

Luxembourg

Luxembourg has two tiers of subnational government: cantons, and municipalities. The average population of the twelve cantons is just over 45,000 and cantons serve as statistical categories. Until October 3, 2015, there were three districts that functioned as deconcentrated offices tasked with supervising municipalities (Council of Europe: Luxembourg 2015; Law No. 174/2015). Communes, numbering 105, are the only subnational government with autonomy (C 1868, Art. 107; Council of Europe: Luxembourg 1997, 2007; Hendriks 2001a; Law No. 2675/1988). The capital city of Luxembourg has no special status and has the same competences as other municipalities (Council of Europe 1997, 2005, 2007, 2015; Law No. 64/1988, Art. 1).

In 1972, the government launched a program to promote municipal mergers and in 1981 an act was passed (amended in 2001) to facilitate intermunicipal coordination in water supply, sewage removal and disposal, sewage treatment, construction and upkeep of schools, waste management, sports centers, and swimming pools (Law No. 4138/2001 and No. 4139/2001). In 2018, there were around 75 intercommunal associations (*syndicats de communes*).

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