



MS in Luxembourg



WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 700 of the 626,000¹ people in Luxembourg.

Each person will experience this unpredictable disease differently, but common symptoms often include pain, fatigue, reduced mobility and cognitive dysfunction.

There is currently no cure for MS; however, optimal treatment and support have a significant effect on disease progression and quality of life for people with MS.



PAIN



FATIGUE



REDUCED
MOBILITY

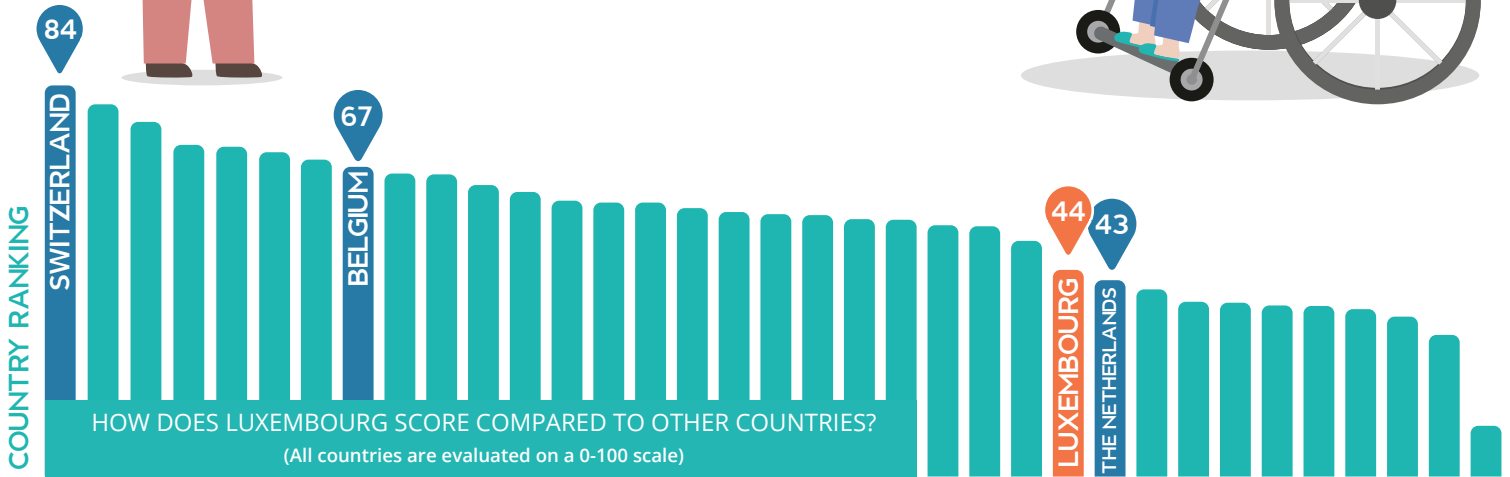


COGNITIVE
DYSFUNCTION

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Healthcare in Luxembourg is highly centralised and is managed by various government ministries.² Spending on healthcare per capita is among the highest in Europe.

The country has compulsory social health insurance that provides coverage for 95% of the population and offers cover for long-term health conditions. While out-of-pocket payments are low, people with severe chronic conditions are exempt from any such payments.





WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?

People with MS have good access to disease-modifying drugs (DMDs) and symptomatic treatments, with full reimbursement of all approved therapies. Luxembourg has launched a national action plan for rare diseases including paediatric MS, and there have been gains in social support for people with MS. However, important gaps remain:



UNKNOWN

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WITH MS THAT ARE RECEIVING DMDs



It is not known what percentage of people with MS are receiving DMDs or different rehabilitation options, as there is no specialised MS centre.

NO

NATIONAL REGISTRY FOR MS



Luxembourg does not have an MS disease registry, and there is poor availability of data for MS.

UNKNOWN

EMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WITH MS

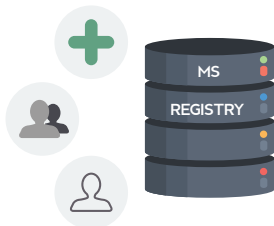


It is not known what percentage of people with MS are in full- or part-time employment.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Develop a national neurological disease plan that includes a comprehensive approach to MS, with an adequate budget for implementation.



Establish a national MS registry with mandatory data collection encompassing clinical, occupational, programme evaluation and patient-reported data.

Expand offerings for people with MS in general rehabilitation centres, create a long-term MS care unit for people with advanced MS and develop a network of MS specialists to improve access to specialist rehabilitation and clinical care.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact info@mssl.lu

EMSP would like to thank the sponsors which have financially supported this project including Ammirall, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, MedDay, Merck, Mylan, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi Genzyme. EMSP retains editorial control of the Barometer.

