

Country: Luxembourg

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No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/ GOs'/ projects offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with the elderly and frail
426	167	5	1	0	0

Access to health system: During the first 3 months of the asylum procedure, emergency medical treatment and medication is offered free to asylum seekers, while non-urgent treatment must be paid for, except in exceptional circumstances. After the first 3 months, asylum seekers are eligible to the same social security benefits as Luxembourg citizens, which means they are reimbursed 80 per cent of the cost of their health care treatment and medication is subsidized. Refugees have the same access to health care benefits as other citizens in Luxembourg.

Legal Access to mental health care: Mental health care treatment is free for those who have suffered torture or trauma, otherwise asylum seekers must pay for treatment in advance and await partial reimbursement from the government (same as for citizens).

Systematic assessment of mental health needs: there is no systematic assessment of an asylum seeker's mental health care needs.

Main stakeholders in the asylum system: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration; Ministry of Family and Integration; UNHCR; Luxembourg Red Cross; and NGOs such as Caritas, ASTI (Association de soutien au travailleur immigrés), Comité de Liaison des Associations Etrangères, Amnesty International, and ACAT (Actions by Christians for Abolition of Torture).

Country specific features: What drew my attention? If persons can prove that they have suffered torture or trauma, they are eligible for free mental health care, whilst other asylum seekers must incur costs like any other citizen of Luxembourg. It is also interesting to note that there are two organisations that have just developed programs to help professionals in the generalist mental health system to better meet the needs of asylum seekers; Luxembourg Red Cross is one of the first organisations to develop a specialist mental health care program for asylum seekers, which should get underway next year.

Difficulties: It must be difficult for asylum seekers who haven't experienced trauma to access mental health services, given that they must pay up front and only receive back a percentage of the cost.