The Institute of Social Sciences of Labour was created in 1951 within the former Faculty of Law of Paris. It then offered training activities as part of social promotion and included a social science research centre that hosted the first research work on work, initiated by Georges Friedmann (M. Crozier, A. Touraine, Y. Delamotte, D. Reynaud, R. Kaléjus...).

In 1961, Marcel David, founder of the Strasbourg Institute, became the Institute’s director. A workers’ education section was created, which since 1963 has provided training courses for trade union leaders in conjunction with the three main workers’ confederations: CGT, CFDT and FO. On the occasion of the restructuring of universities, pursuant to the Orientation Act of 12 November 1968, the Workers’ Education Section was set up as a Teaching and Research Unit attached to the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, while retaining the name of the Institute of Social Sciences of Labour. Following the revision of the statutes of the University of Paris 1, this EBU became an “Institute” within the meaning of Article 33 of the Law of 26 January 1984. Initially located on rue Cujas, in Paris, the Institute moved to the Paris region on two sites, Sceaux and Bourg-la-Reine in 1970. After a short stay in Fontenay-aux-Roses, the ISST returned to the only renovated site in Bourg-la-Reine in 2008.

In accordance with the project of Marcel David, Professor of History, founder of the ISST, the Institutes of Labour constitute a meeting place between the academic world and the trade union world. They participate in the training and reflection efforts of activists and trade union representatives who, due to their mandate and responsibilities, wish to enhance their experience with university level teaching. The Institute of Social Sciences of Labour of Bourg-la-Reine, like the Labour Institute of Strasbourg, has national competence. There are also 9 regional institutes (Aix-Marseille, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lyon, Nancy, Rennes, Saint-Etienne, Toulouse and Lille). These institutes, in accordance with their missions defined by both the Labour Code and the Education Code, provide training for trade union activists as part of the social and trade union economic training leave (F.E.S.S.) provided for in Article L. 2145-5 of the Labour Code, as well as training for labour tribunal members (Articles L. 1442-1 and D. 1442-1).

The ISST is an internal component of the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TRADE UNION TRAINING

The ISST is authorised to provide training within the framework of the Economic, Social and Trade Union Training (ESST) leave. It is approved by the Ministry of Labour.

Twelve full professors at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, in various disciplines of the human and social sciences (law, economics, sociology and educational sciences) are assigned to the Institute to provide these courses.

The topics covered, generally focused on labour and industrial relations issues, aim to:

- a deepening of disciplinary knowledge in the humanities and social sciences,
- a multidisciplinary understanding of current issues and/or specific problems trade union organisations are facing,
- provide training for trade union trainers.

The recruitment of trainees is carried out internally by the trade union organisations (CFDT, CGT, CGT-FO) and is carried out throughout the national territory.

The training takes place in the form of five-day, or, more rarely, three-days courses. About thirty sessions are organized each year at the Institute.

LABOUR COURT TRAINING

The ISST also organizes training sessions for the industrial relations advisors of each of the trade union organizations.

Since 2010, annual training cycles have brought together, one day a month, the industrial relations advisors of the three trade union organisations. These “Labour Law Days” (eight in the year) deal with current topics in social labour law.

RESEARCH

The ISST hosts a team of researchers attached to the IDHÉS-CNRS laboratory “Institutions and Historical Dynamics of the Economy and Society” (UMR CNRS 8533). The research focuses on work and its transformations, social and professional relations, social and professional relations, social policies, gender and all organizational issues.

The list of researchers in the team as well as the publications and theses defended in this laboratory are available on the IDHÉS-CNRS website: www.idhes.cnrs.fr/

MORE INFORMATION

The annual activity reports can be downloaded from the following link: https://www.univ-paris1.fr/ufr/isst/rapports-dactivite/

THE DOCUMENTATION CENTER

In order to carry out its various missions, ISST has a documentation centre specialized in social sciences of labour.

The Institute’s collection, organised around the themes of the trade union movement, employee training, social protection, labour history, economics, sociology and labour law, consists of more than 25,000 documents (monographs, manuals, theses and dissertations, research reports, etc.) along with a collection of nearly 400 periodical titles, including 90 periodicals to which the centre is still subscribed. A catalog of the documentation center’s collection is available on the university’s website: http://catalogue.univ-paris1.fr

The documentation centre is open to trade union activists, teacher/researchers and students of the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne from Monday to Friday from 9am to 7pm. It is also accessible, upon request, to external persons.

Documentalists can produce, for researchers, bibliographies on topics related to the social sciences of labour, as well as occasional research.