

Council of Europe  
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European Union  
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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

# COUNTRY SHEET

## ON YOUTH POLICY

### IN LUXEMBOURG



Last updated: October 2011

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# 1. Context and principles of national youth policy

## 1.1 Context of national youth policy

Since the mid 90s there has been an effort to develop the principles of youth policy in Luxembourg. The working out of the first guidelines for youth policy (1996) by the Ministry of Youth has allowed to clarify the strategy of youth policy. Three action plans have been elaborated to promote participation of young people (1997), communication with young people (1998) and youth work, voluntary action and partnership (1999). The cooperation between local and national levels has been institutionalised through the Municipal Youth Plan (1997).

In the beginning of the new century, there has been an important influence of the cooperation within the European Union: The White Paper "A new impetus for European youth" (2001) and the Open Method of Coordination with its priorities (participation, information, voluntary activities and greater understanding and knowledge of youth) have contributed to further shape youth policy in Luxembourg. At the same time the cooperation agreement (1998) of the Ministry of Youth with the youth studies centre CESIJE (Centre d'études sur la situation des jeunes en Europe asbl) gained a new momentum through the centre's contribution to the implementation of the Luxembourg government obligations resulting from European policy.

In 2002 the panel of experts, appointed by the Council of Europe "to undertake an independent review of youth policies in Luxembourg", stated: "Our overall conclusion is that the current formulation of youth policy in Luxembourg, while fulfilling its own aims in an exemplary way, needs to take on board new challenges facing young people from 15 to 25 and to recognise all the domains in which young people become adult. This should be part of the process of review of youth policies, a necessary process in all countries." (Demanuele, Jones, Mitev, Serracant Melendres & Simon, 2002, p. 54) And more specifically the Council of Europe experts said: "In practice youth policies in Luxembourg follow very traditional lines and policies to assist transition are under-developed. (...) we highlighted the differences in perspective between "traditional" policies aimed exclusively at young people and emphasising youth work and youth participation, and the trend across Europe towards more holistic policies which aim to ease the transition to adulthood. Though Luxembourg policies appear to be a little ambivalent about which way they should be directed, Luxembourg is clearly traditional in terms of practice and provision. So far the attempts to become more holistic have been tentative." (Demanuele, Jones, Mitev, Serracant Melendres & Simon, 2002, p. 51)

The second guidelines for youth policy (2004) have produced a sustainable development by taking into account this evaluation of youth policy, and the following priorities were retained:

- take into account the background of the young people (multiculturality, social integration, equal opportunities),
- support the personal development (autonomy, well-being, identity, mobility),
- develop structures and projects fostering participation and dialogue,
- take into account the transversal character of youth policy,
- support local actors to work with young people in their environment,
- foster youth work by the recognition of non-formal education (cf. Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse, 2004, p. 8-9).

A special emphasis is put on the fact that these priorities have been defined in dialogue with the youth sector actors, on a basis of evaluation of projects and actions, of experience acquired in concrete actions and of research data on the situation of young people (cf. Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse, 2004, p. 9).

One of the goals of the second guidelines is to tackle the challenge for youth and education policy of a high level of young people with a migrant background. The creative potential of the cultural diversity has to be used and segregation of different nationalities in school and leisure activities has to be avoided (cf. Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse, 2004, p. 31).

After more than a decade of youth policy development, the 2008 Youth Act (Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse) is in line with the principles Luxembourgish youth policy has established, step by step, over these years. It calls for an interdepartmental committee (Comité interministériel) (Art. 5) to cope with the trans-sectorial character of youth policy. It creates a body in charge of monitoring youth issues (Observatoire de la jeunesse) (Art. 13) and a National Assembly of Young People (Assemblée nationale des jeunes) (Art. 14). It calls for a national youth report (Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg) (Art. 15, 1) every five years to achieve a global view on the situation of youth in Luxembourg and for a national action plan for youth (Plan d'action national pour la jeunesse) (Art. 15, 2) fixing the youth policy orientation.

Furthermore, the first national youth report (2010) has become a relevant document: In this context the government has set up its youth policy for the upcoming years. The report is twofold, i.e. two voices are speaking: The first part is the governmental statement (policy) and the second part a description of the situation of young people in Luxembourg (research). This structuring of the report has been possible thanks to the 2008 Youth Act and to the cooperation agreement (2007) between the government and the [University of Luxembourg](#): The youth studies centre CESIJE ([Centre d'études sur la situation des jeunes](#)) has been created (or in fact continued) at the University. A team of CESIJE has elaborated the description part of the report. The institutional construction

mirrors the political will of "evidence based policy making" and "policy relevant research": On the one hand the government wishes to base its youth policy on a better knowledge of young people, and on the other it asks the University – respecting scientific autonomy – to produce relevant knowledge for the construction of the future, based on a structured dialogue possibly. The national youth report is not a final product, but only the first stage in an on-going orientation and consultation process aiming at a participative and knowledge based elaboration of a national action plan for youth, which will guide governmental policy to realise a transversal youth policy in the coming five years. (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XI-XII)

Concerning the process of youth policy development in Luxembourg, in the frame of the governmental statement, three things are considered to be noteworthy: the continuity and consequence of youth policy during a long period, the integration of national policy in the frame of European policy and the structural and thus sustainable interaction between policy and research since the 90s. (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XV-XVI)

The governmental statement fixes three postulates for future priorities of youth policy: Adults have the responsibility to integrate the young generations in society (intergenerational logic). Thus, youth policy is a policy which facilitates transitions of young people and offers measures which help young people to realise transition into adult life. At the same time there has to be intergenerational respect, i.e. young persons must have the possibility of social and political participation, of taking influence on their environment and of participating in the shaping of the future society. The third postulate refers to the existing intra-generational inequalities resulting from different cultural, national, social backgrounds and gender differences. Youth policy has to take into account sources of inequality to allow everybody to have a maximum benefit from the measures proposed by the government (principle of equal opportunities). (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XVIII)

## **1.2. Principles of national youth policy**

The 2008 Youth Act states three main guiding principles of youth policy in Luxembourg (Art. 2):

- Every young person has the right to self-fulfilment. State's and municipalities' action is subsidiary to parents' (or legal representatives') action to provide care and education, and it is subsidiary to young adults' action to meet their needs, to achieve vocational training or find work.
- Every measure for young people by the state, municipalities or youth organisations has to be in the higher interest of young people. It takes into account specific needs of young people coming from different backgrounds in order to foster equal opportunities.

- Youth policy has a transversal character, it is based on the knowledge of the situation of young people and an active exchange with young people on the issues by which they are concerned. Youth policy also has a specific sectorial dimension by which particularly youth organisations and organisations working in favour of young people are concerned.

The Youth Act defines (Art. 3) young people as being the addressees of the measures taken in favour of youth, that is children, adolescents and young adults, male and female: children being young people which have not yet reached the age of 12; adolescents having reached 12 years at least and being less than 18 years old; young adults having reached 18 years but less than 30 years.

At national level youth policy falls within the competence of the Ministry of Family and Integration ([\*Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration\*](#)) (2009 Grand-ducal decree on the constitution of ministries). The Ministry coordinates governmental action in favour of youth and thus takes into account the transversal character of youth policy (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XII).

The National Youth Service ([\*Service national de la jeunesse\*](#), SNJ), which is a public administration within the Ministry, contributes to the implementation of youth policy at national level and is also a point of contact, information, counselling and support for young people and actors in the field of youth work. (2008 Youth Act, Art. 7)

Municipalities and youth organisations play as well an important role as they implement locally national initiatives. Financial support from the state to municipalities for investing in buildings and equipment in favour of young people is linked to the Municipal Youth Plan (*Plan communal jeunesse*, PCJ), which includes an active participation of young people (2008 Youth Act, Art. 17 & 19).

## 2. Statistics on young people

Number and percentage of young people (15-29) in global population: 94 255 and 18,77%

(Source: [STATEC](#) 2010, own calculation)

Number and percentage of young people (15-29) by gender in global population:

Young women (15-29)	Young men (15-29)	Total
46 399	47 856	94 255
9,24%	9,53%	18,77%

(Source: [STATEC](#) 2010, own calculation)

Number and percentage of young people (15-29) with a different nationality:

Young people (15-29) with different nationality	Number	% of global population	% of young population (15-29)
Young women	17 808	4,05%	22,25%
Young men	17 121	3,90%	21,39%
Total	34 929	7,95%	43,64%

(Source: [STATEC](#) 2001, own calculation)

### 3. Actors and structures

#### 3.1 Public authorities

##### 3.1.1 National public authorities

Ministry in charge of youth:

Ministry of Family and Integration ([Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration](#))

- Minister: Marie-Josée Jacobs
- Duration of mandate: five years

Youth department in the Ministry:

Division family, childhood and youth (*Division Famille, Enfance et Jeunesse*)

- Main tasks of the youth department:

Youth policy (*Politique de la jeunesse*): youth centres (*Maisons des jeunes*), youth organisations (*Organisations de jeunesse*)

Child care (*Aide à l'enfance*): helping out homes and assistance for children and young people (*Foyers et services pour enfants et jeunes*), boarding schools (*Internats*)

Work life and family life conciliation (*Conciliation vie familiale - vie professionnelle*): day care centres for children (*Maisons relais*), day care centres for early childhood and children in school (*Structures d'accueil de la petite enfance et enfants scolarisés*), childminders (*Assistants parentaux*), vouchers for day care (*Chèque service accueil*)

Children's rights (*Droits de l'enfant*): adoption (*Adoptions - autorité centrale*)

Counselling and mediation (*Services de consultation, médiation*)

Assignments of youth policy:

National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ)

National Office of Childhood ([Office national de l'enfance](#), ONE)

Non-formal education and leisure activities (*Éducation non formelle et activités de loisirs*)

Relationships to youth movements (*Relations avec les mouvements de jeunesse*)

Higher Youth Council (*Conseil supérieur de la jeunesse*)

Body in charge of monitoring youth issues (*Observatoire de la jeunesse*)

National Assembly of Young People (*Assemblée nationale des jeunes*)



Youth worker training (*Formation d'animateurs et de responsables d'activités de loisirs*)

Youth services and residential care (*Service pour jeunes et centres résidentiels*)

Educational leave (*Congé-éducation*)

Relationships to local authorities (*Relations avec les communes*)

EU Youth Programme (*Programme d'action communautaire jeunesse*)

Open Method of Coordination (*Méthode ouverte de la coopération dans le domaine de la politique jeunesse*)

Infrastructures for young people (*Infrastructures pour jeunes*)

Voluntary service for young people (*Service volontaire luxembourgeois pour jeunes*)

The National Youth Service (*Service national de la jeunesse, SNJ*) is a public administration which contributes to the implementation of youth policy and it is also a point of contact, information, counselling and support for young people and actors in the field of youth work. Some of the SNJ's tasks are:

- to foster voluntary work and to organise voluntary service for young people,
- to promote European and international exchange between young people and actors of youth work,
- to initiate and realise projects concerning information, civil society, human rights, social justice, gender equality, tolerance and solidarity,
- to organise and coordinate training for youth workers and youth organisation leaders, to offer training courses for youth work professionals and to publish educational material,
- to foster quality of youth work, promote non-formal education and engage for recognition of voluntary activities,
- to facilitate co-operation between organisations active in the field of youth on the one hand and government, government bodies and municipalities on the other,
- to promote networks of youth field actors on local, regional and national level and contribute to European and international co-operation in the field of youth work,
- to contribute to the programmes and agreements on national, European and international level in favour of youth. (2008 Youth Act, Art. 7)

The SNJ runs four national youth centres which focus on media education, sustainable development, sports activities and prevention of addiction and violence. The number of people employed by the SNJ is about 50.

- Number of people who work in this Ministry in the youth department: six (youth department properly)
- Director responsible for youth in the Ministry: Nico Meisch
- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Ralph Schroeder

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:

- Other Ministries:

Ministerial Department of Sports ([Département Ministériel des Sports](#))

Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research ([Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche](#))

Ministry of Health ([Ministère de la Santé](#))

Ministry of National Education and Professional Training ([Ministère de l'Education nationale et de la Formation professionnelle](#))

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues:

- Commission of Family, Youth and Gender Equality (*Commission de la Famille, de la Jeunesse et de l'Egalité des chances*)
- President: to be nominated
- Role and competence: discussion and reporting on laws to be voted

### **3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

N/A

### **3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

The ministry in charge of youth is collaborating with municipalities in order to promote local youth policy planning and the inclusion of concerned young people in the policy planning process. According to the 2008 Youth Act municipalities may be supported by state funding for implementing programmes and measures in favour of young people (Art. 16) and for investing in buildings and equipment for young people (Art. 17). They may benefit from a state grant for expenses linked to modernisation and equipment of buildings in favour of young people (Art. 18). However to benefit from financial support as described in Art. 17, municipalities have to establish a

Municipal Youth Plan (Art. 19). This Municipal Youth Plan (*Plan communal jeunesse*, PCJ) presents three main elements: 1) collection of knowledge from persons in contact with young people on local level, 2) data collection in a youth survey, 3) participation of young people in the political decision-making process.

In many municipalities there are advisory youth commissions (e.g. Luxembourg city, Esch/Alzette, Bascharage, Differdange, Dudelange, Grevenmacher, Lorentzweiler, Mondorf-les-Bains, Schiffflange, Strassen...). In general, advisory commissions deliberate and give their opinion on issues on which they are put in charge of.

Some municipalities organise local youth councils or youth forums, where young people can participate in local planning by making suggestions, articulating their needs or criticising.

Important municipalities like Luxembourg city or Esch/Alzette have a local youth service providing information for young people or organising activities.

### **3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

Many social services for young people are provided by non public actors. The ASFT act, regulating the relations between the state and non public actors providing social, family and therapeutic work, (*Loi du 8 septembre 1998 réglant les relations entre l'Etat et les organismes oeuvrant dans les domaines social, familial et thérapeutique*) and the Grand-Ducal regulation concerning governmental enablement to be granted to organisations implementing services for young people (*Règlement grand-ducal du 28 janvier 1999 concernant l'agrément gouvernemental à accorder aux gestionnaires de services pour jeunes*) set a frame for the relationships between the state as an enabling agency and non public actors providing social, family and therapeutic work. Every institution offering hosting, counselling, help, care, assistance, social training, activities or vocational guidance is subjected to enablement by the state. Financial support by the state will be granted to these institutions on signing a convention with the state which determines the services to be provided by the institution and the rules of payment, accounts and control.

There is a large part of services which explicitly address to young people, mainly in the domains of youth information, meeting and training centres, counselling, transition to work, accommodation and homes. However many counselling and therapy centres target both adults and young people. The following - not exhaustive - list of welfare and social services and the implementing institutions indicates the most important services.

### Information, meeting and training:

Youth centres providing meeting and information opportunities, activities and training are run by several institutions, mainly by

- National Youth Service (*Service national de la jeunesse*, SNJ): activities centres (in [Eisenborn](#), [Hollenfels](#), [Lultzhausen](#) and [Marienthal](#)) and meeting centres (in [Erpeldange](#), [Larochette](#) and [Weicherdange](#)),
- City of Luxembourg: youth centre [Jugendtreff Number 1](#),
- *Asti asbl*: youth centre [Amigo](#),
- *Caritas jeunes et familles asbl*: youth centres (*Maison de jeunes "Woodstock Walfer"*, *Jugendzentrum "Am Quartier"*),
- *Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise*: youth centres (in Bridel, Dalheim, Junglinster, Koerich, Simmern, Steinfort, Steinsel, Strassen, Mertert-Wasserbillig, Weiler-la-Tour and Wormeldange),
- *Inter-Actions asbl*: youth centres (in [Leudelange](#), [Sandweiler](#), in the areas of Luxembourg city: [Gare](#), [Gasperich](#), [Grund](#), Clausen ([Maison de jeunes River](#)), Neudorf ([Maison de jeunes Karriär](#))),
- Luxembourg Youth Hostel Association: youth centres (in [Remerschen](#), [Vianden-Putscheid](#)).

Many other municipalities run a youth centre in cooperation with associations (*asbl*) and the Ministry of Family and Integration.

The Youth Information Centre ([Centre information jeunes](#), CIJ) and Luxembourg city offer information services for young people.

### Counselling, mediation and assistance:

- Telephone for children and young people, offering counselling by phone ([Kanner- a Jugendtelefon 12345](#), KAJUTEL), implementing institution: *Caritas jeunes et familles asbl*,
- Information and consciousness-raising campaigns concerning new media ([BEE SECURE](#)), helpline offering orientation for problems (bullying, addiction, fraud...) concerning internet and new media ([BEE SECURE Helpline](#)), implementing institutions: Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Family and Integration, Ministry of National Education and Professional Training, National Youth Service,
- Committee for children's rights ([Ombuds-Comité fir d'Rechter vum Kand](#)),

- Family mediation centre (*Centre de consultation et médiation familiale*), implementing institution: [Fondation Pro Familia](#),
- Mediation centre ([Centre de médiation](#)), implementing institution: *Centre de médiation asbl*,
- Prevention of physical and psychological abuse of children and young people and promotion of relationships between parents and children ([Alupse-Dialogue](#)), implementing institution: *Association luxembourgeoise pour la prévention des sévices à enfants asbl*,
- Psychological and vocational guidance centre ([Centre de psychologie et d'orientation scolaires](#), CPOS) and its secondary school services (*Services de psychologie et d'orientation scolaires*, SPOS), implementing institution: Ministry of National Education and Professional Training, schools,
- Counselling and assistance centre for attention deficit disorder and psychomotor development deficit ([Service de consultation et d'aide pour troubles de l'attention, de la perception et du développement psychomoteur](#), SCAP), implementing institution: *Lëtzebuurger Aktiounskrees Psychomotorik*, LAP,
- Counselling centre for public health (*Centre médico-sociaux*), implementing institution: [Ligue médico-sociale](#),
- Healthy living (*Gesond Liewen*), implementing institution: [Ligue médico-sociale](#),
- Counselling service concerning HIV ([Aidsberodung](#)), implementing institution: *Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise*,
- Advice centre for sexworkers ([Dispensaire pour sexworkers – Dropin](#)), implementing institution: *Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise*,
- Family and education counselling, offering therapeutic and pedagogic counselling for young people ([Erzéiungs- a Famillieberodung](#)), implementing institution: *Action familiale et populaire services asbl (AFP-Services asbl)*,
- Family centre, offering sexual and relational education for young people ([Familien-Center CPF](#)), implementing institution: *Consultation et préparation familiale asbl*,
- Family planning, offering psycho-sexual and socio-relational counselling, relational and sexual education ([Planning Familial](#), in Esch/Alzette, Ettelbruck and Luxembourg), implementing institution: *Mouvement luxembourgeois pour le planning familial et l'éducation sexuelle asbl*,
- Information centre for homosexual persons ([CIGALE](#), *Centre d'information gay et lesbien*), implementing institution: *Rosa Lëtzebuerg asbl*,

- National service for youth psychiatry ([Service national de la psychiatrie juvénile](#)), implementing institution: *Centre hospitalier du Kirchberg*,
- Psycho-therapeutic service for young people (*Psy-Jeunes - Service psycho-thérapeutique pour jeunes*), implementing institution: [Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise](#),
- Service for child psychiatry (*Service de psychiatrie de l'enfant du CHL*), implementing institution: *Centre hospitalier du Luxembourg*,
- Therapeutic counselling ([Haus 89](#)), implementing institution: *Liewens-Partner-Familljeberodung asbl*,
- Counselling and assistance centre for violent persons ([Riicht Eraus - Centre de consultation et d'aide pour auteurs de violence](#)), implementing institution: *Mouvement luxembourgeois pour le planning familial et l'éducation sexuelle asbl*,
- Information and counselling office for young girls who are victims of violence (*OXYGÈNE - Bureau d'information et de consultation pour filles*), implementing institution: [Femmes en détresse asbl](#),
- Centre for prevention of drug addiction ([Centre de prévention des toxicomanies](#), CePT), implementing institution: *Fondation Centre de prévention des toxicomanies*,
- Counselling for drug addicts ([Bureau Berodungsstell](#)), implementing institution: *Centre hospitalier neuro-psychiatrique*,
- Information, assistance and accommodation for young people with difficult backgrounds - drug addiction, prostitution, criminality ([Tox-In](#)), implementing institution: *Comité national de défense sociale asbl*,
- Information, counselling and assistance for young people (<18) concerning drug addiction (*Service thérapeutique - Solidarité jeunes*), implementing institution: *Jongenheem asbl*,
- Information, prevention and counselling for young drug addicts (*Hëllef fir drogenofhängeg Jugendlech and hir Familjen*), implementing institution: [Centre Emmanuel asbl](#),
- Prevention and consultation for drug addicts (*Kontakt 28* in Luxembourg, *Oppen Dir* in Esch/Alzette), counselling centres (in Luxembourg, Esch/Alzette and Ettelbruck), methadone programme (in Luxembourg and Esch/Alzette), medical service, support for housing, visits in prison, programme for prevention of relapse, needle distribution, implementing institution: [Fondation Jugend- an Drogenhëllef](#),
- Therapy centre for drug addicts ([Centre thérapeutique Manternach Syrdall Schloss](#)), implementing institution: *Centre hospitalier neuro-psychiatrique*.

### **Transition and reintegration into work:**

- Job centre and its service for young people searching a job ([\*Administration de l'emploi, adem, Service pour jeunes demandeurs d'emploi\*](#)),
- Local action for youth, assuring transition from school to work life ([\*Action locale pour jeunes, in Wiltz, Ettelbruck, Mersch, Junglinster, Redange/Attert, Grevenmacher, Luxembourg, Differdange, Esch/Alzette and Dudelange\*](#)),
- National centre for vocational training ([\*Centre national de formation professionnelle continue, CNFPC, in Esch/Alzette and Ettelbruck\*](#)).

There are many other training and integration measures for young people with a specific lack of social and/or intellectual skills. Some of the implementing institutions are *Jongenheem-GAMO, Inter-Actions asbl* (Project *Schläifmillen*), *Polygone sàrl, ProActif asbl, Objectif plein emploi asbl, Co-Labor Société coopérative* and *Päerd's Atelier asbl* (Project *Liewenshaff*). There are also a large number of sheltered workshops for young people with special needs.

### **Accommodation and homes:**

Accommodation is offered by boarding schools run by [\*Les Internats Jacques Brocquart asbl\*](#) (in Luxembourg, Echternach, Ettelbruck, Diekirch and Wiltz), *Agedoc asbl* (in Luxembourg, Diekirch and Ettelbruck) and the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (in Mersch, Diekirch and Wiltz).

Short term accommodation to support young people in difficulties and to clarify their situation is offered by helping out homes (*Foyer d'accueil et de dépannage, FADEP*). The girls' home offers refuge and support to young female victims of violence (*Meederchershaus, implementing institution: Femmes en détresse asbl*). A similar institution for boys is the *Foyer St. Joseph* (implementing institution: *Fondation Maison de la porte ouverte*).

Long term accommodation (*Centre d'accueil classique*) is offered by different implementing foundations and associations:

- *Caritas jeunes et familles asbl* (in Rumelange, Luxembourg, Esch/Alzette and Howald),
- *Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise* (in Bertrange, Hellange and Contern),
- *Jongenheem asbl* (in Esch/Alzette, Belvaux, Pontpierre and Luxembourg),
- *Fondation Lëtzerbuerg Kannerduerf* (in Luxembourg),
- *Fondation Maison de la porte ouverte* (in Luxembourg).

There are two homes for pregnant youngsters and young mothers with children (implementing institutions: *Fondation Maison de la porte ouverte*, *Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise*).

The state runs eight homes for long term accommodation - the state children's home - offering education and care for children and young people (*Maisons d'enfants de l'Etat*, in Schiffange and Dudelange).

A specific institution is the state socio-educational centre, providing socio-educational care, therapeutic work, education, preservation and custody (*Centre socio-éducatif de l'Etat*, in Dreibern and Schrassig).

### **3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field**

#### **3.3.1 Youth councils**

There are several bodies: the Higher Youth Council, the National Youth Council and the National Assembly of Young People.

The **Higher Youth Council (*Conseil supérieur de la jeunesse*)** is an advisory board studying youth issues, on its own initiative or by request of the government. The government asks the council's advice on new regulations and laws. The council recommends reforms and innovations aiming at increasing young people's well-being. (2008 Youth Act, Art. 12)

It is composed of 19 representatives of several domains concerned with youth questions: eight representatives of youth organisations, of which five are to be proposed by the organisation representing youth; three delegates of students and pupils; five representatives of organisations active in favour of young people; one representative from *Syvicol* (association of local authorities); one representative of the minister in charge of youth; one representative of the National Youth Service (*Service national de la jeunesse*, SNJ). Members are nominated by the minister for a three years term. (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth, Art. 24)

Meetings are called in by the minister, the president of the council or on a written demand by one third of its members (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth, Art. 25). The council may establish commissions or working groups charged with a permanent mission or with the analysis of a particular issue (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth, Art. 26). Decisions are taken by a majority of present members (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth, Art. 28).

Contact person: Luc Ramponi (president)



The **National Youth Council** ([Conférence générale de la jeunesse luxembourgeoise](#), **CGJL**) is an umbrella organisation, gathering youth organisations in Luxembourg. Its main objective is to increase active participation of young people in society. CGJL is defending the rights and interests of young people, on a national and European level, and is recognised by public authorities as being the representative body of Luxembourgish youth. It coordinates initiatives of the different youth movements and creates working groups on specific topics. Organisations associated to CGJL are political youth movements, labour union youth movements, Scouts and Guides, socio-cultural and leisure movements for the young.

The Luxembourg chamber of deputies organises youth conventions (*Parlements de jeunes*) in cooperation with CGJL. During these events young people have the opportunity to sit in parliament and meet deputies. Youth conventions concerning the following themes have taken place:

- "Political perspectives in the greater region", themes: mobility and infrastructures, education and identity ("Perspectives politiques dans la Grande région", May 1-3, 2009),
- "Your turn to speak!", themes: civil rights, current affairs, studies, youth and Europe ("A toi la parole!", *Jugendkonvent*, November 21, 2008),
- "Take a stand for environment!", themes: environment ("TIME2ACT!" - *Maach d'ëch staark fir d'Ëmwelt!*, *Jugendkonvent*, May 23, 2008),
- "Equal opportunities for all young people - now!", themes: equal opportunities in the domains of media, education, environment, work, participation, gender, violence, housing and living together ("Chancengläichheet fir all Jonken - elo!", *Jugendkonvent*, November 16, 2007).

Contact person: Luc Klonski (president)

The 2008 Youth Act institutes a **National Assembly of Young People** ([Assemblée nationale des jeunes](#)). The mission of this assembly is to give young people and youth organisations the possibility to participate in the examination of all issues related to youth policy at a national and a European level. The National Assembly of Young People is constituted by delegates from youth organisations and from NGOs working in favour of young people as well as individual young persons. There has to be a plenary session at least once a year. (2008 Youth Act, Art. 14)

Contact person: Sammy Wagner (president)

### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

The following youth NGOs are not members of the National Youth Council:

- Association of young scientists in Luxembourg ([Association Jeunes Scientifiques du Luxembourg asbl](#), *AJSL, Jonk Fuerscher Lëtzebuerg*), offers activities and contacts in scientific projects,
- ATD fourth world Luxembourg ([ATD Quart Monde Luxembourg asbl](#)), aims at detecting and fighting social and cultural exclusion,
- Federation of self-managing social, cultural and political organisations (*Fuedem, Fédération des organisations sociales, culturelles et politiques autogérées asbl*), promotes social, cultural and political engagement in self-managing structures, member organisations: *Queesch Magazine, Infoladen Schrëibs asbl, Life asbl*,
- League of students' sports associations Luxembourg ([Ligue des Associations Sportives Estudiantines Luxembourgeoises](#), *LASEL asbl*), aiming at the development of sports in school and of extracurricular sports activities,
- Youth fire brigade ([Lëtzebuenger Jugendpompjeeën](#)), recruiting and training young people for the Luxembourgish emergency aid organisations,
- Youth leaders' group ([Groupe Animateur asbl](#)), organises socio-cultural activities for young people promoting their self-fulfilment.

### **3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?**

The body in charge of monitoring youth issues (*Observatoire de la jeunesse*) plays this role as it "is intended to link Ministry representatives, researchers, a representative of the higher youth council, as well as a representative of youth organisations and a representative from the national youth service". Its mission is "to 'prepare, coordinate and initiate surveys, recommendations, analysis, studies, reports on the different aspects of the situation of young people in Luxembourg' (Article 13 Youth Act 2008)." (ECORYS, 2011, p. A74)

## 4. Legislation

The 2008 Youth Act ([Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse](#)) sets an innovative frame for youth policy making in Luxembourg. The most important points are:

- it creates an interdepartmental committee (*Comité interministériel*) to cope with the transversal character of youth policy (Art 5),
- it creates a body in charge of monitoring youth issues (*Observatoire de la jeunesse*) with the mission to prepare, coordinate and initiate surveys, recommendations, analysis, studies, reports on the different aspects of the situation of young people in Luxembourg (Art. 13),
- it institutes a National Assembly of Young People (*Assemblée nationale des jeunes*) with the mission to give young people and youth organisations the possibility to participate in the examination of all issues related to youth policy at a national and a European level (Art. 14),
- it calls for a national report on youth (*Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg*) every five years to achieve a global view on the situation of youth in Luxembourg (Art. 15, 1),
- it calls for a national action plan for youth (*Plan d'action national pour la jeunesse*), established in cooperation with all the concerned actors, fixing the youth policy orientation (Art. 15, 2),
- financial support from the state to municipalities for investing in buildings and equipment in favour of young people is linked to the Municipal Youth Plan (*Plan communal jeunesse*, PCJ), which includes an active participation of young people (Art. 19).

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly:

In the Constitution of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg ([Constitution du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg](#)), Chapter II, Article 23, the state guarantees the organisation of free and compulsory primary education for every inhabitant of the Grand-Duchy. The state creates infrastructures for free intermediate education and the necessary secondary education courses. Pupils and students can get financial support according to criteria fixed by the state. Everybody is free to study in Luxembourg or in foreign countries and to go to the university of his/her choice.

National legislation on youth:

October 4, 1973: Act on the establishment of an educational leave of absence ([Loi du 4 octobre 1973 concernant l'institution d'un congé-éducation, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par les lois des 24 février 1984, 1er juin 1989 et 24 octobre 2007](#))

February 6, 1975: Act on voting age, parental authority, legal administration, guardianship and emancipation and its rectification ([Loi du 6 février 1975 relative à la majorité civile, l'autorité parentale, l'administration légale, la tutelle et l'émancipation; Rectificatif à la loi du 6 février 1975 relative à la majorité civile, l'autorité parentale, l'administration légale, la tutelle et l'émancipation](#))

April 18, 1984: Act on the delegation and loss of parental authority and the supervision to social benefit ([Loi du 18 avril 1984 relative à la délégation et à la déchéance de l'autorité parentale et à la tutelle aux prestations sociales](#))

June 13, 1989: Act reforming adoption ([Loi du 13 juin 1989 portant réforme à l'adoption](#))

August 10, 1992: Youth welfare act ([Loi du 10 août 1992 relative à la protection de la jeunesse](#))

December 20, 1993: Act approving the Convention on the Rights of the Child ([Loi du 20 décembre 1993 portant 1\) approbation de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 20 novembre 1989, 2\) modification de certaines dispositions du code civil](#))

September 8, 1998: Act regulating the relations between the state and non public actors providing social, family and therapeutic work ([Loi du 8 septembre 1998 réglant les relations entre l'Etat et les organismes oeuvrant dans les domaines social, familial et thérapeutique](#))

January 28, 1999: Grand-Ducal regulation concerning governmental enablement to be granted to organisations implementing services for young people ([Règlement grand-ducal du 28 janvier 1999 concernant l'agrément gouvernemental à accorder aux gestionnaires de services pour jeunes](#))

February 12, 1999: Act on the national action plan for employment ([Loi du 12 février 1999 concernant la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action national en faveur de l'emploi 1998](#))

May 6, 1999: Penal mediation act ([Loi du 6 mai 1999 relative à la médiation pénale et portant modification de différentes dispositions a\) de la loi modifiée du 7 mars 1980 sur l'organisation judiciaire, b\) du code des assurances sociales](#))

November 17, 2006: Act approving the European convention on the promotion of a long term transnational voluntary service for young people ([Loi du 17 novembre 2006 portant approbation de la Convention européenne sur la promotion d'un service volontaire transnational à long terme pour les jeunes, faite à Strasbourg, le 11 mai 2000](#))

October 24, 2007: Act creating a leave of absence for training ([Loi du 24 octobre 2007 portant création d'un congé individuel de formation et modification 1. du Code du travail; 2. de la loi modifiée du 4 octobre 1973 concernant l'institution d'un congé-éducation; 3. de la loi modifiée du 16 avril 1979 fixant le statut général des fonctionnaires de l'Etat; 4. de la loi modifiée du 24 décembre 1985 fixant le statut général des fonctionnaires communaux](#))

October 31, 2007: Act on voluntary service of young people ([Loi du 31 octobre 2007 sur le service volontaire des jeunes, modifiant 1. le Code des assurances sociales, 2. la loi modifiée du 19 juin 1985 concernant les allocations familiales et portant création de la Caisse nationale des prestations familiales et abrogeant la loi du 28 janvier 1999 concernant le service volontaire](#))

July 4, 2008: Youth act ([Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse](#))

December 16, 2008: Act on assistance for children and families ([Loi du 16 décembre 2008 relative à l'aide à l'enfance et à la famille](#))

January 9, 2009: Grand-Ducal regulation on youth ([Règlement grand-ducal du 9 janvier 2009 sur la jeunesse](#))

Regional and local legislation on youth:

N/A

## 5. National policy programmes on youth

National programmes on youth: N/A

Action plans i.e. official strategies:

1996, Guidelines for youth policy: For the young, with the young (*Pour les jeunes, avec les jeunes. Lignes directrices de la politique du Ministère de la Jeunesse.*)

1997, Action plan N°1: Participation of young people (*Participation des jeunes. Plan d'action N°1.*)

1998, Action plan N°2: Communication with young people (*Communication avec les jeunes. Plan d'action N°2.*)

1999, Action plan N°3: Youth work, voluntary action and partnership (*Travail de jeunesse, bénévolat, partenariat. Plan d'action N°3.*)

2004, Second guidelines for youth policy: Youth and society (*Jeunesse et société. Deuxièmes lignes directrices pour la politique de la jeunesse.*)

The national action plan for youth (*Plan d'action national pour la jeunesse, also Pacte pour la jeunesse*), according to the 2008 Youth Act, is on its way to be elaborated. The national action plan is transversal, i.e. it takes into account all aspects of government policy related to the living conditions of young people. The Youth Act recommends an interactive and communicative procedure: The action plan will be elaborated by the government and take into account opinions of the young and their organisations by asking advice of the National Assembly of Young People and the Higher Council of Youth. (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XI and XVII)

The priorities of the national action plan for youth have already been fixed:

- better coordinate measures of the different actors which aim at young people at risk for social exclusion,
- build up a scientific evaluation system examining these coordinated measures fostering thus a greater efficiency,
- further develop prevention measures and family support,
- encourage concrete measures close to the needs of the concerned, almost "made-to-measure", by supporting cooperation of actors at local and municipal level,

- in a participative approach develop with the different actors concerned the priority fields of action and the concrete measures of the action plan. (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XX)

Further, five action fields of the national action plan have been identified:

- succeed the transition between education and working,
- get off to a good start into adult life,
- well-being of the young,
- the young being a resource,
- analysis of the efficiency of measures. (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p. XXI-XXII)

Programmes and actions for specific target groups:

National strategy and action plan 2010-2014 to fight drugs and drug addiction ([Stratégie et plan d'action national 2010-2014 en matière de lutte contre les drogues et les addictions](#))

Help programme for coming off tobacco ([Programme d'aide au sevrage tabagique](#))

"Eat healthier, move more", action plan for the promotion of healthy eating and physical exercise ("[Gesond iessen, méi bewegen](#)", *Plan d'action pour la promotion de l'alimentation saine et de l'activité physique*)

## **6. Budget/public expenditure allocated to youth**

National level: In 2010 the public budget for core youth policy was 26.500.000 EUR.

Regional level: N/A



## **7. European dimension of youth policy**

### **7.1 Council of Europe**

Council of Europe activities are implemented at the national level for instance by using outcomes of seminars and its documentation as reference documents for the development of national youth policy, or by using training materials, such as T-Kits, in the training of youth workers and as reference documents for developing own material. Luxembourg participates in the process of the "Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres".

The contribution to the European Youth Foundation is 4.300 EUR.

### **7.2 European Union**

#### **7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme**

In Luxembourg the Youth in Action programme is implemented by the national agency ([Agence Nationale du programme "Jeunesse en Action"](#)), which is part of the National Youth Service (*Service national de la jeunesse*, SNJ).

Eurodesk is implemented by the Youth Information Centre ([Centre information jeunes](#), CIJ).

#### **7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level**

In Luxembourg, the EU youth strategy is fully integrated into the national youth policy as designed already by the 2008 Youth Act: all the important elements in the EU youth strategy are also part of the national programme. This means that there is no separate implementation, both programmes are implemented through the same instruments.

## 8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Luxembourg

### Websites:

Ministry of Family and Integration ([Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration](#))

National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ)

### References and sources:

[Arrêté grand-ducal du 27 juillet 2009 portant constitution des Ministères](#) (2009 Grand-ducal decree on the constitution of ministries)

Commission des Communautés Européennes (2001). Livre blanc de la Commission Européenne. Un nouvel élan pour la jeunesse européenne. (= European Commission White Paper. A new impetus for European youth)

[Demanuele, J., Jones, G., Mitev, P., Serracant Melendres, P., & Simon R. \(2002\). Youth policy in Luxembourg. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing.](#) (= La politique de la jeunesse au Luxembourg)

ECORYS (2011). Assessing practices for using indicators in fields related to youth. Final report for the European Commission, DG Education and Culture. Birmingham: ECORYS.

[Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse](#) (2008 Youth Act)

[Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration \(S.L.D.\) \(2010\). Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg / Nationaler Bericht zur Situation der Jugend in Luxemburg. Luxembourg: Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration.](#)

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[Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration \(2008\). Politique jeunesse: Services et Structures.](#)

[Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse \(2004\). Jeunesse et société. Deuxièmes lignes directrices pour la politique de la jeunesse.](#)

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Ministère de la Jeunesse, Service National de la Jeunesse (1998). Communication avec les jeunes. Plan d'action N°2.

Muller, M., & Becsky, S. (2000). Jeunesse: Politiques et structures au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg.

[Otten, H., & Wirtgen, G. \(2001\). National report on young people in Luxembourg. Luxembourg: CESIJE, Ministry of Family, Social Solidarity and Youth, SNJ.](#) (= Rapport national sur la jeunesse au Luxembourg)

[Règlement grand-ducal du 9 janvier 2009 sur la jeunesse](#) (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth)