

No bei dir.

In recent years, the DP has taken responsibility for our country in particularly challenging times. The DP-led government has safely guided our country through the pandemic and the energy and inflation crisis. Especially in times of crisis, the DP has proven in government and parliament that it tackles challenges and leaves no one alone.

As a state-supporting and socially liberal party, the DP guarantees social cohesion. With three successfully concluded tripartite negotiations, the social dialogue was strengthened as a tried and tested successful model in Luxembourg. The DP has preserved the index mechanism, successfully fought inflation with innovative and courageous solutions such as the energy price cap and noticeably strengthened people's purchasing power with the aid of socially graduated direct aid and tax credits amounting to billions.

We have a special focus on those who keep our country running every day. We are committed to a responsible economic and labour policy creating secure and well-paid jobs and not putting them at risk. We are concerned about ensuring that all people have the same opportunities for the future, so that they can shape their own lives in a secure and self-determined manner.

The DP is resolutely tackling the most urgent social challenges. We will launch sustainable investment offensives in housing construction, mobility, energy supply and health care- and thus make our country fit for the future.

The DP in government is the guarantor of responsible and solution-oriented policies in Luxembourg that put people first and offer clear answers to their questions and

concerns. Therefore, we are setting six policy priorities in the coming years:

NO BEI ALLEN, DÉI SECH MÉI FINANZIELLE FRÄIRAUM WËNSCHEN

The DP always strives to make our country's tax system fairer and to strengthen people's purchasing power- this is an integral part of our party's DNA. In the coming years, we will continue to give special priority to additional tax relief and the implementation of a fundamental tax reform. Supporting families with children is particularly important to us.

NO BEI ALLEN, DÉI MÉI BEZUELBARE WUNNRAUM WËLLEN

The DP will work to ensure that the desire of many people to own their own home in Luxembourg can be realised and that all everybody has access to affordable housing. In cooperation with private stakeholders, we will therefore launch a state housing offensive, the likes of which have never been seen before in Luxembourg. Through the massive expansion of the public housing stock, we are going to offer affordable rental housing especially to young people at the beginning of their careers and support them with targeted subsidies so they can finance their own homes.

NO BEI ALLEN, DÉI HIR ENERGIEKÄSCHTE GÄRE SELWER AM GRËFF HUNN

The DP will make Luxembourg climate-neutral as quickly as possible with a responsible energy and climate policy and at the same time secure our prosperity in the long term. We will focus on the people with their ideas and needs. With the establishment of the Climate Citizens' Council, we have actively involved society

in the further development of the national energy and climate plan. With the aid of massive investment and subsidy programmes, we are going to drive the energy turnaround faster than previously planned, so that all people and businesses can benefit from a more secure and affordable energy supply.

NO BEI ALLEN, DEENEN D'ZUKUNFT VUN EISE KANNER UM HÄERZ LÄIT

The DP is committed to fair future opportunities for all children. Quality education tailored to specific interests, talents and needs is the prerequisite for free development and a self-determined life. We will therefore continue to invest massively in the quality and diversity of our education system, guarantee a childcare place for every child and ensure that our youngest are taught the skills they will need later in life from an early age.

NO BEI ALLEN, DÉI HIREN JOB GÄREN HUNN. AN HIR KANNER

The DP will continue to put the "time" factor at the forefront of its actions. We want to give people more time for their families and enable them to organise family and working time even more flexibly and according to their own needs. For us, a modern family policy means that spending time with the children and being successful at work are not contradictory. The DP will introduce a time-limited right to part-time work for parents, which can be exercised up to the time the children reach the age of 13. We want all people to be able to decide freely and self-determinedly at every stage of life how they want to live.

NO BEI ALLEN, DÉI MÉI FLEXIBEL SCHAFFEN A LIEWE WËLLEN

The DP is committed to a high quality of life at all stages of life. Every individual's life is different and goes through different phases in which people sometimes want to work more, sometimes less. DP wants to take this individuality into account in the best possible way. We want to enable people to have a better quality of life through flexible working time models. The DP is in favour of a modern labour law that takes into account the needs of both workers and employers and also restores the necessary appreciation of self-employment.

The DP makes policy for the people and with the people. We have not left anyone to fend for themselves in the past years- and we will not do so in the future. DP is already resolutely tackling tomorrow's problems today and will consistently involve the people in the process. We know: Only together can we overcome the great challenges of our time.

We want all people to be able to live a dignified and self-determined life in an open, tolerant, inclusive and sustainable society. We will take people's concerns and needs into account and continue to work for a better quality of life, additional relief and more freedom in shaping one's own life.

Because the DP is: **NO BEI DIR.**

Tax policy: Strengthen purchasing power and relieve the middle class

The DP advocates a socially just and contemporary tax policy that corresponds to the realities of our modern society. The tax relief of the middle class and the competitiveness of businesses remain central concerns of the DP.

The DP-led government has already taken important steps towards more social justice with the tax reform in 2017: The reform brought considerable relief for those with low and medium incomes and targeted support for single parents.

The support for households and businesses has continued throughout this crisis-ridden legislature. The impact of the energy crisis was well cushioned due to a functioning social dialogue and comprehensive packages of appropriate measures. The measures of the "Solidaritätspäck" have yielded positive results: According to STATEC, households had on average at least the same, if not more, purchasing power than before the crisis. With retroactive effect from 1 January 2023, a tax credit amounting to two index instalments for the year 2023 was also made available. Starting next year, the tax table is to be adjusted by 2.5 index instalments, which is going to lead to a further, noticeable reduction in the tax burden of citizens.

The DP will continue to advocate for tax relief in the future: This is why the DP intends to regularly adjust the tax table to inflation in the coming legislative period.

Furthermore, the DP advocates for a modern tax system that reflects the diversity of our society. Our medium-term

goal remains to introduce a uniform tax class that treats all ways of living equally. By doing so, we want to put an end to the structural injustices in our tax system.

In line with the principles of fair competition, the DP supports the initiatives of the OECD and the European Union to fix the taxation of large corporations, including the introduction of a minimum tax rate. At the same time, it is important to us that our tax measures remain attractive and competitive.

The DP will strengthen our economic location through a competitive tax landscape, because this is the prerequisite for good jobs and solid tax revenues that finance our social system. Furthermore, we will relieve the burden on businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, and provide them with increased support for the energy and digital turnaround.

Private individuals

A competitive income tax

Income taxation is an important factor in a country's attractiveness as a place to work. Income tax must therefore be competitive. Within the framework of the desired individualisation, the DP will continue to advocate for tax relief for households with small and medium incomes. As Luxembourg is in direct competition with the other EU countries, the top tax rate must also be competitive. To be able to finance a strong welfare state, we need a dynamic economy and for this our country must remain a good choice for workers from home and abroad; this is why the DP rejects a further increase in the top tax rate as well as a general increase in income tax.

Sustainable relief for the middle class

The DP wants to sustainably relieve the middle class. The government has already done much to maintain purchasing power through financial aids and measures under the Tripartite Agreements. The retroactive tax credit and the partial adjustment of the tax table by 2.5 index instalments for the coming year will further reduce the tax burden of citizens. To protect the middle class from the effects of cold progression, we want to regularly adjust the tax table to inflation.

Equal tax treatment of all ways of living

The DP advocates equal tax treatment of all ways of living. No one should be at a tax disadvantage because of their life situation (married, in a civil partnership, widowed, etc.). We therefore advocate the introduction of a uniform tax class. The changeover to a new and uniform tax table is to take place gradually. Furthermore, during the transition period, our goal is to ensure that civil partnerships and married couples are treated equally for income tax purposes. This means that couples in a civil partnership also benefit directly from potential tax relief on income tax without having to wait for a refund via the tax return.

No wealth tax for private individuals

The DP still rejects a wealth tax for private individuals. This tax would entail a disproportionately high administrative burden and affect the attractiveness of the country.

No inheritance tax in direct line

Inheritance tax has undergone only minor changes in recent decades, while wage tax rates have been regularly adjusted downwards. For inheritance tax in the indirect line, we want to adjust the thresholds downwards in line with the inflation trend of the past years. We strictly

reject the introduction of an inheritance tax in direct line.

To facilitate transfers of wealth in direct line, we will also reduce the taxation of gifts made during lifetime accordingly. This allows for fair and appropriate treatment of transfers of assets between family members.

More flexibility in depreciation options

The current tax system sets a maximum amount for the depreciation categories. The DP will review to what extent the depreciation options can be made more flexible. This should enable citizens at different stages of life to claim their expenses more optimally for tax purposes.

Simplify taxation of benefits in kind ("avantages en nature")

The DP will analyse to what extent the tax treatment of benefits in kind granted by businesses to their employees can be simplified and as such provide more clarity and transparency.

Exempt overtime from social contributions and taxes

Currently, workers pay towards the National Health Fund and their long-term care insurance contributions for all hours worked. The DP will aim for a complete exemption from social contributions for overtime, thus allowing people to receive a higher net income. In addition, the DP will introduce the overtime tax exemption, as it applies in the private sector, also in the public sector.

Promote telework through modern tax law

The DP continues to advocate for a flexible working environment that meets the needs of workers. This includes the possibility of teleworking, which gives people more flexibility and freedom in organising their daily lives. In the coming legislative period, we will review the

allowances and deductibility for income tax and, if necessary, adjust the tax laws to meet the demands and realities of the modern working world.

DP Finance Ministers have already successfully lobbied for the recognition of up to 34 days of telework for cross-border workers from France and Belgium. We will continue to work towards bilateral agreements to expand telework for commuters. These measures will also benefit other sectors of our economy. Start-ups can better attract talent and retain them in the business long-term.

Favour investments in start-ups by private individuals

Start-ups play an important role in diversifying the economy and driving innovation and progress. Often, however, these young businesses have difficulty raising the necessary funds to turn their ideas into reality and develop them further. The DP wants to create additional tax incentives for private individuals to invest in young and innovative businesses (including trade and crafts).

Introduce tax-free rental premium for employees

The DP wants to introduce the possibility of a tax-free rent premium. This allows businesses to additionally reward young workers for their achievements. This premium is targeted at young tenants aged 18 to 35.

Three percent VAT on sustainable means of transport

The DP government has already implemented a large number of tax incentives in the field of climate and environmental protection. This includes, among other things, the application of the super-reduced VAT rate of three per cent to renovation works on residential houses and buildings of ten years or older (instead

of 20 years) and to the purchase of photovoltaic systems.

The DP will consistently pursue this path and campaign for the introduction of the super-reduced VAT rate of three percent for electric means of transport in the field of soft mobility, such as bicycles and scooters, at EU level. This way, environmentally friendly alternatives in the transport sector can be additionally promoted.

Promote occupational and private pension provision

The DP ensures that the statutory pension insurance remains the mainstay of the pension system. The DP also advocates for a diverse and flexibly designed pension scheme that meets the needs of the insured and promotes sustainable investments. In this context, we will give insured persons the opportunity to increasingly deduct their private old-age provision (third pillar).

For the second pillar of pension insurance, we will link the amount deductible to a certain percentage of the worker's wage and provide for a higher deductibility if the contributions go into sustainable investments.

Citizen-oriented and digital tax administrations

The DP wants to improve the contact with the administrations in general. To this end, contact points are to be opened in the various regions of the country, including for tax issues. In addition, the DP wants to further expand the digital ways of contacting tax administrations and digitise administrative procedures. A central dashboard in the MyGuichet area is intended to give taxpayers an overview of their tax situation and the possibility to carry out various administrative procedures in a straightforward manner, for example the determination of advance

tax payments. The DP will also ensure that letters from tax administrations are worded as clearly as possible to facilitate the communication with citizens.

Further strengthen the "Prime participative"

Last year, the DP-led government took the first steps to further promote a profit-sharing bonus ("Prime Participative") for workers. The DP will continue to work on this in the coming legislative period and take additional measures to make the profit-sharing bonus even more attractive for workers and businesses.

Making the "régime d'impatrié" more attractive

In addition to the "Prime participative", the "Régime d'impatrié", which was already adapted during the last legislative period, is also an important instrument for attracting talent. The DP will study the effectiveness of this instrument and make further adjustments if necessary.

Promote worker share ownership

The DP will promote the participation of workers in the capital of their business through taxation, thus giving them a greater share in the success of the enterprise. Especially with regard to start-ups, an attractive new stock option regime is to be introduced.

Step by step exit from fuel tourism

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Tax incentives for sport, culture and voluntary work

The DP recognises the great importance of sports, culture and volunteering for social life and therefore plans to increase the tax-deductible amount for expenses in these areas from €5,000 to €7,500 per year. This way, we want to further promote involvement in sports clubs, culture and

voluntary work and reduce the financial burden on citizens.

Reduce tax return processing time

In this legislative period, the deadline for submitting tax returns has already been extended by nine months. The DP now wants to lobby for the processing time of tax returns by the administration to be limited to a maximum of three months. To achieve this goal, the tax administrations will be further strengthened in terms of personnel. In addition, the DP will ensure that the digital tax return is further improved, in particular through the automatic transfer of existing data following the "once-only principle". In addition, information from other state registers is to be automatically inserted into the tax return, provided that data protection regulations permit it.

Increase the staff of the tax authorities

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Real estate taxation

The DP is aware of the pressing problems in the housing market and plans to take further tax measures in the coming legislative period to boost the housing market, facilitate home ownership and reduce the financial burden on citizens.

In this context, the DP-led government has already increased the "Bëllegen Akt" tax credit from €20,000 to €30,000 in recent months. In addition, the deductibility of debt interest for financing owner-occupied housing was adjusted from €2,000 to €3,000 per household member.

Property tax, mobilisation tax, vacancy tax

Refer to the chapter on Housing

One-time exemption from registration fees (Droits d'enregistrement)

The DP wants to make it easier for young people to acquire housing. To this end, first-time buyers who purchase a property for personal use are granted a one-time exemption from registration fees. This model is similar to the one in the Netherlands and is intended to help young people take the step into their own four walls.

Re-introduce "transfers de plus-value"

Refer to the chapter on Housing

Re-introduce "Quart taux global" for a limited period of time

Refer to the chapter on Housing

Business and commerce

Relieve the tax burden on businesses

The DP will reduce corporate income tax and trade tax towards the average rates of the EU and OECD countries. Reducing tax rates will increase Luxembourg's attractiveness as a business location. The DP is convinced that these measures contribute to the promotion of the economy and the creation of an attractive business environment. In addition, the DP also wants to provide targeted support to small and medium-sized businesses.

Additional incentives for investment in sustainability and research

The DP intends to provide more support to businesses investing in digital and environmental transformation as well as in research and development. To this end, we will further expand the catalogue of incentives in the form of tax credits or super deductions. This is to encourage businesses to push ahead with innovation and promote the transition to a sustainable and digital economy.

Promote worker share ownership

Refer to the chapter on Private Individuals

Reduce wealth tax for businesses

The wealth tax for businesses is a special feature of the Luxembourg tax landscape. This leads to a competitive disadvantage compared to foreign companies. For this reason, the DP wants to reduce the wealth tax and limit its application in order to strengthen the attractiveness of Luxembourg as a business location.

Reduced "Taxe d'abonnement" for sustainable investments

The DP-led government introduced a reduction of the subscription tax ("taxe d'abonnement") for investment funds that are compliant with the most demanding criteria of the European taxonomy in the last legislative period in order to increasingly promote sustainable investments. The DP will study the effects of this reduced subscription tax and examine to what extent further incentives can be created to additionally encourage investments in environmentally and climate-friendly activities.

Strengthen legal certainty

To increase legal certainty for businesses, the DP advocates simplifying administrative procedures and modernising tax legislation. At the same time, communication between taxpayers and tax authorities is to become faster through more staff and the digitisation of the tax authorities.

Actively accompany international developments in tax law

The DP is aware of the challenges of the 21st century, and is convinced that taxation in a globalised world has to be addressed in large parts together. That is why the DP has actively followed developments in tax law at European and

international level from the very beginning and will continue to do so in the future. At the same time, the DP takes a critical stance towards new regulations that do not achieve or go beyond their goal.

Further expand the network of double taxation agreements

The DP recognises the importance of double taxation agreements as important instruments for strengthening Luxembourg's trade relations and its financial centre. We are therefore actively working to further expand the network of double taxation agreements.

Public finances: Responsible budgetary policy in the interest of the coming generations

The DP is committed to a responsible and forward-looking budgetary policy. Since coming to power in 2013, the DP has steadily restructured the state's finances. Especially in the crisis years, these efforts paid off: The state remained able to act in the midst of the crises and was able to use the financial leeway to provide extensive support to people and businesses.

Within the framework of the "Energiedesch" and the three Tripartites, the DP-led government has adopted historical aid packages that include an amount of 2.5 billion euros for the years 2022 and 2023. These aid packages are also impressive by international standards.

The scale of these numerous acts of support has inevitably led to a strain on state finances. In the medium term, we want to bring public finances back into balance without increasing the tax burden on citizens or foregoing necessary investments.

In this context, we will continue to pursue a responsible and balanced budgetary policy that promotes social and generational justice as well as sustainable growth.

Continue an ambitious investment policy

This year, public investments amount to about four billion euros. The DP remains true to its course of an ambitious investment policy and will continue to set the course for a successful and sustainable future for Luxembourg. Our goal is to safeguard the high quality of life for

current and future generations. In this context, we want to continue to maintain a high level of investment in the areas of environmental and climate protection, mobility, affordable housing, health, and education.

An appropriate public debt for the generations to come

Since 2013, the DP-led Ministry of Finance has successfully restructured public finances, always keeping the future viability of our country in mind. We will remain true to this approach and continue to work to limit public debt to a necessary and sustainable level.

The "Sustainable Bond Framework" as an important lever for sustainability financing

Luxembourg is a pioneer in financing sustainability. We were the first country in Europe to publish a sustainability bond framework that enables the issuance of green, social or sustainable bonds and sets clear criteria for project selection. The DP will continue to use this instrument to work towards achieving the national climate targets.

Defend Triple A rating

The continuous confirmation of the AAA credit rating is not a matter of course, but the result of well-founded political decisions. High creditworthiness is a cornerstone of our country's economic attractiveness and is therefore a guarantee for sustainable growth and employment. The DP is committed to ensuring Luxembourg's triple A credit rating in the future through responsible and sustainable fiscal policies.

Create alternative financing methods

Our European neighbours do not necessarily finance large infrastructure projects through the state budget or with taxpayers' money. Luxembourg could also gain additional financial leeway by making

greater use of alternative financing methods for public investments. Examples include public-private partnerships (PPP) or citizens' funds, as well as innovative financing instruments on the financial markets.

The DP will also develop an overall strategy to additionally involve the various state funds as well as businesses in which the state holds shares in the financing of the country's energy and digital transition.

Transfers in the Greater Region

Luxembourg is an important hub in the region, especially in the working world. To help enable a good coexistence, important issues must therefore be addressed together with our neighbouring countries. However, joint projects within the border region, especially with regard to mobility, also entail the question of financing. The DP is of the opinion that Luxembourg should also participate financially in cross-border projects to improve the daily situation of those affected. However, the DP is critical of lump-sum cash payments to neighbouring regions or states.

Proactively accompany discussions on European budget rules

During the crisis years, the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), which regulates European budget rules, was suspended for a period of three years by using the so-called "general escape clause". A reform of the SGP is currently being discussed at European level. Given the central importance of sound public finances for the development of the Luxembourg economy, the DP will advocate for a responsible and realistic budgetary policy today and in the long term. Forward-looking and sustainable fiscal policy must be adapted to the new realities and take into account, among other things, the challenges of financing climate neutrality, digitisation, demographic change and an

adapted defence policy. Budgetary rules should be interpreted, in Luxembourg and in Europe, in such a way that they meet these demands and continue to promote the creation of financial room for manoeuvre in a preventive manner.

Reform legislation on the budget

In the next legislative period, the DP will fundamentally review the budget legislation and initiate a reform in cooperation with Parliament. The findings of recent years show that the current 1999 framework law should be revised and modernised. This also includes the creation of a uniform accounting method that combines the national and the European calculation system (ESA 2010) and meets the current requirements even better.

Financial centre: Innovative, transparent and internationally competitive

The Luxembourg financial centre is the foundation of our economy and plays a crucial role with more than 60,000 jobs and a significant contribution to the gross domestic product. The DP is expressly committed to a strong, well-regulated and internationally competitive financial centre. We will continue to develop our legislation quickly, in a forward-looking and transparent manner.

Since 2013, the DP-led Ministry of Finance has successfully worked to ensure that the Luxembourg financial sector complies with current international standards in terms of transparency and combating tax evasion.

Furthermore, the DP has implemented important measures over the past years to further enhance the attractiveness of Luxembourg as a business location. This includes not only the introduction of important instruments to attract talent, such as the "Regime d'impatrié" and the "prime participative", but also a high-quality and public international educational offer, benefits in kind for the benefit of families, and a variety of cultural and leisure activities.

The DP will continue to work towards strengthening the financial centre, especially with regard to "talent attraction", technological innovation and the diversification of the financial sector. Luxembourg's positioning over the past few years as a pioneer in the field of alternative funds has proven to be a true success story. In addition, the legal framework has been consistently modernised through, among other things, the adoption of three blockchain laws. We

remain ready to seize the opportunities of the digital transformation and make the financial sector in Luxembourg fit for the future.

Drive diversification

After the disappearance of the steel industry, finance and insurance quickly gained importance and continue to shape our economy today. This is largely due to the high responsiveness of our financial centre: As a "first mover", Luxembourg is able to attract new investment on an ongoing basis. To remain a leading financial centre in the future, it is crucial that our legislation is continuously adapted.

The diversification of the Luxembourg economy and in particular of the financial centre is a central concern of the DP. We focus on the development of environmentally friendly, sustainable and socially responsible financial products as well as on the fintech sector. We are convinced that this is where the future of finance lies. By focusing on sustainable and innovative financial solutions, we not only create opportunities for businesses, but also contribute to environmental protection and social progress.

For a competitive fund industry

The DP will further promote the fund industry in Luxembourg. This is in direct competition with other states and is increasingly fighting for market share. In order to gain competitiveness vis-à-vis other financial centres, the DP advocates a stable and modern legal framework.

Develop Luxembourg as a gateway to the European market

The financial centre of Luxembourg should offer international businesses ideal conditions for accessing the European market. The international networking of our financial centre with foreign countries must also be further strengthened. Our

goal is to intensify the exchange with important global partners and to position Luxembourg as an attractive financial centre.

Implement European regulations and international agreements promptly

The swift implementation of European directives and regulations as well as international agreements contributes to the stability and planning security of the Luxembourg financial centre. In the case of European directives, these should be implemented as far as possible according to the principle of "the whole directive and nothing but the directive".

Helping to shape European financial law

The DP is keen to play an active role in shaping European regulations for the financial sector. This is the only way to ensure that the special features of our financial centre are taken into account. That is why the DP calls for Luxembourg to be represented even better by additional officials in the respective EU institutions.

Maintain effective control of financial service providers

The government strives for efficient supervision of the sector by the CSSF (Commission de surveillance du secteur financier) and the CAA (Commissariat aux Assurances). These ensure stability and a fair application of the rules, but also trust. In this sense, the DP is in favour of maintaining the controls in the country of origin. Specifically, the DP opposes the undermining of national supervisory authorities and the transfer of their expertise abroad.

Regulation of new financial services and products

Our financial centre must remain innovative in the future. New financial technologies are an opportunity for Luxembourg. The DP has already set

important standards in the past with regard to alternative funds, sustainable finance and blockchain. We will continue to proactively accompany these developments, further develop the legal framework and regularly adapt it. Furthermore, this also includes developments in the areas of tokenisation and cloud banking. The introduction of a digital Euro is also seen as promising by the DP. In order to address the regulation of new financial services and products in a coordinated manner, the "Haut Comité de la place financière" will be further strengthened.

Equal regulation for all financial service providers

The DP will ensure that new financial service providers offering the same services as traditional financial service providers must also comply with the same requirements.

Adapt framework conditions for blockchain technology

Blockchain technology offers many possibilities and has already had a firm place in finance for several years. Numerous business models are based on blockchain technology, which makes it possible to process huge amounts of data quickly and securely. In recent years, the DP has created the legal framework for this with the Blockchain Laws I, II and III. We will continue to monitor the development of blockchain technology and adapt legislation where necessary, in particular to protect investors.

Enhancing the attractiveness of Luxembourg as an ICT location

Luxembourg is at the forefront of digitisation and connectivity thanks to forward-looking investments. This is to be expanded and supported. One piece of the puzzle of the Luxembourg "ecosystem" are our "state-of-the-art" data centres, which

are used, among others, by the financial service providers based here to store sensitive data securely and locally. The ICT location Luxembourg is to be strengthened and further expanded.

In this context, the DP will continue to promote the digitisation of basic public services and support both businesses and citizens in digitisation.

Strengthen cyber security

Finance is based on fast and secure transactions. Attacks by criminals and third countries are a real security problem because they can cause considerable damage. For this reason, the DP is committed to strengthening cyber security.

Sovereign Cloud

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

For sustainable finance

Under the impetus of the DP-led Ministry of Finance, Luxembourg has developed into a pioneer in sustainable finance. The Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX) is the first global platform dedicated to environmentally, socially responsible and sustainable securities. The DP will further strengthen sustainable finance.

Promote sustainable financing models

The DP will create targeted tax incentives to accelerate the energy turnaround. Because public-private partnerships are indispensable for the success of the sustainable turnaround. Innovative financing models, such as blended finance and impact investing, should be further promoted.

Fossil fuels and nuclear power must not be labelled as sustainable

Fossil fuels and nuclear power are no alternative to renewable energies in the long term. For this reason, the DP is campaigning for fossil fuels and nuclear power plants across Europe to no longer

be classified as sustainable under the EU taxonomy.

Reduced "Taxe d'abonnement" for sustainable investments

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Further expand climate fund-of-funds

To finance the sustainable turnaround, the DP will further expand the Climate fund-of-funds, which finances investments against climate change in developing countries.

Promote gender finance

Under the leadership of the DP, Luxembourg has established the "Gender Finance" to counteract structural inequalities between the sexes. The goal is to improve women's access to financial services and economic participation. The DP will continue to promote such projects.

No digital or financial transaction tax

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Making compliance and KYC (*know your customer*) more efficient

The DP supports the establishment of a joint public-private mutualisation platform for compliance. In this way, the stakeholders involved are provided with the necessary means to meet the various compliance requirements quickly and efficiently.

Increase the staff of the tax authorities

To ensure the speedy processing of all files and to meet the growing tasks of the supervisory and financial authorities, such as the automatic exchange of information, the DP will continue the government's recruitment policy and further increase staff. In addition, there is to be an increased use of digitisation and artificial intelligence to further reduce processing times.

The increase in personnel at the tax authorities will promote the dialogue

between the administration and taxpayers. In this way, misunderstandings can be avoided and issues can be dealt with more quickly. Furthermore, the DP will examine to what extent processes can be optimised and resources used more efficiently in the interest of the taxpayer by merging the three different tax administrations.

Strengthen financial literacy

The DP is committed to strengthening the financial literacy of the entire population. In primary and secondary schools, students should gain a basic understanding of finance. With the help of practical experience, the entrepreneurial spirit is also to be promoted. In addition, specialised higher education degrees in finance are to be offered that reflect the importance of Luxembourg as a financial centre.

Strengthen legal prosecution of economic and financial crime

Luxembourg, under the leadership of the DP, has achieved much in the area of legal prosecution of economic and financial crime, especially money laundering, such as the formation of the "Cellule de renseignement financier" (CRF). Given the importance of these efforts for the country's international reputation and in order to further strengthen it, we will make even greater efforts and provide the police and judiciary with the necessary resources to consistently apply the existing financial laws. For example, we will examine the introduction of specialised judges and the creation of a public prosecutor's office for financial offences or the formation of a criminal chamber for financial offences.

Housing: Enabling access to affordable housing for everyone

Over the past decades, economic dynamism has brought Luxembourg and its inhabitants considerable prosperity. However, due to a lack of policy measures to effectively accompany this growth, the country is now facing a housing shortage that has been worsening for several years and threatens to weaken social cohesion. Housing prices, which are rising faster than incomes, are a burden on purchasing power and hamper economic development. The structural imbalance between supply and demand on the housing market threatens the dream of home ownership for more and more people in Luxembourg, especially young families. By far not only the lower income strata are affected, the housing problem now reaches far into the middle class. The current situation, characterised by rising interest rates, is leading to a decline in demand and a standstill in the construction industry, which is putting pressure on medium-sized businesses and increasing the deficit of new buildings.

In view of this situation, it is obvious that policy makers need to make significant additional efforts. Despite numerous measures in recent years, the housing crisis has lost none of its urgency. The measures taken so far have not been effective enough, so we must continue to fight the housing crisis resolutely through short-term and structural measures.

The DP will therefore launch a historic housing offensive. Our goal is to build the number of flats required to meet demand in the medium term, according to STATEC numbers. For this reason, we will massively expand the real estate portfolio owned by the public sector, following the example of

the City of Vienna, and strengthen the cooperation between public and private stakeholders to this end. In the short term, we will ensure that as many projects of private developers as possible, which cannot be realised due to the current crisis, are taken over. In addition, we will work to build on unused publicly owned building land as quickly as possible. **With the help of public tenders, we intend to involve the construction industry more actively and efficiently in the creation of public housing.**

In recent years, government investment in the construction of affordable flats has steadily increased. We will continue to pursue this path consistently. At the same time, we are convinced that private investors are important partners in advancing public housing. We will make greater use of private capital here and specifically involve citizens in an effort to combat the housing shortage. Private investors already play a significant role in the construction of rental housing for the private market. We will continue the current incentives and introduce additional targeted measures.

As DP, we will create innovative programmes to facilitate access to affordable housing for young families and the middle class. For example, through the concept of hire purchase, where the rents paid can be credited towards the purchase of the property.

Furthermore, one of our main concerns is to simplify, digitalise and make the approval procedures more transparent. Experience has shown that we are unable to develop the necessary momentum in many real estate projects due to cumbersome procedures and unnecessarily restrictive laws, especially in the area of environmental protection. By introducing a "Code de la construction" we want to make the legislation more

readable. To increase the pace of housing construction, we will make environmental protection regulations more efficient and ensure that strong legal environmental protection does not lead to unnecessarily long approval procedures.

Create more housing quicker

Buy out planned or existing projects

In the short term, we will ensure that as many projects as possible are taken on by private developers that have been put on hold due to the current crisis. In general, the state should be more active in the real estate market and make more use of offers of complete blocks of flats (existing or new construction) that are for sale in order to increase the public real estate stock in the short term. Thus, an inter-ministerial task force was already set up under the leadership of the DP-led government to examine the bids quickly and efficiently and to conduct negotiations with the private builders. The state should be given the opportunity to buy up these projects at reasonable prices in order to add them to a large public real estate park as rental housing.

Mobilise state and municipal land immediately

The DP will continue to work towards ensuring that municipal and state land can be built on without delay. These plots of land are to be used primarily for rental housing. It must be avoided that municipalities and the state sell buildable land to the highest bidders and thus participate in the price spiral for real estate. By conducting public tenders and, if necessary, concept awards, we intend to involve the construction industry more actively and efficiently in the creation of public housing.

Developing building land outside the building perimeter for public housing construction

To make faster progress in public housing construction, the DP will break new ground and develop building land that is outside the building perimeter but close to urbanised areas. The DP will classify land in green zones as building land that can only be used for public housing and cannot be traded on the open market. The DP will ensure that this only happens where it makes sense. In addition, the DP will pay attention to social mixing.

Combine all expertise for housing under one ministry

Currently, the approval of housing projects is the responsibility of both the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Home Affairs. In order to significantly de-bureaucratise and accelerate the lengthy approval procedures, the DP will bundle all expertise for housing construction in the Ministry of Housing.

Create an agency for the management of public rental housing

In the coming years, the stock of public rental housing will grow continuously, which must be managed efficiently and in the interest of the tenants. The DP will therefore create a new agency that will be responsible for the central management and allocation of all state rental housing. This agency will regulate the administrative tasks effectively and transparently through tendering procedures.

In order to support the municipalities in managing their rental housing, we will also offer the municipalities the possibility to have their properties managed by this agency.

Expanding the building perimeter with the help of building land contracts

With the building land contract, the DP will provide the municipalities with the right instrument to ensure that additional building land is actually built on within a set time frame. The building land contract will make speculation with building land unattractive and give the municipalities the planning security they need to create new housing and grow sustainably.

Increase building density and height

The DP will increase building density where it makes urban sense. Building upwards allows housing to be brought onto the market and at the same time slows down land consumption. The DP will investigate the introduction of additional instruments to motivate municipalities to build more densely than foreseen in their general zoning plan, analogous to the "Pacte logement 2.0" and "Plan sectoriel logement".

Supporting municipalities more strongly in housing construction

The DP will provide more support to municipalities to become active in housing construction themselves. We will extend the current subsidies of up to 75% for municipalities that create social or affordable housing. Due to increased construction, material and energy prices, the maximum amounts provided for by law (legal cap) are often far below the 75% co-financing by the state.

In addition, the municipalities should also be provided with the necessary expertise to enable them to increasingly create affordable housing themselves. Therefore, we will make additional funds available to the municipalities to get professional guidance, for example from an architectural or engineering firm.

Review, adapt and expand "Pacte Logement 2.0" and "Plan sectoriel logement"

With the introduction of the Pacte Logement 2.0, the DP-led government created an important instrument in the last legislative period to systematically promote the creation of affordable housing. At the same time, the Pacte Logement 2.0 makes it possible to build more densely than envisaged in the general development plan. The DP will review the impact of Pacte Logement 2.0 in the creation of additional housing closely and adjust the legal framework if required.

In addition, the DP will investigate to what extent it is possible to apply article 29*bis* to already existing neighbourhoods in order to create additional affordable housing via redensification, at least partially. The DP will make sure that the proposed model makes sense not only in terms of urban planning but also economically for private developers.

Promote shared flats and housing cooperatives

The DP will strengthen the legal framework for shared flats so that tenants as well as landlords of shared flats have clear guidelines about their respective rights and obligations. The main goal is to create a larger offer of shared flats for young people.

Due to increased construction costs, more and more citizens are joining together in housing cooperatives to implement a project together. The DP will provide advice and support for the establishment of housing cooperatives and remove existing economic and legal hurdles.

Create housing for students and young professionals

The DP will increase the supply of affordable student housing close to campus and encourage private initiatives to build student housing. Furthermore, we will create affordable flats for young professionals.

Promoting "Logement intégré" in single-family homes

Setting up an additional flat in a detached house is one way to quickly create more living space. The DP will therefore introduce a subsidy for the creation of "logement intégré" (self-contained flat). The DP will also examine to what extent it is necessary and beneficial to create a clear legal basis for the "Logement intégré".

Support alternative designs

The DP will advise, sensitise and support municipalities to adapt local building regulations and to develop alternative forms of construction, such as "Tiny houses".

Integrate housing in commercial areas

The DP will promote the construction of housing for employees in industrial estates.

Simplify the leasing of building land

The DP wants to make it easier for owners to temporarily rent or lease their building land so that modular structures can be built on it. To this end, the DP will reduce the minimum duration of ground leases from the current 50 years to ten years, or introduce a new category of lease.

In order to promote this model, tax incentives similar to the model of the 50% tax exemption on rental income from housing within the framework of the "gestion locative sociale" could be introduced.

Setting new impulses against the shortage of skilled workers

Refer to the chapter on Economic policy

Reward employees with tax-free bonuses

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Introduce innovative financing programmes

Massive investment in public housing

The DP will make massive investments in public housing. To this end, the DP will provide the necessary financial resources to realise large public work projects. The DP will investigate whether broad-based tendering is a more efficient and effective approach rather than the state being a developer itself through its public developers.

Create a citizens' fund for financing state real estate projects

The DP will create a state fund in which both citizens and businesses can invest in real estate projects. To guarantee investors a certain return, the fund will not only invest in affordable housing, but also in housing projects on the private housing market. The DP will also examine whether tax incentives can be created to encourage investment.

Support pension fund investment in housing

The public pension fund has reserves of around 26 billion euros. With these funds, broadly diversified investments are made according to clear criteria. The DP advocates that the pension fund invest a certain amount in projects for more affordable housing in this country. A pilot project to this effect was successfully initiated years ago in Grevenmacher. Here, a project was built by the Fonds du Logement and sold to the "Fonds de

compensation" after completion and simultaneously leased back (sale and lease back). The public pension fund thus invests in domestic real estate projects and the Fonds du Logement can increase its supply of housing.

Strengthen cooperation between the state and the private sector in the creation of affordable housing

The private sector is a key partner for the DP in creating affordable housing. The DP will introduce financial support for companies that create affordable housing for their employees.

Furthermore, private companies should also be able to benefit from subsidies in the creation of affordable housing, which are currently reserved exclusively for municipalities and non-profit developers.

Long-term housing rental by the public sector

Other models of cooperation with private investors could also be the long-term leasing of privately owned apartment blocks by the state. Owners of an apartment building who do not wish to part with their real estate assets would draw a negotiated total rent over the term of the contract. One of the two public developers would be entrusted with the management and allocation, and the owner would be able to re-utilise his property once the long-term use by the state has expired.

In this sense, it would also be conceivable for a private developer to involve the state as early as the planning stage, to construct the building according to the demands of the affordable housing market and to rent it out to the state on a long-term basis after completion.

Finally, the public developers are also to rent land on which modular buildings are erected and rented out for a limited period

of time. To this end, the DP will reduce the minimum duration of ground leases from the current 50 years to ten years, or introduce a new category of lease.

Reform housing subsidies

The DP will adjust state housing subsidies to the current situation in the real estate market and to inflation. Both the amount of the allowances and the salary ceilings for allowance candidates will be adjusted upwards. The processing of enquiries has already been significantly shortened. The DP will drive forward the modernisation and digitisation of the administration.

Promote hire purchase

To give young people in particular access to home ownership, the DP will promote hire purchase. In this model, the rent paid over the years is deducted from the sale price, making it easier to buy their own housing.

Promote the "Rente viagère" (life annuity) model

In the "Rente viagère" (life annuity) model, a person sells their housing at an advantageous price and at the same time receives a monthly annuity from the buyer for the rest of their life. In return, the former owner has the option of continuing to occupy the housing. After the death of the seller, the housing reverts to the buyer. The DP would like to further promote this model in Luxembourg.

Remove Climate bank

After the Climate bank was reformed in the course of the last legislative period and the interest-free loan was abolished, the DP will examine to what extent a further reform is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of this instrument. Since then, the interest rate has been increased significantly, making even a climate loan at a reduced interest rate unaffordable for many people.

In order to promote the energy-efficient refurbishment of existing housing, the DP will adjust the criteria of the climate loan so that all owners can receive an interest-free loan. This will help to achieve the national climate targets. At the same time, housing owners and tenants can significantly reduce their energy costs.

Re-introduce "Quart taux global" for a limited period of time

Due to the current market situation, inflation and uncertainty, transactions in the real estate market have declined considerably in recent months. The DP will temporarily reintroduce the "Quart taux global" to strengthen the supply side of the housing market.

Re-introduce "transfers de plus-value"

The DP will again allow the transfer of a capital gain from property sales for a limited period of time if rental housing is sold and the proceeds are invested in a new building.

Promote "Gestion locative sociale" through complete tax exemption

In the current legislative period, additional social housing was created, among other things by introducing tax reductions on property rentals to approved organisations for the management of social housing. The concept of managing social rental housing is to be expanded and further promoted, among other things by completely exempting rental income from tax, instead of the 75% currently in force.

Property tax, mobilisation tax, vacancy tax

After decades of stalled reforms, the DP-led government finally put a reform of the outdated property tax system on the table in the last legislative period. The DP has advocated that a property tax allowance be provided for parents who wish to reserve a piece of land for their children. We will implement the planned reform and

thus ensure fairer taxation in this respect that is adapted to the reality of today.

In addition, the DP will also implement the proposed mobilisation and vacancy taxes. In a further step, the DP will increase and accelerate the mobilisation tax.

National Housing Register

The DP will introduce a national housing register as planned. This not only serves to record the vacancy rate and calculate the vacancy tax, but is also a useful tool for the municipalities and administrations from a statistical point of view.

Simplify, digitalise and make procedures more transparent

Simplify and accelerate approval procedures

The DP will conduct a thorough review of all approval procedures and simplify and accelerate the respective procedures. We will establish a systematic monitoring of the current legislation in order to be able to react quickly to obstacles in practice.

Create a "Code de la construction"

Since the current legislation and its implementing provisions in the field of housing and construction are only for specialist lawyers to keep track of, the DP will bundle the respective texts in a clear "Code de la construction". This code will be accessible to everyone on-line in an interactive and user-friendly way. We also want to give additional funds to the "Cellule de facilitation urbanisme et environnement" as well as the "PAP Platform", which help to accelerate procedures.

Harmonise municipal building regulations

Many procedural difficulties come from the fact that each municipality has its own building regulations, which can vary

greatly. The DP will work with the municipalities to review and harmonise municipal building regulations. Within this framework, the DP will advocate for a modernisation and flexibilisation of the regulations.

The DP will also push for a simplification of the procedures for the general development plans and partial development plans as well as the selective amendments.

Digitisation of the approval procedures

The DP will ensure that all approval procedures can be submitted digitally and completed on-line. At the same time, the requests are also to be processed digitally to make the workflow more efficient and accelerate the procedures.

Introduce "Accord tacite" (tacit approval) of the administration

The DP will introduce time limits for each step of the authorisation procedure for state administrations, where this is possible in practice and compatible with, amongst others, European law. If the administration has not responded to a request or requested a duly substantiated extension of the deadline by the end of a 3-month period, this is automatically deemed to be tacit consent under the principle: "He who is silent agrees". The DP will introduce the same regulation for approval procedures at the municipal level and at the same time also provide the municipal administrations with the necessary resources so that they can realistically meet the deadline of 3 months.

Housing and environmental protection

The DP advocates for a strong legal framework to protect the environment. However, lengthy and burdensome procedures are an unnecessary obstacle to the creation of additional housing. The strict interpretation of the Nature

Conservation Act within the construction perimeter has led to dissatisfaction among many citizens. The DP strives for an ambitious but proportionate environmental protection that relies on the acceptance of the population. We will closely review the legal texts in order to simplify procedures, avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary requirements.

Introduce "nature for a certain time"

The DP considers the situation as follows: Building land is building land. Once designated, it should be allowed to be built on without major inconvenience. The current regulations create an inverted incentive for owners to nip in the bud the emergence of any biotopes and the settlement of animals on a buildable plot of land, so that they do not have to pay for additional compensation measures afterwards. For this reason, the DP will ensure that an inventory of flora and fauna requiring compensation is drawn up only once, for example when the construction perimeter is extended. In the event of development at a later date, a new environmental assessment should then not be required, even if new habitats have formed in the meantime. In addition, developments on brownfield sites are to be completely exempted from the obligation to compensate for flora and fauna.

Plan new neighbourhoods according to the principles of sustainability and circular economy

The DP will ensure that public developers lead the way in sustainable building materials and circular economy principles in their housing projects.

Promote circular economy and sustainability in the construction industry

As part of the new waste legislation, the obligation to keep an inventory of the materials used in a building was

introduced. The goal is that buildings can serve as raw material storage facilities and the materials can later be recycled. The DP will therefore specifically promote the circular economy in the construction sector, for example in the form of modular buildings.

Furthermore, sustainable building materials, such as wood, should be used to a greater extent. The DP will review and, if necessary, expand subsidies for sustainable materials, as they already exist in the context of energy refurbishment.

Designate additional construction waste landfills

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Promoting innovation in the construction sector

New technologies, such as 3D printing, not only help to reduce the need for skilled labour, they also enable resource-efficient and sustainable construction. The DP will therefore support the use of innovative technologies and develop projects together with the construction sector to further strengthen innovation. The DP develops incentives to preserve existing building stock and convert it for new uses, including housing.

Explore the potential of digitisation to tokenise real estate and simplify the real estate market

The DP will explore the benefits of digitisation for administrative simplification also in the housing market. The goal is to facilitate transactions, save costs and do so with the same legal certainty and reliability.

The introduction of a national housing register will serve as a basis for the DP to enable partial ownership of a property by means of "tokenisation" (payment procedure using blockchain).

Reform the rental law

The DP will complete the court-ordered reform of the legislation in force on rental agreements and ensure that it takes into account the current economic situation in the housing market and provides for a balanced relationship between tenants and landlords. In this way, clear and transparent rules are to be established which guarantee a high level of protection for tenants and at the same time provide the necessary incentives for private investors to invest in the creation of additional housing. In this context, the DP will closely monitor the effects of a reform on the rental housing market and, to this end, take stock after two years and make adjustments if necessary.

Guarantee a social mix in the neighbourhoods

The DP will ensure a social mix in all housing projects of public developers. For this reason, these housing projects should not consist exclusively of rental and social housing.

Ensure more transparency in the housing market

The dynamic housing market in Luxembourg in recent years has led many sellers to demand top prices far above market value, which in turn contributes to price increases. In general, more transparency in the housing market contributes to realistic price tags. The DP will introduce guidelines to standardise the content of property advertisements so that potential buyers can better compare different properties.

Sustainability: For a future worth living on our planet

The DP will secure our prosperity in the long term with a responsible energy and climate policy, that puts people at the centre. With the help of massive investment and subsidy programmes, we will drive the energy turnaround faster than previously planned so that all people and businesses can benefit from a secure and affordable energy supply.

The expansion of renewable energies will be a top priority for the DP in the coming years. Through massive investments in wind and solar energy as well as a noticeable acceleration of the approval procedures for energy projects, we will ensure that Luxembourg lowers its emissions, achieves its climate targets, and reduces its dependence on large energy producers.

In three successive tripartite agreements, the government, together with the social partners, has managed to protect citizens from a price explosion, maintain their purchasing power and ensure the competitiveness of businesses. Thanks to innovative and courageous solutions, such as the energy price cap, the government has created planning security until the end of 2024 and pushed inflation down to one of the lowest levels in the EU.

We want to take people onboard and share the benefits of the energy turnaround. Installing photovoltaic systems on residential buildings not only generates climate-friendly electricity, but also pays off financially for people. In this case, climate protection therefore also means strengthening purchasing power.

For the DP, combating man-made climate change is a top priority. It is about nothing

less than leaving our children and grandchildren a planet on which it will be possible to live well in the future. We have actively involved society in the development of the national energy and climate plan by establishing the Climate Citizens' Council.

In recent years, the DP-led government has set an important course and implemented a whole range of measures to ensure that Luxembourg not only makes its contribution to climate protection, but also takes on an international pioneering role.

For the DP, however, it is inevitable to significantly increase the efforts made so far and to push ahead with decarbonisation even faster than before in order to respect the Paris Climate Agreement. We are convinced: Climate protection can only succeed if citizens are involved and politics listens to society, supports people, creates incentives, and enables alternatives.

For the DP, climate policy is inextricably linked to social policy. We will therefore ensure that every citizen can participate in this sustainable transition and choose a climate-friendly lifestyle, regardless of their financial situation.

For the DP, a high quality of life inevitably goes hand in hand with strong environmental protection, the preservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of our natural resources. To ensure that both people today and future generations can benefit from an intact environment, clean water, and healthy air as well as high-quality natural products, the DP will consistently promote the preservation and restoration of natural habitats.

The effects of global warming are also increasingly felt in Luxembourg, whether in the form of droughts and hot spells, or in the form of catastrophic floods that cause

great damage in many areas, as happened most recently in 2021. It is therefore essential for the DP to strengthen the resilience of people and nature and to resolutely implement measures to adapt to climate change.

In the face of threats to our natural environment from climate change, species extinction, urban sprawl and soil sealing, the DP continues to advocate for strong nature conservation. At the same time, lengthy procedures, excessive requirements and cumbersome bureaucracy should be prevented to avoid slowing down progress in other important areas. Nature conservation policy must not become a policy of prevention, which citizens perceive as harassment and arbitrariness.

The DP is committed to environmental protection together with the people, which creates acceptance among the citizens, guarantees planning security and creates fast, clear, comprehensible and fair procedures.

People at the centre of a consistent energy and climate policy

The DP will consistently implement the integrated national energy and climate plan and the measures contained therein to ensure that Luxembourg achieves its national climate targets. In the preparation of the updated PNEC, the DP has particularly advocated that new obligations meet the criterion of proportionality, do not disproportionately place additional burdens on citizens, and that the latter should receive targeted support from the government for any additional burdens.

The DP will continue to ensure that citizens are not faced with disproportionate costs they are unable to cope with. Thus, the DP will prioritise support and choose bans only as a very

last resort. In addition, the DP will support people with any additional costs through financial grants and subsidies.

Mobilise massive investments in the fight against climate change

The DP is aware that every Euro that is not invested in the fight against climate change today will cost many times more in the future. For this reason, DP will make massive investments, both in the expansion of renewable energies and the energy-efficient refurbishment of buildings, as well as in measures to adapt to global warming. To meet this historic challenge, the DP will mobilise further funds for the energy turnaround by issuing sustainable bonds.

Create a citizens' fund for sustainable investments

The DP will also create a citizens' fund to invest in renewable energy projects. By feeding the energy produced in this way into the electricity grid, the citizens who participate in this fund receive a guaranteed minimum return.

Guarantee secure and affordable energy supply

The DP will ensure that there is no sudden price increase of the different energy sources when the measures of the last tripartite Agreement expire. The DP will therefore closely monitor economic developments and, if necessary, take further measures in dialogue with the social partners to safeguard the purchasing power of citizens and the survival of the most affected businesses, and thus their jobs. In the long term, the DP will work within the framework of the energy turnaround to ensure that electricity prices in particular remain affordable.

The DP will ensure that the security of energy supply in Luxembourg is

guaranteed at all times. To this end, we will drive forward the integration of the European electricity market, invest in energy storage and deepen cooperation with our European partners.

Prioritise energy turnaround

The expansion of renewable energies is a priority for the DP in two respects. On the one hand, they make a significant contribution to achieving national climate targets, and on the other hand, they reduce dependence on energy imports from third countries. In the coming years, the DP will accelerate the expansion of renewable energies to the maximum, identify and remove obstacles and bottlenecks. Our goal is to move forward significantly faster than envisaged in the Energy and Climate Plan and to make the best possible use of the potential for national electricity production.

Pushing ahead with energy refurbishment

In the course of the last two legislative periods, the DP-led government has introduced a whole arsenal of state subsidies to support citizens in the energy-efficient refurbishment of residential buildings, such as subsidies for thermal insulation, the installation of climate-friendly heating systems and the disposal of a heating oil tank.

The DP will take stock of the climate bonus programme, extend the aid and adjust it where necessary. The DP will ensure that the "Klima-Agence" has the necessary resources to optimally fulfil its task of providing climate advice. The DP will also organise regular information campaigns to inform housing owners about existing subsidies and programmes.

Pre-financing of climate subsidies

In order to simplify access to climate-friendly subsidies and to avoid high

investments deterring citizens from making their homes more energy-efficient or investing in the expansion of renewable energies, the DP will introduce pre-financing of climate subsidies so that citizens only pay their share and do not have to wait for months for financial returns, as has been the case until now. In this context, the DP will ensure that the respective businesses also receive the public subsidies quickly and do not have to wait longer than four weeks for the state contribution.

Remove Climate Bank

Refer to the chapter on Housing

Accelerate procedures for the expansion of renewable energies

The duration for the approval of sustainable energy projects is to be significantly reduced. The expansion of renewable energies is a national priority and must not be hindered by cumbersome procedures. For example, while today it takes an average of about seven years from the planning to the completion of a wind turbine, the DP wants to reduce this time span considerably.

Similar to the adapted procedures at the municipal level, which provide for tacit approval for PV installations if the municipal administration has not responded to a request within one month, the DP will introduce the principle of tacit approval at all levels and in all procedures where possible. Also, the DP wants to prevent certain procedures and studies from having to be carried out multiple times. In addition, the DP will examine whether PV systems on private residential buildings can be exempted from the obligation to submit a building application.

Tenders for large-scale renewable energy projects

The expansion of renewable energies has made only slow progress in Luxembourg over many years. The DP will make massive investments in the development of renewable energies in Luxembourg in the future. In this context, the implementation of large-scale projects on an industrial scale is the most efficient way to quickly expand production capacities.

Install mandatory PV systems on all new residential buildings

The DP will quickly implement the Prime Minister's proposal to install a photovoltaic system on every new residential building. To enable all citizens to be part of the energy turnaround, the DP will finance the plant for financially weaker households and let them participate in sustainable electricity production.

Mobilise roof areas on existing buildings for the installation of PV systems

The DP will create the possibility to make roof areas of existing residential buildings available to the state to install PV systems on them and let the owners participate in sustainable electricity production. The plant also belongs to the owner or owners of the residential building after amortisation. Special technical support is to be provided for listed buildings or in the "secteurs protégées" in order to make it easier to install PV systems in these buildings as well.

Making PV systems on commercial buildings the standard

For the DP, a PV system is to be installed on every new industrial hall on a mandatory basis. To this end, we will not only make the installation of solar panels mandatory, but also ensure that every new

hall is designed in terms of statics so that a PV system can be installed on the roof.

Promote PV systems on parking areas, motorways, along train routes and on open spaces

For the DP, covering already sealed areas with photovoltaics is the most sensible approach to expanding renewable energies. For example, the DP will make it compulsory to cover parking spaces above a certain size with a PV system, both for new parking spaces and for existing ones. The landscape or urban integration should be taken into account.

The DP will analyse the extent to which large-scale PV systems can be erected along motorways and train routes. The covering of various motorway sections with photovoltaics is also to be investigated.

The DP will promote the installation of large-scale solar parks on vacant land, on the condition that they are compatible with agricultural management and in line with the European Landscape Convention.

Promote balcony power plants

Small solar systems, which can be connected to the grid via a plug, are no substitute for a large PV system on the roof, but they can complement it well if the possibility of installing one does not exist. The DP will promote these balcony power plants and facilitate their use.

Promote prosumer model

The DP will direct the state subsidies in such a way as to promote in particular the self-consumption of sustainably produced energy.

Promote energetic cooperatives

Joining together to form energy cooperatives is a good way to benefit from the advantages of the energy turnaround, especially for citizens who do not have the

opportunity to install PV systems themselves. The DP will specifically inform citizens about this possibility and provide advice and support to interested parties.

Expand district heating networks, use waste heat and promote geothermal energy

Especially in densely populated urban areas, district heating networks are often a better alternative to individual heat pumps, as they can be operated much more cheaply and efficiently. Particularly in existing buildings, district heating networks offer an effective way to provide climate-neutral heating. It is particularly sustainable when district heating networks are fed with waste heat from industry or a waste water treatment plant. The DP will promote the development of district heating networks as well as individual connection and is considering the establishment of a national company for the ownership and construction of district heating networks in accordance with competition law.

Waste heat from industry, waste water treatment plants, etc. can be used not only to feed district heating networks, but also to produce energy. The DP will ensure that this potential is consistently utilised, both in future projects and in existing ones.

Geothermal energy is still a little-used option for heating buildings in Luxembourg, although there is great potential here. The DP will continue to promote this technology in the future and investigate how obstacles that slow down the use of geothermal energy can be removed.

Use wood as a resource sensibly

The DP believes that wood, which stores carbon, should only be used as a combustible in exceptional cases. Even if burning wood is more sustainable than fossil fuels, carbon and particulate matter

are still released, which must be prevented. Thus, the DP will only approve future wood chip plants and pellet heating systems in cases where there is no more sustainable, equivalent alternative.

Role model function of the state: Climate neutrality of all administrations by 2040

The state should clearly live up to its role model function in climate protection and take on a pioneering role. For example, on the initiative of the Prime Minister, the government has decided to offset the emissions of all state flights.

The DP advocates that a photovoltaic system be installed on every public building, if technically feasible. The energy refurbishment of state buildings is also to be accelerated significantly in order to achieve the goal of climate neutrality for all state administrations by 2040.

Increase energy efficiency, save energy

The most environmentally friendly energy is that which is not used. The DP will analyse which energy-saving measures of the past winter can be permanently maintained to permanently reduce electricity and gas consumption in public buildings. In addition, the DP will further improve energy efficiency in public infrastructures, for example by systematically using LEDs.

Supporting communities in climate protection

Not only the state, but also the municipalities have a special role model function in climate protection. The DP will support municipalities to implement ambitious climate protection measures at the local level. The Climate Pact 2.0 introduced in the last legislative period is an important instrument in this context that must be continuously expanded and improved. In this sense, the DP will support the municipalities in developing

and implementing a strategy to achieve complete climate neutrality, including a target date.

Expansion of wind power plants in dialogue with local residents

The DP will ensure that the expansion of wind power takes place in dialogue with local residents in order to increase the acceptance of these projects. In addition, citizens should also be given the opportunity to acquire shares in each project and thus benefit from them directly.

Create wind atlas

Similar to the existing solar cadastre, the DP will create a publicly accessible national wind atlas, which will clearly show the potential of wind energy on the territory of the Grand Duchy.

Expanding energy cooperation abroad

Despite high ambitions, renewable energy production capacities on the national territory are limited. Luxembourg will not be completely self-sufficient in matters of energy in the future, but will depend on a stronger energy cooperation with our European partners. For this reason, the DP-led government has, for example, ensured that Luxembourg is the only non-riparian country to join the North Sea Summit, with the goal to massively expand wind power in the North Sea.

The DP will continue to invest in renewable energy projects abroad, both in offshore wind farms, in photovoltaic plants in Southern Europe and in the production of climate-neutral hydrogen.

Guarantee the supply of climate-neutral hydrogen

The demand for hydrogen will increase dramatically in all sectors in the future. As the potential to produce hydrogen locally is limited, Luxembourg will participate

financially in large hydrogen projects abroad to ensure that security of supply is guaranteed. This also includes the connection to the European pipeline infrastructure.

Expand the power grid

The electrification of more and more areas and the increasing decentralisation of power supply pose certain challenges for the power grid. DP will therefore consistently develop the grid into a high-performance "smart grid" that meets the requirements of the energy turnaround. This is to prevent projects from not being implemented due to insufficient grid performance.

In addition, the DP will analyse different financing models for grid expansion to prevent grid costs from exploding at the end consumers' cost and placing a disproportionate additional burden on citizens.

Expand electricity storage capacities

Due to the variability of renewable energies, electricity storage systems are playing an increasingly important role. The DP will both initiate pilot projects at national level and analyse the introduction of a subsidy for local storage, such as a residential or neighbourhood Powerwall, to store autonomously produced electricity.

Ensure technology neutrality

Whether direct electrification, hydrogen, or e-fuels: Each technology has its specific meaning and benefit in the eyes of the DP. Climate and energy policy should be technology-neutral, based on scientific findings and promote the most sensible technology for a given area of application.

No to nuclear power

The DP is clearly of the opinion that the expansion of nuclear energy is not the

solution to the climate crisis and the achievement of the climate targets by 2030. The DP therefore opposes the construction of further nuclear power plants and the classification of nuclear power as sustainable. In the interest of national security, the DP will continue to consistently campaign for the immediate closure of the nuclear power plant in Cattenom. The DP wants to work with the French government on renewable energy projects that will keep jobs in the region and provide an incentive to phase out nuclear power.

Fossil fuels & nuclear power must not be labelled as sustainable

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Promote citizen participation in climate policy

The DP advocates a climate policy together with the citizens that involves them in all important decisions. In our eyes, the fight against climate change can only succeed if society also supports the various measures and stands behind the climate policies. For this reason, the DP launched a unique participatory project, the Citizens' Climate Council (CCC), during the last legislative period to give society a voice in updating the integrated national energy and climate plan.

From the beginning, the DP has worked to ensure that the CCC's suggestions are taken into account and that as many as possible are integrated into the updated version of the climate plan. The DP will take into account the conclusions of the Climate Citizens' Council study commissioned by the government from the University of Luxembourg. It is important for us to take stock of this project and to further improve the organisation of future such projects.

Raising awareness for climate protection

Tackling the climate crisis affects us all. Every citizen should become part of the energy turnaround and make their contribution. In order to create greater awareness of the challenge we face as humanity and to encourage people to make conscious choices for climate-friendly alternatives, the DP will organise regular awareness-raising campaigns and work in particular with the public media in this regard. For example, the new convention between the state and the public broadcaster "100.7", established under the auspices of the DP Minister for Communications and Media, explicitly provides for reporting and information regarding climate change as part of the public mandate.

In addition, environmental education as well as education for sustainable development (ESD) should become an integral part of the primary school curriculum as well as secondary education. These educational approaches are intended to encourage children and young people to deal responsibly with the environment and natural resources as early as possible by imparting appropriate knowledge.

Enabling everyone to switch to climate-neutral mobility

The DP will make all local public transport climate-neutral by 2030 and ensure that every citizen can switch to emission-free mobility. In concrete terms, the DP will continue subsidies for the purchase of an electric car, increase them if necessary, and make them more socially graduated. For people who cannot afford an electric car despite government assistance, we will introduce social leasing for passenger cars.

The DP will consistently expand the network of public charging stations, further promote private charging stations and facilitate the installation of charging

stations in residential buildings by ensuring that the owners' association cannot refuse them in future without good reason.

3% VAT on sustainable transport

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Gradually moving further away from fuel tourism

Fuel tourism represents the largest share of Luxembourg's CO₂ emissions. In order to achieve the national climate targets, it is essential to gradually phase out fuel tourism. DP will at the same time seek ways to compensate for the loss of revenue from tank tourism.

As part of the introduction of the CO₂ tax, the DP-led government has introduced a tax credit for workers, pensioners and the self-employed, which fully compensates socially disadvantaged households in particular for the additional financial burden. The DP will continue to ensure that the revenues from the CO₂ tax flow back to the citizens, be it directly through social benefits, or indirectly through government subsidies for sustainable projects, such as energy refurbishment. Accordingly, any future increase in the CO₂ tax will also entail an increase in support for low-income households.

Carbon Capture Storage and Use (CCSU)

In some sectors of the economy, capturing, storing and using carbon is the more sensible alternative to completely decarbonising production processes. The DP will support CCSU projects insofar as they meet strict selection criteria, for example significantly higher cost efficiency compared to other processes.

Advancing adaptation to climate change

The DP will undertake a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of climate change on our society in all sectors and update the climate change adaptation

strategy. In doing so, the DP will not only elaborate concrete measures, but also mobilise the necessary financial resources to implement them as soon as possible. The resilience of our society and environment must be strengthened, among other things, through the adaptation of natural and human habitats, the protection of critical infrastructure and the strengthening of public health.

The "worst case" scenario of unchecked global warming should also be taken into account and appropriate measures be taken.

Strengthen flood protection and promote the renaturation of watercourses

The best protection against flooding is to give the water enough space so that it can spread out during heavy rainfall where it causes the least damage, i.e. outside the towns. The DP will ensure that all watercourses nationwide are renaturalised within the bounds of what is feasible. Projects already under way are to be implemented quickly.

In this context, the DP will also ensure that dams that no longer fulfil a practical function are dismantled, taking into account the protection of historical monuments.

Supporting partner countries in climate protection

The effects of the climate crisis are already being felt most strongly in the global South. Climate change threatens to erode people's livelihoods in large parts of the world and forces them to flee their homes. The DP will deepen international cooperation with Luxembourg's partner countries and support them in the energy turnaround and adaptation to climate change. For the DP, it is important to guarantee people a dignified life and to strengthen their resilience in the face of increasing environmental risks.

Further expand climate fund-of-funds

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Guarantee pragmatic and comprehensible rules for strong nature conservation

The DP advocates for a strong legal framework that guarantees a high level of protection of the natural environment. However, lengthy and costly procedures are currently slowing down rapid progress in other equally important areas, such as the expansion of renewable energies or the creation of additional housing. In addition, the interpretation of the Nature Conservation Act has caused discontent and frustration among many citizens in recent years.

The DP stands for ambitious, but proportionate and comprehensible environmental protection policies, decided together with the citizens. Without the acceptance of the population, the protection of local habitats and biodiversity cannot succeed. The DP will closely review the various legal texts with the goal of streamlining and accelerating procedures, avoiding a *duplication of work* ("*double Emploi*") and abolishing superfluous requirements. For the DP, there should be no grey areas or room for interpretation in environmental legislation in the future, which could potentially favour arbitrary interpretation. Instead, clear, transparent and comprehensible criteria should apply as to which work may be carried out under which conditions at which locations.

Among other things, the DP will ensure that energy refurbishment measures and the installation of PV systems on buildings in the green zone can be carried out without the permission of the responsible minister. Smaller works that do not increase the living space should also be possible without much effort. In addition,

the DP will implement the concept of "Nature for a certain time", which exempts landowners from the obligation to compensate for biotopes created on building land. The criteria for erecting or extending agricultural buildings in the green zone should also be simplified and be as pragmatic and comprehensible as possible.

Make the implementation of compensation measures more flexible

According to the current Nature Conservation Act, compensation measures for the destruction of natural habitat may only be carried out on the state land pools. The DP will evaluate the efficiency of this system, both in terms of its effectiveness and in terms of the bureaucratic burden on the stakeholders involved.

In addition, the DP will allow compensation measures to be carried out on private land under certain conditions, provided that the environmental benefits of the measures are guaranteed.

Finally, the DP will create clear criteria that allow the implementation of environmentally friendly measures in the context of a new project to be included in the calculation of ecopoints.

Ensure a greater presence of nature in the villages

In the spirit of greater adaptation to climate change, as well as to increase the well-being of citizens, the DP will ensure that more nature enters our towns and cities. On the one hand, the DP will ensure that all state buildings and squares are adequately greened, be it on the roof, on the façades or on the ground. In addition, the DP will minimise soil sealing in all future state construction projects and investigate to what extent already sealed areas in state ownership can be unsealed.

On the other hand, the DP will support municipalities to create green spaces and trees in their localities and neighbourhoods and to implement further measures to strengthen biodiversity, such as promoting community gardens and *urban farming* projects. To this end, the DP will take stock of the nature pact with the municipalities created in the last legislative period and adjust it if necessary. For example, the DP will support measures to un-seal already sealed areas, such as the deconstruction of gravel gardens.

Implement proactive measures to strengthen nature

While compensation measures are merely a reaction to a previous destruction of nature, the DP will proactively elaborate and implement measures that strengthen and renaturalise our ecosystems. This includes, for example, the development and implementation of an active afforestation strategy, the creation of environmental valuable habitats such as orchards, and the renaturation or reactivation of habitats that are natural carbon reservoirs, especially wetlands and peat lands.

The DP will also enter into cooperation agreements abroad and support projects that also aim for the renaturation or restoration of ecosystems.

Protect forests and manage them sustainably

The DP will intensify ongoing efforts to preserve our forests and adapt to climate change together with private forest owners and environmental organisations to ensure that our forests can continue to fulfil their important functions as habitat, carbon storage and recreation areas in the future.

The DP will complete the reform of the Forest Act started in the current legislative period. The goal of the new Forest Act is to

ensure effective protection of the forest and to ensure sustainable economic use while respecting the property rights of private forest owners.

The DP will also advocate for the local use of domestic timber instead of exporting it to distant countries.

Strengthen ecosystems via financial grants

Different ecosystems play an essential role in the environment, from which people also benefit. For example, peat lands and wetlands store a lot of carbon. Grants already exist for private forest owners to promote sustainable forest management. The DP will create a similar programme that encourages private owners to implement measures, e.g. to enhance biodiversity or organic carbon sequestration on their land, under the condition that a minimum area as well as a minimum duration for implementation are taken into account.

Strengthen soil protection

The active protection of our soils is an absolute priority in terms of nature conservation. The DP will not only prevent the condition of our soils from deteriorating further, but also remediate soils that are already contaminated. In addition, soil erosion must be stopped, which is also an important contribution to climate and disaster protection. For this reason, the DP will create an adequate legal framework for soil protection, which will impose heavy fines in case of illegal littering in the public space.

Expand biological stations

The DP will continue the expansion of a nationwide network of biological stations and continue the existing stations with the goal of covering the entire country. Together with the impacted stakeholders (residents, farmers, municipalities,

community syndicates, nature and forest administration and nature conservation organisations), concrete measures for nature conservation are to be elaborated and implemented.

Sustainable use of rural land

The remunicipalisation/land consolidation law (Remembrement-/Flurbereinigungsgesetz) must be adapted to reality. The DP will therefore introduce a new law to modernise land readjustment, in consultation with the respective districts. The new law aims to improve the productivity of agriculture, hydroponics, forestry and viticulture. The focus should be on the sustainable use of soils.

Strengthen the active role of agriculture in climate protection

Refer to the chapter on Agriculture

Ensure sustainable drinking water management

In the course of climate change, prolonged droughts and irregular rainfall are putting increasing pressure on groundwater. To avoid distribution conflicts over water, an intelligent and sustainable management of this vital resource is of central importance. This includes, on the one hand, an active awareness-raising policy, the promotion of water-saving measures and, on the other hand, the mobilisation of previously unused reserves.

Extend source protection

The DP-led government has designated countless new drinking water protection zones in the past two legislative periods, so that around 90% of the country's springs are protected today. The DP will ensure that the remaining 10% is also protected in a cooperative approach between all stakeholders. The measures in these protected zones are also to be

evaluated and their sustainability examined.

Make greater use of rainwater

The DP will use rainwater as a hitherto little-used alternative to good drinking water for watering plants and in sanitary facilities. The DP will make rainwater harvesting compulsory in all new residential buildings and adjust the related subsidies. In addition, the DP will analyse to what extent the use of grey water can be promoted in the future.

Since with the development of vegetable and fruit cultivation, the demand for water in agriculture will also continue to increase in the coming years, the DP will also introduce subsidies for the construction of cisterns in agricultural use. The DP will continue to seek consensual solutions within the framework of the Water Table, which brings together representatives from government and the agricultural sector, and will, among other things, draw up a national agricultural irrigation plan.

Finally, the DP will support projects to build large-scale (underground) water collection basins into which water can drain during heavy rains, thus preventing flooding. These water reserves can then in turn be used for irrigation during periods of drought, for example.

Improve water protection

The DP will ensure that polluters of our waters, whether from construction sites, illegal waste disposal, or enterprises, are held more accountable. Specifically, the DP will expand the expertise of the agents of the Water Management Office and empower them to impose fines on the spot. Furthermore, the DP will increase the staff of the water management office, increase the penalties for water pollution and create a digital platform with a "report-it" function where citizens can

report pollution directly with photo evidence.

Further expand and modernise waste water treatment plants

A nationwide network of state-of-the-art waste water treatment plants is essential to ensure optimal water protection. The DP will support the waste water syndicates to expand waste water treatment plants nationwide, on the one hand to accommodate the growing population, and on the other hand to equip them with a fourth treatment stage to filter micro-pollutants such as microplastics, pharmaceuticals or pesticides. To this end, the DP will adjust the subsidies for the construction and modernisation of waste water treatment plants and increase state participation.

Implement national solution for the treatment of sewage sludge

Since the import ban on sewage sludge to France, a national solution for the disposal of sewage sludge has become inevitable. The DP supports the plan to build a state-owned incineration plant including phosphorus recovery and will work to ensure that this is implemented in a timely manner.

Modernise the Fishing Act

The DP, in cooperation with all respective stakeholders, will fundamentally modernise the Fishing Act. In particular, the distribution, allocation and administration of fishing lots is to be overhauled and adapted to modern times.

Strengthen the active role of hunting in the field of nature conservation

In the eyes of the DP, hunting is of central importance in nature conservation in general, and in regulating game populations and preventing game damage in particular. The DP will therefore

strengthen cooperation with the hunting community and involve them in working groups on all important issues.

In this way, the DP will work with the hunting community to find solutions to better control the game population, which is exploding due to mild winters and the resulting year-round food supply. In this context, the DP will analyse to what extent hunting with night vision goggles and an extension of the times when hunting is allowed can contribute.

Hotline for wildlife accidents

Many citizens do not know what to do in the event of a wildlife accident. Nowadays, the police have to be notified in the event of a wildlife accident, which causes unnecessary work for them. The DP will set up a hotline run by the Nature and Forestry Department in cooperation with the hunting community to take care of these matters.

Conserve resources, promote circular economy

Instead of disposing of valuable resources, the DP wants to keep them in the cycle for as long as possible and recycle them. The DP relies on a clear waste hierarchy: "*reduce, reuse, recycle*" - waste prevention, reuse and recycling; disposal should only be the very last option.

With the "Zero Offall Lëtzebuerg" strategy and the adoption of the legislative package on waste management, the DP-led government has already set important accents in this area during the last legislative period. For example, disposable cups, plates and tableware are all replaced by reusable products at public festivals and in the catering sector, the generation of packaging waste is reduced and the producers of disposable packaging and products are held more accountable.

The DP will closely monitor the implementation of the respective legal texts, examine the effectiveness of the different measures and adapt the legal framework to strive for a closed material cycle. The DP wants to avoid all disposable products in the medium term and ensure that, as far as possible, only recyclable products are put on the market. For this reason, the DP would like to continue to expand the reusable systems for packaging at the European level. For example, before 2030, all plastic packaging is to be designed in such a way that it can be reused. Furthermore, the DP will consider introducing a ban on businesses destroying their non-sold goods.

In addition, government support programmes for commercial organisations to invest in the circular economy should be strengthened. The DP will also anchor the principle of the circular economy in public tenders, for example to promote circular construction. DP will pay special attention to accompanying programmes for small and medium-sized businesses to enable them to participate in these markets.

The DP will lobby at EU level for a ban on 'planned obsolescence', whereby the lifespan of a product is deliberately limited. In addition, the DP wants manufacturers to design their products from the outset so that they can all be repaired and recycled.

Online waste advice

The DP advocates for an online waste advisory service for citizens. Thanks to the counselling, these are to be informed about the possibilities of waste avoidance, recycling of recyclables, the necessity of correct sorting as well as the proper ways of waste disposal. The online waste advisory service is intended to replace the "Mäin Offall" app developed by the Ministry for the Environment, Climate and

Sustainable Development, which does not work in all municipalities in the country, and to support the population in recycling.

Right to repair

Refer to the chapter on Consumer protection

Make sustainability the guiding principle for government projects

The DP will exercise the state's exemplary function in sustainability more strongly than before and make state administrations pioneers in this area. For example, public buildings are to be planned integrally according to the principles of the circular economy in the future, so that they function as material storages and the building materials can be recycled later.

Priority is to be given to sustainable materials, and the installation of rainwater systems, photovoltaic systems and measures for greening the façade or roof are to become standard.

Sustainability criteria in public tenders

Public tenders represent an important opportunity for the state to set accents in terms of sustainability. The DP will incorporate environmentally friendly, climate-friendly and circular economy-promoting criteria in public tenders as far as possible and, to this end, draw up a model set of specifications for public agencies and institutions.

Improve noise protection

Persistent noise pollution caused by road, air or rail transport, among other things, represents a significant burden on the well-being and health of the people. In recent years, the volume of traffic on our roads, on the railways and at the airport has increased noticeably. Alongside with it, the noise pollution has gone up substantially. The DP will review the

currently valid noise limits and action plans and strengthen noise protection, particularly in residential areas.

Avoidance of excavated soil and designation of additional construction waste landfills

Insufficient capacity in terms of construction waste disposal sites in all areas of the country has been a major problem for the construction industry for years. For example, lorries sometimes have to travel long distances to unload their construction waste, which not only generates additional traffic on our roads, but also unnecessarily prolongs construction projects. More construction waste sites are to be identified in all regions of the country. However, the DP will also work to keep excavation to a minimum.

Education: Ensuring a brighter future for all children

Access to quality education is the basic prerequisite for a self-determined and successful life. In the DP's view, public schools therefore have a key role to play in providing every child with fair opportunities for the future and in imparting skills that meet the requirements of the 21st century. Success at school should not depend on the origin, socio-economic status or language of the parents, but should be open to all children equally.

Under the leadership of the DP, public education has been consistently expanded and diversified over the past two legislatures to meet the individual interests, talents and needs of the students. We will continue to invest in the quality and diversity of the education system and remain true to the principle of "different schools for different children".

The network of public international schools in Esch/Differdingen, Mondorf, Luxembourg City, Junglinster, Mersch and Clerf has been extended; further offers are to follow in Dudelange and Schiffflange/Esch. The possibility of a further school in the surrounding area of Luxembourg City is also being examined.

With the support of the DP, considerable efforts have been made in recent years to improve the quality of childcare facilities and to strengthen non-formal education. After the introduction of 20 hours of free, multilingual early education in kindergartens, free "Maison Relais" were also introduced at the beginning of this school year. The DP has also introduced music lessons, which are largely free of charge, to promote creativity among

children and young people and to facilitate access to culture. All these measures have significantly relieved the financial burden on families.

The DP has developed an innovative concept with the pilot project "alternative literacy" (German and French) in primary school to respond to the large diversity of the pupil population in the Luxembourg school system. In the coming years, the DP plans to further develop and expand these measures.

The DP pays special attention to the well-being of the students. In addition to the pure imparting of knowledge, it is important to us to support the holistic development of the children to the best of our ability. In this way, the promotion of social and emotional skills is to be given an even higher priority in schools in the future.

The DP is aware of the need to prepare children in the best possible way for the challenges of the digital transformation. Digital skills play a crucial role in equal opportunities and educational success. For this reason, the DP will continue to modernise the curricula and adapt them to the challenges of the 21st century. The students should be taught the so-called 4-C skills (creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration) in order to enable them to lead successful and self-determined lives in a digital world.

Childhood

Childcare place guarantee until 2030

In recent years, the DP has introduced quality criteria for non-formal education and supported quality development. In addition, the DP has strongly supported parents financially by making the Maison Relais free during school hours and introducing 20 hours of free childcare for young children. However, one of the main

problems remains in Luxembourg that there are currently not enough childcare places at the municipal level and that there are sometimes long waiting lists. The DP will work with the affected communities to develop concrete action plans to have all waiting lists resolved within 7 years. In doing so, DP will also rely on new financing models. This is to guarantee that from 2030 onwards, all parents in Luxembourg will have a childcare place guarantee.

Combining formal and non-formal education into one educational offer

In many integrated projects, Maison-Relais and schools have been realised in one building project in recent years. In general, the exchange between the two educational institutions has increased in many communities. However, the current legal framework still makes it difficult for Maison-Relais staff to intervene in the school and vice versa. The DP will create the possibility for staff from both structures to work together flexibly. This, in the interest of the children, who should be the focus.

Improve the childcare ratio in the early childhood sector

The DP will improve the childcare ratio in the early childhood sector, which has been in place since 2009. This requires first and foremost a precise analysis of the existing distribution of resources. The DP will have this reform scientifically monitored to ensure that Luxembourg ensures the best childcare conditions for young children in international comparison.

Launch a training offensive and continuously increase the number of qualified employees

The childcare sector has grown strongly in recent years. One of the main problems is finding the necessary qualified employees. With the DAP Education and DAP Auxiliaires d'Inclusion, the DP has created

two new training courses for the field of education. The LTPES and ENAD will open a second site at Belval in the medium term to train additional educators. Through this training offensive, the DP will continuously increase the number of qualified personnel over the coming years.

Luxembourgish courses for childcare staff working with toddlers

In order to further improve the Luxembourgish language skills of the childcare staff, the DP will launch a major language offensive for early childhood care in cooperation with the INL and private language institutes. Courses are offered for beginners aiming for an A1 level as well as for advanced learners aiming for a B2 level.

Improve working conditions of employees (40-hour contracts)

Especially in the Maison-Relais, there are many employees who do not receive a full-time contract for organisational reasons. The DP will work with FEDAS and FELSEA to find a solution to this problem and work to guarantee better working conditions for the employees.

Reform Chèques Service Accueil

The current Chèques Service Accueil system has not been reformed since 2009 and is reaching its limits. The DP will harmonise the funding system between conventional providers and private providers. Commercial considerations should not affect the service provided to children.

Diversify offer

The DP will revise the legislation on "mini-crèches" and make it more attractive. This should create a better mix between smaller and larger structures. The DP will also create further perspectives for the activity of childminders.

Primary school

Skills of the 21st century

Digitisation is shaping the society of today and tomorrow. Applications such as ChatGPT have shown what possibilities lie in artificial intelligence. This raises more than ever the question of the skills of the future that schools should teach so that children and young people can lead successful and self-determined lives in a digital world. These 21st century skills are also called 4C skills: creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. The 5th skill often mentioned is coding. The DP has initiated a broad consultation process in the Ministry of Education on the curriculum of the future. By 2025, the DP will have developed a new primary school curriculum that focuses on future skills. By 2028, the individual programmes will be revised and made more specific by means of pedagogical handouts.

Generalise the alternative literacy model

As one of the most important projects for primary schools, the DP will implement the pilot project of alternative literacy (German and French) in all schools. This fundamental reform aims to guarantee the best possible educational opportunities for all children. For children with Luxembourgish as their first language, German literacy has proven its worth. For children with a migrant background, the public European schools have shown that French literacy leads to very good results. The project is explicitly designed to guarantee the integration of all children. Luxembourgish remains an important language of instruction and students are mixed in the subsidiary subjects.

The goal of the project is that in the C4 all pupils can be taught together and an orientation into the traditional school system is possible.

Expand activities to promote phonological awareness in C1

In recent years, the DP has brought new materials into primary schools to promote phonological awareness. These activities are to be further expanded to prepare the children even better for literacy in C2.

Use a second person selectively in C1

To support the teaching staff in differentiation and targeted activities, the DP will introduce a second person as an intervener in C1 on a selective basis.

Expand international offerings

There is a continued need to expand international offerings in primary school. Depending on the mother tongue, an English-language school offer proves advantageous. But also for pupils who start school in Luxembourg late (in C4) and have started their school career in other countries and in other languages, schooling in international classes is the better option. Depending on the region and the need, the DP will expand the offer of international public primary schools.

Expansion of A-EBS (Assistant pour Enfants à Besoins Spécifiques)

The DP has created more than 750 additional posts to support children with specific needs in the past years since 2017. In the process, the I-EBS (Instituteur Spécialisé pour Enfants à Besoins Spécifiques) was directly anchored in the schools. In addition to this specialised teacher, the DP will appoint an assistant (A-EBS) at DAP level in all schools by 2026. The first 50 assistants will already be deployed for the start of school in 2023/24.

Additional I-EBS (Instituteur Spécialisé pour Enfants à Besoins Spécifiques) for hotspot schools

A study by the Observatoire National has shown that social inequalities cannot be remedied by simply allocating more teaching staff to schools through the so-called quota calculation. Therefore, the DP relies on specialised teachers to support schools with high diversity in the school population and low socio-economic index. Additional I-EBS will be deployed in these schools and will be trained at Master's level in the future.

New perspectives for the primary school teacher (introduce functions at Master's level)

In a convention with the University of Luxembourg, the DP has decided to create three new Master's programmes (School and Teaching Development, Inclusion, School Management) with 60 ECTS credits. Persons who have completed a 4-year (240 ECTS) Bachelor's degree programme such as the BSCE are admitted. In this way, the DP has obtained that the 4th year of teacher training is implicitly counted as the first year of a Master's programme. These degree programmes will also be offered part-time, so that the path to a Master's degree will be possible for anyone interested. Already, specialised teachers (I-EBS, IDS and ICN) are being recruited at Master's level. New functions will be added successively in the future. This will include the school president and the Coordinateur de Cycle, among others, and the areas of responsibility and authority will have to be redefined.

Educational Science School at the Uni.lu

By creating an Educational Science School at the University of Luxembourg, the DP will ensure that sufficient primary school teachers are trained in the future and that the funds earmarked for this purpose are

used for practice-oriented training and research.

Adapt the powers of the municipalities and the state in the field of education

After the transfer of primary school teaching staff from the municipalities to the state in 2009, there are incoherences between the scope of responsibility of both partners in the field of education. The DP wants to revive this partnership by reorganising the responsibilities between the state and the municipalities. In addition to providing the buildings, the municipalities are to be given a stronger role in defining the goals of school development, while the state, in addition to pedagogical supervision, will take over personnel management completely and delegate it to the Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Education. The DP will work out such a reform together with the municipal representatives.

Secondary school

Curriculum 2025: Modernisation of programmes, innovation in methods

Following the example of the "Curriculum 2025" in primary school, the DP will push for the modernisation of programmes in secondary school. In addition to the 4C skills (critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration), other methods of teaching and evaluation are to be focused on. In the meantime, many secondary schools in the country are focusing on project teaching. The DP will support schools in adopting new pedagogical approaches to better prepare students for the future. The subject areas of education for sustainable development, sexual and affective health, drug prevention and financial education are increasingly being incorporated into the curricula.

Expand educational opportunities in all regions

The DP has created many new training opportunities in recent years. These include the new sections I and P in the Lycée classique, but also further degrees in vocational training. In the coming years, the DP will ensure that these trainings are available in all regions of the country.

Further expand European schools in the south and centre of the country

Over the past decades, the diversity of the school population has increased steadily. This poses extraordinary challenges for our education system. One response was the creation of international public schools. Furthermore, there is a great need for French- and English-language school offers, so that the DP will open further accredited European schools in the south and centre of the country. Further locations will be built in the Esch/Schifflange area and in Dudelange. In addition to the EIGT (Ecole Internationale Gaston Thorn), which will continue to grow in the coming years, there is a need for a second agreed European school in the greater Luxembourg City area.

Expand directorates

A key to school development and teaching quality lies in broadly based school boards. High schools are more demanding than a medium-sized company in terms of staff size and organisational challenges. Unfortunately, pedagogical aspects often fall by the wayside. The DP will therefore proceed with the expansion of school directorates in secondary schools. In 2023, a start has already been made on appointing officers for the psychosocial staff department. Further persons responsible for the technical staff and the maintenance of the building as well as for the administrative staff will follow so that

the school management can concentrate more on pedagogical issues.

Compulsory education until 18 years

Every year, around 700 students between the ages of 16 and 18 leave the Luxembourg school system without a diploma. These drop-outs often wish for a further future in the school system. But it is either health, psychological or disciplinary problems that make them leave school. However, youths and young adults without qualifications have little to no chances on the labour market. This is why many countries before Luxembourg have already raised the age limit for compulsory education from 16 to 18. The DP will create new educational opportunities for these students to give them a new perspective in the education system. An important element is the CISP (Centres d'Insertion Professionnelle), where the students receive psycho-social support as well as concrete experience in workshops (carpentry, lock smithery, gardening, etc...) to regain the joy of an education. The DP will further expand the CISP network and link it with secondary schools.

Expanding inclusion in secondary school

Children with specific needs have a right to be educated in mainstream schools. To make this possible, the DP will continue to expand the multidisciplinary teams (Equipes de Soutien pour Enfants à Besoins spécifiques) in secondary schools.

Introduce Child Protection Officer

The DP has legislated that every institution working with children and young people should have clear procedures in place to prevent bullying, abuse and other forms of violence and oppression. The concept of the Child Protection Officer is therefore being introduced in secondary schools. These are trained employees who are available to students as confidants and can

help them protect themselves and assert their rights.

Provide first aid courses for all pupils

The DP has already greatly expanded cardiac arrest resuscitation courses in secondary schools. Also, 500 people have already been trained for courses on recognising mental suffering, such as suicide risk. The DP will offer first aid courses throughout the country, as well as generalise courses on the recognition of mental illness.

School and vocational orientation for every pupil

The DP will further develop the Cellules d'Orientation in the secondary schools and network them with the Maison d'Orientation. In order to support all pupils in their choice of education and future profession, the DP will offer suitable internships in businesses and make them compulsory for all pupils.

No degree without connection

The DP will implement a school guidance programme in the Luxembourg school system similar to the one in North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany). This includes targeted internships in businesses and sectors to explore different occupational fields and thus be able to make a conscious choice of training or career. To be able to cope with this task, the DP will further expand the Cellules d'Orientation in the secondary schools and further link them to the Maison d'Orientation.

Moving school

To counteract the lack of physical activity among children, the DP wants to further promote the concept of "moving schools". The main goal of the project is to integrate physical activity time into regular school hours. Through various measures, such as loosening up phases, moving breaks, movement stations in the classroom and

moving lessons, the children should be taught to enjoy movement and at the same time their ability to concentrate and learn should be increased.

Strengthen financial literacy

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Reduce food waste

Refer to the chapter on Agriculture

Raising awareness for climate protection

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Vocational training

Diversify and modernise training

The DP has led vocational education and training out of the crisis into which it had fallen after the reform of 2009, which was not very effective. Together with the partners in vocational training, the DP has succeeded in creating many new apprenticeships and modernising existing ones in recent years. The DP will continue to build on this basis in the coming legislative period and adapt vocational education and training to developments in society and the economy. Especially in the areas of major social transitions: Green Technologies, Industry 3.0 and Digitalisation.

Expand French and English language offerings

In order to give all pupils in Luxembourg the opportunity to choose a vocational training, the offers in French and also selectively in English must be expanded. The selection of the apprenticeships will be made together with the vocational training partners.

1ère DAP

The DP had already started a project before the pandemic to give students the opportunity to obtain a secondary school diploma with access to higher education and at the same time be able to complete

a DAP-level education. With the DP, the project will be continued in the coming legislative period. The corresponding learning content will be stretched over an additional training year after the "Première". Students will already complete modules of vocational training instead of the option courses in the "Cycle supérieur" and complete the DAP training within one year in the final year after the "Première".

Bringing crafts closer to pupils

In order to bring craftsmanship closer to the pupils at an early age, the DP will introduce a support programme in primary school modelled on the "Kulturama" programme. Just as teachers can draw on artists for educational projects at this one, the DP will create opportunities to connect primary school classes with crafts people through projects. The respective people will be reimbursed for their participation.

Focus on up-skilling and re-skilling

The technological progress is picking up its pace, so many people need to continuously train or even retrain during their working lives. The Luxembourg economy also relies on workers achieving higher qualifications in addition to their professional activity. For this reason, the DP will make great efforts in the area of continuous vocational training to expand education and training opportunities for adults. As part of the tripartite negotiations, the DP had set up the so-called skills table. The DP will implement the resulting OECD study with its recommendations.

Further adult digital skills

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Two additional CNFPC

To be able to achieve the necessary momentum in professional development, the DP will open two more CNFPCs. The current structure of the Munnerefer Lycée

will be converted into a CNFPC with a focus on paramedical and medical professions when the new building is completed, and the current LTB (Lycée Technique de Bonnevoie) building will become a CNFPC with a focus on the service industry (commerce) and gastronomy. This offer complements the current CNFPC in Esch/Alzette (Industry 3.0) with the Digital Learning Hub as well as the CNFPC in Ettelbrück (Green Technologies).

Children and youth welfare

Finalise reform of the protection of minors

With the reform of the Youth Protection Act and the introduction of a Youth Penal Code, the DP will complete a centennial reform that was drafted during the last legislative period. The implementation of this reform will be the focus of the upcoming legislative period.

Networking between child and youth welfare services and schools

The qualifications and possibilities of child and youth welfare services are not yet sufficiently known in schools. The DP will link the regional structures of the ONE with the Cellules d'Inclusion to guarantee that help reaches those places where it is needed. Problems and interventions in the family belong to the area of child and youth welfare, while the school should focus on the area of school inclusion.

Drive quality development together with stakeholders

With the Social Lab, the DP has created a participatory body through which child and youth welfare stakeholders could be involved in the elaboration of a quality framework. The DP will continue to use this model to further boost momentum and promote quality development.

Youth

Expand youth centres

Together with the municipalities, the DP will push for a systematic expansion of the youth houses. Adequate funding should ensure that each municipality has an adequate local or regional offer according to its number of inhabitants. Youth centres are an important stakeholder in non-formal education. In order to give young people the opportunity to develop their interests and important skills for the future, the DP will expand and diversify the services offered by the youth houses. The DP will encourage the youth houses to develop the following offers over the coming years: Ateliers where the young people can do handicrafts and realise projects together. Makerspaces where young people can familiarise themselves with digital technologies. Music and painting studios where the young people can engage in artistic activities. Participatory structures such as the Youth Community Council in which young people can get involved and learn to discuss together. Gaming evenings and e-gaming competitions where young people can play against and with each other.

Promoting cultural exchange in Europe

Refer to chapter on European and Foreign Policy

Recognise and promote e-sports

Refer to chapter on Sport

Labour law: Better balance for both work and private life

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, the government has safely manoeuvred our country through the pandemic and the energy and inflation crisis. Especially in times of crisis, the DP has proven that it leaves no one out in the rain. We have saved tens of thousands of jobs with decisive action and intelligent crisis measures. The DP will continue to stand for responsible economic and labour policies that create secure and well-paid jobs and prosperity instead of endangering them.

With three successfully concluded tripartite negotiations, the DP has strengthened the social dialogue as a tried and tested successful model in Luxembourg. We have preserved the index mechanism and, with the help of socially graduated direct aid and tax credits amounting to billions, we have strengthened people's purchasing power, having already increased the minimum wage by 100 euros net before the pandemic.

The Democratic Party stands for a modern labour law that takes into account the needs of both workers and employers and also restores the necessary appreciation for self-employment.

The DP is committed to a high quality of life at all stages of life. This includes a better reconciliation of family and work. By creating flexible working time models, we want to give people more time for family and leisure.

The DP will safeguard state pensions, provide more support for private pension provision and make the voluntary

transition from working life to retirement more flexible.

For a modern and liberal labour law

Our labour law offers workers a high level of protection. In some respects, however, it is outdated and not adapted to the demands of today and the wishes of many workers for more flexibility. Some labour law instruments have not fulfilled their desired purpose, lead to a high administrative burden, remained ineffective or are not in the interest of workers, such as the rigid and inflexible working time rules. The DP will review the entire labour law to ensure that it is goal-oriented and, if necessary, revise it. The DP also needs more flexibility in intra-company agreements between employers and workers.

More time for family and hobbies: Balancing life and work

Every individual's life is different and goes through different phases in which people sometimes want to work more, sometimes less. The DP wants to take this individuality into account in the best possible way. In previous legislative periods, the DP has already enabled workers to have more time for family and hobbies by reforming parental leave, upgrading paternity leave and introducing an additional day of celebration and leave.

At the same time, we reject ill-conceived experiments that endanger jobs in Luxembourg. The study commissioned by the government on the opportunities and dangers of a general reduction in working hours has clearly shown that under the current circumstances there are more potential dangers from a reduction in working hours than proven opportunities for such a reduction. Especially in difficult economic times, it would be irresponsible to put jobs at risk like this. The DP will by no means close its mind to a discussion on

modern working time models and is willing to support businesses to try out working time reductions on a voluntary basis.

Making working hours flexible in the interest of workers and employers

The DP will enable people to organise their work so that they can spend more time with their family. We continue to strive for a family-friendly flexibilisation of working time by dissolving the current rigid regulations and introducing an annual working time (e.g. 1,800 hours). At the same time, worker protection, for example in the form of maximum working hours per day and week, which will continue to apply, is to be guaranteed. Only in exceptional cases should longer working hours be allowed, with corresponding financial compensation, so that employers- such as craft enterprises- can better react to unforeseen circumstances.

The corresponding surcharges for Sunday and public holiday work will of course continue to apply. The digital availability of workers must also have clear limits for the DP. A more flexible regulation of working time should also allow businesses to adapt to a permanently changing economic environment and contribute to an increase in productivity. We will therefore seek a reform of the current European Working Time Directive.

In future, working hours should be negotiated individually between workers and employers without being unnecessarily restricted by inflexible labour law. We do not want to abolish the traditional 40-hour week, but we want to give more flexibility to people who are not interested in a 9 to 5 job. Workers and employers who do not want this can continue to rely on the existing regulation.

Young families in particular, who are in the 'rush hour of life', will be the big winners of our flexibilisation initiative. Many

parents would like to arrange their working hours so that they can spend more time with their children. Employers will also benefit from this scheme, as they will be able to use their workforce more efficiently and exactly when they are needed most. The flexibilisation of working time that we seek is to be combined with the general introduction of working time accounts and the greater use of home office.

Introduce working time accounts in general

Working time accounts are a successful model in the public and various sectors. These time accounts allow employees to organise their working time and free time more flexibly. The DP will make this instrument available to every worker by law. Workers shall be able to transfer overtime and remaining leave to a personal working time account. The hours saved during busy periods can be used, for example, for family time, a longer holiday trip, sabbatical time or further training.

The exact modalities of the labour accounts are to be discussed with the social partners in order to achieve balanced decisions between workers and employers. In conjunction with the DP's planned flexibilisation of working hours, the introduction of working time accounts will give the workers considerably more freedom to organise work and leisure time.

Promote teleworking

In the course of digitisation, working from home is increasingly becoming an alternative for many employees and businesses. Since the pandemic at the latest, teleworking has proven its advantages: Long journeys to the office are no longer necessary and workers who work from home have more time for their family and hobbies. Government has improved teleworking regulations in the public sector and concluded bilateral

agreements with our neighbouring countries so that cross-border workers can also work from home several days a year without tax disadvantages. The DP will review with the social partners how telework can be further promoted within businesses.

Remote working- promoting location-independent work

In addition to traditional teleworking, i.e. working from home, we want to give workers additional flexibility in choosing where they work. This should make it possible to work temporarily from a different location than home. This can be done both within Luxembourg and temporarily abroad. To this end, we want to create a legal framework for remote working in order to provide employees and businesses with the necessary legal certainty. Employers are to be supported through subsidies.

Promote telework through modern tax law

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Strengthen the right of non-availability

The advancing digitisation of the world of work can lead to a blurring of the boundaries between work and leisure time. This can create a culture of permanent accessibility, which has a negative impact on the well-being, health and work-life balance of workers. For these reasons, the DP will strengthen the right of non-availability. In cooperation with the social partners, we will work to ensure that this right is respected in all areas.

Overview of earmarked special holidays on MyGuichet

There are many special leave days that workers can apply for in the context of further training or sporting and cultural activities. The DP will review all existing special holidays for consistency and harmonise them where necessary. Workers

should be able to apply for these earmarked special leaves in a centralised manner via their working time account, so that they have an overview of the days of leave still available at any time.

Promote re-skilling and up-skilling

Re-skilling and up-skilling play a crucial role in helping people meet the demands of a changing working world of work. The DP will carefully examine the existing possibilities and offers and adapt them if necessary. In this context, the promotion of in-house continuing vocational training will also be analysed.

Promote digital skills of adults

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Right to part-time work

Refer to chapter on Family policy

Promote decentralised workplaces- create regional co-working spaces

Refer to chapter on National planning

Adapt Sunday working hours to the needs of workers and consumers

Buying behaviour has changed in recent years and people are increasingly turning to e-commerce offerings. This is available round-the-clock, accessible from home at the click of a mouse and can thus be easily integrated into everyday life. The goal is more flexibility and a pragmatism that accommodates businesses, employees and customers. The DP therefore advocates for a reform of Sunday working hours. This way e-commerce does not become an unbeatable competition to retail, but fits into the system in a complementary manner.

In addition to the liberalisation of opening hours (see chapter Economy), the DP will allow every worker to work up to eight hours on Sundays. Of course, the increased remuneration prescribed by law will be maintained. This step would

particularly benefit employees who take longer trips to work, especially cross-border commuters. In addition, opening shops on Sundays means greater flexibility for customers.

Exempt overtime from social contributions and taxes

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Leave in case of miscarriage, stillbirth or premature birth resulting in the death of the newborn

The loss of a child is a traumatic experience, this also applies to the loss of an unborn child. In order to give parents time to process the terrible experience of a miscarriage or stillbirth, the DP will extend special leave for parents in the event of the death of a child to the death of an unborn child.

Facilitate the hiring of staff by the hour

Belgium and France introduced cheques a few years ago which private individuals can use for services (household help, gardening, childcare, etc.). In Belgium, these cheques are co-financed by the state. A private individual buys an hour of work from a service provider for a certain amount of money. The state finances the remaining costs of the working hour. In addition, the private individual can benefit from tax reductions.

The DP sees such a system first as a way of combating undeclared work in private households. Secondly, such service vouchers would also be beneficial in some areas of work, for example in the catering or event industry, where additional staff are spontaneously needed to help out for a very short period of time during labour-intensive periods. Where complicated social security reporting procedures currently complicate the work of businesses, these cheques promise to save a substantial amount of time.

Sticking to the index mechanism

With three successfully concluded tripartite negotiations, the DP has strengthened the social dialogue as a tried and tested successful model in Luxembourg. We have maintained the index mechanism even in times of crisis and strengthened people's purchasing power through additional tax measures and direct aids.

To ensure that salaries are regularly adjusted to inflation in the future, DP will stick to the current index system. Only if the social partners agree on a reform, such as adjusting the basket of goods to neutralise products that are harmful to health and the climate, is the DP willing to make changes to the index system.

Targeted support for minimum wage recipients without endangering jobs

The DP sticks to the planned legal adjustment of the minimum wage. In addition, the impact of any minimum wage increase on the economy and the unemployment rate should be reviewed. In the last legislative period, the government increased the minimum wage by 100 euros net, without this increase being entirely at the expense of enterprises. The DP will continue to focus more on benefits and socially adjusted tax credits in favour of low-income earners, which should not be at the expense of the competitiveness of businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.

Strengthen social dialogue in businesses

The social dialogue is one of the great strengths of our country. In negotiations at national level as well as at company level and in the public sector, the social dialogue contributes to finding constructive solutions. The DP will continue the tradition of the social dialogue. The DP believes that decisions on work organisation should increasingly be taken

at company level, as employers and workers know best the specific needs of their company. The DP will therefore strengthen staff delegations and promote negotiation possibilities at company level, and in return examine overly rigid rules of labour law.

Valuing self-employment and creating equality with employees

The Corona crisis has shown us injustices faced by the self-employed compared to employees. The DP appreciates the work of freelancers and self-employed people and wants to eliminate inequalities in the treatment of workers and freelancers and thus motivate more young people to become self-employed. We will, for example, introduce the right to short-time work for the self-employed and abolish unequal treatment in relation to the accumulation of early retirement pension with earned income or claiming full unemployment.

Open unemployment benefits for workers who have resigned

At the moment, only workers who have been made redundant by their employer can apply for unemployment benefits. The DP believes that workers should not be punished if they no longer feel comfortable in their jobs and resign of their own free will. We will therefore make unemployment benefits accessible to these people as well. In order to prevent abuses, each worker may make use of this new right once in his or her career. In addition, the person's unemployment benefit will be withdrawn if he or she does not make the necessary efforts to find a new job.

Improve health and well-being in the workplace

The physical and mental health of workers must be guaranteed at all times. Following the French model, the DP wants to

introduce a national observatory on quality of life at work in order to promote well-being in the work environment. This includes not only good working conditions, but also consideration of employees' private lives.

Modernising occupational medicine

The DP will clearly define the qualifications of occupational health practitioners and allow them to work in independent medical practices. Medical practitioners working for the National Occupational Health Authority should be allowed to issue sanctions for offences - such as disregarding deadlines for medical recruitment examinations.

The DP will take measures to significantly reduce the workload of occupational health services in order to optimise occupational health care and reduce the shortage of occupational health practitioners.

The DP will take measures to optimise the administration's monitoring of sick leave in order to prevent abuses.

Reform the Reclassification law ("Reclassement")

It is far too common for occupational and medical control administrations to provide conflicting assessments of a worker's ability to work. In such cases, insured persons often risk losing their jobs or sickness benefits through no fault of their own. The DP will therefore review the introduction of an obligatory joint assessment of an insured person's ability to work by both, the occupational and the control physician.

Secure and good pensions for everyone

Our pension reserves are currently still well-filled. Over the period 2013-2020, reserves have increased by 88%. To ensure secure pensions in the future, we will continuously analyse income and

expenditure and, if necessary, make adjustments to safeguard the state pension system and intergenerational justice.

Promote occupational and private pension provision

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Introduce pension splitting

The DP will overcome the legal hurdles standing in the way of the introduction of pension splitting and ensure that couples can benefit from pension splitting in the future. We will also review the introduction of compulsory insurance during career breaks to prevent old-age poverty, especially for widows and widowers.

Remove limit for "additional earnings" for early retirement pension (under 65)

The DP will help both employers and employees to find common solutions for working longer in old age, if the latter wish to do so. In Luxembourg, the regular old-age pension can be claimed from the age of 65. However, under various conditions, many of our fellow citizens receive an early retirement pension (Pension de vieillesse anticipée) at the age of 57 or 60. The current legal situation limits the supplementary earnings possibilities in the case of an early retirement pension, in most cases, to one third of the social minimum wage. If the income is above this limit, the pension is reduced or even withdrawn.

The DP wants to give retirees the opportunity to continue working if they wish to do so and leave them free to earn as much as they want. This additional income should be subject to social contributions and taxes and lead to higher pension entitlements.

In addition to the desire of many retirees to remain active at an older age, working

longer at an old age is an important measure for transferring knowledge to younger employees and helps to counteract the shortage of skilled workers.

Better pension rights for assisting spouses/life partners ("conjoint aidant")

The legal framework of *conjoint aidant* is outdated and needs to be reformed. Currently, the law stipulates that the partner of a self-employed person must be affiliated with the social security system as a *conjoint aidant* in order to be covered by social security. The concept of part-time does not yet exist for the *conjoint aidant*. The DP advocates that such inequalities be abolished and that the *conjoint aidant* can also contribute up to five times the minimum wage to the pension. In addition, we want to provide more flexibility by allowing the *conjoint aidant* to choose between different contribution variants. Depending on the income from the business or self-employment, the assisting spouse or partner could contribute e.g. double, triple or quadruple the minimum wage to the pension.

Zero tolerance of bullying and discrimination in the workplace

The DP condemns any kind of bullying or discrimination. We are committed to the anti-bullying law that was passed in the last legislative period. We will conduct an evaluation of the law after two years to analyse its impact and make any adjustments.

Continue to fight unemployment and skills shortages through further education and training

Our unemployment rate is a relatively low 4.9%. In order to consistently counteract both unemployment and the shortage of skilled workers, we will promote further training initiatives and financially support company participation.

Equally, the DP will increasingly analyse the needs on the labour market in order to identify skill shortages at an early stage and to be able to initiate appropriate measures quickly.

Setting new impulses against the shortage of skilled workers

Refer to the chapter on Economic policy

Maintain a balance between private education and public recruitment

In many cases, young professionals are trained in the private sector and then later move to the civil service, municipalities or semi-state organisations. This can lead to an imbalance, as the private sector may not get enough qualified young people, while the public sector benefits from trained professionals. The DP will ensure that there is a balance between the training of young professionals in the private sector and their recruitment by the state, municipalities and semi-state organisations. The DP believes that the public sector should train at least as many people as they take onboard from the private sector.

Further training offensive for the hard-to-place unemployed

The DP will launch a training offensive for the hard-to-place unemployed. Within just one month of reporting unemployment, the ADEM must provide the unemployed person with a training plan. We also want to hold job seekers themselves accountable and demand their own initiative. We will also redefine the thresholds which are reasonable preventing job seekers from arbitrarily rejecting jobs offered to them. In the case of abusive behaviour, we want the financial penalties to be applied consistently.

Actively accompany artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence is developing at a rapid pace and will influence all areas of our lives. This development entails risks but also opportunities for the working world. Monotonous and time-consuming work will no longer be part of people's jobs in the future. They can use their time more productively, creatively and innovatively. The DP will keep an eye on the further development of artificial intelligence, introduce necessary regulations to protect people and actively accompany workers and employers to adapt to the new realities with a wide range of training opportunities.

Consistently fight social dumping

The victims of social dumping, which also occurs in Luxembourg, are both the workers concerned and the Luxembourgish businesses. The DP will consistently fight social exploitation. Even in the case of minor violations of the applicable law, the penalties imposed by the ITM shall always be reasonable and in fair proportion to the offences committed.

Family policy: For a better way of living together

The DP advocates a contemporary family policy that focuses on the well-being of children and parents. Under the impetus of the DP, family policy has been thoroughly modernised in the past legislative periods. Thanks to the flexibilisation and better remuneration of parental leave, as well as the upgrading of paternity leave from two to ten days, we have enabled all parents to take a stronger role in joint family life. Families were given more time for each other and thus strengthened their bond with their children. The indexation of child benefits, the introduction of free Maison Relais and free access to music lessons also relieved the financial burden on families. The introduction of the REVIS ("revenu d'inclusion sociale") especially counteracted poverty among children and single parents.

The "time" factor will continue to be at the forefront of our actions. We want to enable parents to divide family time and work even more flexibly and according to their own needs. We will therefore take further concrete measures to improve the compatibility of family and work.

For the DP, every person should be able to decide freely and self-determinedly at every stage of life where and how they want to live. This is especially true for our senior citizens. In this context, a far-reaching reform concerning the quality of services for the elderly was initiated under the leadership of the DP. It strengthens their rights and ensures a high quality of the services they use within the framework of, for example, old people's homes or care services.

In addition, this reform finally leads to more transparency with regard to prices and services offered as well as their quality. Equally, the DP wants to ensure that everyone can afford a room in a retirement and nursing home regardless of their means. Therefore, the urgently needed reform of the so-called "*Accueil g erontologique*" was developed. It will provide more resources to people in need, cover basic needs financially and guarantee a so-called pocket money that enables active participation in social life.

Thanks to the efforts of the DP, the bed capacity in the senior citizens' area was significantly expanded. There are currently over 6,600 beds in 53 different facilities in Luxembourg. Additional beds are being planned for the coming years to meet the increasing demand for nursing beds. The DP will ensure that sufficient beds continue to be available in the future and that older people have the opportunity to lead a self-determined life.

With the new law on the accessibility of public spaces, streets and residential buildings, we have made a significant contribution to the autonomy of people with disabilities. In the future, all places used by the public, including the common areas of private housing, must be accessible without barriers. We thus strengthen the free mobility and self-determination of persons with disabilities. We have also improved the accessibility of various products and services by implementing a new EU directive. The creation of an advisory board for accessibility also promotes the active involvement of those affected.

In addition to accessibility, we are also concerned with strengthening social cohesion and cultural exchange at the local level. For this reason, the DP-led Ministry of Family Affairs launched the pilot project "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen" in 2021, in

which more than 30 municipalities are now participating. This project strengthens the integration of new fellow citizens, the peaceful coexistence in the community and the active inclusion of all citizens. The pilot project will be replaced and expanded by the future law on intercultural coexistence.

The fight against poverty and social exclusion is another important focus for the DP. In the current legislative period, we have taken numerous measures to provide targeted support for people on low incomes. Our central concern here was to make solidarity the guiding principle. The regular adjustment of the minimum wage and the REVIS to wage and price developments, the introduction of the energy premium and the upgrading of the cost-of-living allowance ("Allocation de vie chère") have mitigated the impact of the energy crisis for lower-income households. To ensure even better support for the most vulnerable members of our society in the future, the government has also implemented a 50% increase in staff in the social welfare offices.

Family

Expand parental leave and make it more flexible

The reform of parental leave has proved to be an enormous success. The flexibilisation and the introduction of adequate financial support have led to significantly more families taking up parental leave. The sharp increase in the number of fathers making use of the reform is particularly pleasing. This led to all parents being able to take on a stronger role in family life and strengthened parental bonds with the children. The DP wants to continue to strengthen parents' freedom of choice and, if necessary, to adapt the legal

provisions on parental leave even better to the individual needs of family life.

Furthermore, we will advocate for an expansion of parental leave. Together with the social partners, we will work out solutions with the goal of extending parental leave by up to three months.

Right to part-time work

The DP wants to negotiate, together with the social partners, a temporary right to part-time work for all parents who have children under 13. In doing so, the DP will examine to what extent this period can be financially compensated within the framework of the pension insurance.

Make maternity leave more flexible

The circumstances of mothers-to-be can vary greatly from person to person. In order to meet the different needs of future mothers, we want to give women the freedom to take maternity leave more flexibly for up to six weeks, according to their personal circumstances, in agreement with their doctor and their employer.

Extend paternity leave from ten to fifteen days

To further strengthen the bond between newborns and fathers, the DP wants to extend paternity leave from ten to fifteen days with full pay. The costs are largely covered by the state. The five additional days of leave are to be taken flexibly in consultation with the employer within a period of three months after the birth or adoption. Same-sex couples should also be able to take advantage of this leave.

Leave for carers (congé d'aidant)

As part of the European Directive 2019/1158, the right to leave for carers for five working days per year was enshrined. The DP wants to extend this right, which is currently limited to persons

living in the same household, in certain cases. Especially households in which, for example, one or more persons with a disability or single parents live, cannot make full use of this well-intended measure. Therefore, the DP wants to extend this right of leave under certain conditions to persons living outside the household, if authorised to do so by the persons concerned.

Increase child benefit

The DP will continue to index the child benefit on a regular basis. In addition, the DP will take targeted measures to cushion the costs associated with children for parents. Since a STATEC study commissioned by the Ministry of Family Affairs has shown that there is a funding gap for children over the age of 12, the DP will specifically increase child benefits for this age group.

Leave in case of miscarriage, stillbirth or premature birth resulting in the death of the newborn

Refer to chapter on Work

Extend adoption rights

The classic family has evolved and many different family forms have become established over the past decades. The Adoption Act is intended to take into account societal models as they exist today. By introducing a modern law and facilitating adoptions for unmarried couples and individuals, inequalities should be abolished and the best interests of the child should be put at the centre.

Automatic recognition of the non-birth parent

Lesbian couples currently have to go through a lengthy adoption procedure in order for the non-birth mother to adopt their child. Also, this procedure can start at the earliest three months after the birth of the child. Gay couples are subject to the

same rules in the case of a foreign birth. The same conditions do not apply to heterosexual couples. To eliminate the inequality in treatment between heterosexual and homosexual couples, the DP advocates for automatic recognition of same-sex parents.

Seniors

Ensure quality and increase controls

The DP is committed to ensuring and controlling the quality of services for older citizens, for example in old people's and nursing homes as well as mobile care services, day centres, meals on wheels, tele alarm and other services for senior citizens. The present draft law 7524 defines very high-quality standards, creates price transparency and strengthens the rights of seniors vis-à-vis service providers. Complaint rights are improved, ethics councils are set up and a standing committee is created to ensure and further develop quality. We will implement this law consistently in the coming years and review its efficiency after three years to ensure that the structures meet the objective quality criteria necessary for high-quality services.

Every person should be able to afford a room in a retirement or nursing home

The DP will ensure that everyone can afford a room in a retirement or nursing home in the future. Therefore, the DP recently introduced a draft law in parliament that significantly improves the current money rates of the so-called "Accueil gérontologique", upgrades the so-called pocket money and introduces additional financial support to cover the costs of basic hygiene products, hand and bath towels, washing clothes and access to telecommunication services. The DP will implement this law quickly.

In addition, the DP hopes that the price transparency created by the new Quality Act will help stabilise prices in old people's and nursing homes.

Ensure reliability of Adapto and Mobibus

Refer to chapter on Mobility

Further expand long-term care insurance

The benefits of long-term care insurance only apply from a care need of 3.5 hours per week and an expected duration of care of more than six months. In addition, various services, such as the costs of preparing and administering medication, are not covered by long-term care insurance. These costs are currently borne by the elderly themselves. The DP will therefore review the benefits catalogue of the long-term care insurance, develop new models and adapt them if necessary.

Guarantee medical care in the old people's and nursing homes

The DP has worked to ensure that medical care remains guaranteed in old people's and nursing homes during nights, holidays and weekends. The DP will continue this convention with the doctors in the future.

Using modern technologies in the field of old age and care

To improve the quality of care, the DP wants modern technologies to make greater inroads into the old-age and care sector. These include digital health monitoring solutions, telemedicine and telecare, and the use of robotics. This way, we hope to help promote the independence and well-being of the elderly and at the same time relieve the nursing staff. In addition, unnecessary, costly and stressful transfers to hospitals for the residents can be avoided in the future, thereby improving the residents' quality of life.

Create structures for the time after a hospital stay

Older people in particular have difficulties returning home after a hospital stay, as their house, housing or immediate family environment cannot cope with the new circumstances (limited mobility, specific medical care...). The DP therefore wants to create structures for people who need care services for a certain period of time after a medical intervention. On the one hand, this will relieve the hospitals and provide people with high-quality care in a safe and supervised environment.

Increasing the attractiveness of the nursing professions

In this legislature, we have created new training opportunities for health and nursing staff, including four bachelor's degree programmes in specialised nursing sciences. To further increase the attractiveness of these professions, we will create more bridges between educational opportunities and ensure that students can carry on their continued trainings from one level to the next. In addition, we will conduct an in-depth analysis and review of the distribution of tasks between doctors, nurses and ancillary staff in order to give more responsibility to the less qualified professionals as well. We will also continue to promote the attractiveness of wages and working conditions.

Prepare carers and family carers (aidants informels) for specific challenges

In order to prepare caregivers for specific challenges in dealing with older people, the DP will offer specific additional training on a mandatory basis for some of the nursing staff. This is especially important when dealing with people suffering from dementia or people who need end-of-life care. In addition, we will provide training and specific support for people caring for a relative at home.

Create modern structures

The DP will continue to financially support the construction and modernisation of old people's and nursing homes. New housing and living concepts will be given special attention, especially for people for whom their own home has become too big on the one hand and who, on the other hand, are not yet ready to move into a retirement or nursing home. We will therefore support projects that close this gap in services and offer older citizens a safe and varied environment that ensures easy access to doctors as well as to care or other necessary services.

Fighting social isolation of older citizens and working towards an inclusive society

The old people's and nursing homes, the so-called "clubs seniors" and the voluntary services are intended to bring people, young and old, together and make their contribution against social isolation and towards an inclusive society. We want to expand the activities of the "clubs seniors" and cover all communes within the next five years. We will promote initiatives for intergenerational housing and activities.

Inform, sensitise and educate

We will further improve the information available for older people by bundling the countless offers and initiatives on the "LuxSenior" website and making them easily accessible. In addition, the DP will conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns and create training opportunities in order to offer older people themselves or the people in their immediate environment the necessary assistance they need depending on their situation in life. This also affects people's transition from active working life to retirement. Furthermore, the DP will support the partners who train older people and promote voluntary work among older people.

Inclusion

Consistently implement the National Action Plan for People with Disabilities

Luxembourg signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30 March 2007. It is the first international convention to specifically regulate the rights of persons with disabilities. On its basis, a national action plan for persons with disabilities was drawn up for the period 2019-2024, which we will consistently implement and evaluate together with those affected. The goal of this Action Plan is to develop a broad range of solutions that enable all people to live in an inclusive society that is open to all and draws its strength from its diversity. We will consistently implement the objectives formulated in this action plan. These are about awareness raising, equal recognition before the law, independent living and inclusion in the community, the right to freedom of expression, opinion and access to information, education, health, work and employment, and participation in political and public life.

Guarantee accessibility

Accessibility is an essential element for the participation of people with disabilities in social and professional life. The law of 7 January 2022 on the accessibility of places open to the public, public roads and apartment buildings represents a milestone in the field of accessibility. We will implement this law consistently and expand it if necessary. It provides for financial aid in a first phase and high penalties in a second phase to ensure that publicly accessible places are made barrier-free or, if possible, converted.

Revise protective measures for people suffering from a disability

We want adults under protection to be supported in their decisions and activities,

rather than having others decide on their behalf. That is why we want to revise the legislation on the protection of adults in need of support and strengthen the rights of people with disabilities.

Accessible media for all

For all people to be able to participate equally and self-determinedly in social, cultural and political life, they must have access to information in a way they can understand. For people with low language skills or cognitive impairments, however, news broadcasts are still largely incomprehensible. Therefore, in the future we want to organise a weekly TV programme with the most important news in simple language and in sign language. This programme will be complemented by a website in easy language and will also be available on social media.

A central contact point for "barrier-free communication"

The Ministry for Family and Integration has recently created a contact point for "barrier-free communication", which is currently under construction. We want to further expand this structure and establish it as a central contact point for the placement of sign language interpreters, the training and support of employers as well as raising awareness about "barrier-free communication".

Making communication from government, parliament, the judiciary and public administrations barrier-free

The DP has significantly improved public state communication for people with disabilities in recent years. Nevertheless, the result is not yet satisfactory. Therefore, we will improve and further develop accessible public communication in the state so that all people have free access to public information.

Train more sign language interpreters

The DP was instrumental in getting sign language officially recognised by law in Luxembourg. Nevertheless, in Luxembourg we often have to resort to interpreters from abroad because we do not have enough local specialised staff. In the future, we want to expand the national pool of sign language interpreters by offering more opportunities for learning this language and strengthening the attractiveness of this profession. We also want to motivate caregivers and teachers to learn some basic sign language skills.

Introduction of a leisure assistant for people with disabilities

We want to introduce a "leisure assistant" who accompanies people with disabilities in various hobbies (sports, excursions, going to concerts and cinemas, club gatherings, festivals). The leisure assistant assists with the preparation, planning and implementation of the activities. The costs are to be shared between the state and the beneficiary.

One-stop shop for the establishment of a potential disability

Currently, there is no clear definition in Luxembourg law of what we mean by the term "disability" and what criteria must be used to determine a physical or mental disability. Therefore, we want to create a new system to identify the special needs of people with disabilities. This one-stop shop is designed to fully analyse and evaluate a person's physical and mental impairments and identify specific needs.

The advantage of this structure is that people with disabilities no longer have to turn to multiple specialists depending on the ministry and the public service they need, but their specific needs are identified in one place. It is also an easy and quick way for people to find out about

the range of social and other services available to people with disabilities.

More autonomy for people with disabilities: Budget for personal assistance

People with disabilities should, as far as possible, be able to decide for themselves which state or private services they want to use. Nowadays, however, it is still too often decided from the top down which services a person must receive. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the DP therefore wants to strengthen not only the right of persons with disabilities to have a say, but above all their right to self-determination. They should therefore be able to purchase the services and care they need for a barrier-free life in a self-determined way and receive financial support for this. The DP will develop a "personal assistance budget" adapted to Luxembourg's requirements.

Promote autonomous and semi-autonomous living

We will continue to promote autonomous and semi-autonomous living for people with disabilities so that they can lead a self-determined life. In doing so, we will ensure that any necessary assistance and care services are guaranteed.

In addition, we want to promote inclusive housing, for example in a partnership between people with disabilities and students, but also within the framework of new large public housing projects, where we want to promote housing in apartment buildings in town or village centres that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Improve access to the first and second labour market for people with disabilities

We will fundamentally revise the law from 2003, which regulates the status of the so-called "salarié handicapé", and adapt it to today's needs. This applies in particular to

the evaluation and orientation as well as the the minimum income (RPGH) for the people concerned.

In addition to expanding the existing "Ateliers Protégés", we will support people with disabilities even more specifically in their integration into the primary labour market. We want to raise awareness among private sector stakeholders about the "activité d'assistance à l'inclusion" and thus encourage them to recruit or retain people with disabilities.

Communicate, raise awareness and inform

We will continue to raise awareness and provide information for a barrier-free society. In addition, we want to hear the voice of people with disabilities and ensure a regular and active exchange of views with them.

Poverty and homelessness

Strengthen REVIS beneficiaries and adjust cash benefits

The REVIS Act has the goal of empowering people, building on their skills and providing them with basic security. In this reform, a great deal of emphasis was placed on offering people prospects for the future and, as far as possible, actively strengthening and accompanying them on their way out of social destitution. We will continue to adapt the services to the specific needs of those affected and create additional training and work opportunities depending on the level of skill of those affected. We will also continue to adjust REVIS amounts in line with wage and price developments. We will incorporate the temporary financial support to compensate for part of the energy costs in the form of the so-called "équivalent crédit impôt" amounting to € 84 per month into the REVIS basic amount after 31 December 2024.

Adjust the cost-of-living allowance to the price development

We will also maintain the cost-of-living allowance (Allocation de vie chère) and regularly adjust it to price developments.

Revise the Social Assistance Act

The range of social assistance measures can vary greatly from municipality to municipality. In the spirit of equality and equal opportunities, the DP will review the Social Welfare Act for weaknesses and improve it where necessary. We will discuss the possible introduction of nationwide uniform criteria and measures in the field of social assistance together with all social assistance stakeholders.

Strengthen social welfare offices and create a digital "Office Social"

We want to strengthen the social welfare offices in their work in a targeted manner and promote dialogue among them so that the best possible social welfare can be guaranteed throughout the country. In addition to the traditional social welfare offices in the municipalities, we also want to introduce a "digital Office Social". This platform is meant to inform people about the different services.

Decentralised structures for the homeless

We will revisit the provision of Housing First structures for homeless people across the country and create a new strategy to achieve the goals of the Lisbon Convention. In this innovative concept, the provision of a permanent residence comes first and is complemented by voluntary care services (for example, help with addiction problems).

In addition, we want to adapt the classic structures to the needs of specific profiles in order to provide more individualised support. Thus, we will open several decentralised and small structures specifically for women and older people.

Develop a national action plan against poverty

The fight against poverty is not limited to one section of society, but must be conducted in parallel and at different levels in order to be effective. Many administrations already offer a range of assistance and support. However, as the departments function independently of each other, the work is sometimes uncoordinated and cannot fully serve its purpose.

In order to address the fight against poverty in a concrete and integral way, the DP wants to elaborate a national action plan that promotes inter-ministerial cooperation, holds out the prospect of efficient aid and also involves the social partners in order to realise the full potential of the action plan.

More emergency shelters, social housing and Housing First

The housing problem in the country is real and it is clear to the DP that every municipality must get involved to help solve the problem. With this in mind, the DP will create more emergency shelters together with the municipalities, further promote social housing and Housing First in the municipalities. In addition, the DP will reserve and provide housing for people in special need in large public housing projects.

For a better coexistence

Promoting intercultural coexistence

We want to support the peaceful coexistence of all people living and working in Luxembourg, while promoting their active participation in social life. Therefore, a law concerning intercultural coexistence was created under the auspices of the DP, which aims to offer people a wide range of information and formations, to bring them together and to

promote exchange as well as coexistence in our society.

We see the municipalities and the associations and societies that are active in the field of coexistence as important partners. We will actively and financially support them in their efforts in the field of intercultural coexistence with the help of the newly introduced instruments "pacte citoyen", "pacte communal" and "commission communale", as well as advisors on intercultural coexistence in the civil service and a locally or regionally based coordinator. In the future, the "Conseil supérieur" will replace the "Conseil national pour étrangers". Skills and representation are redefined and expanded.

Strategy against loneliness

Not only older people, but also people who are increasingly isolated by their life situation (out of shame, out of fear...) and increasingly younger people suffer from the feeling of loneliness. In a broad participation process, we want to shed more political and scientific light on the topic of loneliness. We will draw up a strategy with concrete measures to prevent and combat loneliness and support research projects in this area. We will create new access routes to vulnerable groups and expand existing benefits and services, such as personal accompaniment services, home visits, increasing activity, promoting intergenerational community activities or strengthening volunteering in this area, among others.

Create regional "safe spaces" for the LGBTQI+ community

Recently, the first "Safe Space" was inaugurated in Luxembourg City. These places should enable people from the LGBTQI+ community to meet and exchange without fear of prejudice or discrimination.

The DP will expand the offer of such centres on a regional level if needed.

Promote intercultural acceptance

The DP will continue to support local initiatives such as the "Pact of Coexistence", which strengthen intercultural exchange and promote mutual understanding between people of different origins. We will take strict action against all forms of racism and discrimination, develop the National Action Plan against Racism, and target all forms of discrimination.

Voluntary work

Enhance the value of volunteering and put it at the centre of society

A study on volunteering carried out at the end of 2022 by TNS-Ilres on behalf of the Ministry for the Family, Integration and the Greater Region showed that the potential of volunteering in Luxembourg is very high, but it is not fully exploited.

On the other hand, local associations, but also larger organisations, are desperately looking for new volunteers. In various areas of society, too, where the lack of skilled workers has been noticeable for years, people are looking around for alternatives.

Volunteering can offer important support here, as it is the backbone of social cohesion and points the way for shaping our coexistence.

This requires a profound change in both the political and social perception of volunteering. The DP would like to create the necessary framework conditions for this, so that clubs, associations, but also institutions and communities can profitably use the potential of volunteers for everyone.

Improve offer through deeper cooperation

An inter-ministerial body should create a better overview of existing programmes for volunteers and facilitate a coordinated approach through regular exchange with the national volunteer agency.

Create a statute for the honorary office

The DP will create a statute for volunteers. It is intended to clarify when and under what circumstances someone who is on the road as a volunteer is insured during their involvement, what their role is alongside professional employees, and what their rights and obligations are. The motivation to take on a responsibility increases when there are clear rules for volunteering.

Valuing voluntary commitment

Volunteers give their time to other people. They do this voluntarily and do not ask for any financial or material consideration in return. Nevertheless, it is important to give volunteers recognition for what they have done and for their commitment. The DP wants to value volunteering. This can be done, for example, through a digital "badge" system, where the volunteer collects a series of such "badges" for his or her commitment and then receives a reward or recognition for it.

Strengthen voluntary work in the social sector

The DP would like to expand volunteering in various social areas (senior citizens, people with a disability, socially vulnerable people). For example, small walks, a trip into town, a coffee hour or a visit to the theatre can be taken on by volunteers who would also receive the necessary further training for these tasks. Trained caregivers would thus be relieved and could better concentrate on care work.

Promote voluntary engagement of senior citizens

The DP will continue to promote senior volunteering and provide opportunities for them to use their skills and experience in the community. To this end, the offer of the online platform www.benevolat.lu, which is specifically aimed at senior citizens, is to be expanded, for example to include homework help, sewing courses, walking the dog, cooking courses and much more. To make it easier for seniors to access this online platform, introductory courses are offered at local or regional level.

Create additional incentives for voluntary activities

The DP will actively promote social engagement in all areas of society. We will explore the possibility of a state-funded accident insurance for volunteers that covers the potential risks associated with volunteering.

Promoting digital volunteering

Digital technologies offer new opportunities for volunteering in a more convenient and flexible way. Nowadays, people can get involved socially via the internet, regardless of time and place. Digital counselling, social media and web design, tutoring and language coaching- there are no limits to the digital forms of volunteering. We want to increasingly promote the existing online platform of the national volunteer agency so that associations, social organisations, but also municipalities and businesses, as well as volunteers systematically access this online platform to expand the digital offer, respectively to access all offers of digital volunteering.

**Tax incentives for sport, culture and
voluntary work**

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Promote voluntary work

Refer to chapter on Internal Security,
Rescue and Armed Forces

Social policy: Equal rights for all

Tolerance, respect and openness are the cornerstones of a modern, liberal and inclusive society. The DP advocates for policies that take into account the needs of all citizens, regardless of gender, age, origin or sexual orientation. Be it in questions of equality, social acceptance, health, the working environment or physical self-determination. At 0.7%, Luxembourg has the lowest gender pay gap in the EU. Many steps have already been taken in this area. However, unequal pay represents only a fraction of the disadvantages that different people may face in life.

The DP is committed to addressing inequalities in the way people are treated, and to working for a more just society.

A more comprehensive title for the Ministry of Gender Equality

The classic two-gender categorisation between man and woman, as well as the exclusive equality of women and men, is no longer up-to-date for the DP. The DP is therefore of the opinion that the Ministry for Gender Equality with its current designation no longer does justice to this diversity. The DP will therefore advocate for the renaming of the ministry to, for example, "Ministry for the Equality of All People".

Counteract stereotypical gender roles

To combat the stereotyping of gender roles, the DP will continue to provide the necessary funding to support awareness-raising initiatives such as Girls Day- Boys Day. In the spirit of gender neutrality, another name for this project should also be considered.

Allow homosexuals to donate blood

Refer to chapter on Health

A legal framework for artificial insemination (IVF)

Artificial insemination, also known as in vitro fertilisation, is currently regulated in Luxembourg by a Grand-Ducal regulation. Medicine does not have a clear framework for IVF and there are also various restrictions on treatments and reimbursement. The DP proposes to create a legal basis for IVF that clearly defines the procedure for both parents and doctors in these cases.

Allow surrogacy

By introducing surrogacy in Luxembourg, the DP wants to offer those couples who cannot achieve biological parenthood due to medical reasons or other circumstances the possibility to start their families. Surrogacy is supposed to be based on an altruistic model, where the motivation of the surrogate mother is based on altruistic help. In doing so, we will of course carefully consider the legal and ethical framework in order to adequately protect the interests and rights of all parties involved. Foreign surrogacy is also to be recognised in Luxembourg.

Prohibition of conversion therapies for LGBTQ+ persons

Luxembourg is generally well placed in the ILGA rating. One condition that is not yet fulfilled in Luxembourg, unlike in France for example, is that conversion therapies for people from LGBTQ+ backgrounds are not explicitly prohibited by law. The DP advocates for these therapies to be enshrined in law in the Criminal Code as part of the determination of physical and mental integrity.

Strengthen the rights of intersexual people

If a newborn turns out to be intersex, gender-assignment surgery is still resorted to in order to assign the child to a biological sex. These operations are usually not essential for survival and could also be postponed to a later time when the child can make this decision himself. Many intersex people suffer from the consequences of this procedure later in life. The DP is therefore campaigning for these operations to be banned and for parents to be better informed about the consequences of such a decision.

Avoid street prostitution

Having already passed a law to better protect victims of forced prostitution during the last legislative period, the DP will make additional efforts to eliminate prostitution from Luxembourg's streets. We will examine whether partial legalisation of prostitution in registered and state-controlled establishments can help to achieve this goal.

Extension of the indication of gender in official documents

In addition to the options of woman or man, the DP believes that a third option- as well as the option of not indicating gender- should be possible in all official documents, applications and contracts of state and para-state stakeholders.

Promote gender finance

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Promote equality and equal representation in the public service

Refer to chapter on Public Service

Further improve equality between women and men in sport

Refer to chapter on Sport

Ban virginity certificates

By banning virginity certificates, we are sending a clear message: The female body should not be publicly examined, evaluated or controlled. This ban strengthens a woman's fundamental right to make self-determined decisions about her body and her sexuality. It also has the goal to protect the dignity of women and combat gender discrimination.

Health and social security: Reliable medical care in all regions

The DP advocates for an innovative, efficient and accessible health system with sustainable, transparent financing.

We want to give everyone quick access to high-quality care close to home. We need a clear vision for future development, with defined objectives and a coherent strategy.

Thanks to medical progress, outpatient care is continuously improving. Today, a large part of the medical services can be provided outside the hospital. By making outpatient care a central pillar of our health system, we are committed to ensuring that progress consistently benefits patients.

The Corona pandemic has shown us how valuable a solid health system is. Thanks to a great wave of solidarity and willingness to help, as well as the self-sacrificing commitment of the entire health staff, the Corona crisis was managed relatively well. In addition to the strengths of our health care system, the well-known weaknesses of our system were also ruthlessly exposed: Acute shortage of skilled workers, dependence on foreign countries for personnel and materials, lack of networking and cooperation between stakeholders, forced postponement of important preventive examinations. We will learn lessons from these experiences and improve the resilience of our health system.

The DP will pay special attention to the fight against the shortage of skilled workers. Demographic developments, especially increasing life expectancy, will place increasing demands on our health

care system in the coming years. However, the shortage of qualified medical professionals is already being felt by many patients: Overworked staff, full waiting rooms in the emergency room, long waiting times for a specialist appointment or imaging (IRM examination, mammography), or the temporary closure of the maternity clinic in Ettelbrück are direct consequences of this development within the framework of a failed planned economy health policy.

Prevention must become a fundamental principle in health policy. To this end, we want to significantly increase the value of individual health promotion in all areas. Our goal is for a greater number of people to remain healthy for as long as possible.

To increase the attractiveness of our health location, the DP will create new framework conditions that will pave the way for innovative and demand-oriented medical care. In doing so, we will increasingly make use of the possibilities of digitisation. At the same time, we will upgrade the health system for all health professions and expand training opportunities.

At the same time, the DP will secure our social security system in the long term through stable and fair financing.

Prevention

Health prevention and early detection

For the DP, health prevention must become the guiding principle of our actions. We will change the perspective of the health system and raise prevention and early detection to the same level as curative medicine. In this sense, we support the development and implementation of a comprehensive national prevention strategy. In this context, we will subject all currently existing national screening and early

detection programmes to a quality and efficiency review and, if necessary, adapt them to the new strategy. It goes without saying that the examination capacities for prevention and early detection must meet the demand in order to avoid waiting times.

Create incentives for preventive medical check-ups

We firmly believe that timely screening and early detection not only reduce individual health risks, but can also lead to significant cost savings in the health care system in the long term. For this reason, the DP will create a number of incentives to increase participation in screening and thus improve the chances of early disease detection.

Introduce a health check-up

As part of the prevention strategy, the DP will advocate for the introduction of regular and free health check-ups with the GP from the age of 30. The goal of this screening service is to identify potential risks for various diseases such as heart attacks, coronary heart disease or type 2 diabetes at an early stage. This is done through a thorough medical history and laboratory tests.

Expand screening tests in the pharmacy

Currently, many pharmacies in this country offer a free screening test for diabetes. The DP will expand the range of services and offer screening tests for colorectal cancer or streptococci, for example.

Introduce free self-testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

To be tested for sexually transmitted diseases in Luxembourg, you have to go to a specific place for a medical examination. This is a potential barrier for some people - out of shame or fear - and can lead to them not getting tested. Self-testing, which can be done from home, removes existing barriers in the

current system. Depending on the test, this can be done by a simple saliva, blood or urine sample sent by post to a laboratory. The results are then communicated digitally by e-mail or SMS. Furthermore, a test subscription is to be introduced, with which one can automatically have a test kit sent to one quarterly. People with changing sexual contacts should be encouraged to get tested regularly. Simplified and regular testing options provide reliable data on potential contagions. These in turn protect society as a whole.

Orthodox medicine

We continue to place great emphasis on expanding school-based medical services, especially paediatric pre-examinations, in order to identify disease risks or mental health problems in children at an early stage. We will embed orthodox medicine in our overall strategy in the sense of coherent prevention and early detection from birth to old age.

Outpatient care

Developing outpatient care into a central pillar

The DP strives to realise the full potential of outpatient care and to significantly increase its importance in the health care system. More than 80% of medical services can be provided outside hospitals today. We are committed to ensuring that this medical progress benefits patients across the board. The advantages of decentralised care are obvious: patients have shorter journeys and shorter waiting times, and thus better access to medicine, especially in rural areas. At the same time, the hospitals are relieved and can concentrate on their core tasks in the care of serious emergencies and complex clinical pictures.

Strengthening the rights of young patients

The pandemic has made the movement of vaccination scepticism, which rejects the vaccination of under-age children against the corona virus, also clearly visible in Luxembourg. For this reason, we welcome the fact that minors aged 16 and over can decide for themselves to be vaccinated and that, for children aged 12 to 15, only the consent of one parent is required. However, the medical self-determination of minors should not only apply to vaccination, but also to other medical interventions and treatments.

Strengthen primary health care

Medical practices form the basis for comprehensive medical care close to home. The DP will take measures to make it more attractive for GPs and specialists to set up practices and thus expand primary health care in the country. In addition, we will improve the various incentives to promote group practices.

Evaluate the concept of the reference doctor

The reference doctor ("médecin référent") should know the patients best and be their first contact in case of health problems. Unfortunately, the model has not caught on as hoped since its introduction almost twelve years ago. Both the number of insured people using the model and the participation of doctors in it are rather disappointing. The DP will review the reference doctor's concept for its usefulness and adapt it if necessary.

Expand the range of maisons médicales in line with demand

The DP continues to advocate for the opening of at least one "*Maison médicale*" in the East district. In view of the population growth, we will review and, if necessary, adjust the number of these on-call houses for the general medical emergency service in the other districts.

Paediatric medical centre in the north (Maison médicale for children)

To save parents and their children long journeys to the capital in case of an emergency, the DP is planning to establish more paediatric centres, including in the Northern District. The expansion of these centres will ensure better regional availability of medical care for children. This allows parents to more easily access specialised paediatric services when needed without having to travel long distances.

Promote home health care

The demand for home health care is growing, especially among people with chronic diseases or disabilities. We want to enable patients to be cared for in their familiar surroundings for as long as possible. To this end, the DP will develop and implement an "out-of-hospital" action plan.

Blue light for GPs

The DP will examine whether GPs on call in medical emergencies should be allowed to make use of a blue light to get to the scene as quickly as possible. In particular, patients in more rural areas who live further away from the nearest hospital could benefit from this measure.

Build birth centres

The DP supports the establishment of birth centres. We want to offer women giving birth an alternative to giving birth in a clinic by allowing them to give birth to their children in a more intimate and familiar environment, accompanied by their midwife. However, the birth centre should be located near a hospital and networked with it to be able to provide medical help quickly in an emergency.

Digitisation

Digital patient file

The DP advocates for a rapid digitisation of the health sector, taking into account the civil liberties of citizens and patients. For this, it is elementary that the legal and technical framework guarantees the highest protection and security of health data. We will promote the standardisation of data formats and the interoperability of technical solutions, thus laying the foundation for a regulated ecosystem in which patients and healthcare providers can communicate securely with each other. The DSP must be further developed in this sense and can become an important platform for exchange. By having a standard format of data, validated with an electronic signature by the healthcare provider, patients can build their own patient records, either within the DSP, or with a provider of their choice, and make them partially or fully accessible to the respective healthcare provider.

Exploiting the opportunities of telemedicine

The DP recognises the potential of telemedicine as an essential component of the future health system. There are many possible applications, from remote diagnostics via transmission of medical images (telepathology) to home monitoring of patients. In future, we want to make greater use of the opportunities offered by digitisation to ensure better, more efficient and more flexible care for patients.

Provide digital tools

In the context of inpatient care in hospitals, but also in the monitoring of critical patients in nursing homes or at home, we intend to enable direct data collection and documentation "at the bedside" through the consistent use of

digital aids and mobile devices. This part of the digital transformation of healthcare can help to significantly reduce the bureaucracy and workload of healthcare staff, while enabling more efficient collection and management of patient data. The time saved by digital tools will directly benefit patient care.

Introduce electronic doctor's prescriptions

Similar to other European countries, we also want to introduce the digital doctor's prescription in Luxembourg. In future, the prescriptions are to be stored together with the patient's data, the doctor's results and analyses in a digital dossier to which the entire health sector will have access. After identifying the patient, the pharmacist can immediately access the digital prescription that the doctor has saved in the dossier in advance. The patient should also be given the opportunity to digitally request a repeat of their medication. The e-prescription also offers the advantage that possible allergies can be automatically compared with the possible side effects of a medicine before the medicine is dispensed to the patient.

In the medium and long term, it should also be possible to redeem e-prescriptions across EU countries, as is already the case between Estonia and Finland.

In the run-up, we will ensure that all IT systems of doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and other health stakeholders are harmonised with each other to enable fast and secure data exchange.

Health apps on prescription

The variety of health apps on the market is constantly growing. A wide range of apps for physical activity and health promotion can be found in the app stores. The DP will explore and, where appropriate, support the possibility of reimbursement for certain quality-assessed health apps prescribed by a doctor.

Hotline for video consultation

The DP wants to set up a medical video hotline for remote consultations to get in touch with a doctor at night and on weekends. This can ensure rapid initial diagnosis and referral, while reducing crowding in hospital emergency departments.

Exploiting the opportunities of personalised medicine

The DP is committed to realising the full potential of personalised medicine and to continuing to support research at the University of Luxembourg (Uni.lu) in this promising field. Access to more precise diagnoses and tailored treatment approaches will make a decisive contribution to improving medical care for patients.

Guarantee the interoperability of computer and information systems

At the moment, there is insufficient networking and a lack of interoperability between clinics, doctors' practices, pharmacies, laboratories and the health insurance fund in Luxembourg. By introducing a uniform information system, relevant data and patient findings can be better recorded. This leads to an increase in cost and time efficiency in the health sector. It also enables the efficient processing of scientific data and counteracts misuse. DP attaches the highest importance to data protection and data security, which are guaranteed by appropriate legal and technical measures.

Miscellaneous

Pandemic Law

The DP wants to adopt a pandemic law based on the experience of the past years that will prepare our country in the best possible way for future epidemics and

pandemics. The law is intended to provide clear guidelines to act quickly and effectively in the event of an outbreak, while ensuring sufficient flexibility to respond appropriately to the specific conditions of each crisis. We emphasise as a liberal party that the spirit of such a law must in any case be compatible with the inalienable liberties of every individual.

Residences for health professionals in the hospital sector

The DP will work to ensure that each hospital group has a residential home for health professionals. This dormitory is intended to benefit people who are still in training or are doing a temporary internship at the clinic. It is also intended to serve working people who have to travel longer or more tiring distances to work at times. Furthermore, the dormitory is to be available to people who are on call during the night. The goal of this measure is to counteract the shortage of medical professionals and to increase the attractiveness of both training and professional practice in the health sector. The ideal location of the residence is close to the main clinic of the respective hospital group, where the main emergency room is located.

Freelance health professionals

The DP will work for a better integration of the liberal health professions (e.g. osteopathy, chiropractic, kinésithérapie, psychotherapy, etc.) into the national health system. The service catalogue of the respective health professions is to be continuously evaluated and supplemented if necessary. The goal is to create an overall concept nationally with the goal of establishing the greatest possible complementarity and cooperation between all health care professions. Clear quality criteria will serve to ensure an optimal treatment outcome. The

independence of the liberal health professions should be preserved.

Larger emergency admissions

Larger emergency departments have the necessary diagnostic equipment (laboratory, radiology), human resources (doctors of different specialities, nurses, laboratory and radiology staff) and infrastructure to provide the necessary assistance quickly in an emergency. There are currently four major emergency departments in the hospitals. The DP will advocate for these to be supplemented by the creation of three additional larger emergency departments. The goal is to establish a larger emergency department for approximately 100,000 inhabitants. The three additional larger emergency departments will be set up in new structures yet to be created outside the hospitals and will be open daily from 6 am to around 11 pm. It will be ensured that the treating physicians are not exposed to any prescribing and treatment pressure. The nursing staff will be employed on similar conditions as in the hospitals. The establishment and operation of the laboratory and radiology infrastructures will be taken over by private sponsors in each case. To ensure a sufficient volume of activities, each major emergency department to be built will be attached to a medical centre.

Clinical Centres of Excellence

Every citizen of our country has a right to health care that meets the highest standards. To ensure this, the DP will advocate for the creation of centres of excellence for each of the major clinical specialities, which on the one hand define the national minimum standards in their field, and on the other hand create national databases in which the treatment results of all patients are documented in a structured manner.

Therapy of complex infectious diseases

Complex infectious diseases occur in all specialities of medicine and surgery. If these infectious diseases are not treated properly, the affected patients often face a long period of suffering. The optimal treatment of complex infections requires a profound microbiological-internistic know-how as is inherent to the specialist in infectiology. The treatment concept is determined in a collegial exchange between the infectious disease specialist and the attending physicians. The DP will work to ensure that each hospital group has its own infectious disease specialist.

Trauma surgery

In the case of seriously injured patients, trauma surgery often decides not only between life and death, but also, in the case of survival, how the injuries will affect the accident victim's quality of life and ability to work in the longer term. Trauma surgery and the way it is organised must therefore meet the highest quality standards. The DP will work to ensure that both the organisational process and the quality level of medical care in trauma surgery meet the highest criteria in future.

Implement proposals of the OECD report

In its report on the pandemic response, the OECD praised a "rapid and agile response" to the unforeseen virus. For example, the excess mortality rate was lower than in other countries. Nevertheless, the OECD report also highlighted the challenges facing Luxembourg. The strong dependence on neighbouring countries and the low physician density were named as structural weaknesses of the health system. In order to be better prepared for a pandemic and its effects in the future, the DP will implement the individual recommendations of the OECD.

Promote infection prevention

The DP will take measures to mitigate the risk of nosocomial infections in hospitals. There is a special focus on infection prevention. Guidelines and protocols are developed and implemented to minimise the occurrence and spread of nosocomial infections. In addition, the DP will ensure that specialised nurses are trained to monitor infection control compliance and implement best practices in this area. In addition, each hospital group is to receive its own specialist for infection prevention and control. These measures are intended to reduce nosocomial infections and increase patient safety in hospitals.

Secure emergency police clinic locations

In emergencies, patients should not have to travel long distances. The DP will secure the locations of the regional emergency polyclinics in Wiltz, Niederkorn, Düdelingen and the Zitha Clinic (HRS) in the long term. This relieves the burden on the larger emergency departments and contributes to improved emergency care in both urban and rural areas.

Reform abortion law

All women have the right to bodily self-determination. We will strengthen this right by abolishing the three-day period after the compulsory counselling interview. In addition, we want to conduct a broad campaign and spread knowledge about medication abortion ("morning-after pill") and its availability to all sections of the population so that the women concerned are spared the trauma of a surgical abortion.

Rare diseases

The impact of rare diseases on the lives of those affected is often not sufficiently known in general society. This often leads to prejudice, from which sufferers suffer additionally. The DP will raise awareness among citizens about rare diseases and their impact in collaboration with

stakeholders from the field. This includes the renewal of the National Plan on Rare Diseases for the period 2024-2029. In this context, the DP will also analyse to what extent the early detection of rare diseases in children can be expanded, create a register for rare diseases and investigate the introduction of a statute for long-term diseases.

Examine the use of drones in the health sector

Drones can facilitate the transport of cells, organs or blood transfusions. Defibrillators can also be flown to more rural areas with the help of drones, so that they can intervene more quickly in an emergency. The DP recognises the great advantages of technological progress and wants to examine the areas of application and the benefits of drones in this country.

Introduction of a compensation fund for treatment risks

The DP will establish a public fund to compensate unexpected incidents that are not due to malpractice by healthcare providers (so-called "aléa thérapeutique"). This strengthens the rights of patients. The fund is intended to make it possible to compensate patients whose treatment has resulted in an accident that is not due to a civil law error and thus cannot be tried in court. As it is currently the Red Cross that is liable should problems arise in connection with blood donations, this compensation fund will also help to finally put an end to discrimination against homosexual men when donating blood - a concern that has long been close to the DP's heart.

Allow homosexuals to donate blood

The DP demands an end to discrimination against bi- and homosexual people. Access to blood donation should be based on the principle of "individual risk assessment"

and independent of the donor's sexual orientation.

Promote first aid courses

In order to be able to react correctly in an emergency, everyone should know the basics of first aid. The DP proposes to expand the offer of first aid courses.

Mandatory and continuous training

For doctors and other health professionals, participation in continuing education is mandatory, but there is no recognised system for providing evidence of the continuing education undertaken. We will work to introduce an internationally recognised system of "credit points" in the context of continuing education.

Strengthen geriatric medicine (geriatrics)

In order for the longer life expectancy to turn into more fulfilling and active years of life, the most important thing for the DP is to stay healthy or to recover as quickly as possible in the event of illness. In this context, the DP focuses on strengthening age-specific diagnostic and treatment services. In addition, we want to train specialist nurses for clinical geriatrics.

Liberalisation of pharmacies

The DP will liberalise the currently strictly regulated pharmacy sector to improve access to prescription drugs. In this context, the DP will be guided by the proposals of the national competition authority in this regard. For example, the regulations regarding establishment are to be made less restrictive. In addition, the possibility should also be created to sell non-prescription medicines freely outside pharmacies, such as in supermarkets.

Improve availability of medicines

In a European comparison, Luxembourg is only in the middle of the pack when it comes to the availability of medicines for patients. The DP will work intensively on

the approval process of medicines in Luxembourg in order to improve the availability of medicines for patients. We will also work to increase the use of generic medicines to minimise bottlenecks in the supply of medicines. We also advocate for better security of supply of medicines at the European level.

Promote monitoring of medicines

To improve the monitoring of medicines, the DP will intensify cooperation with pharmacists and push for the establishment of a medicines agency in Luxembourg.

Extension of the right to be forgotten

Since January 2020, an agreement between the Ministry of Health and the Association of Insurance Companies regulates the right to be forgotten. Among other things, this has made life insurance more accessible to people who have survived cancer. The DP will assess the impact of this agreement and consider whether it should be extended to other disease patterns.

Extending the right to health

A pilot project on universal health coverage is currently under way. The DP will await the analysis of the pilot project and, if it is positive, will provide a legal basis for universal health coverage.

New criteria for receiving the prenatal allowance

Since 2022, women in Luxembourg have had the option of having antenatal care with a midwife. However, the state antenatal allowance is currently still linked to the perception of several medical examinations by a gynaecologist. In order to support expectant mothers in their decision to have antenatal care provided by a midwife, the DP will also allow the payment of the antenatal allowance to

women who receive care exclusively from a midwife.

Improve palliative care

Every person with a life-limiting illness needs appreciative and professional medical care. Quality of life is strongly influenced by physical, psychological and social aspects.

The DP's mission is to assist people in need of help and to support them with specialist staff. Be it in a familiar home environment or in a professional facility.

It is close to the DP's heart that people are informed more intensively for a living will as well as the appointment of a trusted person. The DP will advocate for improved and more comprehensive palliative care to meet the needs of those affected.

Create palliative structures for children

In order to make the last stage of life of seriously ill children as loving as possible, the DP wants to examine to what extent it is possible to adapt the existing palliative structures to the needs of children. We will also promote appropriate education and training.

Improve information and access to euthanasia

Euthanasia has been legal in Luxembourg since 2009. The DP will work to improve access to information. This includes strengthening the secretariat of the National Control and Evaluation Commission and establishing focal points in hospitals and the Ministry of Health. In addition, doctors who refuse euthanasia will be obliged to refer patients to these contact points. In this way, we want to ensure that those affected and their families receive comprehensive and clear information and receive appropriate support when making end-of-life decisions.

Bachelor education

The Ministry of Higher Education has introduced several degree programmes in nursing at the University of Luxembourg. These include a bachelor's degree in general nursing, four bachelor's degrees in specialised nursing, a bachelor's degree in midwifery, and a bachelor's degree in "medical-technical assistant for radiology". This is Luxembourg's contribution to health education in the Greater Region.

As these bachelor's degrees start at different academic years (the first one started in 2022/2023), the Democratic Party will analyse the progress of these new courses and make adjustments if necessary.

Expand medical education at the University of Luxembourg

Refer to chapter on Higher education and research

Creation of a military hospital

Refer to chapter Army

Mental health

Raise the status of mental health

The DP sees mental health as a fundamental pillar of a fulfilled and healthy life. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health of the population was severely tested. The supply situation received special attention. Luxembourg has several gaps in mental health care. For example, infrastructural and conceptual deficits as well as a lack of specialised staff and specialists have become clearly visible. Challenges such as stigma, prejudice and lack of mental health awareness risk exacerbating deficits in the future.

We will raise the profile of mental health and expand mental health services.

Following the presentation of the National Mental Health Plan, there should be a clear political prioritisation of the proposed actions.

Prevention of mental and social health

Mental and social health is an important part of the overall health aspect, which was clearly visible after the COVID situation. The current global and economic context can lead to malaise and the development of psychological and social impairments. The DP will work on a prevention strategy for mental and social health.

Promote mental health of staff

The DP advocates for the mental health and well-being of doctors and nurses who face challenging and stressful situations on a daily basis. In this context, we would like to make the right to mental health training and individual psychological counselling accessible to them in order to promote their own mental health. We are firmly convinced that these measures will not only benefit the professionals themselves, but will also noticeably improve the quality of care for patients.

Mental Health First Aid Courses

The DP wants to make greater use of preventive measures. Since their launch in October 2020, the Mental Health First Aid courses have received a positive response and have seen significant success. We will therefore provide the necessary funds to expand this course offer in line with demand.

Offer continuing education courses for healthcare professionals

The DP wants to expand the continuing education programme for health professionals. The goal is to sharpen the ability to recognise warning signs of depression and suicidal danger in patients at an early stage and to react adequately.

Initiate awareness campaign on postnatal depression

The DP wants to launch a comprehensive awareness campaign on the topic of "Postnatal Depression". We want to include not only mothers but also fathers. Our goal is to provide in-depth information and support to promote and deepen awareness and understanding of this important issue.

Improve access to mental health care

Psychiatric emergency rooms are overcrowded and there are hardly enough hospital beds for all patients. To improve this situation, the DP wants to conduct an analysis of the emergency rooms and their needs. Crisis centres with specialised staff and adequate infrastructure should be implemented. Possible regional/national synergies should be promoted. In addition, we want to expand the supply of hospital beds in both the acute and rehabilitation sectors in line with demand. In doing so, we will take greater account of demographic developments and also the needs of particularly vulnerable people. The outpatient conventional sector should be expanded and offer attractive working conditions for specialised staff and doctors.

Create outpatient child and adolescent psychiatry

In addition to existing inpatient services and outpatient child and adolescent psychiatric/psychotherapeutic practices, the DP is also committed to creating regional, out-of-hospital, multidisciplinary counselling centres. With this approach, we want to ensure holistic, needs-based and timely care and provide comprehensive support in the familiar surroundings of the young patients and their families or environment. Special needs should also be met according to need e.g. transitional psychiatry

Analysing the law regulating the profession of psychotherapist

In 2015, the law regulating the profession of psychotherapist was passed by parliament. The DP, in cooperation with all parties involved, is planning a review to determine whether the law has achieved its goals or whether specific adjustments are needed.

Regulate the profession of psychology

Luxembourg is one of the last countries in the EU where the profession of psychologist is not regulated. The DP wants to ensure high-quality psychological care and thus protect citizens from inadequately trained "pseudo-psychologists". We will therefore advocate for the regulation of the profession.

Social security

Modernise nomenclature

The DP will simplify the lengthy procedures of the Nomenclature Commission and adapt the list of medical, dental and technical medical treatments more frequently to current developments in medicine.

Make hospital financing more transparent

Hospitals in Luxembourg are financed with an annual budget of over one billion euros, which corresponds to about 50% of CNS health expenditure. Unfortunately, the current budget framework is not transparent enough. To change this, the DP plans to revise hospital financing to ensure more transparent budgeting. In addition, it is considered whether activity-based funding, as practised in the liberal health professions, would be more sustainable for our health system in the long run. **Improve monitoring of medical material**

In the event of a recall of a medical device, the affected patients must be informed immediately in order to avoid risks to their health. The DP will improve the procedures for monitoring the medical material and make them more transparent. Absolutely necessary data must be available in such situations. The Data Protection Regulation must not become an insurmountable barrier in the case of circumstances that endanger health.

Improve communication with the insured

The DP is committed to improving communication with all social security administrations. Particular care is taken to ensure that the messages are multilingual and easy to understand in order to avoid unnecessary queries and the loss of human resources. Because all too often, social security notifications are very complicated and confusing, which leads to delays in the processing procedure and thus to unnecessary costs.

Adjustments to the 78-week sickness certificate

The Democratic Party advocates suspending the 78-week sick leave count in the case of therapeutic leave on a half-time basis, as the effort of progressive return to work should not be penalised.

Various diseases- first and foremost cancer - not only require a long recovery phase, but are unfortunately always accompanied by relapses. Cancer patients are therefore increasingly exposed to the risk of exceeding the maximum limit of 78 weeks of sick leave within a two-year period, which leads to the loss of social insurance. The DP wants to establish special rules that protect patients in case of relapse and prevent the loss of social security.

Recognition of music therapy and zoo therapy

Music and zoo therapy are used for mental disorders as well as for people with dementia, autism or specific physical illnesses. Music therapy is already legally recognised in eight European countries. The DP will promote the recognition of music and zoo therapy in Luxembourg.

Secure and good pensions for everyone

Refer to chapter on Work

Introduce pension splitting

Refer to chapter on Work

Remove limit for "additional earnings" for early retirement pension (under 65)

Refer to chapter on Work

Better pension rights for assisting spouses/life partners ("conjoint aidant")

Refer to chapter on Work

Promote occupational and private pension provision

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Sport: Being healthy through physical activity

Sport plays an essential social role in the eyes of the DP. Regular exercise is not only important for our health and mental well-being. Sport also strengthens social cohesion by teaching important values such as tolerance and fairness, bringing people from different cultures and backgrounds together and thus strengthening inclusion, especially among young people.

The DP is convinced that sport is the foundation for a healthy life. That is why it is clear to us: Every Euro we invest in sport serves to promote the health of our citizens. We support and promote grass roots and disabled sport and the associated volunteer work, as they are fundamental pillars that drive sport forward and strengthen the community. At the same time, we want to further professionalise competitive sport as the flagship of our country, offer the best possible sports infrastructures and framework conditions, and provide even more targeted support for aspiring top athletes.

Relieve the administrative burden on sports associations and promote professionalisation

Luxembourg's sports federations are facing growing administrative challenges. Often it is small teams that keep the respective associations running on a voluntary basis and without professional structures. As DPs, we believe that sports structures in the country cannot be based solely on voluntary work. In this context, a state subsidy enabling each federation to employ a person for administrative and

organisational work would be an interesting option.

Increase the sports budget to one percent of the state budget

In order to properly promote sport in society and develop professional structures, sufficient financial resources are needed. Therefore, the DP advocates to gradually increase the budget of the Ministry of Sport to one per cent of the state budget.

"Subside qualité+" balance sheet

In recent years, financial support for the youth work of the clubs, especially through the "Subside qualité+", has increased significantly. This programme links the grants to clear training criteria for the coaches and focuses on high-quality coaching of the young athletes. The DP will take stock of the "Subside qualité+", increase subsidies if necessary, and support the extension of funding to areas such as care and social responsibility of the association.

Revise subsidy policy for sports infrastructure

Modern infrastructures are indispensable in sport. In order to accommodate the population growth of recent years, the DP is committed to developing the various sports-related infrastructures. In order to support municipalities in financing sports facilities, we propose that, in addition to traditional grants, the possibility of financial incentives for cooperation on issues concerning rooms, changing rooms or small-scale catering be explored.

Promote competitive sport

Competitive sport is an excellent ambassador for our country abroad. It is a challenge for individuals and reflects the will to achieve and the performance of a society. As DPs, we advocate the idea of dual careers, where athletes can combine

high-performance sport and education. We also want to create incentives to encourage private businesses to sponsor high-performance athletes.

Adaptation of the Labour Code for Sport

As competitive sports (competitions, sports trips, training camps...) often take place on weekends or public holidays, the DP is campaigning for labour law to take account of the specific needs of athletes in future. For this, the legal provisions could be adapted or a collective agreement for professionals in the sports sector could be reached to ensure more flexibility. Athletes would thus have the opportunity to spend more time on their sport in certain months, while they could return to their work in other months. Such a flexibilisation would allow for a better reconciliation of work and competitive sport.

Supporting athletes on their career path

DP is committed to supporting athletes throughout their careers with high quality services. This applies to promising young talents and top athletes, all the way to athletes who have ended their active careers. Through public services such as sports science, sports psychology, nutrition, sports physiotherapy and sports medicine, we want to support our athletes in the best possible way.

Optimise support structures for high-performance athletes

The establishment of the LIHPS, the SportFabrik and the HPTRC has professionalised the care of our best athletes and young talents and increased their international competitiveness. As DP, we intend to continue on this path and provide existing institutions with the necessary resources to realise the full potential of athletes.

Introduction of a civil career for elite athletes

The DP advocates creating a civilian career alongside the army's elite sports department for athletes who aspire to alternative life projects.

Expanding "Congé sportif"

As DP, we are committed to ensuring that voluntary engagement in sport is appropriately recognised and promoted. New impulses are needed for this. The "Congé sportif" is an important measure to underline the importance of sport. Our goal is to maintain the promotion of the "Congé sportif" and to adapt it to current circumstances. We also want to ensure that, in addition to top athletes, indispensable support staff, referees and match officials, volunteers will also have access to the "Congé sportif" in the future.

Sport as a social role model

Sport can act as a role model in many areas. The DP is committed to clean, doping-free elite and grass roots sport. The fight against doping in all sports is to be continued in the future. As the DP, we stand by the zero-tolerance policy and firmly reject racism, hatred and homophobia in sport.

"Safeguarding in Sports"

The DP will create an independent body whose main task will be to ensure welfare and integrity in sport, in particular to prevent harassment and abuse in the sporting environment and to support victims. In addition, in close cooperation with public and private institutions, the latter should also integrate the fight against manipulation and for the teaching of ethical values in sport into its work.

Promoting inclusion through sport

DP is consciously committed to inclusive participation of people with disabilities in sport and actively promotes their acceptance in society. We support inclusive sporting opportunities in various

sports to enable people with disabilities to have equal opportunities to participate in sport and develop their passion. We firmly believe that sport brings people together and is a good example of inclusion.

Therefore, we call for increased support of the "Luxembourg Paralympic Committee" and the "Luxembourg Special Olympics" in the future.

Further improve equality between women and men in sport

As a DP, we continuously advocate for improved gender equality policies in sport. Women are still under-represented and often disadvantaged in all areas of sport; be it financial support, media coverage or career opportunities in coaching and officiating. Further efforts are needed to address this inequality and ensure that women are given equal opportunities and recognition in sport.

Promoting a moving school

Refer to chapter on Education

Public space as a promoter of sport and exercise

In order to promote sport and exercise in everyday life, the DP is committed to providing public spaces with more opportunities for exercise. The DP advocates the construction of innovative multifunctional sports facilities that are accessible to all citizens.

Implementation of the Sports Satellite Accounts 2021-2025

As an important economic factor, sport creates employment and consumption. Through sports satellite accounts, data can be used to determine its economic importance for the country. The 2016-2020 analyses have allowed us to quantify the impact of sport on the national economy each year. It is clear that sport has developed into a dynamically growing economic sector that also contributes to

the national budget. Therefore, the DP supports the implementation of an adapted new version of the satellite account for the period 2021-2025 to track this development.

Introduce "Pro Sport" programme

The DP is committed to implementing the "ProSport" programme, which is currently under development. Our main goal is to support clubs that currently do not have trained coaches. With "ProSport", we want to offer these clubs the opportunity to access a pool of talented coaches and skilled professionals to further improve their sports offer. At the same time, we are upgrading the profession of coaching accordingly. Through the implementation of "ProSport", we would like to further strengthen the sports landscape in Luxembourg.

Further develop the function of the sports coordinator

The DP explicitly welcomes the introduction of a sports coordinator and recognises his important role in promoting sports activities and increasing participation in sports events. As DP, we want to push for the promotion of the sports coordinator to provide improved and long-term support to municipalities and syndicates. This involves the Ministry of Sport covering the personnel costs of the sports coordinator for a period of more than three years.

Support COSL in the best possible way

DP values COSL as an important partner to implement a comprehensive sports policy that supports the development of sport at all levels. The sport promotion concept of the COSL continues to provide an important overall strategy for the promotion of the Luxembourg sport landscape. In order to continue to meet the diverse tasks and challenges in the

future, the DP is committed to providing more financial support to the COSL.

Recognise and promote e-sports

The DP recognises the importance that digital games have for children and young people today. With all the advantages and disadvantages. Demonising computer games misses the point. The DP will therefore take a nuanced approach. On the one hand, the DP will create a centre of excellence for computer games, which will function as a contact point for teachers and educators, but also for parents, children and young people. It aims to raise awareness about the dangers of gaming addiction, radicalisation, violence and stereotypes in computer games.

On the other hand, the DP also recognises the cognitive, motor and social skills that are promoted by computer games just as much as by classic games.

For this reason, the DP will put the so-called e-sports (electronic sports) on an equal footing with classic sports and promote corresponding training and sports structures, as well as financial support for athletes and associations. The DP will also work to give e-sports an Olympic perspective.

Economic policy: Attractive environment for innovative and competitive businesses

In the last 5 years, the economic development was shaped by the consequences of the pandemic and the Ukraine war. Luxembourg has come through both crises comparatively well economically so far. This is due in no small part to resolute action by the DP-led government. The government's Corona aid to businesses of around 1.5 billion (short-time work, direct aid and refundable aid) was unprecedented and had the desired effect: business insolvencies declined during the pandemic period before settling back to pre-crisis levels after Corona aid ended. The unemployment rate increased only moderately due to the short-time work measures to secure jobs, before even settling at a lower level than before Corona (5% in May 2023).

Since spring 2021, the inflation and energy crisis resulting from Russia's war of aggression has presented our country with new challenges. The decisions from three successful tripartite meetings have shown that social dialogue works in times of crisis. The measures adopted, such as the energy price cap and the reduction of the TVA, also have a direct impact on the inflation rate. Indeed, in the meantime, Luxembourg has the lowest inflation among the Euro countries (3.6% in May 2023). Direct state aid also cushions the energy price increase for particularly hard-hit businesses.

Without a doubt, the numerous crises have left their mark on politics in the current legislative period. Nevertheless, important reforms and projects were implemented during this period, especially

for SMEs, such as the modernisation of the right of establishment for businesses, the creation of the "Observatoire national des PME" or the drafting of the 5th Framework Programme for SMEs. "Plan d'action PME.

Persistent uncertainties continue to weigh on the economic situation worldwide. The ECB's consistent raising of the key interest rate to combat inflation is having a strong impact on the real estate market and the construction industry throughout Europe. In Luxembourg, too, the ECB's interest rate policy has resulted in a slowdown in construction activity. Similarly, consumer confidence has declined. This has a direct influence on purchasing behaviour. The industrial sector continues to face high energy prices and the financial industry is also feeling the uncertainties of the markets.

In these challenging times, it is up to policy-makers to set the right framework conditions to strengthen the resilience of the economy. The DP will continue to set the course for a strong economy in order to secure jobs and prosperity in our country.

For the DP, the current challenging times must not lead to the big issues of our time being pushed into the background. Achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and the emission reduction target of 55% by 2030 require great efforts from business and society. The DP is convinced that the achievement of these goals is indispensable to ensure a liveable basis for future generations. The DP is making every effort to combine the necessary transition towards carbon neutrality with strengthening the economy and improving its competitiveness.

The second major topic of our time is the digital revolution, which will fundamentally change the economy and society. How we deal with digital technologies, especially

artificial intelligence, will be crucial for the competitiveness and productivity of our economy tomorrow. The DP will therefore actively help businesses to take advantage of digital technologies and, in particular, provide small and medium-sized enterprises with the necessary assistance to jump on the digital bandwagon.

Create Ministry for SMEs, Freelancers and Entrepreneurship

Small and medium-sized businesses form the backbone of our economy. Equally, people who dare to break new ground, turn an idea into reality and start their own business are indispensable for our country. The DP would like to additionally promote entrepreneurial spirit and significantly strengthen the status of freelancers. To this end, the Directorate General "SMEs", which is currently part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, is to be expanded into a separate ministry, which will also include the areas of freelancers and entrepreneurship.

For a socially liberal and climate-neutral economic model

The DP is committed to a socially liberal and climate-neutral economic model. To achieve climate neutrality, the principles of the circular economy must be firmly anchored in the economy. At the same time, the DP has confidence in the innovative capacity of businesses and stands for the targeted promotion of new technologies that contribute to achieving the goal of climate neutrality. For DP, climate neutrality does not automatically mean doing without. Instead, the DP argues for climate-neutral economic growth that decouples resource consumption from economic development and thus combines ecology and economy. At the same time, climate-neutral growth will contribute to the prosperity of our

country's citizens and safeguard the welfare state.

Increase competitiveness and productivity

Luxembourg's economic success model is based on high productivity. According to the IMD Competitiveness Index, Luxembourg is ranked 20th in the world in 2023. However, labour productivity has been stagnating for years, albeit at a very high level. Increasing productivity is an important tool for making our growth model qualitative rather than purely quantitative. For the DP, productivity gains must not come at the expense of social gains, such as the index mechanism, but by seizing new opportunities. These consist primarily of increasing digitisation, the use of artificial intelligence, greater bureaucratic simplification and the flexibilisation of working hours in the interests of workers and employers.

In order to strengthen competitiveness in the long term, factors that are decisive for the attractiveness of our country must be constantly evaluated and proactively promoted. The DP will therefore set up a task force to promote international competitiveness, complementary to the Observatoire de la compétitivité.

Luxembourg's triple-A rating is central to the competitiveness of the economy and must be maintained.

Competitive corporate taxation is a core element of the DP's economic policy.

Relieve the tax burden on businesses

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Reduce wealth tax for businesses

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Drive economic diversification

The financial centre directly generates around 30% of GDP in Luxembourg. Indirect effects are not included here. The DP is clearly behind a strong financial

industry. At the same time, it is important to promote the economic diversification of our country in order to reduce our dependence on a single sector of the economy. The DP will further strengthen efforts to create holistic ecosystems in priority economic sectors. These areas include logistics, health technology, space technology and the data economy. In addition, the DP will establish our country as an economic location for businesses active in the field of artificial intelligence. Economic diversification also includes maintaining and strengthening Luxembourg as an industrial location.

Social dialogue as part of the Luxembourg model of success

The successfully concluded tripartite agreements of the current legislative period prove the importance of the Luxembourg social model in times of crisis to find amicable solutions with the social partners. For the DP, the tripartite is an integral part of Luxembourg's successful model.

For the DP, it is indispensable to consult the social partners in advance when drafting legislative projects, should they be directly affected by them.

Sticking to the index mechanism

Refer to chapter on Labour Law

Supporting medium-sized businesses

Small and medium-sized commercial organisations generate around two-thirds of our country's value added and employ 68% of the workforce. The DP will tangibly support SMEs as economic performers and revise the law on state aid for SMEs. The DP will swiftly implement the 5th National Plan for SMEs, which was prepared in close cooperation with the industry during this legislative period. For the DP, good SME policy means that regulations must be adapted to the needs of small and

medium-sized businesses. The DP will systematically apply the "think small first" principle in legislation and provide for SME exemptions where possible. In the important future topics of energy turnaround and digitisation, the DP will advocate for practical SME-friendly solutions and strengthen accompanying government measures. For DP, promoting SMEs also means making public tenders SME-friendly and offering specific training in this regard.

Industry 4.0: not only digitalised, but also climate-friendly

The corona pandemic has shown Europe how important it is to have its own industrial production in key areas in order to avoid supply bottlenecks in crisis situations. The DP will strengthen Luxembourg as an industrial location. For DP, the industry of tomorrow is largely digitalised and energy-efficient. State-of-the-art industrial production should open up new opportunities for Luxembourg as an industrial location.

A clear and comprehensible location policy is indispensable to give foreign investors planning security. In order to prevent negative examples in the future, such as the failed industrial projects of Fage and Knauf, the DP will set clear criteria for attracting new industrial activities in an ambitious industrial strategy.

With the DP, Luxembourg will advocate at European level for a European industrial strategy that strengthens Europe's competitiveness and promotes important industrial fields of the future such as artificial intelligence or blockchain.

Accelerate approval procedures

Approval procedures simply take too long in our country. The DP sets itself the goal of noticeably accelerating this. Therefore, a detailed analysis of possible blockages in the processes will be elaborated within

one year after the government takes office and the necessary conclusions will be drawn. The DP will better coordinate approval procedures and enable digital tracking of procedures. At each individual step, it is checked whether the principle of "silence vaut accord" can be implemented. By running different procedures in parallel, it is also hoped to save a considerable amount of time.

In addition, the DP will examine the possibility of "provisional prior authorisations", as is already the case in Germany. With such permits, the builder can start construction at his own risk, even before the final permits have been obtained.

Reduce bureaucracy

Many businesses complain about the ever-increasing bureaucratic burden. However, numerous initiatives from the past often did not bring the desired relief. In order to remedy this in the future, the DP will systematically examine the proportionality and practicability for businesses in advance as part of the preparation of legislative projects. An SME check should ensure that legal requirements do not disproportionately burden SMEs.

The existing legislation should also be systematically evaluated with regard to its burden on SMEs and, if necessary, adapted, for example by means of an SME clause that reduces the requirements for smaller enterprises. Clear processing deadlines, an automatic exchange of information between administrations and the most complete possible digital processing in the administrations should equally contribute to relieving the burden on enterprises.

Expand state support programmes for businesses

DP will consistently take advantage of the recently decided relaxation of the

European state aid rules, in particular to drive forward the energy turnaround and digitisation of the businesses. Therefore, the DP will expand government support programmes for businesses.

Expand "Guichet unique" for enterprises

As part of the funding assistance in the current legislative period, the government has strongly promoted digitisation and the automatic exchange of information, thus not only significantly accelerating the processing of funding applications, but also reducing the workload for businesses. Without this, the disbursement of 80,000 applications for Corona aid to businesses would not have been possible.

The DP will expand the Guichet unique for enterprises, so that enterprises are informed in real time about the processing status of their application, as well as a complete overview, for example, of approved subsidies and establishment permits. Also with the help of artificial intelligence, the Guichet unique becomes a real counselling centre.

Setting new impulses against the shortage of skilled workers

The current uncertain economic situation, especially in the construction industry, has already led to a slowdown in labour force growth in isolated sectors. This situation should not obscure the fact that there is still a high demand for skilled workers in the medium term. The numerically strong birth cohorts of the baby boom generation, which will retire in the course of the 2020s, reinforce the phenomenon. The DP is convinced that labour immigration alone cannot solve the problem; the opportunities offered by digitisation and artificial intelligence in particular must be used in a complementary manner.

The DP will complement the government's "talent attraction" strategy with sector-

specific skilled labour strategies, for example in the construction or health sectors. The DP is focusing on economic missions and more modern immigration legislation. Work permit and visa procedures for required skilled workers from third countries should be accelerated and made more transparent. In addition, access is simplified, for example through temporary permits and additional "Work and Travel Visa Agreements" with third countries, which have already been concluded with Canada and Australia, for example. An on-line portal is to bundle all information for potential applicants as well as interested businesses.

The "Régime d'impatrié" and the "Prime Participative", introduced in the last legislative period, are important fiscal instruments to attract talent. DP will make these two measures even more attractive in the future.

Further strengthen "Prime participative"

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Ensuring the attractiveness of the "régime d'impatrié"

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Stronger support for state co-financing of continuing education in businesses

In-company training is a central cornerstone for ensuring Luxembourg's innovative strength and future viability. The DP will provide a higher percentage of state co-financing for in-company training in promising areas such as digitisation and sustainability.

From start-up to scale-up

A positive environment for start-ups is an important prerequisite to foster entrepreneurial spirit. But it is not only the start-up phase that poses major challenges for young entrepreneurs; setting the right course for the further development of the

company ("scale-up") is also decisive for success or failure. In the current legislative period, a roadmap for the promotion of the start-up ecosystem was elaborated by the government. The DP will implement this roadmap to further strengthen Luxembourg as a start-up location. In addition, the DP will introduce a so-called "tax shelter" system, similar to the one in Belgium, to promote investments in start-ups and scale-ups by means of tax incentives for investors.

In order to support start-ups active in the field of artificial intelligence to offer new products and services, possible regulatory blockades are analysed. Strict data protection must be guaranteed at all times.

Accompanying generational change in businesses

Many entrepreneurs of the baby boomer generation will retire in the coming years. This will present numerous enterprises with the challenge of finding an adequate succession plan. In order to support enterprises in preparing for a transfer, the DP will impose a specific support programme (SME Package Transmission d'entreprise). In addition, the DP will launch a public investment fund to better accompany business successions. The goal of such a fund is to secure the future of medium-sized businesses and enable them to regain their financial autonomy in the medium to long term. Such a fund should be able to intervene through several mechanisms: Participation in the capital, profit sharing or a guarantee. In parallel, the SNCI is to develop new products to better accompany the transfer of a company.

Strengthen the principle of second chances for entrepreneurs

The right to a second chance for entrepreneurs who have already had to file

for insolvency was anchored for the first time in the new right of establishment. The draft law on bankruptcy currently being discussed in the Chamber of Deputies will also help to give entrepreneurs who want to start up again a new chance. The DP will closely follow the development of these two important innovations, and further adapt the legislation if necessary.

Promote new technologies, research and innovation

The DP sees the state as an innovation driver and will therefore promote innovation and the use of state-of-the-art technologies. The potentials of digitisation, especially the diverse possibilities of artificial intelligence, are to be used consistently.

Luxembourg needs continued targeted public funding for research. The orientation of public research must thereby coincide with the goals of our country's diversification policy. The reform of the law regarding innovation subsidies has significantly simplified access to these subsidies for small and medium-sized businesses. In order to further reduce the gap between private and public research investment, innovation must be consistently supported, especially in SMEs.

The DP will therefore introduce tax write-offs for investments in sustainability and digitisation. The DP will also make the state, as a significant purchaser of products and services, more accountable in the context of contract awards. Public procurement will be aligned to focus primarily on innovation, circular economy and climate-friendly sustainability.

Additional incentives for investment in sustainability and research

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Electronic invoices for B2B and B2C

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Drive decarbonisation of the economy

The European Union has committed to reducing CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 2005, with the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Small and medium-sized businesses in particular require accompanying measures within the framework of the ecological and energy turnaround in order to adapt to the new framework conditions and to ensure their competitiveness internationally.

In addition to an incentive policy for climate-friendly investments by means of targeted government funding programmes, businesses need concrete assistance in their day-to-day operations. The newly created Climate Pact for Businesses is an important stakeholder here. Within the framework of the Climate Pact for Businesses, the DP will develop concrete sectoral action plans with the Climate Pact partners and create a personalised advisory service for SMEs.

The DP will also create an observatory for technological market monitoring to give the various sectors an overview of the latest standards in their field of activity. In addition, "test labs" will be created where businesses can test new environmentally friendly and digital technologies according to the "test before you invest" principle.

Residential and commercial buildings are responsible for a high proportion of CO2 emissions. The DP will provide targeted support to businesses for the energy-efficient refurbishment of their building stock through funding programmes. DP will make consistent use of the new opportunities provided by European state aid law for climate-friendly investments. Funding programmes in the field of energy efficiency, research and environmental

protection are being newly established or expanded. DP will continue the support programmes for the electrification of the vehicle fleet and the installation of electric charging stations.

The DP will also continue to drive the decarbonisation of industry in close consultation with the industry sector.

DP will firmly anchor sustainability criteria in public tenders. At the same time, accompanying offers are being created for SMEs so that they can adapt to these new requirements.

Carbon Capture Storage and Use (CCSU)

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Conserve resources, promote circular economy

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Driving digitisation forward in SMEs

Medium-sized businesses are often so busy with their day-to-day operations that they do not find the necessary time to deal sufficiently with the topic of digitisation. Important initiatives, such as Letzshop, DigitalHandwerk or the SME Package Digitalisation funding programme, are already bearing fruit. Efforts need to be stepped up to enable SMEs to reap the benefits of a real data economy and the many opportunities offered by artificial intelligence. The DP will therefore develop a digitisation strategy for SMEs in the Haut Comité PME.

The topic of cyber security has been underestimated by many businesses, yet cyber attacks are a real risk. SMEs are particularly vulnerable. The DP will therefore launch a new SME Package Cyber Security funding programme to support small and medium-sized enterprises in cyber security measures.

Strengthen Luxembourg's on-line trade

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Develop activity zones and offer turnkey business parks

Medium-sized businesses in particular are increasingly complaining about the lack of commercial space to develop their activities. In 2021, the sectoral plan "Activity Zones" was adopted to expand the available areas. The DP will mandate a commission to quickly acquire the necessary land for this and to quickly go through the necessary approval procedures and impact studies. In addition, the DP will strive for a densification of the existing activity zones and focus more on a bundling of facilities (for example parking space) in order to organise the zones as efficiently as possible. The DP will also create a cadastre of all activity zones to provide a central overview of land availability. The concept of the circular economy is to be applied systematically to activity zones.

The DP wants to create a supply of quasi-turnkey plots for different activities (trade, craft, industry) in the business parks. For these plots of land, various procedures are to be carried out in advance together with the municipalities, which are independent of the specific characteristics of the potential company to be located. This saves businesses valuable time.

The DP is open to the idea of cross-border activity zones.

Valuing self-employment and creating equality with employees

Refer to chapter on Work

Making working hours flexible in the interest of workers and employers

Refer to chapter on Work

Promote decentralised workplaces - create regional co-working spaces

Refer to chapter on National planning

Liberalise retail opening hours

The DP will liberalise retail opening hours and allow general Sunday opening without the need to request it via an exemption rule.

Enforce free choice of suppliers for the trade

DP will continue to advocate at EU level for a free choice of supplier for trade. The contractual obligation to purchase products through certain intermediaries leads to price increases on the Luxembourg market and violates the principle of a well-functioning EU internal market.

Monitor situation in the construction industry and take further measures if necessary

The European Central Bank's interest rate policy to combat inflation has indirectly resulted in a significant slowdown in construction activity, especially in the residential property market. Around 3,700 businesses with over 55,000 employees are active in the construction sector. The government has adopted a catalogue of measures to prevent unemployment and maintain construction activities.

For the DP, supporting the construction industry is central to ensuring that urgently needed housing is created and that in the future there will be enough skilled workers to implement climate measures such as the construction of photovoltaic systems and the renovation of old buildings. DP will closely monitor the situation in the construction sector and, if necessary, take new measures within the shortest possible time.

Create a craftsman's yard

Affordable and suitable commercial space is hard to find, especially for young craftsmen. The DP will therefore create a craftsmen's yard, which will enable craftsmen to work together in multi-purpose halls and benefit from synergies.

Promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Sustainable development of a company is indispensable to ensure long-term entrepreneurial success. According to a study by the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, only 12% of businesses have their own CSR strategy, even though many businesses are pursuing this goal (23% are in the implementation phase, 39% in the planning phase). Specific funding programmes in this area have already been introduced in the current legislative period. The DP, in close cooperation with the House of Sustainability newly founded by the professional chambers, will strengthen the accompaniment of businesses in the field of CSR.

Promote social and solidarity economy as an alternative to ASBL

The social and solidarity economy now has a firm place in the business landscape. The legal form of the SIS (société d'impact social) has become established. Currently, many stakeholders in the social and solidarity economy are still operating under the legal form of a non-profit association (ASBL). However, this legal form is often not appropriate for the activities carried out and carries a high personal liability risk for board members. The DP will launch an awareness campaign to convince the stakeholders concerned of the advantages of a SIS and offer concrete support in case of a change of legal form.

Make long-term economic strategies more coherent

In the past, initiatives were repeatedly launched to develop long-term economic strategies. In order to avoid a new attempt in every legislative period in the future, the DP, in cooperation with the business representatives, will outsource the elaboration and monitoring of these future strategies from the Ministry of Economy to an independent institution.

Tourism

The importance of tourism goes far beyond the economic activity of the tourism industry. Thus, tourism is a key driver for regions, local economies and local people. For these reasons, it is important to have a goal-oriented tourism policy that supports the positive aspects of tourism and helps tourism stakeholders to address the challenges of the future. The DP is committed to a tourism policy that on the one hand promotes quality tourism and on the other hand brings clear added value for the population, the regions and the local economy. In doing so, the thematic strengths are deliberately further developed, such as commemorative tourism, eco-tourism, active tourism (hiking and cycling), cultural tourism or culinary delights. The topic of sustainability should always be considered as a continuous thread in all areas.

The professionalisation of tourism policy has been significantly advanced in the current legislative period, for example through the elaboration of a leisure and business tourism strategy. At the same time, concrete projects were initiated, such as the purchase and restoration of the historic ship "MS Marie-Astrid"- famous as the place where the Schengen Treaties were signed, the creation of an architectural design of "Glamping Cabins" ("Tiermchen"), which can be used as an unusual accommodation concept by all stakeholders across the country, or the launch of the "Visit Luxembourg" app, which bundles all tourist offers in the country.

Consistently implement leisure and business tourism strategy

In the current legislative period, detailed participatory tourism strategies with concrete measures for action were developed for the first time. The DP will

consistently implement these in order to further develop Luxembourg as a sustainable and high-quality tourism destination that also creates added value for the local people.

Quality instead of mass

The DP's tourism policy stands for quality and does not goal at mass tourism. In the current legislative period, the focus of tourism policy here has been placed much more strongly on local markets such as the Netherlands, Germany, France and Belgium. These target groups are not only interesting in terms of sustainable domestic tourism, but their length of stay is also significantly longer than that of long-distance tourists, for example, who often only stay in the country for a few hours. In the long-distance markets, the goal is to continue to attract tourists in a very targeted manner, for example in North America the promotion of commemorative tourism to commemorate the Second World War.

Sustainability as a continuous thread

With the sustainability labels "Ecolabel" and "Green Business Events", Luxembourg clearly focuses on the topic of sustainability. Various priority tourism areas, such as active tourism, also reflect the prioritisation of sustainability in tourism policy. For the DP, however, it is clear that the theme of sustainability must run through the entire tourism strategy, from the target groups targeted (local vs. long-distance markets), to the promotion of domestic tourism, to a respectful treatment of nature. DP will therefore seek sustainability certification for Luxembourg as a global destination.

Strengthen regions

The capital is undoubtedly a strong tourist magnet. However, the individual regions with their respective special features have just as much to offer in terms of tourism.

The DP wants to strengthen the regions in terms of tourism and emphasise their individuality. In order to do this, stronger networking and tourist offers that link regions with each other are to be promoted. In addition, similar to the successful example of ORT Éislek, the DP will offer regional tourism associations a better integration into the EIG Luxembourg for Tourism. This will allow the tourism associations to benefit from numerous synergies without, however, losing their autonomy and freedom of design.

Promoting commemorative tourism as a journey into the past

The DP will continue to develop commemorative tourism products and make them more accessible to new generations. The cornerstones of Luxembourg's commemorative tourism are the memory of World War II, the construction of the European Union as a peace project, and the industrialisation of the country with the iron and steel industry. Important projects were started in this legislative period: for example, the international "Liberation Road", which connects European memorials to the Second World War, or the purchase and historical restoration of the "MS Marie-Astrid" as the place where the Schengen Treaties were signed. The DP will continue these projects and provide the necessary funds for them. The "MS Marie-Astrid" will get its permanent anchorage in Schengen and become a leading attraction in the east of the country.

Invest consistently in tourism

In order to strengthen the quality of life and stay, a strong investment policy in tourism is needed. In the 11th Five-Year Infrastructure Plan, which was recently approved by the Chamber of Deputies, the financial resources were increased from 60 million euros to 70 million euros. The DP is

committed to a strong investment policy in tourism that contributes to strengthening the regions.

Realise sustainable hotel project in Lultzhausen

For the DP, water and environmental protection on the one hand, and tourism on the other, are compatible. Therefore, a feasibility study for a hotel project in Lultzhausen near the reservoir was commissioned during the current legislative period. The DP will tender such a hotel project with clear environmental requirements in order to create a showcase for environmentally friendly accommodation structures with an accent on so-called "slow tourism".

Better coordinate and expand the "Rent a Bike" offer

Social employment initiatives do an outstanding job in providing a good "Rent a Bike" system in the regions. The DP will provide the initiatives with the necessary means to better coordinate the different regional offers and to provide a comprehensive offer. On-line bookability is being sought in close cooperation with the initiatives.

Further develop active tourism

Active tourism is a pillar of the national tourism strategy. Great progress was made in the last legislative period to increase the quality of experience in active tourism. The Ösling region, for example, is the first European hiking region to be awarded the title "Leading Quality Region- Best of Europe" by the European Hiking Association. The DP will continue to improve the national hiking network and also ensure the maintenance (for example clearing and mowing) of the quality hiking trails. Trail management (marking and signposting) also needs to be expanded and improved where necessary.

The development of cycle tourism has gained momentum in the current legislative period. Initiatives such as the Vëlosommer help to position Luxembourg as a cycling country. The DP will work for a consistent further development of cycle tourism and create a good holistic tour offer for cyclists. In addition, the municipalities are supported in building connections to the national cycle path network and in providing important infrastructure for cyclists, such as luggage storage or bicycle pumping stations.

Establish locals and cross-border commuters as a target group for tourism

The accommodation voucher offered by the government in the Corona pandemic, to locals and cross-border commuters to support accommodation establishments, has given a real boost to domestic tourism. The DP will continue to focus on domestic tourism through targeted actions that bring the people who live and work here closer to the country and its culture.

Bringing the wine region to life

The Moselle region is known far beyond its borders as an excellent wine region. Numerous events already contribute to the marketing of local wines. In the future, the DP will work closely with the winegrowers' associations to bring the wineries and also the winegrowers more into the tourist spotlight and thus create authentic experiences for tourists that at the same time bring real added value to wine culture.

Thus, on the one hand, we will create a clear legal framework for the "Wäistuff" as well as the "salle de dégustation" at the winegrower. On the other hand, we will examine to what extent the establishment of "chambres d'hôte" can be made possible under precise conditions.

Expand the range of accessible tourism

The Eurewelcome label is an important instrument to promote accessible offers. The DP will work to ensure that there is as wide a range of accessible tourism as possible to meet people's different needs. For the DP, accessibility is a quality feature and the topic will be considered in all areas of tourism development.

Tourist attractions that cannot be designed barrier-free should be made visitable via digital offers. Tactile models for the visually impaired are to be set up at important monuments.

Business tourism as a driver for the economic location

Business tourism can contribute to developing priority economic clusters and strengthening Luxembourg as an economic location through a proactive design policy. The creation of the EIG "Luxembourg Convention Bureau" during the current legislative term was an important step in strategically and systematically addressing the development of business tourism in Luxembourg. This policy is beginning to bear fruit: Within three years, Luxembourg has gained 20 places in the ICCA ranking and is now ranked 54th among the most important congress locations worldwide (2021).

The DP is convinced that business tourism must be further developed into a real engine of diversification and strengthening of priority economic sectors. International events can contribute to the transfer of know-how and innovation as well as to the development of a location. The DP will therefore, consistently promote international events that add value to the economy.

At the same time, business tourism strengthens the local tourism industry, especially the on-trade. In fact, an international participant at a business

event spends an average of 594 euros per day. In addition, business tourism generates 332,000 overnight stays annually (2021). Accordingly, the importance of business tourism is twofold: Strengthening the strategic economic development of our country and strengthening the local tourism industry. For these reasons, DP will promote sustainable and quality business tourism that creates real added value.

Establishing Green Business Events as the New Normal

During the current legislative period, the "Green Business Events" logo was developed to make business events as environmentally friendly as possible, from travel to catering. The DP will work to ensure that sustainable events become the norm in the future as well as support the certification of venues with sustainability labels.

Bleisure - combining business and leisure

The word combination Bleisure (Business and Leisure) stands for the combination of business and leisure stay. The DP will actively promote the creation of offers for business tourists to extend their stay and will particularly involve the country's regions in this concept. This promotes the local tourism industry, especially in rural areas.

Bringing stakeholders together regularly

Moving Luxembourg forward as a business destination is only possible if all stakeholders pull together. DP will therefore organise an annual business tourism forum to develop new ideas and promote networking between partners. These forums are also to be used for further training.

Integrate business tourism into sectoral economic strategies

New strategies are continuously being developed in many sectors of the

economy. The DP will ensure that these strategies systematically take business tourism into account and thus pursue a holistic location policy.

Enabling access to new technologies

Venues must increasingly invest in digitisation and new technologies to accommodate new developments. The DP, through the LCB (Luxembourg Convention Bureau), will give organisers access to the latest developments and trends in digital innovation. In addition, investments in digital infrastructures are to be promoted in a targeted manner.

Build new national congress centre (Luxexpo) in Kirchberg

The needs of international congress centres have changed significantly in recent years. The current Luxexpo halls only take limited account of the international trend of Confex activities (combination of conferences and exhibitions). The DP will build a new national convention centre that will not only meet international standards, but will also have a hotel structure, a concert hall and adjacent shops to create a vibrant place of exchange and encounter.

Establish Observatory for Business Events

In order to concretely evaluate the benefits of business events and to ensure that the right strategic course is set, the DP will establish an observatory for business events together with industry stakeholders. The main mission will be to critically monitor the development of the industry and to record and evaluate, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the progress of the business tourism strategy.

Higher education and research: Expanding Luxembourg as a location for innovation

The DP will further develop the quality of Luxembourg's higher education landscape and continue to provide a financial, legal and infrastructural framework for public research to ensure international excellence as well as benefits for our society.

"Schools" for the training of future professionals

The University of Luxembourg celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2023 and can look back on a successful development. In order to continue to meet all of society's demands and to comply with international quality standards, the DP will continue to develop the structure of the university. In order to train a sufficiently qualified workforce in important areas (for example medicine and health professions, teachers and social educators), the DP proposes the creation of university-internal "schools" (Medical School, Educational School).

Expand the range of research centres

Further internal university research centres "Centre interdisciplinaire" are being created, for example in the subject areas of sustainable development and European law. The DP will continue to expand the campus on Belval to meet the infrastructure needs of the university as well as the various research centres. A modern campus will also be built on Kirchberg to house the university departments that remain in Luxembourg City.

Luxembourg University Competence Center

The Luxembourg University Competence Center is being expanded as a provider of university continuing education courses. In the context, a legal framework for so-called "micro-credentials" is created. In addition to the academically oriented BTS formations, the DP will create advanced vocational training in consultation with the professional chambers.

Create transfer agency for start-ups and spin-offs

In order to promote the transfer of scientific findings into practical application, the DP will create a transfer agency to advise and support spin-offs and start-ups. On the Belval campus, further premises are being created for young businesses that take advantage of the proximity to research. To create an attractive environment for start-ups, the DP will allow the university to participate in the capital of start-ups. A tax concession for investments in start-ups will also be created.

Expand national data exchange platform

In the 21st century, data is a resource that can be used in very different ways. The DP will further develop the National Data Exchange Platform (PNED) to promote the scientific and commercial use of data that is compliant with national and international data protection guidelines.

Expand medical education at the University of Luxembourg

The DP will gradually expand medical training at the University of Luxembourg. After evaluating the bachelor's programme in medicine, the university will offer a corresponding master's programme in close cooperation with the health sector. Other specialisations in the field of medicine are also being developed after consultation with the health sector.

Exploiting the opportunities of personalised medicine

Refer to chapter on Health

Establish an AI centre of excellence

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Digitisation and media: Putting new technologies at the service of people and preserving media pluralism

The DP sees digitisation as a great opportunity for our society. We want to use the advancing digitisation in all areas of life and orient the digital transformation in favour of the people. The benefits of digitisation should be accessible to everyone. Therefore, the DP will take further measures for digital inclusion.

Under the leadership of the DP, the digitisation of public administrations has been significantly advanced, the ICT sector has been further developed, the connectivity of citizens has been improved and important progress has been made in the area of media literacy. In particular, the progress made in the digitisation of administrative procedures has met with great international acclaim. For example, Luxembourg improved from eleventh to an excellent third place in the European Commission's "eGovernment Benchmark" within two years. This recognition spurs us on to digitalise as many administrative procedures as possible as quickly as possible within the framework of administrative simplification for citizens.

Today, fast and nationwide internet access, an open and transparent data policy and a comprehensive cyber security strategy create attractive framework conditions for national and international companies. We will continue to consistently expand this competitive advantage.

Media pluralism and freedom of the press are indispensable elements of a free democracy. The DP understands the importance of free journalistic work, as well as objective and transparent reporting, and has launched several reforms in recent years to preserve media pluralism. For example, with the new Press Assistance Act, editorial offices of print and on-line publications will receive even more support. New multi-year agreements with RTL, the public service radio 100.7 and the community *radio ARA* ensure that the audiovisual media in Luxembourg also have the necessary financial planning security for the coming years.

The great success of various Luxembourg film productions, also internationally, is proof that the local creative industry is alive and constantly evolving. As DP, we want to continue to strengthen our country as an audiovisual production centre in the future.

DIGITISATION

Free Wi-Fi access in public spaces for all citizens

The DP advocates for powerful and freely available Wi-Fi in public spaces. We want to enable people to be in pedestrian zones, parks and other public places and communicate, work or access general information on-line at the same time.

Free wifi on trains, buses and the tram

DP wants to make public transport as pleasant and attractive as possible for passengers. Therefore, we will enable free internet on all national railway lines and stations, in buses, the tram and at stops.

E-wallet: Introduce digital citizen card

We want to introduce a digital citizen card that will serve as an alternative means of identification both *on-line* and *off-line*.

Official identification documents such as identity cards, driving licences, etc. can be compiled on this digital citizen card. These can then be accessed and controlled by state or municipal authorities. The times of overfilled wallets should thus be a thing of the past.

Introduction of the "once-only" principle

DP wants to consistently expand the "once-only" principle. In future, citizens should only have to provide certain personal data of the state and municipal administration once instead of submitting it separately for each individual authority.

Making digitisation inclusive

On the initiative of the Ministry of Digitalisation, the first national action plan for digital inclusion was created in 2021. This consists of 40 concrete initiatives, a whole series of which are intended for older citizens. We will work to ensure that the national action plan continues beyond 2024. We will ensure that sufficient funds continue to be made available in the future to promote a digital society for all.

Artificial intelligence in the service of citizens

The use of artificial intelligence offers many new opportunities to strengthen our economy and simplify the everyday lives of citizens. DP will continue to invest in research and in the commercialisation of new AI applications. We will clarify ethical issues in advance and also take the necessary measures to prevent all forms of data misuse and discrimination ("implicit bias") that could arise from the use of artificial intelligence.

At the European level, we will also work for the implementation of the European "AI Act", which regulates the use of artificial intelligence, thus guaranteeing the security and competitiveness of the EU's digital single market.

Promote teleworking

Refer to chapter on Work

Remote working - promoting location-independent working

Refer to chapter on Work

Promote telework through modern tax law

Refer to the chapter on Tax policy

Strengthen the right of non-accessibility

Refer to chapter on Work

Quick Freeze - a compromise between efficient law enforcement and fundamental digital rights

The European Court of Justice has ruled against general "data retention", i.e. the possibility for the state to store electronic communications of private persons (e-mails, calls, ...) preventively and without good reason for a certain period of time. For law enforcement, however, this data is sometimes the only source of evidence. That is why, in the case of serious crimes such as child abuse or terrorism, we rely on an exemption within the EU ban on "data retention". The *Quick Freeze model* will thus ensure a balanced protection of private data and an effective fight against crime.

Promote digital skills of adults

The demand for digital skills in the labour market is higher than ever. Nowadays, children are introduced to new technologies at an early age, whether at school or at home. However, there is still a large gap between the digital affinity of younger generations and many workers who did not receive extensive training in this area during their school years. To ensure that these individuals can meet the demands of the workplace, our goal is to provide them with digital skills. For this reason, we support comprehensive further training measures.

We will thoroughly examine and analyse the possibility of financing continuing education, similar to the model of continuing education vouchers in the Netherlands. In order to encourage *re-skilling* and *up-skilling*, this financial support should not only apply to education and training, but also to all digital courses.

Developing our localities into "Smart Cities"

The DP will specifically support municipalities in making their localities more efficient, progressive, environmentally friendly and socially inclusive with the help of digitisation. We will create financial incentives for this and co-finance innovative projects.

Subject new laws to a digitisation check

New legislative projects are to be tested for their digital suitability even before they come into force, in order to identify and improve any weaknesses in practical implementation. In this way, we avoid costs and tedious amendment procedures. With the goal of an efficient *e-government strategy*, we want to make our laws digitally user-friendly and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

More data security through security-by-design

We will continue to invest in the security of state IT infrastructures. In addition, we want to protect data of private individuals even better against hacker attacks. According to the principle "*security by design*" security issues must be solved from the very beginning of the development of new software.

Sovereign Cloud

The DP will work to ensure that citizens, entrepreneurs and public authorities can understand what happens to the data they want to use cloud services for. The efforts in the area of a sovereign cloud

infrastructure in Luxembourg are to be supported. This will create a competitive advantage over other European locations and further strengthen Luxembourg as an ICT location.

Promoting digital volunteering

Refer to chapter on Family policy

Strengthen Luxembourg's on-line trade

The DP will strengthen Luxembourg's on-line trade by removing existing obstacles. We will help small and medium-sized enterprises and young entrepreneurs in particular to establish themselves in on-line trade and thus secure a second foothold in the digital market.

Luxembourg as a European Blockchain Hub

In 2019, Luxembourg became the first country in the world to introduce blockchain in the public sector. As a result, the state's IT processes have become more reliable, transparent and secure. We have also strengthened the legal security of blockchain technology in the financial sector. In the future, we will continue to promote research, development and education in this area to position Luxembourg as a European *Blockchain Hub*.

Prevent geo-blocking

Since 2018, you no longer have to do without on-line services that you have paid for in your home country when travelling within the EU. However, some offers and protected content are excluded from this new regulation. To date, EU citizens cannot automatically access content from another Member State in their country.

We want to remove these barriers and call for a Europe-wide ban on *geo-blocking*. In addition, we want to regulate copyright in the audiovisual sector at the European level rather than at the national level.

Create synergies between state and municipal IT operators

There is great potential between the IT service providers of the public sector to create synergies that could simplify both the workflow within the administrations and the communication between the individual agencies. Further synergies could be created between SIGI, the data processing syndicate of the municipalities, and the state IT operator CTIE, up to and including institutionalised cooperation under joint management. We advocate for much closer cooperation between administrations. This is the only way to ensure the efficiency of *e-government*. Important dossiers involving the skills of several administrations could thus be processed more efficiently.

Introduce electronic doctor's prescriptions

Refer to chapter on Health

Continuously develop *MyGuichet*

In recent years, the MyGuichet.lu platform has been continuously developed and improved. In 2021, the MyGuichet app was also introduced, which allows citizens to conveniently complete administrative procedures via their tablet or smartphone. We are committed to continuing to improve the user-friendliness of MyGuichet.lu and to continually expand the range of administrative procedures on the platform.

At the same time, it is important to us to ensure the retention of a physical contact point. We will also explore the possibility of additional regional Guichet field offices.

Enable digital court proceedings

The Rules of Procedure and Procedure for Small Claims Oral Proceedings in Criminal, Civil and Commercial Matters will in future allow for hearings via video conference, as is currently the case in Germany. In this way, we not only relieve the courts and accelerate proceedings, but also reduce costs and stress for those affected.

Electronic invoices for B2B and B2C

Since 2019, electronic invoicing for transactions between enterprises and the state (*B2G*) has been introduced in stages. With the goal of later application in the *B2B* (*Business to Business*) and *B2C* (*Business to Consumer*) sectors, we will inform companies about the advantages of this invoicing system and accompany them in the practical implementation.

Sustainable data centres

We want to make our data centres as sustainable as possible with the help of energy-saving technologies and software. We will examine to what extent we can

reduce water consumption, capture the waste heat produced and recycle waste even better. In addition, we will invest more in the development of sustainable information and communication technologies.

Introduce electronic signature in the municipalities

On the initiative of the Ministry of Digitalisation, legislation for electronic signatures in administrative matters was launched in 2022. Just as with the state, electronic signatures should also be able to be used at the municipal level. This facilitates the work of the municipal administrations and will contribute to administrative simplification.

Nationwide 5G network and fibre roll-out (Fibre To The Home)

Luxembourg has made significant investments in its mobile and fixed digital infrastructures in recent years. DP will continue to keep investments in this area high. We are committed to the nationwide expansion of 5G technology and the fibre optic network.

Establish an AI centre of excellence

Artificial intelligence is increasingly gaining influence and importance. The DP wants to closely accompany this development. By launching an AI Centre of Excellence, the DP aims to bring together stakeholders from economy, education and academia to analyse how we as a society can best benefit from new technologies.

Support European initiatives and programmes

In the context of the Digital Decade, Europe has set itself a policy programme with digital goals and objectives until 2030 to continue the digital transformation in Europe. Luxembourg is already preparing for some initiatives. DP is committed to continuing to consistently support the

digital transformation in and for Luxembourg.

Making LuxChat4Gov accessible to the entire population

After public service employees have had access to the chat application LuxGov4Chat since the middle of the year, the DP wants to make this means of communication accessible to businesses and the entire population.

Developing the satellite industry in Luxembourg

The development of the satellite industry in Luxembourg has become much more important in recent years. In addition to the large stakeholders like SES, many new and interesting start-ups have also established themselves in Luxembourg. This sector is also growing into a long-term geopolitical, economic and strategically important market element, as well as a scientific and research sector, which brings guarantees of success and future for the Luxembourg location in terms of satellite services.

The DP is therefore committed to ensuring that Luxembourg's satellite industry and related service sector continue to develop strongly, attracting, training and developing related talent. The government's industrial and investment policy will be maintained at a high level, with state investments serving as targeted support for local industry. The latter with the help of targeted and sustainable activities of government funding programmes of Luxinnovation, the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA), the University of Luxembourg as well as other institutions. This increased clustering in Luxembourg of aeronautics and space cannot be achieved without an increased involvement of the defence sector in this economic segment, which allows Luxembourg to play an increasingly key

role in the development and positioning of the country in space. A central coordination function between economic interests and defence requirements will strengthen and expand this cooperation.

MEDIA

Extended access to information for the press

The DP advocates open and transparent communication between state administrations and journalists. The 'Circulaire Bettel' was revised to improve press access to information from the authorities and administrations. The DP will analyse to what extent access to information for the press can be enshrined in law according to the international model.

Define and enhance professional journalism

Press relations were revalorised through the reform of the Press Assistance Act. The profession of journalist is to be clearly defined in a further step. The DP therefore advocates that the profession of journalists and the framework conditions for their activities be laid down in a law.

Better Protect Press and Media & Prevent 'SLAPP Suits'

The DP will better protect journalists from increased physical violence and intimidation by introducing so-called 'SLAPP suits' (abusive form of legal action against the media). The DP advocates that physical and moral violence as well as other criminal offences against press representatives continue to be consistently prosecuted in the future.

Keeping press aid at a high level

Since the beginning of the year until mid-2023, press aid expenditure was 43% higher than the previous year at €6.7

million. By shifting the focus to journalistic work, press relations are re-evaluated. In addition, the number of publications that can draw on this financial support has been increased, so that a total of 18 publications from 14 different publishers now benefit from press assistance. The DP will continue to maintain a high level of support for professional journalistic work and preserve media pluralism in Luxembourg. After an in-depth evaluation of the new Press Assistance Act, it is to be adapted in cooperation with those affected, if necessary.

Expand DAB+

The DP is committed to consistently continuing the nationwide introduction of the DAB+ transmission system initiated by the Minister of Media. DAB+ is intended to provide greater geographical coverage, guarantee nationwide coverage with better sound quality and thus enrich the radio offering in Luxembourg. In order to relieve local broadcasters financially during the switch-over, DP will support them in financing their offerings via DAB+.

Re-regulate electronic media

The European Union is striving for a digital decade. The digital transformation is unmistakable and is advancing with great strides. The *Digital Services Act (DSA)* and the *Media Freedom Act* are sets of rules that will regulate the digital world and media in the future. The DP is committed not only to having a say at European level, but also to taking the necessary steps now to pave the way for the new era. In this context, the electronic media and the skills of the national media regulator '*Autorité Luxembourgeoise Indépendante de l'Audiovisuel*' (ALIA) are also to be reviewed and reformed.

Make media and information accessible to everyone in an understandable way

In Europe, about 80 million people have impaired vision or hearing. This corresponds to about ten percent of the entire European population. Luxembourg has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability. For example, the National Information and Press Office is committed to making its website accessible. The DP is committed to providing everyone with access to media and information. Every citizen should also be able to understand the media. To this end, the conventions with RTL and public service radio 100.7 also provide accessibility criteria that meet the requirements of the *Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)* and the *World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)*.

Continue to fight illegal content on the internet

As a decentralised and cross-border medium, the internet enables the rapid spread of false information and illegal content. With the BEE Secure Helpline and Stopleveline, there are already possibilities in Luxembourg to take action against false, illegal or dangerous content. The DP wants to make the internet a safer place. A special focus is on children and young people, whose protection is also of the highest priority on the internet. The DP also wants to help develop concrete measures at the European and international level, and further support cooperation between countries in the fight against illegal content and misinformation.

Further promote and develop Luxembourg as a location in the media and film sector

Award-winning co-productions and Luxembourg series successes have contributed to the Luxembourg film industry's growing reputation over the past few years. In fact, the profile of

Luxembourg's creative industry has grown steadily. The DP recognises the great potential of Luxembourg as a film location. In addition to bilateral agreements with various countries, the DP is committed to using the momentum to support the Luxembourg film sector, with national and international co-productions, and to further promote Luxembourg's media and cultural landscape.

The DP will amend the legal framework of the 'Film Fund Luxembourg' in accordance with the proposals of the Court of Auditors so that the structures and procedures within the Film Fund are clearly and transparently regulated.

Participation in the Eurovision Song Contest

Once created to promote cohesion between nations, the Eurovision Song Contest is now an international competition that brings together musicians, artists and cultural figures on an international stage year after year. The *ESC* is gaining in popularity and has become a symbol of international understanding and cultural coming together over the years. Our country has a lot to offer both on a cultural and artistic level. The DP therefore supports the government's plan to have Luxembourg participate in the Eurovision Song Contest again after a break of more than 30 years.

Cultural policy: Making culture the focus of attraction

Culture brings people together. Especially during the Covid 19 pandemic, many citizens became aware of how important social contacts and good company are. This concerns first and foremost culture. The DP has been promoting cultural diversity for years and will continue to make this a priority. This includes not only museums, theatres, film productions, etc., but also the appreciation of all cultural workers and their work.

Culture is for everyone. For the DP, it is a priority that young people also come into contact with culture at an early age. In the current legislative period, for example, the DP has introduced free music lessons and initiated various cultural projects in schools.

Likewise, the new Monument Protection Act, which was drafted under the leadership of a DP minister, was passed during this period. In this way, we in Luxembourg finally have clear and transparent rules for the protection of our cultural heritage; be it architectural, archaeological, movable or intangible cultural property.

The *Cultural Development Plan (CDP)* plays a prominent role in this context and stands for dialogue and permanent exchange. The *assises culturelles*, in particular, are intended to ensure constant communication between the Ministry of Culture and cultural practitioners. The Cultural Development Plan must therefore be constantly developed- this is the only way it can fulfil its role.

Cultural policy is also location policy. The DP will strengthen Luxembourg's position on the world map with an even broader,

cultural offer. With 'Esch2022', Luxembourg has strengthened its image beyond its borders. Cultural associations, however, must also receive the necessary funds to be able to promote themselves abroad.

Upgrading cultural sites

Classical cultural sites that have significantly shaped our national history must upgrade their infrastructure in order to maintain or improve their attractiveness. In close cooperation with the municipalities, a strategy must be worked out that ensures long-term cultural perspectives for these places and continues to make them magnets for soft tourism.

Making archaeological cultural sites better known

Ancient, excavated cultural sites are part of Luxembourg's identity. We are committed to networking these and making them more visible on the map of cultural tourism. Digital media should be helpful in this regard and also provide the essential information in easy language. In cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Roman roads and villas in Luxembourg and the Greater Region should be made better known to the general public and as accessible as possible to everyone.

Promoting historical and contemporary garden culture

Historic gardens are often associated with protected buildings. The *Florence Charter* regulates their protection. We want to support their care. A national prize is to be awarded to those people and institutions who dedicate themselves to the preservation and expert maintenance of historic gardens.

In addition, we want to expand the *Rendez-vous aux jardins* initiative in cooperation with the municipalities and

nature parks. The goal is to combine contemporary art and garden culture within the framework of old and modern architecture.

Creation of a National Gallery

We are committed to the creation of a National Gallery to exhibit and preserve works by recognised Luxembourg artists. In this way, the history of art in our country is to be brought closer to the people, and the artistic essence of the Grand Duchy is to be exhibited and preserved.

Encyclopaedia of Luxembourg painters, draughtsmen and sculptors

A digital encyclopaedia of the Luxembourg art scene and local arts and crafts should be created under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and in collaboration with different stakeholders in order to bring the creative power of our art scene closer to the younger generations.

House of the Art of Dance

We are committed to ensuring that the professional stakeholders of the Luxembourg dance scene soon have suitable premises at their disposal. As cultural ambassadors of Luxembourg, they need appropriate conditions to be able to develop their art in the best possible way.

Digital culture portal for all cultural events

We want to make the cultural offer more visible and clearer, as many citizens risk losing the overview in view of the abundance of information.

In partnership with the professional stakeholders, as well as the national and regional cultural institutions, we will therefore launch the internet portal www.echo.lu further developed. Users should be able to adjust the portal's settings to their personal preferences.

Strengthen the creative industries

Artisans, designers, graphic artists and others in the creative industries are increasingly finding their audience in *pop-up stores*, other small shops and hobby markets across the country. Sustainability plays an important role in this. That is why the DP wants to increase its efforts to provide artists with studios, retail space and platforms. The *1535°* in Differdingen is the only creative centre in Luxembourg so far. The DP will ensure that this concept can also emerge at other locations in the country.

Create creativity locations

Culture LX will move into Villa Louvigny in the heart of Luxembourg City.

Nevertheless, there is a need for more such sites. In Mersch, for example, there is the Luxembourgish Language Centre. Additional national cultural projects could be located elsewhere in the country.

Open-air events are also becoming increasingly important. Culture must come to the people. It belongs in the middle of our society.

Art in public space is to be given a greater status. Just as 1% of the associated budget is already to be used for art in public projects and buildings, every publicly accessible place should also be given a cultural approach.

Use of castles and deconsecrated churches

The number of desecrated churches and parsonages is increasing. Buildings owned by the congregation or made available to the congregations by the church fund can be put to good use for new cultural and social purposes. The DP supports this alternative use and will continue to advocate where it makes sense to protect these buildings together with their mobile cultural heritage as national monuments.

The management of castles and palaces is often taken over by volunteers. The DP wants to continue to support them in their voluntary offices.

Housing and studios for young artistic talent

We will create additional housing for young freelance artists, both in urban and rural areas.

In consultation with the municipalities and owners, we will rent protected historic buildings that are temporarily empty to make them available to creative artists for their work. Owners of real estate who commit to hosting artists for a certain period of time are to receive tax relief.

Furthermore, we want to create additional artist residencies in larger localities where young emerging talents can live in shared flats for a certain period of time and exchange ideas. This strengthens the diversity of the local community, supports the arts scene and revitalises city centres. Likewise, in cooperation with the municipalities and owners, we will use vacant commercial spaces where artists can set up a studio.

Promotion of the Luxembourgish language and Luxembourgish traditions

It is not for nothing that UNESCO has designated language as the first building block of cultural heritage. Language and language use are the cornerstones of any tradition. Luxembourgish traditions are also closely linked to our mother tongue.

With this in mind, the DP Minister of Education has launched a number of initiatives.

UNI Luxembourg plays an important role in researching and documenting the Luxembourgish language, our traditions and customs. Among other things, a new *Bachelor's degree programme* was created. In addition to the previously

introduced Master's programme, students can now study Luxembourgish Studies immediately after their baccalaureate.

Beyond language, intangible heritage helps promote social cohesion. However, this requires that these topics are also dealt with in school. Children and young people need to understand the meaning and origin of a tradition so that it can be passed on from generation to generation.

For the second time, the *Lëtzebuerg (er)liewen* Action Week took place in June 2022. This is about young people, pupils and schools bringing the world of Luxembourg music, theatre, literature or cultural heritage to life. The website developed for this occasion with teaching material for teachers and children is to be further expanded. The DP considers culture to be an important building block of social integration.

Further adapt the law on the protection of historical monuments

The new law on the protection of historical monuments has set the course for the future. However, the need for selective adjustments is not over. The DP will have the implementation of the law reviewed to see if further precision or elaboration is needed in the procedures and admission criteria. Suggestions for new uses of the protected object should be added to a heritage application.

In addition, the DP will consider parity between the municipality and the state in the protection of buildings. Currently there is national protection, and protection via the General Development Plan in the municipalities. An ongoing dialogue between INPA and the municipalities is necessary to protect historic buildings in a responsible manner.

On the occasion of the cultural year "*Esch2022*", a project was carried out by the University of Luxembourg and in

constant exchange with the population to reappraise the local cultural heritage. Such projects are to be extended to the national level.

Energy refurbishment of listed buildings

The energy refurbishment of all buildings is a necessity. Renovating old, protected buildings in harmony with monument protection, and in accordance with sustainable energy policy, is difficult to implement without compromise. Forward-looking, individual solutions must be found together with the owners.

Further training in old craftsmanship

Luxembourg lacks artisans who master traditional craftsmanship. For this reason, the DP will ensure that additional training in traditional crafts is offered at the *Institute for Sectoral Training in Construction*.

Establishment of an Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage

A number of new institutes have been created under the new Cultural Heritage Act. The intangible heritage, however, was not taken into account. Thus, the responsibility of its preservation lies with the tradition bearers, who are not yet sufficiently supported at present. Furthermore, knowledge about the different traditions is becoming rarer as the people familiar with them become fewer over time.

The customs that still exist and are lived must be specifically recorded, protected and supported. The traditions must be documented, and digitally archived in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Institute. The DP will work to create an inter-ministerial working group and, in a further step, to amend the law accordingly in order to create an institute for this area as well in the future.

Strengthen libraries, promote media libraries

Municipalities must be encouraged to establish modern and sustainable community libraries. For the DP, the priority is to subsidise public association libraries to turn them into permanent libraries and to increase the number of community libraries more quickly. The state as a partner assumes an incentive function; however, decisions are made at the local level while respecting municipal autonomy.

The law of 24 June 2012 on public libraries is currently considered the most authoritarian law in the European Union. As a result, the law will have to be adapted in parts for the future.

In this context, the DP demands that the opening hours as well as the range of services offered by libraries be extended to allow flexible use regardless of job and daily schedule. A uniform library card, which can be applied for on-line, is introduced with which one can borrow books from all the country's libraries without pre-registration. In addition, a national delivery service is to be introduced, which will make it possible to have books delivered from different libraries to others. This service is to function with a digital pick-up system.

Helping pupils relate to art

Art lessons in schools are predominantly oriented towards the past. But young people are more enthusiastic about modern content. The DP believes that our students should have contact with contemporary artists. A direct exchange can inspire both sides.

Making art accessible to all through digitisation

As the DP, we believe that access to art and culture, as a subject of general

education, must be barrier-free and accessible to everyone. Exhibitions and inaccessible or non-barrier-free cultural sites are to be made digitally accessible. The range of digital guided tours should also be expanded. The digitisation of the projects should also enable an interactive exchange with artists or researchers. The digital processing of our valuable books is also to be intensified.

Luxembourg has many renowned artists and should create a digital gallery for Luxembourg art. The artist should be approachable and talk about himself and his works. The goal is for digital visitors to experience the artist and his work in an almost real way.

The *Nuit de la culture* in Esch should become even more digital. New digital ways have already been used with *Esch2022*, for example with the digital art exhibition in the former *Moellerei* in Belval.

Cultural stakeholders and regional cultural festivals

In the face of dwindling numbers of volunteers, we want to support regional cultural stakeholders at the staff level so that they can implement their organisational work more professionally and, above all, more easily without losing decision-making power. Regional festivals in particular are dependent on the advice and help of professional employees who can support volunteers in terms of public relations.

The DP would like to advocate for an increased awareness of culture-related career prospects. For example, the DP is considering the introduction of a cultural delegate in schools to introduce culture as such to pupils and explain career opportunities in the cultural sector.

Culture as an economic factor

Studies abroad have shown that culture makes a not insignificant contribution to the national economy. The DP would like to commission such a study and, depending on the results, further promote the industry.

Creation of a cultural observatory

The creation of a cultural observatory will ensure permanent monitoring and continuous research. This is the only way to determine how culture works in Luxembourg, where additional efforts are needed, and how best to promote the country's cultural development.

Increase the cultural budget

The Ministry of Culture needs the necessary financial resources to fulfil its mission to support and promote the Luxembourg art and culture scene.

The government has been trying to increase the budget for years. The DP will continue to work to ensure a cultural budget of at least one per cent of the state budget.

Promote patronage

Partnerships between business and culture go beyond the principle of an investment. By supporting culture, businesses make a comprehensive contribution to society. Initiatives that bring people together to create a new community are also part of this.

To ensure that the business community can continue to fulfil its social responsibility as a partner of culture in the future, strong patronage (cultural sponsorship) should be cultivated. Financial resources and in-kind contributions not only strengthen the cultural budget in the long term, but also help to ensure that the economic sector of *culture* can function independently of the

state and remain as a guarantor of socio-economic development.

To promote these relations, a platform will in future facilitate encounters between business and culture and enable networks to be built in the interests of both.

Green Culture: Self-commitment for an innovative and sustainable culture

Culture makes its contribution to supporting the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* if it is innovative, democratic, participatory, sustainable and, last but not least, climate-neutral. Through effective and meaningful measures, cultural practitioners, structures, institutions and associations are to be accompanied in their projects in order to promote a sustainable cultural practice.

Mobility: Adapt infrastructure to needs

For the DP, citizens should be able to get from A to B comfortably, reliably and quickly, whether by public transport, bicycle, car or a combination of different means of transport. For this to succeed, an attractive bus and rail service must be ensured throughout the country that is on a par with individual mobility.

In Luxembourg, there has been a huge backlog of transport infrastructure needs over the years, which only the DP-led governments have seriously addressed. Through the massive investments in the expansion of the train and tram network, the enlargement and redesign of many railway stations including the creation of additional parking areas, among others in Luxembourg City, Ettelbrück, Rodingen, Mersch and Wasserbillig, and the introduction of free public transport, the government has set an important course to offer people a real alternative to the car.

Nevertheless, major efforts are still needed to significantly reduce the time citizens spend in traffic jams every day. DP will consistently continue the investment offensive of the past years. The relevant transport infrastructures are to be developed in such a way that they anticipate the country's future development and mobility needs. Instead of making up for past failures, the DP will launch forward-looking projects for the next 30 years today.

In doing so, the DP will take a holistic approach. In addition to a consistent decentralisation of workplaces and the promotion of *teleworking* and *co-working spaces*, the DP will expand existing railway lines and create new ones; expand the tram network, in particular implement a

fast tram connection between the city of Luxembourg and Esch/Alzette as early as in the next few years; promptly realise a coherent network of safe cycle paths throughout the country; significantly expand parking facilities for commuters in the border region; and continue to invest in road infrastructure.

Guarantee free choice in mobility

Whether bus, tram, train, car or bicycle, every means of transport has its function and its place in the eyes of the DP. The DP will ensure that citizens will continue to be free to choose the means of transport that best suits their needs and the way they want to get around. For example, DP will consider soft mobility and public transport connectivity in all major projects and promote multi-modality.

At the same time, the fluid linking of different means of transport will occupy a central place in the mobility of the future. The creation of so-called "*Pôles d'échange*" in Ettelbrück and Howald, among other places, takes this development into account and will be promoted in the future.

Massive investment in transport infrastructure

In recent years, the DP-led government has invested record sums in the expansion of public transport, in the rail and road network, and has thus been able to make up some of the historical backlog. However, much remains to be done in order to be able to offer citizens an optimal mobility offer. DP will address tomorrow's problems today by immediately planning and implementing major mobility projects, such as additional rail and tram routes. We will continue to invest massively in the expansion of public transport, initiate major construction projects and ensure that they are realised as quickly as possible.

In addition to the planned budgetary resources, the DP will consider alternative financing models in cooperation with the European Investment Bank as well as private partners in order to mobilise the necessary funds for a proper investment offensive.

Developing the rail network with foresight

For DP, the railway is the means of transport of the future, whether in commuter traffic as an alternative to the car or in the area of goods transport. DP will continue to expand the rail network and increase capacity so that we can ensure an attractive and reliable rail transport service not only today, but also in the decades to come. Every line nationwide is to be upgraded to at least two tracks in order to improve frequency, punctuality and reliability and to increase the attractiveness of train services. Our goal is for citizens to have a connection to the capital every 10 minutes on the main lines in the medium term.

Specifically, the DP will initiate a complete double-tracking of the northern line over the next few years and also expand the section between Sandweiler-Contern and Oetringen to two tracks in order to dissolve this bottleneck. In this context, new stations are also to be planned on this section.

Furthermore, the DP will work to ensure that the direct connection between Ettelbruck, Diekirch and the capital operates at a significantly higher frequency and, if necessary, develop the necessary infrastructure to make this possible.

Examine construction of new train lines

The DP will examine the construction of new train routes to guarantee a fast and regular connection, especially to the capital, but also to the conurbations in the respective regions, for example between

Redingen/Attert and Ettelbrück. In addition, we will examine the use of parallel S-Bahn lines to the existing rail network in order to expand national connections towards the capital with the help of a closely timed, regional service. These S-Bahn lines are to run on a separate rail network in order to separate direct connections from so-called slow trains and to improve the reliability of all connections.

Attractive international train connections guarantee

Rail transport will also play a central role in terms of intra-European and international travel in the coming years and will be crucial to Luxembourg's attractiveness. It is therefore essential for DP to ensure good and fast connections to the most important major European cities in the region.

The DP will campaign for a fast connection to Brussels, Amsterdam, Cologne, Koblenz, Saarbrücken and Frankfurt. In particular, with regard to the connection between Luxembourg and Brussels, the DP will ensure that the two European capitals are linked by fast train. If necessary, the Luxembourg State shall co-finance a substantial part of this connection from its own resources.

The DP will also work to ensure that Luxembourg is optimally connected to the German rail network and that it is taken into account in all upcoming investments by the federal government in the rail network in the region. Here, too, the state should contribute financially, if necessary. The northern line is to be given a feeder function to the TGV trains in the Liège-Aachen area.

The DP will ensure that Luxembourg has an optimal connection to the long-distance networks of our three neighbouring countries. This connection also ensures

that Luxembourg is well connected to the Europe-wide network of night trains.

Nevertheless, in the area of air transport, the DP will also advocate for more direct flights between Luxembourg and international economic centres. This is also a location factor.

Expand tram network

The tram has more than proven itself as a means of public transport in urban areas. The DP is committed to a high-performance and comprehensive tram network in the urban area and will quickly implement the planned additional tram lines. These include the extension of the tram towards the airport, Cloche d'Or, Strassen, Hollerich, Merl and Zessingen. We will also review the planning of additional tram lines in the conurbations of the other regions, such as the Nordstadt communities.

The planned construction of a fast tram between Luxembourg City and Esch/Alzette should also be implemented as soon as possible. In addition, the DP will examine the extent to which further rapid tram connections, including on the N11 in the direction of Junglinster, make sense.

Build safe and connected cycle paths

The DP will quickly implement the national network of cycle paths provided for in the law in its entirety. Currently, only about 700 km of the total planned almost 1,100 km have been completed. In order to move faster, the DP will create synergies with the affected municipalities and involve them in the implementation. In addition, the DP will introduce further support for the creation of municipal cycle paths and connections to national cycle routes. The realisation of municipal cycle paths should not be slowed down by excessively high state requirements, especially with regard to the required width. The DP will also create cycle lanes

along the main axes, which will be reserved for bicycles and *S-Pedelecs*.

In this context, it is important for the DP that the cycle paths are clearly marked and well signposted, that they run separately from motorised traffic, have a surface that is easy to ride on and do not suddenly stop in the middle of nowhere. In this sense, the DP would also like to develop a digital platform, including an interactive cycling map with registered national and municipal cycling routes, cycling stations, tourist attractions and a "report-it" function.

Use of cycle paths for speed pedelecs

S-Pedelecs should be allowed to use cycle paths **up to a speed of less than 50km/h**. However, narrow and at the same time busy cycle paths should be exempt from this regulation. To this end, as in Belgium, a separate category for S-Pedelecs is to be introduced in the Code de la route so that they are no longer equated with mopeds. In order to continue to guarantee the safety of all, driving licences, helmets, registration and insurance for S-Pedelecs should remain compulsory. However, only a normal bicycle helmet is to be prescribed as a helmet. Together with an extended network of cycle paths, this would make the use of bicycles more attractive.

Promote traffic calming within the villages and neighbourhoods

The DP is committed to improving people's quality of life by implementing concrete traffic calming measures within localities and will authorise municipalities to implement them on state roads as well. Instead of cars, which dominate the image of our villages and residential areas, public space should increasingly be reserved for people. In some places in the country, the implementation of a bypass is a prerequisite for calming through traffic, which is why the DP will implement it

quickly and coherently. In other municipalities, on the other hand, it is already possible to give pedestrians and cyclists more space by intelligently dividing up public space. The DP will support the municipalities in implementing 30 km/h or 20 km/h zones, so-called "shared spaces", where it makes sense and also approve them on state roads. New neighbourhoods should be planned from the outset with traffic calming measures and sufficient space for pedestrians and soft mobility.

Implement bypasses quickly and coherently

Constant through traffic is a burden on the health and well-being of residents in many communities. The DP will consistently implement planned bypasses so that traffic-calming measures can be implemented in inner-city areas and the quality of life of residents can be improved. The DP will quickly implement projects for interconnected bypasses (as in Niederkerschen and Dippach) so that one of the communities does not suffer from traffic calming in the other.

Create attractive parking facilities for commuters

The DP will create additional regional and border catchment parking areas that are well connected to public transport to encourage commuters more to switch to bus or train. The DP will introduce a mobile application for all interceptor parking areas nationwide, which will allow users to book a parking space for a limited time in advance, register their vehicle for quick and non-contact entry and exit, and pay any parking fees. For commuters who continue their journey by public transport or active mobility, parking in all reception parking areas is to be free of charge for 24 hours.

Better coordination of bus and train timetables

The DP will revise public transport timetables to better coordinate bus and rail services. In particular, the timetables and frequency of regional lines serving the stations need to be improved.

Create additional bus lanes

To make public road transport more attractive compared to private transport, the DP will create additional bus lanes in as many places as possible. Express bus lines in particular should be able to get their customers to their destination as quickly as possible, instead of them being stuck in traffic jams like all other vehicles.

In this context, the DP will also investigate at which locations bidirectional bus lanes can be installed. This model, where the bus travels in one direction in the morning and in the same lane in the other direction in the evening, can be implemented comparatively quickly in many places where a third lane already exists and relieve traffic.

Review of the reform of the RGTR network

With the reform of the RGTR network, bus transport over land was fundamentally reorganised during the last legislative period. In particular, the bus network was expanded nationwide, express bus lines and regional connections were introduced, and journey times were extended in the mornings, evenings and at weekends. The DP will subject the reform to a thorough examination and, if necessary, adapt it together with the municipalities and citizens.

Ensure reliability of *Adapto* and *Mobibus*

The DP will conduct a comprehensive review of the specific public transport services, such as *Adapto* and *Mobibus*, and address the causes of the recurring problems. We will ensure that the respective services function reliably and

get people to their destinations quickly and conveniently.

Free wifi on trains, buses and the tram

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Guarantee safety in public transport

The DP will ensure that passengers can move around unmolested on buses, trains and trams and that staff can go about their work in safety. For this reason, the DP will increase security staff.

Bicycle-friendly infrastructures

In order to promote soft mobility more, the DP will provide bicycle parking, showers and lockers in all public buildings, such as schools and administrations. DP will also build more secured bicycle parking spaces (mBox) in sensible locations, such as near regional reception parking areas.

In addition, the DP, in cooperation with the municipalities, will set up a network of bicycle stations at busy locations, including air pumps, charging facilities for e-bikes, a car wash, repair equipment and spare parts.

Promote mobility concepts for businesses

Businesses bear a great responsibility for the mobility management of their employees. DP will support those businesses that implement mobility concepts for their employees. So-called "mobility managers" are to support businesses in the development and implementation of these concepts.

Continue subsidies for active mobility

The DP wants to continue to encourage people to choose active forms of mobility. The existing state subsidies should therefore be continued and extended to cargo bikes.

Increasing the capacity of roads through flexible use of lanes and verges

The DP wants to use intelligent systems that can increase the number of lanes in one direction and decrease them in the other, depending on the traffic volume. Thus, more lanes could be made available in the morning in the direction of Luxembourg City and in the evening in the opposite direction. The DP will also explore the feasibility of a mobile guardrail system on our motorways and rural roads to increase capacity during rush hour. The DP will also explore the possibility of using the hard shoulders on the motorways as an additional lane during rush hours. In this way, the hard shoulder could be used as an additional lane in heavy traffic, as is already the case in some places abroad.

Expanding intelligent infrastructure and digital traffic guidance systems

DP will deploy intelligent traffic information and traffic management systems on motorways and busy roads. This technology will increase road capacity through intelligent systems engineering and traffic management. In real time, such data on the load on the roads can be collected and linked with the data of the drivers in an intelligent traffic management. With the creation of an "Observatoire digital de la mobilité", the foundation stone for modern, evidence-based mobility planning of the 21st century was laid in the last legislative period. The DP will further expand the collection of mobility-related data in order to be able to plan future transport projects in an even more targeted manner.

In addition, the DP will intelligently control the red traffic lights and also expand the green wave principle as much as possible.

In preparation for semi- to fully-autonomous driving, the DP will also push for the creation of smart infrastructure on

key transport axes that will enable vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communication.

Expand and improve mobility app

The DP wants to expand the mobility app and centralise all relevant information and functions in one place so that users can find everything they need for their mobility in a single app. For example, bus and train times will be displayed in real time, including geolocation, and it will be possible to rent a bicycle or other vehicle, or to order and pay for a taxi. DP will therefore work with all stakeholders to unify their services on a single platform.

Creating the conditions for autonomous driving

The DP will not only create the legal framework to allow partially or fully autonomous driving on our roads and rail network, but also invest in intelligent infrastructures that make this form of locomotion technically possible in the first place.

Enable the use of drones

The DP will create a legal basis that allows the use of drones for various purposes beyond recreational use. A clear regulatory framework should make the use of drones quite simple, for example in rescue missions, for reconnaissance purposes or as a delivery service.

Reform the taxi market

The DP will complete the planned reform of the taxi law and liberalise the market with the goal of reducing the high taxi prices. Thus, not only the different zones but also the upper limit for licences are to be abolished. The DP will also allow Uber and similar services in Luxembourg, on condition that drivers apply for a licence and are covered by labour law and social security. On the national mobility app, every driver should have the opportunity to offer their taxi services.

Improve road safety

The DP continues to adhere to "Vision Zero", i.e. the goal of zero deaths and zero serious injuries on our roads. The implementation of road construction measures, such as the defusing of dangerous stretches or the installation of traffic lights that switch to red when driving too fast on state roads, the sensitisation of road users and the use of radar devices, which can also detect the use of mobile phones at the wheel, are just some of the measures that the DP wants to implement.

However, special attention must be paid to the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, as they are the weakest link in road traffic. Thus, creating a secure infrastructure for the DP is a top priority. In addition, we want to develop an overall concept that ensures the safety and visibility of pedestrians, especially in the cold season. This means, for example, even and effective lighting of zebra crossings and frequently used footpaths.

Allow personalised number plates

The DP is planning to introduce a new scheme that will allow car owners to customise their number plates as they wish for a fee, similar to what is already done in Belgium. However, this rule does not imply any acceptance or tolerance for breaches of the law, xenophobic behaviour or other inappropriate content.

National planning: Planning our country in a sustainable manner

Many of the problems our country is facing today are due to misguided national planning. While the remarkable economic development of the last decades has created great prosperity and made a strong welfare state possible, a lack of political support and control of growth has at the same time resulted in a chronic backlog demand in many areas, be it public infrastructure, mobility or the creation of housing.

It was only the DP-led government that broke the logjam in national planning and started to catch up through massive investments, for example in public transport. Through coherent and sustainable national planning, the DP will target the need for new infrastructure and anticipate future developments.

The DP wants to bring work, leisure and living closer together, reduce daily commutes and revitalise rural communities to offer people a better quality of life. Instead of concentrating most of the activity at the national centre, as has been the case so far, it is important to promote decentralisation and strengthen the regional development centres (CDAs).

In doing so, it is important to further develop our country in harmony with sustainable resource consumption and environmental protection. The DP will counteract landscape sprawl and reduce soil sealing by means of coherent regional planning. In addition, we will set the necessary course to ensure qualitative economic growth that is not based solely

on linear resource consumption and more labour.

Develop Luxembourg sustainably

In the last legislative period, the DP-led government ensured that the four sectoral plans could come into force and, after 20 years, finally presented a new "*Programme directeur de l'aménagement du territoire*" (PDAT). The DP will ensure a sustainable and coherent development of Luxembourg through the implementation of the sectoral plans and the PDAT.

Supporting communities with additional financial resources

The DP is committed to providing municipalities with the necessary financial resources to provide quality services and infrastructure that meet the needs of their citizens and the objectives of national planning. The DP believes that the state must provide municipalities with additional financial resources to meet their growing obligations to citizens. Therefore, we will grant greater financial leeway to both urban and rural municipalities.

Promote decentralised workplaces - create regional co-working spaces

The DP is in favour of economic decentralisation according to regional planning criteria. In order to bring more jobs to the people and not the other way round, the DP will develop industrial estates near the border. The creation of further regional antennas of the House of Entrepreneurship is also intended to further promote regional business settlement.

In addition, the construction of further co-working space infrastructures near the borders with neighbouring countries is to be promoted.

Develop activity zones and offer turnkey business parks

Refer to chapter on Economic policy

Support mergers and regional-intra-municipal cooperation

Refer to chapter on Municipalities

Agriculture: Produce high quality food locally and sustainably

The agricultural sector, which includes farming, viticulture, fruit and vegetable growing, reliably provides people with high-quality food from local production. The Corona crisis and the Ukraine war have made many citizens aware of the value and importance of domestic food production. Especially with regard to food security, agriculture plays an essential role. The DP therefore wants to further strengthen the status of agriculture, assist the sector in digitisation and the use of state-of-the-art technologies, and offer consumers an even greater variety of high-quality products from Luxembourg production.

Agriculture also plays a key role in environmental protection, preserving biodiversity and combating climate change. This is not only about reducing our own emissions, but also about land management that strengthens the resilience of natural habitats and helps to sequester more carbon. For the DP, farmers and winegrowers are important partners who must be supported as much as possible in the transition to the most environmentally friendly and resource-conserving production possible.

In the coming years, the DP will continue to work on ensuring a decent income for agricultural enterprises and strengthen their competitiveness, support family farms and niche segments in particular, and diversify agricultural production. We will actively support the generational change in agriculture, both when taking over a farm and when starting a farm.

The DP-led government has set the course for a forward-looking agriculture in the last

legislative period, among others with the National Strategic Plan (PSN) for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) from 2023 to 2027, the new Agriculture Act, the Action Plan PAN Bio 2025, and the updated Energy and Climate Plan. Based on this, the DP will draw up a mission statement for agriculture after 2027.

The DP attaches great importance to regular exchanges between government and agriculture within the framework of a Future Table and to finding joint answers to the major challenges. In doing so, we will closely monitor the situation of the sector and anticipate future developments as best we can.

Create a Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development

Food and agriculture are two sides of the same coin. The DP will expand the expertise areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture to include all nutrition-related aspects. In this context, the main goal is to further promote awareness regarding healthy nutrition and the appreciation of local and seasonal food. For the purpose of improved advice and more frequent controls, the DP will extend the scope of competence of the Luxembourg Veterinary and Food Administration (ALVA) and make additional staff available to it.

Continue to give priority to young farmers

It is of great importance for the DP to support future generations in agriculture and to secure the future of the sector. Building on the new agricultural law, which has already created new and increased aid to make it easier to start up or take over a farm, young farmers are to be given more support to build up as much know-how as possible in order to run their farm in the best possible way. The DP will also expand advice on setting up an agricultural business.

Ensure modern education and training for farmers

The DP will work to further modernise and expand the learning programmes of the Lycée Technique Agricole (LTA). The new technologies are playing an increasingly important role in everyday farming, so prospective farmers should be familiarised with them from the outset and acquire the necessary skills.

In addition, DP will also expand the range of advisory services and training opportunities in this area to enable experienced farmers to keep up to date with the latest knowledge and technology.

Diversify agricultural production

Agriculture in Luxembourg is still strongly characterised by milk and meat production, while other sectors, such as the cultivation of fruit and vegetables or poultry farming, play a less important role. The DP will consistently promote agricultural diversification and also give greater support to niche products such as hemp, quinoa or soy. Since the switch to alternative products has been slow despite several efforts in recent years, the DP will investigate the reasons for this, adjust the framework conditions and, if necessary, create additional financial incentives.

For example, the DP will simplify the approval procedure for the construction of greenhouses, as fruit and vegetable cultivation in this country can often only take place in them. Ideally, greenhouses should function in a climate-neutral and energy-efficient way, for example by coupling them to a biogas plant.

In view of the increasingly noticeable effects of global warming, it is particularly important to promote crops that are adapted to the changing climatic conditions and are more drought-resistant, which will also reduce the risk of yield and quality losses. In addition, instead of

monocultures, the rotation of different plant species should be increased.

Making patent-free seeds available to everyone

Today, the seed market is dominated by large agricultural corporations, which can afford the costly tests and certificates needed to register their seeds in the European catalogue of varieties. However, since industrial seeds are often non-reproducible hybrid seeds, farmers are dependent on the product range of a few agricultural corporations. The DP would like to bring the use of farmer-grown seeds back to the forefront, because sowing the harvested seeds over the years produces very robust seeds adapted to the local climate and soil.

The DP will therefore liberalise the seed market in Luxembourg. Local farmers and private individuals should be given the opportunity to buy or sell and propagate local varieties, even if they are not registered in the EU Catalogue of Varieties or the National Catalogue of Varieties. Traditional, farmer-grown seeds can make an important contribution to adapting agriculture to climate change, enhancing biodiversity and improving environmental protection, as resilient crops can reduce the use of plant protection products.

Make greater use of rainwater

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Ensure sustainable drinking water management

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Extend source protection

Refer to chapter on Sustainability

Promote regional products, support local producers

In the eyes of the DP, Luxembourg agricultural production is synonymous with local products of the highest quality, which

are generally also more environmentally friendly due to the shorter transport routes. The DP is committed to increasing the use of local and regional products, especially in schools, maisons relais, day-care centres, hospitals and retirement and nursing homes.

Furthermore, the DP supports the marketing of the products of local producers and will continue to promote and expand initiatives and structures in this regard. Labels play an important role in this context. The DP will evaluate and, if necessary, adapt the national quality and certification system for agricultural products, which was launched during the last legislative period.

Promote organic farming

Organic agriculture not only plays an important role in the context of agricultural diversification, it also provides answers to issues of nature conservation, water protection, biodiversity, and generally a careful and long-term use of natural resources. On the one hand, the demand for local organic products is currently stagnating, on the other hand, Luxembourg ranks 3rd in the EU in terms of consumption of such products.

The DP will analyse the current situation of the organic farming sector together with its representatives and, if necessary, take additional measures to support it more. The goal must be ambitious, but still realistic. The funds for this must be made available in a targeted manner. It is equally important to provide good support and advice to farmers who want to convert to organic farming. The DP will review to what extent the PAN-Bio 2025 Action Plan can be made even more practice-oriented, both in terms of production and marketing.

Strengthen the active role of agriculture in climate protection

Agriculture plays an essential role in the fight against climate change. On the one hand, it is important to achieve one's own emission reduction targets; on the other hand, sustainable land management contributes to the preservation of biodiversity as well as to the organic storage of carbon.

For example, the DP will specifically support farmers in reducing ammonia emissions in cattle farming by subsidising the implementation of the relevant measures and the switch to emission-reducing methods via the Agriculture Act, such as measures concerning the housing of animals, the reduction of the use of slurry, manure and synthetic nitrogen fertiliser as well as balanced animal feeding without protein surplus.

In addition, DP will further expand existing climate and environmental programmes with appropriate funding. Based on the experience with the current premium system, it will be reviewed whether and to what extent the various regulations with their corresponding financial framework need to be adjusted.

In view of the increasingly noticeable effects of global warming, it is important to strengthen the resilience of agriculture in the face of the impacts of climate change. Specifically, we will promote agroforestry through additional subsidies. The combination of trees and arable crops helps to better withstand drought, protects soils from erosion and strengthens biodiversity by creating new habitats.

In addition, we will promote crops adapted to changing climatic conditions and more drought-resistant crops, as well as the rotation of different plant species instead of monocultures. Finally, the DP supports regenerative agriculture, which aims at

climate-resilient, restorative and long-term economic land use, as well as solidarity farming initiatives.

Prevent natural disasters

Climate change is a global challenge with local impacts such as storms, floods and droughts. The DP is committed to making multi-peril insurance more attractive. In this context, the meteorological stations of the Agricultural Technical Services Administration (ASTA) will also be further developed and the relevant information will continue to be made available to all farmers.

Strengthen soil protection

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Sustainable use of rural land

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Making plant protection more sustainable

The DP advocates the sustainable use of plant protection products to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and the protection of our surface waters and springs. Accordingly, the strategic plan for the CAP 2023 to 2027 provides for a number of measures to reduce the use of plant protection products, which will be available to farmers, winegrowers and market gardeners from 2023.

The DP will ensure that any additional costs incurred by not using plant protection products are compensated with subsidies. In addition, we will expand education and training in the context of pesticide reduction and strengthen awareness in this regard.

The DP will continue to advocate for a phase-out of glyphosate and will examine ways in which a national ban can be enforced. In parallel, the DP supports the voluntary abandonment of glyphosate through corresponding subsidies. At the EU level, we will continue to campaign for

the authorisation of glyphosate not to be renewed at the end of 2023.

Ensure strong animal welfare in practice

Under the leadership of the then DP Minister of Agriculture, the most modern animal welfare law in Europe was passed in Luxembourg in 2018. The DP will continue to pay attention to the accurate implementation of the law and carry out more inspections. Violations of the Animal Welfare Act are to be consistently prosecuted, both for farm animals and pets. In this context, the DP will create a contact point in the form of an ombudsperson to whom citizens can report violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

In addition, the DP will advocate for stronger animal welfare at the European level. In particular, we will campaign for a ban on fur farms, stricter regulations on animal transport and a ban on the export of live animals to non-EU slaughterhouses.

Finally, the DP advocates that animal testing in the EU should be mandatorily aligned with the ethical principle of "3Rs" (Replace, Reduce, Refine). In concrete terms, this means that animal experiments are to be kept to a strict minimum and replaced by other methods. Only in those cases where animal experiments prove to be unavoidable should they be permitted under strict conditions, and the number of experiments and the stress to which the animals are subjected should be kept as low as possible.

Promote fawn rescue

The DP will support additional measures to protect fawns during mowing and expand existing pilot projects. The fawn rescue by drone, which is currently being carried out as part of a pilot project in the west of the country, is to be extended to the whole country.

Promote research, innovation and the use of modern technologies

Digitalisation also offers great opportunities in the agricultural sector: Drones for data collection, robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT)- state-of-the-art technologies enable, for example, a more precise use of fertilisers and pesticides and thus not only contribute to an increase in efficiency in production, but also lead to a more climate and environmentally friendly cultivation of agricultural land.

The DP will therefore develop a strategy for the digitisation of agriculture. The goal is to promote precision agriculture and put it into practice through concrete measures and government subsidies. The DP will also strengthen research in this area and promote innovative projects to develop new approaches to the challenges of agriculture, such as vertical farming.

Rethink the 4% set-aside

The EU decision to set aside 4% of a farm's arable land is often criticised as not being effective, as this leads to a reduction in food production and it is also not known how much this measure contributes to biodiversity. We therefore advocate a critical analysis of this measure.

Reduce food waste

Every year, an average of 88.5 kg of food per inhabitant ends up in the waste, a large part of which could be avoided. The DP wants to reduce food waste to an absolute minimum and to this end will consistently continue and expand the efforts of the past years.

Thus, we will organise regular awareness-raising and information campaigns to increase citizens' awareness. We will also support different initiatives and projects, such as "antigaspi" fridges or the sale of food that does not meet standards, as well as deepening cooperation with all

stakeholders in the production and recycling chain.

Already today, many supermarkets donate unsold but still edible food to charity. The DP will examine the usefulness of creating a legal framework that prohibits the disposal of edible food by, among others, businesses and canteens.

Especially in state canteens, the DP will ensure that food waste is reduced to an absolute minimum. In order to ensure better planning security, DP will therefore charge parents who do not sign their children out at the canteen for lunch in future.

Organise agriculture table on a regular basis

The Agriculture Table introduced by the DP Minister of Agriculture, consisting of government and representatives of the food and agriculture sector, plays an important role in finding consensual responses to important issues facing the sector. The DP will ensure that the Agriculture Table continues to be convened regularly, involved in all important decisions and specifically involved in the preparation of the new National Strategic Plan (PSN).

Operating biogas plants sustainably

Through the energetic utilisation of liquid manure, dung, food leftovers and other organic waste, biogas plants can make an important contribution to the circular economy. DP will continue to support energy production by means of a biogas plant through an attractive feed-in tariff. However, to ensure sustainable management, we will reduce the energy use of crops planted specifically for this purpose.

Guarantee pragmatic and comprehensible rules for strong nature conservation

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Facilitate the employment of seasonal workers

Many farms are dependent on foreign seasonal workers at harvest time, increasingly also from third countries, as there are not enough workers available within the EU. The DP advocates for the simplification of procedures and labour laws for the employment of seasonal workers.

Viticulture

Viticulture has a long tradition in Luxembourg and has an outstanding cultural significance for our country. It is also an important factor for the tourism industry as well as Luxembourg's image in the world. The DP will consistently continue the efforts of the past years and secure the future of viticulture. The effects of climate change are also increasingly being felt in this area, which is why more sustainable management that adapts to the changing climatic conditions is essential. The DP will actively support the winegrowers with advice and subsidies.

In addition, the DP will prevent more and more land within the vineyard perimeter from remaining unused. For this reason, we will create instruments that enable further production on these areas.

The winegrowers have also already made considerable efforts, especially in the use of plant protection products. For fungal diseases, however, their targeted use has so far remained without any real alternative. Therefore, research in the context of plant disease control should be supported in order to bring alternatives to current plant protection products, to gradually gain control over the diseases and to reduce the use of plant protection products as much as possible. Likewise, the use of fungus-resistant grape varieties (Piwi's) should be further researched and promoted.

The DP will also continue to develop the marketing of local wine both in Luxembourg and abroad, and will examine how this can be further improved.

Bringing the wine region to life

Refer to the chapter on Economic policy

Consumer protection: Strengthen consumer rights

The DP is committed to strong consumer protection. The consumer should be as well informed as possible before making a purchase decision, also in terms of sustainability. Especially in the areas of general product safety (household appliances, toys, food...) we want to tighten controls and increase transparency in service offers (consumer credits, travel contracts, rental contracts...). We want to expand the tasks and areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Consumer Protection accordingly and strengthen transnational cooperation in the interest of consumer protection.

New technological developments, such as artificial intelligence, pose new challenges for consumer protection. As DPs, we will face these at both European and national level.

In the last legislative period, a number of measures were already taken for stronger consumer protection. These include, among others, the transposition of the EU directives on the introduction of a legal guarantee of conformity for digital content and services, the transposition of the Omnibus Directive, which provides, among other things, for increased sanction possibilities and mandatory indication of a reference price in the case of price reductions, as well as the introduction of the "Chèques-cadeaux" charter.

Food and product safety

Food safety and the fight against food fraud are among the top priorities of neutral consumer protection. The Veterinary and Food Administration ALVA, established in 2022, brings together a large part of the control bodies of the food

chain in a single authority. In order to increase efficiency, other departments such as the laboratories are also to be centralised.

Products in general, but especially toys and electrical appliances from third countries, need increasingly strict control (among other things, compliance with the CE standard). The ILNAS (Institut luxembourgeois de la normalisation, de l'accréditation, de la sécurité et qualité des produits et services) is to be strengthened and monitoring campaigns are to improve consumer rights.

Aligning the expectations of consumers and producers

An "Observatoire de la consommation" is to provide more clarity and transparency through the evaluation of anonymised consumer data (in the food sector, among others). Based on this, greater coherence should be created between the actual expectations of consumers and the contingencies of entrepreneurs. DP is thus committed to promoting sustainable consumption.

Addressing hidden price increases and shrinkflation

In order to reduce the production costs of goods (e.g. food) at the same resale price, producers have increasingly reduced the quantities of goods in the same packaging in the past. Together with the consumer centres, the DP wants to analyse which countermeasures can be taken to avoid such practices both nationally and at the European level.

Right to repair

The European Commission has this year adopted a proposal for common rules to promote the repair of goods. This should lead to savings for consumers, and support the goals of the European Green Deal by, among other things, reducing waste. DP

will promote all initiatives that support the shelf life of goods. The goal is to counteract the throwaway society with simple repairs.

We therefore also want to examine the extent to which a financial incentive makes sense for repairs on a national basis. The cost of a repair is reduced by a repair bonus granted by the public authorities. With this instrument, we will create real repair incentives, promote local and regional enterprises and act in the spirit of a sustainable and resource-conserving circular economy.

Class actions

The new rules of the EU Directive on representative actions to protect the collective interests of consumers must be applied from 25 June 2023. The DP advocates that in future consumers should be able to get their rights more easily through class actions. Class actions are to be pushed and made easier, with a special focus on mediation to facilitate amicable settlements.

Automatic compensation of consumers with the help of smart contracts

We want to simplify the enforcement of consumer rights, e.g. through smart contracts that, among other things, provide for automatic compensation of consumers in case of late deliveries. Based on blockchain technology, this strengthens the rights of customers.

Introduction of a cancellation button for distance and internet contracts

The European Commission has proposed the introduction of a withdrawal button for distance contracts. This should prevent so-called "dark patterns" and make revocation as simple as the conclusion of a contract. Consumers should also be able to make use of their 14-day right of withdrawal more easily when shopping on-

line. The DP will follow the European guidelines and promote the introduction of the electronic cancellation button. In addition, once a contract has been terminated via this button, a confirmation of receipt is to be sent to the customer immediately in order to avoid providers being able to retain customers longer than necessary.

In general, DP wants to analyse to what extent shortened notice periods are feasible for tacit contract extensions.

Strengthen passenger rights

Complaints about holiday travel have increased in recent years (e.g. flight cancellations and delays). Passengers should be able to assert their claims for compensation in any case. We want to continue to stand up for passengers' rights, and to advocate for an efficient handling of dossiers in complaint cases.

Consumer protection organisations

The DP will support consumer protection organisations (e.g. the ULC and the CEC) in the spirit of modern consumer protection.

Important consumer education

For the DP, it is important to better inform the consumer, e.g. on the topic of over-indebtedness. This also involves teaching children and young people economic awareness: for example, in areas such as finance, sustainable consumption or consumer law.

Institutions and justice: Rule of law and justice for a strong democracy

A strong democracy needs strong and reliable institutions. The DP always strives to strengthen our institutions and make them more efficient in order to strengthen citizens' trust in democracy and ensure the social and political stability of our country.

The defence of democratic values is firmly anchored in our DNA. After decades of preparatory work, the constitutional reform came into force in July this year. The Luxembourg Fundamental Law has been adapted to the political and social realities of the 21st century. The parliament was strengthened in its function, the judiciary was firmly anchored as the third power, and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the population were expanded.

We have made it easier for many people to vote with the help of several changes in the law. We will initiate a debate on the need for a major reform of the electoral law in the coming months. With the establishment of the Climate Citizens' Council, we have set new standards in terms of citizen participation. It is our will to let citizens participate even more in political decision-making processes and to make the work of the state even more transparent.

Institutions

Initiate debate on reform of the electoral system

After the new constitution comes into force in July and after the elections in October this year, the DP will initiate a

debate on a general reform of the electoral system in parliament with the goal of working out a cross-party consensus on a fairer and more modern electoral law. The DP can imagine putting any cross-party proposals to a referendum.

Dare more citizen participation

The DP has set new standards for citizen participation in Luxembourg with the Climate Citizens' Council set up by the Prime Minister. With the entry into force of the new constitution, citizens will have a new participatory instrument, the so-called "citizens' initiative", which they can use to submit legislative proposals to parliament themselves if their initiative receives enough support from the population.

The DP will take into account the conclusions of the Climate Citizens' Council study commissioned by the government from the University of Luxembourg. It is important for us to take stock of this project and to further improve the organisation of future such projects. The DP will quickly implement the government's legislative proposal to strengthen citizen participation at the local level, so that the new municipal councils can better involve their citizens in decision-making processes.

Review the introduction of e-voting

The DP will work to ensure that the possibility of electronic voting can make the electoral process easier for both voters and the relevant authorities without compromising the security of the elections. A digital election could avoid many obstacles and problems, such as unwanted invalid ballots or missed deadlines for postal voting. The counting of votes could also be faster thanks to technical aids.

First introduce full-time mayors and then abolish dual mandates

The DP will create the legal basis for a full-time mayor in the municipalities. The financial framework and social protection will be revised. Only afterwards can a decision be taken with the other parties on a regulation of the double mandates.

Support mergers and regional-intra-municipal cooperation

Refer to chapter on Municipalities

Introduce "Accord tacite" (tacit approval) of the administration

Refer to the chapter on Housing

Accelerate approval procedures

Refer to the chapter on Economic policy

Reform transparency law and promote Open Data

With the so-called Transparency Law, the DP-led government has enshrined in law the right of access of all citizens to state documents. The experiences of the last few years have shown some potential for improvement, which we will use with a revision of the law to make the state institutions even more transparent.

The DP will also implement the principle of "Open Data" and digitalise government information and data in a first step and then make it available to the general public. Researchers, associations, businesses and ordinary citizens can work with this information in the public interest.

Expand locations for civil weddings

Refer to chapter on Municipalities

Justice

Consistently expand "E-Justice"

The DP intends to make greater use of the advantages of digitisation in the judiciary.

The use of electronic systems enables faster and more efficient handling of court proceedings. This includes the electronic filing of documents, the electronic exchange of information between parties and courts, and the use of electronic administrative procedures. This accelerates the procedures and reduces the administrative burden. The DP will actively work to intensify these efforts and ensure that the use of fax machines soon becomes a thing of the past.

Introduce "Comparution immédiate"

After a "procédure accélérée" (accelerated procedure) has already been introduced, the DP is also calling for the rapid introduction of the possibility of a "comparution immédiate" (immediate appearance in court) for perpetrators caught in the act or against whom there is overwhelming evidence. In this way, offenders are to be brought to justice as quickly as possible, which will lead to a considerable relief of the courts. Of course, even in the case of a "comparution immédiate" the general rights of the accused are respected.

Examine the introduction of specialised courts and specialised judges

The complexity of court proceedings is growing continuously. In order to do justice to this development and in line with the introduction of the "Family Judge" the DP is examining the possibility of introducing further specific specialised courts. As part of a pilot project, provision should be made for the recruitment of specialised magistrates, for example for proceedings relating to financial crime.

Promote "Jugement sur accord"

In 2015, the possibility of the "Jugement sur accord" (judgement by agreement) was introduced to shorten court proceedings and thus relieve the judiciary. However, defence lawyers state that the sentence

proposed by the prosecution is rarely proportionate. The DP will review the use of 'Jugement sur accord' for its efficiency and advocate for greater use of this procedure.

Consistently pursue hate on the net

The DP advocates the consistent prosecution and curbing of hate on the internet. We will take targeted action to strengthen legal tools against hate speech, discrimination and other forms of on-line bullying. By increasing investigative resources and working closely with relevant stakeholders, we will ensure that "hate on the net" is effectively prosecuted and victims are adequately protected. Thus, we want to create a safe and respectful digital environment for all users, especially young people.

Rework expulsion light

The DP advocates a thorough analysis of the currently applicable "expulsion light". Our goal is to have an open-ended discussion and to find out whether this measure actually offers added value. We want to collect all relevant aspects and experiences in order to be able to make an informed decision as to whether the light expulsion is sufficient or whether we should introduce a more comprehensive expulsion. This "real" expulsion is not a taboo subject for the DP.

The advantage of an expulsion is that it helps to maintain security and order quickly and effectively. The possibility to ban people who repeatedly show irregular behaviour from a certain place can prevent potential conflicts and disturbances. A banning order enables the authorities to respond quickly and appropriately to acute situations to ensure the welfare and safety of all involved.

Penal system and alternative forms of punishment

The DP will conduct a thorough review of the current list of penalties and, if necessary, adapt it to current circumstances. After the introduction of the Prison Chamber, we will also examine in this context whether the introduction of a judge for the execution of sentences ("Juge pour l'application des peines") makes sense.

Furthermore, we want to allow electronic monitoring by means of an ankle bracelet ("bracelet électronique") also in pre-trial detention.

Promote mediation in civil law matters

Many civil cases could be avoided through mediation (managed mediation). The DP will therefore continue to promote this form of conflict resolution.

Protection of legal professional privilege

The professional secrecy of lawyers is closely linked to the right of defence and serves primarily to protect clients. It allows clients to provide their lawyer with all relevant information, including information that could potentially be incriminating. The DP will ensure that professional secrecy is not restricted unless there is a compelling need to combat terrorism and money laundering. Care will be taken to ensure that such interference does not disproportionately affect the fundamental right to defence.

Check the status of the detained worker

The DP will analyse in detail the status of the detained worker with regard to his social security contributions. We will investigate,

what legal provisions and regulations apply to prisoners and whether there are any obstacles or restrictions that hinder their ability to pay social security

contributions. In addition, we will examine the impact of the scheme on the resocialisation of prisoners and their long-term reintegration into society.

A qualitative assessment of the new Weapons Act

In 2022, a new Weapons Act came into force in Luxembourg. The Chamber of Deputies has undertaken to conduct a qualitative evaluation of this law after three years. The DP takes this obligation seriously and intends to analyse the application of the law after three years and make any necessary adjustments.

Modernise and liberalise the notarial profession

The notary's office is one of the most regulated professions in Luxembourg. However, since the legal framework has not been adapted for some time, the tasks are becoming increasingly complex and the number of notaries has not kept pace with the general population development over the past decades, there is a clear need for modernisation in order to adapt the profession of notary to the requirements of the 21st century. The DP will therefore subject the legal framework to a profound analysis and modernise it from the ground up. In this context, the DP will consider liberalising the profession along French lines. In this model, a minimum regional coverage is set so that citizens in all regions of the country have access to the services of a notary.

Controlled release of cannabis

Experience has shown that repressive drug policies have not been effective in recent decades. In a first step, the DP-led government has therefore released cannabis cultivation for personal use under strict regulations.

In a second step, cannabis products are also to be distributed to adults in state-

controlled sales outlets, while at the same time drug tourism is to be prevented. This would be a significant blow against the illegal drug trade, the core business of many criminal organisations. A pilot project will initially allow for initial assessments to pave the way for a controlled state sale of cannabis in Luxembourg in the future.

The revenues generated by the state sale are to flow into the prevention and information work of corresponding initiatives and counselling centres within the framework of drug help and counselling. However, de-tabooing cannabis use should in no way lead to trivialising drug use.

Enable digital court proceedings

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Strengthen legal prosecution of economic and financial crime

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

State and public service: Ensure a high-performance service for citizens

The Luxembourg model has always been characterised by a modern and efficient public service. Skilful and motivated civil servants are a supporting pillar here. This was once again impressively demonstrated to society during the Corona pandemic. The DP continues to advocate for the modernisation and digitisation of the public service. In doing so, we attach great importance to proximity to the citizens, transparency and efficiency. Our goal is for Luxembourg to have the most modern and digital administration in Europe.

The civil service reform of 2015 brought major changes in areas such as salaries and careers, recruitment and leadership. Career paths were aligned with diplomas and degree certificates, new career paths emerged, others were merged into a common salary scale. In recent years, further reforms have been undertaken in the DP-led ministry to further enhance the attractiveness of the civil service. Specific image campaigns were used to draw attention to the diversity of careers. In addition, the duration of the internship was shortened, salaries were adjusted, the education and training of state employees was modernised, and the lower careers for civil servants and employees were harmonised. The experiences from the private sector are now also taken into account to a greater extent.

Under the auspices of the DP Ministry of Public Service, the government was able to sign a new responsible salary agreement with the civil servants' union CGFP in each of the years 2021 and 2022. The latter, which includes a contract period of two

years, provides for an increase of five per cent for the first 100 salary points in 2023. This currently corresponds to an amount of 111 euros per month. In particular, state employees with lower incomes, who suffer most from the loss of purchasing power due to inflation, will benefit from the 5 per cent increase. A general point value increase of 1.95 per cent will follow from 2024.

Social dialogue in the public service

Social dialogue is an important factor of the Luxembourg model of success, also in the public sector. Our public service once again proved its systemic relevance in the Covid crisis and played a large part in our country coming through the pandemic relatively well. Therefore, correct collective agreements for civil servants, employees and workers should also be negotiated in the future - if state finances allow.

Regulating telework and promoting flexibility

Teleworking for public administration is to be regulated by law. Therefore, the agreement reached between the government and the social partners should also be implemented quickly. The DP is of the opinion that regulations for cross-border workers should also be enshrined in law. The framework conditions around social security and tax law, in particular the suspension of the double taxation ordinance, are to be elaborated and enshrined in law.

Flexibility in the place of residence for teleworking

DP stands for innovation and flexibility. The purpose of teleworking is to offer people more flexibility in their work organisation and in the way they organise their daily lives. The rules for home office should be laid down in law and also define clear framework conditions for working

from home. This is especially true for families who do not live in the same household.

Work-life balance and the right to be unavailable

Especially in the home office, employees often run the risk of working irregularly or longer hours. Due to the accessibility at home, there is an increased risk of being contacted for work-related issues even during free time. The DP clearly stands behind the right of non-accessibility.

Promote equality and equal representation in the public service

Women in high-level positions are still under-represented in the civil service. The DP will investigate what these differences are due to and promote and support equal representation in state administrations.

Advancing digitisation in the public service

Digitalisation has gained enormously in value in recent years - due to the pandemic - and it is impossible to imagine the public service without it. Much has been achieved through new technologies, better education and training of civil servants, the creation of a *Digital Academy* and a *GovTechLab*. This has been certified by international bodies in Luxembourg and our country currently ranks third among 35 European countries in the *eGovernment* benchmark.

The DP is committed to ensuring that all administrative processes in the state will be possible digitally in the future - both for citizens and for businesses. These procedures should be designed in a simple and understandable way so that people without digital skills can also benefit from them to the maximum.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly important, and the state has also gained initial experience with pilot projects. It is important that the

appropriate framework for this is created and that these initiatives are professionally accompanied. Especially in the case of so-called *chatbots*, which provide explanations and information to citizens, the new technologies promise valuable support.

The work in the administrations is to be networked even better. Under the conditions of data protection, it should be possible to share documents between the individual administrations, thus avoiding unnecessary administrative procedures. *Follow-up* - Reference numbers for administrative procedures are intended to help citizens and businesses track the status of their applications at any time.

To achieve all this, investment in infrastructure is to be increased. The technical skills of public service employees are also to be further developed. As digitisation progresses, continuing education is also an important cornerstone to support this development. The DP is therefore committed to developing the professional skills of public service personnel and providing them with the necessary resources to do their work in the service of the community.

Introduction of the "once-only" principle

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Continuously develop MyGuichet

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Analogue contact points in all regions

Analogue contact points are to remain in place in the future. Such *guichets*, which support citizens in their administrative procedures, are to be established in all regions of the country.

Overtime tax exemption

The DP will introduce the tax exemption of overtime, as it applies in the private sector, also in the public sector.

Municipalities: Working closely together with the citizens

Upgrading the municipal mandates

The DP is determined to increase the attractiveness of municipal mandates in order to attract skilful and committed citizens to them. For this purpose, both the political leave and the financial framework conditions are to be upgraded and adapted to today's requirements in terms of complexity and time expenditure.

Only then can we work with other parties to reach a joint decision that achieves a broad consensus on the regulation of dual mandates.

In addition, we strongly advocate for the introduction of the "élu local" statute to provide protection for municipal politicians under labour and social law. Our goal is to strengthen and expand the rights of elected local politicians to enable them to fully exercise their mandate without being influenced by private or professional pressures.

Abolish incompatibilities with the mandate of the municipal councillor

The DP is committed to abolishing the incompatibilities with the mandate of the municipal councillor. We are convinced that no unnecessary hurdles should be put in the way of committed citizens who want to strengthen local democracy and serve the community. We value their commitment and want them to be able to use their ideas and knowledge for the good of the community. Any conflicts of interest would be regulated by Article 20 of the Municipal Act, which excludes biased municipal councillors from certain votes.

First introduce full-time mayors and then abolish dual mandates

Refer to chapter on Institutions and Justice

Support mergers and regional-intra-municipal cooperation

As DP, we continue to support voluntary mergers of municipalities. Mergers only take place after approval by the affected citizens via a referendum, whereby it is of great importance to give due consideration to the ideas, concerns and worries of the residents. In this regard, we advocate increasing state financial support for merger processes.

In addition, we support increased regional and inter-municipal cooperation to create synergies, provide a wide range of infrastructures and services and jointly address overarching tasks and challenges. This cooperation enables an intelligent and sustainable use of public funds.

Adapt the powers of the municipalities and the state in the field of education

Refer to chapter on Education

Supporting communities with additional financial resources

The DP is committed to providing municipalities with the necessary financial resources to offer quality services and infrastructure that meet the needs of citizens and the objectives of national planning. The DP believes that the state must provide municipalities with additional financial resources to meet their growing obligations to citizens. Therefore, we will grant greater financial leeway to both urban and rural municipalities.

Involve municipalities in vacancy tax

The DP advocates that the municipalities be adequately compensated financially for the work involved in compiling the national housing register and that they participate at least indirectly in the revenue from the

vacancy tax. In addition to the regular updating of this information, a lack of "cadastre vertical" for many buildings is an additional challenge that needs to be addressed by the municipalities. This leads to a considerable amount of work.

Regular financial audits in the municipalities

The DP advocates for a regular financial audit by a corporate auditor to be carried out in every municipality. It is important that the results of this audit are transparent and published.

Anchor the technical service as the third pillar in the new municipal law

As DP, we are strongly committed to establishing the technical service as the third pillar in the new municipal law. In addition to the secretariat and financial administration, the technical service plays an essential role in the efficient administration of our municipalities. The technical service has gained enormously in importance over the past decades, as the tasks of the municipality have developed considerably, and thus the demands on the service have also increased. The anchoring of the technical service in the municipal law should be appropriate to its importance and valuable contribution.

Proportional representation only as of 6,000 inhabitants

The DP is in favour of establishing the legal framework for the transition from the majoritarian to the proportional electoral system only from a population of 6,000 instead of the current threshold of 3,000 inhabitants. This adjustment would significantly strengthen the right to stand for election, as it is currently a challenge to find enough candidates for municipal elections. In cooperation with the Syvicol, we will seek a cross-party consensus.

Review the introduction of e-voting

Refer to chapter on Institutions and Justice

Introduce mandatory consultation of the Syvicol

The DP is in favour of enshrining in law the mandatory consultation of the Syvicol in all legislative projects and regulations affecting the municipalities. It is important that the interests and needs of the communities are adequately taken into account. By involving the Syvicol, the municipalities can bring their expertise and own perspectives into the legislative process.

Expansion of the on-line platform "eMINT" to all ministries

The DP supports the expansion of the on-line platform eMINT to all ministries. This platform was developed by the Ministry of the Interior to facilitate communication and cooperation between municipalities and ministries, as well as to optimise administrative processes. By using eMINT, the extensive advantages of digitisation can be used, such as transparent and easily traceable transmission of information, and accelerated processing of municipal procedures. This makes it much easier for municipalities to cooperate with other administrations. Our primary goal is that in the future all procedures can be handled exclusively digitally.

Create synergies between state and municipal IT operators

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Developing our localities into "Smart Cities"

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Introduction of the electronic signature

Refer to the chapter Digitisation and Media

Expand locations for civil weddings

Since 2022, civil weddings can also be celebrated outside the parish hall. In order to provide citizens with an even more personal celebration, the DP wants to expand the selection of possible locations for wedding ceremonies. Municipalities should be able to decide for themselves whether only prescribed locations are accepted, or whether couples can also choose locations away from the usual.

Internal security, rescue and defence: For the protection and welfare of citizens

Internal security

Ensure a modern and efficient police

The DP is convinced that the police must be efficient and modern in order to best meet current and future security challenges. We therefore advocate measures for optimal staffing, material and infrastructural equipment.

Further strengthen the customs administration

In addition to its duties as a tax authority, the Customs and Excise Administration plays an important role in the fight against crime, especially in the fight against illegal drug trafficking, counterfeit products and smuggled goods. In order to continue to fulfil its diverse tasks in the best possible way in the future, the administration is to be further strengthened, both in terms of its building infrastructures as well as its staffing and material equipment, and it is to focus more on digitisation.

Promote prevention

Good prevention work is the most effective way to prevent crime in everyday life. The DP is firmly convinced that a comprehensive expansion of police prevention tasks is essential in order to relieve the police of their daily workload. Against this background, we strongly advocate for the establishment of a national prevention coordinator to implement coordinated and effective measures of national importance in the different regions. Furthermore, we goal to significantly upgrade the "Comité de

Prévention" in order to fully utilise its potential.

Introduce "Police municipale"

The DP attaches great importance to an increased police presence in villages and neighbourhoods to ensure the security of citizens efficiently. The DP will introduce municipal police units, which will be placed at the disposal of the municipalities by the national police and thus be subject to the mayor's right to issue directives. In profound cooperation with the local "Agents municipaux", the "Police municipale" under the leadership of the respective mayor, is to ensure security in the municipalities.

Relieve the police officers

As part of the extensive police reform, the possibilities to fill non-police positions increasingly with civilian employees were expanded. With the goal of deploying police officers more efficiently and, in particular, more frequently on the ground, the DP wants to examine increased relief for police officers through the increased use of civilian personnel in the administrative area. In addition, the DP will examine whether prisoner transport can be carried out by prison officers instead of police officers in the future - similar to Germany.

Introduce "Comparution immédiate"

Refer to chapter Justice

Introduction of the bodycam

The DP supports the introduction of bodycams as a de-escalating tool that benefits both police officers and citizens through appropriate legislation without restricting the freedom of action of police officers. Extensive training is essential to ensure safe use of the bodycams in stressful situations. In addition, data backup and adequate access to the recorded data is of great importance. Our

goal is to strike a balance between protecting citizens' rights and ensuring public safety.

Introduce dash cams in police vehicles

The DP advocates for the integration of dash cams in police vehicles to ensure objective recording of incidents and effectively clear up potential misunderstandings or misinformation. In doing so, we attach great importance to ensuring that the legal provisions and guidelines for the use of dash cams are clearly and precisely defined in order to adequately protect the privacy of citizens.

Rework expulsion light

Refer to chapter Justice

Continue to recruit staff consistently

As DP, we are aware of the importance of the current extensive recruitment and strongly support it. It is crucial to continuously recruit both police officers and civilians to meet the increasingly complex and diverse day-to-day challenges.

Effective resources to combat cybercrime

The DP advocates providing the police with the necessary technical means and qualified personnel to combat increasing cybercrime. A well-equipped police force with expertise in cybercrime is crucial to solving crimes, prosecuting offenders and ensuring security.

Acceleration of disciplinary proceedings

Since the IGP has been responsible for conducting the disciplinary proceedings, an improvement in objectivity and neutrality has been achieved. Regrettably, however, disciplinary proceedings against members of the police are currently still too lengthy. As DP, we are strongly committed to accelerating the aforementioned disciplinary procedures by exploring the possibility of simplifying the

procedure and/or increasing the department's staff. Our goal is to ensure efficient and timely disciplinary procedures.

Strengthening legal protection for police officers

As DP, it is important for us to improve and accelerate legal support for police officers who are involved in accidents or face disciplinary proceedings while on duty. We are committed to protecting and supporting these police officers by ensuring that they are promptly provided with adequate legal support. In this way, we want to ensure that they are treated fairly and that their rights and interests are protected.

More efficiency and freedom of action for police officers

The DP is committed to increasing the efficiency of police officers by giving them more freedom of action. To this end, we seek to simplify and accelerate the existing procedure under Article 10 of the current Police Act. This procedure allows police officers to enter buildings, vehicles and undeveloped areas if there is an imminent danger to life or physical integrity. Our goal is for police officers to be able to make independent decisions in such situations in order to be able to act quickly without having to wait for the approval of the mayor or minister.

Consistently drive forward digitisation within the police

The DP will drive the digitisation process within the police. A special focus is on immediately moving away from manual files and incompatible IT programmes through comprehensive digitisation. The goal is to enable a more efficient, time-saving and productive way of working. The DP calls for a proactive and faster integration of the different data carriers into a unified digital programme.

Furthermore, investments in modern tablets are essential to improve the efficiency of administrative work on the ground. Police officers can use these tablets to retrieve information, enter data and write reports in real time. Electronic forms, database access, image and video recording, and digital report and note management reduce time and paperwork.

Policing 2.0

In this age of technological progress, the use of modern technologies opens up new opportunities for the police to work more efficiently and prosecute criminals more effectively. By using modern technology, such as automatic number plate recognition, stolen vehicles can be tracked down faster, manhunts accelerated and suspects found more quickly. This leads to improved efficiency in law enforcement and allows officers to use their resources more efficiently. Nevertheless, it is important that the use of these technologies is done in accordance with legal and ethical standards in order to protect privacy. The combination of modern technology and police work promises faster identification and accountability of criminals and thus contributes to the security, law and order of our society.

Rescue

Introduction of a twelve-hour shift for professional fire-fighters

As DP, we are campaigning to extend the shifts of full-time fire-fighters from eight to twelve hours. This change not only improves working conditions and productivity, but also better meets local needs. It enables more efficient management of daily tasks while reducing the need for overtime. Moreover, this is a significant step to avoid a gap between employees, as the full-time fire brigade CIS Lëtzebuerg, the operations centre at

Findel and the 112 headquarters already practice the 12-hour shift successfully.

Putting the SAMU rescue service to the test

The DP wants to ensure comprehensive and timely emergency care. To this end, we will review the efficiency of the SAMU rescue service and, if necessary, establish additional SAMU units in the rural areas.

Analyse reform of the rescue system

The DP is committed to a thorough analysis of the reform of the rescue system adopted in 2018 in order to make any necessary adjustments. To this end, we will carefully consider the basic pillars of service organisation, increased support for volunteering, evaluation of the creation of new premises, and funding for the CGDIS.

Promote voluntary work

The DP recognises the immense importance of volunteering for the emergency services and appreciates the valuable contribution and selfless dedication of volunteers. We are committed to strengthening and promoting volunteering. To this end, we want to regularly evaluate existing measures and initiate new projects. We want to promote volunteering by improving the framework conditions through financial and tax incentives, adequate equipment as well as attractive and flexible training and further education opportunities.

Introduce "lifesaver" app

The DP is campaigning for the introduction of a "lifesaver" app. This app immediately notifies registered members and trained first responders of an emergency when they are near the scene of the disaster. As soon as the volunteer confirms their availability, the mission is started and the app guides the helper to the location of the person in need. The volunteers'

mission ends as soon as the professional rescue services arrive. This system can save valuable minutes, as the first aider can provide help faster already before the ambulance arrives on the scene.

Promote first aid courses

Refer to chapter on Health

Provide first aid courses for all pupils

Refer to chapter on Education

Defence

Ensure a modern and efficient army

The DP is convinced that the Luxembourg Armed Forces must be efficient and modern in order to best meet current and future security and geopolitical challenges. We therefore advocate measures for optimal staffing, material and infrastructural equipment.

Strengthen investment in the Luxembourg Armed Forces

As DP, we support a strengthening of the investment in the Luxembourg Armed Forces. We are convinced that in the long term it is necessary to spend at least 1% of GDP on defence policy in order to best meet current and future security and geopolitical challenges, as well as our obligations to NATO.

Creating synergies with the economy

The DP aims to meet our international obligations while creating economic benefits for our country. To this end, we will increasingly create synergies between the armed forces and the economy. This should contribute to the creation of new jobs and promote research and development in specific areas.

Introduction of a Defence Commissioner

The DP is committed to the introduction of a defence commissioner who acts as a

contact person for complaints, suggestions and proposals from soldiers and supports them in case of problems and conflicts. In his role as an independent commissioner, he can serve as a link between the army, parliament and the government.

Drive forward the modernisation of the armed forces

The DP supports the ongoing investment in modernising the Army's capabilities, especially in its specialised areas such as ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), medical evacuation, observation and transport. The DP also supports the expansion and further development of cyber capabilities and the army's capacity for drones, and is committed to maintaining the space defence strategy.

Creation of a military hospital

In principle, the DP is in favour of establishing a military hospital to strengthen the army's medical service and create added value for the population.

Introduction of an independent and decentralised psychological service

In order to ensure greater discretion of military personnel, the DP advocates the introduction of a second independent and decentralised psychological service, similar to the police, located outside the *Härebiërg* army base. In this context, further training, career counselling and assessments in personnel matters could continue to take place at the army base. The treatment of personal traumatic experiences, private problems and family conflicts, on the other hand, is to be discreet and the responsibility of the independent and decentralised psychological service.

Counteracting the shortage of military doctors

The DP is actively engaged in addressing the shortage of military doctors. Our goal is to engage in constructive discussions with all relevant stakeholders to achieve continuous improvements in the existing regulations and legislation for military doctors. We place particular emphasis on providing attractive incentives and benefits to make this position more appealing to doctors. Unlike general practitioners currently, military doctors offer the opportunity to participate in foreign missions and, due to their specific training, have a better understanding of the particular demands and challenges faced by soldiers.

European and foreign policy: Luxembourg as a reliable partner in the EU and the world

Global crises and threats are becoming increasingly complex. The international cohesion of states is therefore becoming increasingly important. As a founding member of the European Union, the United Nations, NATO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, Luxembourg is part of a large community of states that have set themselves the goal of fostering cooperation and peace in the world, and also standing together in times of crisis. This is not a matter of course for all countries. Occasionally, crises such as the Covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine or refugee flows are instrumentalised for populist and nationalist purposes. However, recent years have repeatedly shown that, especially in difficult times, multilateralism is more effective than going it alone. Especially small states like Luxembourg can best master the challenges of the future in an association of states.

Strengthen European unity

The DP supports European integration. Luxembourg has been committed to the European project from the very beginning. Over the past decades, the European Union has not only enabled us to realise common projects, but it also provides us with a platform to defend national interests. Membership of the European Union entails many rights and obligations. For the DP, it is clear that each member state must abide by the applicable rules and *cherry picking* must not be an option for member countries. Furthermore, it is important to the DP to maintain and

strengthen Luxembourg as a European capital.

Strengthen and defend European values

Values such as peace, freedom and democracy are deeply rooted in the heart of our nation. For the DP, it is clear that human rights and the rule of law must be respected and defended. Nationalist tendencies and more or less latent populist and protectionist movements unfortunately lead to an erosion of the rule of law. The DP stands for a European policy in which the principles of the rule of law and human rights are upheld. Specifically, the DP calls for the rule of law mechanism to be consistently strengthened at EU level.

Strengthening the resilience of the European single market

We owe the Luxembourg model of success in large part to the European single market. The pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shown that the EU is highly dependent on foreign countries. It is not possible to make the European single market independent in a globalised world. The DP consciously supports initiatives to make the European economy - and especially our energy supply - more independent of third countries.

Bilateral relations

Luxembourg's representation abroad should correspond to the size of our country and represent common values and national interests. If necessary, the DP advocates the conversion of trade offices into embassies or even the establishment of new embassies. Bilaterally, our trade relations and our network of bilateral tax treaties need to be strengthened.

Relations with the United Kingdom

Even after Brexit, stable and productive relations with the United Kingdom are important. The DP strives to cultivate

these within the framework of a pan-European policy. The Brexit agreement must be strictly adhered to by both sides. Especially with regard to the regulation of the financial centre, a solid foundation is crucial.

A coherent EU foreign policy

In general, it is important for the European Union to adopt unified positions in foreign policy. Only united can the community stand up for its interests and values on the international stage. The DP is committed to ensuring that Luxembourg fulfils its role in European foreign and security policy with the necessary seriousness.

A coherent European security and defence policy

The Russian war of aggression in Ukraine has shaken the European security architecture and made us aware of Europe's dependence on its American ally and the need for a coherent European security policy. The Democratic Party is committed to strengthening the interoperability of armies in the EU but also with third countries. The DP is also open to the creation of a European army. In order to further promote the development of the European Security and Defence Policy, investments in defence are to be continued. Border conflicts, cyber attacks and terrorism will continue to require our attention. Luxembourg is to increase its NATO contribution to one percent of the national gross national product by 2030. Those responsible for the crimes in the Ukraine war must be brought before an international court martial. In the long run, however, the Russian Federation should not be excluded from the international community.

Accompanying EU enlargement in solidarity

The DP still adheres to the *Copenhagen criteria* : Institutional stability, democracy

and the rule of law are basic prerequisites for the accession of a third country to the European Union. In the course of the Ukraine war, the idea arose of gradually bringing states and candidate countries closer to the European Union without immediately granting them membership status. The DP welcomes this approach and stresses that accession talks should only be initiated when there are serious efforts and tangible results on the part of a candidate state. We support the requests for admission of countries such as Albania, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and Ukraine. From a geopolitical perspective, Moldova's accession to the EU cannot be ruled out, even if this state still has to make adjustments to its legal system. First, however, the EU's absorption capacity should be reviewed and, if necessary, improved. A well-functioning political union is a sine qua non for closer cooperation at the military level.

Decision-making processes and citizen participation

In order to remain capable of action, the decision-making processes within the European Union must be adapted, but without calling into question the principle of subsidiarity. With Luxembourg's entry into the new EU coalition *Group of Friends* , a first push has already been made to facilitate decision-making in the EU. Citizen participation should be strengthened at European level to further involve people in politics in the future. Europe Day on 9 May, which is observed as a public holiday, should be an occasion to look back at European history. In addition, the issue of European integration needs to be addressed more thoroughly in our schools. The conclusions of the conference on the future of Europe should be implemented as soon as possible.

Effectively regulate migration

The DP is against a Fortress Europe. We must stand in solidarity with people who are forced to leave their homes because of war, discrimination or hatred. Applications from protection seekers are to be processed efficiently. Family reunification and family reunification must be designed in such a way that integration is possible. The Dublin system should be revised and expulsions must be decided and explained for comprehensible reasons. A just redistribution of refugees and people seeking protection should form the basis of an efficient and appropriate migration policy. According to a fair distribution key, all EU states must be prepared to take in asylum seekers and refugees.

The activities of FRONTEX must be more strictly controlled in the future and subjected to a critical review with regard to their legality. The EU agency must play a stronger role in monitoring the external borders.

Targeted development cooperation and humanitarian aid

Cooperation and collaboration can only succeed if a partner country is no longer dependent on international support. The goal is to ensure the security of the people in our partner countries and to strengthen the economy and social justice. DP stands for fair trade and equal relations with partner countries. We maintain the target of investing one per cent of our gross national income in official development assistance (ODA), including humanitarian aid. New target countries are not excluded, with priority being given to the African continent. Stricter rules must be applied in future towards existing countries of destination that disregard elementary principles of the rule of law.

Supporting partner countries in climate protection

Refer to the chapter on Sustainability

Further expand climate fund-of-funds

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Better protect human rights and the environment through a supply chain law

Respect for human rights is a top priority for DP. Structurally weak countries must not be exploited for the benefit of other countries. In addition, the Democratic Party is committed to sustainable production. In this sense, DP supports the European Commission's proposal for a supply chain law to ensure that social and sustainability standards are respected. It should not be overlooked that the main burden of implementing supply chain legislation lies with businesses. Since new administrative procedures cannot be ruled out here, attention must be paid to proportionality. Furthermore, in the context of administrative simplification, the DP demands that the burden on businesses be eased where the administrative burden is not purposeful.

Strengthen international organisations

International organisations such as the UN, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation (WHO) are reliable bodies for responding quickly and jointly to international challenges. The DP strongly believes that our engagement at this level must continue. In this sense, we are also open to reform proposals to make these institutions even more efficient. In particular, we support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These seventeen concrete goals are intended to make global progress sustainable and, above all, help people out of poverty and hunger.

Strengthen legal cooperation in Europe

Transparency, efficient processes and impeccable cooperation are indispensable for good legal cooperation in Europe. Community investigation teams, as well as the newly created European Public Prosecutor's Office, enable efficient cross-border investigative work. In order to ensure a better exchange of information, the DP advocates the creation of a European Security Agency. It is also important that all procedures between partner states are clear and coherent. Furthermore, clear rules are to determine how judgements of one country are to be implemented in other member states.

Strengthen legal prosecution of economic and financial crime

Refer to the chapter on Financial Centre

Nation Branding

The DP supports *nation branding* efforts to give Luxembourg a positive image and increase the country's attractiveness for foreign partners. This should enable the country to continue attracting investment, businesses and tourists. *Nation branding* is not only beneficial for our economy, but also promotes relations with countries inside and outside Europe.

Expand cultural exchange in Europe

Through programmes like *Erasmus+*, young people in Europe are supported academically and professionally. The European Commission's ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) programme enables unemployed young people to gain experience abroad in the EU for two to six months. The DP supports these and similar projects that broaden cultural exchange and ensure the success of future generations.