Feedback from Luxembourg Steering Committee on 20/09/2023

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the Steering Committee held on Wednesday 20/09/23. This meeting chaired by the Secretary General of the European Schools, Mr Andreas Beckmann, is a unique opportunity where school directors from Lux1, Lux2 together with their different representatives (teachers, parents…) can address issues which concern our schools in Luxembourg to Mr Beckmann and to the Luxembourgish delegation. We are pleased to share with you the main topics which were discussed at this meeting:

Accredited European Schools in Luxembourg

- There are now 6 Accredited European Schools (AES) in Luxembourg.
- At the time of the meeting which took place before the national elections, the Luxembourgish Delegation, was not aware of any new school creation.
- Lux1 and Lux2 directors, as well as teachers' representatives would like to develop the cooperation with the AES. A first meeting between the different directors took place in June 2023 and there will be others to come.
- AES are gradually opening new levels. Last year, the first of the 6 schools (EIDE in Differdange) presented S7 students to the European Baccalaureate. Results were slightly below the average of the ES system.

Teachers' recruitment and conditions for Locally Recruited Teachers

- Parents' representatives complained about the poor language skills of some of the non-native L1 teachers in Primary, and L2/L3 teachers in Secondary.
- Mr. Beckmann reminded the assembly that according to our regulations, teachers must be L1 native in Primary. However, exceptions must be made sometimes by School Directors when no other suitable candidates are available.
- The question of the attractiveness of the European Schools is raised again, due to the development of AES in Luxembourg. Salary is less of an issue since the agreement settled with EIB a few years ago. However, recognition of professional experience and better job security are still missing.
- Teachers' representatives would like to have more protected posts (posts which cannot be replaced by seconded teachers). However, Mr. Beckmann reaffirms that each school must first reach the quota of 65% seconded teachers and 35% Locally Recruited Teachers.

National pupil benefits versus European pupil benefits

- APEEEL2 tried to present the situation of the European Schools in Luxembourg at national level, where 8 European Schools spread across the country should work and collaborate. To have a sustainable situation in the long run, discrepancies between pupils from Lux1 & Lux2 and pupils from AES should be avoided.
- We insisted on the fact that schoolbooks and copies are free in AES. As we now share the same syllabus, Lux1 and Lux2 pupils could use these books for free as well. The Luxembourgish Delegation will investigate this point, but only after the national elections.

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- APEEEL2 also insisted on getting a higher number of free school buses, at least to cover local needs.
- APEEEL2 also raised the question of the canteen, as AES are integrated in the Restopolis program, but Lux1 & Lux2 are not and must have contracts with private companies.
- In terms of digital education, APEEEL2 would like to at least see the first stage set in motion, and ISA students included in the one-to-one programme (national initiative where families can rent a device for 50€ per year). The Luxembourgish Delegation could not make any promises at this stage but will investigate what could be done on this point.

Information from the Luxembourgish Delegation

- The Luxembourgish Delegation informed us about a new law as of July 2023 stating that the legal age for compulsory education is now for students to reach 18 years old or pass the Bac exam. The checking process relating to compulsory education will now be overseen by the State and not the Communes any longer.

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