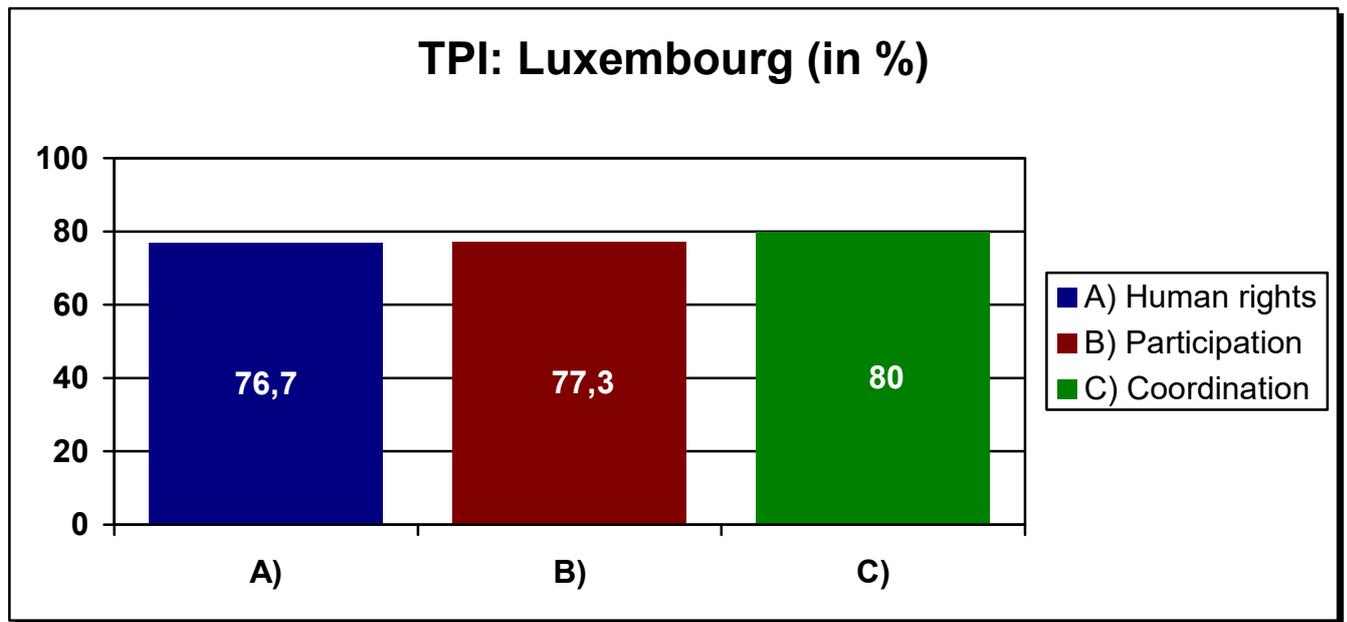


Luxembourg

A distinct democracy with a substantial lack in sustainability

(Evaluated according to the criteria of The People Index /
Author: Martin Sommerer)



A) Human rights

1. Are all inhabitants respected as free and equal citizens?

The Constitution of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg states that the Luxembourgers are equal before the law and admitted to all public, civil and military employments (Art. 10bis.). Men and women are equal in their rights and duties and the state actively seeks to promote the elimination of existing obstacles which could exist concerning equality of women and men (Art 11.). Further the constitution reinforces the rights of union, strike (Art. 11.), of property (Art. 16.), of religion (Art. 19.), of opinion, expression (Art. 24.) and assembly (Art. 25., Legilux).

The Grand Duchy can traditionally be seen as a very immigration-friendly nation that has built its wealth and success on the massive influx of foreign work-force either through immigration or through commuters from the neighbouring countries Belgium, France and Germany (ttsavoir, p.11). In fact more than 45% of Luxembourg's inhabitants today do not possess a national passport (Wort.lu 06/15) and more than 150 nationalities can be found in the country's population (ttsavoir, p.11). Despite much talking of successful integration, tensions between the incoming population and the natives do not stay away as frequent

critique of the state school system and the negative outcome of a 2015 referendum to enable foreigners to take part in national elections have shown¹ (Wort.lu 06/15).

In recent years there has been a public debate about prostitution and how laws should be changed in order to protect women. The so-called Nordic system (EWL) - which was implemented in Norway and Sweden - is being discussed as a measure to make prostitution illegal and punish the client but not the prostitute, and end this form of discrimination against women (EWL). On January 1st 2015 Luxembourg was the 17th country worldwide to fully legalize same-sex marriage and even passed a law to allow adoption to gay and lesbian couples in the same instant (TheIndependent2015).

Despite slight occasional flaw which the government is consistently working on to reduce, inhabitants' rights as free and equal citizens are generally very well-respected which leads me to the following result:

Assessment: 90%

2. Are fair and free procedures common?

The constitutional state has a long tradition in the Luxembourg and division of powers and independence of the courts are laid down in the constitution (GouvCeT). Though practical experience has proven many direct relations between legislative and executive power and the separation is quite flexible in this respect (GouvSP). The course of legal procedures is fixed in the constitution and supervised by the Superior Court of Justice (GouvCeT).

The *Corruption Perception Index* issued by *Transparency International* assesses Luxembourg with 81 out of 100 points. This corresponds with the 10th position out of 168 countries worldwide in 2015 and puts the Grand Duchy at the same position as Germany and the United Kingdom. It shows that corruption exists in Luxembourg but it is lower than in most European countries (CPI 2015). The *Business Anti-Corruption Portal* specifies that “The country has a strong legal framework to curb corruption, and anti-corruption laws are effectively enforced.” (BACP) Nevertheless nearly 50% of the people in Luxembourg think that especially political parties, businesses and religious bodies are corrupt. In the judicial system, “practices of nepotism² have been reported” (BACP) and “Four in ten businesses believe that the use of connections and bribery are the easiest way to obtain certain public services” (BACP), corruption incidences can be traced to the sometimes narrow difference between government and businesses. (BACP)

Government officials favouring individuals or companies is a problem as well as “one in five businesses reports that corruption has prevented them from winning a public contract” (BACP). A concrete example for such a case would be the *Livange-Wickrange affair*, when the government favoured one company over another for the contract of building a football stadium and shopping centre after reaching secret agreements and accepting bribery (BACP Luxembourg Public Procurement). No politicians involved in this affair were however held accountable and despite the controversy this sparked about the government the subject was silently locked up in 2012 (Paperjam).

¹ I am going to have a closer look at the school system in Chapter 2.3.6. and the referendum in Chapter 2.2.3.

² Definition by the Oxford Dictionary: “The practice of those with power or influence of favouring relatives or friends, especially by giving the jobs” (OxfDictNep).

Usually native Luxembourgers tend to be favoured for well-paid jobs because of the complex language situation in the country. The Luxembourgish society can easily count as trilingual with official languages being Luxembourgish, French and German, a fact that makes most foreigners struggle. This explains why mostly native Luxembourgers are hired for well-paid government and administration jobs while foreigners and commuters more commonly stick with the private sector (Wort.lu 06/15).

Freedom House rates Luxembourg as a “free” country in terms of press freedom as it ranks 6th globally and occupies the same score as Denmark (FreedomHouse, p.24). In the *World Press Freedom Index* by *Reporters Without Borders* however Luxembourg was rated down from 4th place in 2014 to 19th place in 2015³ (WPFBI), assessing Press Freedom only with 13.61 points (in a score of between 0 and 100 with 0 being the best and 100 the worst result, WPFImethod) which makes it come rather close to the 15-points margin that marks the border between a *Good situation* and a *Satisfactory situation* (WPFImethod).

To sum it up, Luxembourg has high standards when it comes to fair and free procedures. Nevertheless corruption is existent in the Grand Duchy’s institutions, but it is very low in a European comparison. When however an affair comes to the surface, the country seems hardly capable of leading a serious investigation to clear up facts and hold responsible people accountable in the way it should happen under the rule of law.

Assessment: 75 %

3. Are international borders respected?

Luxembourg formally acknowledges and respects all borders with neighbouring countries and is also traditionally opposed to any border violations. This is due to the negative experiences made in times of foreign occupation in World War II which led to a strong commitment of national politicians to the course of European Integration and the prevention of such violations in the future (Ttsavoir, p.7f). This effort was acknowledged in 1986 when the International Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen was to the Luxembourgish people as a whole (Karlspreis). Luxembourg is a member of NATO and has taken part in various UN- and international peace missions throughout the world (Lëtzebuerger Arméi).

A subject the Grand Duchy has traditionally been much-criticised for is bank-secrecy which allowed Luxembourg to profit from tax evasion from other countries. After much pressuring from the EU in the past year however banking secrecy officially ended on January 1st 2015 and an automatic banking information exchange system was put in place.

In 2014 a big scandal about Luxembourg’s financial practices became apparent after the *International Consortium of Investigative Journalism* leaked secret documents revealing a whole new dimension of tax betrayal. In short, international firms would be advised by the professional services firm *PricewaterhouseCoopers* how they could transfer their profits to establishments in the Grand Duchy and with help of some dodges get them taxed there at extremely low rates (often less than one percent), thus avoiding a high tax burden in their home country. The Luxembourgish government would clearly favour these tactics and, while causing important losses for other European economies, creating a substantial source of income for the Luxembourgish banking sector. Despite not clearly being illegal after European or international law, this incidence has any reason to be called outrageous as it

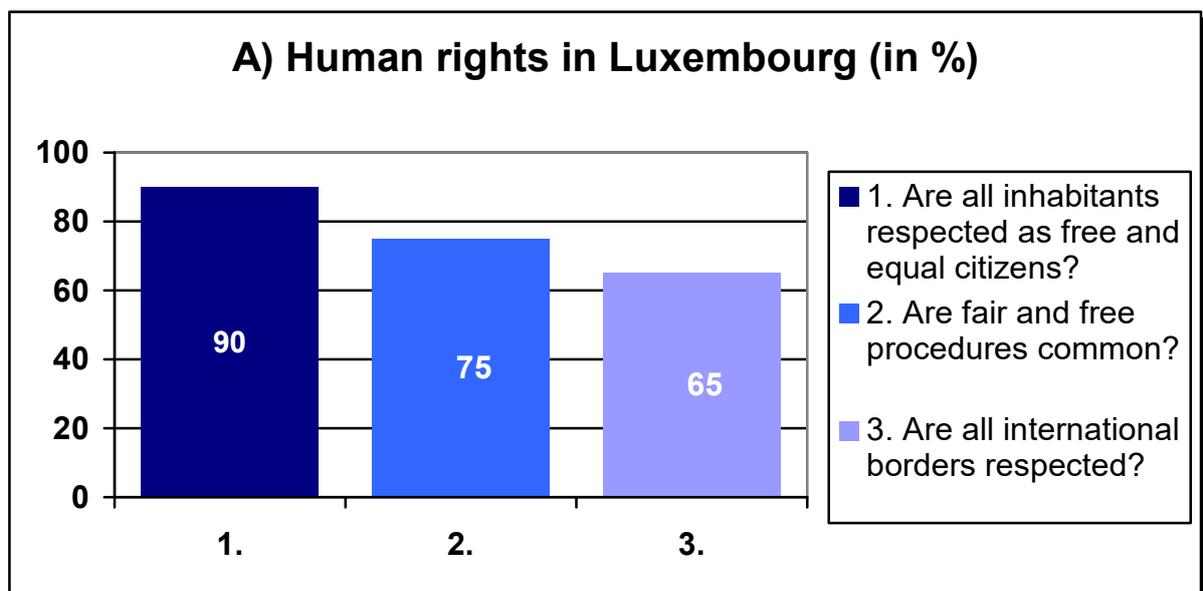
³ Unfortunately I was unable to find out the reason for this drop.

illustrates the complete callousness of the national authorities towards the damage they would cause in other countries. In the meantime, Luxembourg also denies any violation of existing laws but there will be an investigation by the European Union (SZ 7/14).

Despite a very prestigious position in the EU and official recognition of any national and international borders, when it comes to its economy and especially the banking place, Luxembourg proves too many wrongs to get a high mark in this point.

Assessment: 65 %

General Assessment for *Human rights*: $(90 + 75 + 65) : 3 = 76,7$



B) Participation

1. May people elect and recall their government?

Every five years, all citizens of Luxembourg are called to elect the 60 members of *Chambre des Députés* in proportional voting (GouvSE). Communal elections take place every six years when the deciding organ of the commune, the *Communal Council* (Conseil Communal) is elected by the commune's inhabitants (CLAE). Voting in Luxembourg is obligatory for every citizen until the age of 75 (GouvSE).

The role of the Grand Duke⁴ in Luxembourgish politics could be seen as quite controversial, as he represents a part of a hereditary monarchy and thus has no democratic legitimization. In fact, the role the Grand Duke plays as a part of the executive power is strictly regulated by the Constitution and the country's laws. The Constitution defines the monarch's impartiality and

⁴ Even though the Luxembourgish monarch can theoretically also be a Grand Duchess, I am only going to use the male version in this essay as it applies best to the current situation with *Grand-Duc Henri* holding the title since 7th October 2000 (GouvChdE).

that he stands above the political parties. His person is inviolable, thus cannot be judged but he is also irresponsible for any political decision-making as every political action from his side has to be counter-signed by an elected member of the government, with this government member also assuming the entire responsibility. The Grand Duke and his ministers (ergo the government) together form the country's executive power (GouvChdE).

The Grand Duke's main political action consists in formally passing the laws elaborated by the government and already voted through parliament. The Grand Duke certifies the content of the finished laws and orders their publication and implementation. Additionally, the monarch's regulating power consists in issuing decrees necessary to implement the laws but he can delegate this power to other members of the government. The Grand Duke can also dissolve the Chamber of Deputies which has to lead to new elections within three months. In practice, this can only happen on the government's (so the elected ministers') demand (GouvChdE). According to the Constitution the monarch has absolute freedom to choose the ministers as men of his trust to exercise the executive power with him. In practice however he is very limited in his choice because the democratic principle stipulates him to only nominate people with a majority in parliament (GouvG). In fact, according to current usage, he only elects a formateur (who usually becomes the Prime Minister) who then sets up a government and selects his ministers according to the party distribution in parliament. The proposed government then needs to be formally confirmed and inaugurated by the Grand Duke (Ttsavoir, p.17).

The government can express their disagreement with a government proposition, a minister's policies or the government as a whole by negative voting on a subject. By refusing to vote the annual budget the Chamber of Deputies can effectively render the government incapable of action. In case the parliament expresses their hostility towards a minister, it is seen as the minister's political responsibility to give up their post. In concrete, The Chamber of Deputies can issue a *motion of no confidence* and, according to current use, one such voting (if successful) is enough for a minister to resign. Also a minister can only be accused by the parliament for actions committed when in charge which leads to a procedure in the Superior Court of Justice (GouvCdD).

Another Organ of the Luxembourgish government system is the *State Council* (Conseil d'État), which traces its existence back to the 19th century. It consists of 21 counsellors nominated by the Grand Duke. Though they play a purely advisory role to the government, laws cannot be passed without at least having listened to their opinion. In order to make up for possible drawbacks of the Luxembourgish system consisting only of one chamber, the State Council is thus granted a suspensive veto by the Constitution as parliament has to wait for three months to hear the State Council's opinion and can only pass a law without having heard them when these three months are passed (GouvCdE).

As a quick summary Luxembourg has fully functioning democratic system with people's votes effectively deciding upon politics in the country. Though very limited by a well-elaborated constitution and not threatening the democratic principles, the Grand Duke and the State Council as not democratically legitimized players can still exert a considerable amount of influence on government actions. Especially in case of a possible blocking of the country's democratic institutions the system seems to reply heavily on the figure of the Grand Duke to put things in order again (GouvChdE).

Assessment: 87%

2. May people participate in current decision-making?

The Luxembourgish Constitution (art 24.) guarantees the free right to express one's opinion on any subject and the freedom of press (Legilux).

Even though the possibility of having referendums was laid down in the Constitution nearly a hundred years ago there is no big tradition of direct democracy in Luxembourg as there have only been four referendums so far. The latest referendum took place on June 7th 2015 in an attempt of the government to engage the people more in political decision taking. Despite vastly negative results in the outcome of the questions (GouvRefRes) the government has announced to continue their path of more direct democracy in the future and a new referendum has already been announced for 2017 (GouvRefReac).

Another medium by which the new government that was inaugurated in 2013 tried to improve the citizens' participation in politics was to introduce a new website where Petitions can be started online by the people. If a petition surpasses the number of 4,500 signatures there is going to be a public debate on that specific subject (GuichetPet).

Assessment: 85%

3. How representative are the people's representations

In the Luxembourgish political system the Chamber of Deputies is generally seen as the representation of the entire country (GouvCdD). There are 17 women out of 60 representatives in total which makes for a rather mediocre percentage of 28.3 and a 38th place in a global country-ranking (WIP). Unfortunately there is no data for the profession representation in the parliament available, but there is reason to believe that a much bigger distribution of the representatives are academics than it is the case in the rest of the country's population.

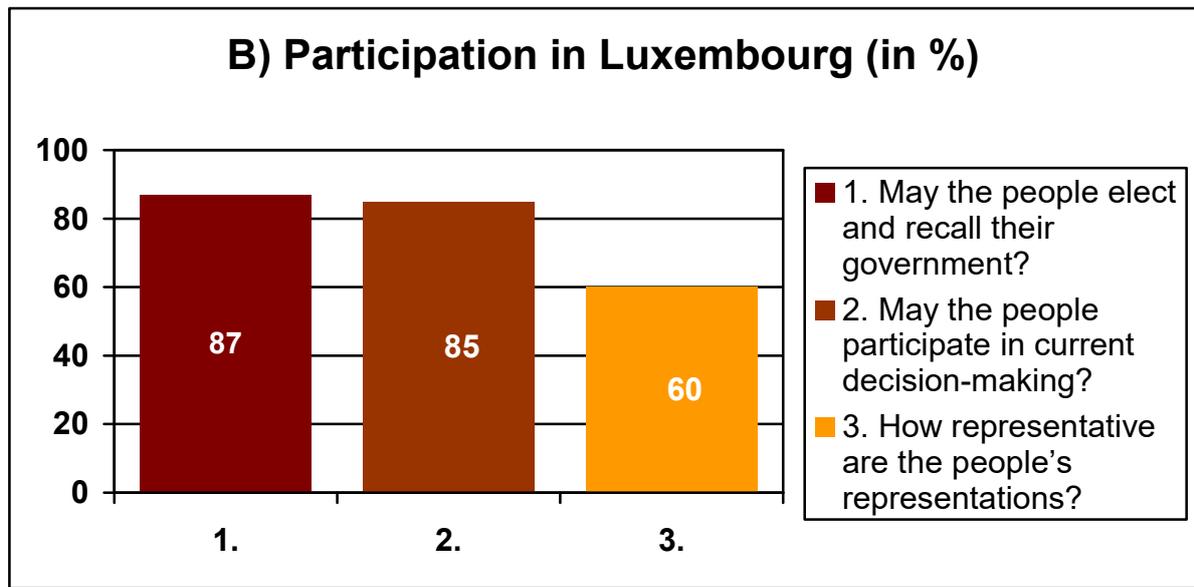
At the beginning of their legislative period the new government under Prime Minister Xavier Bettel (elected in 2013) started a discussion about the fact that there is a democratic deficit in the country because around 45% of its inhabitants (Statec50) are not allowed to participate in elections for national parliament as they do not possess the Luxembourgish nationality⁵. When looking at the people who work in Luxembourg, we see an even more extreme picture with 48% of the working population who live in the country not being allowed to cast a vote in general elections (Wort.lu 06/15). The argument was that there is a significant lack of democracy in a country if only a fraction of the population - and if the demographic trend of the past years continues soon a minority - can decide upon laws which will affect the entire population. There was however also an argumentation that speaking of a democratic deficit is exaggerated because there is already free voting on the communal level as well as on the European level and the vast majority of today's laws enforced in Luxembourg originates from Brussels anyways.

To sum it up, a considerable imbalance in representation can be detected in the Luxembourgish parliament in every social category.

Assessment: 60%

⁵ Taking part in communal voting was extended to all inhabitants in 2003 (Cefis).

General Assessment for *Participation*: $(87 + 85 + 60) : 3 = 77,3\%$



C) Coordination

1. Is there guaranteed peace?

Luxembourg forms part of the European Union and has profited of its guarantee for peace between different European countries for over 60 years (see: Tsavoir, p.8).

Drug dealing and drug consume have been a big problem in certain areas, especially the "Gare"-area of Luxembourg-city, for a long time. The daily influx of a considerable foreign working-population and the high personal wealth of big parts of the native population make the Grand Duchy a lucrative business-ground for drug dealing and the geographical closeness to the Netherlands make supply relatively easy. Some newspapers have even called Luxembourg the drug paradise of the Greater Region as 250 million Euros are being earned by drug trafficking in the Grand Duchy every year (Wort.lu 15/03/12)

The government's attempts to get the drug problem under control are as old as the problem itself but recently considerable successes have been achieved. By intensifying prevention campaigns (in schools), international cooperation for better control of drug trafficking and the creation of special structures to take care of dependent people, the number of deaths could be reduced by half and the number of long-time drug addicts using injections has steadily declined since 2004. On the other hand consumption of alcohol and cannabis especially by young people which traditionally resided on a high scale have stayed the same or even increased in recent years. For Cannabis consumption the government has plans for legalization in the long term (Wort.lu 05/15).

In terms of trust in the police, Luxembourg ranks quite high in the European average with about 6.5 on a scale of ten and on the same level Sweden and Germany (EJC, p.12). Public order and safety expenditure is rather low with 2.3% of total expenditure compared to 3.7% in the EU average (Eurostat 7/15) but while public safety in the country as a whole does not

stand out from the European average, Luxembourg City made the headlines in 2012 with the third-highest homicide rate of any city in Europe counting 4.24 murders per 100,000 inhabitants every year from 2007 to 2009. Also the overall crime rate saw a sharp increase in these years with the number of violent crimes rising by more than half between 2003 and 2009. (Wort.lu 04/12).

The fact that Luxembourg's gun laws are very strict and even a small collection knife has to be declared as a weapon does not seem to help in this situation. Even if the government maintains a well-organised database with all registered weapons within the country, open borders make it very easy to illegally import weapons bought in neighbour countries with much looser gun laws (Wort.lu 01/13).

Despite rising increasing crime rates in recent years, peace is generally well-preserved in Luxembourg.

Assessment: 80%

2. Is public infrastructure sufficiently fostered?

There has been constant investment in the country's road system over the last decades with special emphasis on the expansion of the motorway network. The last stretch of motorway, the A7 called *Nordstrooss* (Motorway of the North) was only inaugurated in late 2015. Though long anticipated as an infrastructural project of major importance, sceptics also predicted that the new motorway connection would worsen the congestion caused daily by thousands of commuters who enter Luxembourg-City for work (RTL.lu).

In face of the ever-worsening traffic situation in the city the government has come up with a broad reform plan to greatly reduce car traffic in the city centre but also organize public transport and especially the bus lines more efficiently. The idea is to introduce big Park & Ride parking spaces at the city's frontiers where commuters can leave their cars and reach the city centre by public transport (PDDI 5/15). A prestige object of this plan is the newly-planned tram system that is supposed to connect the key traffic intersections in and around the city (the train station, the airport, several P&Rs and the city centre) in a first stage and then to be expanded in a later stage (PDDI 7/15).

The national railway system that also plays a major role in commuter traffic is currently being renewed and routes being expanded from single to double tracks. A further extension of the cross-border rail service, with better connection to the French TGV-network and to the other European Capitals Brussels and Strasbourg is being planned as well. A new passenger terminal of the national airport Findel was inaugurated in 2008 (Lux-Airport) and since 2010 passenger numbers have been in a constant rise, reaching 1.92 million guests in 2012 (Wort.lu 12/13).

Finally, the country has also been massively investing in logistics infrastructure and communication technology. The already good IT infrastructure has been improved by a fibre-optic high speed internet connection network in order to further attract IT-businesses to settle down in the Grand Duchy.

Luxembourg's infrastructure is generally well developed and sustained but the continuous economic and population growth pose a constant challenge especially to the road network.

Assessment: 90%

3. Is the economy well coordinated?

Luxembourg has been standing out as one of the most successful European economies since the second half of the 20th century. In 2014 the Grand Duchy was ranked by the World Bank having the highest GDP worldwide with US\$ 116,664.3 per capita⁶ (WorldBankGDP) and unemployment lies well below the European average with 5.8% compared to 8.9% of the working population (Eurostat1/16). Also the fallout after the global economic crisis of 2008-2009 was far less severe in Luxembourg than in many other European countries and the national economy continues to profit of a high GDP growth rate in 2015 (TheEconomistSG). Nevertheless growth and the rise of tax incomes have slowed down in recent years and cuts in wages and social benefits are likely in the future (TheEconomistDI).

The national budget has known a slight surplus or deficit in past years, depending on the source. In any case the government have recently increased their effort to attain a budget equilibrium, by economization (L'essentiel) as well as by introducing a new so-called "Impôt d'équilibre budgétaire temporaire", a temporary budget equilibration tax (GuichetIEBT).

In the country's economic distribution per sectors, agriculture accounts for 0.3% of the GDP, industry for 13.4% services for 86.8% (LuxPublic). The main pillar of the national economy is the banking sector, in fact Luxembourg is a "leading international financial centre" (TheEconomistIR) with over 140 banks operating in the country in 2014. It accounts for about a third of the country's GDP (LuxPublic). With recent clashes with the EU administration after the LuxLeaks-revelations, future development of the Luxembourgish financial sector brings uncertainties with it (TheEconomistIR). The country further profits of Luxembourg being a Capital of the European Union besides Brussels and Strasbourg. Therefore numerous European institutions such as the European Court of Justice and the European Investment Bank have their seat in Luxembourg-City. The country also accommodates headquarters of a number of major industrial firms such as ArcelorMittal, DuPont de Nemours, Goodyear and Delphi.

In awareness of the great risk Luxembourg's overly dependence on just one economic sector poses for its economy, authorities have put a diversification policy in place, promoting sectors like logistics, information, bio and eco technologies and also research. The 2003-founded University of Luxembourg plays a key role in this last point (LuxPublic).

The Economist also exposes acute vulnerability of the Grand Duchy to a possible revision of the Schengen Agreement and closing of the borders as a result of the European migrant crisis. Due to its small size, Luxembourg is far more economically dependant on cross-border traffic (e.g. of commuters) than its much bigger neighbours (TheEconomistIR).

Thus, Luxembourg is doing very well economically at the moment but whether this success is going to continue in the future is difficult to say.

Assessment: 95%

⁶ Liechtenstein and Monaco traditionally ranked even higher but in recent years they have not been included in the ranking (WorldBank).

4. How equally are the incomes distributed?

The Gini Index assessed income distribution in Luxembourg in 2012 with 0.30 on a scale between 0 and 1 where 0 means total income equality and 1 total inequality. Thus the Grand Duchy lies only slightly below the OECD average of 0.32. Looking at the development, income inequality in the country actually reached a low level of 0.27 in 2010 and has been on a rise since then. Income poverty on the other hand lies with 8.4% in 2012 well below the OECD average of 11.2% (OECDIDD).

Concerning the wage gap between genders, statistics show that in the private sector in Luxembourg men earn 9% more than women. In the public sector however a payment gap of 3% has been measured in favour of female employees (Mega 1/16). Reducing the wage gap is one of the government's future goals and was lifted to a national action plan in 2009 (Mega 2/14).

In February 2015 the government presented its plans for a tax reformation with the objective of "boosting spending power of low- and middle-income earners" (TheEconomistTR). Their aim is to reduce the income tax mostly for people with low incomes and increase the wealth tax and the income tax for those with high incomes.

Assessment: 80%

5. Is health efficiently protected?

In Eurostat's *healthy life expectancy statistics* Luxembourg ranks very much in the middle and slightly above EU-average with 63.35 compared to 61.45 years people are expected to live healthily (Eurostat 3/16). *Life expectancy at birth* has constantly gone up since the 1980s and reached 81.9 years in 2013 compared to a 80.6-year-average in the European Union (Eurostat 4/16) and the infant mortality rate is fairly low with 1.6 per 1000 live births. All of these indicators can be seen as safe indicators for an advanced health care system and constant improvement in terms of public health in the last decades.

In fact, Luxembourg's health care system is said to be one of the best in Europe. It consists of the state healthcare service that covers 99% of the population and is to a major extent publicly financed. With an estimated cost of 6.2% of the GDP the Grand Duchy's health care expenditure is also one of the lowest in Europe. Additionally to state health care, 75% of Luxembourgish employees also have an additional private health care coverage, provided by non-profit-agencies and mostly accounting for services not considered essential by the state insurance. All hospitals in Luxembourg are state-owned and treatment there is free even for people with no health insurance, but referral from a doctor is needed in order to be admitted if it's not an emergency (HealthM).

In 2014 3802 people died in Luxembourg with illnesses accounting for 93.1% of deaths. The main national cause of death were cardiovascular diseases accounting for exactly 50% of deceases, the second most frequent cause of death is cancer with 30.4%. Ten years ago, this rate was only at 26% (GouvCausD).

90%

6. Are qualification and education, research & development well managed?

Luxembourg has a well-elaborated and very well-funded education system consisting mostly of state-funded and cost-free schools but the country is also a number of private schools, usually at charge.

Luxembourg is officially a trilingual country and this understandably poses an important challenge to the national education system. While Luxembourgish is mostly a vehicular language at school, German is the first language children are taught to speak and write. Later French is added, then English and other languages follow optionally with the language of instruction changing from German to French in Secondary School. In total, about 50% of total teaching time is dedicated to learning languages in the Luxembourgish school system (Ttsavoir, p.9f).

The government treats the funding of the education system with great importance as Luxembourgish teachers count among the most well-paid in the world, earning considerably more than other occupational groups with tertiary education in the country. However despite the tremendous effort to make young people meet high language standards, the system seems to pay its tribute with extraordinarily high failure levels of only 69% of young people in 2012 being expected to finish upper secondary education in Luxembourg compared to 84% in OECD and 83% in EU21 average (OECD/CN). In the 2012 PISA study the Grand Duchy only scored a rather mediocre 29th place far behind its neighbour countries with “a mean performance/share of top performers below the OECD average” in every category (PISA2012, p.5).

These results are probably not the expression of a systematic failure of the country’s education system but rather of extraordinary obstacles faced by the students and a neglect of the PISA study to assess language skills in more than just the mother tongue (that is not even taught in school for the vast majority of pupils in Luxembourg). If the system already poses its difficulties to the natives, the challenge is even greater for immigrants’ children and these make up a big chunk as Luxembourgish is the main language used at home for no more than 45% of the country’s pupils with Portuguese being the biggest foreign speaker group making up for 27.3% of the students (BbL2015, p.21). Challenges are even bigger for children with a Romanic-language-speaking family background (like French, Portuguese or Italian and opposed to Germanic languages like Luxembourgish, German and also English) who naturally have greater difficulties learning German and find it easier to learn French. To these children the system poses a natural obstacle. These differences are also reflected by the distribution of student to the two levels of Secondary School with Luxembourgish natives posing the vast majority (78.7% in 2012/13) in the classical *Enseignement Secondaire* while they only represent a slight majority (54.7% in 2012/13) in the *Enseignement Secondaire Technique* (BbL2015, p.19). This clearly shows natives have a higher chance of achieving higher levels of education.

There has been much criticism of the school system, reforms have failed to solve the language problem in schools (Wortl.lu 06/15) and the ever growing amount of children attending private schools (13.8% in 2012, Wortl.lu 14/03/12) effectively creates parallel societies as these young people bypass integration that otherwise would be accomplished through learning the Luxembourgish language and going to school with natives (Wortl.lu 06/15). Experience however has shown that considering these massive challenges, the Luxembourgish education system actually fulfils its requirements quite well. It acts as the most important measure in

place integration and it provides young people an invaluable foundation in language skills that outreaches most other countries. Even looking at the general education in every subject after successfully completing Secondary School, Luxembourgish student prove very well-prepared for studies at universities in whatever foreign country they choose to go.

As already mentioned the Luxembourgish government has increased investments in research and development in order to diversify the country's economy. Thus the Grand Duchy devoted 1.16% of its GDP to research in 2013 with the national target being 2.6%, 70% of it being privately funded. The 2003-founded University of Luxembourg plays a key role in publicly-funded research and collaborates on an international level on a number of projects.

Assessment: 80%

7. Ecological and financial sustainability

During the last 30 years, biological diversity in Luxembourg has been significantly reduced mainly due to an intensification of agriculture and economic and population growth which made agglomerations and commercial zones spread out. Today 62% of fish, 61.5% of amphibians, 54.8% of mammals, 41.5% of reptiles and 33% of all native bird species are endangered. In addition 93% of all natural water resources are in an average or bad state which is mainly caused by insufficient sewage treatment and diffuse pollution. 1.3ha of land are being covered-up by building development every day, which makes 4.3 km² in a whole year (PNDD, p.6). All of these numbers stand in a context of a generally very conservative attitude that is deeply imbedded in the Luxembourgish culture and also extends to the area of ecological sustainability. It appears to be common practice in politics to thwart any initiatives for environmental protection and often reforms imposed by the EU are only enforced when the threat of a financial penalty are already lurking for non-compliance to deadlines (Conzemius).

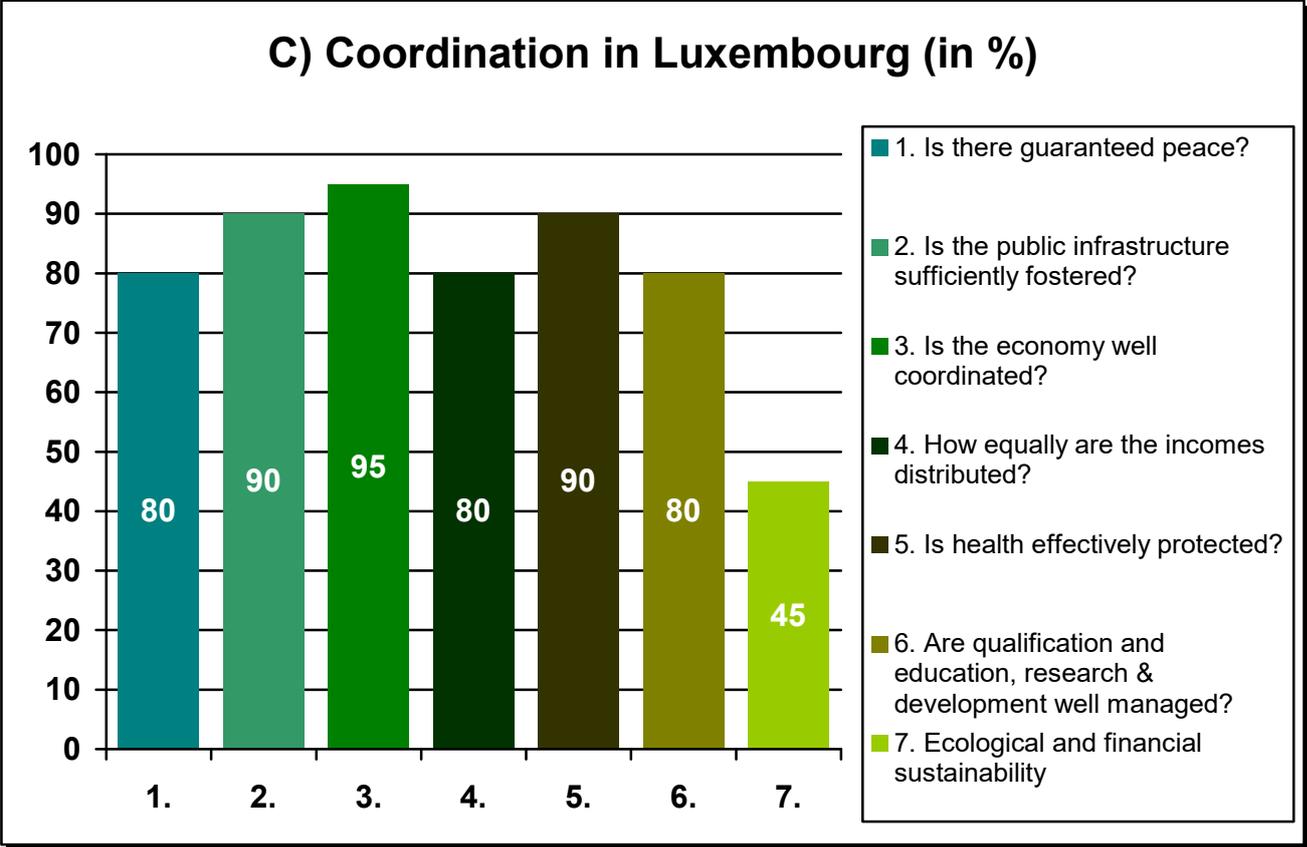
In terms of CO₂-emissions, Luxembourg ranks 6th worldwide, the highest of any Western country and – with 20.9 metric tons per capita in 2011 – counts nearly three times the average of the European Union of 7.1 metric tons (WorldBankCO₂). This is partly due to the Grand Duchy's high economic growth and to a major part to the transport sector. The vast majority of cross-border commuters working in Luxembourg travel by car and it is estimated that 75% of the fuel sold in the country are being exported due to the much lower prices than in the neighbouring countries. The CO₂ emissions produced by these fuels however, though often not consumed within the country's borders, are still included in the Grand Duchy's climate footprint (PNDD, p.12). Luxembourg's energy supply is also very unsustainable as it consists of 97% imports (WorldBankEnImp) which makes it very dependant of external energy supply. Oil and gas create the vast majority of the national energy supply and renewable energies are almost non-existent (IEALux).

When it comes to financial sustainability, on first sight Luxembourg appears like one of Europe's model students with a public debt amounting only to 22% of the national GDP. Many however would argue that looking at the explicit debt a country has today is only half the story and that the calculation of an implicit debt should be included in such rankings. When looking at the implicit debt Luxembourg ranks very poorly and is actually cited by the *Stiftung Marktwirtschaft* as the European country with the second-highest sustainability gap amounting to 1162% of the national GDP (HonorableStates).

Thus Luxembourg manifests a very tragic lack of sustainability in both the ecological and financial field which are likely to cause serious trouble in the future.

Assessment: 45%

General Assessment for *Coordination*: $(80 + 90 + 95 + 80 + 90 + 80 + 45) : 7 = 80$



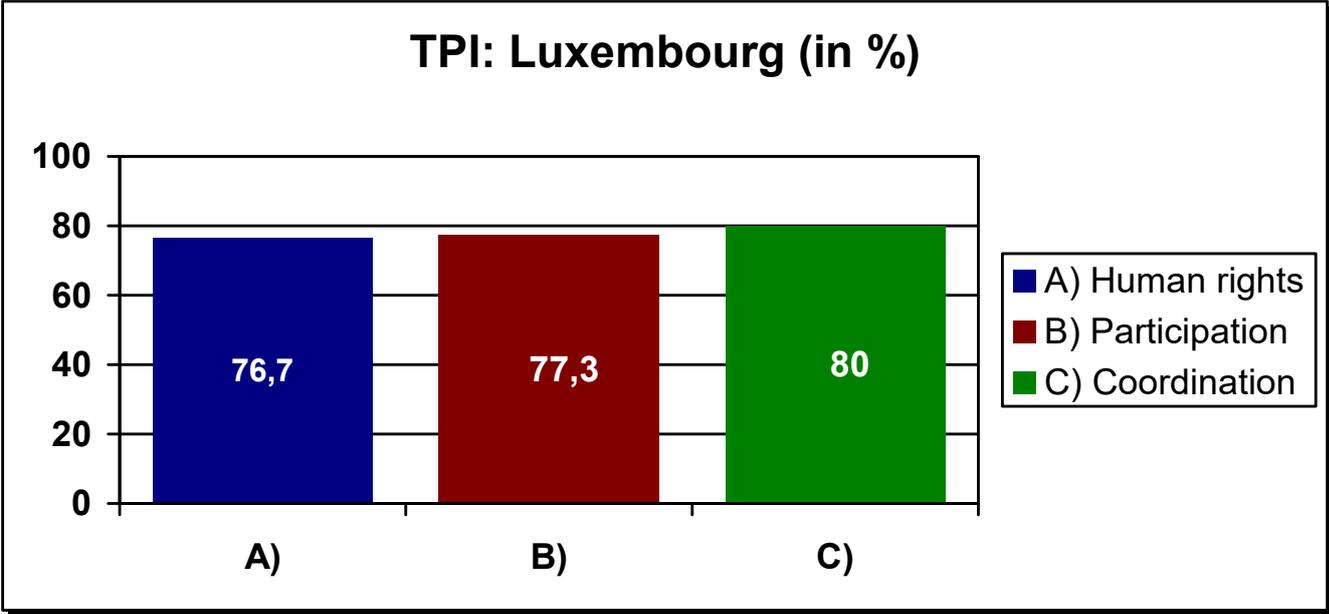
Evaluation

When putting together the scores of the case study according to the method of *The People Index*, we achieve the following result:

Human rights: 76.7%

Participation: 77.3%

Coordination: 80%



With scores surpassing 66.7% in every category, Luxembourg can clearly be identified as a democracy by TPI. What strikes about these numbers is on the one hand that they seem very well equalled-out as there is only a 3.3% difference between the highest (*Coordination*) and the lowest score (*Human rights*). On the other hand it seems strange that the highest assessment only reaches 80% whereas 9 out of 13 scores were 80% or higher. This can be explained by one assessment in every category that scored far below average. In the *Human rights* category the respect of international borders was rated only 65% because of semi-legal economic practices, the *Participation* category has been pushed down by a 60%-rating for the question about the representativeness of people’s representation as only 45% of the people can take part in national elections and in the *Coordination* category a significant lack of sustainability was penalised by a 45%-score. The highest scores were achieved for coordination of the economy, health care system, infrastructure and the respect of all inhabitants as free and equal citizens.

As a summary of the case study we can conclude that Luxembourg is a distinct democracy with a substantial lack in sustainability.

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⁷ As many sources I used for this essay were not available in English I have marked every source that is written in a foreign language with a short description of the content in [] and an abbreviation indicating the language: (fr.) for French source texts, (de.) for German source texts and (lux.) for Luxembourgish source texts

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