

Volume 10, Issue 3 / 2008 - Country Focus: France AFRADESS

The French Association of Managers of Healthcare, social and medical-social Institutions AFRADESS (As - sociation française des Directeurs d'Etablissements sanitaires et sociaux) is a non-profit association open to managers and executive managers active in the private non-profit sector of healthcare (hospitals, clinics, etc), social care (emergency drop-in centres, legal placement centres, etc.) and me - dical-social establishments (for the disabled and elderly).

This sector covers more than 3,000 establishments and servi ces in France.

AFRADESS aims to bring together the various components making up the non-profit sector and to work in conjunction with managing executives to take an active part in the changes affecting gover nance and management in the area of non-profit establishments and services.

Based on the principle that management needs to adapt to changes in the social sector and that executive managers must broaden their skills, AFRADESS aims to contribute to these chan ges, which can even be seen as a cultural revolution, by providing exe cutive managers with support in the form of advice, assistance and representation in a profession which is increasingly at the forefront of developments and as such exposed to multiple un knowns.

AFRADESS has therefore set up its "SABRE" project based on the principles of Solidarity, Assistance, Benchmarking, Networking and Mutual Aid.

AFRADESS aims to:

represent executive managers active in the various social fields involving healthcare, the disabled and elderly, as well as social care establishments:

provide assistance to executive managers in their various functions involving the managing of establishments;

promote the exchange of ideas, experiences, the emergence of innovative ideas and information on experimental approaches;

develop knowledge networks, lobbying and networking bet - ween players in the various management domains;

also provide support to executive managers who are experiencing difficulties in their managerial functions.

For this purpose, AFRADESS is: setting up a website, which will enable executive managers to contact the association; developing the "SOS Manager" unit, which has representatives in all major regions. This is a dedicated tool to promote solidarity among its members and through which a manager can obtain free, confidential assistance from collea gues when facing unexpected challenges in exercising his functions. helping to grow membership among executive managers in CADR'AS (insurance and legal aid contract), which is insurance coverage for criminal and civil defence in the event a manager is involved in a legal dispute with his Board of Directors;

working to bring together within its association the various mana - gers representing the social sector and active in the management of establishments:

launching a new AFRADESS membership drive.

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