

Scientific advisory council
Early multilingual education in childcare in Luxembourg

Wissenschaftlicher Beirat
Frühe mehrsprachige Bildung in der Luxemburger Kindertagesbetreuung

Conseil scientifique
Éducation plurilingue dans l'accueil de la petite enfance au Luxembourg

Mission and tasks

The mission of the scientific advisory council consists in accompanying the implementation of multilingual education in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Luxembourg with its scientific expertise, well-founded feedback and constructive criticism. The council thereby ensures that the conceptual framework of early multilingual education in Luxembourg is in line with the latest scientific findings and makes an important contribution to the sustainability of its translation into practice. The tasks of the council are the following:

- informing about ongoing (inter)national research projects, new concepts and findings that could be relevant for the future development of early multilingual education in Luxembourg;
- presenting (inter)national “good practices” that could be interesting for an adapted implementation in the Luxembourgish context and helping in developing didactic material;
- advising on and/or cooperating in research projects by the Service national de la jeunesse (SNJ) (e.g. questionnaires, interviews, observations) and discussing the implications of the findings;
- formulating advices for the continuity in multilingual education and the transitions between non-formal and formal education in the Luxembourgish context;
- giving feedback on and helping in ensuring the coherence within the SNJ publications on multilingual education;
- giving feedback on and helping in ensuring the quality of professional development on early multilingual education;
- participating in conferences and/or workshops for practitioners in ECEC, thus contributing to the professionalization of early multilingual education in Luxembourg;
- exchanging with professionals from the field (e.g. through exchange meetings, field visits);

Organisation and expectations towards the members

Plenary assembly

The advisory council meets once a year for a plenary assembly in Luxembourg or via videoconference for a duration of one or two days, depending on the respective work schedule. The SNJ is responsible for the invitation, organisation, realisation and documentation of the meeting. The standard schedule includes the following:

- introduction with recent developments in early multilingual education by the SNJ;
- extensive input about ongoing research projects and new findings by the council;
- feedback of the different working groups (see section “working groups”);
- presentation of (inter)national “good practices” and didactic material by the council;
- optional part with field visits, exchange meetings, workshops, conferences or other contributions with practitioners from the field.

In line with the philosophy of multilingual education, the working language of the council is flexible and multilingual. The common language English is used for main input while contributions in other languages (e.g. French, German) are possible at any time and are translated when needed.

Working groups

During the year, the members of the council will participate in one or two working groups of the SNJ via meetings in person and/or videoconferences. The working groups focus on three thematic priorities, which have been defined through exchanges with the practitioners and members of the advisory council. The thematic priorities of the working groups and their respective tasks are the following:

- 1) Promoting literacy practices in a multilingual context in ECEC

This working group helps developing a concept on how services of ECEC can foster children’s early literacy practices in a multilingual context. With their scientific expertise, the working group advises on concepts and practices around literacy (e.g. multiliteracies, critical literacies, dialogic reading), that are relevant for the Luxembourgish context. Moreover, the group informs about international projects that include cooperation with libraries and/or families and advises on how to translate such a cooperation into practice in Luxembourg.

- 2) Ensuring coherence within the SNJ publications on multilingual education

This working group helps analysing and revising the SNJ publications on multilingual education from 2017 to 2020 through giving extensive feedback on their contents and pointing out directions for improvement (e.g. verifying scientific consensus, ensuring coherence, making the contents more

accessible to the practitioners). Furthermore, the group engages in proofreading of future publications.

3) Further developing the professional development on multilingual education

This working group helps analysing and revising the further training of the “réfèrent.e-s pédagogiques” (educators specialised in multilingual education) through giving feedback to its contents and organisation and potentially proposing possible modifications to ensure the coherence throughout the modules in French and Luxembourgish/German. Furthermore, the group advises on how to ensure the coherence and quality of the offers of trainings on multilingual education in general (e.g. through establishing general guidelines for initial and further trainings, exchanging with instructors).

Based on necessities in the field, the SNJ and/or the advisory council can define additional thematic priorities for working groups (e.g. transitions, continuity, participation, inclusion, cooperation with the cultural sector). Council members may also envisage to come individually to Luxembourg on specific occasions (e.g. conferences, research projects) as well as to exchange information and feedback via email correspondence or videoconference.

Members

The council is composed of national and international scientific experts in the fields of early multilingualism, early childhood education and care and/or early multilingual education. The interdisciplinary committee brings together psychologists, linguists and educational scientists.