

Luxembourg – ANED country profile

The information contained in this summary was compiled by the Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) in April 2009.

Academic networks and resources

There is no officially recognised academic network on disability research or disability studies. Some publications of articles on disability matters can be found on the bulletin of [ANCE](#) (see website on the ARC-page), which is issued periodically.

Regular issues of the [INFO-Handicap bulletin](#) provide basic information with occasional special topics. However the journal does not include research or academic studies.

Policy and enforcement bodies

The key national bodies with responsibility for disability law and policy implementation include:

The [Ministry of Family and Integration](#) is responsible for the Coordination of Disability Policies at a Governmental level. This Ministry works closely with the [Ministry of Education \(special needs education\)](#), the [Ministry of Employment](#) (sheltered and supported employment), the [Ministry of Health](#) (mental health and psychiatry), [Ministry of Transport](#) (transport of DP) and [Ministry of Public Buildings](#) (accessibility).

Also relevant is the '[Conseil supérieur des personnes handicapées](#)' (superior council of disabled persons) A detailed description of the objectives of this council is available on their website. Their main function is to assist and advise the Minister responsible for disability policy in his coordination mission. Members of this council are users, representatives from disability organisations and government.

Organisations of disabled people

The national organisation representing disabled people at the European level (European Disability Forum) is:

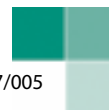
[The Luxembourg National Council of Disabled People](#), which is officially represented by the association Info-Handicap, a not for profit association with 55 associations of and for persons with a disability)

Other significant national organisations of disabled people include:

The National Council of DP provides a [list of all the federated associations](#)> This gives a complete national overview of all organisations targeting every disability (mental, physical, sensorial, etc.) and all domains of activity and support (service provision, sports, advocacy, information, etc.)

National law and strategy

Luxembourg has signed the [United Nations Convention](#) and the [Optional Protocol](#).



Important national laws, policies and strategies concerning disabled people include:

The Law of 12 November 1991 provided for a disability employment quota scheme, wage subsidies, grants for workplace adaptation, and concessions on social security contributions for disabled people who were self-employed.

[Loi 29 mars 2001](#) regulates the accessibility of places open to the public, and covers permission to build or renovate any building, facility or public space.

[Loi du 12 septembre 2003](#) introduced a legal definition on disabled workers, regulated sheltered workshops, introduced new disability benefits, and established the Conseil supérieur des Personnes Handicapées.

[Règlement grand-ducal du 25 janvier 2008](#) provides a series of accessibility criteria to be applied in any public buildings or infrastructure being built or renovated after 2001. It contains a list that specifies the types of infrastructure that must follow the law and defines a national label for accessibility. The responsible ministerial department has not yet awarded the label to projects that fulfil the criteria.

Facts and figures

Data on population indicate that:

There seems to be 10% of disabled people among the whole population (this data was mentioned in a [recent parliament debate about employment](#) (pp392-399), after the 2003 law on disabled people in Luxembourg)

Data on employment indicate that:

At the end of 2006, 4562 persons were officially recognised as 'disabled workers' in Luxembourg (STH-service des travailleurs handicapés) – 3000 of them being in normal jobs and 750 in sheltered workshops.

Data on education indicate that:

At the end of the school year 2007-2008, 689 children were in special classes/schools for disabled pupils (classes d'éducation différenciée), that is 1% of the pupils registered in compulsory education (66% males and 33% females; 50% of Luxembourg nationals).

383 pupils with special needs were in inclusive education (in normal classes), supported by a specialised staff – SREA (service de ré-éducation ambulatoire)

This data and more detailed statistics are available in ([MENFP – Statistiques globales et analyses des résultats scolaires – 2007/2008](#))

Data on accessibility indicate that:

In Luxembourg accessibility is approached in a global way as described in the [European Concept for Accessibility](#)

The National concept has foreseen collaboration at different levels: a systematic approach to accessibility by professionals with regard to information/awareness, training and technical consultation; political monitoring by a coordination group from the Ministry of family and integration; validation of accessibility by the National

Council of Disabled Persons; control and attribution of 'labels' by the [Service National de la Sécurité dans la Fonction Publique](#) for all public places covered by legislation and the [Centre National d'Information et de Rencontre du Handicap](#) for all other places.

Three levels of the national accessibility concept have been partly implemented:

The systematic approach by professionals is put into practice since many years through the group 'MEGA' (multidisciplinary experts group in accessibility). The secretariat is held by the national disability information and meeting centre Info-Handicap, whereas the technical coordination is assured by the association ADAPTH, where an engineer and ergo-therapists cooperate in order to provide technical guidance. Other MEGA-members are the national association of blind people, the national audio-phonologic service and the organisation for people with learning difficulties Ligue HMC. The last years ADAPTH and the MEGA have been consulted for many national projects like the new airport, several railway stations and other public infrastructure. Moreover, the members of the MEGA have been asked to organise training and/or information sessions to the staff of ministerial departments, the railway company, the airport staff, etc... but also private companies.

The validation by the National Disability Council is organised through a group of people with different disabilities. During their meetings, they exchange information about equipments or situations related to accessibility and, from time to time, they organise 'tests' to check if the announced accessibility features also work in practice.

The political monitoring has not yet reached its final status. For the time being, an 'informal follow-up' of accessibility questions is assured through the Ministry of Family and Integration and consultation with other ministries or stakeholders is mostly limited to specific topics.

The level of awareness has considerably increased since the development of the national accessibility concept, but the willingness to keep the topic in the 'mainstream' means that responsibilities are spread at different levels and that, in the same time, there is no real 'leadership' at national level.

Accessibility of information and communication still represents a big challenge and interested persons will soon find information at this place.

The ministerial department responsible for 'e-Luxembourg' has gathered considerable knowledge about e-accessibility and the Websites of most of the ministerial and municipal bodies are basing updated in order to respond to WAI-criteria.

More and more municipalities create so-called 'citizen-offices' in order to improve their communication with citizens.

The national TV-programmes are broadcasted with translation and with sub-titles. Unfortunately the print-media have not yet started a process of making the written information more accessible, but all major newspapers in Luxembourg are also available as web-papers and thus accessible to people who can use that offer.



In recent years the community of people with hearing impairments in Luxembourg has been claiming the right to greater participation and better communication.

[RENO](#) provides guidelines to the Luxembourg government on accessible web site construction.

[Data from the MeAC accessibility survey](#) (2007) showed that

None of the selected public or commercial websites passed even the automatic evaluation.

The main emergency number was not accessible by text phone (but SMS and fax options have been implemented).

In 2005, neither of the two main commercial TV channels provided national language programs with signing or audio description. One provided some subtitling (for accessibility information on the public television channels see Germany).

Neither of the two main banks had installed talking ATMs.

Information on transport accessibility is available from [welcome.lu](#) (managed by the national disability information and meeting centre Info-Handicap). This provides information on levels of accessibility and initiatives taken in that field. The structure of the Website is being revised and a new, more user friendly version, is planned to go online in autumn 2009.

Data on poverty and incomes indicate that:

For 2008, the Ministry of Family And Integration reported on general anti-poverty measures although the situation of disabled people is not specified:

Income for severely disabled persons 'Revenu pour Personnes Gravement Handicapés' (p186): 1,310 recipients €15.5 Million

Special allowance for severely disabled persons 'Allocation spéciale pour Personnes Gravement Handicapés': 939 recipients €7 Million (p182)

Data on attitudes indicate that:

The [2007 Special Eurobarometer on Discrimination in Europe](#) showed that 60% of people knew someone who was disabled (compared to 55% EU average) and 75% acknowledged that being disabled tended to be disadvantage in society (EU average 79%).

Disability discrimination was viewed as widespread by only 36% (EU average 53%); 33% thought that disability discrimination was more widespread than five years ago. 44% thought that not enough was being done to combat discrimination in general (EU average 51%).

79% thought that more disabled people should be in the workplace (EU average 77%) and 82% thought specific measures on equal opportunities were needed in this field.

Data on public spending indicate that:



The Government provisional budget for 2008 (cf Le Budget des recettes et dépenses de l'Etat 2008) was as follows :

Ministry of Education: Special education services (Education différenciée) – €38 million (additionally 2 million for inclusive education)

Ministry of Family and Integration: Special budget for revenue for persons with a severe disability (not having a salary) – €13 Million; budget for services providing support to persons with a disability – €35 Million

Ministry of Employment: Government contribution to salaries for disabled workers – €6.5 Million and €12.5 Million for disabled workers in sheltered settings. €1 Million to compensate 6 days of supplementary leave legally granted to disabled workers and €9,5 Million to subsidise running costs of sheltered workshops.

In the general Public Budget there is also an allocation of €25 million for building acquisitions or adaptations given to organisations which create services for disabled persons.

Social protection

Key features of the national system include (including adapted items from the [MISSOC](#) database December 2008):

Disability benefits

Contributions are financed by personal insurance, employers' contributions and taxes (MISSOC, 2008)

[Benefits from the 1998 'Assurance Dependence' law](#) include the allocation of a certain number of hours of professional support or a cash payment to assistants for disabled people assessed as eligible

If considered disabled by the Commission Médicale, a worker is paid 100% of minimum salary (the proportion paid by the employment administration may vary).

The 'Commission d'orientation et de reclassement professionnel' decides on the allocation to the open or sheltered labour market.

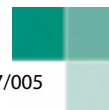
Compensation revenue for those disabled persons not able to work under the provisions of the Law of 12th September 2003.

Some benefits are available through service provision if people are living in community settings

Rehabilitation and re-training

I will refer you to more details provided in request on employment and mainly all the different facilities proposed by the national employment agency – most of these measures are not specific to disabled persons (mainstreaming)

The [report from the Ministry of Family And Integration](#) (2008, from p112) identifies a number of measures applied to disabled workers, including: vocational training and professional rehabilitation measures; wage subsidies; professional re-integration; state-funded jobs reserved for disabled people.



Preferential employment and quotas

There following quotas apply for the employment of disabled workers:

Public bodies, 5%

Private Employer with at least 25 salaries, 1 disabled worker

Private Employer with at least 50 salaries, 2%

Private Employer with at least 300 salaries, 4%

Long-term support and care

Care and support is available from non-residential services and in residential settings (structures d'accueil) which are run by private service providers and financially supported by government contributions. These include residential and housing facilities, as well as day care and rehabilitation centres, and so on. Normally these service provisions are offered by non-governmental associations in respect to disability types: learning disability, physical disabilities, autism, etc. Recent statistics are available in the [2007 activity report of the Ministry of Family](#)

Additional information

Useful sources of more detailed information about the situation of disabled people, and the policies and support available, include:

National activity reports from the [Ministry of Family](#)

National activity reports from the [Ministry of Employment](#) (see in particular the 2007 report, pages 216-229 (service des travailleurs handicapés) and pages 24-25 mainly dealing with disabled workers)

Reports of the [Ministry of Education](#)

[Statistiques globales et analyses des résultats scolaires – 2007/2008](#) (mainly pages 40-50 for special educational needs)

[Rapport d'activité 2008](#), page 67 (10.4 Mesures en faveur des enfants à handicap)

Links to all [recent legislation referring to disability](#)