

Funding a national disability information centre

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How it all got started

- 1989 the Luxembourgish Government decides to improve the coordination of national disability policies
- 1993 the Ministry for Family affairs and Integration publishes a national “Programme for people with disabilities” with...
- ... the Recommendation to create a “National Disability Information and Meeting Centre”

Info-Handicap a.s.b.l.

- 1993: 16 disability organisations create “Info-Handicap a.s.b.l.”
- Objective: set up and manage a national disability information and meeting centre aiming at:
 1. centralising data
 2. guiding people
 3. raising awareness
 4. organising evaluation and concertation
 5. meeting, exchanging, training

Management

- Legal responsibility: administrative board with representatives of the member organisations
- Contract with the Ministry for Family Affairs and Integration
- “Cooperation platform”: ministry, administrative board, director

Funding

- Board members work on volunteer basis
- Funding (to be renewed annually) includes 100% of commonly agreed staff costs and a fix amount for running costs
- Partnerships / Sponsoring (no generalised fund raising activities)

Staff

- 1993: 1,5 personnel posts
- 2015: 6,8 personnel posts (= 10 persons)
 - 5,2 posts covered via contract
 - 1,6 posts via alternative funding
- Qualifications: educators, communication officers, administration, cleaning
- 3 staff members with disabilities

Impact of the centre Persons with disabilities and their families:

- individual guidance
- “case management”
- legal information service

- creation of the “guide du handicap”
- newsletter and Websites

Impact of the centre Organisations of and for people with disabilities:

- Thematic working groups linking institutions and user organisations
- Training activities where people with and without disabilities act as trainers
- International cooperation as a permanent driving force and source of inspiration

Impact of the centre

Public institutions and municipalities:

- Identification of communication and/or service barriers
- Promotion of “inclusive approaches” through common activities
- Active participation in local initiatives or conferences

Impact of the centre

General public, employers, architects,
shop owners, transportation services,
etc...:

- awareness raising and legal information
- organisation of thematic conferences
- training activities for diverse target publics
- articles in diverse print media, radio interviews and spots, TV interviews, creation of thematic videos

Critical situations

- One common umbrella organisation for “institutions” and “users”
- Combining “independence” and “public funding”
- Fighting “exclusion mechanisms” and offering “partnerships”
- Having “ambitions” and facing “realities”

Thank you very much for your attention

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