



The Future of Luxembourg Conference (6 Feb 2013)

An experiment

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The Luxembourg Society for Intellectual Capital (www.luxic.lu) presents

Conference “The Future of Luxembourg”

February 6th, 2013, 9 am – 1 pm, Cercle Cité - Grand Auditorium

under the patronage of the City of Luxembourg



Partners:



Context



- An interesting experiment:
- open conference appended to close NCP mid term winter seminar
- Four quite different groups looking at the same subject from different angles
- Commented by panel with national and international experts

The 4 groups



5 vir 12	association of entrepreneurs and businessmen concerned about the future of the Grand Duchy virtual community that aims to direct questions to the political class and to raise awareness among the public by spreading its message across all media
SOLEP	non-profit association , virtual community that aims to direct questions to the political class and to raise awareness among the public. Personalities from different backgrounds are involved in workshops organized around the construction of long term scenarios for sustainable development looking at five fundamental themes important for the future of Luxembourg
2030.lu	an initiative from the business community, which defines itself as a platform for dialogue and attempts to mobilize all strata of the population, in the country as well as on its borders (frontaliers) on the main issues that will face Luxembourg in the future
NexPros	association of independent volunteers who had previously worked together. NexPros members are working now on a new project entitled "Intellectual Capital and the Future of Luxembourg". The project assesses the major issues confronting Luxembourg through the lens of Intellectual Capital and seeks to define solutions through the same analytical framework.

The Panel



- Luxembourg:
 - Director of the Luxembourg Enterprises Association
 - President of the Luxembourg Conseil Economique et Social
 - President of the Luxembourg Engineers Association and of the National Research Fund
- Guest:
 - Prof Matthews Hamabata (Kohala Center, Hawaii)
- New Club of Paris
 - President (Leif Edvinsson)
 - Prof Waltraut Ritter (Hong Kong)
 - Prof Peter Pawlowsky (Chemnitz)
- Moderator
 - Jean-Eric Aubert (CMI)

Conclusions (1)



- **About Luxembourg**

The four initiatives identified roughly the same weaknesses:

- an education system in need of reform to adapt to the realities of today's world,
- a low rate of entrepreneurship in the country and conditions that do not facilitate the creation of businesses,
- risks associated with dependence on foreign capital;
- a large part of the wealth created in Luxembourg by persons who do not reside or people who live there but can not participate in decision making,
- a growing wealth gap,
- a low representation of women in key positions,
- a questioning of its identity
- a property market inaccessible to a large number of citizens and workers.
- This non-exhaustive list illustrates some of the problems that Luxembourg should address to maintain its high quality of life.

Conclusions (2)



About the process

- Panel members were impressed by the fact
 - Citizen initiatives (with exception of SOLEP)
 - Very similar diagnosis showing real awareness of problems and concerns about the future. convergence of the analysis of the various groups as well as by the participatory dimension of these initiatives.
- But:
 - usual structures of conflict resolution or crisis do not seem to work well and that the traditional authorities are not sufficiently reactive.
 - The media, for their part, are not sufficiently focused on the future, but look too often to the past.
 - Both trends could constitute barriers to initiatives that may emerge in the reflections that are launched.
- For foreign members of the panel who discovered the country
 - Luxembourg occupies a position quite unique and has significant human resources.
 - This is a multicultural and highly qualified country, which has managed to reinvent itself during the various crises that have shaken through the agriculture, industry and services.
 - Luxembourg is a small country with a potential for creative approaches to the future, which could become a laboratory for Europe and the world, if it can make a successful transition.
- To achieve this transition the audience particularly mentioned the need to better interconnect the various socio-professional groups, which is the key to reinvent a new future together.
- This is still work in progress. We are working on this