**Voting from long-term institutions**

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

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**Is there legislation in place regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote?**

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| **EUMS** | **Source and supporting information** |
| AT | The voting conditions for people living in long term institutions are regulated in the respective law that applies either for the election of the European Parliament (EuWO §58/§59), the Austrian National Assembly (NRWO-1992 §72/§73) or the municipalities. It is possible to install a special electoral commission close to or in the respective institution in order to facilitate access of people living in long term institutions. Furthermore a mobile electoral commission may also visit bedridden persons in their personal accommodation (according to § 73 NRWO and § 59 EuWO). Every citizen eligible to vote has the possibility to apply for a voter card (*Wahlkarte,* EuWO §26/NRWO-1992 §38) which enables the person to vote at a favored polling station or to send the voter card by post.Similar regulations are codified in the provincial legislation on the respective municipal elections. Despite different formulation of the correspondent paragraphs all provinces provide a mobile electoral commission for people living in long term institutions as well as the possibility to vote via voter card.[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| BE | There is no stricto sensu legislation regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote as it depends on the status of the individual; whether they are under a prolonged minority status or not.It appears that many persons with disabilities living in institutions are more often than not provided with a medical certificate excusing them from their obligation to vote.[[2]](#footnote-2)It is possible to vote on-line or by proxy. A person unable due to sickness or infirmary to go or be transported to a polling station can authorise another voter to vote on their behalf. This inability must be evidenced by means of a medical certificate (Article 147bis of the Electoral Code). |
| BG | Article 42 of the Electoral Code points out that in hospitals and care facilities (health centres, rest homes, retirement homes and other social institutions), people who are not under guardianship may vote in the special sections, which are made in these establishments. According to Аrticle 72 (6) of the Electoral Code which concerns the European Parliament elections, the minimum number of people residing in these facilities and meeting the requirements is of 20. Article 72 (7) applies to municipal elections and stipulates a minimum of 20 people who have lived for the previous six months on the territory of which is the facility.  |
| CY | Only in Central Prisons a polling station is set up enabling inmates to vote. In no other institutions the persons are able to vote, and no other procedures exist such as mobile polling stations, voting by post etc.[[3]](#footnote-3)The election law does not provide for the establishment of polling stations in hospitals, retirement homes or for mobile voting, which limits the right of elderly, bedridden and disabled voters.[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| CZ | Apart from the permanent voter registry, a special list of voters exists for those who are at the given time in hospitals, maternity wards, sanatoriums, social care centers or in similar institutions and facilities, or those who are in police cells, in a place of detention or confinement, or those who are voting in a given area with voter IDs.[[5]](#footnote-5) In the event of long-term hospitalization in a hospital or similar facility where the patient is expected to be during elections, the personnel must inform the voter on the possibility to register in the special voter registry that allows him to vote outside of his election district.[[6]](#footnote-6) If a physical disability does not allow an individual to place their ballots in a ballot box, the voter may use an assistant.[[7]](#footnote-7) In the event that the voter cannot come to the election center due to illness, he or she may require the election commission to come directly to their homes with a mobile ballot box.[[8]](#footnote-8) The voter can present his/her request directly to election commission on the day of the elections or to the municipal authority before the elections (no provision defines the period).  |
| DE | - According to Section 8 EuWO and Section 8 BWO so-called mobile election boards should be established to enable voters in smaller long term institutions to cast their vote [no definition of “small” provided by the law]. Details on the election process are outlined in Section 55 EuWO and Section 62 BWO.- Section 13 EuWO and Section 13 BWO provide for the establishment of special constituencies in different kinds of institutions with a higher number of voters [again, number not specified in law] such as hospitals, retirement homes or nursing homes. Where such constituencies are not established Section 8 EuWO or Section 8 BWO applies. Section 54 EuWO and Section 61 BWO regulate the details on how the elections in special constituencies are to be carried out. -Irrespective of the listed options, the possibility of casting a postal vote remains (Section 6 EuWG and Section 36 BWG). Section 59 EuWO and Section 66 BWO outline the details on how to carry out the postal vote for persons in institutions.-All provisions on the voting process of people living in institutions refer to the general rules of electoral procedure, especially Section 52 and 49 (4)-(8) EuWO as well as Section 56 (4) and 59 BWO which ensure the secrecy of the vote and that a third party does not learn about the voter’s personal information. - At the municipal level similar provisions apply. They are codified in the different electoral laws of the states. |
| DK | Section 26 of the LBK nr. 126*[[9]](#footnote-9)* regulating the European Parliament elections refers to Chapter 8 of the Act on Parliament Elections nr. 128 of 11/02/2013*[[10]](#footnote-10)* which regulates the postal voting. It follows the same rules as chapter 6 of the Act on Municipal and Regional Elections nr. 127 af 11/02/2013*[[11]](#footnote-11)* regulating postal voting for municipal elections.Postal voting is open to all citizens who are eligible to vote. It is possible to vote by post from a citizen’s home or institution, such as hospitals and assisted living facilities. If due to sickness or lack of mobility, a voter cannot come to the polling station, postal voting in one’s own home is open upon request. Postal voting in one’s own home follows the same procedures and rules as postal voting generally. No mobile polling booths are available. If citizens want to vote by post from their home, they have to apply to do so before 6 pm 12 days before the day of election (section 54).Two members from the municipal come to the institution and help carry out the postal voting (section 55).The official, who carries out the voting, shall provide the necessary help, for instance with regard to ticking off the voting paper or the covering letter. In addition to the official, the voter may request that help be provided from someone chosen by the voter himself. Assistance cannot be provided by a candidate in the large constituency concerned. Furthermore, assistance in ticking off the voting paper can only be provided if the voter unequivocally expresses who he wants to vote for.  |
| EE | For people in long-term institutions who have the right to vote (if they are not legally incapacitated and do not have a prison sentence at the election day), the paragraphs 51 and 52 of the Local Government Council Election Act, paragraphs 44 and 45 of the European Parliament Election Act and paragraphs 45 and 46 of the Riigikogu Election Act apply. Generally there are special days foreseen to vote in custodial institutions and there is a possibility to apply to vote at home. In addition, people can vote through the Internet[[12]](#footnote-12), which also supports the participation of visually disabled people. Since the Local Government Council elections in 2013, the site for electronic voting [www.valimised.ee](../../simokle/AppData/Roaming/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/U033OTOO/www.valimised.ee) meets the WCAG standards.[[13]](#footnote-13) |
| EL | Electoral legislation does not include provisions regulating the exercise of the right to vote by people residing in long term institutions. Voting takes place in the designated polling stations.[[14]](#footnote-14) There is no possibility to vote from home or by post. |
| ES | Voting by post exists for every citizen, including persons with disabilities having the right to vote (see article 72 LOREG). Special provisions exist so that electors with disabilities may request the postal voting, which in general terms has to be personally presented at the postal office or by power of attorney. free of charge (according to article 118 LOREG). Mobile polling stations are not provided for by law.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),[[15]](#footnote-15) organizes in general terms the free transport of voters who need assistance to get to, and access the polling station. This is organised by the State´s General Administration. |
| FI | Section 9 entitled “Advance polling stations and polling stations on polling day” of the Election Act ([*Vaalilaki/Kommunallag*) (714/1998)](http://www.finlex.fi/linkit/ajansd/19980714) stipulates that “hospitals, operational units of the social services offering round-the-clock treatment and other units determined by the municipal board and prisons (institution)” are advanced polling stations. This means that people living in the institutions are entitled to vote at the institution. Furthermore, home voting is available for homebound voters and their caregiver.[[16]](#footnote-16) Following section 46 § (21.5.2010/431) of chapter 5 entitled “Advance voting” of the same Election Act “An enfranchised person who is in hospital, in a facility with round-the-clock treatment care or in any other operational unit of social services designated by the municipal executive board as an advance polling station, or in prison, may vote in advance in the said institution. An enfranchised person who is member of the crew on a Finnish ship may vote in advance on board the ship while it is in foreign waters. Enfranchised persons whose ability to move or function is limited to the degree that they are unable to come to the polling or advance polling station without undue hardship, may, pursuant to the provisions in section 55, vote in advance at home in the Finnish municipality which has been registered as their municipality of residence in the voting register.” |
| FR | Since **the law of the 27th of June 1990 on the rights and the protection of persons hospitalised for mental illness** (*Loi relative aux droits et à la protection des personnes hospitalisées en raison de troubles mentaux et à leurs conditions d'hospitalisation*)[[17]](#footnote-17), the Code of public health provides the right to vote for people suffering from mental illness in psychiatric institutions (art. L 3211-3, 7°).Furthermore, the Charter of rights and freedoms of persons in medical and socio-medical institutions, including people with intellectual disabilities, requires the institution to facilitate with 'appropriate measures (…) the effective exercise of all civil rights' (art. 10)[[18]](#footnote-18). There is no other legal provision to clarify the means of the support provided by these long-term institutions. With regard to voting by proxy, an Instruction from the Minister of Interior[[19]](#footnote-19) in 2006 provides adaptations for people unable to move. Firstly, while normally the proxy is provided only for one election, for these people, it can last for one year. Secondly, since the presence of the person asking for proxy is requested, when people are not able to move (evidenced by a certificate), they can ask for a police officer to make their demand of proxy. |
| HR | 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.[[20]](#footnote-20)The amended article 38 of the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament[[21]](#footnote-21) 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.[[22]](#footnote-22)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.[[23]](#footnote-23) |
| HU | Under the Election Procedure Act, people living in long-term institutions may vote via “mobile ballot boxes”. (This possibility was also provided for by the earlier legislation, Act C of 1997 on Election Procedure.) Under Articles 103 and 104 of the Election Procedure Act, voters hindered by their state of health, disability, or detention shall be included in a list for those voting via mobile ballot boxes upon their request. According to Article 104 (1) the list is drawn up by the local election offices as a main rule. Under Article 103 (2) requests shall reach the local election offices no later than two days before the election day or shall reach the local ballot counting committee on the day of the election no later than 3 p.m. In the latter case, the local ballot counting committee includes the voter in the list on the day of the election.[[24]](#footnote-24)The request for a mobile ballot box shall include the voter’s name, place and date of birth, his/her mother’s name, his/her identification number, and his/her place of residence where he/she wants to vote in case it differs from the voter’s registered address. Furthermore, the request shall indicate the reason for requesting a mobile ballot box.[[25]](#footnote-25) There is no legal rule indicating that voters should prove their disability in any way or should prove a certain level of disability to be included in the list.According to Article 185 (3) of the Election Procedure Act, the secrecy of the voting shall be maintained also in the course of voting via a mobile ballot box, and under Article 88 c) of the Election Procedure Act voters living with visual impairment may request to use a voting aid with Braille writing while voting via a mobile ballot box. |
| IE | Section 17 of the Electoral Act 1992 (as amended)[[26]](#footnote-26) makes provision for voting by persons with disabilities, by providing for the creation of a “special voters list” for persons who are unable to vote in person at a polling place in his or her polling district by reason of physical illness or physical disability. This allows such persons to vote at an alternative polling station if the local station is inaccessible; assistance in voting at the polling station by a companion or the presiding officer; postal vote; or voting at a hospital, nursing home or similar institution if the voter lives there [provision Section 17 of the Electoral Act 1992].The procedure for voting by special voters is governed by Part XIV of the Electoral Act 1992 (as amended).[[27]](#footnote-27) Section 81 of the Electoral Act 1992 provides for the issue of a ballot paper to special voters.[[28]](#footnote-28) Section 82 of the Electoral Act 1992 provides for the method of voting by special voters.[[29]](#footnote-29) Section 11 of the Electoral Act 1992 provides for authorisation of a physically ill or physically disabled person to vote at another polling station where that is more convenient for the voter.[[30]](#footnote-30) Section 103 of the Electoral Act 1992 provides for voting with assistance by blind, incapacitated and illiterate electors.[[31]](#footnote-31) |
| IT | Citizens living in long-term institutions, such as prisons, hospitals, care homes having at least 200 beds, may vote in polling stations set up within the structure. Patients unable to move are required to provide an authorisation by the mayor, to be addressed at least 15 days before the elections, in addition to the electoral certificate. This document must be shown to be admitted to polling stations and electoral officers annotate the participation to vote on it[[32]](#footnote-32),[[33]](#footnote-33). Homebound votes are recollected by the president of the polling stations, the secretary and election officers, selected by drawing. |
| LT | Laws lay down the procedure for delivering poll cards to and voting procedure of voters who are in healthcare institutions (except outpatient healthcare institutions), social care and guardianship institutions, military units, arrest houses, remand prisons (detention facilities) and penal institutions, as well as to those gone abroad. There are similar provisions established in all the electoral laws.[[34]](#footnote-34) Voters who because of their health condition or age are in healthcare (except outpatient healthcare) facilities, institutions of social guardianship and care shall be entitled to vote in such institutions. A constituency electoral committee shall, not later than 15 days prior to an election day and upon the recommendation of the heads of the institutions draw up a list of special post offices and, upon the recommendation of the head of the post office, set working hours of the post offices in compliance with the requested days of voting. After drawing up a list of voters voting in a special post office[[35]](#footnote-35) the head of the institution shall transfer a list of voters voting in a special post office to a constituency electoral committee, receive poll cards from it or print them according to the date received via electronic means of communication and ensure the delivery of the cards to voters, allot the premises suitable for voting, and be responsible that the voters are notified about the working place and time of a special post office, and that the conditions are created for voters to reach it. Voters who are able to move shall vote themselves in accordance with the procedure set forth in this Law. Voters who are unable to move shall be visited by at least 2 polling district committee members, election observers (should they wish) and employees of special post offices. If because of a disability a voter is unable to vote himself, he or she may vote by proxy and entrust another person.. Such person must mark the ballot papers in the presence of the voter according to his instructions and preserve the secrecy of voting[[36]](#footnote-36). |
| LU | There is no specific legislation regulating the vote of persons living in long term institutions. Postal voting is the principal way for persons in institutions to vote (articles 168 – 181 and 262-275 of the electoral act - coordinated text). |
| LV | According to the First Paragraph of article 24 of the Saeima Election Law, and the Second paragraph of Article 32 of the Law on Elections of the Republic City Council and Municipality Council, voting outside the polling stations is only permited if the voter is not able to visit the polling station due to health reasons (including disability).[[37]](#footnote-37) In this case, the voter or a person authorised by the voter, shall submit a written application to the election commission, which is registered in a special register; the written application for in-home voting should be submitted during the period which starts five days prior the day of elections and ends at noon at the day of the elections; applications submitted after noon can only be satisfied if the district Electoral Commission sees an opportunity to bring the designated ballot box to the residency of the applicant before the end of the voting.[[38]](#footnote-38) On the basis of this application, the election commission organises voting at the location of that voter, ensuring the confidentiality of such voting.[[39]](#footnote-39) Article 28 of the Elections to the European Parliament Law[[40]](#footnote-40) also envisages that if due to ill-health, a voter is unable to attend the voting premises, then the voting station commission, based on a written application by such a voter (or his/her authorised person) and filed in a special register, shall arrange voting at the voter's residence and ensure the confidentiality of such voting. The respective person may not be a member of the relevant polling station commission.As for municipal and national elections, the written application for in-home voting should be submitted during the period which starts five days prior the day of elections and ends at noon at the day of the elections; applications submitted after noon can only be satisfied if the district Electoral Commission sees an opportunity to bring the designated ballot box to the residency of the applicant before the end of the voting. Moreover, voting at the voter's residence shall only take place if the voter resides within the territory of the voting station where the data on such a voter is entered.According to Article 30, if on the day of the elections a voter is in hospital due to his/her health, voting shall be arranged regardless of the voting station where such a voter is registered. In accordance with procedures specified by the Central Election Commission (CEC), a voting station commission of a relevant town/city, county or parish shall provide arrangements for voting in corresponding hospitals located in the relevant town/city, county or parish. Data on voters shall be entered on a separate voters' list.[[41]](#footnote-41) The same is provided in the Law on National Referendum and Initiation of Legislation. |
| MT | A provision of the General Elections Act [[42]](#footnote-42) allows for the delivery of voting documents to persons in retirement homes, hospitals or suffers from a disability. Article 46(10): […] *where the Commission is aware that any person whose name appears on the list … is registered in a retirement home, or is in a hospital, or suffers from a disability or is bed-ridden or is otherwise physically unable to appear at one of the places designated by the … to claim delivery of his voting document, it shall be the duty of the Commission to effect service of such document on the person concerned […]*Articles 80 to 84 allow for polling stations to be set up in retirement homes and hospitals and for voting documents to be delivered to such. Similarly, Articles 40 to 52 of the Local Councils Act[[43]](#footnote-43) allow for polling stations to be set up in retirement homes and hospitals and for voting documents to be delivered to such for municipal elections. The European Parliament Elections Act does not contain an equivalent provision. However, Article 21 of the European Parliament Elections Act states that the provisions of the General Elections Act and of the Electoral Polling Ordinance shall apply to the conduct of elections, and to the counting of votes in elections, of members of the European Parliament. |
| NL | 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.[[44]](#footnote-44)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*).[[45]](#footnote-45) 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'.[[46]](#footnote-46) 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.[[47]](#footnote-47) 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.[[48]](#footnote-48) |
| PL | The Electoral Code[[49]](#footnote-49) provides the possibility of organising closed polling stations (*zamknięte obwody głosowania*) in various types of long-term institutions. Article 12 § 4 of the Electoral Code states that separate polling stations (*odrębne obwody głosowania*) can be created in hospitals, social welfare homes (*domy pomocy społecznej*), student residences (except for the voting in the municipal elections), prisons and pre-trial detention centres. Voter lists (*spis wyborców*) are prepared on the basis of the registry of persons who are supposed to be at the long-term institution on the Election Day (Article 29 of the Electoral Code). In the separate polling stations established in health care institutions or social assistance homes a second ballot box can be used, according to Article 44 of the Electoral Code. |
| PT | According to article 50 (9) of the Legal Framework for Electoral Registration[[50]](#footnote-50), “*the psychiatric institutions send to the Directorate-General of Internal Administration information on the citizens clearly and publicly known as mentally ill who are committed in that psychiatric institution, as well as on the citizens who are in that situation and who complete 17 years old”.* It is up to the Directorate-General of Internal Administration – Ministry of Internal Administration (*Direção Geral da Administração Interna, DGAI – Ministério da Administração Interna)* to make the information regarding any changes related to these cases available to the electoral registration committees (article 50 (11)).As any other persons who have the right to vote, persons living in institutions have the right to register to vote and the duty to check their register in the electoral registration; and in case of mistake or omission, ask for its correction (Legal Framework for Electoral Registration, articles 2 and 3).According to the Electoral Law of the Assembly of the Republic, article 79-A (1) d persons who are registered to vote but, due to illness, are committed to the hospital and unable to go to the polling station, may vote in advance (). The provision is applicable to the election of the members of the European Parliament, under the article 1 of the Electoral Law of the European Parliament, and the Electoral Law of municipal elections, article 119. This advanced voting is performed with the assistance of the mayor of the municipal council where they are registered to vote.[[51]](#footnote-51) |
| RO | No specific legislation could be identified. However, there are several provisions which might be indirectly relevant.Law no. 35 of 13 of March 2008 on elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate and for the ammendment and completion of Law no. 67/2004 for the election for local authorities, of the Law on local public administration no. 215/2001 and of the Law no. 393/2004 on the Status of local elected officials(*Lege nr. 35 din 13 martie 2008 pentru alegerea Camerei Deputaţilor şi a Senatului şi pentru modificarea şi completarea Legii nr 67/2004 pentru alegerea autorităţilor administraţiei publice locale, a Legii administraţiei publice locale nr 215/2001 şi a Legii nr. 393/2004 privind Statutul aleşilor locali)*[[52]](#footnote-52) and in Law no. 67 of 25 of March 2004 on elections for the local public administration(*Lege nr. 67 din 25 martie 2004 pentru alegerea autorităţilor administraţiei publice locale)*[[53]](#footnote-53).Persons “who cannot be transported due to illness or invalidity”[[54]](#footnote-54) may request a special mobile voting box during national parliamentary elections. Such a request must be supported by medical documentation proving the impossibility to be transported and would have to be approved by the president of the electoral bureau of the voting section in question.[[55]](#footnote-55)Law 3/2000 (Article 40) on the referendum, also referring to persons “who cannot be transported due to illness or invalidity”, provides that the special mobile voting box can be sent out at the request of the persons in question or of the director of the health or social protection institutions where the persons are located. The president of the electoral bureau appoints a member who will accompany the voting box and will supervise the casting of the vote. No additional documents are required.No similar provisions in Law 33/2007 on European Parliamentary elections could be identified.The training materials drafted by the AEP for the members of electoral bureaus of the voting sections during the Parliamentary elections in 2012 indicate that the legal text above, that is, the conditions under which the mobile voting box may be used, must be displayed at the voting section the day before the elections.[[56]](#footnote-56) Regarding closed institutions for persons with mental disabilities, Law no. 487 of 11 of July 2002 on mental health and the protection of persons with mental health problems (*Legea 487 din 11 iulie 2002 a sănătăţii mintale şi a protecţiei persoanelor cu tulburări psihice*) states that persons involuntarily placed in an institution may not be restricted their right to vote, unless they are in a situation where their liberties have been restricted.[[57]](#footnote-57) There are no further provisions as to how this right is to be operationalized. Order of the Ministry of Health 372/2006 on the norms of implementation of Law no. 487 of 11 of July 2002 on mental health and the protection of persons with mental health problems (*Ordinul Ministerului Sănătăţii nr 372/2006 privind Normele de implementare a Legii sănătăţii mintale şi a protecţiei persoanelor cu tulburări psihice nr 487/2002, cu modificările ulterioare)*. According to the Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (*Direcţia Protecţia Persoanelor cu Dizabilităţi, DPPD*) in the social assistance residential institutions in Romania, at the time of the DPPD reply to the NFP, there were 11,848 persons with mental disabilities who retained the right to vote. 6,824 persons with mental disabilities in institutions voted in the 2009 EU Parliament elections and 2012 election rounds (local and national parliament elections and a referendum for the impeachment of the Romanian president).[[58]](#footnote-58) It is not clear form DPPD’s reply how many voted for each election in part. |
| SE | People living in long-term institutions may vote through messengers, such as relatives, or carers in the institution.Chapter 7 Section 4, of the Election Act (*Vallagen)[[59]](#footnote-59)* states that “any person who is due to illness, physical disability, or age cannot personally go to a polling station or voting place may vote by messenger.” In addition, the Election Committee (*Valmyndigheten*) may appoint special persons to act as messengers. [[60]](#footnote-60) It is also possible for people living in long-term institutions to vote *in advance* through a messenger. |
| SI | Article 81, Paragraph 2 of the National Assembly Elections Act only stipulates the following:*People in care in retirement homes who do not have permanent residence there, and voters who are hospitalised, may also vote by post, provided that they have notified the district electoral commission or the constituency electoral commission not later than seven days prior to Election Day.*Article 83 of the mentioned law further stipulates the following:*Voters, who, for reasons of illness, cannot go in person to the polling station where they are entered in the electoral register, may vote in their homes before an electoral committee. They must notify the district electoral commission of this no later than three days prior to Election Day*.[[61]](#footnote-61)The provisions in question also apply to municipal and the EU parliament elections. |
| SK | Pursuant to **Article 9 (1)** of Law No. 333/2004 Coll. on Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Zákon č. 333/2004 o voľbách do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky*), voters unable to vote in the constituency they are registered with shall receive voting cards issued by municipal authorities at request and shall be deleted from the list of voters due to the issuance of a voting card. **(2)** Voters may apply for the issuance of voting cards, not earlier than 30 days and not later than two days before the election day, during office hours of applicable municipal authorities. The municipal authorities shall issue voting cards on the day of filing the application. **(4)** The voting card entitles the voter to be registered in the list of voters in any other constituency.Pursuant to **Article 30 (8)** of Law No. 333/2004 Coll. on Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Zákon č. 333/2004 o voľbách do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky*), voters with material limitations, particularly disability, may ask the district electoral commission to allow them to vote away from the polling station but only on the territory of the constituency for which the applicable district electoral commission has been established. To such voters, the district electoral commission shall dispatch at least two of its members equipped with a portable ballot box, official ballots and envelopes; the dispatched members of the district electoral commission shall make sure to preserve secrecy of the ballot. The district electoral commission shall mark participation of such voters in elections to both copies of the voters’ list immediately upon the return of the dispatched members of the district electoral commission and the portable ballot box to the polling station.Pursuant to **Article 12 (4)** of Law No. 333/2004 Coll. on Elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Zákon č. 333/2004 o voľbách do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky*), for persons who are resident in a health care facility, a social services facility or similar facility, or who are detained in a facility that is a police cell or prison, the polling district committee for the territory where such facility is located shall ensure in cooperation with the head of the respective facility that such persons are given the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Where such persons do not have a permanent residence in the district, they shall vote by means of a voting card if they so request it. |
| UK | Provided a person living in a long-term institution is not subject to a legal incapacity to vote and meets the age and residence requirements to register to vote (Section 1 of the RPA 1983), people living in long-term institutions are entitled to vote. If a person is subject to a legal incapacity to vote, their name cannot be included on the register of electors (Section 4 RPA 1983). The specific legislation dealing with people living in long term institutions is: Prisoners (Section 3 of the RPA 1983) and offenders detained in mental institutions (Section 3A RPA 1983) are not entitled to vote, they are regarded as being subject to a legal incapacity to vote. Patients in mental hospitals who are not detained offenders or on remand are entitled to vote (Section 7 RPA 1983). A person who has legal capacity to vote at a parliamentary or local government elections (or at both) or at European parliamentary and has registered to vote, can apply to the registration officer to vote by proxy or by post.[[62]](#footnote-62)There is no specific legislation regulating how people in living in long term care may vote. Voting in the UK is carried out at designated polling stations only. There is no provision for mobile polling stations, voting booths in a care home or transportation to polling stations. People living in long term care are entitled to appoint a proxy or apply for a postal vote if they are unable to attend the polling station in person[[63]](#footnote-63). Guidance for applying to vote by proxy or by post is provided on the Citizen’s Advice Bureau’s (CAB) website.[[64]](#footnote-64) The CAB is a UK NGO which provides free independent and confidential advice. If the individual requires transport to a polling station, the onus is on them to arrange for this provision. |

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