



Extended Inter-ministerial Committee on Integration (Ministerial and civil society representatives)

05 December 2022, 09:30 - 11:15 – Face-to face meeting
Meeting minutes

Agenda :

1. Welcome and introductory remarks
2. Presentation of the results of the study "*Participation in Associative Life and Integration of Luxembourg's Third Country Nationals*"
3. Presentation of the current status of the "*I can vote*" campaign for the 2023 municipal elections
4. Roundtable discussion on priorities and news related to integration and intercultural Living Together
5. Various

Present:

Ministerial and civil society representatives: Mr Sérgio Ferreira (ASTI), Mr Marc Piron (ASTI), Mr Marc Josse (Luxembourg Red Cross), Mr Sylvain Besch (CEFIS), Mr Faruk Licina (Caritas), Ms Anita Helpiquet (CLAE), Mr Munir Ramdedovic (CNE), Ms Louise Crosby (ONA), Ms Adisa Calakovic (ONA), Mr Jean-Claude Milmeister (MESR), Ms Joëlle Gilles (MJ), Ms Elisabeth Reisen (MENEJ), Ms Stéphanie Voll (MSAN), Ms Nadine Erpelding (MC), Ms Mariza Guerreiro Victoria (MINT), Mr Christopher Witry (MEGA), Mr Ben Max (MDIG), Mr Claude Tremont (MTEESS)

MIFA: Mr Jacques Brosius, Ms Conny Heuertz, Ms Michèle Zahlen, Ms Mariana Muzzi, Ms Sandy Wagner, Ms Anna Kirsch

Excused :

Mr Marc Konsbruck (MIFA), Mr Alain Bliss (MAEE), Ms Isabelle Schroeder (MEGA), Ms Aurélie Spigarelli (MFP), Mr Laurent Peusch (ADEM)

1. Welcome and introductory remarks

Jacques Brosius welcomes all participants and thanks them for their attendance. The extended inter-ministerial committee will proceed with the topics on the agenda.

2. Presentation of the results of the study "*Participation à la Vie Associative et Intégration des Ressorissants de Pays Tiers du Luxembourg*" (*Participation in Associative Life and Integration of Luxembourg's Third Country Nationals*) by Ms Blandine Lejealle and Mr Michel Tenikue (LISER)

Jacques Brosius introduces Ms Lejealle and Mr Tenikue from the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) and thanks them for their presence.

Blandine Lejealle begins the presentation of the **main results of the study "*Participation à la Vie Associative et Intégration des Ressorissants de Pays Tiers du Luxembourg*"**, carried out by LISER between January 2021 and August 2022 in the framework of the AMIF 2020 call for projects.



The objective of the project was to 1) **identify and quantify the role played by the associative sector in the integration process of Third Country Nationals (TCNs)**¹ in Luxembourg, and to 2) **identify the levers for the integration of TCNs in the associative sector.**

In order to do this, two surveys/censuses were carried out amongst **two target populations** between the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022: **associations** and **municipalities**. Of the 8229 associations contacted, 1876 responded to the questionnaires (a response rate of 31%²). The response rate was slightly higher among municipalities, where 37 out of 102 responded to the survey (36%).

With regard to **the role of the associative sector in the process of integrating TCNs**, the study focused on three different aspects, highlighting the following points:

1. As for the **involvement of TNCs in the associative life**, 9% of associations reported having a TCN president and 13% a TCN board member. 39% of associations reported having TCNs among their beneficiaries, and 14% reported working with TCN volunteers. It is worth noting that the participation of TCNs is more important in associations active in the fields of international and intercultural action, education and religion. It is less important in professional associations and trade unions, or in associations active in the fields of leisure and philanthropy.
2. When asked to estimate **their contribution to the integration of TCNs**, 25% of the associations thought they make a strong contribution (especially those active in the field of sport, religion and social work), 22% a medium contribution, and 39% a weak contribution. In general, the associations believe they make a greater contribution toward Living Together, combating racism and toward integrating EU27 nationals than to integrating TCNs.
3. Finally, when asked about the **potential to do more for the integration of TCNs**, 32% of the associations want to do more, while 59% do not (since they think that they are already doing a lot or do not have the means/mandate to do so).

In relation to the **levers for the integration of TCNs in the associative sector**, the study reveals:

1. The level of **knowledge of public integration mechanisms by the associations** is very low: 1 out of 2 associations is not aware of any of the 9 key mechanisms (CNE, CET, CCCI, CAI, JI, PCI, PvZ, CII, PIA).
2. At the **municipal level**, there are many **actions in favour of Living Together** (festive events, communication activities, financial and logistical support, etc.), but few activities specifically targeting TCNs (e.g. language café, language courses, multicultural festivals). The main challenges identified by municipalities are: choosing the right channels to reach and mobilise all residents, networking between associations, the language barrier and the lack of financial/logistical resources.

¹ The study defines Third Country Nationals (TCNs) based on their country of birth (not nationality).

² This response rate is calculated on the assumption that the associations that did not respond to the invitation letters correspond to associations that no longer exist. The gross response rate is 23%.



3. In order to develop more actions towards the integration of TCNs, **the associations have identified the following needs/proposals**: more commitment by volunteers ; more financial and material means ; networking with other associations/municipalities/the ministry ; more visibility ; more administrative and legal support.

This being the very first presentation of the results, **a public presentation of the study will take place in late January/early February 2023**. The report will then be available on the [LISER website](#).

Sylvain Besch (CEFIS) congratulates LISER for having carried out one of the first studies on the role of associations in Living Together in Luxembourg, and adds that it **would have been interesting to establish a comparison between the participation of TCNs and EU citizens in associative life**. Michel Tenikue explains that although the framework given by the AMIF fund limited the study to TCNs, the now-established database would allow such a comparison in the future.

Anita Helpiquet (CLAE) laments that **the study did not allow for the identification of networks of associations working for/on the integration of TCNs or for an analysis of the evolution of associations initiated by TCNs**, i.e. by people with a migration background. Michel Tenikue and Blandine Lejealle respond that the survey only allows to identify associations that collaborate with other associations, without establishing whether they are members of a network or not. As for the evolution over time, the only observable evolution between the present survey (conducted in 2021) and the report "[The associative sector in Luxembourg](#)" conducted in 2010 is the share of non-Luxembourgish volunteers within the associations: it has increased from 13% in 2010 to 22% in 2021.

3. Presentation of the current status of the *"I can vote"* campaign for the 2023 municipal elections by Conny Heuertz and Michèle Zählen (Department of Integration) and exchange of ideas on synergies

Next, Michèle Zählen and Conny Heuertz from the Department of Integration report on the ***"I can vote"*** campaign, launched in the context of the **2023 municipal elections**. The campaign aims to **promote voter registration and political participation among non-Luxembourgish residents**.

The MIFA-Di team was present with **the *"I can vote"* campaign stand at numerous recent events** organised by municipalities, including Ettelbruck, Clervaux, VDL, Esch, and Echternach and Dudelange in the framework of a collaboration with Radio Latina. Other events include GRESIL 9, the CAI Orientation Day and the JobDay at INL. **Upcoming events** include the VDL Integration and Intercultural Day (22.2.2023), the Migration Festival (25 & 26.2.2023) and the National Registration Day (18.3.2023).

Michèle Zählen reminds participants that a **communication kit is available** at www.jepeuxvoter.lu, and that MIFA-Di also disposes of **physical material/equipment that can be booked**. She also **calls on partners to contact her if they are organising events for the public**, in order to discuss the possibility of an *"I can vote"* stand or other collaborations.



Three of the seven projects selected in the framework of the **PAN 2022** call for **projects** are based on the theme of **"Political participation – informing and raising awareness among foreigners, particularly young voters"**: *Letz Vote (ASTI)* ; *Gemengewalen fir jiddereen (ZpB)* ; and *Participation politique : de la parole aux actes (ALDIC)*. The video presentations of the three projects are now available [online](#) on the Department of Integration's website.

In mid-November, MIFA-Di launched a **call for subsidies in the framework of the "I can vote" campaign**. Within the limits of the available budget, the ministry aims to grant a financial support of maximum 1000 € to project leaders committed to incorporate an awareness-raising action on the 2023 municipal elections in their end-of-year event reaching a large audience.

In collaboration with the CTIE, MIFA-Di continues its **monitoring of voter registration** at municipal level. In October, initial data (broken down by nationality, gender and age group) was sent to all 102 municipalities. This information from the RNPP can be used to implement an **awareness-raising strategy targeting groups of residents who are not yet registered to vote**. It can be disseminated by the municipalities if the regulations on the protection of personal data are respected (in the next communication, the data will be further aggregated at nationality level to guarantee anonymity).

As it enters **the next phase of the campaign**, MIFA-Di is developing a series of leaflets/posters with a call to action. Explanatory videos on majority and proportional voting systems, produced in collaboration with SYVICOL, are being finalised. The same goes for a series of videos with testimonies of non-Luxembourgers on the importance of voting in the municipality of residence.

Finally, Michèle Zahlen explains that in the run-up to the elections, a **revised marketing strategy** will be used, which combines targeted actions aimed at non-Luxembourgers with large-scale actions aimed at the general public. This includes posters in bus stops, buses and car parks; digital communication on social networks; a media plan for the Luxembourg media; and contact with embassies, the European Commission and the university to explore all collaboration possibilities.

Munir Ramdedovic (CNE) shares the observation of CNE members that **the proximity method and the use of the mother tongue** are the most effective strategies in terms of raising awareness of non-Luxembourgers to participate in elections. In this context, Mr Ramdedovic extended an invitation to the CNE's end of year plenary meeting, scheduled for 14 December in the presence of 10 embassies.

Marc Piron (ASTI) reminds the audience of the existence of the **toolbox to raise awareness about the 2023 local elections** among non-Luxembourgers on www.integratioun.lu. ASTI also announces the forthcoming launch of the **website** developed as part of the PAN project **"Letz vote"**, which brings together the different aspects of national, European and local elections through playful animations.

Sérgio Ferreira (ASTI) welcomes **the decision to extend the "I can vote" campaign to a wider audience**, and stresses the importance of multipliers to mobilise non-Luxembourgish voters. However, he laments that such an important campaign for Luxembourg does not have a bigger budget, stressing the need for more commitment from the government.



Sylvain Besch (CEFIS) reminds participants of the **multiplier training** offered by CEFIS in FR, EN and PT. Targeted sessions are planned for social workers in youth centres together with the ZpB. CEFIS will also draw up a **balance sheet of the active and passive electorate in Luxembourg**, to be published in 2024.

Faruk Licina (Caritas) mentions that **Caritas staff** have been **trained as CEFIS multipliers**. He also underlines the need for **greater involvement of political parties** in the campaign.

Marc Josse (Luxembourg Red Cross) proposes that MIFA-Di **translate the videos prepared for the "I can vote" campaign into other languages** commonly used by non-Luxembourgish residents (Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, Tigrinya etc.).

Mariza Guerreiro Victoria (MINT) thanks MIFA-Di for the good collaboration in the context of the inter-ministerial committee for the elections, and the "I can vote" campaign. She reminds the committee that all the **key information (circulars, etc.) relating to the municipal elections of 11 June 2023 are available on the MINT website**. She also informs that a national registration day will take place on 18 March 2023, and that all municipalities will be invited to participate.

4. Roundtable discussion to exchange on priorities and news related to integration and intercultural Living Together

Jacques Brosius reports on the latest news from MIFA-Di, starting with the presentation of **two new colleagues: Anna Kirsch**, who will coordinate the Inter-ministerial Committee on Integration and the National Action Plan on Integration, as well as support the Municipalities team; and **Mariana Muzzi**, who is in charge of projects fighting ethno-racial discrimination and the drafting of a National Action Plan against Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Other news from MIFA-Di:

- The **Bill on intercultural Living Together** is currently being finalised.
- The **Orientation Day (JO) of the Welcome and Integration Contract (CAI)**, which took place on 19 November in the presence of HRH the Grand Duchess and 550 participants, was a great success. Thanks to all the partners present at the 30 stands and the thematic workshops.
- A **collaboration with www.zesumme-vereinfachen.lu** was initiated at the JO to carry out an evaluation of the CAI. This evaluation/consultation will be open to all CAI signatories.
- A **closing event for the PAN 2021 projects** will take place on 9 December. The invitation has been sent to this committee.
- The **selection of projects for the PAN/AMIF 2022 calls** is in the final stages.
- In the framework of an AMIF project, MIFA-Di will work on a **new concept PIA/CAI**, with a catalogue of modules to be chosen from according to the needs of the concerned person.
- Currently, **30 municipalities in Luxembourg have signed the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen" (PvZ)**. Many thanks to CEFIS, ASTI and DeReso as well as to SYVICOL for the collaboration in the framework of the integration advisors. There are currently 4 advisors, but from 2023 onwards a 5th advisor will join the team.
- MIFA-Di has started to **think about a GRESIL+**, i.e. an exchange platform bringing together municipal actors AND associations.



- **Discussions with the translation service DeepL** and the CTIE were organised to check whether municipalities could have licenses for the translation of key documents.
- On 30 November, the Integration Department organised a **workshop with IMS Luxembourg bringing together actors active in the field of interculturality**. IMS will report back, and the idea is to establish a forthcoming exchange platform on interculturality training.
- **A new position on volunteering has been** created by MIFA with ASTI, held by Viktor den Broeder. Anne Daems is in charge of this topic within MIFA.
- On World Volunteer Day (Monday 05 December), the Agency for Voluntary Work is launching the www.benevolat.lu platform and its **awareness-raising campaign on volunteering** under the slogan "*Schenk deng Zäit/Donne ton temps/Give your time/Schenk deine Zeit*".

Louise Crosby (ONA) informs the committee of the set-up of a **reception arrangement/welcome tool for newcomers (dispositif d'accueil des primo-arrivants – DAPA)**, with information forms/documents in the fields of administration, culture, school, health, living together etc., enabling newcomers to become more autonomous and thus better integrated. The internal presentation of the project will take place at the beginning of December, and an official communication will be sent out beginning of 2023.

Elisabeth Reisen (MENJE) underlines the collaboration of her ministry with the *Zentrum fir politesch Bildung* (ZpB) for **trainings on political participation** for teachers; and with the *Centre for Intercultural Education* (IKL) for **trainings** aimed at young people/social educational staff **on the subject of racism**. She also shares that **Bill 8069**, which foresees the creation of a **new service for integration and school accompaniment (Service de l'intégration et d'accompagnement scolaires – SIA)**, has been tabled. According to Ms. Reisen, this law, which introduces the term "interculturality", will improve the integration of newly arrived pupils.

Nadine Erpelding (MC) announces that her ministry has recently presented an **ethics charter**, which must be signed by every entity that receives financial support from the ministry, and which commits them to the principles and values set out in it, including **diversity and non-discrimination**.

Anita Helpiquet (CLAE) invites the committee to the **40^{ième} edition of the Festival des Migrations, des Cultures et de la Citoyenneté, which will take place on 25 and 26 February 2023 at Luxexpo**. For this year, CLAE has redesigned the festival space: a village part has been added, with playful and artistic installations around the topic of political participation. The "*I can vote*" campaign stand will be present, as well as a number of associations working to support associative life (third places etc.).

Sylvain Besch (CEFIS) informs that next year, CEFIS will publish a **module entitled "victims of racism"**, complementary to the 2021 study on racism and ethno-racial discrimination. Jointly with LISER and MIFA-Di, CEFIS will also organise a final conference as part of the "Us and the Others" conference cycle. The **conference on "The role of culture and education in the fight against racism"** will take place on 30 January 2023 at the Chambre des salariés.

Marc Josse (CRL) and Faruk Licina (CARITAS) call on the committee **to not forget the beneficiaries of temporary protection** (of Ukrainian nationality), and to put in place measures to ensure that their stay in Luxembourg, whatever its duration, is beneficial to them.



Finally, Sérgio Ferreira (ASTI) informs that the presentation of the **French-Ukrainian-Luxembourgish dictionary**, elaborated by ASTI in collaboration with the MENJE, is scheduled for 16 December.

5. Various

No other items were discussed at this extended committee meeting.

Following the first part of the meeting, the ministerial representatives discussed further coordination points between ministries in terms of the implementation of activities under the National Action Plan on Integration (PAN Integration).