

HR process for restructuring and closure of units



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1. Introduction

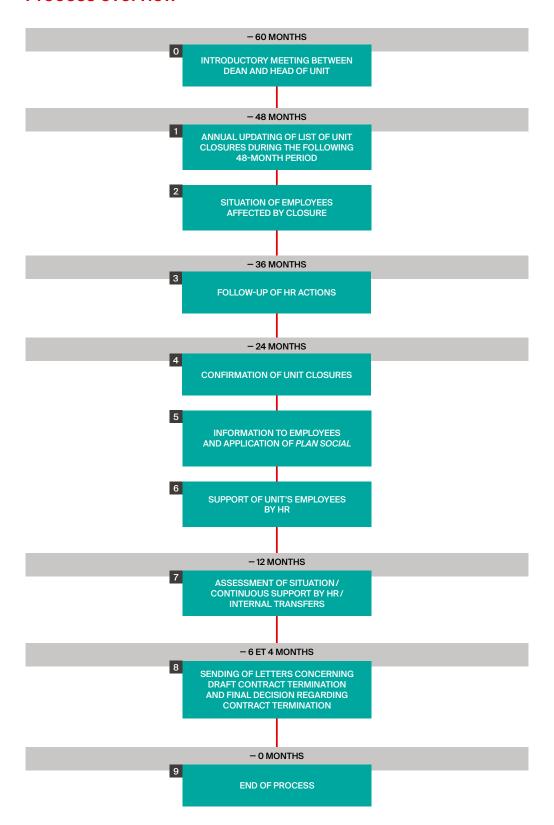
Human Resources has defined a standard process concerning the restructuring and closure of units, based on LEX 4.1.2 and the plan social applicable to the EPF Domain. This process explains the legal aspects and support offered to the employees concerned, from the point of view of communication, job search strategy, training or other action in order to facilitate their internal mobility or external redeployment.

The process and tools described, based on best practices, constitute the minimal standard required to effectively support restructuring and closure procedures.

Goals	 Define a standard process regarding restructurings and closures. 							
	 Improve communication and support regarding the employees concerned. 							
	 Facilitate internal mobility and external redeployment. 							
Scope	This process applies to all EPFL employees with unlimited-term contracts.							
HR tools mandatory M	 LEX 4.1.2 and annexe 1 "Reverse schedule for the closure of a unit / departure of a Head of unit" – M 							
or optional O	■ Template • Unit restructuring / closure file* – M							
	■ ABC list by unit or infocentre* – O							
	■ Template • Two-pager Direction – M							
	■ Template • List of CDIs affected by closures during year* – M							
	■ Template • Information meeting slides – O							
	■ Template • Information letter concerning unit closure* – M							
	 Plan social pour le domaine des EPF - M Template • Job search activity record - M 							
	■ Template • Intermediate work certificate – M							
	■ Template • Support monitoring* – M							
	■ Template • Cover letter and draft contract termination letter* – M							
	■ Template • Final contract termination decision letter* – M							
****	■ Template • Final work certificate – M							
* HR use only	Evaluation questionnaire – M							
Metrics	 ■ Evaluation of communication and support regarding the employees concerned (based on the evaluation questionnaire) → Objective: 60% satisfaction regarding communication → Objective: 60% satisfaction regarding support 							
	 Percentage of internal or external redeployment → Objective: 50% (including internal / external split) 							
Implementation	01 January 2021							
Review cycle	Human Resources will examine this process at least once a year in order to take best practices into consideration and integrate the lessons learned.							



2. **Process overview**





3. **EPFL standard operating procedure**

Step	Who/person responsible	How	Mandatory M or optional O documents					
O - 60 months Introductory	HRM	 Draw up, each November, a list of anticipated retirements of Professors / Heads of units over the following 60 months and send it to the Deans. 	ABC list by unit or infocentre* - O					
meeting between Dean and Head of unit	Dean	 Meeting with Heads of units five years prior to legal retirement age to inform them regarding: Dean's support until closure of laboratory, importance of supporting their employees to improve their future employability, application of LEX 4.1.2 and HR closure process. 						
1 - 48 months	Pension fund Manager	 Each November, update the "unit restructuring/closure file" for retirements anticipated during the following 48 months and send to DRH/ADRH. 	Template • Unit restructuring / closure file* - M					
Annual updating of list of unit closures during the following 48-months period	HRM • Verify and complete if necessary the "unit restructuring/ closure file" with other possible departures (non-renewed PATTs, resignation of POs) and send it to DRH/ADRH for							
	DRH / ADRH	 Submit the "unit restructuring/closure file" to Faculty Affairs to complete and validate for the following two years. Send the final "unit restructuring/closure file" to the Direction (VPs), Deans, College Directors, Internal Control and Risk Management Department (hereinafter CIGR). Each December, send the validated list of restructurings/closures for the following year to EPFL active social partners (APC, ACC, SSP, Transfair). 						
	Dean / VP / Head of unit / HRM	In the event of an immediate or unplanned departure, an accelerated process is established. Steps 5 to 9 described below are applicable within a deadline of six months as from notification of the closure to the employees concerned.						
	HRM	In the event of an immediate or unplanned departure, inform the CIGR and FO concerned.						
2 - 48 months Situation of employees affected by closure	HRM	 Draw up the ABC list by unit/School of the employees concerned and assess the situation (review of contracts, CDD prolongation, no new PhDs without Co-Director). Initiate discussions with the Dean/VP, and Head of Unit concerning employees affected by the closure and identify any complex situations. 	ABC list by unit or infocentre* - O					
3 - 36 months Follow-up of HR actions	HRM	 Monitor the situations based on the ABC list. Review the situation with the Dean/VP, Head of unit, and Institute Director if necessary. Monitor complex situations, if necessary. 	ABC list by unit or infocentre* - O					

* HR use only



Step	Who/person responsible	How	Mandatory M or optional O documents		
- 24 months Confirmation of unit closures	Dean / VP	 Monitor the situations based on the ABC list. Review the situation with the Dean/VP, Head of unit, and Institute Director if necessary. Monitor complex situations, if necessary. 	Template • Two- pager Direction - M Template • List of CDIs affected by		
	HRM	 Calculate potential costs relating to the plan social and add an amount of KCHF 10 for support measures per employee affected by the closure and confirm the outstanding holiday balance. Communicate this information to the Dean/VP, Head of unit and FO concerned. 	closures during year* - M		
	Dean / VP / Head of unit / FO	 Define the method of financing these costs according to the unit's financial situation. These measures are the responsibility of the unit, or alternatively the School or Vice-Presidency. 			
	HR / TM	 Draw up the annual list including employees with unlimited-term contracts affected by the unit's closure with age, years of service, average level of activity over the three years preceding the closure, estimation of cost of the plan social and solution. Individual follow-up. 			
5 - 24 months Information to employees and application of plan social		 Organise, if pertinent, an information meeting for the unit's employees in the presence of the Dean/VP, Head of unit, Director of Institute, Head of Infrastructure, TM, active social partners and any other persons concerned by the closure. If no information meeting is organised, conduct an interview with the persons concerned. Send the formal information letter concerning the unit closure to employees with unlimited-term contracts. 	Template • Information meeting slides - O Template • Closure of unit information letter* - M Plan social - M		
6 - 24 months Support of unit's employees by HR	HRM	 Hold initial individual interviews with employees with unlimited-term contracts to discuss the situation following the closure (alternative positions, training, initiatives already taken by employee, etc.). Inform the employees concerned that they should keep a record of job search activities (EPFL & outside EPFL) and any other initiatives. Identify and monitor complex situations with evaluation of options (internal, external). 	Template • Job search activity record - M		
	ТМ	 Provide support individually and/or in small groups, that includes: definition of career plan job search strategy (EPFL and outside EPFL) job search training, networking updating of CV, LinkedIn profile drafting of intermediate work certificate assistance with use of job search tools on professional social networks preparation for interviews (covering letter, interview simulation, etc.) training courses to improve employability (languages, CAS, project management, etc.). 			

* HR use only



Step	Who/person responsible	How	Mandatory M or optional O documents				
7 - 12 months Assessment of situation / continuous	HRM/TM	Provide continuous support with regular meetings and discussion concerning job search efforts linked with job search strategy and/or career plan. The template "support monitoring" summarises the main actions, results and subsequent steps agreed.	Template • Job search activity record – M Template • Intermediate work				
support by HR / internal transfers	HRM	 In the event of internal mobility, add a new clause to the contract showing the amendments, and complying with the notice period of three months or other period to be agreed, for the starting date in the new unit. No trial period is possible since EPFL remains the employer. Agree, in the event of any outstanding holiday balance, that it must be taken prior to the transfer to the new unit with a maximum of five days' holiday carried over from previous years. 					
	Dean / VP / Head of unit / HRM	 Review situation regarding support, internal transfers, and employees with no solution, if relevant. 					
	Head of unit						
	DRH / ADRH	 Update the "unit restructuring/closure file" in accordance with the new information confirmed by ETH Board or EPFL Direction for restructurings. Send the updated file to HRM, CIGR, and DAR. 					
8 - 6 and 4 months Sending of letters concerning	HRM / TM	Meet with employees who have found no solution and evaluate the situation concerning actions taken by the two parties or actions to be taken (internal, external, outplacement, etc.) and inform the Dean/VP if necessary.	Template • Cover letter and draft contract termina- tion letter* – M				
draft contract termination and final decision regarding contract termination	HRM	 Deliver personally or send by registered post the draft contract termination letter four months prior to the closure of the unit and compliance with the ten-day right-to-be heard period Deliver personally, or send by registered post, the final contract termination decision letter, during the fourth month prior to the unit closure . 	Template • Final contract termination decision letter* - M				
9 - 0 months End of process	HRM	 Enter cessation of activity in SAP in order to generate exit documents. Send final work certificate and conduct exit interview, if appropriate. Monitor employees who have found an alternative position within EPFL during the following year. 	Template • Final work certificate – M Evaluation questionnaire – M				
	ТМ	 Distribute the evaluation questionnaire to all employees affected by the closure (internal mobility and terminations of contract) Analyse the data and monitor the metrics (quarterly) to propose an improvement plan, if appropriate Three-monthly monitoring of percentage of internal or external redeployment and define a plan of action, if appropriate. 					

* HR use only



4. **Documentation**

4.1 LEX 4.1.2 and annexe 1 "Reverse schedule for the closure of a unit / departure of a Head of unit" – M

Download this document

Closing inventory procedure for the departure of a Head of Unit or closure of a Unit

LEX 4.1.2

of 1st December 2007, status as at 1st January 2021

The Direction of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne hereby adopts the following:

Preamble

A closing inventory is drawn up in the event of the departure of a Head of Unit or the closure of a Unit at EPFL.

The aim of this closing inventory procedure is to document the various controls and actions which must be performed when a Head of Unit leaves and/or upon the definitive closure of a Unit

Article 1 Scope of application

The present procedure refers to Chapter 12 of the Financial Regulations and is applicable to all those responsible for EPFL cost centers, notably regardless of function (full, associate, assistant and adjunct professors, Swiss National Science Foundation grant holders, and heads of services or sections). The Head of Finance & Controlling (RFF) or deputy for the school, college, transdisciplinary body or Vice Presidency coordinates the procedures and supports the Heads of Unit in order to ensure that they function smoothly. An HR process for restructuring and closures is set out to strengthen communication and support and to facilitate internal exchanges and the external re-employment of employees concerned.

Article 2 Sequence of operations

Register of departures and Unit closures	The EPFL Human Resources service (hereinafter HR) prepares an annual list of Heads of Units who will be leaving their post within the following 5 years. All new information regarding the (unplanned) departure of a Head of Unit or the closure of a Unit must be transferred to HR without undue delay and must be entered in this register.					
Verification of information	HR coordinates and validates this information with the HR managers and the Head of Faculty Affairs.					
Communication	This information, once consolidated and verified, is forwarded: a) to the EPFL Direction and to the College Deans and Directors for their respective Schools and Colleges; b) to the Internal Control and Risk Management service (hereinafter CIGR).					

Version 1.5

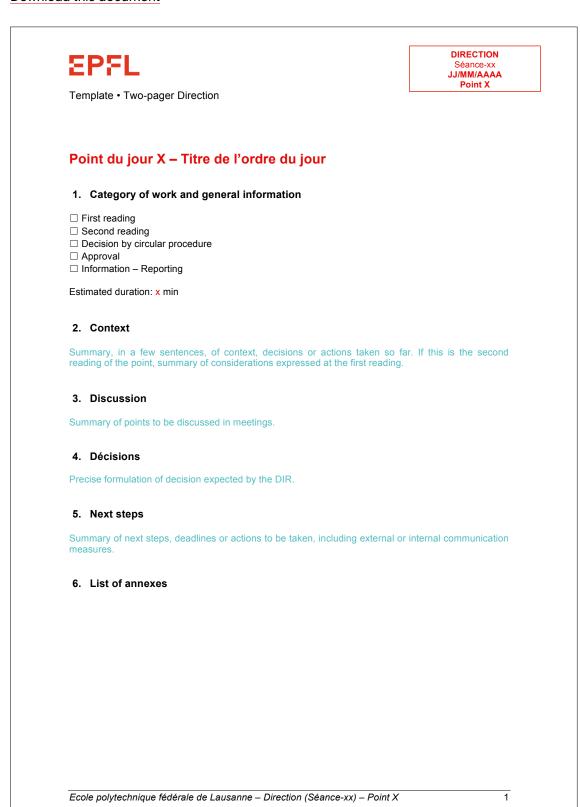






4.2 Template • Two-pager Direction – M

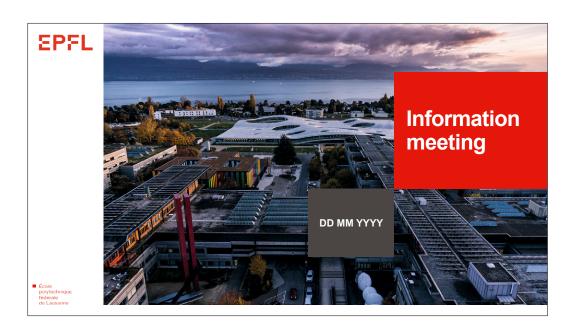
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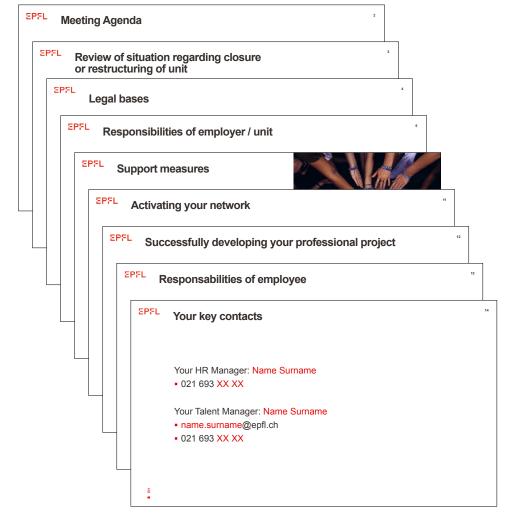




4.3 Template • Information meeting slides – O

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4.4 Plan social pour le domaine des EPF (LEX 4.6.0.2) – M

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Plan social pour le domaine des EPF

Convention relative à la mise en œuvre des restructurations au sein du domaine des EPF

1. Objet et champ d'application

La présente convention s'applique à tous les emplois à durée indéterminée au sein du domaine des EPF.

La présente convention s'applique en cas de restructuration. Sont assimilées à des restructurations, outre les réorganisations, les retraites de professeurs (éméritat) et les mesures prises à la suite d'audits se traduisant par des suppressions d'emplois ou des transformations notables d'activités imposées par des impératifs de fonctionnement ou par le changement d'objectifs de la recherche.

2. Principes

L'art. 5 de l'ordonnance sur le personnel du domaine des EPF fait obligation aux collaboratrices et aux collaborateurs de se perfectionner en fonction de leurs aptitudes et des exigences du marché du travail afin d'améliorer leur employabilité. Leur EPF ou leur établissement de recherche les soutient dans cet effort.

Les deux EPF et les établissements de recherche veillent à ce que leurs collaborateurs et les partenaires sociaux bénéficient à temps d'une information étendue et transparente.

Conformément aux dispositions de l'art. 21 de l'ordonnance sur le personnel du domaine des EPF, les deux EPF et les établissements de recherche ne déploient de mesures de réorganisation qu'en tenant particulièrement compte de l'âge et de la situation personnelle.

Pour éviter autant que possible les licenciements, il doit être recouru aux mesures suivantes, dans l'ordre de priorité ci-dessous :

- maintien de l'engagement à un autre poste raisonnablement exigible¹ dans la même EPF ou le même établissement de recherche;
- 2. maintien de l'engagement à un autre poste raisonnablement exigible au sein du domaine des EPF ;
- 3. si possible, placement à un autre poste raisonnablement exigible hors du domaine des EPF;
- 4. reconversion et perfectionnement professionnel;
- 5. retraite anticipée.

Le service du personnel informe en temps utile les collaboratrices et collaborateurs des mesures nécessaires et des possibilités (maintien de l'engagement, placement à un autre poste ou emploi, reconversion, perfectionnement, retraite anticipée, résiliation des rapports de travail, consultation d'un conseiller social, etc.).

Les personnes concernées contribuent à amortir l'impact social des restructurations par une coopération active et en prenant des initiatives personnelles. Elles sont en particulier tenues de participer activement aux efforts de placement à l'initérieur comme à l'extérieur du domaine. Les collaboratrices et collaborateurs touchés par les restructurations doivent tenir un journal de leurs efforts personnels, justificatifs à l'appui.

3. Affectation à des postes vacants en période de compression de personnel

Les compressions de personnel doivent d'abord se faire par le jeu des départs naturels. On nommera aux postes à repourvoir impérativement les collaboratrices et collaborateurs des EPF et des établissements de recherche touchés par les compressions, pour autant qu'ils possèdent les qualifications et les aptitudes nécessaires.

Il ne sera recouru au recrutement extérieur qu'après une enquête interne établissant qu'aucun(e) candidat(e) interne ne présente le profil requis. À qualifications égales, préférence sera donnée aux candidats internes.

4. Outplacement (replacement à l'extérieur)

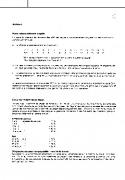
Une fois les modalités et la date de licenciement fixées, les EPF et les établissements de recherche peuvent offrir un replacement individuel ou groupé à l'extérieur.

-1-



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¹ Cf. annexe pour la définition du terme « raisonnablement exigible »



4.5 Template • Job search activity record - M

Download this document

Employee: Name Surname									
. List of positions applied for with supporting documents									
Position applied for (job title)	Application date	Date interview (if applicable)	Date reply	Result (positive / negative / other)					
1									
2									
3									
4									
2. Other job search initiatives									
Other initiatives (please define)	Date	Result		Comments					
1									
2									
3									
4									



4.6 Template • Intermediate work certificate – M

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EPFL DRH

Template • Intermediate work certificate - M

Lab contact

Prof. Prénom Nom

Important information:

- The employee can request an intermediate work certificate at any time during their employment.
- The content of the document must be supportive in order to favour the person's professional future while remaining true to reality, without underestimating or overestimating their accomplishments.
- In the event of false or only partial information, the employee may take action against EPFL. Likewise, an overly positive work certificate may be detrimental regarding a decision in the event of litigation.



Intermediate work certificate

Mr/Ms Name Surname, born on XX mois XXXX, with an unlimited employment contract, has worked since XXXX on a X% basis in the unit XXXXXXXXX of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) as XXXXXXXXXX.

Please list the main activities mentioned in the employee's job description. Add key projects or significant results.

Within the framework of their position, Mr/Ms XXXXXX carries out the following primary tasks:

- Task 1.
- Task 2.
- etc.

The sample sentences below are intended to help you write the certificate. We recommend 2 to 3 brief paragraphs that objectively evaluate the quality of the employee's work and their attitude.

XXXXXX has consistently carried out their tasks with a great deal of diligence and rigour. They have managed their assignments totally independently and always met their deadlines.

(Please select what is appropriate concerning the quality of their work)

- · Well-organised employee, capable of working independently and efficiently.
- Dynamic, committed employee.
- Thanks to their precision and sense of iniative, Mr/Ms XXXXXX has totally fulfilled the requirements of the position they occupied.
- They have demonstrated that they are capable of rapidly understanding and carrying out the taks required of them to our full satisfaction.

Name of the la written in full EPFL LABO Station X 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland +4121 693 XX XX labo@epfl.ch labo.epfl.ch



4.7 Template • Final work certificate – M

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EPFL DRH

Template • Final work certificate - M

Lab contact

Prof. Prénom Nom

Important information:

- The content of the document must be supportive in order to favour the person's professional future while remaining true to reality, without underestimating or overestimating their accomplishments.
- In the event of false or only partial information, the employee may take action against EPFL. Likewise, an overly positive work certificate may be detrimental regarding a decision in the event of litigation.



Final work certificate

Mr/Ms Name Surname, born on XX mois XXXX, with an unlimited employment contract, has worked since XXXX on a X% basis in the unit XXXXXXXXXX of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) as XXXXXXXXXX.

Please list the main activities mentioned in the employee's job description. Add key projects or significant results.

Within the framework of their position, Mr/Ms XXXXXX carries out the following primary tasks:

- Task 1.
- Task 2.
- etc.

The sample sentences below are intended to help you write the certificate. We recommend 2 to 3 brief paragraphs that objectively evaluate the quality of the employee's work and their attitude.

XXXXXX has consistently carried out their tasks with a great deal of diligence and rigour. They have managed their assignments totally independently and always met their deadlines.

(Please select what is appropriate concerning the quality of their work)

- · Well-organised employee, capable of working independently and efficiently.
- Dynamic, committed employee.
- Thanks to their precision and sense of iniative, Mr/Ms XXXXXX has totally fulfilled the requirements of the position they occupied.
- They have demonstrated that they are capable of rapidly understanding and carrying out the taks required of them to our full satisfaction.

Name of the lall written in full EPFL LABO Station X 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland +4121 693 XX XX labo@epfl.ch labo.epfl.ch



4.8 Evaluation questionnaire - M

Access the questionnaire

	Sandrill III					2- Accompagneme	nt					
					NATUR 1(F)	1= pas du tout d'accord 2 RRH = Responsable Resso						
				_		La qualité de l'acco	mpagneme	ent RRH / TN	/l a répondi	u à vos atte	ntes *	
Question				1	2	3	4					
RH d'acco			netures	pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait			
Dans le présent do désigne les femme	ns neutre et	L'accompagnement RRH / TM vous a permis de définir un nouveau projet professionnel *										
							1	2	3	4		
Votre unité a fait l' cadre, vous avez b management. Nou	enéficié du s vous dem	es ressource prendre 5	es et du talent our répondre au	pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait			
questionnaire suiv Merci d'avance po				améliorer	notre soutien.	L'accompagnement RRH / TM vous a fourni les outils appropriés pour une recherche d'emploi efficace *						
1- Communication							1	2	3	4		
1= pas du tout d'accord 2 = pas d'accord 3= d'accord 4= tout à fait d'accord						pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait	
La qualité de la communication a répondu à vos attentes *						Les RRH / TM vous ont offert une écoute et un soutien personnalisé pour vous accompagner tout au long de votre transition de carrière *						
	1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4		
pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait	pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait	
Lors de la séance o			éances indiv	viduelles vo	us avez été	2 Diam's and	last as suit			deserte esc		
	1	2	3	4		3- D'après vous, qu	est-ce qui	pourrait et	re arriellore	dans la cor	Timunication ?	
pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait	Your answer						
Lors de la séance de clairement informé	us avez été	4- D'après vous, qu'est-ce qui pourrait être amélioré dans l'accompagnement proposé ?										
	1	2	3	4								
pas du tout	0	0	0	0	tout à fait	Your answer						
						5- Dans quelle mes démarches de rech				nis de vous	consacrer à vos	
						Your answer						