

European Down Syndrome Association news

Luxemburg Trisomie 21 Lëtzebuerg asbl



internet: www.trisomie21.lu

Founded: 2000. Non profit organisation

President: Frank Mergen

Members: 100 family members

Finances: membership fees and donations



Mireille Hinkel is the contact person for Trisomie 21 Luxembourg in EDSA. She has a teenage daughter with Down syndrome.

Main goals

The main goals are to support and inform families and to inform and sensitise society.

Services

- counselling
- seminars, courses
- library
- family days, leisure activities

Publications

There is no regular journal in Luxembourg. We have one information flyer and two posters.

We use material from France and Germany, as most people in Luxembourg speak and understand these languages. It is too expensive and too labour intensive to produce our own material in the Luxembourg language.

Awareness campaign

There is no regular DS-awareness campaign in Luxembourg. In the future we plan to take action on World DS Day.

Projects and campaigns

Our main project in the next year will be the celebration of World DS Day and organising a conference.

Successful campaigns or projects over recent years:

- conference on inclusion, 2003
- conference on sleep disorders, 2004

General information

The main problems in Luxembourg for persons with Down syndrome are:

- school inclusion
- lack of knowledge about Down syndrome in society

- health care, especially for adults.

Something which should be urgently changed in Luxembourg is the attitude of schools and school teachers concerning children with Down syndrome.

Numbers

Between 2000 and 2004 there were 0 to 3 children with Down syndrome born per year, but in 2005 there were 7 babies with Down syndrome.

We have no official numbers of the total of persons with Down syndrome living in Luxembourg, but we are in contact with 100 families. Above that we estimate about another 50 or more persons.

Situation of babies and toddlers under 4 years

Medical care and physiotherapy are good.

Early intervention is very good

Situation of schoolchildren

About 90% of children up to 6 years old are in mainstream kindergarten.

About 30% of children (6-12 years old) are in mainstream schools.

Only around 5 children up to 14 years go to mainstream schools.

Most younger and all older schoolchildren attend special needs education.

Situation of adults

A few adults work in places such as a flower shop, post office or hospital. Most others work in sheltered workshops.

There are no adequate housing facilities for persons with Down syndrome.

We estimate that there are about 20 persons with Down syndrome over 50 years. They live with parents or in institutions.

