

Municipal Elections: National Electoral Programme (ADR)

**National electoral programme of the Alternative Democratic Reform Party
for the municipal elections on 8 October 2017**

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Introduction from the President

Fellow citizens,

Just as at a national level, the ADR also represents an important alternative to all other political parties when it comes to successful administration in your municipality. In this electoral programme, the Alternative Democratic Reform Party presents a series of important proposals to bring fresh new impetus to municipal politics.

Our programme for the municipal elections on 8 October is based on six key priorities.

The ADR has concrete proposals to enable citizens in lower and middle income groups to afford a home in Luxembourg. It is entirely unacceptable that people who are born and go on to work in Luxembourg become border workers in their own country, simply to be able to afford somewhere to live!

In order to feel at home in Luxembourg, first and foremost you need to feel safe and secure – no matter whether in a city or in more secluded, rural areas. And when it comes to safety and security, local representatives cannot rely fully on the state!

We must be able to move freely in our country once again. Being free also means being able to decide for yourself what form of transport to use for private or professional purposes. Being free means travelling in comfort on public transport, or opting to take the car and not having to spend long periods in traffic as a result.

Our children are our future! The ADR champions the right of parents to decide freely whether to raise their children at home or delegate this task to an educational structure (e.g. a crèche or “Maison Relais”) at times. Local authorities therefore also bear responsibility for providing high-quality childcare.

New people continue to choose to move to Luxembourg and into to your community. In this sense, successful integration and social cohesion is also one of the fundamental pillars of societal coexistence. The ADR is clear: Learning the Luxembourgish language is essential for successful integration.

Our country and our communities must also rise to international challenges, particularly in the context of the increasing number of refugees seeking to find a home in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Our country must be able to decide, independently and without undue delay, who should be accepted as a refugee and who should not! All people given the right to stay with us must be treated with dignity and afforded every possible assistance to ensure their successful integration.

The year 2017 marks the start of an exceptional period of elections in Luxembourg, which will see municipal elections (2017), parliamentary elections (2018) and European elections (2019) held in successive years. These are three important steps for the future of our country. Countless decisions taken by the current government have resulted in disputes and resentment at the municipal level. This must end now!

The ADR is a civic, value-oriented party that is well-established in municipal politics – all the more as the Christian Social People’s Party (CSV) and other established parties have lost themselves in the wishful thinking of left-wing ideology, and thereby neglected the real, urgent problems we face. I hope

that our party will gain a strong local foundation in these elections. My party works tirelessly, day in and day out, to champion the interests of each and every citizen. I hope, therefore, that the upcoming municipal elections will also represent an excellent springboard for the further elections that follow.

I am convinced that the ADR will also deliver positive developments in your community. With this in mind, I hope that you can give our list and our candidates your trust and support.

Jean Schoos, National President of the ADR

Alternative Democratic Reform Party

The 6 priorities of the ADR for the municipal elections

1) Affordable housing

The acute shortage of housing is, without doubt, one of our country's most urgent problems. Many people find it difficult to find reasonably-priced accommodation in the current housing market. The only viable solution is an alternative growth model for Luxembourg. In this new model, of course, property rights must not be overruled at any time – whether through compulsory purchase, seizure, or confiscatory taxation of building land or vacant housing owned by private individuals.

People in low-income groups feel the effects of the housing shortage particularly acutely. However, past experience increasingly shows us that individuals and households with medium to high incomes are not untouched by this issue. First and foremost, housing prices are the primary contributor to the modern phenomenon of the “working poor”. This inevitably leads to people emigrating over national boundaries and becoming border workers in their own country. As a consequence, these people spend much of their time in traffic, as affordable housing is generally situated away from the locations with the most jobs. Although housing represents a national problem, municipal councils also bear an important share of the responsibility: municipal councils hold various trump cards which they could use to effect solutions to housing issues. If you vote for the ADR in the municipal elections, we will make sure that these trump cards are finally played to good effect.

Social housing for the rental sector

Each municipality should set itself the target of renting out a set percentage of community housing as social housing. This housing should be distributed across the entire municipality to prevent “social ghettos” from forming. For this purpose, the municipality – whether on their own, via the Fonds de Logement and the SNHBM or through a private initiator – should receive help from the state (of 70% to 100%). (Law of 25 February 1979)

Municipalities that possess greater financial reserves should make a proportion of these reserves available for a specific fund which could then be used to generate investment to build social housing.

In larger towns, the municipality should also support projects to create housing at reasonable prices. Such actions should take into account all persons who do not fulfil the eligibility criteria for social housing and yet face significant difficulty when it comes to finding affordable housing in the private housing market.

With the ADR on the municipal council, these ideas will become reality.

Transparency in waiting lists

In terms of social housing, as with the issue of housing in general, we champion the maximum possible transparency with regards to waiting lists.

Assistance for first-time buyers

It is becoming extremely difficult, if not entirely impossible, to buy a house or apartment for the first time – including for individuals and households with a solid income. This is especially true for households just above the threshold for obtaining financial aid and assistance from the state and municipalities.

Under certain conditions (e.g. for children whose parents live in the municipality or are in family situations where individuals have lived or worked in the municipality for a given period, etc.), which must be determined in municipal regulations, the municipality should provide assistance to individuals seeking to become homeowners for the first time. This might come in the form of bank guarantees or purchasing a plot of land.

In the place of leasehold arrangements, the ADR favours the “portage foncier” (leaseback) method. In this arrangement, the land is initially made available at a symbolic rental price; the building land is only sold at a later date – when, for instance, the loan for construction of the property has been repaid.

In larger projects to build social housing, we will ensure that 15% of all apartments or houses are reserved for individuals who do not benefit from home-building subsidies and who are not existing homeowners.

Energy standards

The ADR resolutely opposes the idea that, in future, people will only be permitted to build passive-energy homes. This represents state interference in personal liberties. The ADR will campaign on the municipal council for the state to support investments in low energy consumption on a voluntary basis.

Improving the supply of housing

It will only be possible to slow or stop the inflationary spiral on the housing market when supply – both in terms of housing for sale and for rent – is in balance with demand. Municipalities play a significant role in this, both in terms of the general development plan (PAG, Bauperimeter) and special development plans (PAP) as well as through building regulations (permitted height of residential buildings, residential density, etc.).

The ADR will ensure that the specific character of a village centre is retained. New residential areas must not negatively impact on the quality of life of existing residents in towns or villages. They must therefore be designed so as to integrate harmoniously in existing infrastructure.

Due to the price pressure on the housing market, however, a potential expansion of the general development plan (PAG) must not be off the table. In expanding the PAG and converting plots of land (e.g. Industrial sites), municipalities must ensure that prices are suppressed as much as possible. The “polluter-payer” principle – i.e. whoever pollutes more consequently pays more – must also be applied to the renovation of such land.

The expansion of the designated built-up area (Bauperimeter) should also be directly publicly managed. Municipalities which hold a statutory right of first refusal will offer a fair price for land that is not yet within the built-up area, and sell it for well below the market price. Land privately acquired in this manner may be subject to certain conditions – for instance, that the plots of land must be developed within a short period and/or must be adapted to the income situation of the purchaser.

Improving the supply of housing also means that obstacles must not be placed in the way of private developers, such as through conditions which render building costs disproportionately high. Energy standards and the associated formal procedures must therefore be re-examined with this in mind. Municipalities also bear an important share of the responsibility in this regard. The procedures relating to construction must be respected; on the other hand, they should also be straightforward and avoid bureaucracy.

Vacant housing, gaps between buildings...

In order to improve supply, vacant housing should be placed on the housing market. Plots of land that are subject to a municipality's general development plan (PAG) and are connected to existing infrastructure should be developed efficiently either by their owner or through sale of the land.

Municipalities should implement supporting measures to encourage the owners of vacant housing or plots to release their property for the benefit of the housing market. The Agence immobilière sociale is an key instrument for this purpose. It obligates apartment owners to apply reasonable rental prices and, in return, offers them certain guarantees concerning payment of the rent and maintenance of the rental property. Municipalities should implement such a model under their own direction, including to support citizens who make use of assistance from social services (Sozialbüro).

However, in all issues relating to the housing market, the owners' property rights must be respected at all times. No compulsory measures should be implemented nor disproportionately high taxes applied.

Rent committees

Every municipality containing more than 6000 residents has its own rent committee (Mietkommission). Smaller municipalities may refer to regional rent committees.

The rent commission functions as an intermediary between landlords and tenants. Regrettably, few residents opt to avail themselves of these commissions. The ADR has set itself the task of improving this important instrument and ensuring that the vital role played by rent commissions is regularly highlighted in municipal publications. When people register in the municipality, leaflets should also be provided to make them aware of the existence of this important commission.

2) Public safety means safety for each and every citizen

Security, and the feeling of living in safety, is a fundamental civil liberty. In a country under the rule of law, the state – and only the state – must ensure the safety and security of its citizens. To do so, central government and municipalities must work together closely. In this collaboration, the importance of the municipalities – who are most closely in contact with citizens – must be reinforced. With the ADR on the municipal council, this concept will be put into practice.

However, topics that can only be regulated nationally and on a uniform basis, such as the burqa ban, must not be shifted to become responsibilities of the municipalities.

Local security plans

Police and municipalities must collaborate closely via suitable structures and procedures. A local security plan must be created for each municipality in consultation with citizens and the police. This plan must be reviewed regularly with regards to its efficiency.

The municipalities are assigned a whole host of statutory obligations. In return, a municipality must be able to call on the police for assistance. The ADR will ensure that municipalities are afforded a greater say when it comes to police presence. The ADR will also ensure that police regulations are respected at a municipal level.

Reinforced presence in critical areas

The ADR on your municipal council will work to make sure that troubled districts are given additional police stations that are manned 24 hours per day. The number of officers deployed and the times at which these stations are occupied will be adjusted according to local requirements. The police should step up their presence in troubled districts in order to win increased trust and support from residents, to give locals a feeling of safety and to act pre-emptively. The municipality is obligated to make premises available to the police – insofar as such premises are desired. The ADR will also work to promote the concept of neighbourhood policing.

Insofar as citizens' safety can be properly guaranteed, the ADR does not oppose the principle of reforms to the police that aim to improve local cooperation and enhance police presence.

In rural areas in particular, a sufficient number of police stations must offer citizens ample protection. When assistance is requested, excessive delays are not acceptable under any circumstances, whether due to longer distances or as a result of adverse or seasonal weather conditions.

No lawless zones

There must be no lawless zones. We will work hard to ensure that, whatever happens, the police possess the necessary resources to combat gangs, criminal organisations and drug dealers. In this regard, the state must provide the necessary legal framework conditions, such as the ability to prohibit an individual returning to a location.

Street workers

Many minor offences can be thwarted through effective preventive measures, e.g through the use of 'street workers', who enjoy a certain level of trust from the individuals in question. This approach requires competent collaboration between people in authority at both national and local level. Such networking is crucial, as it allows the requisite local structures to function effectively.

Security cameras

The ADR will ensure that public security cameras are installed in particularly problematic areas. However, this would only be the case when strict conditions are fulfilled and when installation is concordant with protection of individuals' right to privacy. The ADR is aware that public cameras only function as an additional security instrument, and in no way represent a replacement for the presence of local police and security officers. These cameras should become a component of integrative municipal security concepts. Otherwise, the persons who endanger the safety of others would simply operate in another district without video monitoring.

Street furniture

Public facilities make a significant contribution to the safety and security of a locality. Municipalities play a particular role in this field. Public lighting, for example, must be updated to reflect state-of-the-

art concepts, which should also reduce light pollution. Street furniture (bus stops, benches, etc.) in public spaces should be designed and installed in such a manner that they do not attract hooligans or other individuals who endanger the safety of others. Public buildings in a municipality, such as schools or the council building, must be protected by technical devices (e.g. alarm systems) or security personnel.

The ADR encourages state authorities to shape public spaces in a creative and considerate manner using street furniture. Even at this level, there are a variety of possible ways to emphasise national and local character and qualities in an original way, while also respecting and maintaining tradition and heritage.

Fire and rescue services

Fire and rescue services in Luxembourg are currently being reformed. The ADR welcomes this reform, but notes that the changes will transfer a whole series of issues from the jurisdiction of the municipalities to the national level.

The ADR will work to ensure that the responsibility for fire and rescue services remains with municipal authorities. Fire brigade associations should be retained at the local level so as to inspire as many citizens as possible to volunteer for the fire and rescue service.

Organised begging

The ADR will work to ensure that municipalities are provided with effective measures to combat aggressive and organised begging. This also includes the possibility of giving police the right to prohibit an individual from returning to specified locations, following the German model of “Platzverweis” orders. The aim is thereby to improve public security, not least when it comes to organised begging.

A precondition for the free movement of European citizens is that they possess sufficient financial means to support themselves. This important principle must therefore be applied at the municipal level, with the support of the police, customs and justice authorities as necessary.

Poverty-related begging

In the opinion of the ADR, declaring begging to be a human right is the wrong approach to combat acute poverty. The ADR therefore supports all measures at a national level to enable all individuals with the right to remain in Luxembourg to lead a dignified life: this includes having a roof over their head, the possibility of assisted or supervised living, a soup kitchen and tea and coffee kiosks. This requires improved coordination at a municipal level between all organisations that support and care for such people. If the affected people are in specific situations – e.g. couples, people with children, people with dogs, etc. – suitable solutions must be found.

The ADR intends to use such measures to reintegrate individuals who live on the streets back into society, with the possibility of work and independent living. It is vital that we give these people hope and prospects of a better life.

3) Mobility without dirigisme

Luxembourg is at risk of being suffocated by traffic – particularly at peak hours. Major traffic jams are a common occurrence these days, though their causes are often only a minor accident. The responsibility for this unpleasant situation lies to a great extent with the Luxembourgian authorities,

who have neglected to create the requisite infrastructure to cope with the traffic situation in an efficient manner. Municipalities must also ensure that a range of mobility options are retained.

Mobility should facilitate the freedom and independence of citizens without restrictions. The ADR supports ecological transport concepts without state dirigisme. Citizens themselves should decide how they wish to move around. In this context, the ADR speaks out against certain forms of transport becoming privileged, while so-called “private transport” (which first and foremost denotes cars) are consciously severely restricted. The most prevalent example of this is the tram system, which enjoys something of a transport monopoly in Luxembourg City between the axis of *Nei Avenue* and *Boulevard Royal*. How exactly cars and delivery vehicles are supposed to travel through this area in future remains hard to fathom.

The ADR will resist all dirigiste measures that dictate how and when citizens “may” travel. For instance, measures that prescribe to citizens that they may only use their car at specific times of day, with a minimum number of passengers, are absolutely unacceptable.

The ADR will work to implement a mobility policy – at both national and municipal levels – based on an intelligent, efficient and ecologically acceptable concept. This mobility policy should take into account public transport, soft mobility (first and foremost pedestrians and cyclists) as well as private transport.

Public transport: safe and free-of-charge

For the ADR, making public transport free-of-charge is one of the most efficient methods of promoting such forms of transport. Even today, public transport is largely financed by the national government and some municipalities. In buses, passenger inspections are rare – if they occur at all. In some buses, tickets are not sold at all, while ticket sales on other bus routes often result in delays to services. Instead of checking passengers’ tickets, inspectors could undertake more important roles in the area of security and information.

In order to enhance security for personnel and passengers alike, we will work to ensure that security cameras are installed in all public transport, as well as in rail stations and larger bus stations and bus stops.

Until free public transport is implemented fully, we demand that citizens in each and every municipality with public transport services should be able to buy their tickets or season tickets easily from a machine, and without having to travel kilometres to do so.

Families, and in particular those in financial difficulties, can often find it difficult to afford annual transport tickets. As a result, the ADR will ensure that social services (Sozialbüro) provide persons affected by this with the money in advance if they so desire – primarily because, calculated over the entire year, monthly tickets are up to one-third more expensive than annual tickets.

Buses

In many municipalities, buses – whether for national routes or local travel – are the only form of public transport. The ADR will work to ensure that municipalities and their citizens are given a greater say in bus stop and route planning discussions, as well as in terms of service frequency. In this context, the

guiding principle should be that the appointing authority (be that central government or the municipality) must also share the costs.

The ADR will work to implement fairer financial distribution between the municipalities that operate their own bus services, contribute to a bus syndicate or rely exclusively on the services of the RGTR (**Régime général des transports routiers**), which are financed by the state.

We will work to create clear, transparent bus schedules, and to provide clean bus stops that protect waiting passengers from the weather. Larger bus stops should also be equipped with public toilets.

Electronic boards to display the bus schedule in “real time” should be arranged through close collaboration between municipalities, national authorities and transport companies. For this purpose, each bus must be equipped with the requisite technical equipment, while the information board must be clear and comprehensible for all citizens.

It must also be made as easy as possible to access information about real time and planned bus schedules via smartphone, tablet or computer.

The ADR will work to create a comprehensive municipal transport plan. The municipalities should have the ability to create bus lanes and give priority to buses at crossings without putting private transport at too great a disadvantage. Affected citizens should also be allowed to have their say in planning bus lanes.

The public transport personnel in direct contact with customers must have a good command of Luxembourgish. This also applies to the personnel of Luxtram.

Soft mobility

In terms of soft mobility (pedestrians and cyclists), all measures implemented must also enhance safety. Pedestrians require protected crossings and decent pavements that are wide enough to allow two pushchairs to pass comfortably. Pedestrian crossings and smaller paths that cross national roads must also be equipped with traffic lights that allow pedestrians to request right of way. Moreover, these lights must be designed so that elderly citizens and people with disabilities can cross the street safely and easily. Pavements and crossings must be lit at all times; however, the lighting should be arranged so that it causes as little light pollution as possible.

Where paths lead through parks or other green areas that are not exclusively used for leisure activities, these paths must also be illuminated at all times for reasons of public safety.

Use of bicycles should also be further encouraged in future. In this regard, the guidelines of the Luxembourgian cycling initiative (Lëtzebuerger Vëlos-Initiativ, LVI) are particularly useful, following the motto of “Vëloinfrastruktur: wann, da richteg!” (Cycling infrastructure: if you’re going to do it, do it right!). There is no use painting cycle paths different colours if these lanes simply disappear before hazardous crossings. It is also not helpful to allow cyclists to use pedestrian crossings, as this impairs the safety of the pedestrians.

The municipality must ensure that sufficient facilities are provided to store bicycles securely at key strategic locations (schools, sports and cultural centres, town hall, etc.). In collaboration with the public transport authority (Verkéiersverbond), the municipality must create secure bicycle parking facilities (mBox) at rail stations and central bus stations.

These are all key priorities that the ADR will implement in your municipality.

Private transport

As shown by the “MoViLux” study, 75% of people in Luxembourg regularly commute to work or school by car. Of these, 66% commute by car 4 or 5 days per week. No reasonable and responsible-minded politician should lose sight of these facts for ideological reasons.

The ADR also welcomes measures that encourage people to opt for public transport over using their own vehicles – or, if possible, to choose soft mobility. However, other positive supporting measures must accompany this approach. The ADR rejects any form of harassment that has the primary objective of making life as difficult as possible for private car users.

We will ensure that citizens in close proximity to businesses and pedestrian zones are provided with enough parking spaces at reasonable prices. This is also an effective method to retain the attraction of town centres and to counter the trend of large shopping centres only being built outside of urban areas in the ‘open countryside’.

People must have the opportunity to park their car near their house or apartment for long periods if they so choose. This can also be regarded as a positive measure to encourage people to opt for public transport more often. The ADR opposes the form of “parking space management” that has the sole objective of drastically reducing the number of parking spaces near new buildings. Sufficient numbers of parking spaces should also be made available in residential districts to enable citizens to enjoy a normal social life. Therefore, a drastic reduction in the number of available parking spaces would be wholly unacceptable, as this would result in neighbouring districts becoming entirely parked-up. The ADR explicitly rejects the notion that driving and parking private cars in larger towns and cities should become an expensive privilege. In addition, paying for parking spaces should be a simple and straightforward process. Paying for spaces via SMS (Call2Park) is one attractive option which municipalities should take up.

We are determined to ensure that transport in the municipality functions on two levels.

First and foremost, transport axes must be created for “flowing traffic”. Transport on these axes will be regulated using an intelligent system, following the principle of the “green wave”. Pedestrian crossings should be protected by traffic lights that function within this “green wave”. If bicycle traffic is also present on these axes, such commuters must be clearly separated from all other traffic.

Traffic outside of these axes should then be “calmed”. A wide range of possible measures could be used to achieve this, such as 30km/h zones, the “shared space” concept or other speed-limiting zones. The measures that are ultimately most suitable for a village or district should be clarified in close collaboration with nearby residents. The local infrastructure should then be adapted according to the measures enacted. Putting up a few signposts is simply not enough.

Streets that run past schools, playgrounds or other facilities or locations where children are often present should be designed in a manner that calms traffic or, at the least, a 30km/h zone should be created.

4) Supporting families with children as well as possible

New lifestyles also continue to pose new challenges for municipalities in terms of parenting and childcare. In many cases, children spend a great deal of time in school and other childcare facilities as both parents have to work. The ADR wants parents to retain the choice of whether they wish to raise their children at home OR take advantage of high-quality childcare structures. The childcare institutions that require parental consent include the “Maison Relais” (day-care centres), “crèche” (care facilities for small children), “Foyer du jour” (nurseries), “Garderie” (children’s centres) and “Dagesmamm” (childminders). In order to guarantee that the individual childcare facilities and institutions can handle the responsibilities of this task, childcare must be placed as top priority for the municipality. This includes rearing children, providing for their education and high-quality care as well as ensuring their well-being. The ADR is seeking to implement this key objective in your municipality by creating the necessary budget and making the requisite investments – including in qualified personnel.

The ADR respects Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that every child has the right to a free school education and free access to higher education, vocational training and, in general, an education that enables the human personality to develop fully. Parents must always have the right to choose the educational model for their children.

Parents and the community in the municipality

The ADR will obligate the municipality to provide sufficient places in state nurseries. Furthermore, these nurseries should also be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that they fulfil the required standards for certification in terms of safety, hygiene, infrastructures, and so on. The care facilities should be comprehensively distributed across districts – or villages, as the case may be – to facilitate a fruitful exchange between schools, their communities and the care facilities. If the municipality fails to make enough places available, they must provide alternative options. Municipalities should arrange for that enables every child entering pre-school (Précoce) to receive a full timetable if their parents so desire. It must be ensured that the staff in nurseries, “Maison Relais” day-care centres and pre-schools have received sufficient training for them to cope with the demands of providing high-quality childcare and education. The ADR will work to effect all of these improvements.

Moreover, we will ensure that individual childcare structures, “Maisons des jeunes” (youth clubs) and schools enjoy a stronger culture of exchange with other community bodies and associations. We will support intergenerational projects and promote the assistance of civil society in raising children.

We will work to ensure that the “Maison Relais” day-care centres are organised in such a way that they not only serve as a bridge between school and the parental home but also act as an important component of “non-formal” and “formal” education. This includes access to a library, a gymnasium and IT facilities. The ADR places high value on enabling children to develop as best they can through sufficient cultural, social and physical activities.

The ADR on the Municipal council will work to ensure positive collaboration between teaching staff and other educators. We will strive to enable parents to take a more active role and be more active in raising their children once again. The individual childcare structures should therefore shape their educational projects in closer consultation with parents. We will adjust the opening hours of municipal

childcare facilities according to parents' requirements, and also ensure that a sufficient number of childcare places are available during school holidays.

As far as the quality of day-care centres, school canteens and all other childcare structures is concerned, the municipality bears a substantial share of the responsibility. When arranging conditions with external catering providers, the priority should be to ensure a varied diet with regional products and menus that change regularly.

Children's interest in music should also be encouraged from a young age, both through primary school classes and in special music lessons for interested children. The musical education that takes place outside of school should be organised with the UGDA or the municipality's music society. We will ensure that children with an interest in music who attend "Maison Relais" day-care centres can partake in such musical education. With the ADR on the municipal council, all children will learn our national anthem and traditional Luxembourgian songs as a matter of course.

Children with special educational needs

Childcare facilities should have staff who are specially trained to look after children with special educational needs. These school and childcare institutions should be accessible for all children. Childcare institutions must be capable of individually supporting each child with suitably adapted concepts. This should be a precondition for authorising a childcare institution to perform such services. If you vote for the ADR, we will work to ensure that this all increasingly becomes reality.

Primary school

The ADR will strive to ensure that schools are provided with infrastructure adapted to children's requirements by the municipality, which includes the building, playgrounds, the school library, gymnasia and, if present, the school swimming pool.

We will push for the use of didactic material suited to educational development. The school bears the responsibility for creating concepts to reduce academic failure to an absolute minimum. The "Projet scolaire", quality management and the cooperation plan between childcare structures and the school system will be supported and expanded by the ADR with concrete measures.

We would reduce class sizes in order to offer municipalities more opportunities to integrate children with special education needs or refugee children into the school system more effectively.

The ADR opposes long journeys to school and will seek to keep the time children lose in travelling to school within a reasonable period.

Young people

Municipalities must take the needs and requirements of young people into account through constant dialogue with the groups involved. Youth centres and sports facilities should be created; supporting sports clubs and associations is also an important aspect. The ADR will work to ensure that youth centres also offer activities that afford young people an insight into the world of work. A high-quality concept should be developed for this purpose with the municipalities, and should support young people in exploring their future career paths. If necessary, a team of educators and "street workers" should help to supervise these young people.

Targeted action to combat poverty

Families with one adult and at least one child are at a particularly heightened risk of poverty. If we win seats on the municipal council, we will make sure that municipalities bear a certain duty to support the more vulnerable members of our society. The objective is to enable the people affected to live independently as soon as possible: to lead a life in which they do not depend on state assistance. It is particularly important for the ADR that more vulnerable people in our society are still able to lead a dignified life. This also means that these people should be able to make decisions independently as far as is possible, and thereby receive guidance and assistance towards a life without the need for help from the state or municipality.

Families with specific requirements often find themselves confronted by the fact that they must apply to several different authorities in order to benefit from social assistance and support. The ADR will simplify this procedure: in future, the affected families should be able to turn to a contact person who will assist them in all necessary administrative steps with authorities.

In addition, we will ensure that the municipalities can provide assistance (e.g. through financial subsidies) in even exceptional situations, such as to people who are ineligible for RMG/Revis or who do not wish to exercise this right.

We will work to make sure that the municipalities lend support to associations and charities who are active in the social sector. We will support infrastructures that offer services such as social businesses or medical advice to all citizens.

Tax contributions to the municipality constitute a particular burden for families with small budgets. The “polluter-payer” principle (whoever pollutes consequently pays more), which we generally consider to be positive, does however weigh particularly heavy upon lower-income families. Therefore, the ADR will work to implement a progressively graduated tax system (see Point 7 in Chapter *The municipality: A guarantee for quality of life*).

A child and family-friendly municipality

Our children are our future, both in the municipality and across the nation. They should grow up in a highly liveable environment. For every family that bears a child, the municipality will plant a tree. All public municipal institutions must possess baby changing facilities. Playgrounds must be as clean as possible, and clear of any dog excrement, syringes, condoms and the like. Moreover, playgrounds should be built in areas currently without one. Parents must also have a say in such future developments.

5) [The Luxembourgish language is the best tool for integration](#)

The ADR is the only party that consistently champions the Luxembourgish language across the country. We are firmly convinced that Luxembourgish represents the best tool for integration. Only effective integration – at both a municipal and a national level – can guarantee social cohesion in our society.

For the many people who do not live in Luxembourg, the municipality is the first point of contact when they get in touch with the authorities. In this context, we would make a strong message in this context that would clearly state: **Luxembourgish is our national language!** We would name the building that houses the municipal council simply “Gemeng” or “Stadhaus”, as opposed to “Mairie” or “Hotel de ville”. Furthermore, Luxembourgish should be given priority and used in forms and information leaflets produced by the state.

With the ADR on the municipal council, people will be made aware of the importance of Luxembourgish as a tool to help them integrate when they register with authorities in the municipality. People will also be provided with a basic leaflet when registering in a municipality, such as “100 words in Luxembourgish”. In addition, people will also be made aware of the possible options and points of contact in the municipality that can help them to learn Luxembourgish.

Names of villages, streets, buildings...

The ADR will systemically work to ensure that the Luxembourgish term is used as the primary designation for localities on place-name signs – and is also printed in bold. The French-language name would then stand below the Luxembourgish version. The land registry office (Kadasteramt) as well as all maps and navigation systems would then be adjusted to reflect this change.

Everywhere that street and town names already exist in Luxembourgish will use this version exclusively in future. French names on municipal buildings will be replaced by Luxembourgish names.

Municipal publications

All municipal publications – leaflets, appeals, invitations, information texts, web pages, etc. – will, in large part, be provided in Luxembourgish. This content could then be supplemented by Luxembourg’s administrative languages or other foreign languages.

Luxembourgish courses

The ADR will strive to ensure that the municipality offers Luxembourgish courses at a range of levels for all people that would like to learn how to speak, read and write in Luxembourgish and explore the country’s history. Foreign citizens resident in Luxembourg will be informed of this service. These courses should be flexibly structured and held at times that enable participants to attend around their work commitments. The municipality would promote these courses for staff who work in establishments located in the municipality and which come into direct contact with citizens.

Municipal staff speak Luxembourgish

Staff who have been hired by the municipality, and who are hired in future, must speak Luxembourgish. Municipal staff that work in administration must attain C1 level of Luxembourgish, both in spoken and written language. A strong command of Luxembourgish is also compulsory for staff that work in childcare institutions, retirement homes and care facilities which receive financial support from the municipality.

Luxembourg Day of Integration

In addition to the Grand Duke’s Official Birthday and the international cultural programme, the ADR would organise an annual “Luxembourgian Day of Integration”. We would use this day to put on a programme of convivial activities for citizens that would place particular emphasis on conveying the importance of the Luxembourgish language and culture. The relevant organisations would make great efforts to ensure that foreign citizens also participate in the programme of events.

Naturalisation ceremony

Foreign citizens who are awarded Luxembourgian nationality should be warmly welcomed into the community in a naturalisation ceremony held by the municipality. This would afford the municipality the opportunity to explore the needs of “new” Luxembourgers and discuss how to improve their

language skills, as well as assisting their integration in the municipality. The ADR would welcome and support such a concept.

6) Accepting refugees with our hearts as well as our heads

Where the refugee policy is concerned, the ADR champions humanitarian solutions – which also observe relevant international conventions. Europe simply cannot take everyone in, and Luxembourg even less so. The ADR is working to promote alternative methods of supporting the people who genuinely need our help without them necessarily having to come to Europe.

The municipalities must be integrated in governmental decisions that will affect them directly or indirectly at an early stage, and must not simply be subject to unilateral decrees. The ADR rejects a quota system to allocate migrants to the various municipalities. We insist on the principle of free will. Municipalities who voluntarily declare that they wish to establish a foyer to welcome migrants should receive the requisite support from the state for their efforts. An indispensable aspect of this is that the mayor and his aldermen ask local residents their opinion before taking decisions on such matters. If citizens in the municipality are in favour of taking in refugees, then the municipal authorities must draw up a voluntaristic integration plan. The ADR is firmly convinced that everything possible should be done to prevent parallel societies from forming within our country.

As regards the housing issue, it would be unacceptable for “ghettos” to form, or for refugees or people who have been searching for decent housing in Luxembourg for a long period, to be discriminated against or unduly prioritised in the housing market. The agreement of the municipal council must first be obtained before “container villages” may be built. The state must not exclusively use the POS (Plan d’occupation des sols) procedure to do so.

Refugees whose applications for international protection are being processed (DPI – Demandeur de protection internationale) should be grouped in foyers, where they should be cared for by the state (housing, supplies, health, security...).

Recognised refugees (BPI – Bénéficiaire de protection internationale), most of whom require financial and material assistance before they can establish a life here, must receive support from the state to do so. They must not become a burden on the municipality, even if the municipality could provide additional assistance.

The municipality must, however, play an active role in facilitating a dialogue between refugees and citizens. Refugee children in particular should be involved and integrated in activities held by municipal establishments (e.g. foyers, Maison Relais, holiday activities). Refugees who are already of primary school age should, ideally, attend the local municipal school. However, this would occur on the strict condition that the schools ministry (Schulministerium) provides additional resources – and in particular the requisite additional staff. Children from these groups should also be able to attend day-care centres (Maison Relais), providing enough places are available for them to do so. The Luxembourgian state must undertake the costs to facilitate this.

The municipality: A guarantee for quality of life

1) Solidarity and social justice

Solidarity and social justice are fundamental pillars for a good quality of life. The section entitled “The 6 priorities of the ADR for the municipal elections” introduces several central issues that relate to an optimal quality of life.

Solidarity with senior citizens, disabled people and citizens with illnesses must be a key priority for the municipal council. The municipality has a duty to work together with specialist associations and care services so that these citizens are not excluded from social, cultural and sporting life in their municipality.

The concept of solidarity can also feature in intergenerational projects, particularly in projects where young and older people live together, communicate with one another and work together on joint projects. The municipal authorities must also ensure that the necessary requirements are met in such cases.

Quality of life and social cohesion also requires the provision of so-called “convenience services” in a village or district centre – which include shops, bakeries, newsagents, ATMs and, potentially, health services (pharmacies, doctors’ practices, etc.). The municipal authorities also hold a series of trump cards in this regard – for example, they could provide the infrastructure for these services and facilities at a symbolic rental price.

2) Shared responsibility for senior citizens

The ADR is well aware of the fact that the number of senior citizens in our society will grow in the coming years. In this context, we consider it particularly important that the municipality effects all necessary measures to enable senior citizens to live in their own homes for as long as possible, so that they can live autonomous and independent lives for as much of their lives as possible.

On such measure that we will implement at a municipal level is a “lessen op Rieder” (meals on wheels) service, which meets a basic requirement of senior citizens and helps to raise spirits. This service should be operated in the most environmentally-friendly manner possible.

Senior citizens and people with disabilities also have the right to participate in sporting and cultural activities as they wish. We will strive to ensure that the municipality – whether independently or by working together with specialist organisations – organises flexible transport services for these citizens.

3) Unlimited accessibility

The requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities must be recognised and implemented at the municipal level. The ADR will effect a series of initiatives to make sure that municipal bodies are up to this crucial task.

We will reform all municipal infrastructure as part of a multi-year action plan to ensure that senior citizens and people with disabilities no longer face barriers when accessing services. In order to achieve this, an inventory detailing all municipal infrastructure and establishments would be created. This would make it possible to examine whether these facilities are accessible for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Every year, the plans drawn up for the municipality would feature a programme with a fixed budget in order to improve specific facilities – by installing ramps, lifts, adapted toilets, special areas for wheelchairs at bus stops, acoustic signals for the visually impaired at

road crossings, Braille in lifts, etc. The emergency call function in lifts must also be easy to locate for people with visual impairments.

We will work to ensure that planning regulations are amended so that all new residential buildings and commercial premises must conform to criteria that facilitate access for senior citizens and people with disabilities. This project should be accompanied and overseen by a special commission that includes members of the groups affected, to ensure that these priorities are observed.

Municipal publications should be reviewed and revised if necessary so that people with a visual impairment or who are blind are also able to make use of these publications. In the case of online forms, an extra “capture” should be created to enable to affect people to use the online versions despite their disability or impairment. Citizens should also continue to have the option to fill in forms on paper. In so doing, particular attention must be paid to ensuring that these forms are also user-friendly; paper forms must also be easily legible for people with a visual impairment. People who, despite all of these measures, are still unable to navigate administrative tasks independently, must be assisted by the municipality in doing so.

4) Environmental conservation and energy policy

As concerns the municipality’s long-term development, state-of-the-art scientific and technological standards should be used to orientate work in the areas of environmental conservation and energy policy. In doing so, however, common sense should always be applied instead of blindly following ideology. Environmental standards must not lead to a situation in which housing costs rise to the extent that the middle classes are unable to afford a home of their own. With the ADR on the municipal council, responsible investments in environmental and energy policy will be made as a matter of course.

We will draw up precise provisions as part of the municipal regulations in order to keep noise pollution as low as possible without hindering a vibrant nightlife. However, we believe that discotheques and similar institutions have no place in residential areas. Of course, it will remain possible in future to hold temporary festivals and events that are well-established in the cultural calendar of a village, town or city. Naturally, this also applies to sporting events.

The ADR champions renewable energy sources, even if such sources will never be able to supply enough energy to replace coal, oil and gas. Consequently, we will support projects in which citizens can also benefit from solar facilities on public buildings without private housing or large areas of countryside having to be covered with solar cells.

The ADR welcomes the strict regulations that control installation of wind turbines. Citizens should be afforded every opportunity to oppose projects that might impinge upon their quality of life, and the municipal authorities must be ready and willing to hear and consider such concerns.

5) Water, sewage, refuse...

Clean water is a basic requirement of every single individual, and is inextricably linked with a modern environmental conservation and energy policy (see the previous chapter). The municipality must bear responsibility for ensuring that everyone that lives or works within its jurisdiction is supplied with potable water at a fair price and in socially equitable conditions.

Free basic water quota

The ADR will work to ensure that each and every citizen is provided with a basic amount of water free of charge. Each household in the municipality must be provided with an allocation of 30,000 litres of

free drinking water per head. All water consumption above that level will be subject to progressively graduated taxation, i.e. the water price will rise in stages proportional to consumption. Sewerage charges will also be apportioned using progressive price controls. People that use significantly more water than average will have to reach deeper into their pockets as a result.

The municipality also bears responsibility for sewage treatment plants through the necessary bodies. It must be pointed out that Luxembourg pays severe penalties to the European Union as the quality of our streams and rivers do not correspond to European quality and health standards. With the ADR on the municipal council, systematic sewage processing will become a key priority – in collaboration with central state authorities, of course.

In new districts and “cités”, or where there are major renovations in built-up areas, we will use sensible criteria to consider a dual drainage system (for storm water and sewage). Sewage infrastructure (sewers, retention basins, etc.) must be sufficiently dimensioned so that other districts do not suffer negative consequences (e.g. flooding). With the support of relevant state authorities, the municipalities will regularly evaluate the risk of flooding in their areas of jurisdiction. In this context, the requisite measures must be effected to keep such risks as low as possible.

In order to protect water and to reduce wastage of valuable drinking water, the water network will be monitored on a regular basis to avoid losses due to leaks.

The ADR opposes introduction of a ‘storm water tax’ (Regenwassersteuer). If this tax has been imposed in your municipality, we will on the municipal council work to repeal it.

In principle, the ADR does not oppose the “polluter-payer” concept (whoever pollutes more consequently pays more) in relation to refuse bins where the level of taxation, for example, is calculated based on the weight or number of refuse bins to be emptied. However, this principle must not be misused in order to effect fundamental tax increases or to exert excessive control over citizens. In fact, we would also consider the social components of such a refuse tax.

We would support measures in the municipality that support recycling and prevent unnecessary waste. Furthermore, we would also ensure that the number of different waste disposal bins does not rise without good reason. In this context, it is important to remember the topic of space and the directly related issue of the rounds the waste disposal vehicles have to travel.

6) Data protection and smart meters

The ADR is a staunch defender of the right to the protection of personal data and ensuring that it is respected. With this in mind, we expressly warn against the misuse and abuse of data that could occur as a result of smart meters – both to measure water or electricity usage. We emphatically oppose the idea that private electricity usage could be externally regulated third parties.

7) Animals in the municipality

The ADR will work to ensure that the dog licence fee (Hundesteuer) is kept to a minimum so that people with low incomes can also own a dog. The dog licence fee must therefore not be collected twice if the dog in question dies in the course of the year and is replaced by another. We will ensure that the dog licence fee is paid by the municipality for the first year if the dog is adopted from a shelter. As a return service for the dog licence fees collected, the municipality must ensure that the requisite infrastructure for dogs is provided in cities (e.g. dog waste facilities).

If animal welfare associations are active in the local area, they should be provided with material assistance by the municipality.

8) Nature

The responsibility of the municipality in terms of retaining and preserving green areas and natural spaces continues to grow, particularly in light of the uncontrolled growth at a national level.

The ADR will work on the municipal council to ensure that nature enjoys maximum possible protection in relation to the new PAGs. Expanding building land should remain an exceptional measure, without becoming entirely taboo. Flood plains should be clearly identified as such. Natural zones within the built-up area (Bauperimeter) and which have been declared as building land may be retrospectively reclassified as green areas – providing that property rights are taken into account. The municipal authorities could redefine such green areas, e.g. by exchanging them for other land.

On the other hand, public infrastructures such as the tram system must not be used as a pretext to reclassify larger green areas, as has been the case with the “Gréngewald”. In addition, it is crucial that no areas outside of the built-up area are reclassified in order to build large commercial areas in the ‘open countryside’.

Where citizens express a desire to create and plant gardens or allotments, we will strive to ensure that the municipality makes the requisite land available in the context of the PAG. The municipality should also help in setting up community gardens where citizens so desire. Paths and forests in municipal ownership should receive special attention.

Green spaces that belong to or are maintained by the municipality should be governed by the principle of healthy nature, with as little pesticide used as possible. However, the principle of “late mowing” would not be made general practice, and would not be applied to areas with a prestigious image.

9) Conservation of historic and architectonic quality

Maintaining a certain quality of life also means creating or preserving an environment in which people feel comfortable. This also includes conserving our traditional buildings and the character of our towns and villages. In the eyes of the ADR, the Luxembourgish language and the historic and architectonic fabric of our buildings are both important elements of our identity. The ADR will work to safeguard buildings typical to a region and which are worthy of preservation. All buildings with special cultural value must be retained. We plan to introduce local grants for the renovation and refurbishment of such buildings. If necessary, the municipality should also purchase buildings worthy of preservation to ensure their safety. In parallel to this, public awareness should be raised of the treasures in a local area. If a citizen submits an application to examine whether their property could benefit from architectural conservation measures, this application must be investigated as closely as possible.

The ADR will therefore make sure that the municipality has the requisite resources in its development plan to prevent historic locations from being negatively impacted by inappropriate construction projects. In addition, we are clear that developments relating to church buildings must be handled responsibly and with respect.

10) Tourism

The municipality is responsible for promoting tourism as best it can, as this is often important for the municipality from a financial perspective. This includes expanding and retaining existing regional and intermunicipal cycle routes (which also include the “circuits autopédestre” and “circuits train-pédestre”) and footpaths; not only should they be signposted clearly and accurately, but this signage should be produced in Luxembourgish. This action should take place according to a joint, uniform schematic for the country as a whole.

We will support local and regional syndicates that work to promote local tourism with concrete actions. In doing so, we want to promote well-established youth hostels, camp sites, etc. in the municipality. In so far as central government does not legislate on this issue, we will work at a municipal level to implement measures – via the municipal code – to ensure that established hotels do not face inclement competition from new methods of attracting tourists (e.g via Internet platforms). If the concept of holidaying on farms already exists in a municipality, we will work to support it further. Retaining historic architecture and buildings is also important to us (see previous chapter).

11) Sport

The municipality bears responsibility for expanding local sporting activities. We will work to ensure that the municipality makes the requisite infrastructures available to local sports clubs and associations. Naturally, this must be arranged in line with clubs' actual requirements and in the context of sensible financial planning. With the ADR on the municipal council, we will always support sports clubs financially in order to promote their integrated use in childcare and the development of young people.

The municipality will then, in collaboration with individual sports clubs, offer sports programmes for a broad public – working either on a case-by-case basis or as a group. Everyone should be able to participate in sporting activities, and there should be opportunities for people in the third age to do so as well. This must be possible without significant bureaucratic complications and without having to become a member a club. An universe insurance arrangement would then be instituted for all leisure activities offered by the municipality.

We would also create sports installations in parks for use by the general public.

12) Health

The ADR will ensure that a concept to enhance health and medical service provision is drawn up and subsequently implemented. These improvements should be achieved with the help of regional medical practices and pharmacies. The provision of medical services and pharmaceutical treatment in emergency situations, out-of-hours and at the weekend should be significantly improved. This should, of course, be done in such a way that patients do not have to travel long distances.

13) Culture

The ADR considers organising an attractive cultural offer to be one of the municipal authorities' central responsibilities. As well as overseeing cultural centres and proving material assistance to clubs and associations (e.g. by making adequate facilities available), this also includes offering an active and varied cultural programme. We want to work systematically to create public "bookcases" in every municipality, which will allow people to borrow books – or loan out their own – with ease.

We will organise and promote cultural events, such as concerts and theatre performances. In all of these events, we will place particular emphasis on Luxembourgian culture (see chapter: The Luxembourgish language is the best tool for integration).

In order to make integration easier, the ADR will place greater emphasis on protecting Luxembourgian culture and on sharing this with foreign citizens – rather than limiting ourselves to organising multicultural festivals which, rather than binding us together, simply place us side-by-side. In this sense, the ADR also supports neighbourhood festivals that serve, amongst other aspects, to facilitate integration.

14) Close to the citizens

It is at the municipal level that citizens have the most effective and direct ability and right to contribute and shape policy. A large proportion of political activity takes place in the municipal council, in the advisory municipal commissions and in local divisions of political parties. The ADR will work to ensure that transparency is ensured and that citizens' right to a say is maintained – and, if possible, further enhanced and expanded – in local politics.

The ADR will therefore work to achieve greater democracy at a municipal level: for example, in future more decisions should be taken through referendums. The procedures involved in organising a referendum at the municipal level must be further simplified, such as by making it possible to collect signatures electronically.

Direct democracy also means that citizens must be properly and correctly informed. The agenda of municipal council meetings should also be available to all citizens. Municipal council meetings could be shown online as a live stream and then also archived. Furthermore, each household should receive an objective and politically-neutral summary – or perhaps an analytical report – on discussions in the municipal council, published at reasonable intervals. Information meetings should be convened for larger projects and particularly important decisions.

The municipality has the ability to operate a local television channel, via cable TV and/or online. This should primarily be made available to local clubs and organisations, and contribute to audiovisual documentation of life in the municipality. This must be arranged in line with a professional code of ethics; the television channel must not be misused for the purposes of political propaganda. A municipal television channel would be a public enterprise, and must therefore enable both coalition and opposition parties sufficient opportunity to present their positions.

The municipality's utmost priority must be providing a service to its citizens. Dealing with state authorities must be made as straightforward as possible. The municipality could also be available for administrative enquiries outside of "normal" office hours. Following the "single window" approach, the municipality should be able to receive citizens' enquiries relating to state administration and provide advice and consultancy as required.

Systems should be adapted so that as many administrative steps as possible can be carried out online. However, such developments must not be taken as a pretext to reduce direct personal contact with citizens to a minimum. In the interest of all citizens who are less familiar with the Internet or who simply prefer paper forms, paper formats must be available in addition to online formats.

If you elect the ADR to the municipal council, we will ensure that the points mentioned above are made reality in your local area.

15) Competent political leadership

The ADR defends the principle of the autonomy of municipal authorities. In the sense of the principle of subsidiarity, the state should exclusively intervene in issues that cannot be delegated to the municipal level.

To ensure that the members of the municipal council and aldermen can do justice to their tasks, we support systematic training measures – which could be offered as part of training leave, for example. We would also adjust "congé politique" (i.e. a statutory period of leave to be used for political purposes) to suit the needs of municipal politicians; this would better enable them to carry out their work, which carries a high level of responsibility.

The ADR will work in the municipal council to implement responsible financial policy, if possible without raising municipal taxation. Borrowing money should remain an exception and must only be used as an option to realise specific projects and make concrete investments.

Providing development assistance is, first and foremost, a responsibility of the central state rather than the municipalities. However, if the municipality wishes to implement its own development assistance programme, this should be coordinated with the state. Such collaboration should avoid duplication of work and other inconsistencies.

In principle, the ADR welcomes the concept of merging municipalities, insofar as this provides added value for their citizens. However, as a matter of principle, these mergers must always be voluntary – with citizens ultimately effecting the final decision in a referendum.