New laboratories for the promotion of joint action between researchers and teachers

The IFÉ is developing a network of “LéA” (Lieux d’éducation Associés à l’IFÉ), translated into “AeP” at FIE (standing for Associated educational Places at the French Institute for Education). These places created to meet educative challenges gather a set of conditions: questions raising from actors supported by the place managing staff (school directors, local authorities…), involvement of an FIE research team and joint construction by all the actors of a long-term project designed to find answers to these questions.

With 11 AeP for the first year of experimentation in 2011-2012, AeP is composed of 30 places in 2016-2017. As a whole, more than 50 experiments were conducted since the creation of the network. The places involved are primary schools, networks of primary schools, lower and upper secondary schools, vocational and agricultural upper schools, networks gathering lower and upper secondary schools dedicated to different questions (IBST, math teaching, digital identity and reflective thinking, serious games…). Institutions of higher education and non-academic places (cultural or scientific associations, associations for health education) are now part of the network. The development of this network is central to the construction of FIE scientific program. Each partner of the AeP must sign an agreement with the Lyon FIE-ENS Lyon, which defines the collaboration mode. This network is open for collaboration with institutes for teacher education, with research centers focusing on education issues and with educational institutes abroad.

The AeP gives major importance to the collective aspects of learning and teaching processes. It corresponds to a true metamorphosis for educational research. Sharing experiences, designing commons tools are crucial aspects of the program. It could lead to the production of a specific research model. Beyond a new experimental field, it raises new questions for research in education, both on its methods and on its foundation: what is learning (vs. teaching), what is the individual and social part of the teaching and learning process?

Working seminars are held twice a year: a seminar in autumn and a national conference in spring. The seminar is dedicated to the integration of new members. The national conference is open to any educational actors. It aims at disseminating the AeP resources, tools and research results. This annual conference represents a milestone in the network program. Beyond these meetings, each institution has its own space on the AeP website where specific information can be found and a collaborative blog is dedicated to the presentation of main events and the life of the network and of each AeP.

The whole program is coordinated by a scientific committee and a management team in interaction with the network partners (Ministry for Education, Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities…)

1 http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/lea
2 https://reseaulea.hypotheses.org/