

March 2014

newsletter



Arlette Conzemius
Ambassador of Luxembourg
to Turkey

Welcome!

Dear readers,

In this issue, we decided to give special focus to Technoport, which was highlighted in a recent *New York Times* article. As you will see, Technoport helps individuals and small teams to validate and bridge their ideas to success through three platforms, dedicated to fostering creativity and innovative activities in Luxembourg.

I also would like to draw your attention to the Greater Region Business Days 2014, which will take place on 18-19 June in Luxembourg. This b2b meeting platform will enable SMEs and innovative start-ups to find new partners, enlarge their products and service range, explore new technologies and offer the opportunity to participate in interactive conferences, workshops and symposiums. You will find more information on the Greater Region Business Days and many other topics inside the newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Esra Uyanusta-Misrahi (esra.misrahi@mae.etat.lu) and Mr Kivanç Ergu (kivanc.ergu@mae.etat.lu) for all your queries.

Enjoy reading our newsletter!

Please visit our website at: <http://ankara.mae.lu>
Contact us at: Ankara.amb@mae.etat.lu



NEWS



Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014

The 4th edition of the European "Innovation Union Scoreboard" (IUS) was published in early March 2014. Luxembourg is top ranked and among the countries of the category "innovation followers", performing better than the EU average. In the 2014 edition, the ranking of EU member states is headed by Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Finland ("innovation leaders"). Luxembourg occupies fifth position, the Netherlands 6th, Belgium 7th and finally France in 11th position.

The following report includes observations with respect to the strengths and weaknesses of Luxembourg:

"Relative strengths are in International scientific co-publications, community trademarks, Venture capital investments and in Community designs. High growth is observed for International scientific co-publications, Most cited scientific publications and R&D expenditures in the public sector. Strong declines are observed in Non-R&D innovation expenditures, Sales share of new innovations and R&D expenditures in the business sector".

[Read more...](#)



Luxembourg's booming tech hub

The New York Times, 9 March 2014

The former industrial area about 20 kilometres south of Luxembourg City is undergoing a radical metamorphosis. Where the country's largest steel works once spewed smoke into the sky above the French border, the Government has been erecting an entire new neighbourhood, aiming to position Luxembourg as Europe's next hub for technological innovation.

Behind one of Belval's blast furnaces, at the heart of the ambitiously named City of Science, sits Technoport, the national tech-oriented incubator. Anyone with a business idea can apply to have it evaluated there, and — if the idea is deemed viable — Technoport offers access to its sleek collaborative spaces and guidance in setting up a business plan.

In December, a partnership between the Luxembourg Government and the Plug and Play Tech Centre, a "business accelerator" in Sunnyvale, California, sent the entrepreneurs on a three-month mentoring stint through Silicon Valley. The road to the most hyped of all tech hubs might have been rockier had they started out in a different European country, Mr. Rahme said.

"Everything is very easy in Luxembourg," he said. "It's a very linked environment of people who know each other and who are willing to help."

While Rovio and Soundcloud generated the buzz necessary to turn Helsinki and Berlin into booming tech hubs, Luxembourg has become the place where successful start-ups move after they have hit the big time.

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Moody's affirms Luxembourg's AAA rating

The rating agency Moody's affirmed the AAA rating of the Grand Duchy and increased the outlook from "negative" to "stable". Luxembourg, is one of the few European countries to receive a maximum score (triple A) simultaneously from the three rating agencies (Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch). According to Moody's, the revision of the outlook to stable from negative is mainly due to the improvement of the economic and financial situation in the euro area and the good resilience of the Luxembourg economy. The agency also highlights the strength and continued soundness of Luxembourg's public finances.



Luxembourg climbs up in Global Financial Centres Index

Luxembourg ranks 12 in the newly published Global Financial Centres Index, moving up one position compared to last year. It is considered an emerging global contender, indicating its huge potential. The index is based on a set of rules measuring connectivity, broadness of services and specialization of a financial centre. Amongst the ten financial centres to become more significant in the next few years, Luxembourg finds itself before London and is thus one of only two European centres to rank in this table. In Europe, Luxembourg is the fifth top financial centre after London, Zurich, Geneva and Frankfurt. The Grand Duchy saw its rating rise by 11 points to 707 points. European financial centres in general gain weight again according to the index. Out of the top centres, only London suffered a decline of ten points and loses its leading position to New York. Since the first edition of the GFCI in 2007, Luxembourg has continuously climbed, reflecting its important stand in the global world of finance.

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Luxembourg: Europe's E-Payments Hub

State-of-the art IT infrastructure, highly-skilled professionals in financial and IT services, responsive authorities, competitive and stable taxation as well as the innovative, international character of the Luxembourg financial center make the country an ideal hub for electronic payment activity in the EU's single market. Acting as an international trust center, Luxembourg has a strong reputation for service availability, security and data protection. Luxembourg has a longstanding experience in e-commerce and has been the European home to headquarters of leading companies such as Skype, Amazon and PayPal.

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Logistics: Freeport for high valuables

The Luxembourg Freeport under construction will allow managing and storing of valuable goods under a regime of suspension of VAT and customs duties:

- A sophisticated, ultra-safe platform for storage, handling and trading of valuable goods under a tax friendly environment.
- Optimal storage conditions (temperature and humidity) adapted to each type of goods stored.
- Legal and tax framework: regime of suspension of VAT and Custom duties created by the Law of 28 July 2011 enabling 'freeport activities' applies

The Grand Opening Day of the Luxembourg Freeport will take place on 17 September 2014, Luxembourg

<http://www.luxfreeport.lu>



SPECIAL FOCUS: TECHNOPORT

technoport®
business incubator | coworking | fab lab

Technoport® - bridging your ideas to success!

Technoport supports the creation and development of innovative and technology-oriented companies in Luxembourg, new entrepreneurs from idea validation to start-ups, foreign companies establishing research, development or innovation activities in Luxembourg

<http://www.technoport.lu>

The global mission of Technoport® is to help and support individuals and small teams to validate and bridge their ideas to success through three platforms. Through these platforms Technoport® aims to achieve its goal to foster creativity and innovative activities in Luxembourg by combining tailored-made services with networks and communities of doers, infrastructures and an adequate professional business environment:



THE TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED BUSINESS INCUBATOR:

This activity is the core business of Technoport®. The goal here is to promote and support the creation and development of innovative and technology-oriented companies in Luxembourg. Technoport® provides either individual entrepreneurs or foreign innovative businesses with access to resources that they typically lack in terms of business support services and infrastructure. The incubator hosts in average 25 companies and one-third (8) of the companies that left the incubator (31) have been acquired by foreign companies.



THE COWORKING:

The goal here is to offer to individuals, small teams and corporates the opportunity to access multidisciplinary communities of like-minded persons to co-design or co-develop their products or ideas. This is done through physical space but also through the organization of events like Startupweekends, Apps Foundry Contests or other co-design events.



THE FAB LAB:

This activity supports global creativity, knowledge sharing, innovation and local manufacturing by offering open access to different kind of equipment (3D printers, laser cutter, milling machines...) and services (3D modeling and digital fabrication) to users in order to materialize almost all type of ideas. It is part of a global network and program of digital fabrication laboratories initiated by Center for Bits and Atoms of the MIT.



CULTURE



First Oscar for Luxembourg

The Franco-Luxembourg production "Mr Hublot " by Laurent Witz and Alexander Espigares won an Oscar at this year's Academy Awards for Best Animated Short Film.

The film was facing Disney's, "Get A Horse!", which was the favourite before the ceremony.

For further information on the film, please visit: www.mrhublot.com



A Photographic Discovery of Luxembourg in İstanbul

You will have the chance to see and discover Luxembourg through the eyes of a passionate photographer, with a broad range of colours, a sharp eye and high technical standards. A photograph exhibition of a Luxembourg artist Mr. Jacques Schneider organized by the Embassy of Luxembourg in Ankara will take place at the Istanbul Atatürk Airport TAV Gallery situated on the International Terminal Departures floor. The opening of the exhibition, followed by a reception, will also be held at the Istanbul Atatürk Airport TAV Gallery on **Friday March 28 at 12:00**, in the presence of the artist.



FUTURE EVENTS

The Greater Region Business Days 2014 18 & 19 June 2014, Luxembourg

The unique b2b meeting platform for SMEs and innovative start-ups in the Greater Region

The Greater Region Business days will bring together several micro events spread over 2 days utilising the various facets of business networking and partnership building. The aim of the organisers is to build a platform with high dynamism and momentum to respond to the requirements of SMEs in the current economic scenario by providing new business opportunities. With the GR Business Days you will have more interesting ways to find new partners, enlarge your products and service range, explore new technologies and more...Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to participate in interactive conferences, workshops, networking receptions, symposiums to get an insight into economic perspectives amongst the business community in the greater region and beyond.

Easy & quick: Register online www.gr-businessdays.com



Join the Logistics Day 2014 28 April 2014

After the successful events in 2012 and 2013, the Cluster for Logistics will continue its efforts to promote transport & logistics and will organise again in 2014 its Logistics Day. After the promotion of the Air Cargocenter Findel in 2012 and the Port of Mertert in 2013, the next edition will be dedicated to the rail and road-hub Bettembourg.

<http://www.clusterforlogistics.lu/events/event-detail/2014/04/28/logistics-day-2014>



CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Visas for residents in Turkey

Visas for residents in Turkey are currently issued by the Embassy of Luxembourg in Ankara, in cooperation with the external service provider VFS Global located in Istanbul. Applicants for a Schengen visa or residence permit in Luxembourg can directly contact the consular offices in Ankara or VFS Global in Istanbul (Tel: 0212 373 58 09 in order to fix an appointment.

Details regarding the application procedures can be found at:

<http://ankara.mae.lu/tr/VIZE-Konsoosluk-Hizmetleri/Tuerk-Vatandaslari-VIZE>

LINKS: For more information on business in Luxembourg, please visit:

Luxembourg for Business:
www.luxembourgforbusiness.lu/

Luxembourg for Finance:
www.luxembourgforfinance.lu/

Why Luxembourg?
www.luxembourgforfinance.lu/why-luxembourg