

European elections

The process of European integration started after the Second World War and did not only help to put an end to the conflicts between neighbouring countries but also to rebuild a continent in ruins.

Yet today, the European elections are regarded as elections related to distant and secondary issues. The roles of the European institutions and the actual power of the Members of the European Parliament are not very well known.

However, 80% of national legislation is designed at the European level. The policies implemented by the European Union have a direct impact on our daily lives. The most significant example of this is, of course, free movement, but Europe also influences the areas of education, culture, environment, employment, public health, etc.

All residents of Luxembourg holding European nationality can vote either for the European candidates of their country of origin or for those of the Grand Duchy. Although you can choose where to vote, you cannot vote in both countries!

If you want to vote for the Luxembourgish candidates, you must register on the electoral roll of your commune of residence. To do so you must be at least 18 years old on the day of the elections. There is no residency requirement.

You can register online at www.myguichet.lu or in person at the commune. For the 2019 European elections, the deadline is 28 February 2019. Please note: the electoral rolls for the European elections and for the local elections are different.

Once you have registered, voting is compulsory. Elections are carried out by direct universal suffrage. Luxembourg constitutes a single electoral constituency.

Candidates are grouped on the lists according to their political groups. Each voter has as many votes as there are Members of Parliament to elect for their country, which means 6 for Luxembourg. Votes can be cast either for a list or for an individual.

The candidates receiving the most votes will be elected, regardless of the party they represent. This is the principle of 'proportional representation'.

The European elections will take place in all European Union countries between 23 and 26 May 2019. In Luxembourg, the vote will take place on 26 May. The European Parliament consists of 705 Members elected for a term of 5 years from the Member States based on their number of inhabitants. Each country has a fixed number of seats, ranging from 96 for Germany to 6 for Luxembourg, Cyprus and Malta.