

Best Practices

Political participation: live broadcasts of municipal council meetings

In order for residents of a municipality who do not speak Luxembourgish to take an interest in and participate in local politics, it is essential that they are able to understand what is being discussed and decided within the municipal council. In addition to the information published in the municipal newsletter (usually in two languages), it is important that every resident be able to attend their municipal council's public meetings live, with translation. Understanding political discussions and decisions is a prerequisite for potential political participation.

Objectives

- Enable residents to follow the municipal council in Luxembourgish and French (and/or other languages)
- Enable all citizens to exercise their right to attend the municipal council through live and recorded broadcasts of the meetings
- Enable residents to get to know their elected representatives better by giving them the opportunity to follow them as they carry out their duties
- Enable citizens to learn about how institutions work and understand current municipal debates

Methods

- Film the municipal council meeting.
- Provide live interpretation into French for the public on site and integrated into the live stream of the meeting.
- Archive the version with a choice of languages (e.g. YouTube channel) and publish it on the municipality's website.



Budget

Estimated annual budget for translation: 35,000 (translation into French, German and sign language, excluding translation equipment).

Materials

Investment in the necessary equipment. External service providers may be used for translation and post-production work.

Periodicity

6-12 times per year, for each municipal council meeting

Evaluation indicators

- Number of languages/translations available per meeting
- Statistics on stream viewing on the website

Practical advice - DO's

Have clear indexing (agenda items, speaker names) for the archived stream.

- Add small information points that explain certain procedures (e.g. one agenda item is the right of pre-emption; clicking on it will explain what this right is and why the council needs to deliberate on it) in order to enhance the informative aspect.

Practical advice - DONT's

- Poor film quality
- No indexing



Contact person/Possible partners

The City of Luxembourg has implemented an exemplary approach in this area, which even includes sign language interpretation. Their indexing of filmed sessions is perfectly executed.

<https://www.vdl.lu/fr/la-ville/vie-politique/conseil-communal/seances-du-conseil-communal-0>

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