



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

Minutes of the meeting on 22 February 2023, 14:00 – 15:30

Face-to face meeting

Agenda :

1. Welcome and introductory remarks
2. Presentation of the draft law on intercultural living-together
3. Update on the National Action Plan against Racism and Racial Discrimination (NAP Anti-Racism) and ongoing actions
4. Roundtable discussion on priorities and news related to integration and intercultural living-together
5. Various

Present: **Ministerial and civil society representatives:** M. Sérgio Ferreira (ASTI), M. Marc Josse (Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise), Nonna Sehovic (Caritas), Mme Louise Crosby (ONA), Max Steffen (ONA), M. Jean-Claude Milmeister (MESR), Mme Joëlle Gilles (MJ), Mme Elisabeth Reisen (MENEJ), Mme Nadine Erpelding (MC), Mme Mariza Guerreiro Victoria (MINT), M. Christopher Witry (MEGA), M. Ben Max (MDIG), M. Claude Tremont (MTEESS), M. Laurent Solazzi (MECO), M. Alain Bliss (MAEE), Mme Cathrin Nordmo (MLOG)

MIFA: Mme Anne Daems, Mme Gesa Schulte, M. Pierre Weiss, Mme Mariana Muzzi, M. Jean-Marc Assa, Mme Vesna Jovic, Mme Anna Kirsch

Excused : M. Sylvain Besch (CEFIS), Mme Anita Helpiquet (CLAE), M. Faruk Ličina (Caritas), M. Marc Konsbruck (MIFA), Mme Stéphanie Voll (MSAN), M. Laurent Peusch (ADEM)

1. Welcome and introductory remarks

Anna Kirsch welcomed all participants and thanked them for their attendance. The extended inter-ministerial committee proceeded with the topics on the agenda.

2. Presentation of the draft law on intercultural living-together

Jean-Marc Assa from the Department of integration presented the [draft law on intercultural living-together](#), amending the amended law of 8 March 2017 on Luxembourgish nationality.

The text, tabled in the Chamber of Deputies on February 20, 2023, aims to replace the current “integration” approach with a **broader and more open approach of “intercultural living-together”**. Thus, after a broad public consultation, the draft law carries out a global overhaul of the instruments of intercultural living together and repeals the amended law of 16 December 2008 concerning the integration of foreigners in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



Concretely, the text aims to foster intercultural living-together through the following instruments: 1) the **national action plan** for intercultural living-together; 2) the **citizens' pact** for intercultural living-together; 3) the **programme** of intercultural living-together; and 4) the **municipal pact** for intercultural living-together. At the national level, the text aims to create a **Conseil Supérieur for intercultural living-together**, which replaces the current interministerial committee on integration and the National Council for Foreigners. At the municipal level, the municipal commissions for intercultural living-together will replace the current municipal consultative commissions for integration. The fight against racism and all forms of discrimination is an important and crosscutting element of the draft law.

Sérgio Ferreira (ASTI) asked for clarifications on the **participation of civil society** in the process of adopting the new law. Anne Daems addressed this remark by pointing out that the Minister presented the draft law to the civil society partners before it was submitted to the Council of Government, in order to ensure that their opinion was taken into account. Mr. Ferreira then stressed that the draft law had indeed been [published](#) and that **it was now up to civil society to review it as soon as possible**, in order to promote the rapid progress of the procedures.

Marc Josse (CRL) noted that there is a **very strong demand from beneficiaries of temporary protection (BPT) to participate in integration programmes**, to which they currently don't have any access. The CRL welcomes the intention within the framework of the draft law on intercultural living-together to **open the programme and pact of intercultural living-together to all residents and cross-border workers**, regardless of their nationality or their residence permit.

Anna Kirsch closed this first point on the agenda by thanking the speakers and informing the committee that any additional questions and requests for clarification can be forwarded afterwards.

3. Update on the National Action Plan against Racism and Racial Discrimination (NAP Anti-Racism) and ongoing actions

Next, Mariana Muzzi from the Department of integration presented the **ongoing actions** in terms of the fight against racism and racial discrimination in Luxembourg, in particular the announcement by the Ministry of Family, Integration and the Greater Region that a **National Action Plan against Racism and Racial Discrimination (PAN Anti-racism)** will be drawn up by the end of 2023. The latter will be developed in collaboration with civil society, including associations representing racialized groups.

According to the study "[Racism and ethno-racial discrimination in Luxembourg](#)" published in 2022, people of African descent are victims of racism and discrimination in significantly higher proportions than other groups of the population, especially when looking for a job and/or accommodation, in the workplace and in education. Thus, **three areas of action** in the fight against racism and racial discrimination have been identified: **education, housing and employment**.

The **Ministry of National Education, Children and Youth (MENEJ)** is in charge of consultations with education stakeholders to define concrete actions to be included in the NAP Anti-racism. To this end, **a first exchange on the topic of racism and racial discrimination in education** took place on 2 March



2023 with members of the national commissions for elementary and secondary education, as well as members of management and collaborators of the MENEJ. Other exchanges are planned, including with the *Conseil Supérieur de l'Education Nationale*, representing parents, students and teachers.

The **Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy (MTEESS)** will conduct consultations with employers, unions and other stakeholders in the world of labour to define the concrete actions to be included in the PAN Anti-racism. Exchanges with the ministry and other actors in charge of housing are also planned.

With regards to the legal framework, Mariana Muzzi informed the committee of the **progress of the procedure for the adoption of [bill 8032](#)** supplementing the Penal Code by introducing a general **aggravating circumstance** for crimes, misdemeanours and fines committed because of a motive based on one or more of the elements referred to in article 454 of the Penal Code, including origin, skin colour, or membership, real or supposed, to an ethnic group, a specific nation or race.

Ongoing actions against racism and racial discrimination in Luxembourg can be grouped into three categories: research, training and awareness. A **[non-exhaustive list](#)** of these actions is available on the website of the Department of integration. The Department remains open to any suggestions aimed at completing this list.

Sérgio Ferreira (ASTI) commended the decision of the Ministry of Family and Integration to develop a NAP Anti-racism by the end of 2023, and asked **if civil society is/will be invited to participate** in the elaboration of this plan. He regretted **that the plan is limited to racial discrimination**.

Ms. Muzzi pointed out that an **inter-ministerial delegate** in charge of coordinating policies to **combat racism, anti-Semitism and anti-LGBTIQ+ hatred** has been appointed to the Ministry of State, and that MIFA-Di is only in charge of the anti-racism component. She also specified that **several exchanges with two associations** active in the fight against racism and racial discrimination have already taken place (**FINKAPÉ** and **Lëtzt Rise Up**) with a view to the NAP Anti-racism. Other associations will be contacted gradually in order to guarantee the participation of all the actors concerned. The Department of integration is open to any suggestions aimed at organizing this dialogue with the associations.

Pierre Weiss (MIFA-Di) informed the committee that **CEFIS** is currently producing a qualitative report on **the experiences of victims of racial discrimination** to complement the study "**[Racism and ethnic racial discrimination in Luxembourg](#)**".

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

Anna Kirsch gave the floor to the members of the committee to present and discuss their updates related to integration and intercultural living-together.



Nonna Sehovic (Caritas) noted that in the context of the **'I Can Vote' campaign**, one of the questions Caritas colleagues are repeatedly asked by their target audience is 'why would I register to vote, if I don't even know who to vote for?'. For her, this highlights **a lack of information provided to the general public** and accessible to the most vulnerable, **on the values and key positions of political parties** in Luxembourg. Although aware that this is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration, she believes that it is a point to improve in future campaigns.

Ben Max (MDIG) drew attention to the fact that the *Zentrum fir politesch Bildung* has developed a [Factsheet](#) offering an overview of the different political parties in Luxembourg, while Sérgio Ferreira referred to the "[self-presentation of political parties in Luxembourg](#)" on CEFIS' website.

The ministerial representatives took note of the aforementioned remarks and suggestions and retained **the need to involve the political parties more in the next electoral campaigns**.

Mariza Guerreiro Victoria (MINT) recalled that the MINT held a [press conference](#) on 11 January 2023 as part of their awareness raising campaign on the municipal elections.

Pierre Weiss informed that the MIFA-Di, in collaboration with the CTIE and the CEFIS, continues its **monitoring of registrations on the electoral lists at the municipal level**. A next communication of data (broken down by nationality, sex and age group) will be sent to the 102 municipalities at the beginning of March. This information, drawn from the RNPP, can be used to set up an **awareness-raising strategy targeting groups of residents who are not yet registered** on the electoral lists.

Marc Josse (CRL) called on the committee **not to forget the beneficiaries of temporary protection**, and to put in place actions to ensure that their stay in Luxembourg is beneficial to them.

Anna Kirsch (MIFA-Di) informed that in 2023 the **subsidies to associations** will be organized differently, with the establishment of 4 deadlines during the year for the submission of subsidy applications. Details can be found on the MIFA-Di [website](#). Then, the **Orientation Day (JO) of the Reception and Integration Contract (CAI)** will take place on 11 March 2023, and the next **Exchange and support group for integration at the local level (GRESIL)** will take place on April 26, 2023 on the subject of the "Good Neighbourliness". GRESIL 10 will include presentations and information stands from different associations and municipalities on their best practices in terms of good neighbourliness at the local level.

5. Various

No other items were discussed at this extended committee meeting. The meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

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