

LLP-ERASMUS
Intensive Programme

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

Social exclusion of handicap people in The Netherlands

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Introduction

*The Issue;
I have no legs,
But I still have feelings,
I cannot see,
But I think all the time,
Although I'm deaf,
I still want to communicate,
Why do people see me as useless, thoughtless, talkless,
When I am as capable as any,
For thoughts about our world.*

Coralie Server, 14 United Kingdom, (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

Understanding disability;

Have you ever felt left out? People who find it difficult to see, learn, walk or hear often feel excluded. There are many barriers that can prevent them from participating in the same way as others, and most of these barriers are imposed by the society. Someone in a wheelchair cannot enter a building because there is no ramp. For everyone to be included we need to change existing rules, attitudes and even buildings.

In the Netherlands it's not about the exclusion of handicap people but about participation. Since the activation of the Social Support Act (WMO, Wet Maatschappelijke ondersteuning) on the 1st of January 2007, the Netherlands has one social goal '**participate**'.

"Participation is for everyone, young and old, regardless his or hers social or economic position, regardless whether someone has limitations."

Monitoring exclusion or participation is divided into the following area's;

- Education
- Work and income
- Social and Cultural participation
- Housing and living
- Usage and availability of (health)care and appliances

The picture that emerges from different reports and studies is that the political efforts of recent years hasn't been directly reflected in an increased participation or less exclusion. But also the differences between people with or without disabilities have not been reduced in regards like participation in employment or social participation either. Therefore since 2003 two new laws have come into force in the Netherlands that brought some improvements for now and the future.

These laws are;

The Equal Treatment of Disabled and Chronically Ill people Act (WGBH/CZ), introduced in 2003 and The Social Support Act (WMO) introduced in 2007.

Tabel 1- Indication number of Disabled people in the Netherlands;

	Male	Female	Total
Light	739.000	1.075.000	1.813.000
Medium	442.000	758.000	1.197.000
Severe	646.000	1.115.000	1.757.000

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistieken' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Before 2003 the Netherlands had no serious regulations and laws concerning the exclusions of disabled people. But people with disabilities should be treated as equally as others. Since 2003 this is regulated in the Act of equal treatment on grounds of disability or chronic illness (WGBH/CZ). According to the WGBH/CZ it is prohibited to treat people with disabilities and chronic illnesses different in the field of employment, education and housing. Since May 2012 it is also regulated that the public transport should be accessible to disabled people. Also goods and services should be easily accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. This means that for instance governmental websites should be accessible for blind people as well.

1. Level and structure of handicap people exclusion

Unfortunately there isn't much information to be found about the exact level and structure of the exclusion of handicapped people in the Netherlands. The main reason for this is because the Netherlands are known as a welfare state what obligates the government to take responsibility for every citizen. This makes everyone well represented in matters of health, education, employment and social security. At least as long as there is money to support those obligations. In short the handicapped have a good life within a welfare state as the Netherlands when it comes to care, shelter and protection laws. But I have to say there is always room for improvement when it comes to participation, equality and acceptance. These are the main topics in which our handicapped can feel social excluded from the other citizen. Within this chapter I will tell more about the amount of handicapped and the different kinds of disabilities we face within the Netherlands. I believe this will give us a much better view of the number of people we're actually talking about. Then I will continue by giving you more information about the current position of the handicapped in the Netherlands and the important changes that might threaten its stability. And I will close my story with a clue of how the future of handicapped people in the Netherlands is going to look like with the recent shown developments.

The handicapped people within the Netherlands

In the Netherlands we have two different categories to define a person as handicapped. They are either physical or mentally disabled. Within the category of physical disabilities there are also a lot of subcategories. First we have the motoric physical handicapped which means people who have trouble with their limbs or are in a wheelchair. We also have a category called audio physical handicapped in which we included people with hearing troubles. Then we have people with a visual physical handicap what means the people that either can't see clearly or are completely blind. Within the Netherlands these physical handicapped are being judge on a level like low, medium or heavy. The reason why they do this is to estimate their possibilities within the Dutch society and to determine their rights for care.

Within the tables below I will you the current numbers* of these physical disabled groups within the Netherlands based on their disabilities, the level they got categorized, their gender and their age. *Because these numbers were taken from January 2011 a small shift may have occurred.

Tabel 1- Physical handicapped

Number of people with physical disabilities, by age and gender, 1 January 2011 (x 1000*)

	6-19 Years	20-64 Years	65+ Years	♂	♀	Total
Light	65	990	590	695	915	1610
Medium		495	500	355	650	1005
Heavy	65	125	295	145	270	415

* The numbers of the individual columns do not count due to rounding all the way up to the total
Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Table 2- Physical handicapped**Number of people with hearing disabilities by age and gender, 1 January 2011 (x 1000*)**

	6-19 Years	20-64 Years	65+ Years	♂	♀	Total
Light	10	80	90	90	85	175
Medium		140	160	175	130	305
Heavy	35	110	150	160	110	270

* The numbers of the individual columns do not count due to rounding all the way up to the total

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Tabel 3- Physical handicapped**Number of people with visual handicap, by age and gender, 1 January 2011 (x 1000*)**

	6-19 Years	20-64 Years	65+ Years	♂	♀	Total
Light	50	275	145	195	270	465
Medium		475	295	365	450	815
Heavy	80	85	80	75	100	175

* The numbers of the individual columns do not count due to rounding all the way up to the total

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Income, work and social participation of the physical handicapped.

Several studies over the last few years have shown that both in the economic regard as socially the participation of people with physical disabilities substantially lags behind on that of non-disabled people. For example the employment of people with physical disabilities in 2006 amounted to a total of 29%. This is proportionately less than half of the non-disabled people from which over two thirds has a job. Especially the difference between disabled and non-disabled women are significantly larger than those of men. Even equal access to educational institutions, especially at the level of higher education is not obvious for these majority groups. Of all 18-65 year olds with physical disabilities only 13% has completed a training at a college or university level. In the information below I will give a good example of how the education system within the Netherlands is maintained for the handicapped and chronicle ill.

People with a physical handicap tend to take much value of on the fact that they have the liberty to be, and go wherever they want en when they want (95%), to be able to use community facilities (89%), to be able to live in the type of home they wish (88%), and to be able to do the kind of free time activities they want (87%). 86% of the handicapped people states to have enough social contacts, while 60% says it is important to also have social contact with other handicapped. Further wise we can notice that handicapped people tend to value the use of regular public transport (56%), instead of special transport facilities for handicapped (43%). (Deelname aan de samenleving van mensen met een beperking, Peggy van den Hoogen, 2007)

Social exclusion for chronicle ill and handicapped students within higher education:

Faculties are relatively unfamiliar with the disabilities of their students. It is estimated that 11% of the students are struggling with a physical disability. In absolute numbers, there are according to a study of the Verwey-Jonker Institute about 60,000 to 70,000 students (approximately one in seven) that have one or more disabilities. And unfortunately the Students with limited functions who are not known as such due not get the equal rights that

are being offered by the equal rights law. It is by this law that the students with disabilities can rely on different schemes. Largely, the faculties themselves must offer these special opportunities for the handicapped and chronicle ill students. But this is also the task of the Information Management Group and the implementation of social security institutions. Unfortunately most of the universities do not receive extra funding for these adjustments from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and are force to pay for it themselves.

The special schemes for a handicapped and chronicle ill student from the faculty include: extra examination time, adaptation of scheduling and exams, and taking individual arrangements with teachers and counselors. From the data of the Verwey-Jonker Institute it has shown that the awareness of the facilities for students with disabilities has increased in all areas in compared to 2001, when a similar survey was conducted. Although students with disabilities can ask for special counseling or support questions from an academic advisor, tutor or student dean of the college, it turns out that many of them prefer people outside of the university or college, such as family and friends. Most students find that fellow students and teachers generally have little or no understanding of what it means to study with disabilities.

Third year medical student Maartje de Wit (a pseudonym) has a bipolar disorder. She is one of the many students who noticed that in practice the faculties aren't always very disability friendly. "The faculty wasn't cooperating with me. I was not allowed to study part time, because that option is simply not available. I actually had to stop with only my first year in my pocket. The remainder of that academic year, I went to work and took courses to learn how to deal with my disorder. After that Maartje herself read the Equal Treatment on grounds of disability or chronic illness. This law allows people with a disability not to be treated differently. This new law is mainly applicable in employment, occupation, vocational education and public transport. In the future the plan is to expand this law into even more areas. With this law in hand Maartje de Wit easily rejoined her faculty. After so much hoopla, the examination ruled that a custom study plan would be offered.

But when a student and a faculty do not come to a mutual goal, there is the Equal Treatment Commission or judge who makes a statement about the question. They will consider the necessary investment, operational and technical feasibility, the financial soundness of the institution, and the available allowance.

Also the seventeen-year-old Lisa Hinderks was discourages by the Hogeschool of Utrecht to take a training in journalism. She herself knows she is deaf, but she does not know why she wouldn't be able to follow this study. "Deaf people should be able to do the same things as the hearing," she wrote on her Facebook page this week, which has been shared by eight hundred people. The school itself states that they cannot deviate from the curriculum. There excuse is that it would haggle on the quality of a diploma. " A spokeswoman for the Equal Treatment Commission (CGB) thinks Lisa Hinderks with some modifications can easily study journalism. She also points to recent statements by the CGB that disabled young people should be treated as equals. A school in student Maastricht which rejected a student because of his dyslexia, got a slap on the wrist for it.

And even according to the student advisor of Groningen faculty of medicine, Gerard Terwisscha Scheltinga says that students with a severe disabilities mostly quick early in the course of their study. "Students are usually very realistic and know their limitations," he says.

Mentally handicapped

Mentally challenged handicapped within the Netherlands are a much larger group nowadays than in the past. This is mainly due to the fact that there are now better diagnostic methods to determine if a person is mentally handicapped. This recent development has led to a current change in the Dutch policy when it comes to AWBZ-care. From now on, not only the people with intellectual disabilities, have the rights to AWBZ-care, but also the people with an IQ between 70 and 85 (mentally retarded) with serious additional problems. These additional problems mainly relate to learning, behavior or social skills. Before a lot of children with mild intellectual disabilities went through life without any assistance. This leads to an immediate need of rescue when they reached their adulthood. It is also estimated that in the Netherlands there are more than 60,000 people with severe intellectual disabilities. And that there are probably 110,000 people with mild intellectual disabilities. The reason why these numbers are so far apart is partly due to the fact that people with a mild disability are way more difficult to detect, because even if they were allowed they don't always use the support care called AWBZ that is being offered to them by the government.

Growth, changes and problems for the handicapped people within the Netherlands from 2009 till 2012.

In the year 2012 the demand for care has grown substantially. This growth for care is caused by a combination of factors, such as the authorization of people with lighter mental handicaps, the improvement and expansion of the AWBZ (General law special healthcare), the improvement of the diagnosis and the increasing demands of society on its handicapped citizens.

The reason why I focus myself on the growth for care is because in the Netherlands the handicapped and chronically ill mostly depend on the special circumstances that are created by government funds. They need these special funds and care to maintain their independency and participation within the Dutch society. In 2009 for example there was also a substantial need for care and cost that made the government decide that the criteria for special circumstances will be stricter from now on. With these demands the government cut right into the possibilities of the most vulnerable groups within the Dutch society.

Also there has been a large increase of mental handicap within the young people up to 23 years. Between 1998 and 2008 their number has increased from 19,000 to 65,000. At this point mental disabilities among young people is even more than tripled in comparison to the numbers of the adults.

And like I mentioned before all kinds of care for the handicapped have increased within the year 2012, but it's mainly the demand for counselling (individual or with group) that has increased the fastest. This is mainly due to the fact that half of the Dutch youth with physical disabilities or chronic illness, aged 16 to 30 years has moderate themselves as lonely. It's even so bad that 20% of the young people with a disability see their life at this point as not even remotely pleasant. (TNS NIPO 2012)

The future of the handicapped people within the Netherlands

So in short our handicapped mostly rely on the government funds and AWBZ care to remain their social position amongst the Dutch citizens. But due to better diagnosing measurements and the higher demands of the Dutch citizens this group of handicapped and the demand for care has grown substantially. It has grown even more than the government who is facing an economic crisis can even support. This could mean bad news in the shape of stricter rules and

lesser funds or care for these majority groups. This way, they would be forced to either live a solitude life or become dependent on their friends and family. In other words it is mainly the group of heavy handicapped that is paying the price of the upraise of mild mentally handicapped. But even these young handicapped that were finally receiving the support they needed will fall back into their own patron of and adulthood filled with problems. So in other words the future of the disabled within the Netherlands is looking very bleak at the moment. And without the funds to support them their chances within our society will be reduced to as much as they can afford themselves.

2. Causes and consequences of handicap people exclusion

For disabled people the class society looks differently: you have people who are complete, and people who are missing a bit. Everyone despises our kind, even we despise ourselves. They are afraid of us, or kind to us as if we were children. Subjects and topics where complete people are really engaged with, are not communicated with us, we do not participate to fashionable and fun things. We are scary. – Rubinstein 1985.

Rubinstein has described her experiences in the Netherlands already 20 years ago, the government and society organizations were aiming at the expansions and participation of people with a handicap. The research shows that the differences between people without and with a handicap in the last 10 years, hasn't grown smaller in the Netherlands (De Klerk, 2007). There is still a kind of discrimination of people with a handicap that De Klerk refers to as vandalism.

Vandalism stands for discrimination on terms of validity, as racism stands for discrimination in terms of race ethnicity, and sexism is discrimination on terms of sex. Discrimination is defined as the disadvantage of individuals and minorities under certain characteristics, such as origin, race, religion, political or religious beliefs, sexual orientation or disability. The occurrence of this term 'vandalism' can have social exclusion as a consequence. In a study on the participation of children and young adults with disabilities (De Witte, Benjaminsen en Van Den Heuvel, 2002), ten main groups of problems are mentioned;

1. The attitude of society
2. Laws and regulations
3. Opacity of rules and facilities
4. Transport and accessibility
5. Financial and social position
6. The approach in the care and treatment sector
7. Approach in education
8. Employment opportunities
9. Characteristics and attitudes of the individuals with disabilities
10. Social relationships and interactions

The main groups of problems referred to four coherent levels of exclusion as described in the study, that can be defined as; **cultural exclusion**, **institutional exclusion**, **interactional exclusion** and **internalized exclusion**. Each main group has his own causes of exclusion that in separate ways are a consequence to the 'vandalism' named earlier.

Cultural exclusion is related to how the society looks at people with physical disabilities. They are often seen as dependent objects, and are considered without any real opinion and often unable to live independently. The common identification of people who since birth (or on later age) became physically, visually, or auditory disabled are clear examples of individuals who are seen as different than the others in society. In relation to that different terms come into existence to tag these people; cripple, deformed, disabled, handicapped, people with physical disabilities etc.

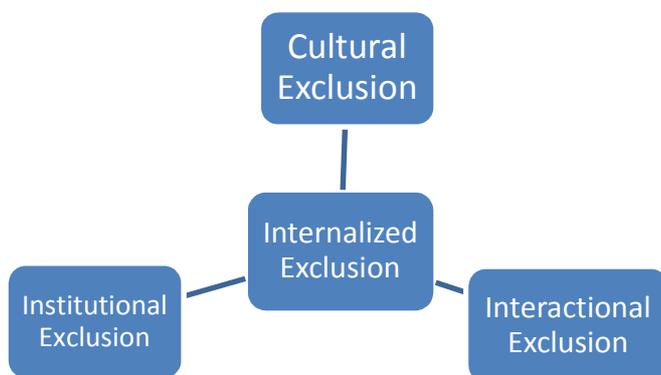
Institutional exclusion concerns the accessibility of social institutions as work, education, family, politics, science for people with a handicap. It still happens too often that for example, doctors make the decisions totally without human contempt whether the handicapped is able

to work or not, or where he/she should live, or which education he will follow etcetera. At the same time the infrastructure of public spaced still lacks accessibility for people with a handicap, while it is technical an organizationally possible to realize. This state of affairs flows directly from the culture around dealing with people that have disabilities.

Interactional exclusion relates to the daily relationships and communications between handicapped people and those without a handicap. The image of people with a handicap influences the way we interact with them, as well within institutional settings as within daily social relations with family friends neighbors and random passing people on the streets and public places. Noticeable interactions that imply exclusion are; not taking seriously, taking decisions out of hand, exclusion from social activities, deny the handicap and/or pretend that successful handicapped people are an exception. These factors of interactions is occurring daily and contributes to social exclusion of people with disabilities.

Internalized exclusion is noticed when people with an handicap that had some or all of the above experiences, and begin to conform to these occurrences. Thus, seeing themselves as inferior help needing individuals that can't reach the same results as their abled fellowmen. The internalized exclusion is the result of the mix of the other three forms of exclusion. It is mainly on the level of the individual and can therefore be seen as the biggest obstacle for participation, and social (personal) emancipation of people with a handicap. I must state that it is not the other way around, it is not the collective behavior of this group that emphasis the three other factors.

You can imagine the relationship between these four forms of exclusion as follows.



The four levels of exclusion are not standing on themselves, but are fixed in social structures of the society. And we can state that in the Netherlands these social factors are well recognised as the causes for social exclusion of handicapped people.

Consequences of handicap people exclusion

There are eight elements seen as 'the quality of life' that are affected by social exclusion Marcha vd Klaauw (June 2006), they are :

1. Emotional wellbeing
2. Personal relationships
3. Material well-being
4. Personal development
5. Physical well-being
6. Self-determination
7. embedding in society
8. rights

Emotional wellbeing is for every being of great importance. You can be rich and successful but if you are not feeling emotionally comfortable, you will not be able to enjoy this to the fullest. This is why this criteria is important. If you miss out on many areas as an handicapped being, than your emotional wellbeing will come on shortage.

Personal relationships is the fact that we need other people around us, that is the characteristic of any human being. Not just for sociability, but also to learn who we are and to explore the world, to have experience , happiness and love. When you are excluded from sharing these experiences with others, you will feel lonely and unhappy. If you barely have meaningful interactions with social peers, you will start to go down. This is a common consequence of the exclusion of handicapped people.

Material well-being money does not contribute to happiness, but to have an acceptable living standard, to develop yourself and to have some kind of choice liberty, you definitely need a certain amount of money. But material well-being is not only expressed in terms of money, also the quality of housing, ownership of certain materials and the ability to go on vacations are taken into account. In society, if you are less able than other people, these basic factors become more of a challenge to obtain.

Personal development it is important that as an individual you get the chance to develop yourself. Humans are naturally interested in their surrounding and their self. People with a disability often lacks these abilities to further develop themselves and to stay in movement, So others will need to find ways to stimulate their personal development.

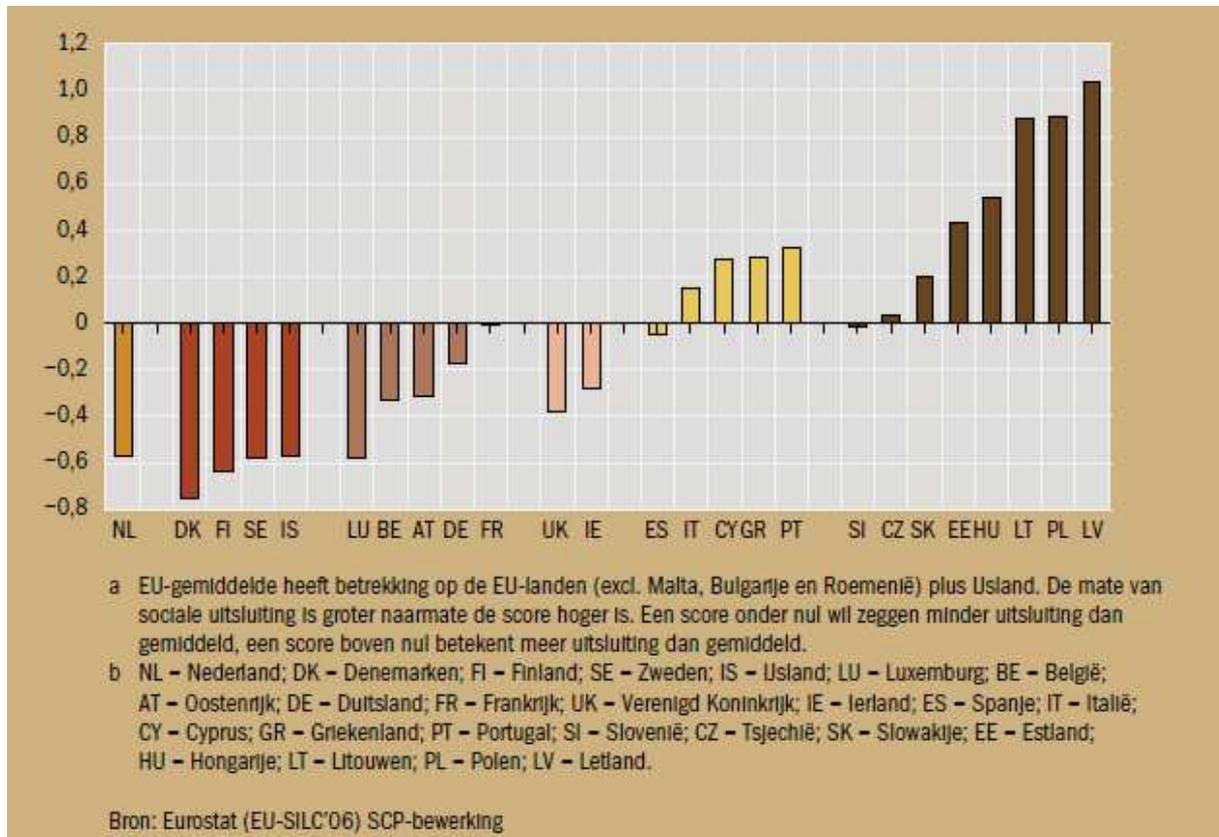
Physical well-being of the body and the mind has a lot in common. In western nations we tend to value more on rationality, than other factors in our daily lives. Health is an important factor when it comes to physical well-being. When we constantly put the emphasis on the problems and disabilities of handicapped people. Their sense of well-being is psychologically diminished.

Self-determination is also an important aspect. The lack of self-determination with people with a handicap is well known. We encounter more often, that their self-determination needs a boost. To give a successful example of the well-known handicapped physician ‘Steven Hawkings’ his self-determination was great, and thanks to his successes general society has encouraged his self-determination.

Embedding in society is a relatively new aspect when it comes to people with a social handicap. Long ago we thought that people with a social handicap were better off in a special environment, and nowadays we come to sense that this was a great mistake. The Dutch society is now actively triggered by boosting integration of social excluded groups into society, like mentally and physically handicapped.

The Rights of many elderly handicapped people have not been very moving. Their past experiences has been that their put away in large institutions, as a subject to their caring personnel. They worked without earning money, lived in large groups with less attention for the individual that they are and almost had no privacy. In short they had very little to do with regular people. Luckily things have changed in the course of time for the handicapped, but there is still a lot that needs improvement. In the Netherlands some rights already have been put into action against the discrimination of the handicapped.

These are the consequences that are recognised in the society of the Netherlands. The Dutch society is in process of diminishing social exclusion within its communities. Thanks to a EU-Index for social exclusion we can compare (see figure below) the performances with several other nations. (Gerde Jehoel-Gijsbers, Cok Vrooman November 2008) The Netherlands are shown to be first, and the rest of the nations are divided in different segments and types of welfare states.



The level of social exclusion is higher as the index number increases. Below zero means below average.

The current status of the Netherlands is in a positive state. But this does not mean there isn't any room for improvement.

3. Government role in preventing handicap people exclusion

Approximately once every four years the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) conducts a study at the request of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) to assess the participation, exclusion, and life situation of people with disabilities.

The first Report on the Disabled was published in 1994. Since then, the thinking about people with disabilities has changed and been adopted in a government policy. In the 1990s was the emphasis on the provisions needed to compensate for a person's disabilities, today the principle is one of inclusive policy: if the general policy makes allowance from the start for people with disabilities, then far fewer special provisions will be needed.

Many people think of disabled people as people who are visibly unable to perform certain activities themselves, for example people in a wheelchair. However, people with a visible disability only make up for half of the total group of persons with a physical disability. Their number is so large it cannot be determined with a complete precision, but it is estimated that there are approximately 1.5 million people with moderate or severe motor disabilities living independently in the Netherlands. These are namely people who have difficulty with the usage of their limbs and therefore experience participation problems in areas such as general day-to-day activities or mobility.

Since 2003 two new laws have come into force in the Netherlands that brought some improvements in the social exclusion of people with a disability. This improvement is hope to last out all the way to the future. These two laws are;

The Equal Treatment of Disabled and Chronically Ill people Act (WGBH/CZ), introduced in 2003 and The Social Support Act (WMO) introduced in 2007.

Also an important step towards preventing exclusion and promoting participation is that the responsibility and execution of the Social Support Act is placed at a local and regional level. This means that every city is on his own responsible for the disabled people living in their area.

Since the Act WGBH/CZ has been activated, the Dutch government also installed an equal treatment commission. Based on the Equal treatment Act on grounds of disability or chronic illnesses, stakeholders can appeal to the Equal Treatment Commission. In one of the first appeals the commission stated that there was a conflict with the law. Like when an employer refused to help an employee with sufficient adjustments during the rehabilitation after his illness.

The Act in relation to the provision and access to public transport occurred at a later stage in the operation. Because of the Act Buses, trams and trains had to be adapted and even some stations had to be rebuilt. It is assumed that the public transport and stations will be fully restated in 2030.

But it is not just about access to the public transport, it is also about buying a ticket and the use of travel information. It is not so much on the individual (as in employment and education) but it is more about the general accessibility requirements that should be prearranged. There will be a separate Order from the Council in which those requirement will be set.

There are also some exceptions;

Within the regulated areas, only exclusion on grounds of disability or chronic illness can be made if it concerns a case which a distinction is necessary to protect the safety and health. Exclusion of the healthy people is permitted when the project is meant for helping disabled people and to achieve backlog reduction of the disabled. The Act does not apply to the provision of goods and services. For example access to a cinema or theater can therefore not be requested by the commission.

The government is active in relation to labor opportunities for disabled people. Companies that don't hire disabled people get penalties and when they do, they get bonuses

In the field of education it is known that 60 % of the disabled student don't finish their study due to the lack of guidance and budget. It is mainly within the higher education of the Netherlands like a university that the disabled suffered the most resistance. But luckily the government also introduces a plus sides to this story with financial benefits and good vocational study contributions for the handicapped and chronicle ill.

Special arrangements in the financing for students with an illness or disability:

Beside the law of equal right there are also financial bonuses that are available to the handicapped and chronicle ill. This will mainly give them more time to graduate. For example they can get twelve months of additional financing to improve their performance. They can do this by requesting a form called "Request for extension study / funding related to disability" from their study counselor. After this they can also rely on the graduation funds within the school itself. How much money they get from the Graduation Fund is determined by the educational institution of their study. They also keep even after their 30th the right to study when their study was interrupted by their disability. And with that they are also allowed in general to take longer than 10 years to receive their degree. At the moment it is also shown that a handicapped person can switch studies within a second if that study fits better within their possibilities.

The possibilities of a students with a disability or impairment within a vocational education:

Unlike the higher levels of education the Vocational educations are well represented within the Netherlands for the handicapped and chronicle ill. For example, The Centre for Innovation and Training (CINOP) advises how schools courses and examinations within the vocational education can adapt to the disability of the student. They also can be given additional guidance or resources throughout various schemes. For instance the vocational education students with a disability or chronic illness are to August 1, 2014 eligible for special customize budgets (LGF), also known as the backpack. However this budget called the LGF will disappears on 1 August 2014. Instead of this budget the government will try to introduce a more appropriate education environment for the handicapped and chronicle ill. In short the new system will have his own educational responsibility to each student on an appropriate education venue. This is all due to the crisis where facing in the Netherlands and the lack of government funds.

Additional support for the visually impaired:

Vocational education students with a visual impairments have a requirement to additional guidance. To support this the intermediate vocational schools can apply for additional funding under the Scheme "visually handicapped students and participants WEB WVO 2010-2012". This will still be in tack after August 1,2014.

Schemes UWV for disabled vocational students:

There is also still the possibility for these student to take advantage of the number of schemes the Benefit Authority UWV offers. The UWV can namely provide material resources for school and special facilities for a internships within a company. For example, a sign language interpreter, transportation to and from the work placement or a job coach.

Work

In the Netherlands is the combination work and disabled people not a perfect combination. There is much to be chanced for disables people and their work. There are a lot of different things tried but so far not with a great success. Now there are some new plans to ensure that disabled people can work also like people who are not disabled. This article tells more about that below. Check the annex 1 for the full version of this article.

‘New work participation law for disabled doomed to fail ?

Government plans to make companies employ a quota of disabled people, while cutting spending on reintegration projects, is a dangerous and paradoxical mix, write Nelleke Cools and Kees Cools.

Just before Christmas 2012 the cabinet outlined its new legislation on the employment of the disabled, the so-called Participation law. In future at least 5% of every company’s workforce will have to be made up of disabled people. At the same time the budget for integration coaching will be subject to further cuts.

Companies already employing disabled people as well as the service industry are equally sceptical about the move. That is understandable enough. Social economic theories and experience have taught us that the rigid enforcement of rules only encourages cheating and lowers intrinsic motivation. A law that uses force to stimulate initiative on a smaller budget is doomed to fail.

The quota scheme which will force companies to make five percent of jobs available to people with a disability applies to companies and government bodies with at least 25 workers and will be phased in over a period of six years, starting January 1, 2014. Companies which fail to fill the quota will face a fine of €5,000 for every unfilled place.....’

4. Institutions and their actions

In the Netherlands there are many organization, institutions and foundations that want to take care of the personal needs of handicapped people. The main goal within their actions is to give the handicapped people from the Netherlands as much of a normal life as possible. This mainly takes place in providing the right kind of care and collecting money for special occasions and activities. But this special kind of attention can also be found in stimulating boundaries like exercising and rehabilitations. In the following information I will explain more about the different kind of organizations, institutions and foundations that support the handicapped people in the Netherlands. Within this information I will also tell you more about their personal goals, experience with handicapped people and the kind of activities and actions they support.

I will start by giving you more information about the two most important organizations for the handicapped people in the Netherlands. They are known as the "CG-raad" and "Ango" and they are mainly involved in taking care of the rights of handicapped people within government regulations. They mainly make sure that the handicapped people and their wishes and needs are well represented within the Dutch society. In the information that is given below these organizations will be shortly explained. I will tell you more about their mission, scale of work and actions. After I explained these organizations I will also tell you in short about our special charity's for the handicapped people. The most popular ones in this area are "Zonnebloem", "Fonds gehandicapten sport" and "NSGK" (specially for disabled children). The reason why they are included is because their financial funds creates special opportunities for the handicapped people. In other words they make it able to live a normal life within the Dutch society. And to conclude that story we will also mention a special kind of charity that's we chose because it is close to our heart. This charity is called, **Stitching Lucai** and is mainly focused on giving sick children and their family a break of their harsh reality.



Source: <http://www.cg-raad.nl>

Mission:

The CG-raad wants everyone that lives within the Dutch community to be able to take part at all societies organized activities. The main goal of this organisation is to stimulate the handicapped and chronicle ill to prove them self as equal. In short they fight for equal right, equal chance en equal duty's for these majority groups. They do this with the providing of information within their publications and website. But in some case they are also known to offer some legal services.

Scale of work:

The CG-raad focus itself on getting equal right within the territories of work, living, financial situation, transportation and education. In the Netherlands there are more than 190 organisations that are represented by CG-raad within these kind of matters. That makes them able to discuss these kind of topics with leading organisations like the government, caretakers and corporate organisations. Their work is financially possible because of the contributions of their members and the donations of companies like "KPN telecom", "Revalidatiefonds" and the "GAK fonds". They are also receiving an annual support for their work from the ministry of "Volksgezondheid, welzijn en sportz", "Sociale zaken en werkgelegenheid" en "Onderwijs cultuur en wetenschap".

Actions:

The CG-Raad offers a multiple kind of services to help the handicapped and chronic ill. Like I mentioned before they are known to offer free legal advice which they call there “Juridisch Steunpunt”. But they also offer customized working environment support under the name PGO. Then they got a service called “wegwijzers” which stand for a database that's filled with information about the laws and rules that are set for the handicapped and chronic ill within the Netherlands. The CG-raad is also known for writing famous articles that can be used by members for their publications or websites. This service is a big part of their goal to get the information across their society. They also made a product in corporation with the company KPN called the “KPN gidservice” for people who can not use a normal phonebook. Like I mentioned before they really try to give the handicapped and chronic ill as much of a normal and full life as possible. But they mainly focus themselves on the battle against loneliness within these majority groups. They do this with their project called “Eenzaamheid-dossier” which provides information and the organisation of peers meeting .



Source: <http://www.ango.nl>

Mission:

The organization Ango works on improving the lives of people that have a disability or chronic illness. They mainly do this by informing, advertising, individual assistance and collective interests. But some special Ango departments are also known for organizing activities, meetings and recreation for more support and involvement. The organization Ango mainly provides information, advice and help when it comes to questions about regulations and provisions that are directly related to a disability or illness. Handicapped people can contact them with questions they have about their disability, transportation possibilities, home modifications, home care, the provision of resources, taxes, surcharges and income schemes. But next to that they also offer financial help with the possibility to request financial contribution from their special Ango fund. And last but not least they have support groups where handicapped people can participate in organized activities and meet new people.

The purpose of this organization is to provide support for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses within the topic's:

- Optimal (self) development
- To be as independently as possible within society
- Being a full citizen in the Dutch society

Scale of work:

“The Algemeen Nederlands Gehandicapten Organisatie” was formed in 1999 from a merger of three disability organizations, called the Anib, AVO and GON. The Ango-association has more than 14,000 members in 80 departments that are divided over 10 districts. This makes the organization Ango now the largest general interest group of, by and for people with disabilities within the Netherlands. The Ango organization is for a large part dependent on its volunteers that are representatives in municipal platforms, client platforms and various provincial councils of hospitals.

Actions:

Throughout the country there are more than a hundred advisors from Ango available for social advice, financial advice and legal assistance. Like I mentioned before their easily contacted for questions about disability, transportation, home modifications, home care, the provision of resources, taxes, surcharges and income schemes. Another important activity of Ango is the organization of their support groups. Mainly the local branches within Ango organize regular events for handicapped people to learn new information and possibilities. You can think about topics like Bingo evenings, school lectures and courses. All of those meetings are aimed at recreation, support and involvement. There are even some local departments that organized a full on holiday for their handicapped.



Source: <http://www.zonnebloem.nl>

De Zonnebloem makes an indispensable contribution to create a more social and acceptable Netherlands. This charity wants to use their financial funds to create a society in which people take more care of each other. Concrete you can say that they want to make sure that someone with physical disabilities, despite their disability or illness will keep doing what they love. De Zonnebloem is an volunteers organization and has local, regional and provincial departments. Each year de Zonnebloem holds a fundraising lottery and national awareness campagne to reach their goals within the Dutch society.



Source: <http://www.fondsgehandicaptensport.nl>

Sport makes you physically and mentally strong and that is precisely why it is essential for disabled people. For that reason Fondsgehandicaptensport focuses itself exclusively on supporting exercise possibilities and sport recruitment for these majority groups. Their main activity is the annual collection week, but they also have a donor program, organizes fundraising events such as a national gala dinner, provide information about disabled sports recruits and resources to fund and sponsor.

Fondsgehandicaptensport finances hundreds of projects for:

- Purchase of special sports and play equipment.
- Financing of sporting events.
- Achieving structural adjustments to sports, innovative projects with the aim of sports promotion.



Source: <http://www.nsgk.nl/>

Children and young people with disabilities will always have to deal with it during the early phases of their lives. But NSGK doesn't want that to prevent them from living a full lives, like the other children. And for that the NSGK supports projects that boost the development of children with disabilities, so they can grow up as independent adults. They also want to

support the family and the immediate environment of these children and young people. To achieve this NSGK finances a wide range of challenging projects. These projects makes society accessible to children and young people with disabilities and change their self-confidence to a more positive image. NSGK has been supporting since 1950 children and young people with disabilities in the Netherlands. With the support of some 40,000 supporters and the finances of 7,500 volunteers NSGK can stimulate projects in the field of play, live, work, culture, sports, tourism and education.



Source: <http://www.lucai.nl/>

Mission:

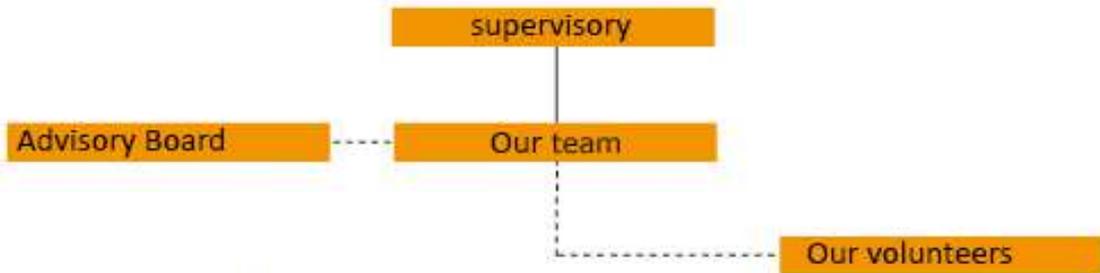
The Lucai Foundation is known for organizing holiday weeks for seriously ill children and their families. In short, they especially want to have fun with each other so their motto during this holiday week is that "(almost) everything is possible and nothing is required".

Origin and location:

The founders of the Lucai Foundation Arnoud and Karin van Velzen started it because they were confronted in January 2008 with the fact that their 14 year old daughter Loek appeared to have cancer. This is also why the origin behind the name Lucai foundation is that its phonetically pronounced as Loekai and it refers to their daughter Loek. But it is also derived from the name Lucai Lucia. This is a Holy Lady called Lucia who is described in history as the patron of all sick children and "the bearer of light". In the future they want to organize these holiday weeks within their own cottage on the outskirts of Uden, but as long as their park isn't fully realized, they organize them in a beautiful location called the Buitenhorst in Schaijk.

Organization:

Lucai Foundation organization



Scale of work:

The Lucai Foundation is for teenagers and families from the Netherlands and Flanders who are dealing with a potentially life-threatening illness. They mainly focuses themselves on teens form 13 till 18 that have either a oncological diseases, cystic fibrosis, a metabolic disorder, muscle diseases, severe heart defects or diseases which cause serious debilitating

conditions, chronic diseases and terminal renal insufficiency.

Activities:

The Lucai Foundation offers ill children and their families a full-service, relaxed, carefree holiday week that is completely being funded by donations. This is a holiday week of mostly rest, privacy, understanding and experience for the families, but it's also a week about fun, creativity and enjoyment for the ill children. It's best described as a week where almost anything is permitted and nothing is essential, where all their emotions are appreciated and accepted. A holiday week where they can enjoy themselves completely and be their self in every unique way. But it's also a holiday week where the teen and the parent / brother / sister are just as important so that the children can finally feel like equals.

5. Other activities against handicap people exclusion

Next to institutions that are subsidized to support people with disabilities, there are also entrepreneurial organizations who organize events and activities for an increase of social participation of handicapped people in society. In this chapter you can find the currently most remarkable events/organizations in the Netherlands.

Lies van Urk price

The Lies van Urk price begun in 1995 and is a stimulating price for the emancipation of socially excluded groups within the society. It target's itself mainly on women, elderly, handicapped, and immigrants social integration projects. The money price can only be used as an investment to further develop the projects.

The proposals for this price are all sent written to the jury. The judges then preselects three finalists. And on the 24th of May in the town hall of Emmen in the Netherlands, the finalists will presents their projects before the jury. At the end a winner is selected and he/she receives a price of € 1.250,- and a challenge cup. After that the winner and his project will also be given a lot of attention from the council of Emmen.

Handicapped individuals to regular sportclubs

Dutch minister of sports Edith Schippers mentions the fact that handicapped peoples should be able to join regular local sport clubs. This is not simply realized in just one day, so there has to be competent trainers an suitable sport complexes for people with a handicap. You would think that's asking a lot but according to minister Schippers everything on organizational level is met, only the practical workout has to be proven.

Long list of other organizations and foundations who support handicapped in society:

<http://www.kennisring.nl/smartsite.dws?id=41148>

In this list you can find a variety of organizations and foundations that organizes activities to emphasizes social participations for a wide range on differently kind of disabilities. And also foundations that offer help for a range of different social situations with handicapped people, from support and advice to handicapped parents, to help with integration of children with down syndrome in the regular social communities.

Association of disabled Winter Sports Enthusiasts

This is an association of disabled people that organizes fitting winter sport vacations for disabled people, this association has as a goal to encourage the exercise of winter sports for handicapped people. But the organized trips are also fully accessible to people without disabilities. So the handicapped people experience a equivalent relation with people without handicaps.

6. Characteristic of Stichting Lucai

'Lucai foundation organizes a full-service, free, memorable and carefree holiday week for seriously ill children and their families, in the immediate vicinity of Uden.'

'Life is fun!'

Lucai Foundation

The Lucai Foundation organizes holiday weeks for seriously ill children and their families. Their goal is to give sick children and their parents (and brother and sisters) an energy boost and to avoid the harsh reality for a little time!

Their dream is it to create on their own a customized holiday park for sick children within Uden. This dream is under construction right now and will be realized in the near future. For now the holidays will take place in a offered holidaypark within Schaik.

In short the sick children and their family are offered a full-service, relaxed and free holiday week:

A nice break with the whole family and a stay in a relaxing environment, absolutely free from the daily worries and away from the hospital and white coats.

In a Lucai-holiday week the teens, the parents and the brothers and sisters are put in the center of attention. The fun, creative and relaxing activities are offered for the whole family. But the main goal is that the people who have a Lucai week can finally rest, relax and have their privacy.

Their motto : "**(almost) everything is possible but nothing is mandatory**".
And there is always a Lucai-shoulder and / or listening Lucai-ear ready for you!

Basic information:



Name : Stichting Lucai (Lucai foundation)

Website : <http://www.lucai.nl/>

Postal address: Klantstraat 4, 5403 PD Uden

Phone: 0413-270980

Fax Number: 0413-270959

Websites: www.lucai.nl, www.sportvoorlucai.nl and www.kunstvoorlucai.nl

Mail: info@lucai.nl

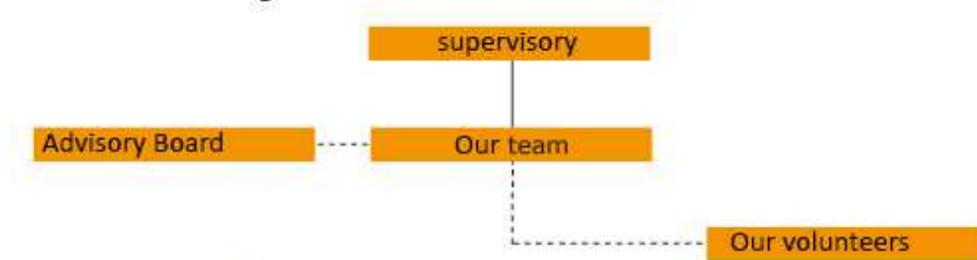
Bank account: Rabobank 14.62.69.985 t.n.v. foundation Lucai in Uden

Registration number: 17235096

Social media : <https://www.facebook.com/stichtingLucai> / <http://stichtinglucai.hyves.nl>

Organisational Lucai Foundation:

Lucai Foundation organization



The goal

The goal of the foundation Lucai is to give serious and potentially life-threatening ill teenagers (13 to 18 years), from the Netherlands and Flanders, together with their family members (parents, brothers and sisters) an energy boost to escape the harsh realities of the illness of their child.

Ways of fundraising

There are different ways to support the foundation. Through an account you can support the foundation. Another way to support them is by buying a product of the foundation: Flex vases, a book with wacky chat and a special Lucai-wine. You can buy these things and help the foundation in raising enough money to organize the special holiday weeks. You can also buy art from the foundation, or you can optionally give the foundation an art pieces that they can resell.

What Lucai does against the exclusion of handicapped people

As mentioned earlier Stichting Lucai organizes a holiday week for people with a serious limitation or disease.

The sick children and the rest of the family are heaving a week with no problems and no visits to the hospital. They can live like a normal family. In the holiday week they are just like all other families around the world. It is about enjoying, being together and having fun.

To live like a normal family, they feel themselves like a normal family and they do not feel different and excluded from the world.

“Feel normal for a few days, like any other healthy person”

Conclusions

Based on our research it is fair to say that the handicapped citizens of the Netherlands are dependent on the government to be included into the Dutch society. They need certain funds, care and special circumstances that make them equally as independent as other citizens. Mainly due to the fact that we are living in a welfare state the government made sure that the handicapped were well taken care of in rights and care within the Netherlands. The recent development even shows that they started focusing more on the stimulation of handicapped participation within the society.

The causes and consequences of social exclusion in the Dutch society are recently becoming more and more clear, and the Dutch government and community are actively stimulating progress on this subject. The Netherlands scores quite well in comparison to its fellow nations in the European Union. But there is still great room for improvement, in areas as the general acceptance of the participation of our less able people within the society.

With recent developments like the need for care, cost and the growth of mentally mild handicapped the government's old support system can no longer be sufficient in times like this. And due to the economic crisis we are facing it is even so, that the government cannot even afford the old regulations any more. In short there have to be a lot more cuts when it comes to the special circumstances that have strengthened the position of the Dutch handicapped. Either the government is going to be stricter in the regulations within each disability or they are going to reduce them all together. Either way the request to prevent social exclusion of the handicapped in the Netherlands right now is more money and support. So in short we either need to find a way to collect more funds from the society or we need to convince the society to take better care of their others. It can't be just the family and friends of the handicapped that have to bear the burden, it has to be the whole society to prevent this exclusion. Of course we could also choose to develop a way that would make the social security of the handicapped no longer dependent on the government funds.

Studies have also shown that it is mostly the young that are suffering from social exclusion. This is mainly due to the fact that they are the largest group, feel the most lonely and have to deal with their weaknesses along with growing up. I think for that reason they should be a focus group, because if you stimulate their position and their self confidence at a young age they will be able to develop a much stronger position on their own in their adulthood.

So we need to create a campaign that makes the young handicapped of the Netherlands socially accepted for who they are. We also need to find a way to make handicapped equal and independent without using government funds or measurements. In short we need to tell society to carry the burden of our disabled citizen all together during a crisis. They need to feel good about themselves and we need to feel good about doing the right thing.

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Law file

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TABLES

Tabel 1- Indication number of Disabled people in the Netherlands;

	Man	Woman	Total
Light	739.000	1.075.000	1.813.000
Medium	442.000	758.000	1.197.000
Severe	646.000	1.115.000	1.757.000

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistieken' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Tabel 2- Physical handicapped

Number of people with motorical disabilities, by age and gender, 1 January 2011 (x 1000*)

	6-19 Years	20-64 Years	65+ Years	♂	♀	Total
Light	65	990	590	695	915	1610
Medium		495	500	355	650	1005
Heavy	65	125	295	145	270	415

* The numbers of the individual columns do not count due to rounding all the way up to the total

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistieken' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Table 3- Physical handicapped

Number of people with hearing disabilities by age and gender, 1 January 2011 (x 1000*)

	6-19 Years	20-64 Years	65+ Years	♂	♀	Total
Light	10	80	90	90	85	175
Medium		140	160	175	130	305
Heavy	35	110	150	160	110	270

* The numbers of the individual columns do not count due to rounding all the way up to the total

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistieken' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

Tabel 4- Physical handicapped

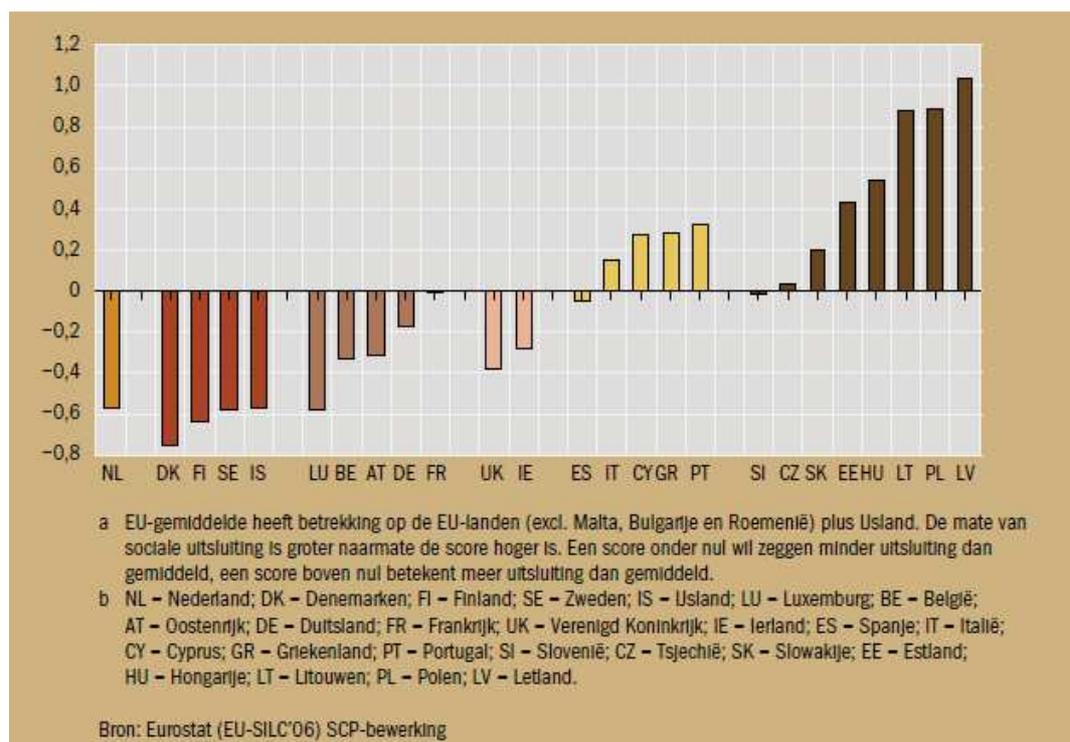
Number of people with visual handicap, by age and gender, 1 January 2011 (x 1000*)

	6-19 Years	20-64 Years	65+ Years	♂	♀	Total
Light	50	275	145	195	270	465
Medium		475	295	365	450	815
Heavy	80	85	80	75	100	175

* The numbers of the individual columns do not count due to rounding all the way up to the total

Source: 2011, 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistieken' (Central Bureau of Statistics, The Netherlands)

FIGURES



Annex 1

'New work participation law for disabled doomed to fail ?

Government plans to make companies employ a quota of disabled people, while cutting spending on reintegration projects, is a dangerous and paradoxical mix, write Nelleke Cools and Kees Cools.

Just before Christmas 2012 the cabinet outlined its new legislation on the employment of the disabled, the so-called Participation law. In future at least 5% of every company's workforce will have to be made up of disabled people. At the same time the budget for integration coaching will be subject to further cuts.

Companies already employing disabled people as well as the service industry are equally sceptical about the move. That is understandable enough. Social economic theories and experience have taught us that the rigid enforcement of rules only encourages cheating and lowers intrinsic motivation. A law that uses force to stimulate initiative on a smaller budget is doomed to fail.

The quota scheme which will force companies to make five percent of jobs available to people with a disability applies to companies and government bodies with at least 25 workers and will be phased in over a period of six years, starting January 1, 2014. Companies which fail to fill the quota will face a fine of €5,000 for every unfilled place.....

Straightjacket

A quota like this constitutes rigid force. Economic research has found that force, for instance in the form of performance targets, will invariably lower performance.

IIC from Delfgauw is a company which embraced the concept of employing disabled people long ago but is now thinking again. An innovative company which makes household appliances, IIC has a specially adapted hall to accommodate 160 people working in sheltered workshop schemes.

Director Patrick Schneider thinks the new law is a straightjacket and far from an incentive. If he has to employ these very motivated people who will knock on the door as early as 7.15 am (the office workers don't put in an appearance until 8.30), he will have to pay them an hourly rate instead of per unit. This will make the company less flexible and costs will increase. The enjoyment, both for IIC and the early birds, will soon wear off. Forcing people into taking the initiative is a paradox. It's like telling a person to volunteer: how motivated will that volunteer be?

Force also leads to cheating, or worse. Organisations which have never worked with disabled people before will look to their own employees to see 'who fits the Wajong bill already' in order to fill the quota. Unmotivated companies will try to get away with as little as the law will allow. They will find a corner for someone with a minor disability.

This is not what the law sets out to achieve. People with serious disabilities will still be excluded. And sometimes they will end up in an isolated spot which will do nothing to promote integration in the workplace, a basic premise of this law.

Support

Only five percent of Dutch companies currently employ a 'Wajonger' (young disabled person for whom employers get financial support, DN). That is not nearly enough. Some force could therefore be necessary to convince employers and make them enthusiastic. But they will need support.

Astrid Haccou, who works for re-integration company Middin, says that 'experience shows a quota scheme on its own doesn't work. But if it is coupled to a support system companies are quite willing to employ people with a disability.'

That brings us to the second problem this law poses: not only is it forced on companies, it also fails to provide the necessary funding. An integration coach is crucial for the successful participation of the disabled. For example, people with a mental disability like routine and will easily become upset and unable to work at the slightest change. A coach can spot this in time, explain what is happening and help the person to master any new requirement. Employers often don't have time for this and will quickly have to find someone to lend the necessary support.

Formerly, subsidies for the coaching of disabled employees in paid jobs had no time limit. Now it's three years at the most. The number of coaching hours has also been lowered from 15 percent of the number of contract hours to 3 percent over three years. From then on, the disabled and their employers will have to fend for themselves. This is in direct contradiction to what the law purports to do: to give structural employment to the disabled.

Soup

Every Thursday Serginio (29) serves MPs from behind the counter of the Binnenhof cafeteria. He doles out soup and tells them about the ingredients. He likes to chat to the customers and knows many by name. The logistics manager is also his coach: 'Of course I had to invest quite some time in training Serginio but now I don't really have to supervise him at all. It's doing something for society but at the same time Serginio is working like everybody else.' His presence is cheering everybody up, his coach says, and when he is around the atmosphere is much more relaxed.

Not only proper coaching but letting employers experience the benefits of employing people with a disability should be the government's first priority. Ignorance is not always bliss. The idea to employ Serginio was the result of an annual one-day event during which employers meet disabled people. Ruud Haarms, head of the Binnenhof restaurant, is one of the participants. Some 400 organisations took part in 2012.

Haarms now employs three disabled people and is planning to increase their number. He liaises with the re-integration services and a coach is present in the building on a permanent basis.

Once people look beyond their initial prejudice and inexperience, employing disabled people will turn out to be a viable option. But it needs good coaching and some enthusiastic people, including at the highest level.

The Binnenhof houses 630 civil servants in 18 departments. The new law would dictate that at least 31 people with a disability would have to find work here. The personnel department has made the first moves towards this goal. But Haarms sticks to his own method: 'it's much better to be a frontrunner and not wait until it's your turn.'

His 17 colleagues will not be welcoming their 28 disabled fellow workers if they are pressured into it and without adequate support. To paraphrase Emile Durkheim: where there is motivation, laws have no place. Where motivation and means are lacking, laws become impracticable.