



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Famille, des Solidarités,
du Vivre ensemble et de l'Accueil

FAQ- Frequently asked questions

Law of 23 August 2023 on intercultural living together

Entry into force: 1 January 2024

Intercultural living together is a participative, dynamic and continuous process that enables everyone living or working in Luxembourg to live, work and make decisions together. It is founded on mutual respect, tolerance, solidarity, social cohesion and the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination. It establishes diversity as a richness and an asset for the development of an intercultural society (Art. 1: [Law of 23 August 2023 on intercultural living together](#)).

Disclaimer: Please note that the answers given in these FAQ are either explicitly regulated by the applicable legal or regulatory texts, or by our interpretation of the legal or regulatory provisions. They are only intended to guide you in the application of the text but are without prejudice to any divergent interpretations by the competent courts. In any case, these answers do not constitute a legal opinion binding in any way the Ministry or the Minister competent in the matter.

1. The national action plan for intercultural living together

- When will there be a new national action plan for intercultural living together?

The draft national action plan (NAP) for intercultural living together is currently being drawn up. It is subject to the procedure described by the law in article 3 (3) - (10).

2. The citizens' pact for intercultural living together (Biergerpakt)

- What is the Biergerpakt?

The Biergerpakt (citizens' pact) is one of the instruments provided for in the law on intercultural living together. It is a moral commitment to which people living or working in Luxembourg can adhere in order to subscribe to the values of intercultural living together. Membership is voluntary and gives access to the intercultural living together programme.

- Who can join the citizens' pact?

Any person of legal age who lives or works in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg can join the citizens pact.

- Where can I find out more about the citizens' pact?

You can visit the website www.biergerpakt.zesummeliewen.lu or send an e-mail to biergerpakt.zesummeliewen@fm.etat.lu or call the free Infoline 8002 0044.

- How can I join the citizens' pact?

You can sign up to the citizens' pact on guichet.lu.

- What am I committing myself to by joining the citizens' pact?

It's a moral commitment to intercultural living together that gives you access to the modules of the intercultural living together programme.

- Can I join the citizens' pact as an applicant for international protection?

Yes, as an applicant for international protection (API), beneficiary of international protection (BPI) or beneficiary of temporary protection (BPT), you can join the citizens' pact.

- I'm a cross-border commuter, can I join the citizens' pact?

Yes, you can join the citizens' pact. Please bring a certificate of affiliation from the Centre commun de la sécurité sociale (CCSS) with you.

- Does the citizens' pact have a fixed duration?

No, there is no fixed duration, but all your personal data will be anonymized if you do not participate in any modules for two years.

- Can I withdraw from the citizens' pact?

Yes, you can cancel your pact at any time by sending an e-mail to biurgerpakt.zesummeliewen@fm.etat.lu.

- I'm a member of the pact, but I'm not participating in benefits for X reason. Will my membership be cancelled?

For privacy reasons, all your personal data will be anonymized after two years of inactivity.

- Can I rejoin the citizens' pact if my file has been closed?

Yes, the law does not prevent you from signing up again.

- Do I have to take part in the citizens' pact to apply for Luxembourg nationality?

No, there is no obligation to join the citizens' pact to obtain Luxembourg nationality. However, you may - under certain conditions - apply for citizenship by option if you have completed the three introductory modules of the intercultural living together programme.

3. The intercultural living together programme

- What is the Intercultural Living Together programme?

The Intercultural Living Together programme is the successor to the current Reception and Integration Contract. Its aim is to guide, inform, train and promote civic participation. It is made up of introductory modules on life in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and advanced modules for those who sign up to the citizens' pact.

- What are the introductory modules?

There are three modules:

1. A module to facilitate access to information, orientation in daily life and civic participation in Luxembourg.
2. A module providing an overview of Luxembourg:
 - a. its history, geography and natural and cultural heritage ;
 - b. its political, educational and social system ;
 - c. its intercultural and multilingual context and values.
3. Modules enabling at least level A.1.1. of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages to be achieved in at least one of Luxembourg's three administrative languages.

The option procedure for nationality applications, which is currently open to candidates who have fulfilled the commitments resulting from the reception and integration contract, will also be open to candidates who have completed the introductory modules to life in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, organized as part of the citizens' pact.

Please note that candidates who have completed the introduction to life in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg modules will have to meet the same residence, language and "Living together in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg" conditions as candidates who have fulfilled the commitments resulting from the welcome and integration contract.

- What are the advanced modules?

A catalog of modules with seven thematic sub-categories enables each person to choose modules in areas that correspond to their needs and priorities. Based on clear, straightforward documentation, each person can then identify the modules that are most relevant to them. These are individual modules on life in Luxembourg, offered in the form of information sessions, interactive activities, e-learning capsules or guided tours organized in conjunction with state, municipal and community partners.

- How do I register for the various modules?

You'll find all the information you need at www.biergerpakt.zesummeliewen.lu

Reception and Integration Contract (CAI)

- Can I continue to benefit from the CAI after 1 January 1 2024?

Yes, anyone who signed the CAI before 31.12.2023 can continue to receive CAI benefits after 1 January 2024.

- I submitted my CAI application before 31 December 2023, but I didn't return the signed contract until January 2024. Will I still be accepted as a CAI signatory?

No, the CAI must have been signed before December 31, 2023. From now on, you can join the citizen's pact and benefit from the services of the intercultural living together programme.

- My CAI contract expires at the beginning of 2024 and I haven't taken part in all the benefits for health/work/other reasons. Can I extend my CAI to complete my services?

Yes, you will be able to sign an amendment to complete the services you have not been able to finish.

- I'm a CAI signatory and I haven't finished all my CAI benefits yet. Can I sign up for the citizens' pact at the same time?

Active signatories of the CAI (Contrat d'accueil et d'intégration) can apply to join the citizens' pact of living together. However, their participation in the various services will be validated within the framework of the CAI until the contract is closed. Once the CAI is closed, the file will automatically be activated as part of the Programme of living together.

- Once I've signed the CAI, do I automatically become a member of the citizens' pact?

No, there is no link between the CAI and the citizens' pact.

4. The Gemengepakt (municipal pact for intercultural living together)

- My local authority wants to sign the Gemengepakt. Where can it apply, and what do it need to submit?

Municipalities can apply to join the Gemengepakt by filling in the form provided on the "Zesummeliewen an ärer Gemeng" platform: <https://gemengen.zesummeliewen.lu/formulaire/>

Applications can be submitted from 2 January 2024 and must include:

1. a letter signed by the mayor and the chair of the municipal intercultural living together committee, stating the reasons for adhering to the municipal pact and requesting the related subsidies;
2. a list of proposed members of the steering committee;
3. if applicable, the name of the municipal pact coordinator or the profile of the coordinator to be recruited, together with a description of his/her duties.

- My municipality signed the *Pakt vum Zesummeliewen* before the law of 23 August 2023 on intercultural living together came into force. Does it have to reapply?

Yes. The fact that your municipality took part in the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen" pilot project means that it is one of the pioneers of the project on which the Intercultural Living Act of 23 August 2023 is based. In order to qualify for subsidies under this new law, a new application for membership of the *Gemengepakt* (municipal pact for intercultural living together) must be submitted to the Minister.

- What is the *Gemengepakt* Steering Committee?

The steering committee of the municipal pact for intercultural coexistence is responsible for ensuring :

- 1° the implementation of the municipal pact ;
- 2° to ensure that all people living or working in the municipality can participate in the implementation of the municipal pact;
- 3° promote activities carried out within the framework of the pact;
- 4° to ensure that communications are accessible to all.

- What is the composition of the steering committee?

The steering committee is made up of at least five members, including :

- 1° one member of the local council ;
- 2° two members of the local committee responsible for intercultural living together;
- 3° two members of local associations;
- 4° the municipal pact coordinator in municipalities that have one.

- My local authority needs technical assistance to set up the *Gemengepakt*. What tools does the government provide?

On the one hand, state-appointed advisors for intercultural living together advise municipalities and the *Gemengepakt* steering committee on setting up the *Gemengepakt*.

On the other hand, the municipality can call on the services of a municipal pact coordinator, who is either a municipal employee or an external municipal pact coordinator. The State may contribute up to 30,000 euros per year towards the costs of such a coordinator.

- What's the difference between intercultural living together advisors and *Gemengepakt* coordinators?

Intercultural living advisors are state employees whose main task is to advise municipalities and steering committees on implementing the *Gemengepakt*. They consolidate the achievements of local authorities in terms of intercultural living together, and guide them in their strategic choices with a view to improving the impact of their dedicated policies.

The role of the Gemengepakt coordinators is to accompany, assist and support the municipality, and to monitor the Gemengepakt during its period of validity. Whether a civil servant or municipal employee, or an external individual or legal entity, the role of the coordinator is to encourage dialogue between the players involved locally, to act as an intermediary, a relay, or even a "facilitator", in order to guarantee the logistical follow-up and operational planning of the prioritized activities, and to do so in close collaboration with the CVEI in charge of the said municipality.

- What is the profile of a community pact coordinator?

The law does not impose a minimum diploma or specific profile for this position. However, it is advisable to choose a person with strong social skills and, if applicable, a degree and/or professional experience in a relevant field (social or educational sciences, anthropology, living together, social work, education, intercultural relations, etc.). Knowledge of local government structures would be an asset.

- What costs associated with the position of municipal pact coordinator are subsidized?

Within the limits of available budgetary appropriations, a subsidy for the costs of a municipal pact coordinator is available on request to the signatory municipalities of the municipal pact. The grant is capped at 30,000 euros per year and per municipality, and can cover all costs related to the mission of a person in charge of coordinating the Gemengepakt, i.e. salary, fees, operating costs, travel expenses, etc.

- When can the municipality publish a vacancy for a municipal pact coordinator?

As of now, but in order to qualify for the 30,000 euro grant, the municipality must have signed the Gemengepakt.

- Can municipalities that don't yet have a Gemengepakt apply to the Intercultural Living Together Advisors for advice?

The Intercultural Living Together Advisors provide support to municipalities once they have signed the Gemengepakt. Municipalities that have not yet signed the Gemengepakt can contact the Ministry directly for guidance in preparing their application.

- Can two or more municipalities hire the same Gemengepakt coordinator?

Yes, whether or not these municipalities have signed a Gemengepakt together, it is possible to share a coordinator. However, the grant of up to 30,000 euros towards the coordinator's costs will be paid to each municipality separately.

- If several municipalities join forces to sign the Gemengepakt, are each municipality entitled to 30,000 euros to hire a coordinator?

Yes, one of the advantages of joining forces to form a Gemengepakt is that the municipalities share a state-funded municipal pact coordinator, with a subsidy capped at 30,000 euros per associated commune.

- Who pays the intercultural living together advisors?

The intercultural living together advisors are government employees whose mission is to advise the municipalities free of charge, up to a limit of 245 hours per year.

- How much does the state contribute to the implementation of the Gemengepakt in my municipality?

In addition to the contribution towards the costs of a coordinator, up to a maximum of 30,000 euros per year per municipality, there are two grants:

- an annual grant to cover the costs of implementing the Gemengepakt, the maximum amount of which depends on the size of the municipality, i.e. whether the municipality has a local council comprising :

- 7, 9 or 11 local councillors: 3,000 euros
- 13 or 15 local councillors: 5,000 euros
- At least 17 local councillors: 8,000 euros

- a lump-sum grant of 5 euros for each resident or cross-border worker employed in the municipality who was a member of the citizen's pact on 31 December of the current year.

- Does my municipality have to submit an application to receive the above-mentioned subsidies?

Yes, subsidies for the costs of a municipal pact coordinator and for the implementation of the Gemengepakt are available on request. This request can be made at the time of application for Gemengepakt membership, on <https://gemengen.zesummeliewen.lu/formulaire/>

No application is required for the annual subsidy of 5 euros for each resident of the municipality and each cross-border worker whose place of work is in the municipality and who is a member of the citizen's pact on December 31 of the current year.

- When and how is this state contribution paid to the municipality?

Financial contributions are paid on an annual basis:

- As soon as the Gemengepakt is signed, the grants for implementing the pact are paid to the municipality in full (3,000, 5,000 or 8,000 euros).
- The amount granted to cover the coordinator's expenses is capped at 30,000 euros per year and per municipality.
- Payment of the grant is normally made in 2 instalments: 50% following approval of the application, and payment of the balance following verification of the statement of account.

As these grants are intended to cover actual costs incurred in implementing the Gemeengepakt, at the end of each financial year the municipality must submit a statement of account including supporting documents.

The subsidy of 5 euros for each resident or cross-border worker employed on the territory of the municipality and who is a member of the citizen's pact on 31 December is paid to the municipality in the first quarter of the following year.

- My municipality has signed the Gemeengepakt with other municipalities as a group. Who will receive the subsidies?

Even if several municipalities sign the Gemeengepakt together, the subsidies will be paid to each municipality separately. Only if an inter-municipal association is responsible for coordinating the Gemeengepakt for a group of municipalities can the subsidies be pooled and paid out to this association.

- My municipality shares a coordinator with other municipalities. To whom will the subsidy for the coordinator's expenses be paid?

Even if several municipalities share a coordinator, the subsidy to cover the costs of this post will be paid to each municipality separately (maximum 30,000 euros per municipality). Only if an inter-municipal syndicate is responsible for coordinating the municipal pact of a group of municipalities can the subsidies be pooled and paid to the same syndicate.

- For the flat-rate subsidy of 5 euros per cross-border worker, is the head office of the company employing the worker or the place of operation of the company where the cross-border worker performs his or her duties taken into account?

This is a subsidy for workers employed in the municipality, i.e. at the company's place of business.

- By law, the Gemeengepakt is valid for a maximum of 6 years. What happens after that? Can the agreement be renewed thereafter (with or without an interruption period)? If so, for how long?

Six years is the duration of a municipal mandate. The Gemeengepakt can therefore be renewed without interruption, provided that the new local council submits a new application to the Ministry, thus confirming the municipality's commitment to intercultural coexistence.

5. Gemeengekommissioun (Municipal Advisory Committee on Intercultural Living Together)

- Does the Municipal Advisory Committee on Intercultural Living Together (CCVEI) replace the Municipal Advisory Committee on Integration (CCCI)?

Yes.

- What is the main difference between the CCCI and the CCVEI?

The CCVEI is characterized by its openness to cross-border workers, with a more global vision of living together for all those who live and work in Luxembourg, without focusing on the origins of these people.

- What should the municipal advisory committee for intercultural living together be called?

The law stipulates that the municipal council must set up an advisory committee whose remit includes the intercultural living together of all people living and working in the municipality, without mentioning the commission's title.

However, in his Circular n°2023-113 to municipal administrations, the Minister for Family and Integration (now Minister for Family, Solidarity, Living Together and Reception) Max Hahn, recommends naming this commission "municipal advisory committee for intercultural living together", or in Luxembourgish "Kommissioun vum Zesummeliewen".

- What are the tasks of the "municipal advisory committee for intercultural living together"?

The Commission's missions are explicitly set out in the law (Art.9). It is, however, possible to broaden the scope of the commission in question and give it wider remits, or even to combine intercultural living and other issues within a municipal commission.

- Who can become a member of the municipal intercultural living together commission?

The law stipulates that all members of the municipal commission for intercultural living together must live or work in the municipality (Art.10). That said, cross-border workers can become members of the commission in question.

- Can I answer the municipality's call to become a member of the *municipal consultative commission for Intercultural living together* without living in the municipality?

Anyone who works in a municipality, i.e. who is attached to a place of business located in the municipality, can respond to the call for applications to become a member of the municipality's intercultural living together commission. Please note: it is not sufficient for your employer to have a head office in the municipality.

- Can I become a member of the municipal intercultural living together commission in the municipality where I live AND in the municipality where I work?

Yes, there's nothing to stop you from becoming a member of the Intercultural Living Together Commission of your municipality of residence and at the same time becoming a member of the Intercultural Living Together Commission of the municipality where you work. However, when it comes to electing members of the Board of Governors, you will have just one vote.

- What is the relationship between article 10 of the law of 23 August 2023 on intercultural living together on the composition of the municipal Commission for Intercultural Living Together and article 15, paragraph 2, of the Communal law of 13 December 1988 on the composition of consultative commissions?

Both articles are applicable and complementary. The municipality may issue a call for candidates to make up the municipal commission for intercultural living together. Furthermore, in municipalities that vote according to the proportional representation system, each group of candidates is represented on the advisory commissions according to the number of its elected members on the municipal council, and some of the commission members have been selected on the basis of a call for candidates. The members are appointed by the local council.

- What are the plans for the composition and operation of the Intercultural Living Together Commission?

The composition and operation of the municipal commission are set out in the internal regulations (ROI) (Art.10). This new provision gives municipalities greater flexibility and the possibility of organizing this commission in the same way as other municipal commissions.

- Does the ROI have to specify the composition of the municipal intercultural living together commission?

The minimum composition of the consultative commission is laid down by law (Art.10). The ROI can specify the composition, without however going against the law.

- How can I check that a person is not already a member of a municipal intercultural living together commission in another municipality?

You don't have to! It's perfectly possible to get involved in the CCVEI of your place of residence AND your place of work.

- We'd like to integrate the intercultural living together allocation into another commission. Is this possible?

Yes, the law stipulates that each municipality must set up a consultative commission whose remit includes intercultural living together for all those living and working in the municipality. There is therefore nothing to prevent several commissions from merging, provided there is a commission in charge of intercultural living together,

- Who can become secretary of the municipal intercultural living together commission?

The secretary of the municipal intercultural living together commission can be either a member of staff, a member of the commission, or a third party.

- My municipality has already set up a municipal integration advisory commission. Does it have to issue a new call for candidates in January 2024 to be able to rename its commission as the Municipal Commission for Intercultural Living Together?

The local council must deliberate to comply with the new provisions. This means, for example, issuing a new call for candidates for the municipal intercultural living together commissions, including people who work in the municipality, and ideally changing the name of the commission.