

Lisel in Luxembourg:

We celebrated 10 years of Lisel in July 2016 with a lot of friends and donators.

Our weekly meetings with presentations and cooking continued during the whole academic year. We put some new destinations for our trips and visits to enlarge the offer. Once per month we make a trip in Luxembourg and once a month we visit one of the cities close to Luxembourg (Trier, Metz, Nancy, Maastricht, Liège, Lunéville, Aachen, Heidelberg...)

A completely new- and unique in Luxembourg- project started in February: the inter-generational housing in Luxembourg/Beggen.

Caritas built a house with 12 appartments (+/- 45m) for elderly persons with specific social background and people under international protection and 12 rooms for students. We accept only 4 students of the same nationality at the same time, to ensure the international aspect. The students live in 2 appartments, 6 students in each. They have private rooms, share the kitchen, living-room and bathrooms.

The students have to fulfill 2-3 hours per week of volunteering work, helping where their help is needed (passing time with someone for a talk, helping at shopping, taking care of the trash of the house, organising common games evenigs, working in the garden together with the inhabitants of the house...).

The activites will have to be elaborated according to the needs of the inhabitants... and the talents of the students.

The language situation in Luxembourg is a bit complexe and this is also one of the big challenges in the inter-generational house:

the very first common meeting was in Luxembourgish, German and English as a normal base (the responsables being Luxembourgish it was easy). Simultaneous translations were done in Kosovar, French and Arabic.

We had already an open-door activity to invite our donators and the neighbours, as they should be informed what is going on in the house and get also contact with the inhabitants. We also plan a summer-celebration in July.

For the Lisel team- responsable and 2 European volunteers- the actual tasks in this project are mostly to seek good contact, to be supporters of the students, to help to organize the common activities and to make communication between all the concerned persons and groups a bit easier.

A real challenge!!!!

Examples of best practise:

- * Take time for the students and not be in stress, as stress is everywhere all the time
- * Create an atmosphere of ,being at home'
- * Prepare interactive discussions with international participation, where everybody can contribute by his experience and culture (examples of topics: how to behave if you are invited or want to invite someone; what is luck in your culture, the signs, the quotes and wishes about luck; how about public transport in the countries; how is education organized; which are the prejudice we have and how to avoid them; important discoveries and inventions of each country; ...)
- * Taking care of persons under international protection by listening, giving some advise where to call or get contact, giving accomodation, welcoming for the Friday events and trips...