**Training for election officials**

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.

**Is training for election authorities and officials required by law?**

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| **EUMS** | **Source and supporting information** |
| AT | None of the election laws (for European Parliament, National Assembly and Municipal elections) foresee training for election authorities on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability.[[1]](#footnote-1) No evidence could be found in intensive desk research of availability of guidance on training.  The Elections to the Parliament Act §52(5)), the European Parliament Act §39(6) and seven Municipal Election Acts foresee that every municipality should provide at least one polling station which is accessible for persons with disabilities.[[2]](#footnote-2) However, because of the phrase “wherever technically possible” this regulation is not binding.[[3]](#footnote-3) § 52 (5) NRWO states, that where technically possible, one polling stations has to be accessible for physically impaired persons, and – if technically possible – guidance system for visually impaired persons should be installed. § 39 (6) EuWO is identical in its wording.  The same Acts state that for blind and strong visually impaired persons a guidance system should be installed if technically possible. |
| BE | The Electoral Code requires that Presidents of voting bureaus receive training without specifying its content (Article 101 of the [Electoral Code](http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/loi/loi.htm)).[[4]](#footnote-4) In practice, Presidents of voting bureaus do receive training on the procedure of accompaniment of a person with disabilities (accommodation) to voting booth foreseen in the Electoral Code, but not on the rights provided by the Anti-Discrimination Act.[[5]](#footnote-5)  In view of the municipal elections of 14 October 2012, the Flemish Government made a folder[[6]](#footnote-6) concerning the accessibility of voting booths that is available for all municipalities on the website that the Flemish government created for the 2012 elections ([www.vlaanderenkiest.be](http://www.vlaanderenkiest.be)). They also organized information sessions in each province.  The Walloon Agency undertakes to train the local contact responsible for assisting disabled people. Apart from the development of this person’s skills, the training acts as an instrument for raising the disability awareness of the municipality and its staff, thus helping to ensure that greater account is taken of everyone’s citizenship.  The German-speaking Community’s Office for People with Disabilities provides training sessions aimed at making polling station staff more aware of the specific needs of people with disabilities.  A voting awareness campaign was organised in 2009 by the Socialist Association for the Disabled (ASPH) with the support of the State Secretary for the Disabled, the Wallonia-Brussels French Community and the French Community Commission. The campaign was split up into different stages: a presentation on voting designed for people with disabilities followed by an awareness campaign for professionals and the general public, all of this based on a promotional tool distributed among the players concerned. |
| BG | The Central Electoral Commission (CECs) conducts the election trainings for the municipal and district electoral commissions (Art. 26, para 1, item 3 of the EC) and regional electoral commissions (RECs) (art. 29, para 1 item 1 of the EC). The municipal electoral commissions (MECs) (art. 33, para 1, item 1 of the EC) conduct the training of station electoral commissions in relation to the implementation of the law (EC) and methodological guidelines of the CEC.  Within the training of electoral commissions, which are held together with local and regional authorities involved in the organizational and technical preparations of the elections, trainings on non-discrimination based on disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation are held.  Central Electoral Commission's decision, methodological guidelines and trainings of electoral commissions at all levels together with the administrations involved in preparation and holding of elections are focused on non-discrimination of voters on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. |
| CY | According to the Central Election Service, there is no material related to reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities or which provides guidance on how to support persons with disabilities to vote. The Central Election Service prior to any elections distributes announcements to the election officials regarding the measures to be taken to ensure the accessibility of specific polling stations where persons with disability will vote.[[7]](#footnote-7) |
| CZ | As the CRPD has been ratified and became part of the legal system of the Czech Republic, it takes precedence over the law. Although not required by specific law, the Czech Statistical Office regularly (before every elections) provides training for members of election commissions on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. The National Plan for the Creation of Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2010–2014 requires of all state and local authorities that an education be provided to their officers on non-discrimination of persons with disabilities. |
| DE | There are no legal provisions dealing with the training of election authorities in the context of disability. A general provision does exist, however. According to Section 6 (5) EuWO and Section 6 (5) BWO the local authority of the municipality must inform the members of the Electoral Board of their duties prior to the election in such a manner as to ensure that the poll and the establishment of the election result are conducted properly. This includes the handling of assistance for persons with disabilities if they need it, including help with casting the vote (Section 50 EuWO and Section 57 BWO).  Additionally, prior to the Bundestag election 2013, the Federal Competence Centre for Accessibility (*Bundeskompetenzzentrum Barrierefreiheit e.V*., BKB) has produced a flyer with information on how to assist voters with disabilities. The project has been supported by the Federal Government and the flyer has been distributed to all municipalities to be included in the training of the members of the Electoral Boards.[[8]](#footnote-8)  It is up to the municipal administrations to inform the members of the electoral board before the election about their tasks, so that an orderly voting process can take place and the establishment and determination of the election results are ensured (section 6, para. 5 of the BWO and EuWO, respectively). The municipalities decide in their own responsibility whether they invite electoral assistants to attend information meetings or provide information leaflets or documents to prepare them for their task.  The Federation shall reimburse the Lander for their own and their municipalities’ necessary expenditure. Training costs of the municipalities shall be reimbursed by a fixed amount for each person entitled to vote (section 50, para. 3, first sentence of the BWG). Pursuant to section 25 para. 1 of the EuWG, section 50 of the BWG applies mutatis mutandis to the European Elections. |
| DK | The official guidelines from the Ministry of Economy and Interior Affairs which are published in relation to all elections do not contain any mention of non-discrimination on any grounds or the right to reasonable accommodation. The guidelines mention that there must be a voting room with enough space for 3 persons and that the room should as far as possible be accessible to wheelchair users.[[9]](#footnote-9) |
| EE | There is no such requirement established by electoral laws. |
| EL | The Ministry of Interior issues election circulars in order to provide the Head (Judicial representative) and the members of the returning boards of the polling stations, with detailed information and instructions on facilitating people with disabilities to participate in the voting procedure. Relevant electoral circulars are included in the material that election officers receive prior to the election. It is not considered as necessary to train members of returning boards, given that their tasks are very simple and they exercise them according to instructions given by the Head of the returning boards. |
| ES | The Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes (Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March)[[10]](#footnote-10) establishes different information mechanisms:  Its third additional provision regarding dissemination states:  “The Ministry of the Interior shall elaborate information material in an accessible format to inform both electoral authorities and voters with disabilities about the basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination established in this Regulation”.  Particularly to be included in these materials is the Guide on Accessibility and Electoral Processes.[[11]](#footnote-11) This Guide contains the information material established by this Regulation. The guide was prepared by the Spanish Ministry of the Interior. It covers, among others, instructions for election officials on reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and provides guidance on how to support persons with disabilities to vote.  For the last municipal elections (held on 22 May 2011), as well for the Parliamentary Elections (held on 20 Nov 2011) the same Ministry published this Guide in a section of its website as a PDF file, together with an easy-to-read version in PDF-format and a video in sign language.[[12]](#footnote-12) A PDF file was also published with the complete version of Royal Decree 422/2011 as a well as FAQs on accessibility.  In all nation-wide elections the Ministry of the Interior coordinates the civil servants that every Delegation or Subdelegation of the Government[[13]](#footnote-13) (the so called Periferic Administration) nominates as Accesibility responsibles, in charge of implementing the accessibility and elections tasks, including gathering data for evaluation reports.The election authorities and election officials receive information, elaborated by the Ministry of the Interior, on accessibility and electoral processes. |
| FI | The law does not foresee training for election officials on non-discrimination. The applicable law would be the Election Act ([*Vaalilaki/Vallag*) (714/1998)](http://www.finlex.fi/linkit/ajansd/19980714), which has no mention of training for election officials.  The instructions from the Ministry of Justice for the election committees include information about accessibility.[[14]](#footnote-14) These are written instructions provided for all election committees by the ministry, and there is no official or compulsory training on the contents of the instructions. The instructions are not available for the public.  The Ministry of Justice provides general training on the arrangements of elections to the staff of Municipal Central Election Committees. Instructions provided by the Ministry of Justice on the conduct of elections include instructions on how to make the polling stations and the facilities accessible. These are part of the training. |
| FR | No training seems to be specified in the French legal system but the Ministry of Interior makes a practical guide for people who organise elections available on its website[[15]](#footnote-15).  These guidelines provide practical details about accessibility of the polling station for people with disability: information with figures on the infrastructure to make people with reduced mobility and visually impaired able to access the place; information about the voting process, with detailed guidance about the booth and the ballot box. In the end, the document mentions the legal provisions: in addition to the legal provisions mentioned previously, it refers to the Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life. Additionally, websites of associations of people with disabilities are included at the end. |
| HR | The election legislation and the Act on the National Elections Committee (NEC)[[16]](#footnote-16) 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*)[[17]](#footnote-17) to committees, specifying voting procedure for persons with disabilities. |
| HU | According to Section 75 (e) of the Act on the Election Procedure, the election offices organize the training of electoral bodies. This is managed by the National Election Office. In addition, the law does not foresee any training for election officials. However, the National Election Office (*Nemzeti Választási Iroda,* NVI) will prepare training materials for election officials, covering guidance on how to support persons living with disabilities throughout the voting procedure. The district election offices will train the heads of the local election offices, whereas the heads of the local election offices will be responsible for the training of members of the local ballot counting committees. The training materials are available on the following website: <http://www.valasztas.hu/hu/ovi/27/27_0.html>.The training materials for the 2014 elections are not available yet on the website.[[18]](#footnote-18) |
| IE | There is no provision in the Electoral Acts 1992-2009 (as amended) for training of election authorities and officials on non-discrimination on grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation.  The Franchise Section of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government prepares a manual for Presiding Officers for each election. This manual includes guidance on dealing with voters with disabilities, within the current legislative framework. The National Disability Authority has produced an ‘Accessible Voting Checklist’ to assist Returning Officers in choosing suitable polling stations and maintaining accessibility of polling stations. This guidance has been incorporated into existing Memoranda and manuals issued by the Department to returning officers in advance of each election. |
| IT | Regulations and criteria to be followed to ensure the accessibility and non-discrimination of people with disabilities are contained in the guidelines for electoral officials provided by the Ministry of the Interior[[19]](#footnote-19). |
| LT | There are no special requirements indicated in the electoral laws on the trainings for the election authorities and election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. Nevertheless CEC while implementing its duty to control the activities of all the election committees, providing them with the methodical and technical assistance, provides 1-3 training session for the heads of the election committees and 6-7 training sessions for the members of the election committees during the period of the election campaigns.  During the trainings questions on equal election rights, accessibility and necessary accommodations to exercise this right for all (including persons with disabilities) are discussed. [[20]](#footnote-20) According to the CEC, also toolkits of documents needed for the organisation of elections are prepared and provided for the members of the election officials, wherein attention is paid to persons with disabilities. |
| LU | No article of the Electoral Act defines such an obligation.  No training regarding the principles of non-discrimination existed for the last elections (2009 and 2011), as there was no debate on this item until the ratification of the UN-CRDP and the publishing of the National Action Plan. |
| LV | The law does not foresee training for election authorities and officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation.  The Instruction "On the Operation of Polling Station Commissions during the Elections of the City Councils and Municipality Councils", approved by the Decision No 11 of the Central Election Commission on the 6th of March 2013, envisages that the chairperson of the polling station commission shall be responsible for "training and instruction of the members of the polling station commission" (Paragraph Five).[[21]](#footnote-21)  There are no specific details on the content of the training and regarding instructions of the members of the polling stations or guidance on how to support persons with disabilities.  Similarly, the Instruction "On the Operation of Polling Station Commissions during the Saeima Elections" approved by the Decision No 14 of the Central Election Commission on the 3d of June 2010, envisages that the chairperson of the polling station commission shall be responsible for "training and instruction of the members of the polling station commission" (Paragraph Five).[[22]](#footnote-22)  Also, Instruction "On the Operation of Polling Station Commissions during the 2009 Elections to the European Parliament and the Elections of the City Councils and Municipality Councils" approved by the Decision No 38 of the Central Election Commission on the 20th of April 2009, envisages that the chairperson of the polling station commission shall be responsible for "training and instruction of the members of the polling station commission" (Paragraph Five).[[23]](#footnote-23) |
| MT | No requirement relating to the training of election authorities could be identified after an analysis of the relevant laws [General Elections Act, Local Councils Act, European Parliament Elections Act, and Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disabilities) Act] and consultation with KNPD, the Electoral Commission, the Local Councils’ Association, the Department of Local Government, Equal Partners Foundation, and, the Malta Federation of Organizations for Persons with Disability. |
| NL | 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.[[24]](#footnote-24) 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.[[25]](#footnote-25) |
| PL | There is no such obligation provided in law. The statement is based on the analysis of law.  Even though the law does not foresee such particular training, some general training is organised for members of election commissions prior to each election and it contains elements related to persons with disabilities. Materials for such training are prepared. However, they are developed for each particular training and are not available for the general public.[[26]](#footnote-26)  The issue regarding voting of people with disabilities is raised in a guidance note on the conductof votingof the National Election Commission for electoral commissions. This guidance is the basis of training for members of electoral commissions. |
| PT | Law 22/99 of 21 April, *regulating the creation of pools of poll workers* *and the compensation of the members of the polling stations in elections and referendums*, establishes that the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Procedures (*Secretariado Técnico dos Assuntos para o Processo Eleitoral*, STAPE) will give the poll workers civic training on electoral process matters, namely regarding the tasks to be performed by the polling stations staff (article 6).[[27]](#footnote-27) No information was available on the contents of the trainings or training material. |
| RO | The legal provisions do not include a specific requirement on non-discrimination training. The law does foresee training for election authorities, but not specifically on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. (Decision no. 2 of 9 of March 2007 of the Permanent Electoral Authority on the approval of the Regulations for the organization and functioning of the Permanent Electoral Authority (*Hotărâre nr. 2 din 19 martie 2007 privind aprobarea Regulamentului de organizare şi funcţionare a Autorităţii Electorale Permanente*).  On the occasion of the local and Parliament elections of 2012, the training materials for local authorities in charge with the logistics, posted on the website of the AEP, indicate that special ramps must be put in place for persons with physical disabilities.[[28]](#footnote-28) The written material does not provide any further guidance on how to support persons with disabilities. It represents, in essence, a presentation of the legislation that must be respected. Therefore, among the legal provisions, some of those that apply/can apply to persons with disabilities are also included. This does not, however, amount to non-discrimination training.  The DPPD was asked whether there is any legal obligation, internal regulation or any cooperation protocols concluded with specialized institutions in order to provide authorities involved in elections and their staff training on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. In its answer, the Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (*Direcţia Protecţia Persoanelor cu Dizabilităţi)* informed the NFP that no such protocol exists, and that it has not concluded any protocol with the AEP in order to facilitate the participation to vote of persons with disabilities.[[29]](#footnote-29)  The AEP provided data according to which the AEP has approached the topic of discrimination of persons with disabilities by means of a project called “Electoral discourses without discrimination!”, which has been submitted for financing through the Norwegian NGO financing mechanism, in partnership with the NGO E-Civis.[[30]](#footnote-30) |
| SE | According to Chapter 3 Section 1 of the Election Act, the Central Election Authority *(Valmyndigheten*) is the competent authority which has the overall responsibility for matters concerning general elections.[[31]](#footnote-31) The Election Authority provides training manuals, guidelines and recommendations on the interpretation the Election Act (*Vallagen*) to election committees (*valnämnder*) in the municipalities. However, this is not formalised in any regulation.  In a report about the experiences of the General elections on 19 September 2012[[32]](#footnote-32), the Central Election Authority *(Valmyndigheten*) pointed out that it was problematic to provide guidelines to the municipalities and County administration boards (*länsstyrelse*) since the Election Authority has a limited mandate to provide guidelines to other authorities according to article 16 of the Regulation with Instructions for the Election Authority (*Förordning med instruktion för Valmyndigheten).* The Central Election Authority also stated that there was an educational need for different levels of the electoral process.  Amendments to Section 2 of the Election Act in force since 1 January 2014, which provides that the County Administrative Boards (*Länsstyrelsen*) are responsible for election issues on the regional level, stipulate that these are also responsible for the training of the Election Committees in the municipalities.[[33]](#footnote-33)  According to an email communication with the Election committee (*valnämnden*) in Stockholm, they arrange obligatory training for all voting clerks (*röstmottagare*) in order for them to be appointed. They did not specifically mention if this training also includes non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. The training rather focuses generally on the right for everyone to exercise their right to vote. There is also training about providing assistance to those who may need special assistance and to respond to everyone with respect. |
| SI | The law does not foresee such type of training. The National Assembly Elections Act only stipulates that the National Electoral Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*, DVK) organises trainings for other electoral bodies.[[34]](#footnote-34) Guidelines specifically dedicated to training regarding political participation of persons with disabilities do not exist in Slovenia. However, general instructions for the work of electoral committees include some provisions. For example, such instructions were issued during the 2012 presidential electionsand included a section on training of electoral committees. The latter are responsible for managing and carrying out elections at specific polling stations. According to these instructions, all members of electoral committees in charge of the vote at polling stations equipped with the voting machine to assist persons with visual impairments and physical disabilities shall be obliged to take part in training on the use of the machines in question. This training is carried out by the contractor which supplies voting machines for elections. Apart from this, the instructions further stipulate obligatory training for members of electoral committees on the possibility of use and on methods of use of stencils to assist persons with visual impairments.[[35]](#footnote-35)  The National Electoral Commission organises training for those who work at special polling places established for voters with disabilities. This applies to 60 polling stations out of 3,800. It is not a disability awareness training but training on how to use electronic voting machines for persons with disabilities |
| SK | There is no special training of election officials, politicians and election committee members. Election committee members are public servants that must abide by Law No. 400/2009 on Civil Service (*Zákon č. 400/2009 o štátnej službe*) and respect human dignity in compliance with the Slovak Constitution.[[36]](#footnote-36) The jurisdiction of the Central Electoral Commission is anchored in Article 15 of Law No. 333/2004 Coll. on Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Zákon č. 333/2004 Z.z. o voľbách do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky*). The paragraph fails to define any specific training materials for members of the electoral commission. |
| UK | No but a handbook for polling station staff specifically considers disabled voters.  Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Electoral Commission was given the power to determine the performance standards for returning officers in Great Britain (the standards do not apply to Northern Ireland). The current performance standards were published in December 2011.[[37]](#footnote-37) They indicate the requirement of Returning Officers to provide “*A training plan which identifies the training needs of permanent and temporary staff.*”[[38]](#footnote-38)  There is no specific reference to training election authorities or election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. However, all election officials are subject to the PSED under s 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination. Additionally, Returning Officers must consider access needs when setting up a polling station (performance standard 2a)[[39]](#footnote-39) and “*Provide all materials in accessible formats that are easy for voters to use and understand”*(performance standard 2b).[[40]](#footnote-40)  The Electoral Commission also publishes the Handbook for Polling Station Staff which states that all Acting Returning Officers should provide training and briefing sessions for polling staff in advance of the election.[[41]](#footnote-41) The handbook states that  *“Polling station staff must ensure that disabled voters are not offered a lower standard of service than other voters. Reasonable adjustments to practices and procedures must be made so that people with a range of disabilities are not disadvantaged in any way”[[42]](#footnote-42).*  It is the responsibility of the Returning Officer to ensure that disabled voters have the same access to the electoral process as everyone else.  The Electoral Commission’s Guidance on Electoral Registration aims to assist Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) with particular points of practice and procedure in relation to electoral registration.[[43]](#footnote-43) The Guidance on Electoral Registration has a section on ‘Accessibility and Participation’.[[44]](#footnote-44) Electoral Registration Officers, because they are employed by the local authority, should attend any disability equality training provided by the local authority. There is detailed guidance on supporting persons with disabilities on registering to vote in the section on ‘Accessibility and Participation’. The Guidance has not been updated to include the PSED.  The Electoral Commission provides a number of resources to assist Returning Officers with training. In its report on the conduct of the 2010 general election, the Electoral Commission states:  *“We publish a range of manuals, circulars, templates and online resources. We also provide briefings and seminars, and an enquiries service, for those who run elections. Our guidance is advisory rather than binding, and there is no legal requirement for Returning Officers to follow the guidance that we provide”[[45]](#footnote-45)* |

1. Austria, Federal Act on the Election of the members of the European Parliament (European Election Law) (*Bundesgesetz über die Wahl der Mitglieder des Europäischen Parlaments – Europawahlordnung – EuWO)* BGBl. No. 117/1996, BGBl 12/2012, available at: <www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10001436>. Austria, Federal Act on the Election of the National Assembly – National Assembly Election Law 1992 (*Bundesgesetz über die Wahl des Nationalrates – Nationalrats-Wahlordnung 1992 – NRWO*) BGBl. No.471/1992, available at: <www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10001199>. Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Burgenland, LGBl No.54/1992; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Carinthia, LGBl No. 32/2002; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Lower Austria, LGBl No. 112/1994; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Upper Austria, LGBl No. 81/1996; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Salzburg, LGBl No. 117/1998; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Styria, LGBl No. 59/2009; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of the City of Graz, LGBl No. 86/2012; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Tyrol, LGBl No. 88/1994; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of the City of Vienna, LGBl No. 16/1996; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Vorarlberg, LGBl No. 30/1999. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Carinthia, LGBl No. 32/2002,[ §50(5)]; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Upper Austria, LGBl No. 81/1996, [§41(3)]; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Styria, LGBl No. 59/2009, [§50(4)]; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of the City of Graz, LGBl No. 86/2012, [49(3)]; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Tyrol, LGBl No. 88/1994, [§46(4)]; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of the City of Vienna, LGBl No. 16/1996, [§51(2)]; Austria, Act on municipal election in the province of Vorarlberg, LGBl No. 30/1999 [§26(3)]. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Austria, Wegscheider, A. (2013), ‘Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities’ *SWS-Rundschau* Vol. 53, No 2, pp. 216-234 [p. 221]. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Belgium, Article 101 of the Electoral Code (*Le Code électoral; Algemeen Kieswetboek*), available at: <http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/loi/loi.htm>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See Belgium, General Direction for Institutions and Population, the Manual of Training for Presidents of Voting Bureaus (*Manuel formation presidents bureau de vote*), available at: http://www.ibz.rrn.fgov.be/fileadmin/user\_upload/Elections2011/fr/officiel/en\_pratique/formations/LEIDRAAD\_OPLEIDIN\_VZ\_STEMBUREAU\_2010\_FR.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Enter vzw & Toegankelijkheidsbureau vzw (2012), ‘Toegankelijkheid van stemlokalen’, Hasselt: Enter vzw, available at: www.vlaanderenkiest.be/toegankelijkheid-gemeenteraadsverkiezingen-2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Information obtained from the Central Election Service (Κεντρική Υπηρεσία Εκλογών). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The flyer is available at: http://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/de/barrierefrei/barrierefrei\_org.html [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. In Danish: Fysisk tilgængelighed til stemmeafgivningen i vejledningen om afholdelse af kommunale og regionale valg den 19. november 2013. Chapter 7.1.1. Hyperlink accessed 10 September 2013: <http://valg.oim.dk/media/111780/VejlKomm2009.pdf>. In English: Physical accessibility to election in guidance on the organization of municipal and regional elections. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Royal Decree 422/2011, of 25 March, approving the Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes [*Real Decreto 422/2011, de 25 de marzo, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento sobre las condiciones básicas para la participación de las personas con discapacidad en la vida política y en los procesos electorales*]. Consolidated version in Spanish: [www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-5714-consolidado.pdf](http://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-5714-consolidado.pdf) (accessed on 10/07/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Guide on Accessibility and Electoral Processes [*Guía sobre Accesibilidad y Procesos Electorales*]<http://elecciones.mir.es/locales2011/Contenido/Accesibilidad_de_los_procesos_electorales.htm> (accessed on 02/01/2014) <http://elecciones.mir.es/generales2011/Contenido/Documentacion_sobre_accesibilidad.htm> (accessed on 02/04/2014);

    [www.oficinape.mspsi.gob.es/faq/guiadeaccesibilidad/pdf/GuiaSobreAccesibilidadYProcesosElectorales.pdf](http://www.oficinape.mspsi.gob.es/faq/guiadeaccesibilidad/pdf/GuiaSobreAccesibilidadYProcesosElectorales.pdf) (accessed on 20/06/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Please see: <http://www.infoelectoral.mir.es/Accesibilidad_procesos_electorales/Accesibilidad_procesos_electorales.htm> (accessed on 02/01/2014)<http://elecciones.mir.es/locales2011/Contenido/Accesibilidad_de_los_procesos_electorales.htm> (accessed on 04/09/2013)<http://elecciones.mir.es/generales2011/Contenido/Documentacion_sobre_accesibilidad.htm> (accessed on 02/01/2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
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