



REPORT 2020-2021

At the General Assembly held virtually on 12 March 2021, we presented the activities for 2020 as well as the accounts as at 31.12.20 and the provisional budget for 2021. As we were unable to gather 2/3 of the necessary votes, we were unable to approve the changes in the presidency or the updating of the statutes. Consequently, this will be on the agenda of the next General Assembly scheduled for March 2022 at the earliest and hopefully in person.

1. Highlights in 2020-2021

The last two years have been marked by the health crisis and this has been something of a boon. The confinement, paradoxically, has allowed us to connect virtually with international change agents in a very enriching way (see point 3 activity report).

At the local level, we had some enquiries about home schooling because of the unsuitable sanitary conditions for families. There has probably been an increase in requests, as families have been able to experience and reflect on this educational choice. In any case, we have seen an increase in the number of refusals of authorisation that have been reported to us. The complaints from families mainly concern two directorates in the country. To our surprise, a third directorate also posed a problem for some families, but after bitter discussions, everyone was reassured.

We have also been informed of reports to the public prosecutor's office and of a surprise visit by the police. Actually, most families choose to home school responsibly to provide a more nurturing environment for their sons and daughters, so it is very unfortunate that they are subject to such stigma and suspicion, especially as so many young people really do need help, if the statistics on harassment, abuse and other violence are anything to go by.

We also regret that it is still sometimes so laborious to obtain an authorisation to withdraw from school, in particular to take young people out of school. Especially at the beginning of each school year, some parents often contact us because they see their young son or daughter losing their zest for life once at school. They see them suffering and they only want to do their duty as parents, to protect them, according to the law. They then find themselves in terrible distress, having to wait for a director's authorisation. Even if this is often quick in recent years, every day of asking oneself the question of whether or not to force one's young son or daughter to go to school in order to respect the school law, when he or she clearly expresses suffering, is a terrible dilemma. And every year history repeats itself, while during the whole summer before the first school year, parents are free to love their offspring, suddenly they have to get a permit to protect their well-being, in other words they have to get a permit to comply with fundamental rights and to be able to fully exercise their parental authority, in spite of all that has already been written about institutional violence. These parents are not against the school, they just see that it is not in line with their child's needs and do their duty.

Some families who have chosen to unschool in secondary school have also reported difficulties. We recall that Luxembourg law does not regulate homeschooling in secondary school and that consequently no authorisation is required, contrary to what some officials say. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Ministry's representatives have the them to learn to become an autonomous and responsible citizen, able to play a useful role in our society. We have published a multilingual video to this effect to remind us what the right to education means legally. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot7AJMJ9SQ>)

So all this is a bit of a return to square one, as it was when our association was founded in 2013. Families educating at home are still too often considered as *pseudo-criminals* by some officials and some directors continue to try to impose their school expectations in an authoritarian way, even though UNESCO states very clearly in its latest report on the Future of Education of 10.11.2021 that the conventional school has not proved its worth and must radically change.

Does this make sense? What are the safeguards doing?

Let us rejoice all the same, because consciences are awakening and more and more people throughout the world are following the path advocated by UNESCO. Moreover, until now it has always been possible to find satisfactory solutions to the administrative obstacles encountered in Luxembourg, we only regret that this is still not self-evident and that it is so tiring.

2. Bills

The bill concerning home education has not yet been tabled in the Chamber of Deputies, but we were invited to the Ministry to discuss it.

For the record, here is the link to our trilingual report on the bill:

http://aliasbl.lu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ALLI_doc_290616_LU-FR-EN.pdf

In September 2021, the Minister of Education announced that compulsory education would be extended from 16 to 18 years. However, no bill has yet been tabled.

Example of newspaper articles explaining the government's motives:

<https://www.wort.lu/fr/luxembourg/l-obligation-scolaire-prolongee-jusqu-a-18-ans-613f2c39de135b92366611a0>

<https://lequotidien.lu/politique-societe/luxembourg-lobligation-scolaire-sera-prolongee-de-16-a-18-ans/>

3. Our actions in 2020-2021

See activity report here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1brbNrTn5xWfRHSU32a4DGrCdYvdJWBIA/view?usp=sharing>

4. Plans for 2022

- **Publications**

We are planning to work on the publication of two books on self-directed learning support by Je'anna Clements.

Derry Hannam's account of his experience as a democratic teacher in a state school is being translated and will be published in French by Le Hêtre Myriadis.

- **#Learning Planet Festival 22-29 January**

- **Learning to care for yourself, others and the planet**

We will hold a session at this virtual event in English on

Thursday 26 January 2022 at 5pm to discuss the UNESCO report released on 10 November 2021 on the Future of Education

<https://festival.learning-planet.org/event/the-2021-unesco-report-on-the-future-of-education-pros-and-cons-2/>

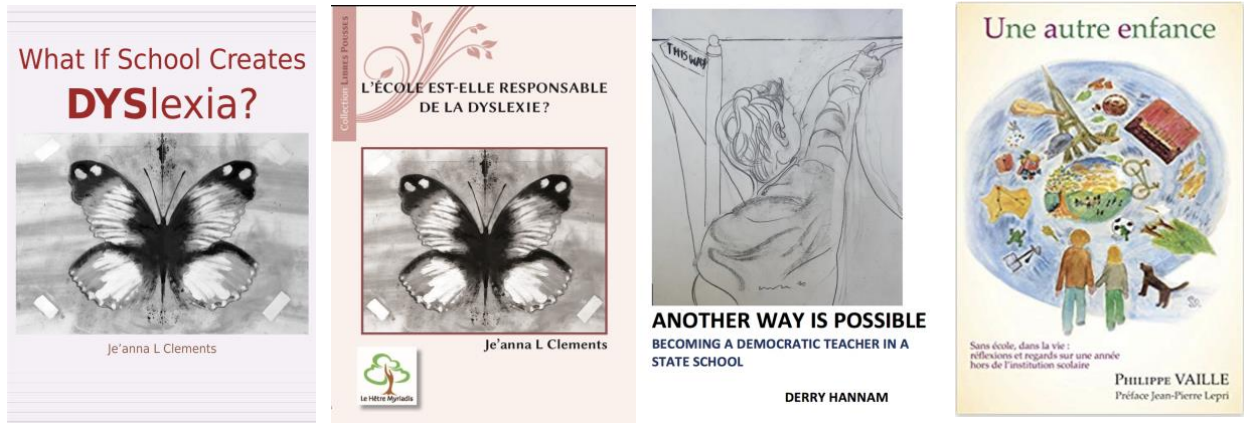
More info on the festival here: <https://festival.learning-planet.org/fr/>

- Our actions in 2022 will continue to be oriented towards all possibilities of debates on the right to education as liberation and its realisation.

5. Acknowledgements

We would particularly like to thank all the members and people who have supported, collaborated or participated in our actions in 2020 and 2021.

Every new member who pays 50 EUR per family will be offered one or two books among the books we have published in 2020 and 2021 while stocks last.



All actions carried out by ALLI asbl are purely voluntary, and your support is precious, so do not hesitate to :

BECOME A MEMBER or MAKE A DONATION

You can become a member by sending an email to alliasbl@gmail.com
(annual membership fee of **50 euros per family** or free donation)

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