



Document issued by the National Union of the community centers for social action (UNCCAS), an association which brings together 4 000 CCAS and 6 000 municipalities and / or cooperation between neighbouring communes organisations. UNCCAS has as main objective to promote and defend the social action of proximity implemented by CCAS/CIAS. UNCCAS coordinates the action of CCAS at a department, regional and national level. Likewise, the UNCCAS is involved in European projects (Grundtvig, Progress, Daphné) and has already initiated numerous contacts beyond Europe (Quebec, Asia...). Finally, the UNCCAS was the founder, in 2008, of the Elisan network, the European network for inclusion and local social action (www.elisan.eu), whose aim is to give the local social action elected representatives a way of making their voices heard at European level.



# CCAS

## The French-style local social action



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## Social action organization in France



For nearly 30 years, there has been in France a decentralization movement leading the State to transfer some of its missions to actors closer to the field. In what concerns social action, the designated lead manager is the County Council, who manages several services at department level: child welfare, assistance to disabled adults and the elderly, health protection for family and child, fight against social problems. Nevertheless, setting the legal condition of access of the beneficiaries remains the responsibility of the State, which retains its power concerning the general regulations and definition of the social policy. At the municipal level, the borough social action centre (CCAS) takes the duty of animation, prevention and social development, complementing the actions implemented by the County Council.



## The borough social action centre - CCAS

The borough\* social action centre (CCAS), chaired ipso jure by the mayor of the municipality, is the local institution behind the social action in its territory. Chosen locals designated by the municipal council, and representatives of associations appointed by the mayor are equally represented within the board of directors of the CCAS. Among those associations, the following persons must be appointed at a minimum: a representative of the family associations, a representative of the associations disabled people, a representative of the associations for retirees and seniors and a representative of the associations involved in the field of fight against exclusion.



This parity, which makes the CCAS a unique tool of governance in Europe, brings a stronger coherence to its response since the CCAS lies in the reality and the diversity of the municipality and the society in which it is organized. The CCAS are the main "local assistance offices" for the elderly or disabled, children, families, including also the fight against exclusion, etc. They are therefore responsible to provide assistance to individuals, e.g. managing residential homes for the elderly and home care services (meals delivery, nursing

care...), catering for the needs of travelling people, managing early childhood structures, housing and integration assistance services, etc. Some CCAS also carry out projects within the co-financial support of the European financing (EQUAL, European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund...) and establish cross-border exchanges with their European counterparts.



\*or intermunicipal.