

Paris, 26 November 2003

The Steria-Institut de France Foundation uses IT to help social reintegration

The Steria-Institut de France Foundation, whose goal is to make information technology available to people in need, has set up an IT workshop in the north of Paris for the *Association Îlot*, which is dedicated to helping socially excluded people, particularly ex-prisoners. In addition to financing IT equipment, the aim is to support training personnel who will provide basic IT training to association members to help them reintegrate socially and professionally. This is the fourth such project backed by the Steria-Institut de France Foundation since it was created two years ago.

Basic computing skills are becoming essential in the world of work, when seeking employment or accommodation on the Internet, or when dealing with paperwork. Using a computer can also reveal literacy problems, provide access to interactive literacy learning and help the user to form relationships, thus preventing isolation.

The Steria-Institut de France Foundation offers support to the *Îlot* association in four areas:

- association volunteer training in running IT workshops (office applications and Internet),
- co-hosting of IT workshops,
- securing premises,
- provision and financing of computer equipment and consumables.

Several volunteers from Steria are taking part in the project. Joëlle, the project sponsor and Steria employee explains: "I wanted to get involved with the foundation but as an accountant I didn't know how it was possible. My role is to ensure constant dialogue between the *Association Îlot* and the Foundation by listening to *Îlot's* needs, both in terms of equipment and IT skills, but also by passing on our knowledge in this field to optimise the workshop's operation and the services it provides. It is a fantastic project, computer skills really can help the association's members to get back into the world of work."

Alexandre, a Steria consultant and volunteer who has set up original and enjoyable training programmes for *Îlot*, adds: "Technologies have developed, but the basic principle has stayed the same: practice is more effective than theory when it comes to overcoming apprehensions about using a machine. The goal is to award a computer-user licence, like a driving licence, which will considerably improve chances of finding work."

Once the premises had been made secure, furniture and IT equipment were installed.

Two centre employees have been trained and the first training sessions are underway with the support of Steria volunteers.

The Steria-Institut de France Foundation also backs three other projects. The first, initiated with the "Votre Ecole chez Vous" association, provides access to IT for disabled or sick children who are tutored at home. The second involves setting up an IT workshop for children at the Vigée Lebrun schools in Paris, providing them with extracurricular IT learning activities at all levels. Finally, the foundation works with the "Les Enfants de l'Air" association, which aids Tuareg and Nigerien people from the Agadez region of Niger by providing IT equipment maintenance training.

www.fondationsteria.org

About Steria (www.steria.com)

With a 2002 revenue of €1.018 billion and more than 8000 employees, Steria is one of the top ten IT services companies in Europe. Present in 12 countries worldwide, the Group is positioned as an end-to-end IT services provider through the mastery of its three core businesses: consulting, systems integration and managed services.

Its acknowledged expertise in managing large-scale projects and its range of industrialised solutions in Europe enable Steria to offer its customers a reliable service with commitment to cost and risk control. The Group has strong sector-based expertise in the Public Services, Banking and Insurance, Manufacturing-Utilities-Transport and Telecommunications markets.

Created in 1969, the Steria group is a pioneer in employee shareholding, with 30% of its capital held by employees. Steria is listed on the *Premier Marché* of the Paris Stock Exchange and in the SBF 120 index.

About the Institut de France (www.institut-de-france.fr) :

Created on 25 October 1795, the Institut de France is chaired by former Prime Minister Chancellor Pierre Messmer. It comprises five historical French academies covering language, literature, sciences, arts, and political and moral sciences.

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