



## France

## International Enterprise Volunteering (VIE) scheme

### PURPOSE

Supporting exporting SMEs suffering from the Covid 19 impact by leveraging the network of young professional volunteers

### PARTNERS



### EXECUTING BODY

[Team France Export](#)

### TARGET GROUP

Start-ups, MSMEs, Large enterprises.

### CONTEXT AND ISSUES

Although French exports had been winning back markets for the past two years and growing faster than global trade, the Covid-19 crisis has stopped this progress. Following the creation of an emergency support plan for exporting companies in April 2020, the new measures proposed aim to regain the momentum achieved over the past two years. Objective of this policy is also to reposition French SMEs wishing to export in a context of increased activity on selected international markets, heightened foreign competition and less risk tolerance from private financial actors. The Government banked on the the International Volunteer in Enterprises sysem (VIE) as a lever to keep a strong foot on foreign markets. The VIE system, that is a legacy from the former military Volunteer National Service in Enterprises, enrolled 14.000 young professionals in 2019, with a cumulated 81,000 participants and 7,600 enterprises since 2000.

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

The Volontariat International en Entreprise (V.I.E ) is an export promotion measure stimulating youth international mobility. Secured by the State, it provides the possibility to engage French or European young talents, aged 18 to 28 at the start of the mission. The duration of the engagement goes from 6 to 24 months, renewable once within this period, and it is also decided by the beneficiary company, the volunteers having to spend at least 183 days in the country. They get a monthly indemnity that depends on the country (e.g. about 1,600 Eur in Jordan), that is advanced by the Ministry of Foreign Affaires and reimbursed by the enterprise. This indemnity is revenue tax free and doesn't generate social charges for the enterprise. On top, regions can subsidize the costs, of which 50% can also be deducted from the net revenue taxes (credit d'impôt export).

The company defines tasks and objectives according to its needs, e.g. international market studies, export planning, commercial prospecting, creation of clients or distribution networks abroad, strengthening local teams, support of a contract or a site, quality control, etc. The procedure required to benefit from this initiative is fairly straightforward. Business France is the focal institution and





## KEY WORDS

Export support, policy, MSME internationalisation, post Covid economic recovery plan

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provides advice and support through all the stages of setting up the assignment and throughout its duration. It also takes care of the administrative management and can assist in the recruitment and logistical organization of the V.I.E.

The cultural diversity and international background of the pool making up the V.I.E. scheme is in itself an enrichment to any company. In addition, the presence and action in the field of V.I.E gives access to new ideas and practices, which are all opportunities to instil dynamism and innovation within companies and teams. Motivated, agile, with a good command of foreign languages, V.I.E.s represent a real asset for companies, an asset that is proving to give considerable support to those companies affected by the pandemic. Even more so, given the limitations to international travel due to the Covid-19, this measure fits with the current needs: the V.I.E. are in a position to perform at tele-working thanks to their command of digital tools that are not always mastered by permanent staff. They, thus, form an emulated network both in France and abroad.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Encourages youth employment on international / export markets
- Action easy to access and implement, as well as cost effective for the enterprise and the State
- Regions can subsidize and thus encourage a particular sector or export destination fitting best to the needs of the territory
- Action addressing in a constructive manner more than one priority included in the economic recovery plan, in particular youth employment, SME support, export, inclusion
- Companies can access an extensive international talent pool of more than 40,000 candidates.
- Centralised source of information, management and support, i.e. Team France Export: turnkey HR solution, contractual flexibility, speedy administrative procedures
- Possibility to easily being replicated in other countries, notably those with military service obligations.

## TOOLS / SOURCE

[Team France Export, VIE solutions](#)

[Online form, "Ask your questions on V.I.E - Young European talents to boost your export development"](#)





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# Export

[Décret Décret no 2019-749 du 19 juillet 2019 sur les indemnités supplémentaires versées aux VIE](#)

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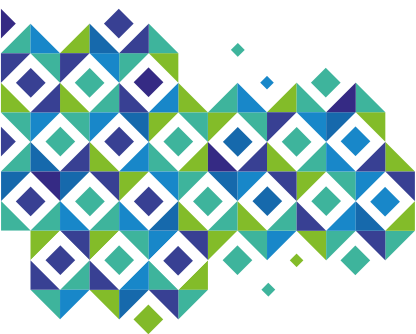
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