



Groupement Fle focuses on French language growth and promotion

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French language school association Groupement Fle held its Directors' Conference recently, the first event of its 10-year anniversary in 2018.

The two-day gathering for school owners, directors and managers – open to all French language schools and not only members of [Groupement Fle](#) – was held in Paris at two member centres: Etoile and Ecole Suisse.

Damian Vialle, a representative of the French Foreign Office, was one of the guest speakers and addressed delegates on the latest visa updates. He said that there has been a clear, positive impact from the decision in 2016 to issue student visas for non-EU citizens without any obligation of future higher education study.

A retrospective look at the work and milestones of the association's 10-year history was delivered by former President Patrick De Bouter and Marie Fradin.

Current incumbent, Christophe Tissot, said, "I am proud to be the President of this dynamic organisation. The work we do is so important for our profession and for our members. The variety of topics and the status of our speakers clearly prove it.

"Groupement Fle and our member schools are vital elements in the bigger picture of the French language, its development and future. Thank you to all our partners for their support and we all look forward to the next 10 years and the work the group will accomplish in the interests of our members and the promotion of learning French in France."

Other sessions at the conference included a paper on the training needs of teachers worldwide from CIEP – which oversees the [Qualite Fle](#) accreditation label – a session on French for professional purposes, and presentations on training in the workplace and reaching out to clients.

Eleri Maitland, Spokesperson for Groupement Fle, said that the Directors' Conference in combination with the academic event held every November were the cornerstone of the association's aims and objectives.

“They demonstrate our wish to ensure that the teaching of French as a foreign language has a strong profile and Groupement Fle's irrefutable commitment to quality through our links with the CIEP, the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs and other institutions,” she said.

Groupement Fle currently comprises of 31 French language schools and is a member of the [Global Alliance of Education and Language Associations](#) (GAELA).

By [Matthew Knott](#)

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