déi Lénk STAD

A Cité Bibliothèque in each neighbourhood: Luxembourg City needs a network of municipal libraries for all ages

What is déi Lénk Stad suggesting?
We advocate the creation of a network of 4–5 municipal neighbourhood libraries in addition to the Cité Bibliothèque, which is situated near the Place d'Armes in the city centre.

Isn't the creation of a whole network of libraries somewhat overambitious?
Not at all. Luxembourg's library landscape remains underdeveloped. There are only 6 municipal libraries in the whole Grand Duchy. And while Luxembourg City's only municipal library, the Cité Bibliothèque, is doing a great job, having only one library for 125,000 people is simply insufficient. Today, Luxembourg City has more inhabitants than Nancy or Metz. Nancy has 4 municipal libraries, Metz 5. We clearly need to catch up.

Yes, but isn't Luxembourg City already host to the National Library?
The National Library of Luxembourg (BNL) has a twofold mission, which is distinct from that of municipal libraries. Its primary mission is to preserve books published in Luxembourg or by Luxembourg authors for future generations. Its secondary mission is to allow every interested member of the public to research reference works in various specialized fields. Conversely, it is not a place where you will find a lot of popular fiction or children's books, let alone spaces where children can engage in free play.

What about the public bookcases set up by the City of Luxembourg?
Have you ever browsed through one of these bookcases? Let's just say that they won't allow you to borrow the latest children's books, thrillers, or graphic novels. Moreover, modern libraries have so much more to offer than mere collections of books. They are community spaces. They are indoor playgrounds, especially on rainy days, where parents can socialize while their kids make drawings, play games, or look at picture books. They provide senior citizens with a place next door where they can not only borrow books, but also meet for a chat without having to spend any money. Neighbourhood libraries could also provide certain basic administrative services outside office hours, such as allowing citizens to pick up their Valorlux bags or register for activities organized by the municipality.

The latest issue of the *City Magazine* mentions several libraries created by local associations. Don't you think that creating municipal libraries would make these libraries redundant?
Absolutely not! The services that municipal libraries would provide are very different from that offered by these private libraries. Whereas libraries created by associations are usually aimed at the members of these associations and display more specialized collections, municipal libraries are aimed at the broader public. Moreover, municipal libraries could also co-operate with local associations and their libraries, for instance to promote the literature of individual countries among the general public.

You mention the creation of 4–5 municipal libraries. Do you have any concrete plans?
Yes. For instance, we think that the City of Luxembourg should open a **Children's Library** in Bonnevoie, where many young families live. Of course, the other municipal libraries would also include spaces for children. Moreover, based on the example of Bomel near Namur, déi Lénk Stad has formally suggested to create **a library for comics, graphic novels and manga** within the premises of the old Hollerich slaughterhouse, where the City wants to develop various cultural activities. We strongly hope that the City will take this suggestion on board. It would certainly be great news for the neighbourhood, the thousands of high school students who visit it every day, and even the south of the country.

How can I help?
- By supporting déi Lénk Stad. Contact us at sekretariat@dei-lenk.lu or on Facebook!
- By asking the City to create more libraries. Contact those in charge at coordinationculturelle@vdl.lu!