

Municipal Elections of June 11th 2023

Programme for the City of Luxembourg.

Solidaresch.

Solidaires.

Solidariedade.

Solidarity.

Our Action Plan for the City of Luxembourg

1. **Housing: Protecting Tenants, Taxing Speculators, Building Public Housing.**
2. **Social Policy: Stepping Up Municipal Action.**
3. **Energy: Supporting the Transition, Guaranteeing Access for All.**
4. **Environment: Preserving Biodiversity, Reducing Pollution.**
5. **Mobility: Less Cars, More Soft Mobility.**
6. **Neighbourhoods: Better Planning for Better Living.**
7. **Education: Ensuring the Inclusion of All Children.**
8. **Culture: Decentralisation, Democratisation, Protection.**
9. **Sports: Fitness and fun for All.**
10. **Youth: Helping Teens Thrive.**
11. **Democracy: Involving Residents in Decision-Making.**
12. **Municipal Administration: Ensuring Adapted and Quality Services.**

Since 1969, 54 years that it has been going on...

For 54 years, the Liberal Party (DP) has been leading the City of Luxembourg at the head of different coalitions without interruption. Not only that this domination by one party harms our democracy, it also maintains and reinforces social inequalities. The DP is the party of the privileged classes and the city's notables. However, the DP does not completely ignore the working classes. Once in a while, it even shows generosity towards this or that section of them, on condition that the essentials of the municipal policy are not touched. For the DP, the essentials are the right of landlords to demand any rent they want, the right of developers to build anything, the right of a small minority to impose their choices on everyone else, and the right of the richest to pollute as much as they want. This policy has a name. It is clientelism. This policy has led the city into a social, ecological, urbanistic and democratic dead end.

The current record of the DP-CSV (Conservative Party) coalition resulting from the 2017 municipal elections in Luxembourg City is a continuation of the previous ones: it is deplorable. The very important resources available to the City have not been used to meet the most basic needs.

While there are more than a billion euros of the municipal public funds in reserves and surpluses in the bank, issues such as glaring lack of social housing, ageing infrastructure, insignificant measures to combat climate change, and growing social inequality, which can be felt on the streets of the city, continue to exist and exacerbate.

Faced with drug-related problems in certain neighbourhoods - which we do not deny, but which must be combated with social means - the DP-CSV majority has relied on security populism by entrusting private security companies with the surveillance of the public streets. The Déi Lénk councilors reacted by appealing to the Administrative Court against this illegal and unconstitutional measure. The case is currently under appeal to the Administrative Court.

According to the first report of the Luxembourg Institute of Social and Economic Research (LISER) Social Observatory report, 22.3% of employees living in Luxembourg City were living below the poverty line in 2020. This is higher than the national average of 17.4%! A third of them are concentrated in the Gare and Bonnevoie-Sud districts. Depending on the nationality, strong salary inequalities can be observed due to work in more or less remunerative sectors. Portuguese and Cape Verdeans are particularly affected by these wage differences.

It took the pressure of a press conference organised by Déi Lénk in November 2022 to make these figures public. The College of the Mayor and Aldermen had already known about them for more than six months. It would have preferred to keep them quiet, because they show that the current majority has done nothing to curb these income disparities. But it could have done so by implementing an adequate social policy, particularly regarding the housing crisis. The lack of social housing is flagrant, despite the significant financial and land resources available to the city.

Equally serious shortcomings are apparent in the planning of educational, cultural and leisure facilities, which are lagging behind - almost 50% of children living in the city no longer attend public basic education.

As far as mobility policy is concerned, there is an efficient bus network, but it is becoming increasingly privatised, with one third of the drivers and buses now coming from private companies. The huge success of the tram - which should be further developed - should not obscure the fact that the two parties in power locally were strongly opposed to it until 2007. Moreover, they continue to favour the private car and the development of car parks in the city centre, as if the time had stopped in the 1980s. However, the realities today are quite different. The existing road network on the city's territory is no longer expandable. On the other hand, the climate crisis has arrived at the doorstep. Faced with these challenges, a radical change in approach is needed. The role of the car must be significantly reduced. The implementation of a safe network of paths for bicycles and pedestrians must become an absolute priority.

Faced with the urgency of the climate crisis, it is also necessary to identify the shortcomings in the energy policy and support for the renovation of buildings - including those owned by the City. This is a serious issue since Luxembourg is currently at the bottom of the list in Europe in this context! The pushing for widespread energy renovation, assisting households struggling with energy insecurity, and the replacement of fossil fuels by renewable energy sources are all key issues neglected by the current ruling coalition. It should be noted that *deï Lénk* has always considered the privatisation of the electricity and gas networks as a strategic mistake and we have been advocating for the re-communalization of the energy networks for many years.

The participation offered to the citizens does not go beyond mere information and minimal involvement which hardly scratches the surface and fails to address the essential questions of the organisation of the neighbourhoods as a whole.

deï Lénk councillors made countless constructive proposals to improve the quality of life in general. They have all been ignored or rejected outright. The current majority, as arrogant as it is incompetent, thinks it owns the city. Worn out by political power, and being tied to the interests of a minority of developers and landlords, it is less and less tolerant of voices critical of this clientelism.

All this is not by chance. As in a number of cities abroad, the policy in the capital aims to make it a welcoming haven for the richest, while driving the poor out of sight.

The priority questions we are raising in the municipal elections on 11 June are therefore the following:

- Should our city become a city that only a privileged few can afford?
- Does our city only want to welcome young people with a lot of economic capital?
- Will our city remain reliant on car transport, which takes up public spaces?
- Will our city be unable to resist climate imbalances and the decline in biodiversity?

We ask these questions from the point of view of a people's movement - déi Lénk - which fundamentally questions the economic system in place and which stands on the side of the unprivileged, whether they are Luxembourgers or not, as well as on the side of the youth.

With this in mind, we believe it is urgent that the current DP-CSV coalition be replaced:

- to finally pursue a housing policy for the majority of the population and not for a minority of owners and developers;
- to consistently reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment in the city;
- to put in place a real residents' participation.

The following 12 chapters of the dei Lénk Stad programme show a policy for the benefit of all those who need it most: the poorest and the middle classes, the residents of today and tomorrow, those who live here as well as those who work, study or have a good time here. We want a more sober and efficient energy and transport policy. We want a city with a human dimension, a city where everyone has a place and their opinions are taken into account. Each of our 12 chapters focuses on a key issue and sets out the call for a change in the way city policy is conceived, discussed and implemented:

1. Housing: Protecting Tenants, Taxing Speculators, Building Public Housing.
2. Social Policy: Stepping Up Municipal Action.
3. Energy: Supporting the Transition, Guaranteeing Access for All.
4. Environment: Preserving Biodiversity, Reducing Pollution.
5. Mobility: Less Cars, More Soft Mobility.
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7. Education: Ensuring the Inclusion of All Children.
8. Culture: Decentralisation, Democratisation, Protection.
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12. Municipal Administration: Ensuring Adapted and Quality Services.

After 54 years, the time has come to debunk the neoliberal and anti-social power brokers in our city. To make this happen, the best solution is to vote dei Lénk.

Let's show them the red card!

By supporting the election programme presented in the following pages!

By going to the polls - and voting for déi Lénk!

1. Housing: Protecting Tenants, Taxing Speculators, Building Public Housing.

The housing crisis is becoming increasingly acute and requires urgent responses and courageous political decisions. Luxembourg is traditionally a country of homeowners. As a result, there has been no development of private or public rental stock. The ratio of affordable housing to the total number of dwellings is only 2% in Luxembourg City, compared to 10% in Trier or Metz or 40% in Vienna. The rental stock that has been created in the city is not intended to meet the housing needs of the population, but to meet the profit motive of investors. dei Lénk questions this priority and wants to make the right to housing a reality. We believe that decent and affordable housing must urgently be mobilised and created in the city to house the less well-off - because even a job and a decent salary no longer protect against housing insecurity - and also the most vulnerable (women victims of domestic violence, single-parent families, BPI, the homeless). In the medium term, dei Lénk aims at a ratio of 10% of social or affordable housing.

dei Lénk wants to:

1.1. **Establish an information service for people who are looking for housing** and no longer leaving this essential duty to private estate agencies. To this end, the current tasks of the Housing Service will be supplemented by:

- collecting offers for the sale/purchase and rental of properties from people who do not want to go through a private estate agent and thus act as a public information centre;
- promoting the transparency of sales prices by publishing an average of real estate sales prices per neighbourhood, knowing that these statistics can be based on de-identified data established by the Administration of Registration and Domains for tax purposes;
- informing the population about the location, size and prices of future housing projects, whether public or private;
- drawing up a list of building plots in the hands of the City;
- promoting the development of unused housing space (see below).

To carry out these tasks, substantially increase the staff of the City's Housing Department.

1.2. **Implement at the level of the city the legal means available to combat the housing crisis** (2004 law concerning municipal planning, Housing Pact 2.0 law, stone aid, etc.). This implies in particular:

- drawing up a list of special development plans (PAPs) that have been in default for more than 3 years;
- drawing up a report identifying the main problems that have arisen and the legal means used to advance the implementation of PAPs that have been in default for a long time, including ministerial reorganisation;

- ordering the allocation of undeveloped land in areas to be built upon for construction purposes;
- deciding, when the final order of the Municipal Council has not been followed up within three years, to levy an annual tax for non-use for construction or to initiate expropriation proceedings in favour of the municipality;
- drawing up a list of all land suitable for residential use that is currently in the hands of the City;
- contacting the State and public and semi-public institutions, in particular the Housing Fund and the Société nationale des habitations à bon marché (SNHBM), and invite them to do the same;
- creating a real estate development company owned by the City;
- building rental/social/affordable housing on city-owned land suitable for housing, with up to 75% state funding (this also reduces prices by 20-30%, the part that corresponds to the developers' margin);
- using the city's right of pre-emption in the case of land sales;
- filling empty plots between buildings ("Baulücken") and cooperating with the Housing Fund and SNHBM in order to launch new building projects;
- to levying a specific tax on vacant land and vacant dwellings for speculative reasons;
- introducing a progressive property tax with an increased multiplier rate on buildings and building land for residential purposes (B6 rate).

1.3. **Promote housing methods that are oriented towards a non-profit logic, in particular grouped housing and residents' cooperatives**, which are a means of eliminating speculation. This includes:

- making land belonging to the City available for cooperative housing projects (as short-term pilot projects that could include, on an experimental basis and within a strict regulatory framework, "tiny houses", which déi Lénk sees as the expression of an alternative lifestyle and not as a new type of social housing);
- setting up a programme to support people who are interested in cooperative housing (social and psychological support; drawing up a business plan, etc.).

1.4. **Implement a policy at municipal level to reduce property prices** by:

- promoting, via the master plans for new neighbourhoods and the PAPs, family housing with a reduced living area and therefore accessible at more affordable prices;
- eliminating from the building regulations of the City of Luxembourg the obligation to provide a car park on the site of new buildings, which is a major cost factor and is counterproductive from an ecological point of view.

1.5. **Work to diversify the rental housing stock** by:

- promoting the construction of housing that goes beyond the traditional nuclear family, that is aimed at young people or students (such housing is subsidised up to 70% by the Ministry of Housing) or people who are passing through for a few

months and that includes common areas (kitchen, canteen, meeting rooms, etc.);

- promoting housing that allows different generations to live in it by involving the City's services in terms of the width of the corridors, acoustics, the presence of common rooms, and the size (adaptable!) of the housing units according to the needs that change over time.

1.6. Stimulate the development of unused housing spaces by:

- informing and subsidising residents who want to develop unused living space in their homes for rental purposes;
- helping homeowners to reallocate their outgrown accommodation by launching a campaign on this subject and by actively involving the City's services in helping people to move out of their current accommodation and/or to obtain smaller accommodation;
- implementing a renovation plan for old housing with pre-financing by the City.

1.7. Combat the conversion of housing into offices by:

- Pursuing a policy that encourages the retention of housing or the conversion of offices into housing;
- In new special development plans (PAPs), ensure that at least one dwelling is built for every equivalent new office space.

1.8. Regulate the Airbnb offer in the city by:

- establishing a record of Airbnb or similar accommodation and the number of Airbnb or similar overnight stays;
- reminding residents of the municipality of the town planning rules inherent in the PAG when it comes to allocating certain parts of a dwelling to "shared rentals" via the Airbnb or similar platform, as well as the penalties for contravening them;
- requiring the completion of a declaration for the collection of a tourist tax by the owner/operator of an accommodation on the occasion of each "shared rental" via the Airbnb or similar platform and its submission to the City;
- reacting to complaints from residents in connection with a 'shared rental' via the Airbnb platform or similar;
- implementing regulations defining the conditions and limits of 'shared rentals' via the Airbnb platform or similar and monitoring their implementation.

1.9. Implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the UN in 2006 and ratified by Luxembourg in 2011.

This convention recognises the right of persons with special needs to live independently and to participate fully in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others. It requires public authorities to take all appropriate measures to protect and promote the exercise of this right and to combat discrimination on the grounds of disability. These measures concern, in particular, the accessibility of buildings,

infrastructures and housing, as well as the right of persons with special needs and their families to certain social support services. This implies:

- setting up a special commission including housing and urban planning experts and representatives of people with special needs to ensure accessibility to the city's housing and infrastructure;
- include accessibility to housing for people with special needs in the building regulations;
- increase the number of social housing units adapted for people with special needs and provide the necessary supervision.

1.10. Support the creation of housing for people in need by:

- encouraging more supported housing projects for young people who no longer live with their parents;
- providing sufficient emergency housing for people in need, victims of fire, collapse, etc;
- creating housing for women and children who are victims of domestic violence;
- playing an active role in the development of reception structures for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection (knowing that these structures are subsidised up to 100% by the Ministry of Housing), cooperate with private individuals who would like to receive beneficiaries of international protection in their homes and engage in Syvicol in order to find synergies with other municipalities and to ensure a balanced geographical distribution of IPRs and IPOs;
- combating extreme precariousness, family separation and homelessness by creating reception structures adapted to families or individuals who lose their housing following eviction, "housing first" accommodation and ad hoc support services. It should be recalled that under the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform against Homelessness of 2021, Luxembourg has committed itself to working towards ending homelessness by 2030.

1.11. Specify and develop the means to protect tenants against high rents and sleep merchants by:

- informing the inhabitants of the city about the existence, the attributions and the functioning of the rent commission, as well as about the rental housing aids recently voted by the Chamber of Deputies;
- advising tenants in an appropriate manner through the Housing Service;
- implementing means of spontaneous control of housing conditions, as exists for furnished rooms;
- developing the intervention of the City's Social Office to deal with housing problems and intensify its cooperation with the Housing Department;
- providing for a "climate housing allowance" in the event of a rent increase following an energy renovation;
- supporting the Social Housing Agency and other foundations and associations that provide affordable housing through social rental management;
- introducing a vertical land register.

2. Social Policy: Stepping Up Municipal Action.

Responsible for many local public services, the City of Luxembourg is directly confronted with the repercussions of the social crisis. Through the actions of its services, the City must contribute to curbing the rise in inequalities. This implies that it should not be part of a selective social policy, but of a social policy aiming to ensure the effectiveness of social rights for the whole population. In general, such a policy presupposes a coherent organisation of the action of the City's public services, which must function in a complementary manner to each other. In particular areas, the city must take more active measures to combat inequalities. This applies, of course, to housing, where the city has many possibilities to acquire land and create affordable housing for everyone (see the chapter on housing). This also applies to municipal taxes, which should be redefined according to social criteria, in order to make them a means of combating inequality and over-consumption.

déi Lénk wants to:

2.1. **Strengthen the foundations of social policies**, and in particular:

- organise regular social conferences with all the actors in the field.;
They will serve to establish an inventory of the situation in the various districts of the city and to define a real strategy for social action including objectives, financial, personal and material resources and instruments.
- strengthen the work of the City's Social Office;
The number of social workers continues to remain below what is required by law. The move to the new headquarters should make it possible to address this shortfall. The upgrading of the work of the Social Office also requires a better use of the funds at its disposal. For example, the Social Office has been accumulating reserves for years. At the end of 2022, these reserves exceeded 6.4 million. These funds must be mobilised immediately.
- Strengthen the social action of the City's services on the ground;
The City systematically outsources municipal services in the social field by concluding agreements with associations such as Caritas or the Red Cross and by subsidising voluntary action. While the work of associations and volunteers is obviously to be welcomed, this systematic outsourcing must be reversed. Furthermore, to avoid duplication of work among the associations present in the field, the City should play a coordinating role, allowing the interventions of the different actors to be distributed by neighbourhood or by field of intervention.

2.2. **Give priority to social policy in dealing with the problems of drugs and drug addiction, and therefore:**

- abide by the Constitution and the law, which means banning the use of private security companies to patrol the city's streets;
- create decentralised structures on the territory of the city of Luxembourg, adapted to the consumption habits of drug addicts and thus reduce the overcrowding of the Abrigado centre and the existing pressure in the Gare and Bonnevoie districts;

- create more housing for drug addicts and marginalised people ("housing first") in order to reduce the number of homeless drug addicts and enable them to restructure and re-socialise so that they have a real chance of leaving the vicious circle of drug use;
- implement an action plan against addiction ("Suchtaktionsplang Stad Lëtzebuerg"), which is a municipal version of the National Action Plan on Drugs, combining prevention, help for drug addicts and withdrawal methods;
- support substitution programmes and other programmes enabling drug addicts to get off drugs by all available means;
- continue to develop social services for marginalised people;
- organise awareness-raising campaigns focusing on the social, health and safety aspects of drug addiction and set up a mediation, awareness-raising and communication service in the neighbourhoods concerned in order to promote living together in mutual respect;
- systematically reorganise public space to improve real and perceived safety and the appropriation of public space in the general interest.

2.3. Scale municipal taxes and prices for the provision of basic public services (water, wastewater, waste, electricity, gas) according to social and ecological criteria:

- introduce graduated pricing of water according to social criteria.
This would make it possible to reconcile the need to combat over-consumption with the right to water, which implies that each person should be entitled to a quota of water for personal use free of charge or at a very low price (e.g. 50 litres for free per day per person). Such a progressive pricing scheme would in no way be contrary to European legislation, as the Ministry of the Environment clarified in April 2014 in an answer to a parliamentary question. Similarly, according to the document entitled "The formation of the price of drinking water", drawn up by the Observatory of Competitiveness of the Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade, such pricing "would be more effective in moderating water consumption", while "pricing by progressive tranches would be considered more equitable and more explicitly redistributable" than the current pricing system.
- set up a service that guarantees Internet access to the residents of Luxembourg City, even the most precarious.

2.4. Make the City an important player in employment policy.

- In addition to creating new permanent jobs by expanding the range of public services offered, particularly in the social field, the City can also play a role in professional integration or reintegration. For example, it is important that young jobseekers hired on employment initiation contracts (CEI) systematically receive professional training during the course of their contract.
- The City also has the means to contribute to the fight against long-term unemployment by creating sustainable jobs adapted to the needs of the people. The initiative in this respect launched in May 2017 by the Ministries of the Interior and Labour in cooperation with the inter-municipal union Pro-Sud could serve as a model in this respect.

- The City can also promote the creation of sustainable jobs indirectly, by increasing the number of commercial premises it owns and allocating them to independent businesses (including societal impact companies) chosen according to social or societal criteria.
- Finally, the City's services should become an important player in hosting volunteers, both in the framework of national and international programmes.

2.5. **Promote the social inclusion of people with special needs, elderly people and refugees by:**

- promoting the inclusion of people with special needs (people with reduced mobility, visually impaired or blind people, etc.) means first of all that the city and its infrastructure must be accessible to them.
Thus, within the framework of a strategic plan adopted for this purpose, public buildings, public transport, accesses, pavements and pedestrian crossings must be systematically adapted to people with special needs. In this context, the City can solemnly mark its commitment to the inclusion of people with special needs by adhering to the international label of the "Flag of Cities and Towns for All" and to the constraints it implies (in particular the fact of reserving at least 2% of the City's annual investment budget for the implementation of adapted infrastructures);
- maintaining and developing the City's "Call-a-bus/Rollibus" service for the travel of people with reduced mobility in response to the unsatisfactory operation of the national "Adapto" service;
- making information about the rights of citizens and the services offered by the city accessible in easy-to-understand language, also for people with reading or learning difficulties;
- ensuring that the percentage of people with special needs among the municipal staff is in line with the legal provisions for inclusion of people with special needs, also through their better professional integration;
- carrying out more intergenerational housing projects that not only break the isolation of the elderly but also address the housing shortage and financial problems of many young adults;
- contributing to the inclusion of refugees by providing them with suitable housing and by supporting them with information, participation and training structures;
- ensuring that residents, especially senior citizens, can reach municipal services by non-digital means of communication (postal mail, telephone, the possibility of carrying out procedures in the municipality or in decentralised municipal services such as local libraries).

2.6. **Combat urban loneliness**, in particular by organising urban spaces in such a way as to encourage conviviality between residents of the same neighbourhood and by supporting initiatives to promote living together on a daily basis.

(See also the chapters on housing, neighbourhoods, democratic participation, and education and culture).

3. Energy: Supporting the Transition, Guaranteeing Access for All.

In order to meet the climate challenge, every inhabitant of the city should have the right to a well insulated house and to energy produced on the territory of the city, at least in part. A plan for the insulation of the city's entire housing stock, with its corollary, fuel poverty, must be tackled head on by transmitting consumption data on the one hand, and income on the other. The objectives must be set by the municipality to obtain the consent of the population, without which nothing is possible.

déi Lénk wants to:

3.1. **Develop an ambitious energy strategy for the short, medium and long term**, i.e. set targets, means and methods for reducing energy consumption and increasing the share of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy cooperation.

This means:

- **in the short term:**
 - o ensuring that the City obtains all necessary information from Enovos/Encevo on energy consumption in its territory;
Currently, because its electricity and gas networks have been privatised by the DP-Déi Gréng majority, the City has difficulty obtaining this information, even for its own buildings. As for the other data, it falls under business secrecy. This lack of information alone argues for a re-commissioning of the city's energy networks.
This new service will be administered by the town council, representatives, employees of the company and a panel of citizens by drawing lots
 - o drawing up an inventory of recoverable heat sources and of heat and electricity production from renewable energy sources.
- **in the short and medium term**, support the decentralised production of renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, cogeneration) by the City, households, and therefore:
 - o equip every suitable roof in the city with solar panels until 2025;
 - o make it compulsory for all new buildings - public or private - and for all roofs that are renovated, to install solar panels if the solar exposure is favourable;
 - o subsidies adapted to income will ensure that nobody is excluded.
 - o better inform the inhabitants about the different sources of renewable energy;
 - o It is no longer necessary to wait for them to ask for it. This information can range from the organisation of information days in the neighbourhoods to home visits by City technicians;
 - o set up an advisory and support unit for citizens' initiatives in the field of renewable energy at the "Klima Agence";

- o train VDL staff to explain the procedure to be followed, to seek contact with residents and businesses, to inform and raise awareness of the means available for individual contributions;
 - o promote the creation of citizen energy cooperatives;
 - o actively support companies in establishing energy saving plans;
 - o this implies abandoning the current practice of ignoring what happens to energy consumption there once an operating permit has been granted; The establishment of an energy management plan in consultation with the companies would help to achieve this.
 - o systematically use district heating from waste incineration and biogas plants;
 - o reduce/eliminate the costs of connection and use of networks for this type of producer (in connection with self-consumption);
 - o mobilise public funds to finance the development of renewable energies and the maintenance and extension of networks to relieve households of fixed costs that do not take into account their financial situation;
 - o reduce the use of wood for energy purposes in the city's forests while extending the age of the beech forests from 150 to 180 years;
 - o The use of wood from the City's forests to heat newly installed pellet and wood chip systems contradicts the objective of promoting the future development of a wood industry in Luxembourg;
 - o study the possibility of installing micro-wind turbines in suitable locations;
 - o check on a case-by-case basis where geothermal energy can be produced without posing a risk to the water table;
 - o Currently, the use of geothermal energy is not allowed in the territory of the City of Luxembourg. Such a general ban does not seem justified.
- **in the medium and long term:**
- o replace the electricity, gas and heat transmission and distribution networks under the ownership of the city;
 - o introduce a centralised energy supply in new districts and gradually also in existing districts by means of a district heating network based on renewable energy installations (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, cogeneration), set up and operated by the City;
 - o involve households and businesses in the development and implementation of this strategy by organising neighbourhood meetings on this subject, seeking contact with residents and businesses, informing and raising awareness of the means available to contribute individually, are key elements of such a participation policy; The city should pursue an active policy instead of waiting for residents and businesses to make the first move!
 - o encourage energy savings while penalising energy waste, with the overall objective of reducing consumption;
 - o seek to cooperate on energy matters with other Luxembourg municipalities and build up permanent contact with foreign cities of the same size which are pursuing an ambitious environmental policy.

3.2. **Significantly reduce CO2 emissions from buildings by:**

- substantially increasing budgetary appropriations for investment subsidies for energy renovation and include in municipal subsidies the installation of controlled mechanical ventilation systems (heat pumps), which are included in national subsidies, while soundproofing the latter for the neighbourhood;
- launching an energy renovation plan for residential and tertiary buildings, relying on the participation of households and businesses;
- setting up, in partnership with the "Klima-Agence", a municipal information, awareness-raising and advisory service, with the objectives of drawing up an energy renovation plan for old housing in the municipality, contacting owners and tenants, offering them subsidies graduated according to income and accompanying them throughout the renovation work;
- emphasising in these proposals efficient insulation measures that are within the budget of the respective household;
- promoting the discussion of financing energy renovation work at the level of Syvicol, with the aim of encouraging the definition of a public player offering pre-financing, non-repayable subsidies and repayable credits, graduated according to the available income and the energy costs saved thanks to the renovation.

3.3. **Assist households suffering from fuel poverty by:**

- strengthening the capacity of the Social Office in energy matters, including through an agreement with the Ministry of Family and the Ministry of Sustainable Development;
The Social Office should provide financial support to households in fuel poverty, select and accompany those who can benefit from personalised energy advice from the "Klima-Agency" and a subsidy for the replacement of energy-hungry household appliances.
- determining as precisely as possible the number of people and households in the municipality who are eligible for a solidarity allowance;
- substantially increasing the amount of the solidarity allowance to enable low-income households to cope with the massive increase in energy prices;
- Informing the inhabitants of the municipality about the modalities and procedures to be undertaken in order to benefit from the solidarity allowance;
- calling on the Social Office to provide substantial support to low-income people who have difficulty paying their energy bills;
- preventing windfall effects when the renovated properties are to be rented out; Landlords should not receive subsidies on the one hand and on the other take advantage of this to increase rents on the pretext that the property is better insulated, for example by including a clause in the agreements.

3.4. **Use the general development plan (PAG) to make progress in the areas of energy efficiency:**

- Impose on developers the optimal orientation towards the south, a compact construction of the dwellings and a centralised energy supply by means of a district heating network;
- promote energy saving measures and the use of renewable energy sources through the commodo-incommodo procedure;
- encourage companies to cooperate in terms of energy efficiency and recovery through tax modulation;
- cooperate with companies to enable more employees to use public transport and soft mobility;
- remove from building regulations the obligation for companies to provide parking spaces according to the amount of office space used.

4. Environment: Preserving Biodiversity, Reducing Pollution.

The municipality is primarily responsible for the quality of the environment in which its inhabitants live. Furthermore, it is obliged to take all necessary measures to protect them against the extreme climatic variations that are expected in the years and decades to come. In the fields of water and access to water, road, airport and rail traffic, which cause a strong and measurable damage to the health of the population, and the protection of the city's natural heritage, threatened by uncontrolled urbanisation, déi Lénk therefore proposes a proactive and interventionist policy.

déi Lénk wants to:

4.1. **Publish a survey of all valuable natural areas within the City.**

The extreme growth that the current general development plan (PAG) would like to manage poses a serious threat to the remaining natural spaces in the city. The discussion about the 'Schoettermarial' area (near the Val des Bons Malades) is symptomatic in this respect. The new PAG should be seen as a planning instrument for an active environmental policy, not as a means of passively managing growth that we should be prepared to welcome with open arms. Whenever a decision is taken, the preservation of natural areas should be the primary objective. As for the Schoettermarial, it should remain free of any construction!

4.2. **Stop the loss of biodiversity caused by a system that justifies the destruction of nature with illusory compensation.**

déi Lénk is opposed to the compensation that is currently practised, because it is enough to pay a certain amount of money to be able to destroy. The offsets are dependent on the price of land, which leads to an exodus of biodiversity to cheaper, outlying regions, because the system always favours the cheapest offset. Instead, we want to:

- introduce a mandatory global ecological assessment for any industrial or development project, including its consequences in terms of ecological footprint and health impacts;
- reform the compensation system to ensure that each unavoidable destruction of biodiversity is compensated for by measures to restore or create environments or species in the area where the destruction took place and by ensuring that the created or restored environments are healthy;
- apply the City's right of pre-emption on land of high ecological value with the objective of nature protection.

4.3. **Protect the city's forests.**

Forests play an important role for the environment as a whole, for example, in purifying air and water, storing CO₂, preserving biotopes and protecting against natural hazards. We therefore want to:

- develop ecological forest management and rely as much as possible on natural regeneration to promote resilience to global warming and strengthen the role of forests in preserving biotopes;
- encourage the development of diversified forests with multiple species and trees of various ages to replace coniferous trees;
- develop the wood sector to promote wood construction (sawing, joinery, insulation, etc.) while ensuring the good health of forests for future generations.

4.4. **Ensure the quality of drinking water and guarantee its future supply.**

Drinking water is our most precious natural resource. Today, 64 % of the Capital's water supply comes from sources owned by the City. Therefore:

- under no circumstances should the distribution of drinking water be privatised; Experiences with water privatisation abroad have shown that private companies are unable to provide adequate maintenance of water pipes. Keeping water in the hands of the city is also the only way to guarantee a social price for water. Water is a basic necessity and must be protected, not degraded to the level of a commodity!
- in order to save drinking water, rainwater should be collected more and used wherever water does not have to be drinkable (e.g. for toilet flushing, washing machine, garden, etc.);
- in new buildings, the use of rainwater should be made mandatory. The installation of tools to reduce water consumption should be encouraged;
- the price of water should be progressive; Basic daily consumption should be free of charge, while excessive consumption should be discouraged by progressively higher tariffs. In this way, thrifty households will be relieved while others will have to pay.
- the pros and cons of installing communal softeners in neighbourhoods with water hardness above a certain level should be studied;
- water infiltration should be encouraged by removing the waterproofing of surfaces, restoring and preserving wetlands and planting hedges and trees;
- groundwater must be protected through consistent control of protection standards in protected areas and on city-owned land leased for agricultural use.

4.5. **Improve the quality of the watercourses running through the city by:**

- banning the use of pesticides and single-use plastics;
- implementing effective ecological measures in the city's territory, especially in the protection zones;
- renaturation and by ensuring continuity for fish in watercourses;
- creating green strips along watercourses;
- effective application of the recently created governmental right of pre-emption of land in protection zones.

4.6. **Improve air quality.**

The air quality measuring station installed by the city still records high NO₂ values in some places, which exceed the EU thresholds. There is a strong correlation with car pollution, which must be reduced. The provision of efficient and free public transport, the cooperation of the city with companies to encourage their employees to use trains, trams and buses - instead of offering them parking - and the limitation of speed to 30 km/h in all parts of the city, linked by a network of safe bicycle lanes are all measures that dei Lénk is proposing in this sense. To raise public awareness of the need to reduce air pollution, signs should be installed at strategic locations such as the Place de la Gare, displaying the degree of pollution at all times.

4.7. Impose the rapid clean-up of the former CASA (Continental Alloys) site in Dommeldange.

The ArcelorMittal group, which owns this former wasteland, which has been free of any industrial activity for years, must assume its full responsibility on the basis of the polluter-pays principle. The law must be applied! As such, the City must :

- intervene with the Ministry of the Environment and the current owner of the former CASA landfill and the former factory site to clean up the landfill, to obtain the results of the drilling carried out on the former factory site and to clean up this site;
- in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, have the sediments of the future "Stellwiss" neighbourhood analysed with a view to the preparation of a special development plan (PAP).

4.8. Conduct a waste prevention policy that takes into account the real responsibilities and social situation of taxpayers.

Waste management is a fundamental issue for the evolution of our societies towards an ecological and social future. Capitalism, which the liberal centre parties want to save, demands ever more resources. We must preserve the last natural resources for the benefit of future generations. In order to continue to benefit from the products that make our lives easier, we must recycle our waste. In our community, we can take concrete action to reduce the consumption of primary resources to the strict minimum and ban dangerous products that pollute nature.

The market must be regulated to meet people's needs and to bring production into line with ecological requirements.

Thus, we advocate that the most important companies remain in public hands, that citizens are involved in their functioning, that their objectives are planned and controlled, that the laws of the market are reduced to reserved sectors where it makes sense, and that prices are regulated according to ecological objectives. The economy must finally become circular and the life of the rich must be brought back to ecological sobriety, the life that everyone else lives.

This ecological transition will create new activities. Studies (e.g. by the Île-de-France Regional Waste Observatory) show that ten times more jobs are needed for recycling than for incineration. The City must ensure that these jobs are of good quality and properly paid.

Having studied the transition made by several municipalities, it does not generate new expenses, but on the contrary the bill will be lightened.

It should be noted that:

- the City does not currently have the necessary data to be able to better plan waste management;
- it will be necessary to continue to develop recycling and above all to move towards "zero waste";
- the social aspect plays a very important role in the measures to be taken, both in terms of tariffs and the conditions for waste sorting;
- the polluter pays principle must be applied, but the producers of waste must be held responsible in the first place, not the consumers.

It is therefore necessary to :

- redouble efforts to obtain the necessary data on waste in the city, especially from businesses, and thus improve projections;
- install several recycling centres in the city and develop them into resource centres, each of which includes a centre for recovery, recycling, resale and environmental education;
- cooperate with the city's shops, especially second-hand shops and those that avoid packaging;
- initiate and support circular economy initiatives and education programmes in the city's schools and hostels;
- review the taxation of waste, which is an indirect tax that affects mainly low-income households and has little impact on the rich:
 - o the bio-container should be free again, as it was before 2017, which will reward waste separation for composting,
 - o the taxation of the black container from 60 litres in volume should depend on the number of people in the household,
 - o the taxation of the black container should differentiate between households that live in a flat, where the maintenance of a bio-container is problematic, and those that have a house with a garden;
- increase the municipal business tax (CCI) and the property tax to contribute to the financing of household waste collection. The logic is as follows:
 - o both taxes are direct taxes that depend on income, respectively wealth,
 - o the CCI applies to companies that are the real waste producers,
 - o the property tax (from which first-time homeowners with a small plot of land should be exempted) is paid by those who have several flats and a lot of land;
- introduce performance indicators concerning the reduction of all waste (recyclable, non-recyclable, food) for the municipality's own activities and all others on its territory;
- subject all purchases and all subsidies and grants from the municipality to sustainable development criteria;
- involve employees and residents in this policy for greater efficiency and train residents to act as multipliers;

- fight against food waste, by adapting school menus to the needs of children, support food sharing, raise awareness of food waste and make it more expensive;
- have schools and “foyers scolaires” with the City’s Waste Management Service to develop systems together that meet needs, but prevent the waste of new resources;
- provide real benefits to businesses that are zero waste compliant, including facilitating access to premises and storage space and using these businesses as examples in its zero waste communication campaigns.

4.9. **Actively combat the sources of noise pollution.**

Noise pollution, especially from the airport, is a constant concern which, due to government inertia, tends to increase. The solution cannot be to get people to insulate their homes, usually at their own expense, but to fight against the sources of noise.

This means:

- that current and cumulative noise maps (airport, roads, railways) be published;
- that the government and Luxairport management should provide reliable current data and a strategy for the development of the airport;
- that night flights at Luxembourg airport be banned, as is the case at Zurich airport, or at least reduced to a minimum, as is the case at Frankfurt airport;
- that a study of the nuisance to the exposed population be carried out, for example in cases of single exposure to airport nuisances, as well as in cases of multiple exposure; that the results of the study be published and communicated to the inhabitants;
- that, in general, decibel tolerance limits corresponding to those recommended by the World Health Organisation be enshrined in law and that those responsible be obliged to take acoustic protection measures if these limits are regularly exceeded;
- that the city should anchor in its building regulations degrees of sound insulation, which vary according to the location of the buildings.

Another important noise factor is the noise nuisance from café terraces, especially in the Clausen district. The law must be enforced in all respects, with the obvious aim of protecting neighbours and guaranteeing their right to rest at night.

4.10. **Reduce light pollution.**

For reasons of safety and good traffic flow, sufficient lighting of public spaces is necessary. Beyond these needs, light pollution must be reduced. Over-illumination has proven or suspected negative consequences on fauna, flora, ecosystems and human health. It also wastes energy and hinders the observation of the sky.

In order to fight against light pollution, Déi Lénk intends to impose the extinction of commercial lighting of closed shops after 10 pm on the whole territory of the municipality.

4.11. **Review from the point of view of the increased risk of flooding the general development plan (PAG) and the special development plans (PAPs) voted or to be voted on and impose special building conditions with regard to climate change if necessary.**

4.12. **Introduce a systematic assessment of the energy, CO2 and biodiversity impact of the city's public procurement.**

4.13. **Adapt the city to the effects of the climate crisis.**

The IPCC AR6 report warns that Europe will face excess mortality due to heat waves, as well as new epidemics due to rising temperatures.

We therefore propose to:

- guarantee access to nature in all new urbanisation projects (parks, greening of streets and squares);
- develop a greening plan for existing streets;
- encourage residents to green their streets themselves through a system of subsidies;
- create gardens in the neighbourhoods;
- identify areas that could be transformed into urban forests;
- encourage the planting of regional fruit trees in the plant mix;
- launch a plan to remove the concrete from schoolyards by replacing concrete with grass, trees and vegetable gardens that can also be used for educational purposes;
- greening of roofs;
- create collective cooling areas to avoid the individual purchase of air conditioners which aggravate the heat sink phenomenon;
- organise neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood training on food self-sufficiency and self-defence in health;
- provide public transport to nearby forests.

5. Mobility: Less Cars, More Soft Mobility.

Every municipality must be able to guarantee the mobility needed by the people who live, work or visit it, preventing chaotic traffic. For years, the individual car has taken up more and more space, leading to congestion, making it difficult to walk or cycle in the city. This has also slowed down the public transport, including the tram, which does not have strict priority at certain junctions. The College of the Mayor and Aldermen and its current majority are focusing on: development of parking spaces in the city center, free parking stickers per person instead of per household. The existing network of bicycle paths remains poorly designed and being sluggishly developed.

All the experiments and studies in cities of comparable size show that it is possible to get around without using the private car, in particular:

- *on home-to-work or home-to-school trips, in particular with the introduction of school buses, walk-buses, secure bicycle routes, and efficient, frequent, timely public transport;*
- *on work trips within the city;*
- *on leisure trips (sports, culture, etc.);*
- *on trips from outside the city, a set of park-and-ride facilities to capture car traffic at the city's borders.*

In these cities, where car travel is largely discouraged, car use should be restricted to a minimum: people with special needs, especially those with reduced mobility, carpooling, carsharing (the use of a car for short-term rental, as proposed by the Flex system in Luxembourg), occasional or weekly shopping for large quantities, etc.

Faced with the expected rise in population between 2020 and 2035, according to the scenarios of the Municipal Mobility Plan ("Mobilitéitsplang"), we propose the implementation over the next 6 years and beyond of a virtuous circle of sustainable mobility:

- *fewer cars;*
- *more walking, cycling and public transport (soft mobility);*
- *soft mobility that is more pleasant, safer and faster than today.*

As a result, the car will become less attractive to use, fewer people will use it, and soft mobility will become even more attractive...

This philosophy will also have to be applied to the delivery and transport of goods.

In the face of the climate and energy crises and public health/welfare issues, policy decisions should be taken sooner than later to avoid complicating the problems further. The political inertia of the ruling majority can cost us a lot!

As space is limited in Luxembourg City, there is no room for an unlimited number of private cars, vans, buses, bicycles and pedestrians. It is therefore essential to set priorities! This is all the more urgent as the imbalance between jobs and housing in the area is becoming increasingly important, which in turn increases the number of commuters. The tram is certainly a good step forward. But it will not put an end to mobility problems. In fact, with the 50,000 additional jobs planned between 2020 and 2035 in the new municipal mobility plan, the tram, which is already saturated at the peak hours, will be inadequate. Under these conditions, déi Lénk believes that a consistent policy must be implemented, systematically favouring public transport and soft mobility, reducing the excessive space granted to the car until now and increasing the number of housing units in the city in relation to the number of jobs, thus reducing the number of commuters and engaging Luxembourg-City in the virtuous circle of sustainable mobility.

dei Lénk wants to:

- 5.1. **Continue to develop public transport, and make it more attractive, from a practical and economic point of view, than the private car.** Based on a population increase of 46% (from 123,000 to 180,000) and a job increase of 30% (from 168,000 to 218,000) between 2020 and 2035, as predicted in the Municipal Mobility Plan ("Mobilitéitsplang"), the number of trips per day would increase from 857,000 in 2020 to 1,144,000 in 2035. Under these conditions, and taking into account the decisions already taken regarding roads, P&R, tram line extensions and regional railroad development, individual motorized trips in the city's territory would increase by a further 22%. This would be unmanageable given the existing road network in the city, which cannot be expanded. In order to maintain the current level of motorized trips by private car, i.e. approximately 514,000 per day in Luxembourg City, it is necessary to increase the use of public transport by a further 10% and to increase cycling and pedestrian traffic considerably until 2035.

The share of public transport, cycling and pedestrian traffic in the city as a whole, which was 40% in 2020, will have to increase to 55% in 2035, and conversely the share of individual motorized transport will have to decrease from 60% to 45%. In this scenario, the greatest potential for development lies in bicycle traffic, which will have to increase from 5% to 13%.

To achieve this ambitious goal, public transport will have to meet four requirements: quality, accessibility, speed and regularity. The considerable investments involved will be partly offset by the reduced expenditure on new roads, maintenance of existing roads and construction of new parking lots, reclaiming of public space, and improved quality of life in all respects.

This means:

- rapidly creating new tram lines, the backbone of public transport in the capital, and building the peripheral stations Howald, Hollerich and Cessange;
These new developments, as well as the extension of the tram network beyond the city's perimeter, should also reduce the excessive space previously reserved for the car. Systematic prioritization of trams over cars must be ensured in order to increase the speed of tram traffic.
- further improving the service level of trams and buses;
Trams must be part of an overall public transport concept. Under no circumstances should the Tram mean a deterioration in the quality of public transportation for the residents of the City's various neighbourhoods. The City's bus capacity that will be freed up by the Tram should be used to establish direct connections between neighbourhoods. Residents must be included in the process of reorganizing the bus network to ensure that their needs are effectively addressed. The number of bus lanes should be increased, priority at traffic lights should be more systematic, and the frequency of the different lines should not be less than 10 minutes during peak periods.

- 5.2. **Enable persons with special needs to move about unhindered and to have access to all places open to the public, public roads and collective dwellings,** as provided for in the law of 7 January 2022. An advisory committee, bringing together interested parties and municipal officials, will have to be set up to focus on this requirement, supervising and permanently securing the means implemented.

- 5.3. **Make 30 km/h the default speed throughout the City.**

- This proposal, to be implemented by mutual agreement with the Department of Mobility and Public Works, applies to all arterial roads in the City, with the exception of a limited number of major arterial roads that are off-centre and wide enough to ensure

clear separation of all users (e.g. Kennedy Avenue, Kiyv Boulevard). On roads currently limited to 70 km/h, the speed limit will be reduced to 50 km/h.

- This does not preclude the use of 20 km/h speed limits in residential areas, such as rue du Verger in Bonnevoie (with alternating parking and no demarcated sidewalk).

5.4. **Give cyclists and pedestrians priority over individual cars:**

- allow pedestrians to travel safely and securely, and with priority over other users;
- increase the number of crosswalks, especially at each street intersection, and make them safe according to the rules of the road;
- change traffic signal settings to give pedestrians and cyclists more time to cross the street and reduce waiting times;
- more systematically implement separate signals for cyclists, allowing them to get a head start on cars without impeding pedestrians;
- build a self-sufficient and safe system of bicycle lanes linking different parts of the City, without negatively affecting the space and safety of pedestrians;
- provide a two-way protected bicycle lane along the entire length of Boulevard Royal;
- transform Boulevard Roosevelt and rue Notre Dame, along with adjacent streets, into a mixed-use zone;
- link topographically separated neighborhoods with walkways or other pedestrian and bicycle facilities, provided that such structures do not unduly inconvenience residents of other neighborhoods and do not harm the environment;
- provide secure bicycle parking facilities (bicycle sheds, cellars and lockers) in both high-traffic areas and residential neighbourhoods. Whenever a neighborhood street is redeveloped, such facilities should be systematically integrated, even if this is at the expense of space reserved for car parking;
- develop high-speed bicycle lanes in cooperation with neighboring municipalities;
- encourage companies located in the city to offer their employees facilities for cycling to work (dedicated parking spaces, changing rooms and showers, etc.);
- increase the number of pedestrian-bike-cars meeting zones and introduce systematic priority for bikes over cars on certain roads;
- create user-friendly public spaces for community-building in city neighbourhoods by freeing some non-essential roads from cars and closing some streets to non-resident traffic on weekends.

5.5. **Reduce the number of cars in the city by:**

- redesigning the main traffic arteries to reduce the space reserved for private cars and increase the space for other users, as proposed by the Gehl urban planning and architecture firm in Kirchberg;
- reverting to the principle of a single free parking sticker per household and limit its validity to the residential area;
- stopping the construction and expansion of public underground parking lots in the city center (Ville Haute and Station);
- reducing the number of available spaces in existing underground parking garages, reserving them for those who really need them (people with special needs, people working at night, car-sharing services, etc.), or even eliminating them in favor of other vehicle categories (bicycles, cargo bikes, etc.) and activities (urban farms, server farms, etc.);

- closing some parking lots (e.g., Fort Neipperg Street, Glesener Street) in order to build public housing;
- drastically reducing the number of parking spaces provided for new building projects, especially in dense neighbourhoods;
- no longer creating perpendicular or angle parking spaces along neighbourhood streets, instead relying exclusively on parallel parking to allow for wider sidewalks and bike paths;
- cracking down much more systematically on traffic in car-free zones and no parking zones (e.g., rue Notre Dame and Rue du Fossé);
- taking steps to discourage the use of SUVs in the city, e.g. by providing smaller parking spaces and overcharging for SUV-friendly parking spaces;
- ending the practice of systematically offering free municipal parking spaces to members of the College of the Mayor and Aldermen and some councilors.

5.6. Strengthen mobility services to adapt supply to needs, including for goods, by:

- merging the Carloh system (City of Luxembourg) and the Flex system (CFL) to facilitate the use of shared cars, making cars available as needed;
- increasing the number of cars and car-sharing stations in order to make life without a personal car possible, as is the case in other cities of comparable size, by facilitating use through the replacement of the free parking sticker by a subscription to the car-sharing service offered per household;
- setting up regular routes with atypical timetables, by developing transport on demand systems or routes for workers starting early in the morning or finishing late in the evening, these routes could be set up as part of company mobility plans;
- systematizing pedibus or walking-bus and setting up a velobus system to allow children to walk or cycle to school, thus avoiding the need for parents to use cars to drop off their children and freeing up the school entrances and exits from vehicle congestion;
- communicating about these services, as well as carpooling systems;
- generalizing electronic parking payment systems, via the Call4Park system, in order to help and optimize the work of municipal agents ("Pecherten") and to be able to analyze parking on the territory of the City of Luxembourg;
- developing a sustainable urban logistics system, based on logistics hubs on the outskirts of the city (industrial zones of Sandweiler, Contern, Leudelange, etc.) and the last few kilometers using small, low-emission vehicles (electric vehicles, cargo bikes);
- increasing the number of places reserved for deliveries, with in particular the extension of the opening hours, including during the night or on Sundays, in order to avoid the parking of delivery vehicles on the sidewalk or on the bicycle paths;
- creating a Mobility Agency, bringing together the road, traffic, public transport, urban planning, economic and commercial services and specific needs departments in order to carry out diagnostic studies shared with the population, to raise awareness of actions in favour of public transport, bicycles and walking, to advise companies in the management of their employees' mobility, to carry out experiments, and to perpetuate the various projects and actions put in place.

6. Neighbourhoods: Better Planning for Better Living.

Under the banner of neo-liberalism, the market is supposed to regulate everything, including urban development. As a result, large landowners, real estate agencies and private developers largely determine the city's urban and social development. Although the City has planning freedom in principle, it is highly exposed to the power of lobbies, and restricted by highly imbalanced land ownership. Urban development must link all areas of local development: urban planning, social planning, energy transition, environmental and climate protection, social welfare and culture. It must be developed together with the citizens through a democratic process (see point 9 of our action plan). The following elements should be part of the guidelines for this development: the eradication of poverty and social inequality at the local level, affordable housing, the prevention or reduction of residential segregation, a sustainable energy policy, the preservation of the environment and biodiversity, a contribution to climate policy and health. These guidelines are supposed to set priorities and the development of the neighbourhoods is based on them.

dei Lénk wants to:

- 6.1. **Draw up an inventory** that includes past and present positive developments, as well as shortcomings, imbalances and contradictions. Without an assessment, there can be no adequate treatment.
- 6.2. **Ensure that a balance between housing and jobs is restored in the new districts.** The new districts (Kirchberg, Gasperich...) have for years had an excess of office space in relation to housing (ratio $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$), which marks a fundamental imbalance between jobs created and housing available. Such a policy of unbridled growth increases the price of housing due to a deficit in relation to demand and also continually increases the number of commuters with all the problems of mobility that this entails.
- 6.3. **Improve coordination of and communication about urban planning.** Urban development must link all areas of local development: urban planning, social planning, energy transition, environmental and climate protection, social welfare and culture. Concepts must be developed for these different areas (creation of green spaces, social development) while at the same time interconnecting them (e.g. the creation of a green space always contains a social dimension). This requires a continuous collaboration between the different departments of the City, as well as an overall professional coordination through the urban planning department. It also includes the establishment of a permanent commission in charge of urban planning, made up of representatives of the different parties and citizens active in the social and environmental fields, whose reports are publicly accessible.
- 6.4. **Develop the City's planning sovereignty** by making use of all the means provided by the law of 7 July 2011 concerning communal planning and urban development, which states: "The initiative to develop a particular 'new district' planning project may emanate from the commune, (...). For such an initiative, the municipalities, (...) do not need to be the owners of the land concerned. (...). If the 'new district' development project is drawn up by the municipality, the related expenses are recovered from the concerned owners in proportion to the surface area of the land they own." This implies that the City itself, in collaboration with the citizens, is responsible for the elaboration of the special development plans (PAP). In this way, the influence of commercial developers on urban planning, and especially on housing policy, can be greatly limited.

6.5. **Expand City ownership of land**, making maximum use of the City's right of first refusal. Public ownership is still the best means of achieving urban development in the public interest.

6.6. **Overcome the compartmentalization of housing, work and leisure areas** to achieve integrated spaces that positively affect the quality of life of each resident, making neighborhoods more lively, greener and safer and consuming less energy by reducing the number of trips.

This means that:

- primary schools should be maintained as close as possible to where the children live;
- the City must ensure the presence of local shops and crafts in the neighbourhoods;
- green spaces and gardens created in the neighbourhoods will allow residents who have a passion for gardening and who do not have a private garden to meet and share;
- in all new development and construction projects, the municipality must insist that the full 25% of the surface area provided for by law be ceded to it in order to allow the installation of an adequate proportion of public facilities, soft mobility and greenery;
- unambiguous support for projects of the transition movement. They show that economic and cultural activities can be developed outside of a profit logic and that they can generate conviviality and solidarity.

6.7. **Preserve the faculty to establish independent businesses in the city.**

The laissez-faire urban planning policy pursued in recent years has also had a negative impact on commerce and crafts. Thus, independent traders and craftsmen in Luxembourg City are threatened by the constant rise in rents. This is mainly generated by the multiplication of subsidiaries of big brands. However, far from setting limits to them, the DP-CSV majority actively favours multinationals, as the Royal-Hamilius project shows. The current majority also continues to advocate the establishment of large stores on the outskirts of the city, when it could promote the emergence of local centers in the neighborhoods! This policy leaves no chance for local businesses and encourages excessive use of the car. The pre-programmed disaster of the Ban de Gasperich, a real "Kirchberg II", represents the absurdity of this approach.

Faced with this development, which marks a deterioration of the attractiveness of the City and the quality of life of its inhabitants, dei Lénk makes the following proposals:

- the City should regularly analyze the situation of independent businesses in the City;
- the City should ensure - through the master plans of the general development plan of the City, future specific development plans and urban regulations - a better commercial and artisanal mix in the downtown area and the maintenance, or the re-establishment of local commerce and crafts in the neighbourhoods;
- the City should compile an inventory of buildings owned by the city that are suitable for commercial space. It makes these premises available, as well as additional premises that it acquires or builds, at affordable rents and according to objective criteria that favour independent and local commerce. Particular attention must be paid to book culture and bookstores, which are indispensable (see chapter 8);
- the City should continue to support the digital platform that allows independent businesses to resist the large multinationals of online commerce;
- the City should support the initiators of social impact companies (SIS) that would like to contribute to the preservation and development of social ties and the development of cultural or creative activities. It is also necessary to give a chance to young entrepreneurs,

whose initiative is often suffocated by the omnipotence of large promoters and by the increasingly dizzying amount of capital they must mobilize to obtain premises;

- the City should encourage the establishment of local produce markets in each neighbourhood. It is a question of developing synergies with the organic farms in the central region, and establishing new organic farms in citizen cooperatives or in communal management on the communal territory to ensure the supply even in case of rupture of the supply lines as during the Covid crisis.

6.8. Preserve public space from invasive advertising.

As part of the Royal Hamilius project, the Central Post Office Square has become a private square for the next 75 years. The City is thus pursuing its policy of progressive commercialization of public space and its abandonment to private interests: bus shelters and bicycle stations financed by a private company in exchange for the placement of advertisements, free newspaper distribution boxes in almost every street, intrusive musical sound systems in the streets on certain occasions, café terraces that invade pedestrian areas, monuments and streets decorated for commercial purposes.

dei Lénk refuses this policy, which is in contradiction with Article 1 of the City's By-law, which states that: "Public and leisure spaces are places of relaxation and conviviality". We therefore want to:

- prohibit commercial advertising in municipal institutions;
- reduce commercial advertising on the street and in public places, particularly on bus shelters;
- promote citizen and cultural expression via poster spaces in public places.

6.9. Encourage neighbourhood life by setting up neighbourhood houses ("maisons de quartier") as communal spaces where neighbours can interact.

Neighbourhood houses bringing together all the associations in the neighborhood and which can be shared with youth centers to facilitate intergenerational exchange, can be set up progressively, in the form of a pilot project at first, in certain neighborhoods. Managed by the City of Luxembourg in cooperation with local actors, they will make premises available to associations, offer certain services to residents (e.g. help with certain administrative procedures, particularly for the elderly or socially disadvantaged) and promote activities within the district. If necessary, the premises can also be designed to accommodate the neighbourhood libraries planned for certain districts (see point 8.1). The goal is that each of the 24 neighbourhoods will eventually have such a structure.

7. Education: Insure the Inclusion of All Children.

When it comes to access to education, Luxembourg does not fare very well. Especially for children with a migrant background, the Luxembourg education system accentuates social differences instead of reducing them.

Since the School Law of 2009, the autonomy of the municipalities in the organization of schools has been greatly reduced. The state has taken over the teaching staff of the primary schools. Therefore, City of Luxembourg faces a systematic reduction in the allocated number of lessons and thus with an increase in class size. However, communal autonomy remains extensive in terms of school infrastructure, relay houses, extracurricular activities and, above all, commitments to early childhood (crèches, early education). In all of these areas, the city's education policy has fallen far behind, which has contributed to the development of private education in the capital. According to the LISER report within the framework of the Social Observatory, 46% of children living in the city were no longer attending a municipal primary school in 2020. According to this report, this was even the case for 23% of Luxembourgish pupils. The public school no longer fulfills its inclusive function and we are witnessing a fragmentation of society. Education is built up from an early age and in the eyes of déi Lénk, public schools play an essential role in this, both as a society-builder and as a guarantor of equal opportunities.

déi Lénk wants to:

7.1. **Create public daycare centres in each district of the City.**

Currently, in Luxembourg City, there are only 6 daycare centres, compared to more than 130 private or contracted daycare centres. The 2023 City budget does not include any funds for an additional daycare centre. This is contrary to the DP-CSV coalition's programme, which promised for a public daycare centre in each of the city's main districts. There is a particular lack of crèches in Gare, Beggen and Limpertsberg.

7.2. **Establish sufficient full-time early childhood care facilities.**

The opening of "foyers scolaires" for children from the age of 3 was a promotional measure for the public school system about ten years ago. Indeed, thanks to the first contact at the early childhood level, a number of non-Luxembourgish parents were initially won over for the City's basic education. In particular, the learning of Lëtzebuergesch is encouraged. However, due to the persistent and even increasing lack of available places in the foyer scolaire, these parents often have to resort to private nurseries and tend to leave the public basic education of the City for good.

The opening up of school residences to young children also requires their adaptation to the physical and psychological needs of these children, both in terms of the layout of the premises and the educational staff.

7.3. **Create the conditions in terms of premises and personnel to eliminate waiting lists for foyers scolaires and guarantee access to them for all school children whose parents request them by:**

- providing the necessary school infrastructure in each special development plan (PAP) . This is particularly true for the Gare neighbourhood, where no additional infrastructure is currently planned, despite the PAPs "Nei Hollerech" and "rue de l'Académie";
- making the jobs of certified educators more attractive
 - o by recruiting on the basis of 40-hour work contracts,
 - o by granting more pedagogical autonomy (including a budget) to each foyer scolaire;

The strict hierarchy in the city's foyers scolaires, which does not allow for decision-making without central management approval, can be a reason for the departure of the most committed educational staff. The foyers scolaires must have more pedagogical autonomy. According to the model that Dei Lénk advocates, the management would have administrative and technical competences and the pedagogy would be the business of the teams on site, who would have their own budget. This would not prevent management from promoting best practices and the city from keeping a hand in preventing negative developments through the management committees.

- in general, administrative work should be done by administrative staff rather than instructional staff.

7.4. Lobby at the national level for an adjustment of the quota of teaching lessons allocated according to actual needs.

The City's primary schools must have the necessary resources to deal with the problems that arise in the classroom on a daily basis. Due to the reduction in the number of lessons per pupil allocated by the Ministry of Education to the City over the years, the various schools have had to draw on the support lessons, which are included in the general quota under the heading of "social index support". This is despite the fact that non-Luxembourgish children as a majority in the public primary schools in Luxembourg City is a linguistic challenge. And meanwhile, the number of disoriented and children with special needs who are asked to be included is increasing. In order to overcome the current distress, the Grand Ducal regulation that defines the quota in detail will have to be amended, aiming in particular at an average of 14 pupils per class.

7.5. Systematically develop public schools with a free all-day offer. This implies:

- Introducing a "one-stop shop" for basic education in the city: enrolment in a school class implies the right to a place in the foyer scolaire;
- making proper use of the Extracurricular Education Plans;
- having each primary school cooperate closely with the associated foyer scolaire in the planning of supervised studies. Until such time as this cooperation is put in place and each pupil has a place in "his" foyer scolaire, restore the system of supervised studies ("Silenz"), as it functioned until 2020 in Luxembourg City. Homework help in foyer scolaire should not be limited to simple supervision, as is currently the case.

7.6. Support socio-culturally disadvantaged children, refugee children and children with special needs by:

- making good use of School Development Plans;
- fundamentally reviewing the differentiation between schools in different parts of the city using social indices;
The social index, which provides more support for students in disadvantaged neighborhoods, needs to be strengthened. At present, the difference in the pupil-teacher ratio between the school with the highest social index in the city and the school with the lowest social index is only 52 hours on the basis of approximately 300 pupils. This corresponds to only two teaching positions.
- providing the means to make inclusion a success and practice a "design4all" approach; Including refugee children in the City's regular classes as soon as possible, close to where they live. To ensure a smooth transition of these children to the City's regular basic education classes, it will be necessary to systematically contact their parents and adequately prepare teachers, particularly through training on the history and culture of

the countries of origin. It will also be necessary to allocate additional posts to the schools that receive the largest number of newcomer children, children from refugee shelters or other special needs children.

7.7. Implement anti-discrimination policies in City schools by:

- organizing classes that promote diversity and mutual understanding;
- representing diversity in the public space;
- having the City's Education Department organize awareness-raising training sessions among teachers and educators about migration and equal opportunity issues and about all ideologies that are toxic for living together, such as racism, religious fundamentalism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, machismo and homophobia.

7.8. Evaluate the "Parents school" agreement by adapting the offer to the needs of parents and schools and extending their competences to aspects such as mediation.

7.9. In the Gare neighbourhood, opt for the regrouping of cycle 2 and 3 classes in the rue du Commerce building and the regrouping of cycle 4 in the Michel Welter building.

7.10. Drastically curb school tourism within the City's schools.

7.11. Promote healthy food in daycare centres and foyers scolaires, cooked on site by City services. This implies:

- ending the outsourcing of school food services. In the City's school residences, 3,500 meals are served daily and the City will pay 7.5 million euros to private companies this year.
- following the example of the Ministry of Education's Restopolis service for high schools, The city should use its own staff to prepare meals on site with fresh, local, seasonal and preferably organic products and decide for itself what is prepared and served under good working conditions and remuneration.
- educating children about "good food" by organizing culinary workshops and make them actors of the ecological transformation;
- fighting against food waste in school canteens, which constitutes a considerable volume of waste, by adapting the quantities prepared to those consumed in a more precise manner.

7.12. Develop a communal children's plan with precise objectives, means and methods and establish a regular public evaluation procedure:

- Allow children to express their needs and help meet them. In this sense, competent personnel are needed to perceive these needs and act accordingly.
- Involve children in all decisions about play;
They are the experts. However, their participation cannot be limited to a verbal exchange. A respectful attitude of the leaders towards the children is often more useful. Capel's play pedagogues can help with communication and interpretation.
- Promote play with all those involved in children's lives, including parents, teachers and educational staff; ensure that children's play is respected in all city decisions; redefine streets, where possible, as a space for living and playing; create spaces in schools and school residences that allow children to play;

Play is an essential element in the learning and development of children and youth into responsible citizens.

- strengthen, develop and support forest schools and classes in the forest, and propose forest nurseries;
- systematize the reintroduction of nature in the schoolyards and in the living spaces of the children; the urban framework must no longer be a barrier to life with nature.

7.13. Analyze the opportunities and risks inherent in the so-called "international public schools" before continuing to venture down this path.

By welcoming the new "Gaston Thorn" International primary school in the Cessange district with open arms, the City has embarked on the path of the DP Minister of Education's alternative public school model. This type of school has its own program and its own personnel working under private contracts. Dei Lénk fears that this will have harmful consequences for the federative character of the public school as well as for the number of students who engage in this type of school. This is due to the fact that the French language plays only a marginal role and that the "secondary education" sequence of this type of school is oriented exclusively towards the baccalaureate and higher education. Students who lose their footing along the way will not have a way back to a vocational apprenticeship, for example.

dei Lénk believes that it is irresponsible to create a new parallel school system without having ensured its integration into existing structures.

7.14. Take part in the discussion on French-language enrollment in the City's primary schools and to contribute to it with a pilot project. Essential conditions must be the maintenance of the uniqueness of the school system at the primary school level and the integration into existing structures in secondary education.

8. Culture: Decentralisation, Democratisation, Protection.

A city where artistic creation does not flourish is a city that decays! This is why déi Lénk is committed to promoting a democratic and decentralizing shift in favor of both artistic creation (starting from existing institutions as well as starting from the inhabitants, in particular young people) and a cultural offer that is more financially accessible and better represents the multiculturalism of its population. Furthermore, déi Lénk wants to put an end to a number of important deficiencies in the City of Luxembourg in certain areas of culture, such as the lack of production spaces for young people or the absence of a network of municipal libraries.

For Déi Lénk, culture is not just about offering itself to an audience! The public, i.e. the inhabitants of Luxembourg-Ville, must feel invested in a movement of greater democratization of artistic creation, in a movement of opening towards all the communities present on the territory of the city. For this, it is important to open new spaces in the neighborhoods for creation, whether it be musical, theatrical, or visual, or even video. Young people in particular have a lot of energy to give us in this field, provided they can benefit from a pedagogical framework to channel it. In the same way, the different linguistic and other communities present in Luxembourg-City must talk to each other, as is done during the festival of migrations, and represent their life here to each other. For a left-wing cultural policy that favors multiculturalism, integration, inclusion, free expression, dialogue and communication, better living together, active participation instead of mere consumption. The intercultural richness of Luxembourg, and in particular of Luxembourg City, must be a creative basis that should be further developed in the different neighbourhoods. Every community has something to say. Let's say it out loud!

dei Lénk wants to:

- 8.1. **Create a network of 4-5 neighbourhood libraries** located in the main districts of the capital, similar to what exists in cities of comparable size in our neighbouring countries. These libraries would be user-friendly, open outside of office hours, and would even allow certain administrative procedures to be carried out. We think, for example, that a children's library should be created in Bonnevoie, a district where many families with youngsters live. Of course, the other communal libraries would also have spaces dedicated to children. In the former slaughterhouses of Merl, where the City wants to develop various cultural activities, we proposed to create a comic book library as it is the case in the former slaughterhouses of Bomel near Namur. In view of the large number of Portuguese, Spanish and Italian speakers in Luxembourg, the creation of a library specifically dedicated to Portuguese, Spanish and Italian languages and literature (if necessary in cooperation with associations active in this field) also seems appropriate.
- 8.2. **Provide determined support for book culture**, by supporting booksellers who organize conferences, readings and meetings with authors, by encouraging visits to bookstores by primary school classes and by promoting the organization of an annual book fair in cooperation with the City's bookstores and libraries.
- 8.3. **Develop a plan to create associative creation and dissemination spaces in the neighbourhoods**, similar to the youth centres that already exist in certain neighbourhoods. This is also true for music: there is no place adapted to music where any musician living in the city can go to practise at any time, and which would finally be a permanent meeting place for associations.

- 8.4. **Organize artistic creation workshops in the neighborhoods** (theater, writing, painting, photography, cooking, music...) with professionals as well as with young people already engaged in a creative process.
- 8.5. **Involve residents in the city's cultural planning** through community forums (cultural conferences, youth forum, etc.), dedicated to future issues and essential aspects of our society. A festival could be organized by the youth of a neighborhood with a budget large enough to give the festival a national and cross-border dimension (e.g., the Festival Réel in Villeurbanne, France).
- 8.6. **Involve** children and young people in the design of cultural policy and provide a quality offer adapted to their needs in their living spaces.
- 8.7. **Set aside 1% of the City's cultural budget for contemporary art** (including street art) to demonstrate the City's aesthetic and educational interest in the City's streets.
- 8.8. **Guarantee the autonomy of the City's cultural institutions**, particularly in their programming (exhibitions, concerts, plays, ballets, films, etc.) and the absence of outside interference, both from the Collège échevinal and from private companies.
- 8.9. **Extend the twinning policy to other cities in the world**, including in crisis regions, in order to demonstrate the cultural openness and spirit of solidarity of the City of Luxembourg.

In some areas of culture in Luxembourg City, the problem is not a lack of cultural offer, but the fact that this offer is only perceived and used by the relatively privileged part of the population, which leads to a form of cultural discrimination. It is therefore necessary to strongly promote the access of all inhabitants to the cultural offer and services, and this from the primary school. In order not to make cultural activities depend on the goodwill of teachers, they must be included in the school programs.

dei Lénk wants to:

- 8.10. **Make admission to the City's museums free again.**
- 8.11. **Give every young person between the ages of 12 and 25 who lives in the City**, in place of the "Youth Culture Booklet" which has been relegated to oblivion, **a cultural passport worth a total of 500 euros financed by the City**, which allows free access to all types of cultural events, both classic and popular.
- 8.12. **Promote access to cultural services for all children from an early age**, regardless of their socio-cultural background, ensuring that public schools systematically make use of the cultural offer provided by the Education Department to schools (theater, music, museum visits, etc.).
- 8.13. **Broaden the cultural offer and education and to promote the creativity of children and young people in foyers scolaires and primary schools** (theater, music...) and to carry out cultural projects in collaboration with cultural professionals through discovery workshops, meetings with authors and composers, actors, directors and technicians.
- 8.14. **Offer a plan of free courses, workshops and/or training courses for young people of all ages**, enabling them to experiment with personal expression, to play together, and to do so within

the framework of City institutions, such as youth centres, the City Conservatory and neighbourhood music schools, the City's theaters, the cinematheque, the municipal and neighbourhood libraries and school hostels (with the priority objective of "doing together" and "living (erleben) together").

- 8.15. **Involve the city's refugees** into cultural creations for even greater cultural enrichment.
- 8.16. **Create a position of cultural coordinator for youth.**
- 8.17. **Adapt the schedule of foyers scolaires** to accommodate music classes, respectively, to make the departure and arrival times of school residences more flexible in relation to the schedules of neighbourhood music schools.
- 8.18. **Provide support staff** so that children attending the City of Luxembourg's school residences can attend classes at the neighbourhood music schools.
- 8.19. **Promote close cooperation between the Conservatory of Music and the music schools** in the districts of the City of Luxembourg on the one hand, and the school residences of the City of Luxembourg on the other hand, in particular through the establishment of introductory music courses and early musical development projects in the school residences.
- 8.20. **Encourage** the regular and varied organization of cultural activities through the **youth centres** subsidized by the City.
- 8.21. **Subsidize inclusive cultural activities** organized by associations of a multicultural nature working on social issues related to the City of Luxembourg.

Finally, the preservation of the architectural cultural heritage is a major weak point of the municipal policy in Luxembourg City. The general development plans Vago (1967) and Joly (1991) have allowed the destruction of a large part of the built heritage by developers without consideration for the general interest or an overall vision for the city.

The Boulevard Royal, located very close to the protected sector, is a typical example of an emblematic complex that has been almost entirely destroyed. While the outgoing majority claims that one third of the buildings in Luxembourg City are protected, the reality is quite different: if a building is classified with others in a "sensitive ensemble", demolition remains possible, provided that the size of the existing plots is respected and that the new building fits harmoniously and coherently into the remaining ensemble. dei Lénk considers the concept of "sensitive ensemble" as a second-best solution since it is based on vague and subjective criteria and does not allow the protection of the facades and interiors of buildings worthy of preservation for future generations. As for the Cultural Heritage Act of 10 February 2022, its implementation will take years.

dei Lénk wants to:

- 8.22. **Bring the 'safety net' provided for in the Cultural Heritage Act of 10 February 2022 into full play**, pending the inventory of architectural heritage by the National Institute for Architectural Heritage. This implies:
 - maintaining the protection of listed or supplementary inventory properties under the 1983 law;

- informing the Minister of Culture of any project for the total or partial demolition and transformation of a building protected as a building to be preserved in the municipality's PAG, at the latest at the time of submitting the application for building or demolition permission to the municipality.

8.23. **Take account of** the changing way in which society views certain parts of its heritage, which implies in particular **decolonising the City of Luxembourg by:**

- carrying out a study on the colonial past of the City of Luxembourg and certain major figures in its history;
- recontextualizing historically the squares and streets bearing the names of people involved in colonialism and slavery;
- making an inventory in the City's museums of the art and cultural objects that may have been the object of colonial looting and propose their restitution to the countries of origin.

9. Sports: Fitness and Fun for All.

Sport is an example of the city's management in other areas of competence. Of an ambitious program, only a few achievements remain and the feeling of an aldermanic college overwhelmed by the city's growth. There are many accounts of aging or even dilapidated infrastructures, insufficient places in activities, difficulties in recruiting supervisors, etc.

In parallel to these shortcomings, the City of Luxembourg continues to finance elitist events or those benefiting private structures that make a business out of organizing events.

*The dei Lénk program is part of **a popular vision of sport**, as a way to reinforce integration and living together between populations that are more and more fragmented and socially distant. Sport and leisure activities also have a role to play in the animation of the city and its districts. They must be geared towards as many people as possible, including cross-border commuters who work in the City of Luxembourg, and provide the prospect of a healthier life, particularly for people suffering from chronic illnesses or other ailments linked to a sedentary lifestyle. The sports policy must also reinforce inclusion, especially of people with special needs, whose practice of sport must be facilitated at all costs. It also reinforces education and citizenship. By making Luxembourg a city of sport and leisure, the popular vision of sport that we are promoting also contributes to strengthening the influence and attractiveness of the territory.*

The financing of support measures for a sports club must be part of an agreement between the City and the clubs, and possibly also the federations that wish to join the scheme. The financing of the measures could be done by allocating the resources currently allocated to large elitist events or to the promotion of a company (marathon in the name of a bank, tennis tournaments, etc.) whose influence is low compared to the investments made by the City and its agents.

In order to deal with the difficulties in recruiting supervisors, a recruitment and training plan for supervisors will be put in place to train them and, above all, to build their loyalty.

dei Lénk wants to:

9.1. **Develop and maintain sports infrastructure in cooperation with the surrounding municipalities.**

This implies, **in the short term**:

- rehabilitating the most damaged structures, such as the Camille Polfer stadium in Bonnevoie, which is literally falling apart;
- setting up partnerships with the surrounding municipalities to share infrastructure, especially for sports where the municipal infrastructure is overloaded.

In the medium term (i.e. during the term of 6 years), we want to create facilities that have been under consideration for too long, including:

- an athletics stadium in Hamm to replace the Josy Barthel Stadium (using a partnership with INS in Cents in the meantime) while ensuring that the essence of the existing natural setting is preserved;

- an outdoor swimming pool, especially in view of the increasingly regular hot summers;
- multi-sport fields in old and new neighborhoods.

9.2. Encourage popular participation in sport:

- convene a general assembly of sports and leisure activities in Luxembourg City to :
 - o draw up a diagnosis of sports and leisure activities together with the sports and leisure associations
 - o define a global and coordinated strategy of actions and support for sports and leisure in Luxembourg City
 - o to draw up an assessment of the actions after 3 years of implementation and, if necessary, to extend the approach to the surrounding municipalities.
- set up a House of Sports, Leisure and Health, bringing together sports clubs and associations;

Many clubs in the capital do not have premises to meet or are obliged to locate their headquarters at the home of one of their leaders. This house of sports will be able to:

 - o be a place for meetings (conferences, meals, etc.), exchanges between clubs, initiation to the practice of certain sports, etc. ,
 - o host sports or cultural activities,
 - o Be managed jointly by the clubs and the city.
- organize an annual sports and recreation association day;

Based on the model of the annual day of the structures representing people with special needs, the idea is to bring together all of the sports clubs and associations of the City of Luxembourg for a day or half-day meeting to take stock of their evolution, their needs and their proposals, and the progress of projects concerning sports and leisure activities.
- facilitate access to sports facilities;

On the same model as access to the rooms of the BNL, the residents and workers of the City of Luxembourg must be able to reserve slots for the use of sports fields, rooms and equipment, in particular with regard to team sports equipment or rooms for the practice of yoga, board games, etc.
- facilitate access to the medical-sports service.

For access to the medical-sports service, waiting times can be very long depending on the time of year, and can go up to several weeks for a consultation at the examination center of the City of Luxembourg. The creation of a second center in Luxembourg City must be supported by the City of Luxembourg, within the framework of the house of leisure, sports and health.

9.3. Create new sports programs for Sundays and vacations:

- in parallel with the Sports for All activities, the creation of an activity program on Sundays makes it possible to put forward one or more sports, clubs, activities each Sunday and allows both the initiation and the improvement of a sport;

- sports activities during the vacations for young people are a real success, limited by the availability of activities. The development goes through an increase of the offer and an easier access to the poorest people who often do not go on vacations.
 - opening of the City's swimming pools during the whole weekend.
- 9.4. **Make the subscription to the vel'OH! system free for residents**, on the principle of the free parking sticker. In order to encourage the use of vel'OH and in a symbolic way, each resident and worker in the City will be offered a subscription to the Vel'OH service (18 €/year). Only journeys exceeding half an hour will be paid for by the user.
- 9.5. **Offer vouchers for licenses in the City's sports clubs**. In order to promote the City's sports clubs and increase the number of members, vouchers should be introduced to cover all or part of the license fee.
- 9.6. **Take into account the evolution of sports practices**. This could include support for e-sports and sports that are not formalized by club or association registration (futsal, 3x3 basketball, etc.).
- 9.7. **Recruit the necessary sports personnel** to take into account the increase in the population:
- define with the sports clubs the needs for personnel to supervise sports activities (within the framework of the annual Sports and Leisure Associations Day);
 - define by the sports department the staffing needs for sports for all activities and sports activities for young people during the vacations;
 - launch a large-scale communication campaign for recruitment;
 - Select, train and mentor the recruits.

10. Youth: Helping Teens Thrive.

Today, youth is in an unenviable situation. Faced with catastrophic scenarios due to the climate crisis, they are also stigmatized as ungrateful by the "boomer" generation, which is largely responsible for this crisis. Like the rest of society, but much more than any previous generation, today's youth are subjected to a pressure of performance and competition that hinders their development. Added to this are the difficulties inherent in the passage to adulthood that each generation of young people must negotiate: After spending their childhood in a situation of almost total surveillance within the parental home and public childcare facilities, teenagers are suddenly confronted with an explosion of freedom when they enter secondary education. This freedom is very relative, however, as teen spaces in our city are limited. At the same time, young people in Luxembourg City are necessarily more exposed to controls by the police, who are more present in the city than in the countryside. In the same way, if the intervention of pedagogues with young people is commendable and necessary, young people must also be able to benefit from spaces sheltered from the eyes of adults in order to emancipate themselves from the latter. A balance must therefore be found between public intervention with young people and the guarantee of a freedom to which each generation should be entitled.

dei Lénk wants to :

10.1. Strengthen coordination between services dedicated to youth and in particular:

- conduct a study on the situation of youth from the point of view of children's and youth rights;
- defining educational objectives to be achieved jointly, by defining thematic campaigns (e.g. a campaign on bullying and mental health in 2023-2025);
- to develop an action plan to achieve the objectives and to evaluate their implementation according to objective criteria (evaluation by experts) and subjective criteria (evaluation by users);
- obliging associations and institutions that provide support to young people and are subsidized by the City of Luxembourg to have a prevention plan against sexual, physical and moral aggression (both from adults and between peers).

10.2. Promote youth participation in decisions that affect them by:

- effective implementation of suggestions made by children and youth through dedicated creative and planning workshops (TOTO, UP Foundations; Youth Forum: Lët'z Discuss; etc.);
- the establishment of a budget dedicated solely to the realization of projects developed by young people, including simplified procedures for examining proposals for youth projects up to 5,000 EUR;
- the planning of spaces in the city area (e.g. Gantebeensmillen, Petrusse Valley) designed by and for young people (e.g. youth cafe, sports fields, toy library...);
- direct involvement of youth in decision-making on youth issues through online and/or face-to-face discussion forums.

10.3. Enable all youth to feel comfortable in Luxembourg City, and therefore:

- establish an institutional communication that recognizes that the diversity of youth from different national, ethnic and cultural backgrounds is an asset to our city;
- to privilege the pleasure of interacting and learning from each other in the fields of art, culture, sports and non-formal education rather than the race to perform and the spirit of competition;
- supporting young people's access to culture, training, support courses, and other assistance they need;
- to set up projects that recognize the personal and emotional needs of young people;
- to sensitize parents and society to the need to practice unconditional love for children and youth (to be loved, to feel secure, to have a sense of direction in life).

(See also Chapter 7. Education: Ensuring the Inclusion of All Children)

11. Democracy: Involving Residents in Decision-Making

Going beyond the restricted framework of the local council meetings and involving the residents more in the decision making process has always been a primary demand of déi Lénk. A local democracy worthy of the name needs structures that allow for such an involvement of the residents in the decision-making process, especially when it comes to preparing long-term orientations.

At present, strategic choices in urban planning are almost completely out of the hands of the population. The city has held information meetings on neighbourhood development as part of the new General Development Plan (GDP). But the essential questions were not asked. These include the housing/job ratio, the weight to be given to public transportation, and the type of businesses to be attracted or encouraged. Nor were residents invited to express their views on how their needs in terms of daycare, homes and school facilities should be met. In short, despite its participatory facade, the City's GAP has not been designed to address the major problems facing the City today, i.e., unchecked growth, housing shortages and exploding car traffic. On the contrary: 50,000 additional jobs are expected in 2030, for "only" 35,500 additional inhabitants. This means that housing will become even scarcer and traffic jams even longer.

In order to remedy this situation, déi Lénk is firmly committed to the right of the inhabitants to participate in the next discussions on the adaptation of the 2017 PAG, which is foreseen by law after 7 years, i.e. in 2023.

dei Lénk wants to:

11.1. Ensure the information of the inhabitants:

- the summary record of the meetings of the municipal council must continue to be distributed free of charge in printed form to all households;
- reports of advisory committee meetings should be freely available on the City's website;
- notices of meetings of committees of municipalities of which the City is a member must be published on the City's website. Indeed, every resident of a municipality has the right to attend these public meetings;
- the City's information and communication policy must be in the three administrative languages of the country;
- the legally prescribed announcements posted in the "Reider" must also be published on the City's website;
- all administrative forms must be available for download online;
- all major by-laws should be presented in plain language;
- special attention should be paid to providing information to people with special needs (see Chapter 2);
- each major project carried out at the municipal level must be presented at a public meeting, which also serves to gather the population's opinion

- annual information meetings are to be organized in the neighborhoods in order to present the projects and work planned for the coming months and to collect the ideas and complaints of the residents. A detailed report of these meetings is to be sent to all households;
- discussions at public meetings should be systematically translated.

11.2. Establish regular citizen participation in the development of the city

- **by implementing four key principles:**

1. Early information

The citizens of the municipality are involved in the process of reflection and decision about any major project, at a time when the main options have not yet been taken and when fundamental development possibilities still exist.

2. Participation Concept

A concept is developed for each engagement process. It contains the existing provisions and presents the possibilities for planning on the part of the citizens. It also determines who can participate, who moderates, what phases of the process are involved and what material means are available to ensure participation.

3. Managing the results

The results of the citizen participation provide recommendations or bases for decisions. The handling of these results by the administration, the College of the Mayor and Aldermen and the local Council is documented in a transparent and comprehensible manner.

4. Evaluation

The participation process is accompanied by continuous evaluation and reflection. In this way, the participation process is optimized and adapted to changes.

- **by having these principles implemented by neighbourhood committees.**

Neighborhood committees (NCs) will strengthen the groundwork, but they will not, of course, be able to replace the decisions of the municipal council, since municipal legislation does not allow this at present (although we believe that, in a second stage, the municipal law will have to be reformed in order to extend the powers of the NCs).) However, there is nothing to prevent a commune from taking a first step before such a reform.

Here are some details about the functioning of the neighbourhood committees:

- The neighbourhood committees may take up matters that concern them and inform the local council and the College of the Mayor and Aldermen. These opinions will have to be dealt with by the local council within a period of time to be determined. Conversely, the College of the Mayor and Aldermen will have to refer to the neighborhood committees for each subject concerning the neighborhood, and these opinions will have to be considered before the vote at the local council. The neighbourhood committees must also be able to take

initiatives to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood, if necessary in conjunction with the municipal authorities.

- In order to ensure the independence and proper functioning of these CQs, the commune will provide them with a budget, part of which will be used to pay employees dedicated to administrative tasks and technical and legal advice.
- The members of the CQs (between 9 and 11 people, with equal numbers of 4/5 or 5/6) will be designated by lot every two years.
 - o A general assembly of the neighborhood must meet at least twice a year. The CQs will create working groups in order to include a maximum of residents in the basic work.
 - o In order to ensure the participation of as many people as possible, an internet platform should be set up, which will be managed by an employee.
- CQs from different neighborhoods can collaborate on issues that concern them.

11.3. Implement other means of participation:

- revalorize the role of the consultative commissions: presence of members of civil society, parity in composition and representation of the large proportion of residents of foreign origin;
- interested residents who are not members of a political party should be able to cooperate within the consultative commissions;
- if properly oriented, the participatory budget mechanism should become a source of cooperation with residents in the neighbourhoods;
- enhance the representative and institutional role of the City Council, especially in terms of the rights of the opposition. In order to be able to carry out their mission in good conditions, especially by receiving residents, the opposition parties must be able to benefit from premises within the town hall;
- involve young people and children by involving them in the planning and decision-making of projects that concern them (see also the budget dedicated to them mentioned in chapter 10).

11.4. Enforce gender equality:

- promote gender equality in the city's budget ("gender budgeting") by including funds for actions to achieve gender equality and evaluate these actions;
- aim for equal representation on advisory boards;
- priority should be given to choosing the names of locally or internationally known women for new street and square names in order to compensate for the low presence of women in the City's political and symbolic space;
- reverse the outsourcing of women in charge of the City's Civil Hospices.

11.5. Integrate non-Luxembourgish residents by:

- developing the multilingual orientation of the communal information and communication policy: important information brochures should also be presented in languages other than the three administrative languages of the country (in particular Portuguese and English);

- recruiting an intercultural mediator;
- developing the cooperation of the municipal administration with the representatives of foreigners' organizations;
- supporting associations and organizations with intercultural projects in a targeted manner;
- involving residents from foreign communities in advisory commissions;
- organizing round tables and creating a "Citizenship Forum" to analyze needs and establish action plans;
- strengthening the development of a Communal Integration Plan (Communal Pact for Intercultural Living Together).

12. Communal administration: Ensuring Adapted and Quality Services

Managing municipal services on a day-to-day basis and adapting them to new challenges, particularly the crying need for social housing, are the two components of the City's administrative action. Responding to objectives set by the democratically elected public authorities, public services are the privileged means of action and the main reason for the existence of the municipal administration. For this reason, the way they are organized cannot escape the democratic principles on which the municipal administration bases its legitimacy, just as public services cannot be placed at the service of purely private interests. Yet democratic control over the functioning of public services as well as their mobilization for the benefit of the general interest are threatened when public services are outsourced, in an open or insidious manner, to private actors. The priority of the latter is not the realization of the general interest, but the maximization of their personal profits. dei Lénk is opposed to this tendency, which has become even more pronounced in recent years under the DP-CSV coalition. Instead, we believe that the city's services should be expanded, administered in a transparent manner and involve users in their design and operation.

Providing efficient municipal public services presupposes that the municipalities have sufficient financial resources. To this end, Déi Lénk is asking for an increase in the property tax at the national level. An increase in this municipal tax, which has not been adapted to the reality of land and building prices since 1942, would allow the municipalities to secure greater revenues and to fight against land speculation. As for the communal commercial tax, the City of Luxembourg has been conducting a policy of fiscal dumping for years, applying the lowest possible multiplier rate to attract companies to its territory.

dei Lénk wants to:

12.1. To stop the fiscal dumping policy towards the municipalities bordering the City of Luxembourg by agreeing with them on the application of a higher multiplier coefficient for the municipal commercial tax.

12.2. To put an end to the outsourcing of public services to private companies, and to recommission public services that have already been outsourced. In general, public services should be managed within the framework of public law structures.

- The City's bus service is to be provided by City drivers, whose recruitment conditions must be reviewed.
- dei Lénk is opposed to the outsourcing of the management of the tramway to a limited company (Luxtram SA), created outside the municipal service of the Autobus de la Ville de Luxembourg (AVL), because it has led to the submission of employees to a legal regime less favourable than that enjoyed by public employees and because it facilitates a later privatization through a simple transfer of capital shares. dei Lénk demands that the city's tramway be integrated into the municipal service of the AVL.

- The meals in the canteens of the city's day-care centres and school hostels must be prepared on the spot using local products by qualified municipal staff (see point 7.11 in the chapter on Education).
- Communal investments financed through public-private partnerships (PPP) should be avoided for the following reasons:
 - o the profit to be generated by the private partners is an additional cost factor,
 - o the business secrecy in this type of project deprives elected municipal officials of their right to control the proper allocation of public funds,
 - o numerous examples show that PPPs are no guarantee of cost control and that the public hand must ultimately assume the excess costs.

12.3. Hire sufficient qualified personnel to provide communal services, giving preference to recruitment under the status of communal civil servant.

- Overall, the recruitment procedures for municipal staff should be designed in a transparent manner and based on objective criteria. The continuous improvement of administrative work should be encouraged by organizing forums with the staff, where the tasks and objectives of the different services are discussed and their orientation towards the residents is encouraged.
- In the case of the school hostels, it is necessary to counteract the lengthening of queues in recent years due to a lack of educational staff, by improving their pay and working conditions (offering 40-hour paid contracts per week, increasing the autonomy of hostel management). The city's primary schools should operate on an integrated model (all-in-one), so that enrolment in an educational class implies enrolment in the neighbourhood school's hostel at the same time.
- Increasing poverty, homelessness and drug abuse require the City to strengthen its own public facilities and staffing. The city should not outsource all of these services to NGOs, but rather build up its own expertise.
- In the framework of an energy renovation plan for housing in the city, a municipal information and advice service should be set up in consultation with the Energy Agency, with the aim of contacting owners and tenants, offering them subsidies based on income, and providing support throughout the energy renovation process.
- The active support of companies in the establishment of energy management plans also requires the commitment of the necessary staff.
- At the national level, the City of Luxembourg will have to lobby the legislator for an amendment of the current municipal legislation in order to allow the recruitment of third-country nationals as municipal employees.

12.4. Create a municipal real estate company that will allow the city to promote large housing projects without going through private developers. This will involve drawing on existing staff and recruiting additional specialized staff to create a task force for this purpose, following the example of other cities abroad.

12.5. Respect gender equality in municipal staffing, including the allocation of positions of responsibility.

In practice, the municipality can follow the example of the British services, which regularly publish a mandatory report on gender diversity and gender pay differences. Training on the promotion of gender equality and the inclusion of non-Luxembourg residents should be provided to all staff of the municipality, in particular to staff working with children and to staff responsible for external communication.

12.6. Better define users' rights with respect to the administration and simplify relations between the administration and users.

- Many users are not aware of their rights with regard to the administration, to the point that the way in which the administration manages public services can appear opaque. This is why déi Lénk proposes the elaboration of a charter of the rights of the inhabitants by the local council in cooperation with representatives of the civil society. The purpose of this charter would be to regulate the relationship between the municipal administration and the residents: transparency of decision-making processes, access to information, simple administrative procedures, introduction of an institutionalized right of complaint and proposal. In particular, the municipal administration should be obliged to acknowledge receipt of requests and complaints within two weeks. This acknowledgement of receipt must include a contact person within the municipal administration and a deadline by which the administration must have dealt with the request in substance. If it is not possible, for objective reasons, to provide a response within the timeframe, the municipal administration shall provide the claimant with the reasons.
- The City shall hire an ombudsman to receive complaints from residents and, after verification, to intervene with the municipal administration and the College of the Mayor and Aldermen. His annual report, including specific suggestions, will be discussed at a special meeting of the Municipal Council. In order to carry out his mission in complete independence, the Ombudsman must enjoy a large degree of autonomy in relation to the College of the Mayor and Aldermen.
- As the main beneficiaries of public services, users must be able to contribute, through their suggestions and criticisms, to improving the quality of public services. It is important to organize user satisfaction surveys more systematically and to encourage them to make their voices heard in the framework of consultation bodies.
- In general, city administrations should provide for certain opening hours outside of normal office hours to be accessible, especially to employees working 8 hours a day.
- To increase transparency in the allocation of municipal positions, social housing, etc., and to avoid any form of favouritism, the city should create an advisory committee with representatives from all political parties represented on the city council.

Programm/Programme/Program/déi Lénk Stad

<https://2023.dei-lenk.lu> ou <https://stad.dei-lenk.lu>

Gitt Member oder Sympathisant

Matdenken a mat handelen – fir eppes ze veränneren!

Devenez membre ou sympathisant.e

Réfléchir et agir en commun – pour changer les choses !

Tornar-se membro ou apoiante

Pensar e agir em conjunto - para fazer a diferença

Become a member or supporter

Think and act together – for change!

déi Lénk 



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63, bd de la Pétrusse | L-2320 Luxembourg