

COUNTRY PROFILES

Luxembourg

The research into literature on Luxembourg's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world. In fact, Luxembourg is active in European politics and is a strong advocate for the role of smaller European countries. It hosts a number of the offices of the European Commission including EUROSTAT (the statistics office), the publications office and the European Court of Justice etc. and three times a year hosts the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the decisive body for international cultural relations but it collaborates actively with the Ministry of Culture in matters regarding cultural and artistic cooperation. Two departments of the MFA deal with culture: the Department for Cooperation and Humanitarian Actions (La Direction des la Coopération et de l'Action Humanitaire) and the Department for Legal Affairs and Culture (La Direction des Affaires juridiques et culturelles).

M i n i s t r y o f C u l t u r e

The Ministry of Culture also has the mandate to promote artists from Luxembourg. And, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, negotiates, signs and executes cooperation programmes based on bilateral agreements.

N a t i o n a l C u l t u r a l F u n d

The National Cultural Fund is a public arms-length institution with the duty to receive, administer and use grants and donations to promote the arts and sciences. This includes the remit to promote the arts and sciences abroad.

N a t i o n a l C u l t u r a l C o u n c i l

The National Cultural Council is an advisory body that devises the cultural policies of Luxembourg.

L u x e m b o u r g c u l t u r a l a g e n c y

Finally, following the success of Luxembourg - European City of Culture '95, an agency was created with its management committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry for the Culture, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Budget, the Tourist office of Luxembourg and the Town of Luxembourg. The objectives of the cultural agency are to maintain synergies between the state and the city, in organising the collection and the diffusion of cultural information and contributing to the promotion of Luxembourg culture abroad.

P o l i c y f o c u s

Luxembourg is clearly focussed on contributing to the promotion of the Luxembourg culture abroad.

However, Luxembourg is very active in Europe. It was one of the ten founder members of the Council of Europe (which today total forty-four) and invests in this international organisation, whose objectives are: the protection of human rights; the guarantee and the safeguarding of democracy; promotion of the development of European cultural identity; and the fight against the problems which face the European community. Luxembourg is also a member of UNESCO and a member of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Probably due to the size of Luxembourg, it concentrates its immediate resources for international cultural cooperation in the European region. Luxemburg fosters very good relations with its neighbouring EU and non-EU states and demonstrates this through:

- the signing of the Karlsruhe Agreement in 1996 with Germany, France and Switzerland;
- the signing of bilateral cultural agreements with Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

Further afield, Luxembourg has a strong and notable presence in development aid for third world countries throughout the globe. Because more immediate and urgent aid is required by these countries, culture is of lesser importance in this work.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

Barbier, Frinault et Associes, (2004) Study of external cooperation by the European Union and its Member States in the cultural and audiovisual sectors. Vol. II, National Reports: Luxembourg,

E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2002/5770_barbier/58-02_Luxembourg.pdf

An in-depth look at structures and institutions involved in cultural cooperation. Available in French.

Le Ministère de la Culture, (2005) Promotion culturelle et stimulation de la vie artistique, E-Doc Link: <http://www.ltam.lu/culture/>

Créée à la suite du succès de Luxembourg, Ville européenne de la culture 95, l'Agence luxembourgeoise d'action culturelle compte, au sein de son Comité Directeur des représentants du Ministère de la Culture, du Ministère des Affaires étrangères, du Ministère du Budget, du Syndicat d'Initiative de Luxembourg et de la Ville de Luxembourg. Son financement est assuré par des subventions de l'État et de la Ville et par des ressources propres et d'autres villes futurs partenaires. Les objectifs de l'Agence culturelle visent à maintenir les synergies entre l'État et la Ville, à remplir une fonction de conseil auprès des autorités, des institutions, des associations et des artistes, à organiser la collecte et la diffusion de l'information culturelle, ainsi qu'à contribuer à la promotion de la culture luxembourgeoise à l'étranger.

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports – Luxembourg,

E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports2.pdf

Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) La politique des pays cible de la Coopération luxembourgeoise,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.mae.lu/images/biblio/biblio-139-591.pdf>

Ce document décrit la politique de coopération du Luxembourg en plus grand détail.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Le Luxembourg dans les Organisations internationales: Le Conseil de l'Europe,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.mae.lu/mae.taf?IdNav=351>

Luxembourg is one of the ten founder members of the Council of Europe (which total today forty-four) and invests in this international organisation, whose objectives are: the protection of human rights, the guarantee and the safeguarding of democracy, the promotion of the development of the European cultural identity and to fight against the problems which face the European community.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Le Luxembourg dans les Organisations internationales:
L'ONU,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.mae.lu/mae.taf?IdNav=352>
Founding member of the United Nations, Luxembourg continues to work within this
Organisation for a peaceful world.

