

Best Practices

Intercultural Liichtmëssdag

“Liichtmëssdag” (“Day of Light”) is an important popular celebration in Luxembourg, held every year on February 2nd. Children and families take part in this tradition full of light, songs, and conviviality, symbolizing both the end of winter and the approaching spring. Of pre-Christian origin, this tradition – known in French as Chandeleur – conveys universal values such as sharing, conviviality, and intergenerational encounters, and is well suited to being developed as an intercultural practice.

During “Liichtmëssdag,” children go from door to door, sing a song, and receive in return kind words, smiles, and small gifts such as sweets or money. This practice contributes both to welcoming people into the local community and to fostering intercultural encounters within neighborhoods.

The “Intercultural Liichtmëssdag” aims to raise awareness of this tradition among newcomers and to encourage participation from everyone, regardless of culture or generation. Through simple actions, it is possible to revive this custom in neighborhoods where it is sometimes fading due to a lack of information or initiative among neighbors.

This good practice is intended for citizens, municipal committees, and municipal professionals who wish to revive this cultural practice while emphasizing its intercultural aspects. It does not address how schools or childcare structures participate “Liichtmëssdag”.

Objectives

- Inform newcomers about the “Liichtmëssdag” tradition and celebration
- Strengthen the intercultural potential of this Luxembourgish tradition
- Revitalize neighborhood ties through an existing cultural practice
- Promote intergenerational exchanges
- Encourage active participation and sharing among neighbors



Methods

- Use an existing cultural practice, enrich it with intercultural elements, and provide information adapted to newcomers
- Prepare a standard informational leaflet in digital format, allowing parents to easily add contact details, location, and meeting time to invite neighbors to participate, or print it for distribution in the neighborhood
- Create a sticker matching the leaflet's visual identity, which neighbors can place on their mailbox to indicate they welcome children's visits
- Invite parents and children to discuss the following questions during preparation or on the evening itself:
 - What traditions or rituals do you know, that are similar?
 - What is the meaning of "Liichtmëssdag" and of other similar traditions you know?
- Involve municipal commissions and local associations to coordinate and promote participation
- End the activity with a shared moment around a hot drink

Budget

€1,000 to €5,000 for graphic design (in-house or by an agency) and printing of leaflets and stickers. Additional budget may be required for room rental and hot drinks for the closing gathering.

Materials

- Leaflets
- Stickers
- Rooms for 20 to 40 people in different neighborhoods/villages

Periodicity

- Annually, in the lead-up to February 2nd and on the day itself



Evaluation indicators

- Number of participating neighborhoods/villages
- Participation rate of non-Luxembourgish children or newcomers
- Number of households opening their doors, listening to the song, and giving sweets
- Qualitative feedback from participants (parents, children, neighbors) on the intercultural experience and strengthening of community ties
- Number of leaflets and stickers distributed or displayed to measure communication reach

Practical advice - DO's

- Cooperate with reception centers for applicants for international protection and children's homes in the neighborhood (or municipality) to include all children
- Provide rooms and/or benches for parents organizing "Liichtmëssdag" to share sweets and enjoy hot chocolate and/or cake at the end
- Inform about "Liichtmëssdag" and intercultural initiatives through the municipal newsletter, social media, and municipal services (population office, school services, etc.)
- Allow residents to use municipal facilities to print leaflets

Practical advice - DONT's

Do not encourage children to go door-to-door alone or in small groups solely to collect sweets for themselves without a shared, convivial moment at the end

Contact person/Possible partners

- Local "Reech eng Hand" groups » (<https://web.cathol.lu/1/services/reech-eng-hand-tends-la-main/groupe-locaux/>)
- Community social work services
- Municipal commissions for intercultural living together
- Parent/school committees



Additional information

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20171222032711/http://collectifgare.lu/home/liichtmesssdag/>
- <https://luxembourg.public.lu/fr/societe-et-culture/fetes-et-traditions/liichtmesssdag-chandeleur-tradition-luxembourg.html#section-content>
- <https://lb.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liichtm%C3%ABssdag>
- <https://communautefrançaisluxembourg.com/2026/02/01/liichtmesssdag-luxembourg-tradition-chandeleur/>

