

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

# ABOUT



**CAPITAL:**  
LUXEMBOURG

**NEIGHBOURING  
COUNTRIES:**  
GERMANY  
BELGIUM  
FRANCE

**AREA:**  
2 586 KM<sup>2</sup>

**FORM OF  
GOVERNMENT:**  
CONSTITUTIONAL  
MONARCHY

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

# ABOUT



## Languages in Luxembourg

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is one of those rare countries in the world where several languages are spoken and written throughout its territory and in different spheres of life – private, professional, social, cultural and political. Luxembourg is characterised by its multilingualism: Luxembourgish, German and French are spoken on a daily basis alongside the languages of the 170 nationalities living in the Grand Duchy, in particular Italian, Portuguese and English. These languages are common due to migratory flows and the country's institutional and financial development. Together, they form an important part of the country's identity and serve as a basis for social cohesion.

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**Personenstandsaufnahme vom 10. Oktober 1941**

**Zählkarte für Ortsanwesende**  
(für alle Personen, eingetragen unter Abschnitt A der Haushaltsliste)

Von Zähler nummerierten	Kreis :		Gemeinde :	
	Wohnplatz (Ortschaft) :			
	Straße und Hausnummer :			
	Zählbezirk Nr. :	Haushaltsnummer : (d. i. Hds. Nr. in der Kontrolliste)	Zählkarte Nr. : (d. i. Hds. Nr. in der Haushaltsliste)	
1.	Familienname (Zuname): <u>Feyder Paul</u> bei Frauen Geburtsname: <u>Lick</u> Vorname (Rufname): <u>Elisabeth</u>			
2.	Stellung zum Haushaltungsvorstand: <u>Haushaltungsvorstand</u> <small>(wie Spalte 3 der Haushaltsliste)</small>			
3.	Familienstand: <u>ledig, verheiratet, verwitwet, geschieden</u> <small>(wie Spalte 5 der Haushaltsliste — Nichtzutreffendes streichen)</small> verheiratet mit: _____ geborene: _____ geboren am: _____ in: _____			
4.	Geburtsjahr: <u>1887</u> Geburtstag: <u>12. 5.</u> Geburtsort: <u>Luxemburg</u> <small>falls außerhalb Luxemburgs, Land und Kreis: _____          (wie Spalten 7 und 8 der Haushaltsliste)</small>			
5.	jetzige Staatsangehörigkeit: <u>Luxemburgerin</u> <small>(wie Spalte 10a der Haushaltsliste; Doppelstaater haben beide Staatsangehörigkeiten anzugeben.)</small> Falls jetzige Staatsangehörigkeit nicht durch Abstammung erworben ist: Art des Erwerbs (z. B. Option, Heirat): _____ Zeitpunkt des Erwerbs: _____ Etwas frühere Staatsangehörigkeit: _____ Zeitpunkt des Verlustes: _____		(Dieser Raum bleibt frei)	
6.	Hauptberuf: _____ Stellung im Hauptberuf: _____ Nebenberufe: _____ „ „ Nebenberuf: _____ <small>(wie Spalte 11 der Haushaltsliste)</small> Wo und bei wem beschäftigt: _____ <small>(wie Spalte 13 der Haushaltsliste)</small>			
7.	Muttersprache: <u>luxemburgisch</u> <small>(In der Regel besitzt jeder Mensch für eine Muttersprache, in welcher er denkt und deren er sich in seiner Familie und im häuslichen Verkehr am liebsten bedient, weil sie ihm am geläufigsten ist, z. B. deutsch, italienisch, französisch, polnisch. Doch kommen auch besonders bei Personen in gemischt-sprachigen Gebieten Fälle von Doppelsprachigkeit vor. Kinder, welche noch nicht sprechen, und Stumme sind der Muttersprache der Eltern zuzuzählen. — Dialekte (Mundarten), z. B. luxemburgisch, plattdeutsch, gelten nicht als Muttersprache.)</small>			

Muttersprache: luxemburgisch

(In der Regel besitzt jeder Mensch für eine Muttersprache, in welcher er denkt und deren er sich in seiner Familie und im häuslichen Verkehr am liebsten bedient, weil sie ihm am geläufigsten ist, z. B. deutsch, italienisch, französisch, polnisch. Doch kommen auch besonders bei Personen in gemischt-sprachigen Gebieten Fälle von Doppelsprachigkeit vor. Kinder, welche noch nicht sprechen, und Stumme sind der Muttersprache der Eltern zuzuzählen. — Dialekte (Mundarten), z. B. luxemburgisch, plattdeutsch, gelten nicht als Muttersprache).

Census form of October 10, 1941, that the German occupying forces distributed. "Luxembourgish" is here stated as mother tongue, thus defying the explicit specifications that Luxembourgish is a dialect and cannot be indicated as mother tongue. © Private collection of Sven Knepper

# Origins and development of multilingualism in Luxembourg

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Luxembourg is a linguistic melting pot. Its heritage has been shaped by the major European powers over the centuries, and enriched by the migratory trends of the 19th and 20th centuries as well as the country's commitment to the European project. Luxembourgish is strongly influenced by elements of Germanic and Romance languages. Having existed as a spoken language for most of its history, Luxembourgish is now established as a written language and is the primary language of integration in foreign communities.

## 1,000 years of multilingualism

The country takes its name from *Castellum Lucilinburhuc*, an Old High German term meaning "small castle" and mentioned in a medieval Latin text. The castle was established by Count Siegfried (916/919 to 998). Over the centuries, the territory of the county – which later became a duchy – grew to encompass 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a multilingual population in the 14th century.

The French occupation, under Louis XIV in 1684 and later under the Revolutionary troops in 1795, led to the use of French as an administrative and legislative language, at the expense of Latin, which saw its influence wane. The introduction of the Napoleonic Code in 1804 established French as the dominant language in legal matters. In everyday life however, Luxembourgish remained the predominant spoken language.

## 19th century

Following the Belgian Revolution, the territory of Luxembourg was divided in 1839: the western portion of the country became part of the Kingdom of Belgium, while the eastern part became an independent country. In 1842, Luxembourg joined the Zollverein, an economic union dominated by the German Confederation. On the one hand, this resulted in an inflow of German capital and companies, as well as skilled German workers into the country. Subsequently, German became the preferred language in eco-

nomic circles. The workforce on the other hand came from Italy: between 1875 and 1910, 10,138 Italians settled in Luxembourg, mainly in the south of the country, and left their mark on society and the language.

In the printed press, German took a prominent position, while French remained the language of law and administration. Legislation was published in German and French.

In 1843, the law on primary education enshrines multilingualism in Luxembourg. From this point on, German and French were taught in primary school on an equal footing. As such, Luxembourg began to forge its own linguistic identity between the German- and French-speaking cultural spheres.

At the same time, Luxembourgish experienced a renaissance as a language of national identification for Luxembourgers. During this time, the first dictionaries were published. Countless poems, songs and stories were also written in Luxembourgish. Among the most notable works is *Ons Heemecht* ("Our Homeland", 1859), a poem by Michel Lentz. In 1864, the composer Jean-Antoine Zinnen wrote an accompanying melody and it thus became the national anthem of Luxembourg.

## 20th century

During the German occupation from 1940 to 1944, the French language was banned and Luxembourg was officially downgraded to a dialect in order to justify the incorporation of Luxembourg into the German Reich. The 1941 census, which was intended to crown the power of the occupying forces, turned into a catastrophe as an overwhelming majority of the population declared Luxembourgish as their mother tongue.

After 1945, Luxembourgish further strengthened its position as the dominant cultural factor in Luxembourg's identity. The position of French as a widely used language was reinforced. This trend was due to a backlash against Germanification. Moreover, during this period, French words were favoured in the Luxembourgish language. The Constitution of 1948 also removed the notion that the German and French languages were on an equal footing and left it to the legislator to regulate their use.

The role of Luxembourgish was further reinforced by the law on the language regime (1984), which promoted Luxembourgish to the rank of national language and stipulated that Luxembourgish, French and German share the status of administrative and legal languages of the country.

In 1989, the recognition of Luxembourgish at European level by the "Lingua" programme provided further confirmation of the socio-cultural resurgence of the language.

The economic boom in the second half of the 20th century and the hosting of the European institutions in Luxembourg attracted a wave of new foreign workers. Large Portuguese-, Italian- and English-speaking communities helped to enrich the linguistic environment. At the same time, the

establishment of European institutions in Luxembourg led to the creation of various expatriate communities that added further cultural spice and diversity to the domestic melting pot.

## 21st century

While French, English and German are key working languages, Luxembourgish continues to benefit from measures to promote its use. Furthermore, the emergence of digital media has helped to broaden the use of Luxembourgish as a written language for the first time in its history. This has resulted in a large increase in the use of Luxembourgish in print and on the web.

# Use of languages



Street signs with French and Luxembourgish street names © SIP

Moiien, bonjour, hallo, bom dia, hello, buenos días... Welcome to Luxembourg! Owing to its cosmopolitan character, the Grand Duchy enjoys a highly unique position in Europe. With a growing number of foreign residents from the four corners of the globe, it is hardly surprising that the number of languages spoken is ever growing. Luxembourg stands out from the crowd owing to its linguistic diversity, which is evident in everyday life, at work, in politics, school and the media.

## Multilingualism in daily life

In the Grand Duchy, all roads lead to Rome, linguistically speaking! People in Luxembourg use several languages on a daily basis in order to make themselves understood or to translate the messages of others. This happens at all times of day and in all types of situations.

Thus, Luxembourgers live their daily lives floating effortlessly from one language to another. You just have to take a short stroll through the capital and listen carefully to find numerous examples. All the languages of the world meet here and blend harmoniously into a multicultural universe. You can hear it on the terraces, in the streets, on public transportation, in the supermarkets, at a soccer match or during an outing with friends. It is a genuine linguistic wonder that begins in the morning at the bakery when ordering a croissant in French. You then switch to Luxembourgish when ordering lunch, and then jump to English when you ask the barman for the bill in the evening.

Code-switching, i.e. the necessity to switch from one language to another, is therefore part of everyday life for all residents of the Grand Duchy. This is hardly surprising, as foreign residents make up 47% of the population and more than 200,000 cross-border commuters travel to work in Luxembourg each day. As such, it has become perfectly normal to converse in several languages every day.

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# THE USE OF A LANGUAGE DEPENDS ON THE CONTEXT

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Multilingualism is omnipresent in the Grand Duchy. Luxembourgish, French, German, English, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish are the most common languages. However, the linguistic landscape is characterised by trilingualism, with Luxembourgish as the predominant language, i.e. the language most commonly used.

Data provides the proof. According to a STATEC study published in 2019, for Luxembourg nationals, Luxembourgish is still the language they master best (76%), followed by French (10%), German (4%), Portuguese (3%) and English (3%). Residents who are not Luxembourg nationals master French the best (31%), followed by Portuguese (25%), English (9%) and German (7%).

According to the same survey, Luxembourgish is also the predominant language in family settings. Up to 88% of residents with Luxembourgish nationality use it at home, compared with only 13% of residents without Luxembourgish nationality.





Man in suit walking by construction workers © SIP

## Official languages

Multilingualism is enshrined in the law of 24 February 1984 on the language regime. This law officially established Luxembourgish as the country's national language and also determined the use of other languages in official documents. Therefore, legislative acts and their implementing regulations are drafted in French. In administrative and legal matters, French, German and Luxembourgish can be used.

Citizens have the same choice when contacting administrations. However, the administration is not strictly bound to respect the citizen's linguistic preference. For example, when an administrative request is drafted in French, German or Luxembourgish, the administration must use, as far as possible, the language chosen by the applicant for its response.

## Languages in politics

In the parliamentary setting, the use of language is not formally established. This choice is an indication of the importance of the linguistic rights of the deputies. Nevertheless, in recent years, French has been gradually disappearing from the parliamentary rostrum in favour of Luxembourgish. Thus, the standard debates and reports of the public sessions of the Chamber of Deputies are, in the majority of cases, in Luxembourgish.

For written statements, such as when issuing major declarations or parliamentary questions, ministers still prefer to communicate in French.

Overall, the relatively infrequent use of German in national public life is counterbalanced to a certain extent at municipal level. In the *Gemengebuet*, the municipal publication that keeps citizens informed about the so-

cial, cultural, political and financial activities of the municipality, German is commonly used, often sharing the page with French, Luxembourgish and, in some cases, English. In most cases, the use of languages here depends on the linguistic make-up of the respective municipality's inhabitants.

## Languages in the workplace

The business world in Luxembourg is as multilingual and diverse as the country itself. The working language may vary, depending on the company, the sector of activity, the type of service or the specific role of the administration. Luxembourgish, French, German and English are the languages spoken most regularly in the office with colleagues or in meetings. It is also common to use more than one language at work.

Over the past few decades, Luxembourg has been enriched by the mother tongues of foreign residents and professionals. At work, it is common to speak Luxembourgish, French, German, English and Portuguese. In the financial, insurance and research sectors, English is becoming increasingly predominant. In similar fashion to French, it is not uncommon to use English in meetings as a *lingua franca*.

Multilingualism is without a doubt considered an asset by employers. French is the language most in required in all professional fields of activity. Luxembourgish is most required in public administration, the public transport sector, education, the health professions, jobs in the field of communication and all other sectors where Luxembourgish citizens are the main customers.



Two students listening to their teacher © SIP

Luxembourgish is also taught as a foreign language. All international schools are obliged to provide Luxembourgish classes for their pupils.

The six public international schools are open to all pupils and there are no registration fees. They offer French, English or German sections in primary and secondary education. Some of these schools also offer kindergarten classes. Private international schools supplement the multilingual range of education on offer in the country.

## Languages at school

The education system in Luxembourg is multilingual. German is the lingua franca in primary education and in the lower grades of secondary school. In the upper classes of secondary education, the majority of lessons are taught in French. This multilingualism is a key asset in an open and diverse world, but also a challenge for students from different language backgrounds. Therefore, public schools also offer French- and English-speaking international classes, as well as reception classes and intercultural mediators.

### Introduction to multilingualism from an early age

In Luxembourg, pre-school (from the age of three) is optional. Compulsory schooling begins at age four with primary education, which consists of four cycles of two years each.

During early education and cycle 1 of primary education, teachers speak Luxembourgish as much as possible. The main aim is to develop the language skills of all children, especially those of foreign origin for whom school is often the first contact with Luxembourgish. Following the introduction of a multilingual educational programme in nurseries, the introduction to the French language is also one of the objectives of cycle 1.

In cycles 2 to 4 of primary education, other languages are introduced and taught. Literacy is taught in German, while French is introduced as a spoken language in cycle 2 and in writing in cycle 3. The lingua franca is German.

### English and other modern languages

From the age of 12, pupils begin their secondary education in either public schools (usually secondary schools) or private schools, where they follow the official ministry curriculum or other curricula, or they attend one of the European schools. A complete cycle in secondary education, without repeating a year, takes seven years.

In secondary school, German remains the language of instruction in the lower grades, with the exception of French and mathematics. English is taught from the second year of secondary school, except for students in the Latin section who start to learn English one year later. In the Classic secondary education regime, French becomes the lingua franca from the fourth year onwards. From the fifth year onwards, students can add a fourth modern language such as Italian, Spanish or Portuguese. In the General secondary education regime, German remains the language of instruction, with the exception of certain subjects or classes with a specific language regime, which are taught in French.

In General and Classic regimes, there are specific programmes to accommodate pupils who have spent part of their school career abroad and who do not speak one of the three administrative languages of the Grand Duchy.

### Studying in several languages

The University of Luxembourg also actively fosters multilingualism, which is one of its fundamental principles. In general, French and German are the languages of instruction. Nevertheless, some courses may require a working knowledge of English. The university also offers courses in linguistic sciences and Luxembourgish literature.



Newspapers in various languages © SIP

## Languages in the media

The issue of multilingualism is evident in the Luxembourgish press, which reflects the daily linguistic reality in Luxembourg. In view of this social, cultural and multilingual environment, and in order to meet the needs of foreign residents, the national media have also adopted a multilingual mindset. There are newspapers, weeklies, periodicals and even radio stations in French, German, Luxembourgish, Portuguese and English.

### Written press

The language most commonly used in the written press is German, in particular in the country's traditional dailies such as the *Luxemburger Wort*, the *Tageblatt* or the *Zeitung vum Lëtzebuurger Vollek*. Other newspapers are printed exclusively in French, such as *Le Quotidien* or *L'Essentiel*. The first newspaper for the large Portuguese community, *Contacto*, which started out as a monthly, is now a weekly newspaper.

In terms of weeklies and periodicals, the situation is more or less the same. The oldest of the general news weeklies, *D'Lëtzebuurger Land*, is published in several languages, including French, English and Luxembourgish. The same applies to its competitor, *Woxx*, which publishes news articles mainly in two languages (German and French).

As the target readership also plays a role in the choice of language, the weeklies *Revue* and *Télécran* are printed in German. Their readership mostly consists of Luxembourgish families.

To conclude, Luxembourg's newspapers use a variety of languages and are thus aimed at all social groups. They cover news ranging from international news to national politics, the economy and sports, and are published in the most common languages of the country.

### Television

In the 1970s the choice of television channels was still quite limited. Nowadays, our television screens offer a wide range of programming with an unprecedented multilingual offer. Thanks to satellite and digital television, Luxembourg is connected to the whole world, enabling viewers to get a glimpse of a variety of cultures.

Nevertheless, the majority of residents, located at the crossroads of French- and German-speaking cultures, watch French and German television. Among the favourites are the French channels TF1 (10.4% of the population regularly watch this channel) and M6 (6.8%) as well as the German channels ARD (8.4%) and ZDF (8.3%).

In 1991, Luxembourg took a huge leap forward on TV with the launch of a daily news programme on the channel RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg. According to the TNS-Illres 2021/II study, every day 19.2% of the population follow this TV channel.

### Radio

Radio stations in Luxembourg reflect the socio-cultural fabric of the country. The different broadcasters on the market illustrate the diversity of the audience. *L'essentiel Radio*, which broadcasts in French, reaches 9.6% of the population. *Radio Latina*, which is broadcast in Portuguese and Spanish, captures 3.8% of the overall audience, and *RTL Radio*, with its German programming, is enjoyed by 6.3% of listeners. *Radio Ara* (1.5% audience share) broadcasts in French, German, English and Luxembourgish, as well as in Portuguese, Spanish and Italian, among other languages.

In contrast to other forms of media, radio in Luxembourg is where the range of programmes in Luxembourgish is at its broadest. *RTL Radio Lëtzebuerg* (29.2%), *Eldorado* (14.7%) and *Radio 100.7* (4.9%) all highlight the Luxembourgish language and achieve the highest audience share.



Literature in various languages © SIP

# Languages in the cultural sphere

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Symbolical for its place at the heart of Europe, Luxembourg's commitment to the European project and its openness to other cultures are also reflected in its multilingual cultural scene. The wide range of events in various languages serves as a means of integration for all residents.

## Luxembourgish literature?

Even though, with literary works such as Anton Meyer's *E' Schrek ob de' Lezeburger Parnassus* ("A step up the Luxembourg Parnassus", 1829) and Michel Rodange's national epic *Renert oder de Fuuß am Frack an a Ma'nsgrëßt* ("Renert or the man-size fox with a magpie's tail", 1872), by Michel Rodange, Luxembourgish literature had its golden age at the end of the 19th century, the term "Luxembourgish literature" is not limited to works written in Luxembourgish. In fact, the various influences of other languages can be witnessed in the literary landscape of the Grand Duchy. Thus, authors in Luxembourg often opt for a particular language depending on their individual preferences. This is the case, for example, for Jean Portante who writes in French, as well as Claudine Muno, Nico Helminger and Jemp Schuster, who all compose their works in Luxembourgish. However, it is also common for authors to switch between languages from one work to another, as is the case with Anise Koltz, Guy Rewenig, Carine Krecké and Lambert Schlechter. In 2018, Jeff Schinker published *Sabotage*, a novel written in four languages, in which the characters and the plot take a back seat. Instead, the languages, in similar fashion to everyday life in Luxembourg, are the real protagonists.

While Luxembourgish, French and German remain the most popular languages among writers, there is also a keen appetite for foreign-language books in Luxembourg, as demonstrated in bookshops and libraries, which often also sell publications in English, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

## On stage

In the world of theatre, local productions, international co-productions and stars from the Grand Duchy and abroad share the stage. The broad linguistic range of the plays allows them to be performed in their original version, thus testifying to the openness of Luxembourgish society to other cultures. In turn, the linguistic diversity showcased by the troupes, coupled with the world-renowned companies and performers who take to the stage in the Grand Duchy, attracts an international audience to Luxembourg's theatres.

## Audiovisual productions

In Luxembourg, film enthusiasts can enjoy movies in their original version with French and German or French and Dutch subtitles.

In recent years, national film and TV series production has become increasingly successful though. Multilingualism also plays a vital role in these audiovisual productions and there is a noticeable emergence of films shot in the various languages spoken in Luxembourg, as well as of multilingual productions. The second season of the *Capitani* series perfectly illustrates the way people regularly switch from one language to another – sometimes within the same sentence – that is so characteristic of everyday social life in the Grand Duchy.

Luxembourg's linguistic wealth also manifests itself in international co-productions where, once again, it constitutes a genuine asset that fosters Luxembourg's reputation well beyond its borders. *Mr Hublot*, the winner of the 2014 Academy Awards in the best short film category, was not only a triumph for audiovisual production in Luxembourg, but also a fine example of cross-border cooperation (Luxembourg/France). *Bad Banks*, another

successful multilingual project, is a German-Luxembourgish co-production that was nominated in the “Best Drama Series” category at the International Emmy Awards.

## Multilingual music scene

The music scene in Luxembourg also benefits from the linguistic wealth of the country. The wide range of events on offer at music venues such as the Philharmonie, the Rockhal and Den Atelier, as well as the numerous festivals and concerts throughout the country, attract people from neighbouring countries. The artist Chaild sings in English and combines the Italian and Portuguese musical influences of his childhood with electro-pop. The hip-hop group De Läb and the artist Nicoool rap in Luxembourgish, while MAZ raps in English. Whether it is rock, pop, jazz, rap or metal, artists from the Grand Duchy express themselves in the language of their choice, making their music accessible to their respective audiences.

The diversity of languages in cultural production reflects the richness of the linguistic make-up of Luxembourgish society. This polyphonic production is listed by the National Library of Luxembourg under the collective term *Luxemburgensia*. This name encompasses all literary works and printed documents either written by Luxembourgish nationals or produced in Luxembourg or with Luxembourg as their subject, irrespective of the language of creation.

# Measures to promote the Luxembourgish language

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Luxembourgish plays a significant role in the multicultural and multilingual context of the Grand Duchy. In fact, it facilitates integration and social cohesion while strengthening cultural identity. The objective of the measures implemented to promote the language over the last few years is to create a linguistic and cultural policy that is in harmony with all stakeholders in society.

## Standardising Luxembourgish and emphasising its importance

Since the 1980s, the role of Luxembourgish has shifted in the Grand Duchy. Following its official recognition as a national language in the law of 1984 on the language regime, it has firmly consolidated its position as a language of communication, a language of integration and a language of cultural output.

For several years, Luxembourg has been committed to promoting Luxembourgish as well as multilingualism. In 2017, the government put into effect a strategy to promote the national language and to establish the guidelines for a long-term policy. The following year, the law of 20 July 2018 reiterated this commitment, as well as the 20-year action plan and the creation of the official institutions tasked with implementing the measures to promote the language: the Commissioner for the Luxembourgish language

and the Zenter fir d'Lëtzebuenger Sprooch – ZLS (Centre for Luxembourgish), as well as the Permanent Council for the Luxembourgish language.

The measures put in place intend to standardise and study the Luxembourgish language, which is essential in order to establish the basis for its use in all fields of public life. The Lëtzebuenger Online Dictionnaire – LOD (“Luxembourgish Online Dictionary”, [www.lod.lu](http://www.lod.lu)), for example, is fully committed to promoting the multilingual environment of the Grand Duchy. Truly unique in its scope, this free online dictionary combines Luxembourgish with four translation languages: German, French, English and Portuguese. This standardisation also includes *D’Lëtzebuenger Orthografie* (“Luxembourgish Orthography”), a work published in 2019 by the ZLS, which complements and standardises the rules of Luxembourgish writing, as established in 1975 and revised in 1999. The [schreiwen.lu](http://schreiwen.lu) and [verben.lu](http://verben.lu) online platforms also help to raise awareness of spelling and grammar rules.

These tools enable the implementation of other measures set out in the language-promotion strategy, such as cultivating the importance of the national language. The presence of Luxembourgish on the internet has also been further consolidated by the translation of government websites, thus allowing to provide more residents of Luxembourg with access to information. For example, the [gouvernement.lu](http://gouvernement.lu) and [elections.lu](http://elections.lu) websites are published in French, German, English and Luxembourgish.



Books from the series "Lëtzebuenger Wuertschatz" ("Luxembourgish vocabulary") © SIP



Book "Schwätzt Dir Lëtzebuergesch?" ("Do you speak Luxembourgish?") © SIP

## Rendering Luxembourgish language and culture accessible to all

Measures to promote the Luxembourgish language and culture are integrated into the education system from an early age. The Ministry of Education, Children and Youth is in the process of developing multilingual teaching aids for primary education. Moreover, two optional courses are gradually being introduced into secondary education: *Orthographie, Lëtzebuergesch Kultur a Literatur* ("Orthography, Culture and Literature of Luxembourg") and *Kreatiivt Schreiwen am Lëtzebuergesch* ("Creative Writing in Luxembourgish").

Measures to promote learning are not limited to primary and secondary education though. At present, there is a growing number of Luxembourgish language courses for adults, particularly in the municipalities and at the National Language Institute, which offers courses at its three campuses in Luxembourg City, Mersch and Esch-Belval.

Company employees and self-employed persons can also take advantage of language leave. They can take 200 hours of leave per professional career to learn or improve their knowledge of Luxembourgish. Through this initiative, the government not only offers support to individuals wishing to learn the national language, they also help to promote Luxembourgish as the primary language of integration.

Moreover, particular attention is placed on new arrivals to Luxembourg. The "Welcome and integration contract" is offered to foreign residents with a residence permit who wish to settle in the country on a long-term basis. Under this contract, the State offers Luxembourgish, French and German language courses. Applicants and beneficiaries of international protection can also receive support from the Lëtzebuenger Integratiouns- a Sozialkohäsiounscenter, LISKO (Luxembourg Centre for Integration and Social Cohesion), which offers a wide range of assistance, including Luxembourgish language courses.

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# WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

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The language promotion strategy makes provisions for the inclusion of Luxembourgish as the national language in the Constitution, as well as the recognition of multilingualism, a cornerstone of the Grand Duchy's social cohesion. Furthermore, negotiations are planned with the European institutions to come to an agreement on an "administrative arrangement" following the conclusions of the 2005 European Council. Under this arrangement, citizens would have the right to address institutions in Luxembourgish and to receive a response in the same language. The Luxembourgish language has consolidated its presence nationally and is gaining momentum internationally.



Luxembourgish and European flags, in front of the tram on the New Bridge © SIP



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