La main à la pâte Foundation in 2014

Over the last year, the La main à la pâte Foundation has continued to work closely with its grassroots actors to innovate and encourage science and technology education in order to benefit primary and middle school students. Three new Maisons pour la science have been made available to teachers, hosted by the universities: Lille 1 (Nord-Pas-de-Calais), Orléans (Centre-Val de Loire) and Rennes 1 (Bretagne), and coordinated by the Foundation. Inaugurated at the beginning of the 2014 school year, they offer professional development courses in sciences, co-constructed by scientists and educators, to the teachers of their region.

In the same spirit, over 20 actions of professional development aimed at educators have been organised by the Foundation in partnership with companies (Saint-Gobain, AMGEN…), and other scientific organizations, both French (INRA, INRIA, CEA, IPGP…) and European (CERN, ESA…).

In 2014, the theme of transport and ecomobility was given pride of place in a teaching guide aimed at primary and middle school teachers, created with the financial support of SNCF, ADEME and Casden.

Teaching resources dedicated to special needs children were also put into action this year, in the framework of the Science & Handicap program.

To reinforce equal opportunities for children, the national network of pilot centers, places for the sharing of knowledge and resources with teachers and their classes, coordinated by La main à la pâte, has continued to grow. The number of middle schools who have opened classes integrating both science and technology (EIST) has increased, as well as the number of science and technology classes accompanied by tertiary science students (primary school teacher-assistant program, ASTEP). National seminars jointly organised with the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research, have facilitated fruitful exchanges within these networks.

The participation of the education, research and industry communities has been made concrete, not only through teaching resources and training programs but also by a conference bringing together the directors of the Maisons pour la science and ESPE (Teacher’s college), enabling the discussion of promising paths for future collaboration.

Finally, this year’s international action has seen the launch of a new European project called SUSTAIN. It focuses on sustainable development education. Regarding non-European countries, the 5th week-long international seminar was successfully held in June, with the participation of representatives from 35 countries.
Key figures for the school year 2013-2014

5,400 primary and middle school TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS participated in a course at one of the 7 MAISONS POUR LA SCIENCE throughout the French regions.

2,600 PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES benefited from a teacher-assistant program during the year.

3,800 TEACHING GUIDES from the most recent project «Je suis écomobile» were distributed for free to primary and middle school classes.

350,000 VISITS per month to the Foundation’s website proposing teaching resources for teachers and educators.

184 MIDDLE SCHOOLS led integrative science and technology teaching programs (more than a dozen overseas French establishments).

633 FOREIGN EDUCATORS were trained in 6 COUNTRIES.

Almost 8,000 CLASSES benefited from the help of one of La main à la pâte’s 21 PILOT CENTERS, ensuring equal opportunities for children.

Financial and human resource review

Total revenue reached 3.06 million euros, a slight decrease compared to 2013.

Distribution of revenue:
- European Union ; NA
- Bank interest ; NA
- ENS Paris ; 2%
- ENS Lyon ; 14%
- ANRU ; 12%
- Other public institutions ; 1%
- Individual donors ; NA
- ANRU (Redistribution to universities (Maisons pour la science)) ; 36%
- Académie des sciences ; 19%
- Firms, Funds and Foundations ; 1%

Operating costs : 20%
Staff remuneration and associated costs : 46%
Redistribution to universities (Maisons pour la science) : 35%

Rigorous management resulted in a fiscal surplus of 98 K€. In accordance with Article 11 of its statute, the Foundation continues constituting its one million euro endowment fund (non-expendable). In 2014, this fund has reached 769 231 € and will reach 1M€ in the next fiscal year.