NL – Country information

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

DISCLAIMER: The background country information reports contain background material for the comparative report on *The right to political participation for persons with disabilities: human rights indicators* by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The bulk of the information in the background country information reports comes from ad hoc information reports prepared under contract by the FRA’s research network FRANET. The views expressed in the background country information reports do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. These reports are made publicly available for information purposes only and do not constitute legal advice or legal opinion.

FRANET contractor: Art.1, Dutch knowledge centre discrimination

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. | Signed on 30 Mar 2007, not yet ratified[[1]](#footnote-1)  The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has published two draft bills on the ratification of the CRPD for the purposes of online consultation: a Ratification Act (*Goedkeuringswet*) stipulating the enactment of the CRPD for the Netherlands[[2]](#footnote-2) and an Implementation Act (*Uitvoeringswet*) defining the legal reforms necessary for CRPD ratification.[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 12? Please give details of any reservation. | Signed on 30 Mar 2007, not yet ratified[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 9? Please give details of any reservation. | Signed on 30 Mar 2007, not yet ratified[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| 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? | **The Electoral Code** (*Kieswet*) stipulates all regulations pertaining to elections in the Netherlands.  It defines organisational arrangements, such as the existence of the electoral council (*Kiesraad*), and issues such as eligibility and inscription of political parties. The same law applies for all different levels of elections:  - section II applies to national, regional and local elections  - section V applies to elections for the European Parliament  - section Va applies to elections in the overseas territories of Caribbean Netherlands (BES islands).[[6]](#footnote-6) |
| Is there a requirement under law to register to vote? If so, please specify the relevant legislation. | There is no requirement to register to vote.  Polling cards are sent out to every eligible person registered in the municipal registration. All Dutch nationals aged 18 or older and all EU-nationals resident in a municipality aged 18 or older are eligible to vote in municipal elections and European parliament elections.[[7]](#footnote-7)  It is mandatory to be registered in the municipal registration system, as stipulated by the Act on Municipal Personal Records (*Wet gemeentelijke basisadministratie persoonsgegevens*), articles 65-77.[[8]](#footnote-8) |
| 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 right to vote is granted by the constitution and specified in the election law.  Persons with disabilities (whether physical or intellectual) are allowed to vote in the Netherlands.  Until 2008, persons placed under custodial care due to their mental health problems or intellectual disabilities could not exercise their right to vote. This changed with the constitutional amendment following a decision of the Council of State, declaring that the categorical exclusion of persons placed under custodial care can be contrary to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[[9]](#footnote-9) |
| Is there legislation in place regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote? | People living in long-term institutions are eligible to vote just like others. In 2008, a provision in the Dutch Constitution was removed which prohibited people who have been placed under curatorship to vote.[[10]](#footnote-10)  Section II, Chapter L of the Electoral Code stipulates that people, including those living in long-term institutions, can give others the authority to vote on behalf of them by proxy (*bij volmacht*).[[11]](#footnote-11) The law does not specify people living in long-term institutions explicitly, but talks of ‘voters who are expected not to be able to vote in person'.[[12]](#footnote-12)  There are no special procedures or provisions in place for people living in long-term institutions, so they have to make use of proxy voting. To give another person the authority to vote on their behalf, voters have to submit a proxy form at least two weeks in advance, signed by themselves and the authorised person.[[13]](#footnote-13) Alternatively, they can assign the authority on the election day itself by signing the appropriate part of their voting card which is sent to their home, and giving that to the person doing the voting.[[14]](#footnote-14) |
| 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)? | Only people with physical disabilities can be accompanied when they vote. People with mental disabilities have to vote themselves.  Alternative ways to vote are limited to voting from home and by proxy. |
| 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) | At the time of writing (end of 2013), national public authorities are obliged to construct their websites according to the WCAG 1.0. From 2014 onwards, WCAG 2.0 is the mandatory standard.  This was determined by a Decision of the Minister of the Interior in 2006. This is not a duty under law, since it is purely based on this decision. No sanctions apply; it is the responsibility of the Minister himself to achieve the objectives of his plan. This duty does not apply to private providers.[[15]](#footnote-15)  Municipalities, water boards and regional authorities (*provincies*) have a duty to conform with the basic level of the 'hurdle free' guidelines (*drempelvrij*) which is the equivalent of the WCAG 2.0 Level A. By 2015, they must reach Level AA.  This has been agreed in the national executive programme on better service provision and e-government, signed by the Ministry of the Interior, the Association of Municipalities, the Interprovincial Council and the Union of Water Boards.[[16]](#footnote-16) Again, this is not a duty under law, since it is based on a working agreement. However, the Minister of the Interior has announced in his letter to parliament that he will consider imposing administrative measures if local authorities do not comply with the agreement. [[17]](#footnote-17) |
| 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? | The existing duties for media providers to ensure the accessibility of information pertain to public and private television providers, and are specifically related to the provision of subtitles.  Article 15 of the Media Decision (*mediabesluit*) stipulates that public television stations have a duty to provide subtitles to 95% of their programmes, excluding advertisements.  Article 17 of the Media Decision stipulates that private television stations, based in the Netherlands, have to provide subtitles to 50% of their programmes, excluding advertisements.[[18]](#footnote-18) |
| Are there mandatory accessibility standards for the construction and significant alternation of national and local authority buildings? | The draft Implementation Act (mentioned above) introduces the modification of the Electoral Code (*Kieswet*) to improve the accessibility of polling stations.  Article J4.2 of the Electoral Code, which currently stipulates that local authorities should ensure that "at least 25%" of polling stations are accessible to persons with physical disabilities, will be changed to state that "as many polling stations as possible, but at least 25%" should be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.[[19]](#footnote-19) |
| Is there legislation requiring that polling stations and voting processes be accessible to persons with disabilities (e.g. a certain percentage of polling stations must be accessible; one polling station per electoral district must be accessible etc.)?  Please indicate whether the legislation requires that polling stations and voting processes are accessible for all persons with disabilities or for particular impairment groups (e.g. persons with visual, hearing, physical impairments etc). | It is prescribed by law that at least 25% of municipalities’ voting stations be situated and set up in a way that ensures voters with physical disabilities to vote independently.[[20]](#footnote-20)  The Dutch Council of the Chronically Ill and the Disabled (*Chronisch zieken en Gehandicapten Raad Nederland,* CG-Raad) considers that everyone must be able to vote independently; it finds the 25% accessibility requirement imposed on the municipalities unacceptable.[[21]](#footnote-21)  Though persons with intellectual disabilities have the right to vote in the Netherlands, no help is provided while voting.  In case persons with physical disabilities need help, this can be provided by a staff member at the voting station or someone selected by themselves.[[22]](#footnote-22) When persons are incapable of signing an authorisation, a government official can visit them at home to register the authorisation.[[23]](#footnote-23) A special phone service was launched for visually impaired voters (*Kieslijsttelefoon*) which provides them with an audio version of the electoral list.[[24]](#footnote-24)  In October 2013 the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations informed the House of Representatives about a new ballot paper which will enable visually impaired, blind and illiterate persons as well as persons who have problems understanding the Dutch language to vote on their own. A new ballot paper will be used during the upcoming European elections as an experiment.  At the time of writing of this report, the Dutch cabinet considers the procedures to conduct the voting process and the (re)introduction of electronic voting. In 2013 a research committee investigated the possibilities of electronic voting. In the report ‘Elke stem telt’ (Every vote counts), the committee states that according to the organizations that represent persons with (physical) disabilities, large groups of persons with disabilities are not able to participate in the voting process independently (there are no precise figures). Persons who are physically not able to vote by the ballot paper are allowed to call for help and ask someone else to vote for them. Because calling for help means that they have to give up their voting secret, some people do not vote at all. According to the organizations, electronic voting might improve the opportunities for persons with physical impairments. |
| Does the law foresee training for election authorities and election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation? | The Elections Act requires in general that election officials working in a polling station are trained so that they have sufficient knowledge and skills about the electoral process.[[25]](#footnote-25) The local authorities are responsible to provide these trainings for the election officials who they appoint.  The training material for election officials working in polling stations – provided by the National Government –does not include information on accessibility.[[26]](#footnote-26) |
| Does the national strategy/action plan on disability cover the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | No national disability action plan or strategy. |
| 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? | All complaint procedures and redress mechanisms existing in electoral law are also available to persons with disabilities. Depending on the nature of the complaint, this can be addressed to the municipality, to a polling station in question, to one of the 19 major polling stations or to the Electoral Council (*Kiesraad*). All the complaints are collected and sent to the representative body in question, e.g. the House of Representatives or the municipal council.[[27]](#footnote-27)  In principle, those deprived of legal capacity can only perform official acts with expressed written consent of their curator.[[28]](#footnote-28) If a person is placed under mentorship, they retain their legal capacity, though their mentor is responsible for their personal affairs.[[29]](#footnote-29)  Regarding individual complaints which are not specifically connected to the organisation of the voting process or to polling stations, individuals (including persons with disabilities), can bring their case to the Council of State (*Raad van State*). In this case, persons deprived of their legal capacity usually need the consent of their curator to pursue this course of action or the curators file the case on behalf of the persons. |

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. | There is no specific mechanism in place to ensure consultation of disabled people's organisations in the development of laws and policies. The main umbrella organisations representing people with disabilities at the national level are the Dutch Council of the Chronically ill and the Disabled (*CG-Raad*) and the Platform for Mentally Disabled Persons (*Platform VG*) which are in a process of merging.[[30]](#footnote-30) These organisations try to influence policy-making processes and represent disabled people's organisations and disabled people themselves in discussions with policy makers, but not in the framework of a formalised mechanism.[[31]](#footnote-31)  Furthermore, the Social Support Act asks municipalities to involve citizens (with disabilities). Though it is not required, target groups are often involved in policy making. |
| 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. | The administrative division of the Council of State took a decision regarding the case of a person who was placed under curatorship and, as a consequence of the then applicable law, was excluded from participating in an election, on the 29th of October 2003.  The Council concluded that the exclusion of people who are placed under curatorship from electoral rights, could, in specific cases, be an infringement of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Council did not approve the appeal of the person in question, since it considered it a responsibility of the legislative bodies to improve the situation and not of the judicial branch.[[32]](#footnote-32)  This case eventually led to a change in the constitution, removing the exclusion of people placed under curatorship.[[33]](#footnote-33) |
| 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. | There are no decisions of the National Ombudsman or the national human rights institution related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities.  The Electoral Code does not fall under the remit of the national human rights institution (Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, *College voor de Rechten van de Mens*).  A search of the database of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights was conducted which yielded no results.[[34]](#footnote-34) |
| 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? | Voters can register complaints at their polling station, or address their complaints to the Electoral Council. Information about the complaints procedure is provided on the website of the national government which complies with the accessibility criteria relating to public websites.[[35]](#footnote-35)  The Electoral Council also provides information regarding the organisation of the elections[[36]](#footnote-36) and accessibility and assistance measures for persons with disabilities[[37]](#footnote-37) on its website.  This website does not have an accessibility certificate, but does include some accessibility features, such as a variable font size. In general, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior to ensure the accessibility of this information.[[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? | No data available.  The Electoral Council, ProDemos, a knowledge Centre for democracy and the rule of law and the Council of the Chronically Ill and Disabled were consulted.  The Electoral Council reports the number of postal votes, but not the number of people voting from institutions, by proxy or with assistance.[[39]](#footnote-39)  The evaluation of the most recent parliamentary elections reports that 1,12 voters per thousand requested a formal proxy vote previously to the elections (i.e. 0.112% of voters).[[40]](#footnote-40) |
| How many members of the current national parliament identify as having a disability? | This information is not centrally recorded.  The central information service of the parliament, as well as the parliamentary documentation Centre for information were consulted. According to them, there are two members of the current parliament who identify as having a disability. Also, one state secretary identifies as having a disability.[[41]](#footnote-41) |
| How many members of current municipal governments identify as having a disability? | No data could be found.  The Federation of Dutch Municipalities (*Vereniging Nederlandse Gemeenten, VNG*) ProDemos and the Council of the Chronically Ill and Disabled were consulted. No information is available regarding this question.[[42]](#footnote-42) |
| 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) | No data is available regarding European Parliament elections or municipal elections.[[43]](#footnote-43)  The only data available refers to the national elections of 2012.[[44]](#footnote-44) The evaluation report of these election shows that only 2% of polling stations was accessible for persons with disabilities. The criteria that are used to determine the accessibility of polling stations mainly concern accessibility for people with physical and visual impairments (e.g. specific parking spaces, clear signs, wheelchair accessibility, low voting booths).[[45]](#footnote-45) These criteria originate from a checklist developed for the parliamentary elections on the 12th of September 2012 and refers to the four categories of accessibility, namely communication (*communicatie*), accessibility (*bereikbaarheid*), enterability (*betreedbaarheid*) and usability (*bruikbaarheid*).[[46]](#footnote-46) |
| 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)? | The website of the national government providing general information and instructions on elections and voting, including national, European and local elections,[[47]](#footnote-47) complies with the Quality Model of Website Guidelines (*Kwaliteitsmodel Webrichtlijnen*), at least equivalent to the WCAG 1.0.[[48]](#footnote-48)  The Electoral Council also provides information and instructions on elections, including European and local elections, on its website.[[49]](#footnote-49) The website does not display an accessibility certificate, though some accessibility features are provided, e.g. a font size adjustment feature. |
| What proportion of main public and/or private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has national language subtitles? | According to the Electoral Council, there are hardly any television broadcasts providing instruction for voting, apart from party political broadcasts. Parties can decide for themselves whether they wish to provide subtitles for their election broadcasts.[[50]](#footnote-50) There is however no information on which party political broadcasts for recent elections had subtitles. The three political parties that provided information for this report did not use national language subtitles in their television broadcasts.[[51]](#footnote-51)  Pursuant to the Media Decision 2008, public television stations have the obligation to provide subtitles to 95% of their broadcasts.[[52]](#footnote-52) Private television stations have the obligation to provide subtitles to 50% of their broadcasts.[[53]](#footnote-53)  According to the Dutch Media Authority (*Commissariaat voor de Media*), the public television stations generally comply with the requirements. The private television stations differ in their compliance. Those who provide general broadcasts (Net5 and SBS6) do comply with the requirements.This compliance would include broadcasts providing instructions for voting, but not advertisements or party-political broadcasts. There is however no information available on which types of broadcasts are subtitled. However, considering the high percentage of subtitled programmes, the probability that news and current affairs programmes, including election-related programmes, are subtitled, is very high, especially in the case of public providers. [[54]](#footnote-54)  The editors of the website for persons with hearing impairments (Doof.nl) and the Cooperation Subtitling of all Programmes (*Samenwerkingsverband Ondertitel Alle Programma's,* SOAP) were also consulted. No additional information was provided.[[55]](#footnote-55) |
| What proportion of main public and/or private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has audio description? | There is very little information available on the use of audio description on Dutch television.[[56]](#footnote-56) According to the Electoral Council, there are hardly any television broadcasts providing instruction for voting, apart from party political broadcasts. Parties can decide for themselves whether they wish to provide audio description for their election broadcasts.[[57]](#footnote-57) The three political parties that provided information for this report did not use audio description in their television broadcasts.[[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? | There is very little information available on the use of sign language interpretation on Dutch television.[[59]](#footnote-59) According to the Dutch Media Authority (*Commissariaat voor de Media*), there are no rules pertaining to sign language interpretation and this instrument is only used very sporadically, especially in the context of short news bulletins.[[60]](#footnote-60)  According to the Electoral Council, there are hardly any television broadcasts providing instruction for voting, apart from party political broadcasts. Parties can decide for themselves whether they wish to provide sign language interpretation for their election broadcasts.[[61]](#footnote-61) |
| 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.)? | The Documentation Centre on Dutch Political Parties (*Documentatiecentrum Nederlandse Politieke Partijen,* DNPP) which collects and archives all election programmes of Dutch political parties does not have accessible versions of the campaign material in its archives. It does point out that political parties often have an automated audio function on their websites which allows people to have the information read out to them.[[62]](#footnote-62)  After consultation of the main political parties, three parties provided information on the accessibility of the campaign material. All three parties referred to audio versions of their election programmes for national or European Parliament elections. They also provide digital versions which have been formatted to be readable with a braille reader, or they provide election programmes in simple language. However, all three parties noted that they do not provide these services for municipal elections, due to the large number of party manifestos (around 140) which are drawn up by local party divisions.[[63]](#footnote-63) |
| What proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities? | There is no data available on the accessibility of the total of public authority buildings. According to the Government Building Agency which manages and develops the majority of (national) government buildings, all of their buildings are accessible to persons with disability. It is however not clear which proportion of the total of national and municipal buildings this applies to.[[64]](#footnote-64)  Additionally, the Federation of Dutch Municipalities[[65]](#footnote-65) and the Council for the Chronically ill and Disabled were consulted, as well as desk research was carried out. No specific statistics are collected on this issue.[[66]](#footnote-66) |
| 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 data is available.  The Council for the Chronically ill and Disabled (*CG-Raad*) was consulted as well as desk research was carried out. The Council reported that it incidentally receives complaints regarding elections, e.g. the accessibility of polling stations, but it does not monitor this issue on a structural basis and cannot provide statistics.[[67]](#footnote-67) |

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. Netherlands, State Secretary of of Health, Welfare and Sport (*Staatssecretaris van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport*) (2013), *Ambtelijk concept: Rijkswet van ... tot goedkeuring van het op 13 december 2006 te New York tot stand gekomen Verdrag inzake de rechten van personen met een handicap (Trb. 2007, 169)*), available at: http://internetconsultatie.nl/vnverdraghandicap/document/764. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Netherlands, State Secretary of of Health, Welfare and Sport (*Staatssecretaris van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport*) (2013), *Ambtelijk concept: Rijkswet van ... tot uitvoering van het op 13 december 2006 te New York tot stand gekomen Verdrag inzake de rechten van personen met een handicap (Trb. 2007, 169)*), available at : http://internetconsultatie.nl/vnverdraghandicap/document/766. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <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-4)
5. <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-5)
6. The Netherlands, Electoral Code 1989 (*Kieswet 1989*), available at: <http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Kieswet>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Netherlands, Electoral Code 1989 (*Kieswet 1989*), available at: <http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Kieswet>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The Netherlands, Act on Municipal Personal Records 1994 (*Wet gemeentelijke basisadministratie persoonsgegevens 1994*), available at: http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0006723/geldigheidsdatum\_21-06-2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Netherlands, Council of State (2003). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The Netherlands, National Government (*Rijksoverheid*) (2008), Changes to the Constitution (*Wijzigingen Grondwet*), website, available at: www.rijksoverheid.nl/nieuws/2008/06/25/wijzigingen-grondwet.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. The Netherlands, Electoral Code 1989 (*Kieswet 1989*), available at: http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Kieswet. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. The Netherlands, Electoral Code 1989 (*Kieswet 1989*), article L1, available at: http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Kieswet [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The Netherlands, Electoral Code 1989 (*Kieswet 1989*), article L7, available at: http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Kieswet. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The Netherlands, Electoral Code 1989 (*Kieswet 1989*), article L15, available at: http://wetten.overheid.nl/cgi-bin/deeplink/law1/title=Kieswet. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The Netherlands, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (*Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijkrelaties*) (2006), Decision on the Quality of Kingdom Websites (*Besluit Kwaliteit Rijksoverheidswebsites*), 7 July 2006, no. 2006-0000231475, available at: https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stcrt-2006-136-p23-SC75949.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. The Netherlands, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (*Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijkrelaties*) (2011), Provision of a government-wide implementation agenda for service provision (*aanbieding overheidsbrede implementatieagenda voor dienstverlening*), letter to parliament, reference no. 2011-2000168436, available at: www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2011/05/30/aanbiedingsbrief-overheidsbrede-implementatieagenda-voor-dienstverlening-en-e-overheid-i-nup.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. The Netherlands, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (*Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijkrelaties*) (2011), Provision of a government-wide implementation agenda for service provision (*aanbieding overheidsbrede implementatieagenda voor dienstverlening*), letter to parliament, reference no. 2011-2000168436, available at: www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2011/05/30/aanbiedingsbrief-overheidsbrede-implementatieagenda-voor-dienstverlening-en-e-overheid-i-nup.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. The Netherlands, Media Decision 2008 (*Mediabesluit 2008*), available at http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0025036/geldigheidsdatum\_04-01-2010. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Netherlands, State Secretary of of Health, Welfare and Sport (*Staatssecretaris van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport*) (2013), *Ambtelijk concept: Rijkswet van ... tot uitvoering van het op 13 december 2006 te New York tot stand gekomen Verdrag inzake de rechten van personen met een handicap (Trb. 2007, 169*), available at: http://internetconsultatie.nl/vnverdraghandicap/document/766. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Netherlands, Elections Act, Article J4(2). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. [www.cg-raad.nl/wij\_werken\_aan/toegankelijkheid/stemmen/index.php](http://www.cg-raad.nl/wij_werken_aan/toegankelijkheid/stemmen/index.php) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Netherlands, Elections Act, Article J28 . [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. See the website of the Dutch Electoral Council: [www.kiesraad.nl/nl/Onderwerpen/Thema-Stemmen/Hulp\_bij\_stemmen.html](http://www.kiesraad.nl/nl/Onderwerpen/Thema-Stemmen/Hulp_bij_stemmen.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. See www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/persberichten/2009/04/28/visueel-beperkte-kan-kieslijst-via-telefoon-beluisteren.html [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
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