



# Greater Region

## Annotated bibliography

Document title, year of publication	<i>Cross-border workers and linguistic mobility, 2016</i>	
Complete bibliographical references, access (DOI), if possible	De Bres, J. (2016). Cross-border workers and linguistic mobility. Forum für Politik, Gesellschaft und Kultur in Luxemburg, pp. 27-29. Open Access: <a href="https://orbilu.uni.lu/bitstream/10993/31881/1/Forum%20article%202016.pdf">https://orbilu.uni.lu/bitstream/10993/31881/1/Forum%20article%202016.pdf</a> (accessed 14 November 2023)	
Type of publication	Scientific article	theoretical
Language(s)	English	
Key words	language skills; professional skills; plurilingualism; labour market; interculturality; multiculturalism ; sociolinguistics	
Abstract	The presented research challenges several commonly held stereotypes about cross-border workers and language in Luxembourg. The participating cross-border workers were not monolingual, were not in Luxembourg ‘solely for financial reasons’, had more contact with the Luxembourgish language than many would expect, and as part of their personal mobility, had also become significantly more linguistically mobile. The research results suggest that linguistic and cultural aspects need not necessarily be seen as casualties of more economically motivated cultural contact and that motivations for language learning vary.	
Content and main findings	One of <b>Luxembourg’s statistical peculiarities</b> is that <b>almost half of the workforce does not live in the country</b> . Research has shown that Luxembourg residents appreciate the economic benefits that this cross-border phenomenon brings to the country, but they tend to demure when it comes to the linguistic and cultural impact of cross-border workers. In this context, cross-border workers are more likely to be perceived as a threat to Luxembourg society, and to the Luxembourgish language in particular. Whether the presence of multiple languages in workplace contexts is considered a ‘problem’ is very much a matter of individual perspective.. Attitudes towards multilingualism seem to relate to the extent to which cross-border workers possess the language skills necessary for their specific	

	<p>workplace. Overall, <b>multilingualism is viewed as a challenge for task-based aspects of work</b> (e. g. causing misunderstandings and limiting efficiency) <b>but as an asset for the more relational aspects of work</b> (e. g. facilitating communication and improving relationships between employees).</p> <p>(extract from the article, adapted; see:  <a href="https://orbilu.uni.lu/bitstream/10993/31881/1/Forum%20article%202016.pdf">https://orbilu.uni.lu/bitstream/10993/31881/1/Forum%20article%202016.pdf</a>          (accessed 14 November 2023)</p>
Remarks	<p>This very short article gives an excellent overall description of the professional environment in Luxembourg.</p>