

Luxembourg, 10 June 2025

“FORUM ALTERNANCE”: A FIRST EDITION SUPPORTING YOUTH ECONOMIC LITERACY IN GERMANY AND LUXEMBOURG

With the successful launch of its first edition, the innovative educational initiative “Forum Alternance” has been officially inaugurated — marking a unique project within the Eurosystem. As part of a recently established cooperation between the Deutsche Bundesbank and the Banque centrale du Luxembourg (BCL), approximately 70 students aged 15 to 16 from Germany and Luxembourg participated in an immersive programme focused on the world of central banking, delivered in a bilingual, interactive, and cross-border format.

In an increasingly interconnected European financial landscape, the objective of the Forum is to enhance young people's economic literacy and introduce them to the roles and responsibilities of central banks through presentations and interactive elements such as workshops and a quiz.

Two countries, two central banks, two languages... one shared goal

This new concept is based on a dual-location approach: two school classes — from the Deutsch-Französisches Gymnasium in Saarbrücken and the Athénée de Luxembourg — jointly followed a programme spread over two days. The first session took place on 8 May 2025 at the Deutsche Bundesbank’s premises in Saarbrücken, followed by a second session on 13 May 2025 organised by the BCL in Luxembourg.

The day in Saarbrücken provided insight into the history and functions of the Bundesbank. Students explored topics such as the foundations of monetary policy, gold reserves, banking supervision, and anti-counterfeiting measures. Mixed German-Luxembourg student groups worked together in workshops to consolidate the knowledge gained.

The second day, held by the BCL in Luxembourg, focused on the practical implementation of monetary policy within the Eurosystem. Students also examined issues related to digital payments and the potential development of a digital euro. The visit concluded with a guided tour of the BCL's Numismatic Centre.

An insightful conversation with the Governor

A key highlight of the programme was a Q&A session with the Governor of the BCL, Mr Gaston Reinesch. Demonstrating curiosity and involvement, the students raised both technical questions — regarding the decision-making processes within the Governing Council of the European Central Bank and regarding the future of cash — and more personal inquiries. With clarity, pedagogical skill, and a touch of humour, Mr Reinesch captivated the audience, making the exchange both informative and lively.

To close this first edition of the Forum, the winning quiz teams were awarded an original prize: a dummy gold bar filled with sweets. The event concluded with a group photo bringing together all participants.

A positive impact

Feedback from both students and teachers was unanimously enthusiastic. The students' curiosity and active participation greatly enriched the event. The clarity of the presentations, the hands-on format, and the dynamic nature of the cross-border exchange were particularly praised.

This new educational partnership not only contributes to spreading economic knowledge but also fosters mutual understanding and a strong sense of European identity among the younger generation.

Given the enthusiasm generated, "Forum Alternance" is already poised to become a key annual fixture in the educational agendas of both central banks.



Mr Gaston Reinesch, Governor of the BCL, spoke to the participants during the first edition of the "Forum Alternanz."



A presentation on monetary policy implementation.



A visit to the BCL's Numismatic Centre at 43, avenue Monterey, Luxembourg.



Mr Gaston Reinesch, Governor of the BCL, surrounded by the participating students, their teachers, as well as staff from the BCL and the Bundesbank involved in the event.



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