

LWV AT A GLANCE

Some brief information on the public
Welfare Association of Hesse





OUR SERVICES

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

The public welfare association of Hesse (LWV) is funded by the districts and by the independent municipalities, on whose behalf it finances social services to physically and mentally disabled citizens, and those facing special social challenges, in their everyday-lives and on the job. These supportive measures are coordinated by LWV employees in Kassel, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

A growing number of disabled citizens - approximately 64,800 in 2022 - in Hesse are eligible for assistance in managing their everyday lives. According to the German Social Code (SGB), the LWV is responsible for providing these services, which include both integration assistance and support in overcoming special social challenges. The objective is to allow disabled citizens to live their lives as independently and self-determinedly as possible. In as far as feasible, they should be able to participate in social life, in their community and their quarter, and to be employed. THE LWV finances supportive measures in all spheres of life, residential, recreational and on the job. The scope of these measures is determined by the goals defined by the disabled client.



FOCUS ON PEOPLE: Together with many other institutions in all of Hesse, the LWV serves the needs of disabled people.

INTEGRATION OFFICE

The Integration Office of Hesse's LWV is partner to more than 100,000 working severely disabled people, and to their employers. Its services are meant to support severely disabled or equivalently challenged citizens in participating in the labour market. Its employees consult with, and provide support to companies intending to set up disabled-accessible workplaces. Special Integration Service (IFD) assistants accompany and support disabled employees to and at their place of work. These services are financed by the so-called equalisation levy. In accordance with SGB IX, companies with 20 or more employees are required to employ a minimum of five percent severely disabled workers. Should they opt not to do so, they are obliged to pay the equalisation levy.

BENEFITS FOR VICTIMS OF WAR AND OF CRIME

A separate section of the LWV serves all victims of war and those injured during military or alternative service, and their families and surviving dependants. The LWV Main Welfare Office advises these clients, and provides financial assistance. It also serves as the contact partner for people with injuries from immunisation and for legally recognised crime victims.

EDUCATION AND EARLY SUPPORT

More than 5,200 children with special education needs are supported by special education counselling centres, schools or by the LWV's supra-regional consulting and support centres. In order for these children to benefit as much as possible from educational programmes the LWV provides facilities and subsidises the purchase of special education equipment. The LWV currently runs 15 special education schools, focusing on children and youths with visual and hearing impairments, emotional, social and mental development, and on providing lessons to children with illnesses, four boarding schools and seven interdisciplinary early education consulting and support centres. Six supra-regional consulting and support centres support young students attending regular schools. The LWV also assists local regular schools in their efforts to educate visually impaired or blind children, by subsidising equipment.

VITOS

The LWV is the sole shareholder of Vitos gGmbH, a corporate holding operating psychiatric hospitals for adults, children and adolescents, and specialised clinics for orthopaedics, neurology and psychosomatics. Vitos also runs hospitals for forensic psychiatry for the treatment of mentally ill or addicted lawbreakers. Vitos is Hesse's largest hospital operator and secures a significant proportion of the state's psychiatric health care. Vitos also includes youth welfare institutions and care services for mentally disabled patients (subsumed under gGmbH Vitos Teilhabe) as well as for psychologically and emotionally disturbed patients (psychiatric out-patient care).

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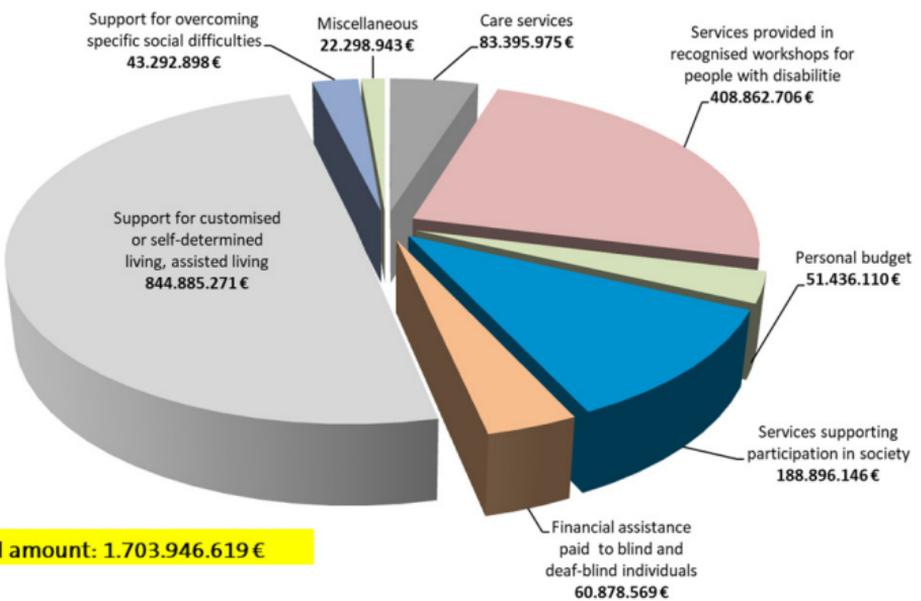
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LWV - FACTS AND FIGURES

FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

The work done by the LWV is primarily funded by the Hessian districts and by the independent municipalities. The so-called *Verbandsumlage* is a levy earmarked for the support of disabled people; from this levy, the LWV will receive 1.569 billion Euros in 2022. Additionally, the LWV receives funds from the municipal revenue sharing, the equalisation levy paid by Hessian companies and a proportion of the budget earmarked for victims of war. A small segment of the LWV's expenses is refunded by other agencies, such as pension funds or accident insurances, health insurance providers and workers' compensation boards. The budget for 2022 is 2.08 billion Euros. The largest part (1.704 billion Euros) is spent on supra-regional integration assistance and on measures for overcoming special social challenges (i. a. homeless women and men). In the face of continuously rising case numbers, the LWV uses individualised services and sound financial management to curb expenditures.

EXPENDITURES INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE & SOCIAL SERVICES





LWW-employee Eckhard Stumm
at his handicapped-accessible place of work.

EMPLOYEES

As of 31 December 2021, the LWV employs a total staff of 1.371 employees, at three administrative centres, in Kassel, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden. An additional 413 employees work at special education centres and schools, and at other institutions. VITOS GmbH employs approximately 11.000 people.

ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY

The Association Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Hesse LWV; it is also called the 'Hessian Social Parliament'. The 75 delegates to the Association Assembly are elected by the district councils, respectively the councils of the independent municipalities. One term of office is five years; the current, 17th term runs from 1 November 2021. Just like any other parliament, the Association Assembly uses expert committees for the preparation of decisions. The Assembly is currently chaired by Friedel Kopp.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee conducts the LWV's business. It may be compared to the magistrates of German cities, or the district committees of Hesse's districts. It includes three fulltime members and 14 volunteer associates. The committee is chaired by State Director Susanne Selbert; Deputy Chair is First Associate Dr Andreas Jürgens, Second Associate Dieter Schütz. All members of the Administrative Committee are elected by the Association Assembly.