

Luxemburg has one, 10 years old University with 6000 registered students, of whom 50% are not of Luxemburgish origin.

LISEL welcomed last year increasing numbers of students; actually some 350 students are in its network, participating to one or more of the large variety of proposals. More and more are Master and PhD students; regarding their origin: 1/3 are Europeans (many Erasmus students), 1/3 Asians (mainly from China and India) and 1/3 Africans (majority from Cameroon and Senegal). In general Europeans stay 1- 2 semesters, Asians stay 1 - 2 years and Africans stay for a longer period.

As in Luxemburg renting houses is in general very expensive, LISEL hosts 16 students in 3 rented residences; one of these residences is linked to a social project: every resident has to volunteer for half a day per week in local associations working with homeless people. As the University does not foresee places for couples, since one year LISEL hosts also student couples and consequently babies cry in our residences.

In addition, the Board elaborated a project to promote "intergenerational housing" for students. Actually already some families, including the Archbishop, welcome students at their homes; the aim is to have a more professional approach to enlarge numbers, to select both families, elderly people and to match with the appropriate students. The project is in its fundraising stage.

As far as LISEL's scholarship program is concerned, scholarships are actually granted to 3 students. Unfortunately our "personne de confiance" at the Catholic University of Central Africa is no longer working for this institution, so that unfortunately this partnership does not continue. In addition, we house 10 students for a reduced rent, so that every year some 6.000€ of the housing expenses were covered by donations.

LISEL works now since 6 years with young European volunteers, last year coming from France and this year from Moldova and Spain. The participation of the volunteers in LISEL activities is very fruitful, even if it asks for integrating every year new young people without professional experience. 90% of the costs related to the volunteers travel and stay is covered by European Commission, through the national agency SNJ.

For Easter a travel to China was organized, to visit 15 of the former LISEL students in Beijing, Jinan, Suzhou and Shanghai. They are eager to create a network amongst

themselves, with the support of LISEL. Contacts to the Catholic Church of China and participation to the Easter liturgy were very much touching and a real consolation.

With a group of students, LISEL elaborated a lobby document regarding several improvements to be made to Luxemburg legislation, regarding access to studies, access to the country, scholarships aso. Actually we lobby specifically against discrimination of students older than 27 or 30 years, regarding questions of summer jobs and health insurance costs.

As University will move from the actual 3 campuses in Luxemburg and Walferdange to a single campus in Esch-Belval, except for law and finance, LISEL will start in autumn this year a second office in Esch, combined to a second-hand-shop for students.

From September onwards Edith Weber-Sinner will take over the lead of LISEL from Agnes Rausch, who will withdraw at the end of October. The Board, composed of 5 members representing the Diocese, Caritas, ALUC, Jesuits and CLC, with Marguerite Ries as president, will take care and guarantee a smooth transition.

Luxemburg, 29 June 2013

Agnes Rausch