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For immediate release:

New record year for employee share ownership in Europe in 2017

The European Federation of Employee Share Ownership (EFES), will release the new "Annual Economic Survey of Employee Share Ownership in European Countries" on March 8.

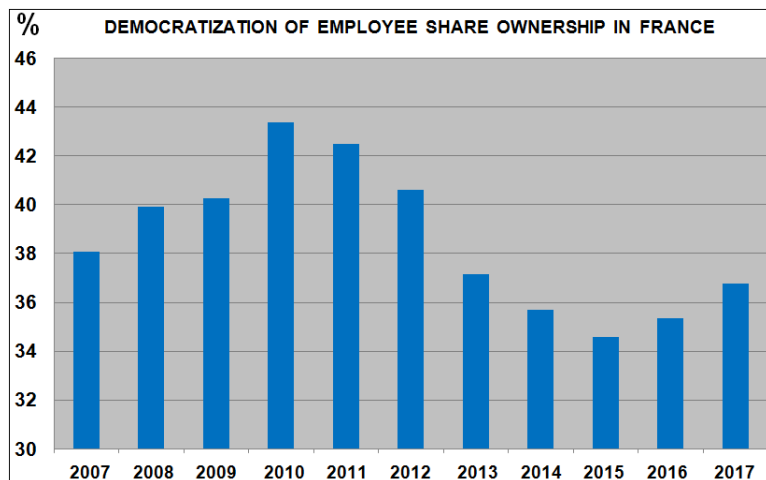
This is a new record year for employee share ownership in Europe, with nearly 400 billion Euro held by employees in their company or 3.20%. 86.6% of all large European companies have employee share plans. Their number increased by 3 to 4% on average each year since 2006, a solid growth. The rise is back for the number of employee shareholders, with 7.5 million people in large European companies. By adding one million employee shareholders in SMEs, the total figure reaches 8.5 million. And the decline in the democratization rate of employee share ownership has been stopped, a remarkable result due to the positive policy choices made in many countries.

In addition, the imbalance ceased to widen between European countries.

Following the crisis, some European countries (including the UK) had chosen for stronger incentive policies, promoting employee share ownership and long term savings as an investment for the future. Instead of that, some other countries (including France) had chosen to reduce public spending and to support household consumption, while incentives for long term savings and for employee share ownership were sacrificed. This had a strong impact on the democratization rate of employee share ownership in Europe.

After the negative phase from 2009 to 2013, policy decisions are positive again in most European countries. The democratization rate stabilized in Europe and both in the UK and on the continent.

A rebound can even be observed in France following the "Macron Law", with 37% of all employees holding shares in large French companies in 2017. This illustrates the high elasticity of employee share ownership to fiscal incentives in France.



The new Annual Survey will be available on the EFES website on www.efesonline.org. The detailed publication can be [downloaded here](#).

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Notes to editors:

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The European Federation of Employee Share Ownership (EFES) is an international not for profit organization. EFES is the voice of employee share ownership in Europe. It was established in 1998 as the umbrella organisation of employee owners, companies and all persons, trade unions, experts, researchers, institutions looking to promote the development of employee share ownership and participation in Europe.