



The future of Luxembourg

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«For Purpose organisation»

- We are not :
 - A not for profit organisation
 - A political party
 - A 'think tank'
- We are individuals having common :
 - Concerns about the future
 - Commitment to future generations
 - Commitment to 'change'



Since When & Why ?

- When ?

We started of in December 2011

- Why ?

Need to confront the stakeholders with the reality of the situation at a moment when the common approach was still to avoid discussions and tackling problems head-on



Purpose ?

Generate 'change' through achieving change in the mindset/mentality among the population/voters; and this for the benefit of the future generations !

*« Wa mer wëlle bléiwen wat
mir sinn, da kënnen mer net bléiwen wéi mir
sinn ! »*



How ?

- Virtual communities: website, linked-in, facebook ...
- Actively involve future generations
- Messages/interviews/invitations to speak/discussions ...
 - need to change
 - potential solutions
- 'Non revendicatif'



Topics raised ... ?

- **Cleavage** between :
 - those who understand how the wealth we distribute is created and
 - those who don't and therefore blindly, selfishly and without questioning protect today's achievements and prerogatives
- Need to have **civil servants** work hand in hand with citizens to achieve common objectives
- Need to **re-integrate the unemployed** into our economic system – through paying them to work versus paying them to remain excluded



Topics raised ... ?

- Need to **stop living above affordable standards** → reduce debt → punish waste
- Need to **diversify our economy** → stop demonizing 'entrepreneurs' → reward initiatives/risk and job creation → drastically reduce administrative burdens → «PIBien-être of enterprises»
- Need to **re-invent our pension systems** to avoid the system collapsing in a few decades
- Need to **restore a democracy** : $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people that create the wealth of Luxembourg have 'no voice' in the decisions on how we re-invest or distribute such wealth



Topics raised ... ?

- Need for a **thorough reform/revolution** of our **education** system:
 - set of values: 'citizens not consumers'
 - content: prepare for future needs → change priority sequence!
 - today !
 - languages ('main' eliminating factor) and maths first
 - then sciences and
 - finally arts
 - future ?
 - should sciences not get a higher priority ?
 - arts boost creativity !
 - rewards versus sanctions
 -



Short term objectives ?

Create awareness ! → partially met !

- large community /number of ambassadors
- most of the subjects raised have popped up in general and media discussions
- mentalities tend to change: a few stats from a study done by QUEST, a Luxembourg-based market-research company, back in September 2012
 - 79% of the population are either alarmed or very alarmed by the government's budget deficit
 - 81% of the population is prepared to contribute towards addressing the situation



Short term objectives ? ctd

Mentalities are changing: some more stats.

The top 5 measures where the public at large is prepared to make efforts:

- a reduction of the automatic indexation the higher the salary gets (67% in favour)
- automatic salary index capped at €5k/month (50% in favour)
- a complete stop of the fiscal advantages of travel costs related to the home-work journey (61% in favour)
- a 1% increase in the pension insurance contribution (56% in favour)
- a 1% increase in the medical insurance contribution (52% in favour)



Short term objectives ? ctd

Actively involve future generations !
Their future !

- vaste program launched with more than 100 students from 8 different schools back in fall 2012
- expect to be able to communicate results in a couple of months



Medium term objectives ?

- Make sure population/voters seek answers to the issues raised in the ' 2014 election campaigns of the different political parties'
- Keep future generations involved



Major barriers ?

Lack of buy-in of part of the media !

Reasons for this:

- Political agendas and electoral games push some stakeholders to continue avoiding to address the real issues !
- Discussing/investigating potential issues from the past tend to be more attractive than trying to reinvent the future !



Conclusion

Overall happy that :

- our main messages have been heard by a large part of the population
- we get more and more buy-in from some ministers, senior politicians and other stakeholders who dare to address at least some of the issues

But the road will be long and the main obstacles are certainly still to be resolved

=> so we will continue to stay vigilant and voice our opinion when asked & when NOT asked



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