SQUARE

We equip youth with critical skills for informed decision-making and resilience against misinformation.

Google.org

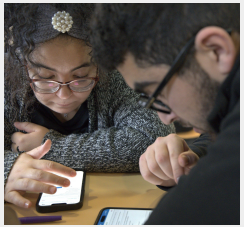
reboot
elevating critical thinking

SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT
CHARGÉ DE
LA CITOYENNETÉ
ET DE LA VILLE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

European
MEDIA AND
INFORMATION
Fund

anct
agence nationale
de la cohésion
des territoires

Square works with young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods

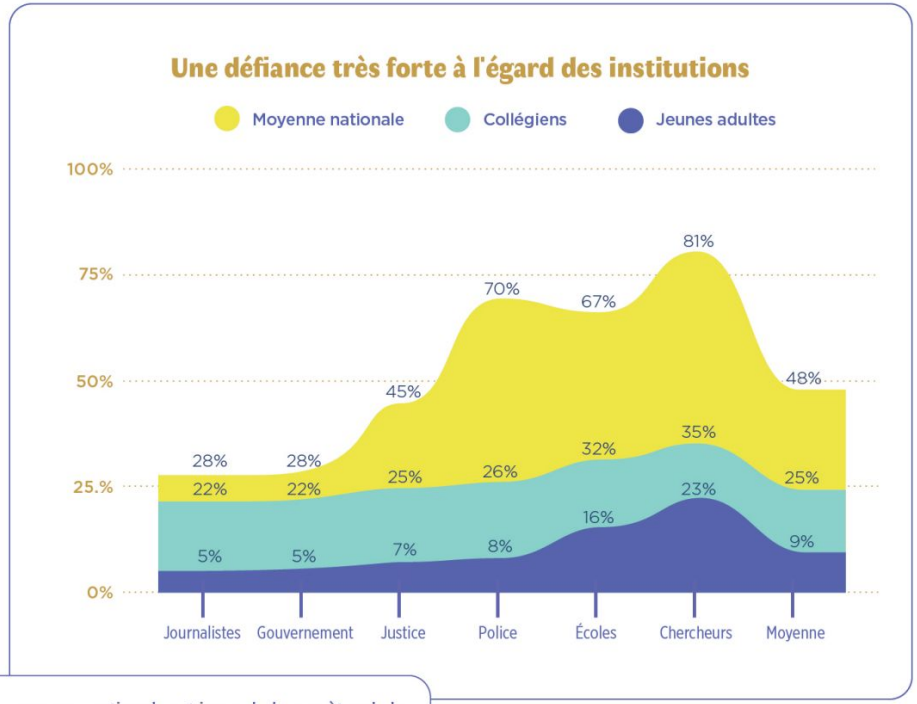
1	2	3	4
Youth engagement	**Pre-intervention assessment** *Needs analysis*	**Workshop**	**Post-intervention evaluation** *Impact analysis*
Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE ET DE LA JEUNESSE EPIDE ÉTABLISSEMENT POUR L'INSERTION DANS L'EMPLOI Les Missions Locales SPORT DANS LA VILLE Du Sport à l'Emploi	Square assesses knowledge, representations, skills and reflexes related to information processing.	Square works with groups of young people to train them to assess the level of trust to place in content.	

Needs assessment

1. Strong institutional distrust

41% of young adults et **19%** of secondary school pupils believe that '**some diseases have been created by the government to be used as weapons against certain groups of people**'.

5% des jeunes adultes et **22%** des collégiens de notre échantillon déclarent faire confiance au gouvernement, contre **28%** de la population nationale.



La moyenne nationale est issue du baromètre de la confiance politique du **CEVIPOF** de février 2024.

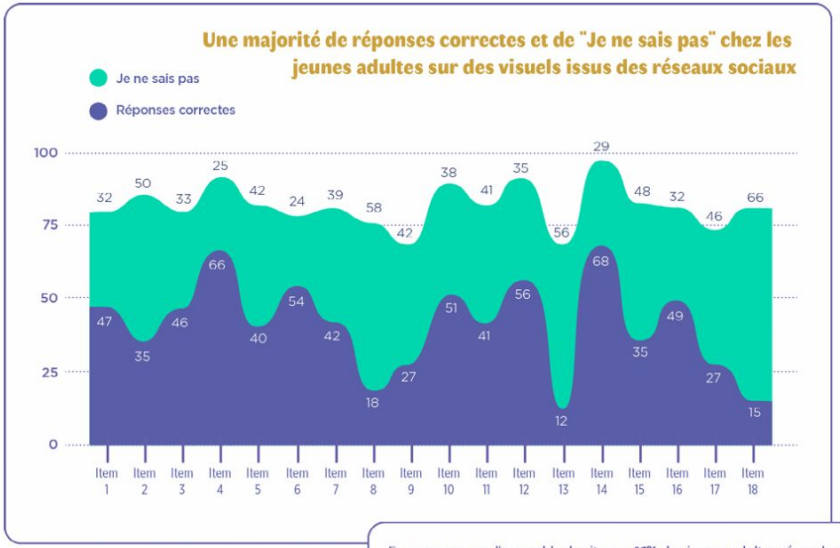
Needs assessment

2. High level of distrust

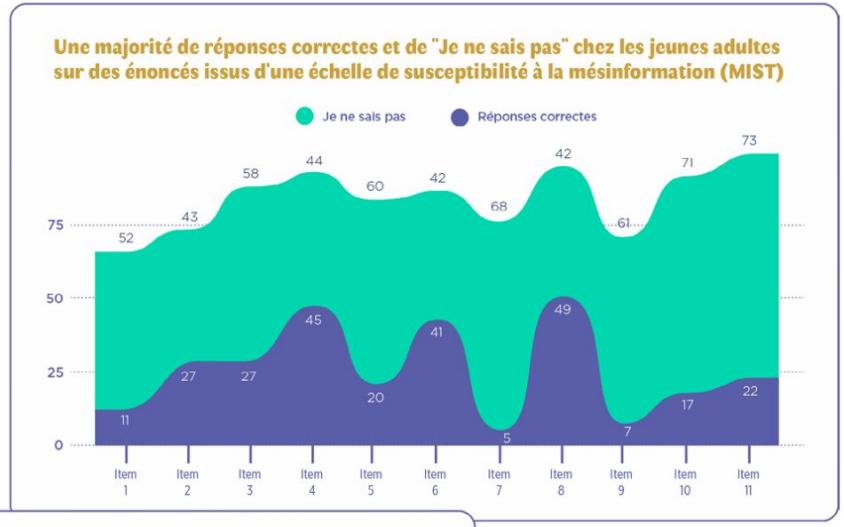
60% say they do not trust the information circulating on social media, but **they get their news almost exclusively from social media**.

Needs assessment

3. More sceptical than gullible



En moyenne, sur l'ensemble des items, **41%** des jeunes adultes répondent ne pas savoir si l'information qu'on leur montre est vraie ou fausse.



En moyenne, sur l'ensemble des items, **56%** des jeunes adultes répondent ne pas savoir si l'information qu'on leur montre est vraie ou fausse

Needs assessment

4. Not looking for the truth

45.8% believe in **holding onto beliefs despite contradicting evidence**
25.2% **find acceptable to ignore counter evidence**

Workshops: fostering critical thinking and self autonomy

1. Providing tools and critical analysis skills

- Working on the line between fact and opinions
- Reflecting on **emotional reactions** and **cognitive biases**, how they interact with social media and information and their consequences
- **Active learning approach** to ensure engagement, participation and retention of concepts

Workshops: fostering critical thinking and self autonomy

2. Passing on knowledge

- **How social media works** (platform business models, algorithms, influencers, etc.)
- **Freedom of expression** and **content regulation** mechanisms
- **Tools for verifying** and **analysing information** (OSINT, AI…)
- **The media landscape**: information production, source reliability, etc.

Workshops: fostering critical thinking and self autonomy

3. Empowering participants to take action

- Reflection on the different roles (of users, themselves, platforms, governments and other entities, etc.)
- Work on **tolerance** and **empathy**
- Activities where they **take a stand** and have to argue **based on facts**

Impact

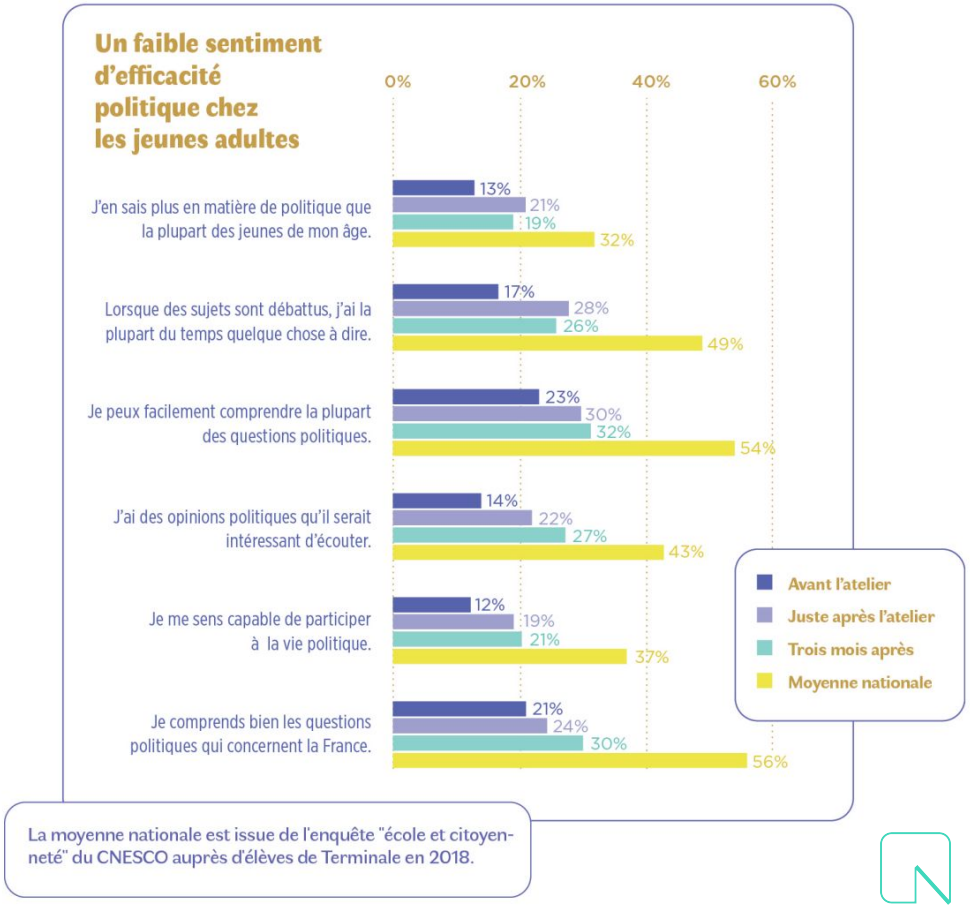
Conspiracy levels and open-mindedness

After the workshops, there was a decrease in **conspiracy thinking** among young adults, from **66.6%** to **50%**.

After the workshops, **74%** of young adults and **49%** of secondary school students said they would now seek out different points of view.

Impact

Political efficacy



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Reach out to us:
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