

## Convergence of Primary Schooling in France before the Ferry Laws

Claude DIEBOLT\*, Magali JAOUL and Gilles SAN MARTINO

**Abstract:** The development of primary schooling has been considered since the beginning of the nineteenth century as a major process and notably characteristic of developed capitalist societies. French research on education has generally merely noted this development, considering the interpretation to be obvious. We have a different conception, considering that the increase in school attendance in France requires a fresh conceptual approach and new empirical and theoretical validation work. For this, our cliometric study of primary education by administrative department in France in the nineteenth century is based on retrospective national accountancy and econometric methods.

**Keywords:** Education, convergence, quantitative history, cliometrics, econometric history, France.

\*Corresponding author: CNRS, Université Montpellier I & Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Address: LAMETA/CNRS, Université Montpellier I, Faculté des Sciences Economiques, Espace Richter, Avenue de la Mer, B.P. 9606, 34054 Montpellier Cedex 1, France. Tél. 04.67.15.83.20, Fax. 04.67.15.84.67, E-mail: [claude.diebolt@lameta.univ-montp1.fr](mailto:claude.diebolt@lameta.univ-montp1.fr). We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). The article falls within the scope of a CNRS action (Aid for New Projects) entitled Analyse cliométrique de la relation éducation-croissance en Europe aux 19ème et 20ème siècles ('Cliometric analysis of the relation between education and growth in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries').