



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 493.500 in 2009.
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 155 (at the beginning of September 2007).¹
- Link to Probation Service:
 - www.mj.public.lu (Ministry of Justice).
- Links to websites: -
- Member of the CEP in: 1983.

Characteristics of the Probation Service

- The Central Service of Social Assistance (SCAS) forms part of the prosecution service run by the Attorney General under the authority of the Minister of Justice.
- The SCAS is a centralized non-private organization.
- Within the SCAS, different units dealing with people subject to judicial supervision are grouped together. The Probation unit consists of two different sections:
 - the Probation Service working primarily with offenders in prison and those conditionally released and with suspension of conviction and suspension of pronouncement;
 - a section dealing with community service for adults and juveniles.
- The only volunteers involved in probation work are prison visitors (5), whose work is completely unregulated. Their aim is to visit prisoners and build up a relationship with them. They have no basic training and they are not regularly supervised. At their request, they may keep contact with the offender's probation officer.
- The Probation Service works regularly with the Psycho-Social and Socio-Educational Service (the SPSE). The SPSE is an internal social service for penitentiary establishments, which is responsible for preventive as well as condemned/sentenced detainees.

Tasks

A person kept in pre-trial detention is not allocated to a probation officer, but to a SPSE officer right from the beginning of his/her stay in prison. The SPSE provides support and assistance during pre-trial detention, takes care of free legal aid and contacts a defendant's family. The only task of the Probation

¹ International Centre for Prison Studies (2009), *Prison Brief for Luxembourg*. London: King's College. Available online at: www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icps/worldbrief/

Service is to supervise the conditions imposed on a person by the investigating magistrate. Within the trial and enforcement phase probation officers may be asked to draw up a pre-sentence report. When community service is imposed, the Probation Service together with the attorney general determines the nature of the community service in each individual case. Regarding sentenced prisoners, probation work focuses on the offender's attitude towards the crime for which they have been sentenced. They assess the offender's behaviour in prison, but also provide support and assistance. Furthermore, the probation officers check the purpose of a person who requests to leave prison (for a family visit, job search etc), they write a monthly report to the Attorney General's delegate in case of suspension of a sentence and keep in close contact with the offender's employer when he/she is on semi-liberty. Moreover, at the offender's request, the probation officers deal with aftercare work.

Number of staff

- Average number of staff: 9 (in 2006).
- Daily average number of offenders/clients dealt with: 612 (in 2006).

New developments

- Since 2006, electronic monitoring can be imposed in order to avoid incarceration and reduce the prison (over) population.
- In 2006 judicial control, as an alternative to preventive detention, was introduced. Probation officers supervise the conditions imposed on a person by the investigating magistrate.
- In order to realize Project Equal, the Probation Service has been asked to establish collaboration with other social services. This project, which started in 2005, aims for the employment of marginal persons, including former detainees and persons under judicial scrutiny, with the objective to reintegrate them on the first labour market (the regular labour market).

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-Trial Phase	Trial and Enforcement Phase	Post release Phase
Preparing a Social Enquiry report		x	x
Supervision / assistance etc. to offenders whose cases were conditionally waived	x		
Supervising / organizing etc. community service		x	x
Supervising / organizing training or learning projects		x	x
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol		x	x

treatment programs			
Supervising etc. electronic monitoring		x	
Pre - sentence report		x	
Supervising etc. sanction of probation		x	x
Supervising etc. suspended sentence			x
Supervising etc. semi-liberty		x	
Supervising etc. special measures for drugs addicts		x	x
Supervising etc. conditional sentence			x
Assistance / support to prisoners in prison	x		
Supervising etc. conditional release/parole			x
Advisory report with respect to amnesty / pardon		x	x
Assistance / support to persons who are granted amnesty / pardon.		x	x
Support offender's family		x	x
Coordination of volunteer prison visitors		x	x

This summary is based on the country chapter in the book *Probation in Europe*, the most comprehensive survey of probation systems and services in Europe today. If you wish to order it, please click [here](#).

