HR – Country information

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

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FRANET contractor: Croatian Law Centre

1. **STRUCTURE INDICATORS**

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| **Structure indicators** | **Source and supporting information** |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 29? Please give details of any reservation. | 15 Aug 2007[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 12? Please give details of any reservation. | 15 Aug 2007[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 9? Please give details of any reservation. | 15 Aug 2007[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Please indicate the legislation which applies to European Parliament and municipal elections in your country. Please highlight possible amendments in view of the 2014 European Parliament elections.  Does the same law apply for national, federal, local and regional elections, and referendums? | European Parliament elections: Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament.[[4]](#footnote-4)  Article 4 of the 2013 amendments[[5]](#footnote-5) modified the original Art. 5(2) to remove the exclusion of candidates who are non-national EU citizens and those who have lost legal capacity by a final court decision.  Municipal elections: 2012 Act on Local Elections[[6]](#footnote-6).  Parliamentary elections: Act on the Elections of Representatives to the Croatian Parliament[[7]](#footnote-7)  Presidential elections: Act on Presidential Elections[[8]](#footnote-8)  Referenda: Act on the Referendum and Other Forms of Personal Participation in Government and Local and Regional Self-Government[[9]](#footnote-9). |
| Is there a requirement under law to register to vote? If so, please specify the relevant legislation. | The Act on Voter Registry, which came into force in December 2012 (*Zakon o registru birača*)[[10]](#footnote-10) defines all issues in relation to voter registration and lists of voters. Art. 11 stipulates that entries in the register of voters shall be made on the basis of data from the records of citizenship, data collections/data basis on permanent residence and domicile, and records of travel documents.  The voters’ register is a collection of personal data on voting rights of all persons with voting rights in the Republic of Croatia. After the registry is completed and closed, a list of voters is drawn up based on it. The list of voters serves as a basis for voting at elections and in referenda.  For local elections and local referenda, EU citizens who are non-nationals are entered into the listing of voters based on their place of permanent or temporary residence after request. |
| Is there any limitation foreseen by law which could affect the right of persons with disabilities to vote in European Parliament and municipal elections? Please give details of any restrictions on the right to vote of persons with disabilities, including any link between a particular type of impairment (e.g. psychosocial/intellectual disability) or substituted decision making (e.g. loss of legal capacity, placement under guardianship)and the right to vote in elections.  Does the same law regarding voting rights apply for national, local/regional elections and referendums? | The new Act on Voter Registry removed the exclusion of persons divested of legal capacity from the right to vote. Its article 64 states: “Persons fully divested of legal capacity by a final decision of a competent court in the period preceding the coming into force of this Act shall be considered voters and shall be entered into the voters’ register”.  This provision annuls the exclusionary effect of the previous Act on Voter Lists (*Zakon o popisima birača*)[[11]](#footnote-11) , that specified in its article 2 that Croatian citizens aged 18 and older were entered in the voters’ list, except for those who had been divested of legal capacity by a final court decision.  In its written justification of the final draft of the act, the Ministry of Public Administration states that it has reacted to criticism by the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities (*Pravobraniteljica za osobe s invaliditetom*) and secured voting rights for persons without legal capacity.[[12]](#footnote-12) Namely, the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities has written and made publically available a letter to the Ministry of Public Administration regarding the limitation of voting rights and the participation of persons with disability.[[13]](#footnote-13) The Ombudsman has also written a warning to competent parliamentary committees on exclusions contained in the earlier draft version of the new act.[[14]](#footnote-14)  The only law that still excludes persons who were denied legal capacity by a final court decision from the group of eligible voters is the Act on the Elections of Representatives to the Croatian Parliament *(Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor)[[15]](#footnote-15).* Plans regarding amendments in that respect have been reported by some NGOs.[[16]](#footnote-16) |
| Is there legislation in place regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote? | In general, the legislation provides that any eligible voter who cannot come to the polling station due to serious illness, physical impairment or infirmity can vote at home, if he/she requests it.[[17]](#footnote-17)  The amended article 38 of the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament[[18]](#footnote-18) states that the Minister competent for social welfare shall assign polling stations for persons in long term residential social welfare institutions. For European Parliament elections, the Minister issued a decision for polling stations to be organized in 13 such institutions (which are caring for persons older than 18), out of the total of 253 This number includes institutions for persons with intellectual disability, institutions for adults with psychiatric disabilities, housing for the elderly and institutions for education of children and juvenile that were of full age at the moment of election announcement. The reasoning behind the decision to set up 13 polling stations was to maximally decrease the number of people voting at polling stations within institutions and to maximally encourage voting at regular polling stations, together with other citizens (principle of social inclusion). The selected 13 institutions were singled out because it was assessed that due to remote location and some other circumstances, it would not be possible for residents to vote in regular polling stations in towns and municipalities in which the institutions are located.  Furthermore, in order to facilitate the participation in the election process for persons to whom some sort of care is provided, all service providers, both institutional and non-institutional, were provided with detailed and concrete guidelines on actions they have to undertake and on support they have to provide for users, so that they can enjoy their voting right.  Also, if any of these persons was not able to come to the polling station, it was ensured that the election committee came to the room where the person resides.[[19]](#footnote-19)  For local elections, voting is only possible in specific polling stations based on the permanent residence. If the place of permanent residence differs from the location of the long term institutions, residents would have to travel and would not be able to vote at the location of temporary residence based on temporary voter registration.[[20]](#footnote-20) |
| Is there a duty under law to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in voting procedures? For example, is there a duty to provide assistance at the polling station (e.g. braille or large print ballot papers, independent support person to assist with voting chosen by the person with a disability) or to allow for alternative means of voting (e.g. postal ballots, voting in advance, home-based voting, voting at institutions, mobile voting)? | To specify the rules and procedure related to provisions regulating voting of persons with disability (and some other categories of voters, such as illiterate voters and voters who cannot access the polling place), the National Elections Committee (*Državno izborno povjerenstvo*) issues mandatory instructions for local committees. The instructions, issued for all elections, specify that a voter who is not able to fill the ballot by him/herself due to physical impairment or illiteracy can be accompanied by a person of trust. The mandatory instructions also specify the procedure in cases when a voter cannot come to the polling place. Based on a voter’s request, and providing that it can do it without causing disturbance to voting at the polling station, the polling committee shall send at least two of its members to voter’s residence.[[21]](#footnote-21) If a voter comes to a polling place, but cannot access the polling station due to lack of accessibility, two members of the polling committee shall meet the voter in front of the polling place and ensure that he/she can vote, assuring secrecy of voting[[22]](#footnote-22).  In the 2010 act regulating European Parliament elections[[23]](#footnote-23), a possibility to vote using ballots in Braille had been introduced. This is upon request to the local election committee up to 30 days prior to election day. However, the Amendments to the Act provided that voting material in Braille would not be available during 2013 elections.[[24]](#footnote-24) In preparation for the 2014 European Parliament elections, the law was amended again, and the Proposal of the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Prijedlog zakona o izmjenama i dopunama* *Zakona o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*) has been adopted by the Parliament on the 22nd of November 2013.[[25]](#footnote-25)  According to article 10 of the proposal, blind persons have two options: to cast a vote via an accompanying person or to vote independently using a special matrix. Specifically, a ballot in Braille is posted in a polling station, and is used in conjunction with a stencil. This stencil is placed on top of a ‘regular’ ballot and allows voters to identify their voting choice by counting the number of holes. |
| Is there a duty under law for public and private providers of internet and web-based information to ensure that public information is subject to accessibility requirements (e.g. equivalent to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA standard) | Article 24 (4) of the Act on Electronic Communications[[26]](#footnote-26) (which includes networks, infrastructure and equipment, but not the end product i.e. websites and webpages)provides that electronic communication network, electronic communication infrastructure and other related equipment has to be planned, engineered, set and installed in a manner that assures accessibility of public electronic communication services to persons with disability.  The electronic communications services, regulated by this Act, are defined in Art. 2(1) as services that consist wholly or mainly of signal transmission via electronic communications networks, including telecommunications services and transmission services in the broadcasting networks, and do not include service of content provision and editorial control over the content transmitted using electronic communications networks and services.  There is no duty under law for the National Election Committee (NEC) (*Državno izborno povjerenstvo*) to ensure that the public information provided is subject to accessibility requirements.[[27]](#footnote-27) |
| Is there a duty under law for public and private providers of media (including newspapers, TV, radio and internet) to ensure that their information and communications are subject to accessibility requirements? | Article 14 of the Electronic Media Act[[28]](#footnote-28) provides that the Council for Electronic Media (*Vijeće za elektroničke medije*) acting as a statutory body, will encourage providers of audio-visual media services to gradually make their services accessible for persons with hearing and visual impairments.  In its article 2 (1), the Act defines electronic media as: audio-visual programs, radio programs and electronic publications. Electronic publications are defined as edited content published daily or periodically on the internet by providers of electronic publications with information and educational purposes.  Furthermore, article 6(2) of the Act on Croatian Radio-television (*Zakon o Hrvatskoj radioteleviziji*)[[29]](#footnote-29), states that Croatian Radio-Television is required “to gradually make accessible their audio-visual media services for persons with hearing and visual impairments.”Art. 9(1) specifies that the public service of Croatian Radio-television includes the obligation of the institution to produce programs fulfilling the democratic, social and cultural needs of the Croatian society, guaranteeing pluralism, including cultural and linguistic diversity. In that context, Art. 9(2) specifically lists the obligation to adapt, produce, co-produce and publish/broadcast programs for persons with disabilities and children with disabilities and encourage the translation to the Croatian Sign Language. The Act does not specify other types of adaptions that are required.  Article 46 of the contract between Croatian radio-television and the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the period from the 1st of January 2013 to the 31st of December 2017 (*Ugovor između Hrvatske radiotelevizije i Vlade Republike Hrvatske za razdoblje od 1. siječnja 2013. do 31. prosinca 2017.*)[[30]](#footnote-30), specifies that Croatian radio shall produce and broadcast on national channels at least 20 special programs for persons and children with disabilities per year, and at least 100 such programs on regional channels. Croatian television shall produce a weekly program for persons with disabilities, and cover issues relevant to disabled war veterans in its programs for war veterans.  The same article specifies that Croatian Television shall adapt some news, religious issues and other programs to deaf persons through translation into the Croatian Sign Language or sthrough subtitles, with an obligation to increase the proportion of such programs wherever possible within its production process. |
| Does the law foresee training for election authorities and election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation? | The election legislation and the Act on the National Elections Committee (NEC)[[31]](#footnote-31) acting as the permanent public body responsible for carrying out elections and election monitoring implementation, do not specifically foresee for training of election committees on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. However, in training sessions for election committee members, the NEC does specifically give instructions on how to deal with voters with disabilities in terms of protecting their voting rights. There is a legal obligation for NEC to conduct such trainings, but not for committee members to go through it before involvement in elections.  Additionally, the NEC also publishes and distributes a Memorandum on election committee activities (*Podsjetnik za rad biračkih odbora*)[[32]](#footnote-32) to committees, specifying voting procedure for persons with disabilities. |
| Does the national strategy/action plan on disability cover the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | The *Croatian National Strategy of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2007-2015* addresses civil and political participation of persons with disabilities in Chapter 2.11, entitled ‘Participation in political and public life’. The chapter lists ‘the following objectives:   * + create conditions for the environment in which persons with disabilities would be able to take part in political life as equal citizens;   + promote participation of persons with disabilities in all forms of public life and all processes of political participation on local, regional, national and international level;   + include persons with disabilities and non-governmental organisations of persons with disabilities in preparation of public policy measures relating to persons with disabilities;   + promote participation of persons with disabilities in the activities of political parties;   + increase representation of persons with disabilities in representative bodies of local and regional self-government and on the national level;   + promote participation of women, young persons with disabilities in political activities on all levels.   Significantly, the Strategy also identifies measures through which these objectives are to be realised:   * + provide technical support or other forms of assistance so that fundamental documents significant for political participation on local, regional and national level could be available to interested persons with disabilities;   + research attitudes of member of all representative bodies on political dimensions of disability and inclusion of persons with various kinds of impairments into political life;   + monitor equal participation of persons with disabilities regarding realisation of their voting rights;   + inform representatives of judiciary and executive authorities, state and public officials and wider public about basic principles and ways of inclusion of persons with disabilities in political and public life of the community;   + implement a campaign for promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;   + implement research on public representation of persons with disabilities through organisations and their associations and recommend efficient and fair representation of their various interests and needs;   + promote participation of women and younger persons with disabilities in public and political activities on all levels;   + provide additional formal and non-formal education of persons with disabilities with the objective of strengthening inclusion in public and political life. |
| Are all persons with disabilities, including those who have been deprived of their legal capacity, able to access redress and complaint mechanisms in cases where they have not been able to exercise the right to vote? | Specific redress and complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities are not regulated. Each individual voter, including persons deprived of their legal capacity, who believes that his/her voting rights have been violated, can contact the National Election Committee or other election committee and lodge a complaint immediately.[[33]](#footnote-33) |

1. **PROCESS INDICATORS**

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| **Process indicators** | **Source and supporting information** |
| Are there mechanisms in place to ensure that disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) are consulted and involved in the development of laws and policies in electoral matters? Please give details of the mechanisms through which DPOs are involved. | In Croatia, there are several mechanisms that allow for consultation of interested public in the development of laws and policies, including DPOs. These include public debates, internet consultations, participation of civil society representatives in working groups drafting legislation, regulatory impact assessment etc.  There is no obligation to consult DPOs in electoral matters. |
| Have national judicial redress mechanisms considered any cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities?  Please give details of relevant case law and any available data on the number of such cases. | There have not been any key judicial decisions in this area. The Office of the Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities (*Ured pravobraniteljice za osobe s invaliditetom*) is not aware of any court decisions in this area in the last 10 years.[[34]](#footnote-34) |
| Have national non-judicial redress mechanisms (e.g. National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies, Ombuds institutions) considered any cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities?  Please give details of relevant case law and any available data on the number of such cases. | No complaints related to infringements of the right to political participation of persons with disabilities were recorded in 2012. In relation to the local elections of the 19th of May 2013, two such complaints were recorded but, according to the NEC, the complaints were not lodged in time for the problem to be redressed.[[35]](#footnote-35)  The Office of the Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities received the same two complaints. The Office communicated its written recommendation to the NEC in order to prevent infringements in future elections.[[36]](#footnote-36)  Furthermore, on the 13th of February 2012, Office of the Ombudswoman for Disability sent a written opinion and recommendation to the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministarstvo uprave*) in relation to the electoral legislation. In summary, the recommendations were:  - to introduce legal provisions that would assure accessibility of polling stations and support for persons with disability, including those with motoric problems, visual and hearing impairment, and persons with intellectual impairments;  - to introduce legal provisions that would allow the exercise of voting rights for persons living in long-term residential social welfare institutions in a manner similar to that provided for other categories of voters located outside of their permanent residence place on the election day;  - to guarantee active and passive voting rights for persons deprived of legal capacity, in accordance with the CRPD.  On the 4th of September 2012, the Office of the Ombudswoman for Disability sent a written opinion and recommendation in relation to the draft of the Act on Voter Registry to the Ministry of Public Administration, asking for the provisions facilitating registration for users of all residential social welfare institutions, as well as the removal of exclusionary provisions in relation to persons deprived of legal capacity.  On the 4th of October 2012, the Office of the Ombudswoman for Disability sent a written opinion and recommendation in relation to the draft of the Act on Voter Registry to the Croatian Parliament, and competent parliamentary committees to demand the nullification of exclusionary provisions related to persons deprived of legal capacity. [[37]](#footnote-37) |
| Is information about how and where to complain in the case of problems with exercising the right to political participation accessible to all persons with disabilities? | The website of the NEC (<http://www.izbori.hr>) does not contain a banner for information on how to complain.  There is also no formalized procedure: every voter who has a complaint can lodge it to the local election committee and the NEC. There is no specific procedure for persons with disability to lodge a complaint, but they can address the competent election committee or the NEC by any means of communication.[[38]](#footnote-38) |

1. **OUTCOME INDICATORS**

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| **Outcome indicators** | **Source and supporting information** |
| What was the voter turnout rate for persons with disabilities in the most recent municipal elections and in the 2009 European Parliament elections? How does this compare with the voter turnout rate among the general population?  What was the voter turnout rate for persons with disabilities in the most recent national elections? How does this compare with the voter turnout rate among the general population? | There is no obligation in Croatian election law to record or collect data on voting by persons with disabilities. Therefore, no such data exists. [[39]](#footnote-39)  However, each election committee at every polling station does have to register the number of times a voter requested to vote at home (some of them due to disability), as well every time a voter was accompanied by a person of trust to assist him/her in voting (some of them due to disability). Both of these categories include voters who are not persons with disabilities. Additionally, not all persons with disabilities need the mentioned mechanisms to vote.  The European Parliament elections in 2013 were the first elections that allowed persons deprived of legal capacity to vote, due to the fact that the new Act on Voter Registry (*Zakon o registru birača*) came into force..  In preparation for these elections, the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth surveyed 68 residential institutions accommodating persons with disabilities over 18 years old. Responses were received from 39 out of 68 institutions. Due to the larger size of responding institutions, 5298 out of 5878 or 90.13% of the overall population of residents was covered by the responses. Of 3620 residents who were deprived of legal capacity, 840 or 23.20% voted.[[40]](#footnote-40) Of all residents, 21.8% voted.  In the general voter population, according to the complete unofficial results, voter turnout rate was 20.84%.[[41]](#footnote-41)  For local elections, all voters, including persons living in social care institutions and group family homes can vote only at the polling station in their place of domicile. Therefore, voting was not organized in residential social welfare institutions, and data on voting was consequently not collected.[[42]](#footnote-42) |
| How many members of the current national parliament identify as having a disability? | According to the Croatian Parliament, there are 151 active mandates in the current 7th assembly. However, the data on disability status is only available for 135 representatives who are employees of the Parliament. Of those 135, 7 have declared a disability status.[[43]](#footnote-43) |
| How many members of current municipal governments identify as having a disability? | Association of towns in the Republic of Croatia *(Udruga gradova u Republici Hrvatskoj*) does not have the data on how many members of current town governments identify as having a disability.[[44]](#footnote-44)  Neither does the Association of Municipalities (*Udruga općina*) collect this data, however it surveyed its members upon request for information in preparation of this report. They received 54 responses, out of 428 municipalities[[45]](#footnote-45), i.e. a response rate of 12,61%. Among responding municipalities, 6 responded having one member self-identifying as a person with disabilities.[[46]](#footnote-46) |
| What proportion of polling stations is accessible for persons with disabilities? Please indicate whether polling stations are accessible for all persons with disabilities or for particular impairment groups e.g. persons with visual, hearing, physical impairments etc.) | Information is not available, and the NEC does not have information on the number of accessible polling stations, regardless of the type of impairment.[[47]](#footnote-47)  The individual election laws in Croatia regulate the issues related to polling stations in a practical identical way, including their distribution and physical characteristics. Specifically, regarding decisions on where to establish a polling station, criteria of the number of voters, accessibility, spatial distribution of polling stations, and size of the room designated for voting have to be considered.[[48]](#footnote-48) |
| Does the website to provide instructions for voting and information on candidates run by the ministry responsible for organising elections meet accessibility standards (e.g. equivalent to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA standard)? | Official internet pages of the National Election Committee, as websites where official election information is published do not meet accessibility standards that would make it accessible to all persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment[[49]](#footnote-49) NEC websites allow for text to be resized, and for contrast to be enhanced.  Websites of the Ministry of Public Administration allow for text to be resized.  According to the Ministry of Public Administration, procurement of IT solutions for official websites of public authorities is conducted through the process of public procurement. Responsible IT professionals are following developments in the area of the development of technical standards. Accordingly, WCAG or WCAG 2.0 standards are typically mentioned in technical specifications and documentation within the scope of public procurement.[[50]](#footnote-50) |
| What proportion of main public and/or private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has national language subtitles? | The Ministry of Public Administration, in collaboration with the Public Relations Service of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (*Služba za odnose s javnošću Vlade Republike Hrvatske*) and the NEC created an informational video on the European parliament elections and an additional video on voter lists. These two videos did not have national language subtitles.[[51]](#footnote-51)  In terms of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates, official information is not available.[[52]](#footnote-52)  Election information in the context of news was not adapted to be made accessible to persons with disabilities, nor were the special election programs on the 4th channel. However, four news shows every day have national language subtitles through teletext service.[[53]](#footnote-53)  Following NOVA TV, a private television broadcast, their news programs are not subtitled, but they provide news information through so-called “crawls”, which is moving text at the bottom of the screen that is unrelated to the current content of the program.[[54]](#footnote-54) |
| What proportion of main public and/or private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has audio description? | The Ministry of Public Administration, in collaboration with the Public Relations Service of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (*Služba za odnose s javnošću Vlade Republike Hrvatske*) and the NEC created an informational video on the European parliament elections and an additional video on voter lists. In these two videos, full information was provided.[[55]](#footnote-55)  In terms of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates, official information is not available.[[56]](#footnote-56)  In terms of the First program of the Croatian radio, there were programs providing election information, as follows:  European elections: On the 21st of March, summary lists of candidates were read. The program lasted 50 minutes (3.57% of the daily program). From the 25th of March to the 12th of April, party lists and candidates were presented for 55 minutes each day (3.81%), with an additional 30 minute program on the 25th of March.  In the election night, programs totalling 185 minutes were broadcasted on the 14th of April (12.8%), and 60 minutes were broadcasted after midnight, on the 15th of April (4.16%).  Local elections: In the election night, programs totalling 240 minutes were broadcasted on the 19th of May (16.6%), and 60 minutes were broadcasted after midnight, on the 20th of May (4.16%).[[57]](#footnote-57)  Public TV programs devoted to election information were not made accessible to persons with hearing impairments, that is, programs were not subtitled or translated to sign language.  Furthermore, following Nova TV, a private television broadcast, all their news shows provide full audio description.[[58]](#footnote-58) |
| What proportion of main public and/or private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has sign language interpretation? | The Ministry of Public Administration, in collaboration with the Public Relations Service of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (*Služba za odnose s javnošću Vlade Republike Hrvatske*) and the NEC created an informational video on the European parliament elections and an additional video on voter lists.[[59]](#footnote-59)  In terms of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates, official information is not available.[[60]](#footnote-60)  Election information in the context of news was not adapted to make it accessible to persons with disabilities, nor were the special election programs on the 4th channel.[[61]](#footnote-61)  Furthermore, NOVA TV, a private television broadcast, does not provide sign language interpretation of any of their programs.[[62]](#footnote-62) |
| How many political parties, out of the total who participated in the most recent European Parliament and municipal elections, made their manifesto/campaign material accessible to persons with disabilities (e.g. large print, braille, easy-to-read, audio versions etc)? | Official information is not available. For the purposes of this research, information was requested from 16 parties, including all parliamentary parties and those who received 2% or more of votes in the European Parliament elections either by themselves or in coalitions. Of those 16 parties, 7 responded.[[63]](#footnote-63) Of the 7 parties that responded, none made their manifesto/campaign material accessible to persons with disabilities, either for European or for local elections.[[64]](#footnote-64) |
| What proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities? | Following the Ministry of Public Administration, there is no data available on what proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings are accessible to persons with disabilities.[[65]](#footnote-65)  The Croatian Union of Counties (*Hrvatska zajednica županija*) does not have the data on what proportion of county buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities.[[66]](#footnote-66)  The Association of towns in the Republic of Croatia *(Udruga gradova u Republici Hrvatskoj*) does not have the data on what proportion of town administration buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities.[[67]](#footnote-67)  The Association of Municipalities (*Udruga općina*) does not collect this data, but surveyed its members upon request for this report.[[68]](#footnote-68)  They received 54 responses, out of 428 municipalities[[69]](#footnote-69)which is a response rate of 12,61%.  Among responding municipalities: 14 reported municipal buildings being fully accessible,[[70]](#footnote-70) 10 reported buildings being partially accessible, with the percentage ranging from about 10% to 90% and in the remaining municipalities, municipal buildings are not accessible at all. One municipality reported that upon phone request, municipal employees met persons with disabilities in the accessible municipal hall. Another municipality reported that the public library, located in the same building, has a ramp. Finally, a municipality responded that municipal employees assist persons with disabilities to enter the offices in absence of the proper access.[[71]](#footnote-71) |
| How many complaints related to infringements of the right to political participation of persons with disabilities were recorded in 2012? What proportion of these complaints was successful? | No complaints related to infringements of the right to political participation of persons with disabilities were recorded in 2012. In relation to the local elections of the 19th of May 2013, two such complaints were recorded but, according to the NEC, the complaints were not lodged in time for the problem to be redressed.  The Office of the Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities received the same two complaints. The Office communicated its written recommendation to the NEC in order to prevent infringements in future elections.  Furthermore, the Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (*Zajednica saveza osoba s invaliditetom Hrvatske (SOIH)*) has not received any complaints in 2012, in relation to either 2013 European Parliament or local elections.[[72]](#footnote-72) |

1. <http://www.un.org/disabilities/countries.asp?navid=12&pid=166>; <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.un.org/disabilities/countries.asp?navid=12&pid=166>; <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.un.org/disabilities/countries.asp?navid=12&pid=166>; <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Croatia (2010), Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Zakon o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*), Official Gazette (*Narodne novine*) No. 92/10; No. 23/13. Available in Croatian at: <http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2010_07_92_2591.html> and <http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013_02_23_382.html> (all links last accessed on 2 August 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Croatia, Proposal of the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Prijedlog zakona o izmjenama i dopunama* *Zakona o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*) (2013) available at: www.sabor.hr/prijedlog-zakona-o-izmjenama-i-dopunama-zakona-o-i. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
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56. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
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59. Information obtained from the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministarstvo javne uprave*) (2013).. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Information obtained from the Croatian Radio-Television (*Hrvatska radiotelevizija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
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63. Two biggest parties in terms of parliamentary seats, Social Democratic Party of Croatia (*Socijaldemokratska partija Hrvatske (SDP))* and Croatian Democratic Union (*Hrvatska demokratska zajednica (HDZ)*) did not respond. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Information obtained from the [Croatian Labourists - Labour Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_Labourists_-_Labour_Party) (*Hrvatski laburisti – Stranka rada*) , the [Croatian Peasant Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_Labourists_-_Labour_Party) (*Hrvatska seljačka stranka*), the [Croatian People’s Party- Liberal Democrats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_Labourists_-_Labour_Party) (*Hrvatska narodna stranka – liberalni demokrati*), the [Croatian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatian_Labourists_-_Labour_Party) Social-Liberal Party (*Hrvatska socijalno-liberalna stranka*), the Independent Democratic Serb Party (*Samostalna demokratska srpska stranka*), the Istrian Democratic Assembly (*Istarski demokratski sabor*) and the Youth Action (*Akcija mladih*). [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Information obtained from the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministarstvo javne uprave*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Information obtained from the Croatian Union of Counties (*Hrvatska zajednica županija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. Information obtained from the Association of towns in the Republic of Croatia (*Udruga gradova u Republici Hrvatskoj*) (2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Please note that the term accessibility is typically colloquially understood to refer to wheelchair access, and that data reported likely also refers, at least in part, to accessibility to persons with physical/motoric impairment. [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Data on municipalities available at: http://www.uprava.hr/default.aspx?id=12. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. According to Art. 7 of the Ordinance on ensuring accessibility of buildings to persons with disability and persons with limited mobility (***Pravilnik o osiguranju pristupačnosti*** građevina osobama s invaliditetom i smanjenom pokretljivosti), Official Gazzete (Narodne novine) Nos. 151/05, 61/07, mandatory elements of accessibility include: elements of accessibility in terms of overcoming differences in elevation; elements of accessibility connected to independent living; and, elements of accessibility related to public transport. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. Information obtained from the Association of Municipalities (*Udruga općina*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Information obtained from the Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (*Zajednica saveza osoba s invaliditetom Hrvatske*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-72)