

## **The French delegates: A socio-biographical profile**

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There have not yet been any studies attempting to take a closer look at the 555 congress delegates, or at least at a national segment. According to the official protocol, 127 delegates from France attended – by far the largest number from any one country. The continuing, mammoth ‘Maitron’ project has already conducted extensive research on the French labour movement in general. An analysis of the French congress delegates therefore seems almost indispensable. In our paper we will identify, to some extent, the socio-biographical profile of the delegates. We hope to provide answers to the following two questions:

- 1) From what social classes and environments did the delegates come? We focus our attention on the parents’ social background, the education of the delegate, his occupation, and his work at the time of the congress. The number of years of party membership (‘party experience’) and age (‘generation’) will also be approximately determined and examined.
- 2) In what direction did the delegates develop politically over the following years? We investigate their attitude when the war broke out, during the war, and during the division of the Socialist Party (1919-1921). We also hope to find answers to the question of the percentage of delegates who subsequently joined the newly founded CP or who left the party and took a different political course.