

Article 1



France

Article 1 works with young people from working-class backgrounds throughout France, supporting them from high school through higher education and into the professional world. In 2023–2024, Article 1 supported over 151,000 young people—68% from disadvantaged backgrounds—to succeed academically, make informed choices, and develop personally.

Our work within the framework Global Career Readiness Initiative

Article 1 supports students from underserved backgrounds, aged 16-25, through academic support, mentoring and career readiness programs designed to strengthen education pathways and transitions into employment. The organization works in partnership with companies, schools and higher education establishments, non-profits and public institutions to achieve equal access to higher education, job opportunities and professional networks. Article 1 delivers face-to-face support with complementary digital platforms:

- **Advice on higher education with [INSPIRE](#)**: to help secondary school students explore education and career pathways through in-class workshops, while equipping teachers with tools to support them
- **Success in studies with [DEMA1N](#)**: to provide 1:1 mentoring, connecting students with volunteer professionals to help with academic motivation and job exposure, and group mentoring with additional resources and events on professional integration
- **Employability with [JOBREADY](#)**: to equip students with the ability to identify and translate their soft skills and life experiences into professional assets, while building key job-readiness skills (such as CV writing, interview preparation, & job search strategies)

Organizational priorities

- By 2025, Article 1 aims to create greater synergy between programs at different educational levels, addressing the current lack of connection and to make the model financially and operationally sustainable.
- Article 1 aims to pilot new approaches, including study field-specific programs (e.g. STEM, environment) and digital platforms better aligned with young people's habits.

Evidence of Impact

Article 1's 2025 impact data shows strong outcomes across academic success, career orientation, and early professional integration. Students report increased confidence and clarity in their pathways, with 72% indicating greater confidence and motivation and 79% reporting a clearer academic direction. Academic outcomes are also strong: 100% of students preparing for a qualification through mentoring successfully obtained it, and 69% passed their exams. Mentoring further strengthens career readiness, with 78% of students better able to define their professional goals and 80% improving key employability skills such as CV writing, interview preparation, and job search strategies. These improvements translate into tangible opportunities, with 75% of students securing an internship.

Partnerships & Alliances

- Partners with 51 public institutions, including 8 Ministries of Education.
- Engages 290 high schools and 145 universities to support student success & improve guidance.
- Works with 45 NGO partners to coordinate local support and strengthen impact for vulnerable youth.
- Collaborates with 130 partner companies to create pathways to employment, mobilize volunteers, and provide funding.

France Landscape

Article 1



Data - Transition from school to work (France) Indicators for youth between 15 - 24 years old

Labor force participation rate (ILO, 2025)	Share of youth not in education, employment or training ("NEET") (ILO, 2024)		Unemployment Youth (ILO, 2025)	
43% total	13.7% male	11.4% female	20.0% male	19.5% female

Current State of Career Readiness

- "1 Youth, 1 Solution" Plan is a national strategy providing personalised support and career guidance for young people in France.
- France's 2018 Vocational Education Reforms expanded work-based learning, aligned curricula with industry needs, and modernised vocational high schools to better prepare students for employment.

Challenges and Gaps

- Persistent barriers related to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and gender limit access to quality career pathways.
- Many students lack personalised support to navigate choices and plan their futures.
- Territorial gaps persist between urban and rural areas and within cities, leaving some regions underserved.

Emerging Trends

- **Blended and Open-Access Learning:** Combining digital and face-to-face activities with freely available online resources to expand reach and engagement.
- **Personalised Support:** Providing tailored guidance and mentoring to meet individual student needs.

Recommendations for Leaders Shaping Career Education Policy and Practice

- Strengthen sustained public investment and enabling policy frameworks to support non-profit action and ensure equitable access to career guidance for disadvantaged youth.
- Promote cross-sector collaboration—particularly between education systems and employers—to expand opportunities and better align learning with labour market needs.
- Foster inclusive and diverse learning environments that address systemic inequalities and better support underserved groups.