

# Migration and Education

ICMPD-MIEUX - Costa Rica V Project

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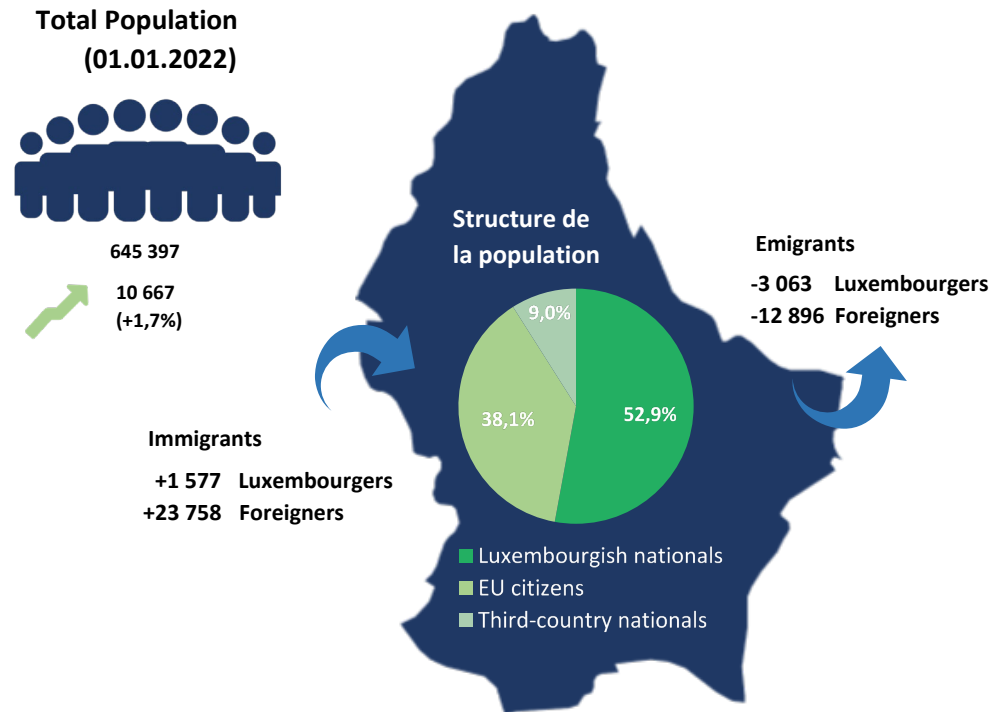
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# Luxembourg in a nutshell



Source: Statec,  
2022

# Top-20 foreign nationalities in Luxembourg

Nationality	No.	% of the total resident population
Portugal	93 678	14,5
France	49 173	7,6
Italy	24 116	3,7
Belgium	19 414	3,0
Germany	12 796	2,0
Spain	8 388	1,3
Romania	6 405	1,0
Poland	5 020	0,8
China	4 142	0,6
United Kingdom	4 104	0,6
Netherlands	4 069	0,6
Greece	4 017	0,6
India	3 777	0,6
Montenegro	2 855	0,4
Brazil	2 853	0,4
Syria	2 696	0,4
Cape Verde	2 507	0,4
Ireland	2 369	0,4
United States	2 170	0,3
Bulgaria	1 969	0,3

Source: Statec,  
2022



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the European Union

## Structure of the Luxembourg labour market

	1st trimester 2021	2nd trimester 2021	3rd trimester 2021	4th trimester 2021	1st trimester 2022
<b>Residents</b>	<b>242 946</b>	<b>245 417</b>	<b>246 988</b>	<b>248 609</b>	<b>250 300</b>
Luxembourgers	120 008	121 063	121 437	122 136	122 714
EU citizens	103 698	104 196	104 717	105 264	105 795
TCNs	19 489	20 025	20 696	21 208	22 082
<b>Cross-border workers</b>	<b>208 807</b>	<b>210 795</b>	<b>213 301</b>	<b>216 001</b>	<b>218 469</b>
Belgium	48 892	49 289	49 652	50 046	50 412
Germany	49 738	50 172	50 573	50 952	51 249
France	110 155	111 340	113 067	115 026	116 801
<b>Total</b>	<b>451 969</b>	<b>456 025</b>	<b>460 135</b>	<b>464 717</b>	<b>469 019</b>

Source: Statec,  
2022



# Language regime of Luxembourg

Luxembourg is a trilingual country.

Amended law of 24 February 1984 on the language regime establishes three official languages:

- Luxembourgish: national language (article 1)
- French: Legal (laws and regulations are issued in French) and administrative language (article 2)
- German: Administrative language (article 3)
- Note: In administrative and judicial matters the individual can use any of the three official languages.

English and portuguese: lingua franca



## Languages in the Education System (1/2)

In Luxembourg compulsory education is from 4 to 16 years old (independent of the migration situation of the child).

Education system is plurilingual.

Traditional public education provides lessons in Luxembourgish, German and French:

- Pre-school (1 to 4)-> Young children are put in contact with LU & FR in a playful way adapted to their age
- Elementary school
  - Cycle 1 (ages 3 to 5) -> plurilingual approach focusing in LU & FR (while promoting mother tongues) -> LU is used as language for daily communication while activities are organised in FR.
  - Cycles 2 to 4 (ages 6 to 11) -> literacy is done in DE (all subjects except FR lessons). Speaking FR begins in cycle 2 and learning to write it begins in cycle 3.1



## Languages in the Education System (2/2)

- Classic secondary education (CSE)
  - Up to class 5<sup>ème</sup> ESC (3rd year of CSE) all subjects are taught in DE except FR & Mathematics
  - English is taught as of the class of 6<sup>ème</sup> ESC in the modern section and 5<sup>ème</sup> ESC in the Latin section
  - Starting with the class of 4<sup>ème</sup> ESC all subjects are taught in FR except DE & EN.
  - Beginning in 3<sup>ème</sup> ESC (5th year of CSE) students can add a 4th language: IT, ES or PT
- General secondary education (GSE)
  - All courses are taught in DE except Math lessons which are taught in FR.
  - In the higher classes the teaching language is mainly in DE, except for specific subjects that are taught in FR.
  - Beginning in 4th GSE there are classes with a specific language system in which the courses are taught in FR

Since the start of the 2021-2022 school year students in 4<sup>ème</sup> (ESC or ESG) are offered a Luxembourgish language course which includes three main components:

- LU language, general knowledge of the country and Luxembourgish society and culture



# Language regime and integration

Foreign children arriving to Luxembourg are confronted with a plurilingual system as well as the parents

- If the child can enter at the beginning (cycle 1), s/he will not have any problem
- When the child comes from his/her country of origin at another entry level will be a problem not only for the child but also for the parents
- Luxembourg government provides the following solutions:
  - Schooling service for foreign children (SECAM - Service de scolarisation des enfants étrangers coordinates measures to promote the reception and integration of foreign children in schools. It offers support to students, parents and teachers through various projects and services.
  - Cultural mediators
  - International public schools





## SECAM – Newly arrived students

Students who are fluent in Luxembourg's languages of instruction (German, French, and, depending on the level, English) are placed in regular classes.

Students who have a very good academic level, but who lack knowledge of the languages of instruction in Luxembourg, can integrate insertion classes that offer either:

- intensive French classes; or
- intensive German classes (provided sufficient knowledge of French).

Newly arrived students who do not know either German or French can be admitted to a reception class (Classe d'accueil - ACCU) These classes provide intensive course in French and introductory courses in Luxembourgish.

Students aged 15 and over who wish to access the upper classes of general secondary education can enter a language-specific class (Classe à régime linguistique spécifique - RLS), provided they have a good level of French. The subjects are taught in French, and German is taught as a foreign language. The curriculum remains the same as that of other classes in all other subjects.

Young people between 16 and 17 years of age can integrate an integration class for young adults (Classes d'insertion pour jeunes adultes - CLIJA). These classes offer intensive French courses and basic training that allow access to general secondary education, vocational training or working life.

Young people between 18 and 24 years of age can integrate an integration class for young adults (Classes d'insertion pour jeunes adultes - CLIJA+). These classes offer intensive courses in French or German and a basic training that prepares the young person to join a subsequent training or to enter active life.



# International School Offer

Luxembourg has developed its international school offer over the years. It is currently possible to take an European Baccalaureate, an International Baccalaureate or to follow the British Curriculum.

Some schools also extend their offer to the primary school level.

## **Secondary education classes**

### **European baccalaureate**

- The International School Differdange & Esch-sur-Alzette offers French, English and German speaking sections.
- The Lënster Lycée offers first year secondary education classes in the English and German-speaking sections.
- The Lycée in Mondorf offers first year secondary education classes in the English, French and German-speaking sections.
- The Lycée Edward Steichen in Clervaux offers first year secondary classes in the French and German-speaking sections.

### **International baccalaureate (BI)**

The classes leading to the International Baccalaureate are offered either in French at the Lycée Technique du Centre or in English at the Athénée du Luxembourg.

### **British curriculum**

Classes in English are offered at Lycée Michel Lucius. They prepare for the following diplomas and certifications:

- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE);
- Advanced Subsidiary level (AS-level);
- Advanced level (A-level).



## Intercultural mediator

Teachers, parents and school authorities can make free use of an [intercultural mediator](#).

Mediators may assist when **students and parents arrive, translate information about prior schooling** in the country of origin, provide oral or written translations, assist with any medical or psychological care related to school, and **occasionally help in class**.

Mediators speak, in addition to the languages common in Luxembourg, **one or more of the following languages**: Albanian, Arab, Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serb, Bulgarian, Chinese, Korean, Cape-Verdian Creole, Guinea-Bissau Creole, Spanish, Filipino, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Kurdish, Mankanya, Dutch, Nepalese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Czech, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Ukranian, Vietnamese and Wolof.



# Challenges

## School performance

- Foreign-born students attending school in Luxembourg perform worse on average than native-born students (i.e. at age 15 their reading skills are 48 points lower than native-born students (OECD/EU, 2019)
  - age of arrival in Luxembourg is a determining factor in the success of immigrant students  
-> access to higher education and labour market

## Language proficiency

- lack of proficiency in one of the languages -> lead a good immigrant student either into lower-level classes with younger students or into vocational classes that do not necessarily match their profile or expectations
- language proficiency difficulties in school increase the risk of dropping out of school -> academic year 2019-20, 55% of dropouts were foreign nationals, (even though they represented just over 1/3 of the total number of students).



## Solutions

Government will introduce a reform which will make it possible to better adapt the student's pathway to his or her needs

- Aim -> to offer an education pathway that is less dependent on language skills
  - Student will be welcome by the Integration and Reception Service (SIA) -> offer the best orientation option according to his/her profile (i.e. classic pathway, integration classes, international schools, specific linguistic regime school, etc.)
  - Follow-up by guidance counselor for 2 years -> avoid dropout and to better address the student weaknesses
  - Mandatory annual interview with the counselor (2 during 1<sup>st</sup> year)
  - Counselors will be in regular contact with intercultural mediators (facilitate communication and mutual understanding between student, foreign families and school stakeholders)
  - Training in multicultural management for teaching staff (mentoring and coaching)

Government plan to diversify the school offer

- More international schools
- More vocational courses offer in EN & FR



# Questions & Answers



Thank you for your attention!

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