



## DUDELANGE – A TOWN PRESENTS ITSELF

### GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

*Dear residents of Dudelange,*

*This brochure will act as your guide on a journey around Dudelange and help you get to know your town better.*

*Dudelange has many attributes: it is lively, with a rich cultural scene and a wide range of sports infrastructures. Located in a natural and healthy setting with abundant green spaces all around, our town prioritises mobility and environmental protection. Dudelange is friendly and welcomes people of all ages. Moreover, its shops attract many and the town offers a high standard of living. Dudelange keeps evolving to preserve all these qualities.*

*Numerous projects reflect our town's ambitions: the refurbishment of the town centre, the creation of our "shared space" and the NeiSchmelz ecodistrict with close to one thousand new homes, for example., Dudelange has so much potential and its vigour is unparalleled!*

*We will continue to make targeted, future-oriented investments to make sure our dynamic town remains a great place to live!*

*Dan Biancalana, Mayor*

### DUDELANGE, A TOWN WITH A ROCKY PAST

Immigrants began arriving in Dudelange at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the discovery of iron ore deposits in the region and the birth of the local heavy industry.

After the steel crisis hit the area in the 1970s, Dudelange managed to fall back on its feet by creating new, successful lines of business and adopting an economic model based on diversification and decentralisation.

The focus on diversification remains today, while honouring the town's industrial and commercial past, both integral parts of Dudelange's identity. Changes to the economic models in place have also influenced local urban planning projects.

Dudelange has been successful in adapting its economic policy to the rising number of inhabitants, while at the same time preserving the town's excellent quality of life and attracting new residents as a result.

### **DUDELANGE, A WELCOMING TOWN**

Dudelange is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest town in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It stretches across a surface of 21,379 km<sup>2</sup> and was home to nearly 22,000 inhabitants in 2022. Currently, 40% of its population is of foreign origin. 111 different nationalities cohabit peacefully here, making it exemplary when it comes to multiculturalism.

### **DUDELANGE, TOWN OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Modern, dynamic towns count on their residents' active involvement when it comes to taking important decisions. In Dudelange, one example of the inhabitants' role as an integral part of the democratic process is reflected in the Citizens' Council. In addition, from 2023, the residents will have access to a participatory budget, thanks to which they will be able to submit and help implement projects to improve the quality of life in their commune.

The inhabitants of Dudelange are acquainted with democratic processes at a very young age: in 2008, for instance, the College of the Aldermen founded the Communal Children's Council, followed by the Communal Youth Council in 2013. These two bodies are prime examples of participative democracy, embodying the efforts undertaken over the past years to encourage all citizens, including the young, to take part in democratic processes.

### **DUDELANGE, TOWN OF CULTURE**

At the end of the 1980s, Dudelange jumped to the forefront of Luxembourg's cultural scene. Throughout the year, numerous events are hosted by the town, such as concerts, exhibitions and cultural events. Large-scale and popular events like the "Zeltik" music festival, "Fête de la Musique", International Organ Music Festival, "Summerstage", medieval "Buergefest", World Market, the "Fête des Cultures" cultural event and Christmas market attract many visitors every year.

The Opderschmelz Regional Cultural Centre (CCRD) hosts concerts and other events all year round, such as the "Like a Jazzmachine" festival, which has gained international renown over the years, and world music, rock, and blues concerts, as well as contemporary plays, just to name a few. The National Audiovisual Centre (CNA) and the Regional Music School are housed in the same building. The "Ciné Starlight" at the CNA has two screening rooms, a gallery for exhibitions and a media library.

Exhibitions and other cultural events are also regularly held in the restored water tower and old pumping station, the "Pomhouse", both located next to the CNA.

The “Floater”, an unusual hostel built to host walkers overnight on their hike along the Minett Trail, was built on the site of the former steel mill’s cooling basin.

The Dominique Lang Art Centre for contemporary art and the Nei Licht Art Centre for audiovisual arts and contemporary photography have a great deal to offer the public too.

In addition, the Documentation Centre on Human Migrations (CDMH) often organises exhibitions on the history of migration, providing detailed economic, social and demographic information to the public.

The Municipal Museum displays valuable objects uncovered during archaeological digs around the Mont Saint-Jean. The Regional Museum of Forced Conscription gives an overview of the experience of conscripts from Dudelange during World War II, using photographs, letters and other documents.

People also love the Regional Public Library of Dudelange, with its large collection of works of classical literature, novels, adventure novels, art books and much more. The library, which celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, regularly invites authors to give readings for students of the town. Finally, to the delight of young and old alike, the Family Commission and the Regional Public Library of Dudelange jointly organise the Children’s Book Fair once a year in the cultural centre’s large auditorium.

## **DUDELANGE, TOWN OF SPORTS**

Dudelange’s clear commitment to sport was rewarded with the title of “European Town of Sport” by the European Union in 2019. The town is aware of the importance of physical activity, and over the years, it has opened numerous infrastructures, the most important one being the René Hartmann Sports Centre on Rue du Parc, a multisport complex for indoor activities. It has a professional climbing wall, an indoor pool and fully refurbished outdoor pool, and two sports halls where the “HB Diddeleng” handball team and the “T71 Diddeleng” basketball team have won a number of titles.

There are also other sports facilities such as the Annexe Alliance, several football stadiums and multisport pitches. These public infrastructures are regularly maintained and upgraded to ensure our athletes can perform to the best of their ability. There is something for everyone: youngsters can enjoy the skatepark while the elderly use the specially designed fitness trail for their age group, for instance. Amateurs can try their skills at beach volleyball, calisthenics, inline skating, disc golf, paddle tennis, pétanque, slacklining, streetball, tennis, teqball, mountain biking and much more.

The Commune, along with its Sports Department, the “Ensemble Quartiers Dudelange” association and its “Gesond Diddeleng” working group offer many classes, such as aqua-gym, baby swimming, free cycling classes for adults and children in the NeiSchmelz district, bicycle rides for people above 55, running for beginners and experienced runners, Nordic walking, hikes, classes for overweight children, dance lessons, sophrology, progressive muscle relaxation sessions, etc. Most classes are free, with only a few requiring a fee.

Dudelange is also renowned for its top teams that regularly win national competitions and tournaments. There are 220 different clubs and associations in the town and the support provided to local athletes counts among the best in the country. All this clearly makes Dudelange the capital of team sports in Luxembourg!

## **DUDELANGE AND ITS TWIN TOWNS**

For a number of years, Dudelange has been twinned with six other towns, the aim being to develop friendships and promote socio-cultural exchanges between the local authorities and citizens.

Dudelange is twinned with Lauenburg on the Elbe in Germany, Manom in France (since 1958), Lebork in Poland (since 2003) and Berane in Montenegro (since 2012). It is also twinned bilaterally with Feltre in Italy and Arganil in Portugal.

In 2008, the walkway between Place Jean Fohrmann and the Opderschmelz Cultural Centre was baptised the “Passerelle des villes jumelées”, i.e. the Twinned Towns Walkway. Explanatory panels are displayed with information about the various towns.

## **DUDELANGE, AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOWN**

As a member of the Climate Alliance, Dudelange is a pioneer! The town was one of the first communes in Luxembourg to sign the Climate Pact in 2013. In 2021, the Climate Pact 2.0 entered into force.

The Climate Team is composed of twenty members, of which half are citizens who represent civil society. In addition, in 2018, Dudelange signed the Mayors’ Convention for Climate and Energy. Soon, the master plan for sustainable development will come into effect.

## **DUDELANGE, TOWN OF GREEN SPACES**

Nature has formed part of Dudelange’s identity for centuries. Located at the very heart of the town, the Emile Mayrisch Park has fountains, a large playground and a beach volleyball court.

Another beautiful green spot in the vicinity of the centre is the Le’h Park, a perfect place for moments of relaxation and fun. This is where a large aerial experience facility known as the “Adventure Park” is located. The Le’h Park also has play areas, a special sensorial track, a barefoot path and a hiking trail for children. After an activity-packed day, you can enjoy a meal at the restaurant in the centre of the park if you wish.

Hikers and cyclists love Dudelange. The 198-hectare Haard Natural Reserve is located in the largest natural site of the country, which totals 600 hectares. It is classified as a protected zone and is replete with opportunities for hikes, shorter walks combined with car drives and educational trails through lush forests.

The Ginzeberg and Roudebiere forests may be smaller in size but they too provide great joy to hikers and nature lovers. In addition, there is the cross-border trail from Dudelange to Volmerange-les-Mines, which can be done by car, walking and mountain biking combined.

The rich medieval history of the area is rooted in the Mont Saint-Jean. This site was recently refurbished and now displays a series of explanatory panels. The starting point for the hiking trail and auditory experience path for both young and old is located in Boudersberg. Both routes present the fascinating history of the Mont Saint-Jean.

### **DUDELANGE, TOWN OF URBAN FARMING**

Everyone is welcome to go to the public allotment on Place Jean Fohrmann and help themselves to vegetables and fruit, such as seasonal herbs, lettuces, beetroot, strawberries... As a "Fairtrade Commune", Dudelange adopted this innovative concept to promote local food production in urban spaces. Moreover, citizens can go to the communal urban garden in the Neischmelz district. Finally, there are four public orchards in the town.

### **DUDELANGE, A FRIENDLY TOWN**

The Commune continually strives to attract a variety of businesses and improve the town centre, where there are shops of all kinds. For those who enjoy good food, the cafés and restaurants offer numerous traditional dishes as well as more exotic ones – just perfect for family gatherings or meetings among friends!

Dudelange wants a diverse economy, so it offers young entrepreneurs the opportunity to test their innovations and see if they are viable, even in the case of niche products. The Commune rents pop-up stores to this effect.

To support business in the town and encourage local consumption, Dudelange often runs campaigns such as "Diddeleng läit eis um Häerz" (i.e. "Dudelange matters to us") for local shops. The communal administration, in the form of its City Manager, plays a key role in such endeavours by implementing measures to make the town centre even more appealing.

Over the past years, there have been many ambitious projects in this respect. One example is the "Am Duerf" complex, a 4,400 m<sup>2</sup> surface for both businesses and 100 homes, with an underground parking lot, a square, welcoming terraces and shops.

Another undertaking that has contributed to upgrading the town centre is the "shared space", which runs from Avenue Grande-Duchesse Charlotte to Place Frantz Kinnen. Here, citizens can gather in a welcoming space for all, where mutual respect reigns among cyclists, public transport users and drivers alike.

Thursday is market day in Dudelange! Residents and visitors thoroughly enjoy the weekly town market, which is held on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Place de l'Hôtel de Ville and where local producers offer fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and plants. In addition, on every first

Thursday of the month, there is a big market on Place Jean Fohrmann, where buyers can get clothes, accessories and household wares.

Several times a year, street markets organised by the FCAD (Business and Artisans' Federation of Dudelange) take place in the centre of town.

### ***Cityapp Dudelange***

Stay updated on upcoming events, check the location of specific shops, find out when the next bus is due or get to the closest Vël'OK station with our app! All you have to do is install it on your smartphone (Android or iOS).

Download it for free now from Apple's App Store or Google Play, using the keyword "Dudelange".

## **DUDELANGE, A TOWN FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD**

Dudelange strives to provide all generations with spaces where they can reach their potential and feel fulfilled. Targeted investments are made for the benefit of children, young people and the elderly.

### ***For parents and families***

Dudelange considers education and schools for children and teens a top priority because the young represent the future of our town. This is why everything is done to ensure they have the best possible opportunity to grow and find their rightful place in our community.

Dudelange currently has 11 schools, 13 childcare centres ("Maison relais") and three communal crèches. Investments continually flow into new school buildings and childcare facilities. Existing buildings are renovated, upgraded or extended. The Lycée Nic-Biever is a general education secondary school that attracts pupils from across the region.

Dudelange also provides a service to help pupils with their homework or remedial study.

The Commune has a list of private tutors that offer lessons in all subject matters.

The town's Youth and Family Department and the Kannerschlass Foundation's "Parents' School" are available to guardians for any question concerning their children's education.

In addition, Dudelange promotes youth training and work. The Outreach Youth Work initiative is a good example of the support provided to young people who are not in employment, school or training. Help is also available at the local job centre and the local branch of the National Youth Service.

A central, popular meeting point for the town's young is the Dudelange Youth Club, where they can meet their friends and participate in activities and projects throughout the year, e.g. the "Youth Summer" or "Youth Winter" programmes, outings, art projects, sports events and more.

### *For the elderly*

The well-being of senior citizens is very important to the town. Many services are provided for older citizens to ensure they can live at home as long as possible. These include a number of day centres for senior residents, meals on wheels, remote alarm systems, the Senior Plus and Flexibus services, for example.

Several nursing and care services for the elderly and other specialised bodies are located in Dudelange, e.g. the CIPA Grand-Duc Jean, the Red Cross day centre, the Villa Reebou day centre for Alzheimer patients and the geriatrics department at the CHEM hospital in Dudelange. With the support of the Commune, the “SchwaarzeWee” Senior Club organises activities such as sports classes, theatre outings, guided tours, games, conferences, excursions, dances and more.

### *Social welfare*

Dudelange provides support to those in need. Its centre for social welfare, the “Maison sociale”, is located on no. 27, rue du Commerce. There, members of the public can access services relating to debt, housing, administrative and social aid, REVIS (i.e. social inclusion income), etc.

Moreover, Dudelange has a special housing unit in charge of managing social housing and emergency shelter in the Commune. It provides support to those who are unable to find a home on the normal market.

## **DUDELANGE, TOWN OF MOBILITY**

The primary goal of mobility policies in Dudelange is to improve its citizens’ quality of life. The College of Aldermen is aiming for a sustainable overall mobility plan based on the European Union’s sustainable urban mobility concept.

In Dudelange, you can walk or ride a bicycle safely: there are residential areas where the speed limit is 30 km/h or 20 km/h to ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike are safe.

Soft mobility in the form of cycling is playing an increasingly important role in our society. Dudelange has many cycle lanes, several of which run through residential areas. All cycle lanes are clearly signposted and delimited by road markings. Users can rent electric bikes for an easy ride across town from one of the many Vël'OK stations, and cyclists can safely leave their bikes at several locations by locking them to one of the several bike racks made available to the public.

The “Jardin de la circulation” is a training circuit in the NeiSchmelz district designed for new cyclists, young and old alike. They can practise riding their bicycles and learn about traffic rules at this specially designed location before dealing with motorised traffic on normal roads. Moreover, there are three bicycle repair shops in town (one in the Park Emile Mayrisch, one on Rue Reiteschkopp and another in the “Jardin de la circulation”), as well as a mountain bike washing station on rue Reiteschkopp.

As to public transport, there are four train stops in Dudelange: Burange, Ville, Centre, and Usines. Direct train links are provided to Volmerange-les-Mines and Bettembourg, where travellers can take connecting trains to Esch-sur-Alzette or Luxembourg City.

The Citybus is a public transport network with 5 bus lines, including two regional ones that connect Dudelange to Esch-sur-Alzette and Esch-Belval. There are also several RGTR bus lines heading directly to Kirchberg (Luxembourg City), the station of Bettembourg et the Eurohub Sud platform.

Additional bus services available in Dudelange are the Flexbus for senior residents, the Adapto service for the disabled, the free Nightlifebus which runs on Friday and Saturday nights from Luxembourg City to Dudelange, and the Night Rider, an affordable night bus service set up in collaboration with the intercommunal Pro-Sud association.

The Commune wants to reduce traffic in its residential areas. To do so, it has extended its residential parking system to the entire town.

In addition, a “shared space” was created all along the town’s main artery, the Avenue Grande-Duchesse Charlotte.

1,200 parking spaces are available, all within five minutes of the centre, and the first 30 minutes are free. Commuters can also park their cars for free on one of the five Park & Ride lots in Dudelange.

Finally, Dudelange has two CFL Flex carpooling stations, one at the Dudelange-Ville train station and the other on Rue Karl Marx, and the network of Chargy charging stations for electric or hybrid cars is continually expanding.

## **DUDELANGE, A FUTURE-ORIENTED TOWN**

Dudelange has very ambitious goals for the upcoming decades. However, despite looking to the future, it does not forget its industrial past. The town is growing, so housing is needed for newcomers. Indeed, the local population is expected to increase in the upcoming years.

The General Development Plan (PAG, Plan d’aménagement général) provides the guidelines for urban planning and landscaping, helping the town move forward.

### ***The NeiSchmelz ecodistrict***

The brownfields of the former ARBED factory between the Schmelz and Italie neighbourhoods represent one of the town’s best opportunities for expansion, hence why a brand-new neighbourhood is being built there.

The district, which spans across 40 hectares, will have both housing and official buildings, as well as leisure spots. The project will create jobs, as well as act as a bridge between the town’s



industrial past and future innovation, both defining characteristics of the town.

The VeWa building [A], a relic from former industrial times, gives a good insight into the history of the neighbourhood. Over the past years, the artists' collective "DKollektiv" has joined hands with the town's Technical Department to create a space that faithfully reflects the region's industrial heritage.

You can also go back in time and experience the old locomotive workshop (the "Atelier des locomotives" [B]). Now, after extensive renovation and transformation work, it has a restaurant and micro-brewery.

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