

National report



LLP-ERASMUS

Intensive Program people with a handicap

Internet advanced promotional tools application for increasing awareness of social exclusions movement

Social exclusion of people with a handicap in Belgium

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Introduction

A) Notion and definition of exclusion of people with a handicap

The definition of handicap was described as following: "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory "impairments" which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

The Anti-Discrimination Law of 10 May 2007 does not stipulate a definition for the term "disability". The Care Centre provides a comprehensive specification of this term: physical and sensory health problems; chronic and degenerative diseases; genetic diseases; mental or intellectual limitations; physical or mental restrictions as a result of a work accident, an occupational illness.

Sorts of handicap

Persons with functional restrictions, visual restrictions, hearing restrictions, Cognitive restraints and speaking restraints. If people do not succeed in finding a connection to the society, then we start talking about social exclusion. Because of different reasons lots of basic domains of life are out of reach: a minimum income, accommodation, employers market, social life, health care, education, jurisdiction, culture- and sports,... Each of them are a fundamental right within the Belgian Constitution, that everybody is entitled to but still some people don't benefit from.

B) Short introduction about importance of exclusion of people with a handicap in your country

Around 10% of world population have disabilities and are particularly vulnerable in the daily exercise of their rights. A few years ago it became clear that it was no longer sufficient to emphasize respect for human rights in general to improve their living conditions. Since then, specific recognition of their rights was undertaken, which however does not grant them a new form of human rights. The aim of this recognition is to ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights for persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their intrinsic dignity.

Belgium defends the promotion and protection of the rights of this vulnerable group in its international initiatives. Different principles are emphasized : accessibility in different fields including transport, information or public services; the social integration of persons with disabilities; their personal autonomy; non-discrimination and equal opportunities.

The situation of women and children with disabilities is also addressed and given special attention. Party states commit to taking the necessary measures to guarantee full exercise of rights to persons with disabilities.

Those people don't want to be seen as people with a handicap.

→ **The law**

In the Belgian-Flemish policies there are almost no obligations. Although there is a well-developed, anti-discrimination law (updated in 2007), the provisions are not completely suitable to support handicap and employers. All of those supporting provisions are Flemish, whereas the unemployment compensations are a federal matter. Provisions aim to increase the employment capacities of handicap, including rehabilitation and employment training. These provisions are separately organized in rehabilitation centres and specialised training centres. There are no signs that there is a shortage of training initiatives for specialised occupations, but there is equally no proof that all handicaps are well reached. Mostly the employment results after training are quite good but we do not know whether they are long-term or not. What we do observe is that there is a shortage of specialised in-service training for people with disabilities who are already working.

In March 2007, Belgium signed the UN-convention for equal rights and persons with a handicap. The Law of May 10th prohibits discrimination on ground of handicap of the current and future health conditions. The anti-discrimination law strives for equal chances for people with a handicap. It protects them against discrimination of the employers market and in private life. (hotel and catering industry, spare time, accommodation)

C) Historical background of exclusion of people with a handicap in your country (Analysis from 2004 after enlargement of European Union)

About 45 years ago, Belgium (in this following France) issued a law for a quatum for handicap in employment. This law was never implemented for the private sector but it was implemented however in the public sector. However, the law was not followed well nor are there sanctions. Since 2003 there is an anti-discrimination law in Belgium. In this law, disability is among 13 possible grounds for discrimination. It is not expected that the anti-discrimination law will change much in the situation of handicap.

- **Statement : growing interest for the supranational government**

- o European Institutions → Economy
- o Mondale Authorities (VN) → Peace – Human Rights – Social Security (AISS)

→ Growing complexity

- o Dialogue between EU Institutions and citizens
- o Commission wants one interlocutor per nation and per theme.
 - Independent
 - Representative
- o Belgian member of the European Disability Forum (EDF):
 - National High Counselor for Persons with a handicap (1996-2000)
 - Belgian Disability Forum – BDF (since 2001)

→ **Belgian Disability Forum**

- Independent
 - o association without lucrative purpose
 - o Working by contribution of members

- Representative
 - Members of the association: 10 in 2001 → 19 in 2010
 - Represents in total 240.000 persons
 - Represents the ≠ types of handicap
- BDF - NHRPH
- Regular meetings
 - daily management
 - every two months
- Transfers of files
 - European file becomes Belgian
 - Belgian file becomes European
- As “model of corporation” for other matters
 - With the provincial counsellors
 - From informal to formal
- BDF = member of EDF

BDF represents Belgium within the EDF

- EDF is structured on 2 things:
 - National counsellors: one per member state
 - ONG (Blind Europe, Inclusion Europe...)
- BDF is active
 - In EDF General Assembly :
 - Pierre Gyselincx
 - Member of office : changing roles
 - Preparations assemblies in the office of BDF
 - In Board of directors :
 - Gisèle Marlière
 - Preparations assembly in the Bureau of the BDF

→ BDF = The voice of Belgian persons with a handicap in the EU.

Employment statistics and trends

One of the key findings is that the number of people with functional limitations is much larger than usually estimated, somewhere between 12 and 16% of the working population (between 15-64 years). Approximately 60% of people with disabilities do not work. Those who do, namely 40%, means that there is about 1 in every 14 employees who is disabled. Of those handicap that work, there is some information available in two groups, namely those who work in sheltered workshops (about 15000 in Flanders) and those who work in the regular employment market who receive a wage subsidy (CAO-26 or VIP, about 5000). Both of these groups represent only 10% of people who work with functional limitations. Only two surveys, Social -economic inquiry 2001 and the inquiry to labor complaints 2002), provide information about all workers with functional limitations.

1. Level and structure of exclusion of people with a handicap

A) Level of exclusion of people with a handicap in your country (Analysis from 2004, after enlargement of European Union)

- Out of the socio-economic inquiry of 2001 can be concluded that in Flanders 12,3% or 1 in 8 persons at working age (15-64years old), are daily confronted by one or more long-term disease, illness or handicap.
- Handicap increases with age and is found twice as much in people with the highest degree in lower secondary education (17,5%) as in people with a higher education level (8,4%)."
- 20% of households least one adult, have at least one adult with a handicap. From the households with children, 2,9% has at least one adult with a handicap.
- Not many people at working age with a handicap are working (39,6%), while persons with no handicap are more active (64,1%)
- It makes a big difference if the handicap is very serious or either slightly. 48% working persons with a light handicap and 24,8% working persons with a serious handicap.
- Having a handicap is a decisive factor on a specific job.
- Professional status, activity sectors and the labor hours are significantly different between persons with or without handicap.

B) Structure of exclusion of people with a handicap in your country according to: gender, age, education, occupation, place of living etc.

F1:Tabulation: Evolution of the amount of recipients of a Compensation to Persons with a Handicap, Belgium, 1990, 1995, 200-2008 (absolute numbers and percentages en percentages per 31 December)

Year	Total Amount recipients ¹	Index (1990 = 100)	Amount "elderly" recipients ²	Share total "elderly" recipients in total amount recipients
1990	166405	100	77207	46,4
1995	201007	120,8	88703	44,1
2000	213511	128,3	94590	44,3
2002	217595	130,8	93650	43
2003	231670	139,2	100723	43,5
2004	251231	151	117492	46,8
2005	258278	155,2	121536	47,1
2006	264594	159	127220	48,1
2007	272358	163,7	132673	48,7
2008	275664	165,7	134419	48,8

Source: DG Persons with a Handicap and own calculations

1. All recipients of Contribution, both the ones who receive contribution of Minister of Finance, and the ones who receive Contribution by "Rijksdienst for Pensioenen"
2. The name 'elderly' in this statistic is not related to the age category nor the system of whom receives the contribution. The recipients of benefits and/or an integration benefit.

F2:Tabulation: Evolution of the amount recipients of a Contribution to Persons with a Handicap according to age, Belgium, 1990, 1995, 2002-2009 (absolute numbers and percentages per 1Januray)

Year	Total amount recipients	Share 65 year and +	Share 80 year and +	Share 80 year and + in amount 65year and+
1990	149461	41,9	16	38,3
1995	197734	50,9	24	47,2
2000	209943	53,2	25,3	27,7
2002	214741	54,1	23	42,5
2003	218093	53,6	23,3	43,5
2004	223999	52,1	25,4	48,6
2005	243657	55,5	27,9	50,2
2006	250915	55,7	28,3	20,8
2007	258869	56,7	29,8	52,6
2008	267408	57,2	30,8	53,8
2009	275306	56,7	31	54,7

Source: DG Persons with a Handicap and own calculations

When we look at the division of age and sex, then we can define that more than one third (39%) of the female recipients older than 80 year, against 18% of the male recipients. 6 on 10 (56%) male recipients are younger than 65, against 1 on 3 (35%) of the female. Within the age category 65 until 79 years old, we can find about a quart of the recipients, both men (24%) and women (27%), back.

F3: Tabulation: Evolution of the amount recipients of Contribution to Persons with a Handicap according to age and sex (*), Belgium, 2001-2009 (absolute numbers and percentages per 1 January)

Year	< 65 jaar		65-79 year		80 year +	
	Man	Vrouw	Man	Vrouw	Man	Vrouw
2001	63,4	40,8	24,3	27,4	12,3	31,8
2002	62,9	40,1	24,6	27,4	12,5	32,5
2003	63	40	24,4	27,6	12,6	32,4
2004	61,9	38,8	24,9	28	13,2	33,2
2005	58,8	35,7	26	28,8	15,2	35,5
2006	58,5	35,3	25,7	28,5	15,8	36,2
2007	57,5	34,4	25,5	27,8	17	37,8
2008	57,1	34	25	27,2	17,8	38,9
2009	57,5	34,5	24,4	26,5	18,1	39

Source: DG Persons with a handicap and own calculations

Facts and figures

More details are available from [ANED's Indicators of Disability Equality in Europe](#). The following key points are summarized from data sources at European or national level, with particular relevance to the [European Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#) and [Europe 2020](#) targets.

Indicators of employment:

According to EU SILC data for 2009, compiled by ANED, the employment rate for handicap (aged 20-64) in Belgium was 42.6%, compared to 72.4% for non-handicap (44.4% for disabled men and 41.0% for disabled women). The unemployment rate was 23.7% and the economic activity rate 55.8%.

Indicators of education:

According to EU SILC data for 2009, compiled by ANED, the proportion of handicap (aged 30-34) having completed tertiary level education in Belgium was 23.6%, compared to 50.0% for non-handicap (20.7% for disabled men and 27.2% for disabled women). The proportion of young handicap (aged 18-24) leaving school early in Belgium was 25.7%, compared to 11.5% for non-handicap.

Indicators of poverty and incomes:

According to EU SILC data for 2009, compiled by ANED, the proportion of handicap (aged 16-59) living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Belgium was 28.9%, compared to 7.7% for non-handicap (31.0% for disabled men and 27.2% for disabled women).

C) Forecasting of level and structure of exclusion of people with a handicap in your country in next years

Evolution of handicap:

In 2001, Belgium counted 192.000 people with a handicap. Last year in Belgium people with disabilities exceeded the amount of 300.000. Belgium counts around 304.000 people. Over 10years there has been an increase of 100.000 people with a handicap.

Why is there such a steep rise? It's not about the amount of people with a handicap, but about the amount that is accepted for a benefit. The amount of people with a handicap is increasing objectively, and they live longer.

Future because of the action plans:

The problematic of disabled people is integrated in the national reformation programs and in the national strategies concerning social protection and social integrity.

An example of a strategic plan is "Perspective 2020", which has been introduced by the UN-convention concerning the rights of people with a handicap.

In Belgium there are around 10 organizations who are concerned about them. The next few years, many different organizations will start up policy initiatives to fight social exclusion and to aim at an inclusion of handicap.

The Perspectives of 2020 are as following: There will be a guarantee on care of persons with a handicap and those with the biggest need of care, under assistance or in payment. They will also give them the opportunity to adjust their quality of life. An adaptable, satisfying and high quality support will be given to people who experience a distance between the possibilities of their own foundation (such as self-care, social networking) and the need of support.

In Belgium, they have the right to receive 2 kinds of financial aid: The first one is an benefit, is meant to ensure the social security of people with a handicap who do not have any other income. About 158.000people live from this benefit. Secondly there's an integration benefit, this is a financial compensation about the reduction of ability to cope independently in consequence of handicap. A compensation where 146.000 elderly because of not being able to cope independently and are in need of help from others. Persons with a chronic disease are included.

All in all, our country is striving for (better) accessibility, which means a process where different systems of the society, services, activities and information is made accessible towards everyone. At the end it's all about a society coming from an exclusion to an inclusion.

According to Bates en Davis (2004): *Social inclusion means ensuring that people with disabilities have full and fair access to activities, social roles and relationships directly alongside non-disabled citizens.*

2. Causes and consequences of exclusion of people with a handicap

A) Short description of causes of people with a handicap exclusion in your country

Handicap personally think that they are restricted in their abilities, and therefore think that they are unqualified or not able to be "normal".

Somehow it's due to the fact that people with no handicap have a fear for the unknown. They see things that according to them are not "normal". They cannot handle what their eyes are seeing.

Acceptation by society:

People with a handicap are emancipated within restrictions imposed by the society. The inaccessibility of public locations and buildings makes it impossible for people with a handicap to emancipate.

And emancipation is all about being taken serious and being accepted the way you are: somehow to emancipate you're partly independent of others.

On the other hand it's also about acceptance rather than emancipation.

For example in supermarkets, a solely walking person with a handicap is mostly ignored. Or when this person is accompanied by another person, people are mostly talking over his head, because people have this mindset that physical handicap are mentally not ok.

For example solicitations: employees might doubt about a person's intellectual ability, just because there's something they cannot define.

All kinds of exclusions are experienced as annoying. Somehow these people learned how to deal with this, but still it is unpleasant. Some might avoid going to that particular supermarket or restaurant because of bad experiences. The inaccessibility and difficulty to be accepted by society makes the possibility and responsibility of emancipation difficult.

Acceptation of handicap by relative, family:

The social environment where people with a handicap are living plays an important role when it comes to the perception of and the relations with those people. For example: A person who cannot hear, feels different between people who are disorderly talking and not paying attention to him, but this is not the case when that person is between equals and has the possibility to communicate through sign language.

Sometimes we speak of a shame of having a handicap. This is mostly because of cultural background, like in some cultures a person with a handicap is a shame. The fact that the family or culture of origin does not accept or does not know how to handle them, makes the person involved have less confidence and becomes introverted. In another situation the family of the handicap might deny the whole thing, so attention is not paid to the person of matter. This causes lots of suffering

and incomprehension, even until a separation of the family takes place and a life with friends and relatives who accept and appreciate them is chosen. This is mostly the case for persons with a foreign background.

For example: being able to join a sports club or hockey club means the world to someone with impairments. Having a feeling in a 'group context', having friends, building a network in the 'normal' world. There's this so called field of tension, because the club has to adapt to these people too, so there should be goodwill coming from both sides.

B) Short description of consequences of exclusion of people with a handicap in your country for people, local society, country and Europe

- Persons with a handicap and a big need of support or persons with autism such as persons with plural handicap, a not-inborn brain injury, an additional handicap. This group of exceptional vulnerable people represent approximately 1% of the Belgian population.
- The increase in amount of handicap, is so fast that the supply of care centers is not enough. The general shortage of care centers brings consequences to grown-ups with a handicap and big need of support and their families:
 - o Some of them are obliged to stay with their family, which increases risk of impoverishment and social exclusion of the whole family. Some of the parents might give up their jobs to fully dedicate their mature child. This will lead to income losses, to physical exhaustion (movements for their grown-up with handicap, insufficient possibilities for relaxation) and mental exhaustion (no holidays, pressure, restriction of possibilities for other children). They are confronted with de-socialization (permanent presence at home, drastic decline of social contacts,..)
 - o As well in Brussels as in Wallonia and Flanders, people with a light to mediocre handicap are able to find facilities more easily, while others are more in need of care (autism, plural handicap, non-inborn injuries) and often get refused because of being too expensive and too cumbersome for the institutions. The dramatic consequence is in the search of abode structure and for his family. There's a non-stop exclusion of people with a serious handicap. Only families with enough money are able to find a care center for their child.
 - o Most of the care centers are not well-equipped, with not enough working people that are educated for the different kinds of handicap and offered services are not enough specialized.

- Some of the patients are put in an inappropriate psychiatric institution where often harmful over-medication is given. For example overdose of insulin.
- Specialized education does not allow any abnormalities.
- People with a handicap are the unemployed victims. The attitude against handicap on the "employment market" should change.
- 31,9% of the inhabitants with the lowest income suffer from one or more chronic ailments.

3. Government role in preventing exclusion of people with a handicap

Belgium has an Equal Opportunities policy that is based on following laws, Royal and Ministerial Decrees.

- *Wet van 27 februari 1987 inzake tegemoetkomingen aan personen met een handicap.*
- *Koninklijk besluit van 6 juli 1987 inzake de inkomens vervangende en integratietegemoetkoming.*
- *het koninklijk besluit van 5 maart 1990 betreffende de tegemoetkoming voor hulp aan bejaarden .*
- *het koninklijk besluit van 22 mei 2003 betreffende de procedure voor de behandeling van de dossiers inzake tegemoetkomingen aan personen met een handicap .*
- *het koninklijk besluit van 17 juli 2006 tot uitvoering van artikel 4, §2, van de wet van 27 februari 1987 betreffende de tegemoetkomingen aan personen met een handicap .*
- *het ministerieel besluit van 30 juli 1987 tot vaststelling van de categorieën en van de handleiding voor de evaluatie van de graad van zelfredzaamheid met het oog op het onderzoek naar het recht op de integratietegemoetkoming.*

Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels all have the competence and budgetary means to implement and execute the Federal policy on the regional level.

If needed there is consultation amongst the different regions and federal level. This is the case when Belgium consults and reports on an international level.

Belgium signed the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol on the convention on the 30 of March 2007, the opening date for the signature of the convention. The ratification was signed two years later (02/07/2009).

To intensify the implementation of the convention Belgium, having the presidency of the European Union at that time, organised in collaboration with the European Commission a Work Forum. The goal of this forum was to look for answers on the article 33 "National implementation and monitoring". Nations exchanged best practises and experiences and created a network of persons, associations and services to help the creation of adequate structures in the different countries of the European Union. The Work Forum made a very interesting conclusion: It is of utmost importance that the mentality in respect to disability changes in such a way that people with a disability can fully participate to society and that the decision makers at all levels take the needs of people with a disability into consideration. "Nothing about us without us" was as such the baseline of that forum.

4. Institutions and their actions

A) Federal level

On the federal level we have the following institutions and organisations.

The federal Minister of Equal Opportunities has the general jurisdiction on the Belgian policy on equal opportunities. He works together with the Flemish, Wallonia and Brussels ministers of equal opportunities.

Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism / Centrum voor gelijkheid van kansen en voor racismebestrijding (CGKR)

The Centre is a public institution that aims to promote equal opportunities and that fights any type of exclusion, restriction or preferential treatment based on legally stipulated criteria. The Centre also oversees the respect of the fundamental rights of foreign nationals and observes the nature and scope of migration flows. Furthermore the Centre stimulates the fight against human trafficking.

Federale overheidsdienst sociale zekerheid / Service fédéral sécurité social

FOD sociale zekerheid executes three strategic assignments:

- Policy co-ordination and assistance
- Social services
- Combat against social fraud

Under FOD sociale zekerheid we find the Directie-Generaal Personen met een handicap / Direction Générale personnes handicapées.

This directorate is responsible for a number of particular issues such as:

- Government subsidies for adults and children. The amounts, payments, requests and reclamations.
- Administrative follow up on the social situation of the disabled person: Income, Pension, Family situation, Housing, Ability to live and to do things independently and to cope for oneself, Decease.
- Social measures such as: Parking card for disabled persons , Public transport, Fiscal and tax advantages for the personal vehicle, Advantages by other authorities
- Recognition of the handicap/disability: Administrative documents, Evaluation of the handicap/disability, Decision, Related medical files
- Assistance: Social/welfare workers, complaints, publications, individual on-line file, Overview of the different relevant institutions.

Nationale Hoge Raad voor Personen met een Handicap (NHRPH) / Conseil Supérieur National des personnes handicapées (CSNPH)

NHRPH promotes a common and coherent policy and an efficient collaboration amongst the different concerned ministerial departments and private initiatives.

The NHRPH delivers research on all matters on federal level that influence the lives of people with a handicap. They write advices on accommodation and contribution towards people with a handicap, employment, accessibility of public buildings, mobility, ...

B) Flemish Regional level

On Flemish regional level we have the following institutions and organisations.

Steunpunt gelijke kansen in Vlaanderen

The Flemish Equal opportunities policy wants to counter the mechanisms to neglect persons with a disability. The Steunpunt gelijke kansen in Vlaanderen tries to unfold the mechanisms and counter them. Their actions are based on four pillars. Diversity, emancipation, non-discrimination and solidarity.

The instruments used are sensitization, a legal framework and scientific support.

Gelijke kansen voor iedere persoon met een handicap (GRIP vzw)

Gelijke Rechten voor Iedere Persoon met een handicap (GRIP) is a civil rights organisation. They pursue equal rights and opportunities for everybody and they focus in particular on the persons with a disability.

GRIP wants persons with a disability to decide for themselves what they want to do with their life. They want that people to get 'grip' on their life. As such the organisation works for the means that are needed to pursue this vision. Such as sufficient personal support, an accessible and inclusive society, a correct image building, They pursue a mentality that approaches disabilities/handicap from a human right perspective instead of from a patronizing care perspective.

GRIP works around three main pillars : human rights, quality of life and "hands-on" expertise. Within these pillars they work on two fronts: influence the policymakers and make the society aware of their objective.

GRIP collaborates with the following governments and organisations :

- Federal and Flemish government
- Organisations of persons with a disability or chronic disease
- Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism
- Organisations of particular groups that need attention such as : elderly, ethnic minorities, homosexuals, ...

5. Other activities against exclusion of people with a handicap

2010 was the European year against poverty and social exclusion. The two biggest disability organizations KVG and VFG are requesting attention for a forgotten group of people with a high poverty risk: people with a disability.

People with a disability have a high to very high risk to end up in poverty. Most of the time they haven't got a job and have to live of a replacement income. In Belgium more than 80.000 people live of such replacement incomes. This amount is the same as a living wage. Beside these two forms of compensations there is also an income guarantee bonus for elderly people.

Because of these 3 compensations (replacement income, living wage and income guarantee bonus) the real amount of people who are in a rough financial situation stay a bit hidden. To solve this VFG and KVG are planning different actions.

Survey

One of those actions is a big survey for people with a disability. The goal is to engage politicians into taking action for these people. Beside input about their income they can also share their experiences in the society.

Goals for Flanders 2012:

- In 2020 Flanders will provide an accessible and payable qualitative offer of help and healthcare.
- First-line care and home care are strengthened in 2020.
- The development of group sessions will be stimulated.
- In the handicap care, the mental healthcare and the elderly care there will be enough offers in 2020
- For at least half of the children up to the age of 3 formal and qualitative forms of child day care will be offered in 2020.
- In 2020 Flanders is one of the best performers of Europe based on life quality on most aspects.
- Flanders will also try to decrease the number of preventable deaths like suicides by disease prevention in 2020 throughout all care sections.

Flemish level

Flemish government

On the Flemish level there are 3 institutions for challenged people: healthcare, employment, culture and education.

There are also some services who improve accessibility and the equal chances of these peoples.

The communal transportation (De lijn), residence, dispensation of the traffic tax and of traffic engagement itself are part of the authority of the Flemish community.

Regional government

Every province has its own offer of bonuses and benefits for her people. On regional level people can come for help for cases like regional taxes, residence, transportation and healthcare and advice for the adjustment of their homes. Beside these things there are also projects and assets who differ for each province.

Communal level

Within the community OCMW and the communal board look over benefits and initiatives for people with a disability. The OCMW bases itself on the individual file following the legislation of the practice of chance poverty. The communal board follows the communal legislation. Then there is a wide offer on local social services.

Care

The care institutions are semi or fully subsidized by the 'Flemish agency for people with a disability', under jurisdiction of the ministry of wellbeing. The care institutions are split up in ambulant, semi residential and residential utilities for living and day planning.

Beside the operation and investment subsidies decisions are being made on Flemish level on recognition and financing standards.

Employment

Since 1 April 2006 the support for disabled people in terms of employment was transferred to the VDAB, under jurisdiction of the ministry of employment. The social workplaces now fall under the name of 'Social Economy'.

Culture

Starting from 2007 the authority for the (adjusted) spare time expenses for disabled people will be transferred to the ministry of culture. The 'spare time supporting care' remains the authority of 'the Flemish Agency for People with a Disability'.

Education

The tuition for disabled people is the authority of the 'Flemish Ministry of Education and Schooling'.

Wallonia level

L'Agence wallonne pour l'intégration des Personnes Handicapées ([AWIPH](#)), or the agency for the integration of handicapped people, offers support for the disabled person (and his family), services which supports those people and their employers.

Brussels level

Concerning the care for disabled people within the Brussels district is 'Le Service bruxellois francophone des personnes handicapées' or the French Brussels service for disabled people authorized. They are authorized by the French community commission of the Main District Brussels.

Dutch level

De Dienststelle für Personen mit Behinderung ([DPB](#)) is entitled for the disability policy within the German community.

6. Characteristic of Handicap International



Handicap International is an independent international non-governmental organization which is particularly known for her battle against anti-people mines and cluster munition and the help offered to the victims of those weapons. In the meantime the activities of Handicap International are much more widened. The organization now also helps people with another type of disability and the most vulnerable in emergency situations and she supports different kind of themes in third world countries.

Handicap international wants to prevent handicaps, to help people with disabilities to rehabilitate and make sure they have a part in our society. Beside long term actions they also engage in quick actions which are needed for nature disasters and other emergencies.

Handicap international aims to work very close with the local people and means. They organize different kinds of projects in cooperation with local partners and this with the goal of letting them be able to work on their own after a period of time. They also offer a wide array on educations and organize sensibilisation campaigns for the local community.

The international network of handicap international has 8 sections in 8 countries, with Belgium as one of it. Since the organization's birth it has erected development projects in nearly 60 countries and she has interfered in countless emergency situations. The Belgian section of Handicap International was raised in 1986 and manages projects in 15 countries. In their own country handicap international BE tries to make people aware of the problems concerning challenged people in the South and fights against anti-people mines and cluster munition.

Handicap international exists for over 25 years. In 1997 the organization received, as a co-founder of the international campaign



against landmines, the Nobel prize for peace for her effort for the victims of landmines.

Design with a heart

Competition for do-it-yourself people which improves the daily life of people with a physical or mental problem by little handy ideas or big ideas. To go through life with a disability asks for a big dose of creativity and adaptation. Good ideas, even the most simple ones, can make the life better of challenged people. A solid way to solve practical problems with a limited budget, that's where they are searching for.

Solidanza



Solidanza is a dance party of 2 days in the weekend around 3 December, which is the international day for challenged people. It is a unforgettable, colorful experience for everyone who like to wage himself to the waltz, chachacha, tango and rock'n roll. Young and old, seasoned dancers and enthusiastic beginners, people with or without a wheelchair. It's a party for everyone, in which every dance move that is being made is one for the good case.

Solidary organisations



The project Solidary organizations is a temporary exchange project of Handicap International. Organizations from and for people with a handicap are the engine of this project. It is the reason that these organizations in Belgium and in the South reach for each other's hands to work around the human rights concerning disabilities. The focus within this project is the dialogue, on organizations from different countries and organizations from Belgium.

Logo:



Conclusion:

Persons with disabilities are persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments; and this in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

1. Causes of exclusion of people with handicap are somehow due to the fact that people with no handicap have a fear for the unknown. They cannot handle what their eyes are seeing. On one hand it's hard to get accepted by the society, on the other hand by relatives, family and culture. People with a handicap are emancipated within restrictions imposed by the society. The inaccessibility of public locations and buildings makes it impossible for people with a handicap to emancipate.

2. Consequences of exclusion of people with a handicap are: not-enough supply of care centers, not well-equipped and not enough educated working people. There's a general shortage of care centers. Some disabled people who are staying at families causes an increasing risk of impoverishment and social exclusion of the whole family. Other consequences are income losses, physical and mental exhaustion, de-socialization. Wealthy families have more the possibility to find a care center. Further, many patients might be given too much medication subscribed and mostly people with a handicap are the unemployed victims.

3. Belgium has an Equal Opportunities policy that is based on federal laws and regulations mainly based on the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol. The regions partly have the competence in the implementation.

4. In Belgium there are on the different levels, federal and regional, several official institutions and private organizations who work on the exclusion of persons with a disability. Their common goal is to work for practical answers to include, from a human right perspective, persons with a disability in the society.

5. We can say that Belgium and also Europe are aware of the poverty link with challenged people. They came up with a survey to analyze the problem and the society's opinion on this matter. Goals for the year 2020 are made and will be followed to help challenged people with their prosperity in society. Belgium as a country of its own has different organizations implemented on different levels in its government.

6. Handicap international is a very active organization on global level. They try to help wherever they are needed. This through long term goals as well as quick actions. Even if they're globally active they are also active in the local community. Different kinds of workshops are held for challenged people. Examples of this are dancing, competitions to improve capability and exchange projects.

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