

## **Commitments by Rennes City and Rennes Métropole councils in respect of the European Pillar of Social Rights**

### **Commitment to principle 1: ‘Education, training, and lifelong learning’**

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Rennes City Council earmarks almost €65 million for child, youth, and educational policies. In particular, it provides support for the digital transformation of society, with two main aims: reducing digital inequalities and making the most of new learning tools.

Rennes City Council has implemented a digital education plan in partnership with French State Education: this aims to support the use of digital technology in school-based learning, encourage teaching innovations, and mitigate inequalities in use. The partners’ joint aim is to teach children how to use digital tools in a critical, responsible, and informed manner.

A large number of investments have been made to this end. In terms of hardware, Rennes City Council has installed 421 interactive digital blackboards in the city’s 83 primary schools. The digital plan also comprises a range of initiatives, including the organisation of a ‘digital village’ since 2018. This offers an opportunity to meet others and benefit from hands-on experience, with the aim being to enable primary school children, families, and other inquiring visitors to learn more about the potential of digital technology.

Another flagship initiative is the development of ‘EducaRennes’ digital workspaces over the past 10 years, facilitating communication between families and teachers. During the health crisis in spring 2020, Rennes City Council was able to use this service to help maintain educational continuity, lending 310 laptop computers to families in deprived neighbourhoods. Mediators employed by the city council provided dedicated telephone support to the families in question.

Rennes City Council also has a highly proactive policy of supporting non-profit organisations and venues engaged in digital initiatives directed at local residents, particularly children.

### **Digital inclusion: public digital spaces in every neighbourhood and in social centres**

For 20 years now, Rennes City Council has been developing a proactive policy to provide equal access to digital technology, structuring coherent local coverage to provide assisted access to the Internet and multimedia resources.

By 1998, the Council had already set up 19 multimedia hubs in neighbourhood social centres. Now known as 'public digital spaces', these hubs are situated in grassroots locations throughout Rennes' 12 neighbourhoods and are open to all. In addition, free access to the Internet and computers is now possible in the city's 11 neighbourhood libraries, as well as in *Les Champs Libres*, Rennes Métropole's major cultural facility. Digital workshops are a regular feature of these libraries' programming. Five of them have enhanced facilities, with a dedicated digital coordinator offering personalised support.

'Job resource spaces' complete the offering: here, staff are on hand to welcome local inhabitants and provide guidance as they complete all the various formalities relating to employment and training.

In 2018, Rennes City Council and its partners resolved to set up digital spaces in the city's six common social facilities. In addition to access to the Internet, computers, and tablets, local residents can connect to social services online and benefit from professional support provided by 'social-digital mediators'.

The next step is to improve the way these different services relate together, making the offering clearer for users and professionals alike. One of the long-term goals is to develop user autonomy by structuring a coordinated, tailor-made journey for each individual.

The total cost of the project amounts to €830,000 over three years, including €320,000 of ERDF funding.

### **LabFab: providing better access to non-screen-based digital technology**

In 2010, Rennes City Council supported the setting up of its first digital manufacturing laboratory, or 'LabFab'. This has now developed into a network of fifteen labs spread across the Rennes Métropole district. Workshops and gatherings to discuss digital manufacturing bring together a community of around 300 'makers'; the network takes part in some 100 events. In a charter signed with Rennes Métropole, the LabFabs are committed to making digital technology more accessible, in particular by having times at which they are open to all-comers.

220 projects have been posted in the LabFab portfolio, demonstrating the wide variety of activities and the number of local residents who have discovered digital manufacturing, learned new skills, and completed their own project. Four LabFabs have run an experimental MOOC developed with one of Rennes' leading graduate schools, in partnership with two employment agencies (Pôle Emploi and We Ker). In this trial initiative, twelve jobseekers demonstrated that distance learning can be used to train for jobs in digital manufacturing. The next step is to scale up the scheme.

Rennes Métropole is encouraging the development of the LabFab network, which provides an alternative teaching approach and gets local citizens involved in building the digital society of tomorrow. In 2019, following on from exchanges of digital best practice with other European cities such as Manchester and Barcelona, Rennes Métropole's LabFab received FabCity accreditation, thus joining an international network of 34 cities.

### **Edulab: dedicated to digital practice and culture**

In 2020, Rennes City Council is set to open an 'Edulab', an educational 'service space' (or 'third place') in the city centre devoted to digital culture. Designed as a venue for innovation, creativity, and interaction for all – children and families first and foremost – it also aims to promote Rennes' vibrant local digital dynamic and stakeholders. The city's inhabitants will be invited to find out more about the uses of digital technology, as well as learn and experiment for themselves. The fruit of cooperation between a total of 30 partners, the Edulab is located within Hôtel Pasteur, a heritage building in the heart of the city that was formerly the Faculty of Science. The building has been redeveloped to house the Edulab, an infant school, and a 'project hotel'. A participatory, grassroots approach was used to discuss the renovation work and potential new uses for the building. Out of Hôtel Pasteur's total renovation budget of €12 million, over €500,000 has been earmarked for the Edulab; Rennes City Council is planning to set aside a further €530,000 for its first three years of operation. Half of this budget is being funded by the ERDF, via an Integrated Territorial Instrument.

## **Commitment to principle 4: 'Active support for employment'**

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For more than 25 years now, Rennes City Council has been engaged in a proactive policy to promote access to rights and social and professional insertion for the local population. In many cases, the city has been a pioneer territory for trialling national social insertion schemes. The local authority has set aside €22 million for its solidarity and social cohesion policy in 2020.

Together with 15 local, institutional, and non-profit partners engaged in social insertion, Rennes City Council has committed to a second 'Rennes Insertion Pact', signed in 2017. This defines goals and areas for strategic thinking for 2017-2021. The Rennes Insertion Pact has been designed on a participatory basis, so as to help ensure actual experience and needs are taken into account and empower individuals to take control of their life trajectories.

Developed by Rennes City Council with its partners, this policy instrument constitutes an essential resource, involving 130 professionals from the council's Social Insertion and Resources Department to improve access to social rights and social and professional insertion, serving around 11,000 local inhabitants each year.

The Rennes Insertion Pact features six key avenues of support: 1/ Restoring, maintaining, and developing skills and resources; 2/ Encouraging return to employment; 3/ Restoring and maintaining ties to the social environment; 4/ Promoting mental and physical well-being; 5/ Encouraging digital inclusion; 6/ Developing mobility.

The Community Social Services Centre (*Centre Communal d'Action Sociale, CCAS*) manages a budget of €2,300,000 for Rennes City Council to support those on benefits and manage the social insertion offering. In 2019, individual and collective support led to 1,908 individuals no longer needing income support (*Revenu de Solidarité Active, RSA*, a scheme that provides individuals without financial resources with a minimum income pegged to the type of household in question).

In 2020, the CCAS carried out an assessment of the Rennes Insertion Pact on the basis of over 200 user surveys, assisted by the Rennes Council for Social Cohesion (the participatory body within the CCAS).

### **Rennes: aiming for full employment**

Over and above the Rennes Insertion Pact, Rennes City Council is engaged in combating unemployment, and is planning a number of ambitious measures to promote employment:

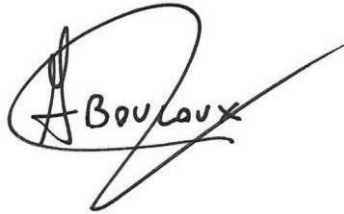
- Becoming the front contender to trial the local 'zero long-term unemployed' scheme in the Blosne neighbourhood, which has an unemployment rate of 20% compared to an average of 6.5% for the city as a whole. The aim is for the long-term unemployed to return to work on fixed-term contracts by creating jobs that benefit the neighbourhood's economic and social life.
- Implementing innovative initiatives to lift barriers to employment such as mobility (e.g. a 'social driving school') and childcare (working in close partnership to ensure jobseekers' children have a place in a creche).
- Reinforcing the existing 'Neighbourhood Job Plan': this aims to encourage employment and professional insertion in deprived neighbourhoods, which account for 15% of the city's unemployed, by supporting the creation of economic activity in these neighbourhoods and increasing the weighting of 'social clauses' in public calls for tender so that these are more beneficial to those living there.
- Creating business incubators in deprived neighbourhoods; one such example is the 'Le Quadri' facility, which will be hosting a dozen third-sector economy companies in 2020.

### **The Local Insertion and Employment Plan at Rennes Métropole level**

At the level of Rennes Métropole, €10 million is earmarked for social cohesion. This includes the Local Insertion and Employment Plan (*Plan Local pour l'Insertion et l'Emploi, PLIE*), which provides personalised support for professional insertion. The PLIE received €7,925,143 in ESF funding for the 2014-2020 period, and benefits 900 people per year. In 2019, over 44% of users went into durable employment or qualifying training from the scheme. These individuals were among those furthest from employment, including people unemployed for over 12 months, beneficiaries of RSA income support, and unemployed young people. The PLIE Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by six institutional partners.

Rennes Métropole is seeking to pursue its policy of support for social insertion with ESF+ resources for the 2021-2027 period.

Vice-President of Rennes Metropole in charge of tourism and international relations

A handwritten signature in black ink. The name 'Mickaël Bouloux' is written in a cursive style, with a large, sweeping flourish that extends from the end of the signature.

Mickaël Bouloux

Deputy Mayor of Rennes City Council in charge of international relations, public relations, religious affairs and secularity

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal line extending to the left.

Flavie Boukhenoufa