



Pôle Santé
du groupe **Elixir**



Press release

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The Elixir Group's Healthcare Services Competence Centre partners EPIDE in helping find employment for young people

Avenance Santé-Résidences, Hôpital Service and FMC – three of the four members of the Elixir Group's Healthcare Services Competence Centre – have signed a three-year national partnership agreement with Etablissement Public d'Insertion de la Défense (EPIDE). The aim of this partnership is to provide information and employment opportunities for volunteers who form part of the "Défense 2ème chance" initiative launched by the French State for helping low-skilled young people who are unemployed.

Set up in August 2005, EPIDE is governed by the French ministries of Defence, Employment and Urban Housing and Development. Its role is to run an educational and internship programme called "Défense 2ème Chance" aimed at encouraging the social and professional integration of unqualified and unemployed people aged between 18 and 22 who are at risk of social marginalisation.

EPIDE is authorised to enter into partnership agreements with private-sector companies and it is under such an agreement that Avenance Santé Résidences, Hôpital Service and FMC have undertaken to roll out awareness-raising sessions for EPIDE's programme volunteers. In these sessions the three entities will present their specific businesses as well as training and career opportunities. In addition, they will offer the volunteers one-to-two month "introductory" internships, with a view to helping them learn the conduct required for working in a company and the interpersonal skills necessary for forming part of a team. At the end of the internship if the volunteers have the appropriate drive and aptitudes they may be hired directly by Avenance Santé Résidences, Hôpital Service or FMC. A special steering committee has been set up to oversee the smooth running of the partnership.

As a signatory of the Corporate Diversity Charter, the Apprenticeship Charter and the Education Charter, Elixir has a pro-active recruitment policy in France, taking on over 6,000 people a year on permanent contracts. The Group takes particular care to recruit socially disadvantaged people, notably through its *Agir pour l'éducation* Foundation, which has helped numerous young students undertake higher education programmes since it was launched over ten years ago. This recent partnership with EPIDE follows on from a partnership already set up last year with Avenance Entreprises via which various "Défense 2ème chance" volunteers have found placements in the catering industry.

About the Elior Group's Healthcare Services Competence Centre

With 8,500 employees serving 800 client institutions, the Elior Group's Healthcare Services Competence Centre offers a wide range of catering, hospitality and cleaning services to hospitals, clinics and retirement homes. It has doubled its market share in the space of five years and now ranks number one in its sector for specialised cleaning and hospitality services and number two in catering. It meets the outsourced service needs of all forms of healthcare establishments through four entities: **Avenance Santé-Résidences** (catering), **Hôpital Service** (specialised cleaning and hospitality services), **Services & Santé** (cafeteria/retail and multi-media services) and **FMC** (reception and multi-services).

About Elior

Founded in 1991, Elior ranks third in the European contracted foodservice and related services market, holding leading positions in Contract Catering & Facilities Management, and Concession Catering & Travel Retail. In 2007, the Group generated revenue of €3.25 billion. Each day, Elior's 63,000 employees serve 2.8 million guests at some 13,500 restaurants and outlets in 15 countries. Elior is active in the Business & Industry, Education, and Healthcare & Seniors sectors, as well as travel (airports, railway stations and motorways), and leisure & culture (museums and exhibition centres). As a socially responsible enterprise, Elior signed up to the United Nations Global Compact in 2004. The Group therefore takes special care to provide nutritionally balanced meals to guests, limit the environmental impact of its operations and purchases, and support employee integration and training. For further information please visit www.elior.com

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About EPIDE

Created in August 2005 and headed by Olivier Rochereau, EPIDE (*Établissement Public d'Insertion de la Défense*) is overseen by the French ministries of Defense, Employment, and Urban Housing and Development. Its role is to run an educational and internship programme called "Défense 2ème Chance" aimed at encouraging the social and professional integration of unqualified and unemployed people aged between 18 and 22 who are at risk of social marginalisation. In the space of less than three years EPIDE has opened more than twenty centres throughout France. The whole programme is based on the young people concerned voluntarily signing up at special admissions sessions organised at the centres five times a year, in February, April, June, October and December. The participants follow an innovative pedagogical programme for between six months and two years, which comprises three modules:

- A refresher course in basic educational skills (reading, writing and maths), as well as an introduction to computer technology and how to use the web.
- Citizenship and behavioural training as well as a first-aid course and preparation for sitting the Highway Code section of the driving test.
- Career advice/training/job opportunities provided in conjunction with the programme's partner companies and organisations.

In addition to partnerships signed between the EPIDE centres and local companies, EPIDE has entered into nation-wide agreements, including with Avenance Entreprises, Bouygues Construction, the Eiffage group, the Flunch group, the Fédération Française du Bâtiment, the Fédération Nationale des Travaux Publics, the GTM group, Vedior Bis, the Colas group, AFT-IFTIM, the Vinci group, and the Restaurateurs de France and Entreprise et Logement associations.

For further information please visit www.epide.fr

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