The French Vocational education & training system in France

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A far-reaching series of reforms to the training system was instituted by the Government in the last quarter of 2017, aimed at vocational training, apprenticeship and work-based training.
Why do we need to change the vocational education and training system in France?
It is not fair and there is a double inequality

Rate of unemployment: 18% for non skilled people, 8% for qualified,
It is not addressing efficiently the challenge of transformation of jobs and the rapid technological changes.

It doesn’t meet the expectations of the citizens.

But 78% of French people think it’s important to be trained all lifelong.
How?
3 measures to change vocational education and training

• Greater & more accessible rights for employees and job seekers (+ funding, + individualization, + support + focus for job-seekers with the PIC – Investment for skill plan)

• Clearer & simpler rules for all of companies and mutual funds for SMEs and micro businesses.

• Simplification of the governance and funding system for companies, employees and job seekers
The vocational pathway in France

The French Education System comprises various educational levels, each with distinct pathways and durations. The diagram outlines the educational pathways from primary education (Primaire) through to tertiary education, including vocational and apprenticeship programs. The key to the diagram includes symbols for compulsory education, apprenticeship-based qualifications, general education, and vocational education.
Secondary education

- **CAP**: Certificat d’Aptitude Professionnelle: a certificate of vocational aptitude taken after 2 years of study

- **BP**: Brevet professionnel: a certificate of vocational aptitude in 2 years after the CAP

- **BAC professionnel**: the vocational high-school leaving certificate taken after 3 years of study

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Higher education

- Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS – higher technician diploma) and Brevet de Technicien Supérieur Agricole (BTSA – higher technician diploma in agriculture)
- Diplôme Universitaires de Technologie (DUT – university technology diploma)
- Licence Professionnelle – a vocational bachelor’s degree
- Formation Complémentaire – additional training
In France, apprenticeships are available for all vocational diplomas from the CAP up to the master’s degree including engineering and business schools.

The new law will promote the mobility of apprentices.
Key figures

• Nearly **29%** of pupils in high schools in VET are enrolled in an apprenticeship programme. (INSEE – 2012)

• **In 2012, 23.9%** of high schools students got a vocational A-level qualifications (*Bac pro*). (INSEE – 2012)

• **Over 450 trades and professions** can be learned through apprenticeships. (INSEE – 2012)
Thank you for your attention!
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