



WPDI FRANCE

2023 Annual Report

PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS

www.wpdi.org



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Introduction

Who are we?

The Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI) is an international nonprofit organization founded in 2012 by artist and social activist Forest Whitaker, who is the UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace & Reconciliation as well as member of the United Nations Advocacy Group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WPDI is a non-governmental organization which operates in countries and regions that have been impacted by violence and poverty for years or decades. Trapped in cycles of fragility, violence, poverty and marginalization, the communities in these areas lack resilience capacity, making it nearly impossible for them to respond to shocks and catastrophes in an autonomous and sustainable way. To strengthen such capacity for resilience, we work to empower young women and men living in these vulnerable places to become peacemakers, trainers, leaders and entrepreneurs in their communities. To mobilize them in service of the resilience of their communities, our programs revolve around four main strategic pillars - peacebuilding, economic empowerment, health and well-being, and peace through sports. Specifically, we work towards social transformation and social innovation through actions that combine training and support for social entrepreneurship, digital literacy training, and learning mediation and conflict resolution techniques.

WPDI in France

In 2021, following meetings with Olivier Klein, then Mayor of Clichy-sous-Bois, and Stéphane Troussel, President of the Seine-Saint-Denis Departmental Council, Forest Whitaker and the Executive Director of WPDI, Caroline Descombris, decided to open WPDI operations in Seine-Saint-Denis.

After a year of needs assessment, meetings, and experimentation, WPDI began its activities in September 2022, and opened the doors of its Community Learning Center (CLC) in Aubervilliers in April 2023. Located in the heart of the Quatre Chemins neighborhood, an essential crossroads of Seine-Saint-Denis at the intersection of Aubervilliers, Pantin, La Courneuve, and Paris, the center welcomes trainees from the eight neighborhoods of Aubervilliers as well as from all of Seine-Saint-Denis, and even beyond.

The ambition is to offer quality and professionalizing training that allows women and men to build their capacity for employability, mediation, and integration. WPDI provides free training opportunities to everyone, regardless of age or level of education..



Notable Events of 2023

One month after the start of its training sessions, the CLC was officially inaugurated in the presence of Forest Whitaker. Alongside Karine Franclet, Mayor of Aubervilliers, Olivier Klein, Minister Delegate for Urban Affairs and Housing, Stéphane Troussel, President of the Seine-Saint-Denis Departmental Council, as well as Antoine Sire, Isabelle Giordano, and Vanessa Bouquillion from BNP Paribas, our main partner for the program, Forest Whitaker cut the ribbon of the WPDJ center and then held an inauguration event attended by 300 partners, local officials, and beneficiaries of our programs, at the Point Fort d'Aubervilliers.

Since the opening of the Community Learning Center (CLC), 238 individuals have benefited from our two flagship programs, "À la Carte" and "Les Battantes". We also organized an event for Peace Day on September 21, co-hosted a Forum for Women's Employment and Entrepreneurship, and held our first Project Pitch Competition, designating nine winners who will receive funding and support for their entrepreneurial projects.



Key Achievements



636 participants in training and other activities organized by WPDI France in 2023



TRAINING

- 48 Trainees in Conflict Resolution Education
- 77 Trainees in Business and Entrepreneurship
 - Of which, 52 were part of the Women's Livelihood program entitled "Les Battantes"
- 61 Trainees in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- 9 New income-generating projects supported by WPDI



VISIBILITY

- 342 Beneficiaries took part in events organized by WPDI France
- Over 25 media organizations covered the inauguration of WPDI France



Our Implementation in France:

The New Community Learning Center

Located in the Villette-Quatre Chemins neighborhood, at the crossroads between Aubervilliers, Pantin, La Courneuve, and Parc la Villette, the Community Learning Center (CLC), open to all, is run by a team of six people who welcome and support women and youth in the process of learning new skills and joining a community of entrepreneurs and peacemakers.



Inauguration of the Community Learning Center

The center was officially inaugurated on May 17, 2023. This event received national media coverage. The authorities present spoke about the importance of WPDI's establishment in Seine-Saint-Denis as it is a vulnerable territory. More than 300 people (local organizations, program beneficiaries, local officials, partners, and residents of Seine-Saint-Denis) attended this event.



“

I am delighted to return to the training center of the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative. I would like to thank once again all the partners, including the BNP Paribas Foundation, who contributed to the birth of this magnificent project. I am very proud to have such a project in our city, in our territory, led by a public figure like Forest Whitaker who 'sets an example.' I wish to work with companies and with organizations, to build a better future for ALL our youth. I thank Forest Whitaker and his teams again and congratulate all the participants who volunteered. The beginning of a long partnership!

Karine Franclet

Mayor of Aubervilliers

”

“

Seine-Saint-Denis is the place to be, considering its demographics, challenges, and opportunities. I am honored to welcome Forest Whitaker here. Far from the nauseating national debate, he is one of those who sees in Seine-Saint-Denis as an opportunity for France for France and its future.

Stéphane Troussel

President of the Seine-Saint-Denis
Departmental Council

”

“

As a woman, a mother of three children, from an immigrant background, and unemployed for a long time, the “Les Battantes” training program gives me the opportunity to act and to say to myself, 'I have my place in this world, despite all the difficulties I have faced.'

”

Michelle Dia

beneficiary of our 'Battantes' program and future entrepreneur in Aubervilliers



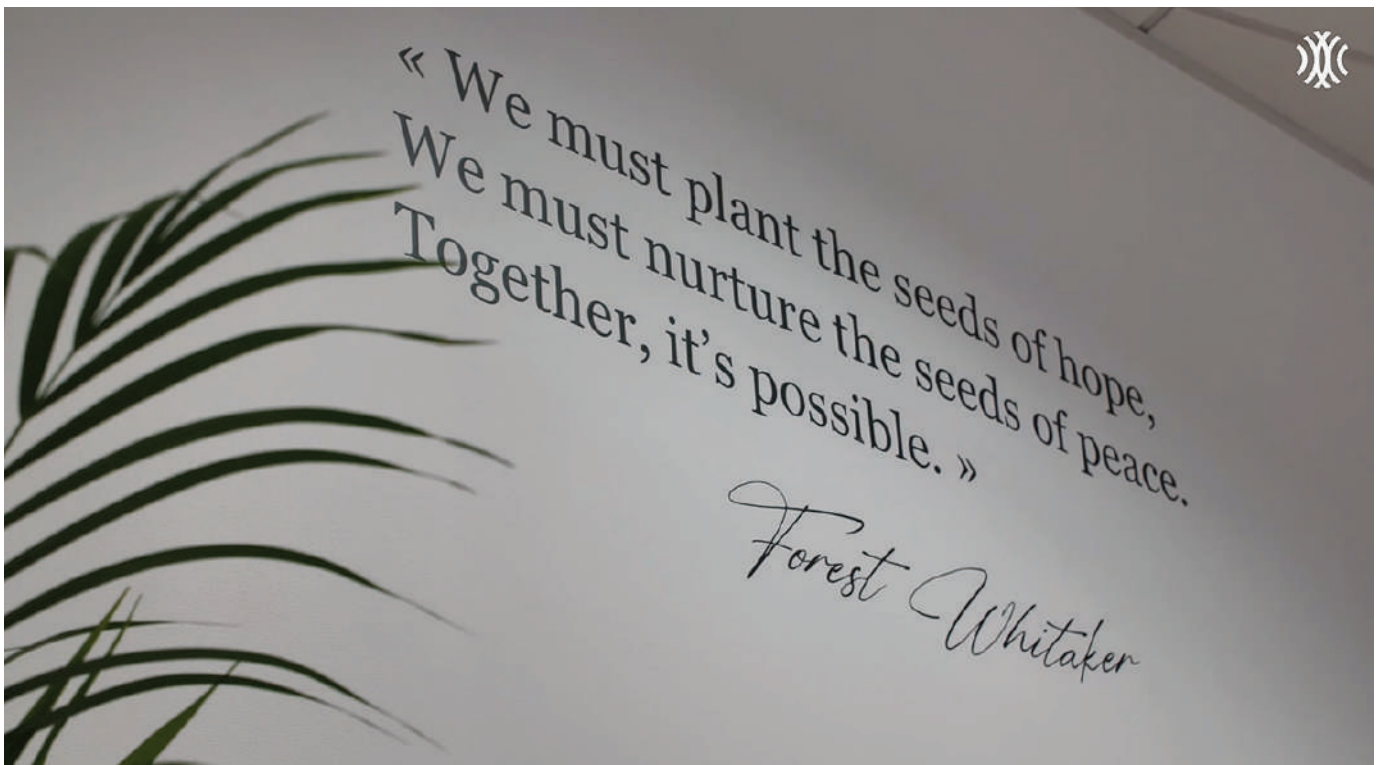
Capacity-Building Courses

Designed to be accessible and welcoming, our training space consists of two rooms, including a computer room. WPDI offers an integrated and tailored training program designed to meet the specific needs of its beneficiaries. This program is the result of careful observation of the various territories where our programs are deployed, revealing that the combination of transversal skills - such as emotional management and conflict resolution - with a practical understanding of entrepreneurship and basic computer skills, constitute considerable assets. Our trainees thus acquire a set of skills that enable them to transform their personal and professional lives, and by extension, that of their community.

We are convinced that the success of our training, whether taken together or separately, relies on their ability to provide practical and immediately applicable tools, meeting the expectations of the trainees. That is why we have chosen to offer them to the residents of Seine-Saint-Denis, ensuring that our intervention is in line with local realities. The initial phase of our program included a period of immersion and training for our team, to ensure that our offering was relevant and effective.

Through numerous consultations and exchanges with local residents, we have developed a training program that helps our trainees better understand their environment. The positive feedback we have received confirms that we are on the right track, while emphasizing the importance of continuing to learn and improve - a process that is at the heart of our mission.

Since April 2023, our weekly training sessions in entrepreneurship, human relations management, and computer skills have been delivered by a team of dedicated trainers, each overseeing groups of 10 to 15 people, anticipating the official inauguration of our programs.



Conflict Resolution Skills for Everyone in the Community



48

Trainees in Conflict Resolution Education

Social mediation aims to restore social fabric and promote coexistence. Faced with the challenges of cultural and social integration experienced by residents of the Department, notably highlighted by the disturbances of 2005 or more recently in June and July 2023, social mediation is increasingly recognized for the transformative potential it can represent in suburbs as well as city centers or rural areas. With over ten years of experience in contexts of conflict, violence, poverty, and exclusion, WPDI aims to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of committed and competent actors in Seine-Saint-Denis to place social mediation at the heart of solutions for the territory.

This year, the beneficiaries of this program are mainly women, aged 22 to 47, predominantly from Seine-Saint-Denis. After 24 sessions, participants acquire valuable tools to address the emotional and relational challenges that may arise in their daily lives, both personally and professionally, which they can also use to benefit their wider circles, thereby contributing to the dissemination of a culture of non-violent conflict management. The topics covered during this training include:

- Emotions and sensations
- Stress management
- Identity and values
- Facts and perceptions
- Interpretations and reactions
- Communication
- Active listening, passive listening
- Relationship to conflict
- Fundamental needs
- Peace, violence, and conflict
- Conflict analysis and management
- Negotiation
- Mediation

Beyond these regular workshops, our commitment to a non-violent approach to conflicts and tensions is also manifested through awareness-raising activities in the neighborhoods of Aubervilliers, with participation in local meetings and information sessions.

“

I can't wait to complete this training, which will surely bring about a real transformation in me. Many things buried, including real know-how and savoir-être that I had forgotten, are emerging little by little. I am also happy to have created a connection with at least two people from this network of women.

”

Amélie Epesse

“

I want to say that these training sessions are truly healing for me, a big thank you.

”

Sylvie Soudain

“

I find this workshop beneficial for learning to listen, observe, and get to know oneself much better. I find the facilitator qualified, and I leave with tools to communicate better with others.

”

Anonymous



Business and Entrepreneurship



77 Trainees in Business and Entrepreneurship	Beneficiaries of the "Les Battantes" program 52	Funded SMEs 9	Jobs Created 10	Indirect beneficiaries of SMEs 19
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The entrepreneurship courses provide participants with a deep understanding of the essential mechanisms for successfully launching a business. Over a period of 6 months, trainees acquire the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and materialize their business creation project, regardless of the field of activity. At the end of this program, they are capable of conducting market research, developing a financial business plan, and presenting their entrepreneurial project to investors. The goal is for all participants to leave with a concrete vision for a project that allows them to start with confidence.

Structured into 24 sessions, the entrepreneurship courses cover the following topics:

- Definition of personal success
- Implementation of the entrepreneurial project
- Exploration of different legal statuses
- Access to support mechanisms for business creation
- Development of a strategic commercial offer
- Materialization of the entrepreneurial project

These sessions provide participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to turn their ideas into successful businesses, focusing on practical application, the development of entrepreneurial skills, and preparation for the market reality. Advanced level training is intended for anyone with an entrepreneurial project or who has already launched their business and aims to help them scale up.

Participants who wish to, once they have passed their exam, can participate in our Business Plan Competitions. After targeted additional preparation, participants present their project to a jury composed of representatives from WPDI as well as associations and local authorities. A one-year incubation period following the training program provides individualized and financial support to the winners of the project pitch contest.

Project leaders who wish to participate are specially prepared for this contest through the following themes:

- Effective preparation for the presentation pitch
- Creation of a professional support deck
- Intensive pitch training
- Presentation to a jury of experts
- Operational launch of the project



In 2023, two projects were selected by the jury following the Business Plan Competition held at the training center on December 1st, parallel to that of the "Battantes" (described below), the results of which were announced during the event co-organized by WPDI in Saint-Ouen:

- Neostart, which offers support for seniors in their return to employment with a certified coach

- La Perle Wussulan, a brand of artisanal candles based on Wussulan

“
The course is simply magical and effective. Thank you.
”
Anonymous



Our Tailored Women's Livelihood program : Les Battantes

To address the specific needs of women in the Department, our program "Les Battantes" includes a six-month training dedicated to women entrepreneurs. At the end of the training, similar to the "A la Carte" program, a Business Plan Competition allows them to win a grant to launch or expand their business.

This year, 14 projects developed by the inaugural cohort of "Les Battantes" were submitted to the contest. To effectively and transparently identify the most promising projects, we formed a jury characterized by the competence and representativeness of its members, who were:

- Kourtoum Sackho, Deputy Mayor of Aubervilliers in charge of Social and Solidarity Economy
- Chahrazed Tabti, Entrepreneurship and Inclusion Project Manager at the Seine-Saint-Denis Department
- Christopher Têtu, Credit Expert at BNP Paribas
- Clotilde Califano, Partnership Manager at France Active
- Patrick Vernet, Senior Manager at Devlhon Consulting's Banking Division
- Anrifa Mze Hassani, Entrepreneurship Trainer at WPDI

The projects were presented to the jury during a pitch contest held at our Community Learning Center on December 1st. Seven "Battantes" projects were selected by the jury following their deliberation, which were publicly announced during an event co-organized by WPDI in Saint-Ouen on December 5th. The selected projects were:

- Lyvie Enjoy Event - Wedding planner
- Remise en Scène - Well-being prevention program for artists, musicians, and music professionals
- Cinéafro Cinémafro - Promotion of African cinema
- La Fabrik à Rêves - Coaching and personalized support services for women
- Miki Good Hair - Parent-child hair salon
- Miturila - Infusions from the Congo Basin
- Parentevolu - Parental support association

In the coming months, these "Battantes" will receive material support and advice from WPDI to realize and succeed in their projects.



Information and Communication Technologies



61 Trainees in ICT

At the Aubervilliers CLC, a computer room equipped with 15 computers welcomes trainees, each with specific needs. These individuals, residing in disadvantaged neighborhoods, face difficulties accessing adequate computer tools.

At the end of this course, they leave with a set of skills allowing them, notably, to autonomously and simply carry out administrative tasks. Other groups of trainees, more experienced, wish to learn the basics of computer coding in order to create websites or design sophisticated materials to enrich and showcase their entrepreneurial projects.

The computer courses cover a range of key topics, including:

- Basics: using computer hardware, navigating through a computer
- Getting started with Windows
- Basics of computer security
- Communicating via email and instant messaging
- Online collaboration
- Word processing
- Basics of Excel
- Creating a PowerPoint presentation
- Understanding web navigation
- Graphic design principles
- Basics of HTML5 - Difference between HTML and CSS
- Structuring web page content in HTML
- Advanced use of HTML and CSS for specific functionalities
- Integrating tables and forms into a web page
- Creating visually and functionally accessible web content
- Creating a website with WordPress
- Exploring Woocommerce

“

Thank you very much for this training. When I arrived, I didn't even know how to use a computer, today I can confidently advance in my administrative procedures, and the computer loan allowed me to work well at home.

Bilaly Camara

”

“

I am pleasantly surprised and truly delighted with the quality of the teaching. It is indeed a real rebirth for me, and I eagerly and enthusiastically await the computer training on Fridays with Salah.

Anonymous

”



Outreach to Raise-Awareness on our Mission and Values

Presence in the Media

On April 13, 2023, Aminata Sidibé, WPDI France Manager, participated in the Afro Pop program on Africa Radio, hosted by journalist Salah Eddine Gakou. With an average audience of 45,000 listeners, this program provides an influential platform to promote our initiatives. The objective of this intervention was twofold: to promote our new training programs and announce the opening of our training center in Aubervilliers.

This adds to the extensive media coverage that the inauguration ceremony of our Community Learning Center received. By highlighting our actions and explaining our vision, we expand our scope of action and strengthen our impact in the region. The program thus enabled the direct recruitment of new beneficiaries, a result that demonstrates the effectiveness of our communication strategy in reaching and mobilizing our target audience.



Lecture (5 min 20 sec)

13 avril 2023 - 5 min 20 sec
Forest Whitaker s'intéresse pour la banlieue parisienne

On s'intéresse à l'acteur afro-américain Forest Whitaker, qui a décidé d'investir dans la jeunesse du 93 à travers son ONG.

www.wpdifrance.org/country/france/



VI VOTRE FAIT DU JOUR

Le Grand Parisien
 Mercredi 17 mai 2023

93 | AUBERVILLIERS Ce mercredi, l'artiste américain inaugurera le centre d'apprentissage de son association, qui s'engage dans des régions minées par la violence et la pauvreté.

Forest Whitaker, l'acteur bienfaiteur de la banlieue

Dossier réalisé par Alexandre Arfot

AU CARREFOUR des Quatre-Chemin, des vendicats à la cigarette et de cigarettes répétant, comme un mantra, le vers d'une célèbre mangée américaine de blanches. Ils sont bien trop occupés à appeler le chahut pour constater la présence, en ce jeudi après-midi d'une star hollywoodienne qui descend de voiture avec de s'engouffrer derrière une porte en bois, à 2 m d'une cascade de leur merchandise de contrebande.

C'est la sixième fois qu'un invité inconnu qui offre une vue plongeante sur ce commerce clandestin de la banlieue à la sortie du métro, que la Whitaker France, la Fondation éponyme de l'ONG a découvert les locaux qui l'inaugure officiellement ce mercredi.

« Démystifier Paris » À l'initiative ces derniers années de ses productions comme « Black Panther » ou « Rogan One », Forest Whitaker a notamment remporté le prix d'interprétation à Cannes, en 1988, pour son incarnation du musicien

Une ONG animée par les Français Les locaux de 120 m² ont été mis à disposition par l'INP Paris. Soutien de la WPDI, la banque française est partenaire de plusieurs initiatives en Seine-Saint-Denis comme l'Académie populaire de santé. Elle est aussi, on le sait moins, l'un des premiers employeurs privés du département avec 11000 postes de travail.

C'est par le biais de sa filiale américaine que le groupe bancaire a noué des liens avec son association, dont la

Charles Foster dans « Dole & Oscar du meilleur acteur en 2007 pour celle du dictateur ogandais Idi Amin Dada dans « Le dernier roi d'Éthiopie ».

Par cet investissement, dont le montant demeure secret, l'acteur de 61 ans honore une promesse faite à y a dix ans. En mai 2012, il était resté en toute discrétion à Clacby, sous-Bris. Il était accompagné ce jour-là du cinéaste Djamel Bensalah, un enfant de Saint-Denis, et d'Olivier Klein, le maître de l'époque, depuis entre-temps ministre du Logement.

Il est resté une belle image de Paris qui voulait démystifier, celle le réalisateur. Il voulait qu'on lui montre l'autre visage, qu'on l'entende dans des quartiers où il y a des besoins. Il a trouvé que le Chêne-Poinette, à 30 km de Paris, était le meilleur endroit où il y a des endroits les plus pauvres d'Europe. Il a pu discuter avec le grand frère de Bostan. L'un des deux adolescents dont le décès le 27 octobre 2005 a entraîné de plusieurs morts d'immigrants en banlieue. Il était très touché par l'initiative et a voulu.

C'est finalement à proximité de Paris que la WPDI a été présentée dans huit autres pays, à elle domicile. « Un quartier est un carrefour incontournable de Seine-Saint-Denis », observe Aminata Sidi.

Le projet m'interpelle (difficile de projeter l'association dans le département revendiqué « plus de 70 personnes en formation »).

Aubervilliers, le film. Forest Whitaker pose avec ses côtés, notamment Karine Franck, la maire d'Aubervilliers (en veste rouge).



Francine Caroline Descombrès est la directrice exécutive. « Son ONG est largement antérieure que des Français », souligne Aminata Sidi, le directeur de l'engagement des entreprises de l'INP Paris. Mieux de plus de 3 000 associations en Seine-Saint-Denis depuis le lancement en 2005 de son Projet Banlieues, l'entreprise « encourage » l'acteur américain à s'investir en Seine-Saint-Denis. « Il s'adapte à des situations très différentes, de pays très pauvres en Afrique au plus riche du monde, les États-Unis, note Aminata Sidi. Parfois, la médiation de cordilles est au centre de son action de l'ONG. » Le centre d'apprentissage de la WPDI dispose une formation gratuite à la carte autour de trois thématiques : la « gestion des relations du quotidien », donc, l'entrepreneuriat et l'informatique. Un programme réservé aux femmes, baptisé « les batantes », permet à celles qui en bénéficient de suivre l'initiation des semaines.

L'initiative fait écho aux formes d'entreprendre au féminin et aux axes contre les violences faites aux femmes qui se sont tenus en novembre dernier à Aubervilliers. Plus généralement, « on est beaucoup intervenu sur cette question de la place des femmes, comme Karine Franck. On a une sous-représentation de l'espace public par les hommes dans la ville. Il faut donc porter une attention particulière sur les jeunes filles. »

Une démarche « sincère » La première actrice de la WPDI en Seine-Saint-Denis, Aminata Sidi, l'ouverture de son centre de formation a consenti à former la médiation sociale des recruteurs de maisons de la jeunesse de l'Organisation en mouvement des jeunes d'Aubervilliers (Orpa). « Le directeur de l'association a été touché de nous car les habitants viennent souvent se manifester lorsqu'ils ont un problème », expose Aminata Sidi. Elle s'est installée dans sa commune le « Chêne-Dog », surnom du quartier algérien que Forest Whitaker incarne dans un film de son enfance sorti en 1994, la même année que sa « dernière initiative ». « On se retrouve sur pas de valeurs, comme la jeunesse, assure l'actrice première de la ville. Sa formation a permis de faire des choses. Nous elle est née de la même en lien avec des bénéficiaires. Que Hollywood s'intéresse à Aubervilliers, c'est l'occasion de faire parler de la ville en bien. »



Celebrating Shared Visions for Peace



342 Participants at events organized by WPDI

Every event we organize, whether it's the International Day of Peace or the Forum for Employment and Entrepreneurship for Women, serves as an opportunity to promote our values and our actions on the ground. By highlighting our initiatives and providing a space for dialogue and collaboration, these events are valuable opportunities to share our vision and values, expand our scope of action, and attract new beneficiaries.

International Day of Peace

WPDI France has always been committed to providing the necessary tools to promote and maintain peace in vulnerable regions affected by violence and poverty. Every year, the International Day of Peace is celebrated in all countries where WPDI is active. In France, this year, the second edition of the Peace Day took place on September 21st at the Point Fort d'Aubervilliers, in partnership with the association "Villes des Musiques du Monde". The event included various activities, conferences on the notion of peace, and a concert to end the day with music.

Panel: Peace and Development, Keys to a Better Future

A panel discussion gathering 13 participants was organized, with the participation of four experts in the field, namely Sara Gogel, Aminata Konaté Boune, Chloé Lemeunier, and Carlos Semedo, interviewed by Conflict Resolution Education trainer. This session led to rich and informative exchanges for the attending audience, highlighting the role that WPDI intends to play in realizing the ideals of peace in a wide range of social contexts.

Community Dialogue: Cultural Diversity and Multilingualism

The participatory dialogue brought together 26 participants, including representatives of local organizations and institutions, as well as residents of Aubervilliers and beneficiaries of refugee reception programs. The Deputy Mayor for Urban Policy of Aubervilliers, Kourtoum Sackho, was also present. The objective was to highlight multilingualism as a richness in such a diversified territory. Discussions focused on linguistic diversity and multilingualism, emphasizing their importance in promoting coexistence, tolerance, and peace.

Forum Theater

The forum theater, co-constructed and animated by the theater company Gyntiana, addressed the issue of police violence in the suburbs, following events surrounding the death of a 17-year-old. A play presented by about fifteen youths from Aubervilliers was performed in front of an intergenerational audience. This audience was invited to take part in the scene, even to replace one or more characters to propose alternatives or solutions to the issues raised. The forum theater allowed young people to express and share their perspectives on the relationship between law enforcement and the local population.

Forum on Employment and Entrepreneurship for All

On December 5, 2023, at the Wangari greenhouse in Saint-Ouen sur Seine, WPDI co-organized the Forum for Employment and Entrepreneurship for Women, a celebration of female entrepreneurship bringing together all stakeholders engaged in this topic in Seine-Saint-Denis: state institutions, private companies, organizations, civil society actors, and local incubators.

The event aimed to demonstrate that female entrepreneurship is an essential lever for promoting gender equality. By providing women with tools to create or develop their businesses, we contribute to establishing conditions conducive to their empowerment and financial independence. It was in this spirit that WPDI France, France Active, and the city of Saint-Ouen sur Seine joined forces to organize this forum.

Beyond the event, this gathering was a real opportunity for more than 250 women to better understand the world of female entrepreneurship. Inspiring roundtable discussions and practical workshops on employment and entrepreneurship guided hundreds of women throughout the day.

The event concluded with the announcement of the winners of the "Les Battantes" and "À la Carte" programs.



The Vice-President of WPDI France, Ambassador of the Women's Entrepreneurship Forum in Aubervilliers

On November 29, 2023, the second edition of the Women's Entrepreneurship Forum was held in Aubervilliers. WPDI France was present among the exhibitors to introduce its programs to the residents of Aubervilliers. The Vice-President of WPDI France, Caroline Descombris, had the honor of being the ambassador of the event and announcing the three winners of the Women's Entrepreneurship competition. It was an opportunity for her to stress that "we encourage all women to venture into entrepreneurship because we all have the ability to break glass ceilings. Sometimes what we lack is just a helping hand or access to the right tools to successfully carry out our projects. Go ask for support and find the tools you need, because you have the right to." That's why our "Battantes" program encourages all women, regardless of their background, to receive training and decide on the professional future that suits them.



Conclusion :

A Promising Launch to Kickstart the Program

During this year of establishment in France, WPDI has faced numerous challenges and has experienced promising successes in its activities in Seine-Saint-Denis.

We would like to thank our partners and the motivated and talented individuals who joined us from our very first call. We are pleased that the launch of the training programs, as well as the recruitment of the team, could be accomplished in record time. Recruiting trainees was challenging, as we had to quickly integrate a network of associations and incubators, and bring innovation to generate interest in a short amount of time. We were able to reach 100 interested trainees, who saw our programs as an opportunity. The inauguration was an important moment to rally the various stakeholders in Aubervilliers around our project.

Thanks to the efforts made by everyone involved, we have further boosted the motivation of our team and partners. The inauguration of the center, widely covered by the media, demonstrated our ability to mobilize partners and stakeholders in the region. In terms of action, the "Battantes" program also demonstrated our ability to respond appropriately and innovatively to a genuine need in the region. Our partnership with the Seine-Saint-Denis Department was also one of our major initial successes. Finally, holding the first employment and entrepreneurship forum for all helped to raise awareness of our work and, more importantly, to demonstrate our presence in a region where we aspire to establish ourselves in the long term.



Against the backdrop of these challenges and successes, 2023 has also been a year of learning as each country presents its own characteristics that require time to become familiar with. We have worked extensively to set goals in line with the real needs of the region while taking into account local actors with whom we are complementary. Our gradual integration into the Department's network of associations has shown us the importance of identifying present and emerging opportunities in our regions and responding to them appropriately.

Buoyed by these results, our primary objective for the coming period will be to continue the efforts initiated in 2023, particularly through the "Battantes" program.

Above all, our priority will be to strengthen our efforts towards a culture of peace, including launching pilot initiatives in schools in the Department. While WPDI's initial steps focused primarily on our work in entrepreneurship and vocational training, we intend to continue deploying our model in its entirety, which adds value by combining interventions in the four distinct but interconnected domains of peacebuilding, development, health and well-being, and sports. Our long-term ambition is to work across all of these domains, the success of which we have consistently observed contributes to strengthening the resilience capacity of our beneficiaries and their communities.



Partners



BNP PARIBAS

seine · saint · denis
LE DÉPARTEMENT


AUBERVILLIERS

FRANCE ACTIVE
Les entrepreneurs engagés
MÉTROPOLE

Mairie de ~~~~~
Saint ~ Ouen
~~~~~ sur-Seine

 **OMJA**





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