



European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

35 Van Elewyck street, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

www.ebco-beoc.org / ebco@ebco-beoc.org / [@ebcobeoc](https://www.instagram.com/ebcobeoc)



Questionnaire for EBCO Annual Report 2024

A. Status of conscription

1. Is conscription into obligatory military service currently applied?
No

B. (Skip if not applicable) Countries with conscription

2. If so, what are the legislative provisions that govern the procedures? Please give full details.
3. What is the minimum age for conscription?
4. What is the duration of military service?
5. What provision is there for the exemption of conscientious objectors?
6. What proportion of conscripts sign up for subsequent voluntary service?
7. What reservist obligations apply, what is the call up procedure for reserve service?
8. How many persons were prosecuted in recent years for evasion/refusal of military service? How many of these had declared conscientious objections? What were the outcomes, and what sentences were imposed?

C. (Skip if not applicable) Countries without conscription

9. Has any legislation regarding obligatory military service (conscription) been abolished, or has it merely been suspended, meaning that it could be reimposed at any time?
Any legislation regarding obligatory military service is abolished.
10. Is there an ongoing registration procedure for those liable for military service? Is it possible for a conscientious objector to refuse to be registered? From what age is registration required?
No
11. If suspended, are there specific provisions regarding the circumstances in which it could be reinstated and the process to be followed?
12. Would reinstatement mean that previous legislation regarding conscientious objection would remain applicable? If so, please answer sections F and G with regard to such legislation.

D. School system

13. Is attendance at any days of introduction to the armed forces or military careers or other programmes which could be seen as preparatory to military recruitment an obligatory part of the secondary education curriculum?
No
14. Do the armed forces have access to personal data of students?
No
15. Do military institutions offer temporary programs to students aged under 18 to learn more about military careers?

Since the start of the school year in September 2016, Preparation Courses for the Luxembourg Army (**COPRAL**) have been offered by the Lycée Technique d'Ettelbruck to prepare young people for the selection tests for admission to voluntary service in the Army. These courses aim to increase candidates' chances of success in the Army selection test.

16. Are military personnel involved in teaching classes at schools, on a temporary or long term basis?

The COPRAL classes are taught one day per week by military personnel to provide an overview of military activities and to prepare for the physical fitness test during recruitment.

E. Voluntary recruitment into military service

17. What incentives or measures are used by the national armed forces to encourage voluntary recruitment? (financial incentives, scholarships, career prospects, advertising, etc.)

Financial incentives, career training programs, career prospects, advertising

- Free meals, equipment, and accommodation
- Free medical care
- Demobilization bonus when leaving the Army
- Reintegration phase, after the military phase, which offers the possibility of improving the educational level
- Voluntary soldiers who have successfully completed their military service may benefit from priority during recruitment for public sector jobs.

18. What is the minimum age for recruitment?

18

19. What was the total first-time military recruitment in recent years? Please disaggregate by age, gender and (if appropriate) whether as conscripts or volunteers.

Over the past three years, recruitment averaged 176 people per year. The average age was 20 years, and 6% were women.

20. What legislation governs voluntary recruitment into military service?

Loi du 7 août 2023 sur l'organisation de l'Armée luxembourgeoise

21. What is the duration of service initially required?

48 months

22. What proportion of recruits sign up for a second period of the same length or longer?

After the initial 4-year period of military service, it is only possible to re-enlist 5 times for one year each.

23. How many persons were called up for reserve service, and of what duration?

None

F. Application process for recognition of conscientious objectors

24. What process is used to decide upon applications for the recognition of conscientious objectors?

25. What information is provided to conscripts regarding the possibility of applying for recognition?

26. What body is responsible for deciding upon applications?

27. Who sits in the responsible body?

28. In recent years, how many applications were received? How many were successful on first consideration; how many unsuccessful applications were appealed, and with what results?

29. Are you able to indicate on which grounds any were rejected?

30. How can the decision be appealed?

31. What are the legal provisions for those who also refuse to perform alternative service?

G. Terms of alternative service

- 32. If alternative service is / would be required of conscientious objectors, under what authority are the arrangements administered?
- 33. What is the duration of alternative service?
- 34. To what duration of military service would the objector otherwise have been liable?
- 35. What is the rate of remuneration?
- 36. How does the rate of remuneration compare to that of military conscripts?
- 37. Which bodies offer alternative service placements?
- 38. Are conscientious objectors assigned to placements, or do they have a free choice?
- 39. Is it possible to perform alternative service while continuing to live at one's permanent address?

H. Conscientious objection during military service of conscripts/volunteers

40. What legislation or regulations would apply to the case of a serving member of the armed forces who applied for release having developed conscientious objection?

Loi du 7 août 2023 sur l'organisation de l'Armée luxembourgeoise

Art.78.

The recruit can obtain release from his commitment during the basic training phase without providing reasons.

Art.93.

1) Before admission to the reintegration period, the voluntary soldier of the Army can obtain release from his commitment or re-engagement for personal or professional reasons upon a motivated request and with one month's notice. The decision of the minister granting the release specifies the date on which it takes effect.

(2) The voluntary soldier of the Army can obtain release from his commitment or re-engagement for imperative reasons. The decision of the minister granting the release specifies the date on which it takes effect.

(3) The voluntary soldier of the Army who is admitted to a military career training stage with the Army is automatically released from his commitment or re-engagement.

41. What procedures are followed in the event of an application?

The SdtVol informs his Platoon Leader of his intention to submit an application. No later than the following day, the Platoon Leader informs the Coy Commander.

The individuals involved in the decision-making process for the application are:

- The voluntary soldier is received by the Coy Commander as early as the next day (Day D+1) and no later than Day D+5.
- The Coy Commander notifies the Psychological Office.
- The Coy Commander notifies the Career Transition Office.
- The Coy Commander notifies the Social Worker (when the individual does not have a certificate of employment or acceptance into a school or training institution).
- The Coy Commander notifies the chaplain (no later than Day D+5).

42. What information is available to serving personnel about the right of conscientious objection and the means of applying for release?

During the first week of service, the voluntary soldier is informed of all their rights and duties.

43. Have any such cases been recorded in recent years? Please give details of the number of applications, the number of acceptances.

43% of recruits leave the Army during basic training, either voluntarily or because they do not succeed.

33% of voluntary soldiers leave the Army during their military phase.

44. Give details, if relevant, of the grounds for any rejections.

There were no rejections.

45. How many persons were prosecuted for desertion? Were any of these persons who had declared themselves conscientious objectors? What was the outcome, and what sentences were imposed?

There were no prosecutions for desertion.

I. Conscientious objection after military service

46. What legislation or regulations would apply to the case of a reservist who applied for recognition as a conscientious objector?

47. Have any persons sought to refuse reserve service on this basis in recent years? With what results?

Not applicable (no reserve forces)

J. Asylum for conscientious objectors

48. Would it be possible for you to obtain statistics on approvals/rejections of those asylum applications in your country that were citing conscientious objection?

No

K. Developments since last year

[Here you can find the information published in last year's Report.](#)

49. What legislative changes have happened within the last year?

No major legislative changes on this matter have happened over the last year.

50. Is there any legal initiative undergoing at the Parliament or any other state body which concerns the military service, the right to conscientious objection, or related issues?

At the moment, some regulations are being drafted to define various recruitment matters in more detail.

51. Anything else that you would like to report?

EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.