Territories (social and economic characteristics, results ...)

▪ **Quality : high-quality statistical information system and expertise in terms of statistics**

- Observing phenomena each year
- Observing phenomena over time
- Analyzing them, and this according to different dimensions (social, territorial).

Where can you find our work ?

Every year : *The State of School, Girls and Boys on the Road to Equality, National social report, Statistical References...*

Every 3 years : *School Geography, Education in Europe : key figures*

Regularly : Briefing notes, research review *Education and Training*

All publications and associated data available on the DEPP's website:

