BELC UNIVERSITIES, FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE

In 2017, the summer and winter BELC university programmes celebrated their 50-year anniversary. The training excellence programmes for French language and education professionals take place either in France or internationally and offer participants the chance to develop their professional practice and support dynamic career development. The courses provide opportunities for peer-to-peer discussions, as well as the chance to meet with those working in linguistic and educational cooperation. The BELC programmes offer a wide choice of training across four different French language professional fields: Teaching, Assessing, Training and Management. Through these training options the BELC Universities are able to keep up to date with the development of French as a foreign language (FFL) across all contexts, whether that be professional, disciplinary or methodological: for a range of audiences; the language of schooling and bilingual projects; for adult migrants; or designing training courses. The winter university is held for two weeks each year in Sèvres and the summer university is a month-long programme that takes place in Nantes. In partnership with the University of Nantes, a Masters degree in ‘FFL Education and Training Design’ is offered as part of the BELC summer programme. The ‘Management’ modules specifically meet both the expectations of establishments in the French cultural network and the needs of the recruitment sector: team management; language centre communication; quality assurance; or even course marketing.

The CIEP offers a diverse training programme for management personnel, trainers and teachers, held either in France or internationally. Several of these training courses lead to a university qualification or recognised certification.

In 2017, 62 countries were represented.

Number of participants

- 536 in France
- 574 abroad

50th BELC Summer University, July 2017.
PROFLE+: PROFESSIONALISATION IN FRENCH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The National Centre for Distance Education (CNED) and the CIEP have pooled their expertise in order to create PROFLE+, a distance training package that offers a complete professionalisation tool for teachers of French as a foreign language. PROFLE+ comprises more than 160 hours of teaching, organised into 4 modules that focus on essential professional skills for successful teaching: Develop the skills to teach (M1); Design a scheme of work (M2); Lead a series of lessons (M3); Assess learning (M4). Each module has 3 different options, offering participating teachers the possibility of accessing the training free of charge, accessing the training with the help of a tutor or gaining a certificate of achievement. This system allows French and international organisations and institutions to offer these modules either alongside or as an alternative to their existing training courses. It is designed to be implemented locally, thanks to a team of specifically trained tutors.

CIEP+

This new online learning platform invites French language professionals to develop their skills on specific topics relating to bilingual education and a wide range of educational issues such as digital technology, phonetics and intercultural understanding. The available modules can be combined with face-to-face training and are largely supported by a specialist tutor in online training. Different length modules are available: short modules (3 – 6 hours) focus on specialist knowledge and skills; and long modules (10 – 30 hours) allow participants to acquire extensive professional skills. Depending on the format, a certificate or accreditation will be awarded at the end of the course. The training is accessible for everyone via an online shop. Without needing to register, all internet users can access the training course resources and subscribe to receive the platform’s latest news, as well as an overview of all of the CIEP’s different areas of expertise.
The CIEP supports bilateral and multilateral French language cooperation projects through expert missions and it supports the implementation of quality approaches to French language education and education in French.

EXPERTISE IN FRENCH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

In partnership with the diplomatic network of cultural services, national ministries of education and educational institutions, the CIEP brings its expertise to French language education (French as a foreign language and bilingual education): school curriculum reform; creation and development of French-speaking bilingual provisions; design and implementation of continuous training plans; improvements of the classes on offer in public and private schools; quality assurance.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Supporting bilingual education is a priority area for the CIEP’s expert missions, which support projects dedicated to both bilingual teaching through educational and linguistic cooperation and to training teaching staff of French and other non-linguistic subjects (DNL) in the specifics of bilingual education.

Examples include:
- Egypt: teaching science in French.
- Niger: support the linguistic transition between national languages and French as the teaching language.
- Mexico: develop teachers’ skills in bilingual provision.
Le fil du bilingue website is dedicated to worldwide French-speaking bilingual teaching and has been created and hosted by the French language department of the CIEP since 2009. It aims to provide those involved in bilingual education with the necessary information and tools, whether they be French teachers or teachers of non-linguistic subjects (DNL), schools leaders, inspectors, etc. The different sections of the website offer files by topic and subject that comprise theory-based articles, case studies and a selection of resources for teachers: practical worksheets; useful websites by discipline; and bibliographies. It also offers tools to assist with the leadership of bilingual provisions: action plans; quality approaches; reference documents; and practical worksheets. The ‘Promouvoir’ (‘Promote’) section summarises the latest news in bilingual teaching and learning and highlights major events in the global network of French-speaking bilingual provisions. This section also offers examples of promotional material to support the aims of those working in the bilingual sector during their communication campaigns.

http://lefildubilingue.org/

A QUALITY APPROACH

The CIEP offers its expertise to initiate and support the implementation of a quality approach in schools. Based on context-specific and operational reference documents, this approach allows schools to take stock of their current situation and results in the development of a multi-year, context-specific action plan. The CIEP works with foreign schools, LabelFrancEducation applicants or those who have already obtained the label. The label scheme was created and awarded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and is supported by the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE).

The CIEP can work to support schools towards obtaining the label or help them move closer to excellence, the standard required for all bilingual schools. The CIEP’s expertise can also be requested by schools who have already been awarded the label as a follow-up to the process.

Examples include:
- Egypt: creating training programmes for schools with the LabelFrancEducation.
- Lebanon: establishment and support of a quality approach in bilingual schools.
- Saudi Arabia: expertise aimed at supporting bilingual schools with a quality approach.
EXPERTISE UPON REQUEST
The CIEP offers its experience in the fields of assessment, advice and quality auditing to support school curriculum reform or to create materials aimed at improving the teaching of French as a second or third foreign language in different education systems.

Examples include:
- Armenia and Latvia: support for curriculum reform initiated by local education authorities.
- Central and Eastern Europe (CREFECO: Central and Eastern Europe Regional Francophone Centre): development of a professional skills document for teachers of French as a foreign language.
- Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam (CREFAP: Asia – Pacific Regional Francophone Centre): development of institutional charters for French language teaching as a second and a third foreign language (LV2 and LV3).

TRAINING COURSES UPON REQUEST
The CIEP meets the training requests of foreign or French partners. These training courses are often integrated into a larger educational cooperation project, particularly in the case of annual continuous training plans. An approach based on professional skills allows the skills to be embedded in projects that validate prior learning and meets the assessment needs of all French language teaching professionals.

The CIEP is also a partner of the AEF (Agency for French Education Abroad) in order to support FLAM (French as a mother tongue) associations whose objective is to enable French children living abroad to practise their mother tongue and maintain links with French culture. The CIEP organises the annual Sèvres seminar, as well as regular and one-off training courses.

Examples include:
- Angola: promote speaking and oral interactions in class.
- Bolivia: integrate digital technology into classroom practice.
- Morocco: lead a team of teaching staff.
- Russia: devise a textbook for teaching francophone literature.

CERTIFICATION OF FRENCH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTRES IN FRANCE
Created in 2007, the Qualité français langue étrangère certification supports language tourism as well as student and professional mobility, by providing both the public and organisations with a guarantee of quality for courses taught in France. The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture (General Delegation for the French Language and the Languages of France) have entrusted the management of the quality certification (audits, reference documentation, marketing, etc.) to the CIEP.

The website is published in 5 languages and is aimed at people who are looking for a school, amongst one of the 110 certified centres, in which to begin or continue to learn French as a foreign language in France.
www.qualitefle.fr

130 000 learners of French
110 certified centres
The CIEP manages a range of French as a foreign language certification programmes for the Ministry of Education. Adapted to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), the qualifications are internationally recognised. The CIEP also offers the language placement test Ev@lang.

**TCF**
The French knowledge test accurately assesses oral comprehension, written comprehension and the mastery of language structures. Candidates also have the possibility of sitting additional tests to assess their oral and written expression. The TCF is available in 4 versions:
- The TCF for the general public: for those wishing to assess their skills in French for personal, academic or professional reasons;
- The TCF for DAP (preliminary admission application): for students who wish to enrol as a first year undergraduate (licence 1) in a French university or French school of architecture;
- The TCF ANF (for French nationality): for those wishing to obtain French nationality by decree or by marriage;
- The TCF for Quebec: for those wishing to settle long-term in Quebec and are applying for a permanent visa.

**DILF, DELF, DALF**
These diplomas recognise mastery in 4 linguistic competencies: oral reception, written reception, oral production, written production.
- The initial French language diploma (DILF) is aimed at beginners and new arrivals in France.
- The French language diploma (DELF) is available in 5 versions: “tout public” (general public), “Prim” (children aged 7-12), “Junior” (children aged 12-17), “Scolaire” (for schools), and “Pro” (for professionals).
- The advanced French language diploma (DALF) is aimed at those with advance knowledge of French.

**EV@LANG**
This is a 100% online test that assesses candidates’ and/or learners’ level of aptitude in French, English and Arabic. Designed for the French cultural network abroad, language centres and businesses alike, it assesses users in one or more linguistic activity (written comprehension, oral comprehension, grammar and vocabulary). The test is flexible, fast and adaptive and it accurately determines candidates’ level of French (there are 12 levels and they follow the CEFR).
Created in 1945, the CIEP is an institution of the French Ministry of Education. Its missions, which are part of the government’s international cooperation priorities, centre on three areas of activity:

- cooperation in the areas of education, professional training and the quality of higher education;
- support for the promotion of the French language around the world by training teachers and education managers and by issuing certifications in French;
- international mobility through language assistant and teacher exchange programmes, as well as the issuing of foreign qualification comparability statements.

To carry out its projects, the CIEP relies on the know-how of a team of 250 staff as well as on a network of over 1,000 experts and national and international partners.

Centre international d'études pédagogiques
1, avenue Léon Journault – 92318 Sèvres cedex – France
Phone: 33 (0)1 45 07 60 00
Contact: dlf@ciep.fr

www.ciep.fr

© CIEP - Development and Communication Department - September 2018