EDITO

Bringing life to our days…

We are today in more than 50 years of mobilization of various associations, which some no longer exist today, but which left the imprints by clearing the undergrowth usefully from the ground to approach gradually the question of the suicide and to manage finally to speak about it openly, « to break the taboo » and to envisage concerted actions of prevention.

The report of Pr Michel Debout in the Economic and Social Council of July 6th, 1993 is undoubtedly the marker of a new mobilization, even if the implication of public authorities remained at the beginning very careful. But this report would not have had the resonance that it had without the suicide of Pierre Bérégovoy in May, 1993.

It is then further to the study of the Economic ans Social Council (CES) that the High Council of Public Health decides to place for the first time the prevention of the suicide in the main priority questions of health. About ten regional health conferences hold the prevention of the suicide (specially concerning young people, the priority of actions of the moment) and try to support and to mobilize actors of ground in various fields : health, social, education, at the professionals as in structures and associative and voluntary interventions.

This study is a synthesis of the complexities of suicide and a inventory of fixtures of the potential strenghts to act, to make a commitment more openly.

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CONTINUATION OF THE EDITO

The expressed principles can be summarized into a few points: never normalized an act or a suicidal thought; establish a place in every hospitals where a suicidal person will be listened to; organize in network the structures of public and private care and the associations of help; insist on the role of families; promote the specific role of the services of forensic medicine in the event of death of the person; finally consider suicide as a serious public health problem and thus develop a real strategy for its prevention allowing to mobilize public authorities and whole medical and social profession.

With the support of Minister Mr Peretti, a first day of information is planned in the National Assembly in order to kickstart the engagement of public authorities and national representation in the prevention of suicide. A first press conference is organized on December, the 6th, 1996: a very big success! But the day after this demonstration, an article was written in Le Canard Enchaîné, entitled "When a sect infiltrates the prevention of the suicide". The usual biting tone of the article of the canard let think that the organizing members of this event would have been trapped, the leader of the newspaper Psychology who supported the event would be one of the persons in charge of a sect. Drama of Landerneau: many questions and questioning, associations are distraught, elected representatives are worried, journalists are surprised, each wants to be certain that the national day will not be the opportunity of a big manipulation to deliver all the potential suicidants to some gurus in lack of believers.

This event forged, welds and mobilizes more than ever. It accelerates the constitution of the association JNPS on 1996. "The grouping for the same objective asserts itself, established by professionals and non-professionals, by volunteers and by families, because only such a dynamic can move the lines and the practices of chapel!" which characterized too much the French medical world at that time, with its stenches mandarinaux. A united associative team, gathered, which feels the difficulties bound to the theme, to the difficulties and be anxious which she arouses. Some will finally be missing, the institutional will be wary of it, but the success of the colloquium which was able to be maintained in the National Assembly thanks to the support of Minister Mr Peretti, the impressive line of wait a very strong media cover and a passage in television contributed to a very big success. February 5th becomes the date for an annual meeting. Forged and strengthened by the test, the JNPS association is rather quickly transformed, from 1988, into a National Union for Suicide Prevention, UNPS.

The dynamic is shifted: many actions go to see at that time the day, be tempted, be tried. From an associative point of view, 10 years of development for the UNPS, developments of the regional collectives essentially supported by the PRS upon the arrival of new associations only in the regions which were spotted with the strongest rates of suicide. From an institutional point of view, a first big demonstration organized by the French Federation of Psychiatry, the conference of consensus in 2001. It is a question of recognizing and of taking care of the suicidal crisis in Salpêtrière in order to allow public powers to lean on experts’ recommendations to write and establish a French strategy. Then, another public hearing in 2009 on the effects and consequences of suicide on the family circle. This time, the meeting is more opened to specialities, diverse skills and associations.

In 2003, Diego de Léo, at the IASP congress organized by Danuta Waserman in Sweden, proposes the idea an annual, international suicide prevention day on the 10th of September. He expresses that “there is not much new in the field of suicide prevention, and the current recommendations, with their usual caution, are hardly supported by an acceptable level of proofs.” Often the emotional and political pressure of the actions is strong, and best which can be proposed in this contexte is to stick most exactly possible for the frame of the promulgated measures.

It appears to us that we can distinguish three fundamental points which could participate in the implementation of more incisive actions on the suicide behaviors:
- A revision of the mechanisms of financing: nowadays the financing granted to the search and to the experiment on the suicide are minor, yet if we want to progress, we need more funding. It is necessary to us to continue, in spite of a context of crisis and budget cuts, not to abandon any financing but to pursue them… at least.

- A collaboration with people stemming from different disciplines: suicide cannot be explained by a single theory, consequently, limit oneself to a model of psychiatric research (or even psychological, sociological, genetic, etc.) can only lead to a very partial reading of datas and result in errors of interpretation, thus there is the imperative necessity of multidisciplinary research teams, capable of producing complementary levels of investigation.

- A multilevel investigation: if it is true for research, it is also true for all the prevention initiatives, of action of support, or care.

It remains largely to develop, to imagine (for example, in the development of the social psychiatry, as some people like calling it, a certain ideal of a community work, revisiting the social practices, the institutional practices, as the resources where the collective dimension is not forgotten, where the report in the social, in the otherther, is not absent). As if we had to rethink public places of prevention, support and care, fight to preserve them, even find them. Health is a political problem which requires a big consciousness of societal and individual problems. It necessitates that scientific research, experiments, actions, which is in the service of a science of to live together. It is necessary to think of the political and social violence as a problem of health, public health, mental health. It is necessary to rethink our implications in the face of bleak economic realities and constraints of jurisdicition and administrative challenges. Too much management kills the social and besides there is not only the social, some people will say even in the guidance of Chauviere that it is going to need to reconstruct social action.

Today, the French current event in suicidology show notable evolutions since the end of the National Action Plan against Suicide 2011-2014 which should be supported and amplified by the project of law about Health planned for 2016 as well as of the writing of the third French strategy for suicide prevention. Further to the current situations established since 2004, a National Observatory of Suicide was created at the beginning of 2014 in an essential sustainability for the epidemiological knowledge as clinical and social. The report presented for France in November of 2014 establishes a base of marks updated on the sources of data, the results established on the groups exposed to the risk factors and the current commitments to take into account better the factors of protection for the populations. Besides, the areas of research which are proposed are to implement the prioritized actions and to realize their evaluation. The IRESP (public health) is in charge of building a call for projects, open to the academics and to the researchers within the framework of a strengthened multidisciplinarity.

Currently, we assist various evolutions region by region. It is thus important to assert the actions, reflections, forces, and values when in the objective to imagine a new mode of collaborative work and to avoid so the withdrawal. This work also joins in a national approach of meeting of the actors in regions at the time of the revisin of their mapping. We look for a visibility of the cooperatins and the mutualizations which are the work of which will be set up for the prevention of the suicide. But mutualizations or cooperations cannot be dedeclared...

The necessary confidence to build them either. They are never fall-back positions been imperative by the structural adjustment and the order of cost cutting. They are never born in the mistrust.

Bernard Groethuysen said: “to be realistic, what an utopia !". We bend in front of the reality while it is necessary to transform it. After the publication of Stéphane Hessel, Indignez-vous, we incite this time to get involved more strongly still in the political and social stakes in the century.

And like it was said by Rita Levi-Montalcini, “bringing life to our days, rather than gthe days in our life."

Philippe Carette,
FEALIPS’ Coordinator.
CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

- New treasurer:
  FEALIPS
  Xavier TARNEAUD

- New supporters:
  Stop Suicide (Suisse)
  Association SPAIR (France)
  CPS Bruxelles (Bélgique)
  SAFED (France)

- New location:
  CENTRE POPINCOURT
  Moving at the end of 2016
  New adress from 9th January 2017
  3 rue Jean-Baptiste Dumay
  75020 Paris
FEALIPS 3rd EUROPEAN CONFERENCES

DATES TO REMEMBER

Implementation of the organising Committee by videoconferencing:
31st January 2017
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

General meeting of the FEALIPS and working day with the national associations
2nd March 2017
11 am : AG
Afternoon : working time until 5 pm.

FEALIPS 3rd Conferences
7th September 2017
(to be confirmed)

IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS

To register for videoconferencing: federationfealips@gmail.com

To join FEALIPS download Membership form

FEALIPS 3rd Conferences organising

From the beginning of the organization of its 3rd Conferences, FEALIPS showed itself worried of building this project with you, its various European partners.

That is why, after having transmitted to you a questionnaire, we are very happy to announce you the holding of the organization’s Committee of these 3rd Conferences.

This meeting will take place Tuesday 31st January 2017, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, in face-to-face in the Centre Popincourt or by videoconferencing.

Thank you for indicating us your intention to participate in it in federationfealips@gmail.com, what will allow us to organize concretely this meeting dans to give you later the indications of connection, as well as to help you if need to reach this video conference.

The organising Committee so set up will take care to organize the FEALIPS 3rd Conferences, which will take place the 7th september 2017 (date to be confirmed), in the European Parliament, in Brussels, on the theme: Individual(s) in crisis, Society(ies) in crisis.
You were several to answer our questionnaire requesting your point of view concerning the 3rd Conferences and we sincerely thank you for it. We began to work on your returns and shall continue within the framework of the meetings of the organising Committee.

It emerges from your remarks as an critical impatience of answers and an important lack of reflections and questionings. That is why we tried to analyse questions you ask yourselves from the answers which you brought us.

Our will is well to begin from associations, actors, to try to conceptualize needs, what is missing. We hope that this co-construction will show itself within the framework of the Conferences. Composition in three phases: first movement, that of the preparation with the implementation of the organising Committee (on January 31st by video conference, the second movement, that of the meeting of September 07th in the Parliament in Brussels, and finally, the last movement, that of the reflection which will follow by it and which will commit us in a logic settling a follow-up and regular exchanges for which we hope the most promising possible.

We shall lean on this first work of analysis during the first organising Committee, which will be led by the President, Christian Lujan, as a red wire to allow us to work again these date together, and to define a time of Conferences as closely as possible to our concerns. If it interests you, you can always request us to join the organising Committee, and we shall send you then data updated by this work.

To contact us: federationfealips@gmail.com
The International Union of Railways is an association created in 1922 to group different actors of the railroad system. The headquarters is based in Paris but it groups 200 members on all the continents among 21 active members. It leads actions regarding freight, signaling, environment, safety and standardization.

RESTRAIL PROJECT

It is in the framework of a research project around the safety that was led between 2011 and 2014 the Restrail project about the Reduction of Suicides and Trespasses on RAILway property. 17 partners of 12 different countries, coordinated by UIC and associating research institutes, universities and companies.

The aim of the RESTRAIL project was to reduce the occurrence of suicides and trespass on railway property in order to reduce the cost engendered by the service diruption lié à cesbound to these incidents.

The actors of the project started by analyzing data sources and identifying the state of researches and of best practices in Europe and in the world to reduce suicides and traspas on railway property. This work will consider high risk access points such as level crossings, station platform ends, bridges, etc.

UIC’s team, specialized in railways, surrounded itself with professional expert in the areas of human sciences, health, emergency services, education and social services, media and communication, etc.

This project ended in the presentation of several proposals of measures having already been tested and and in the production of recommendations. A toolbox was organized to help the decision-makers to establish measures to reduce the suicides and trespass on railway property. Although the research project is enclosed in 2014, this toolbox is always updated regularly.

Web sites
http://uic.org/
http://restrail.eu

Toolbox
http://restrail.eu/toolbox/

Selection of articles

“Lessons learned from the collaborative European project RESTRAIL: REDuction of suicides ans trespasses on RAILway property”, open access in European Transport Research Review

“RESTRAIL Toolbox – An Innovative Solution for Safe, Secure and Resilient Railway Operation”, open access in Transportation Research Procedia

“Optimizing suicide and trespass prevention on railways: a problem-solving model from the RESTRAIL project”, in International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion

“A systematic review of the literature on safety measures to prevent railway suicides and trespassing accidents” in Accident Analysis & Prevention