DK – 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: Danish Institute for Human Rights

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. | 24 Jul 2009 |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 12? Please give details of any reservation. | 24 Jul 2009 |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 9? Please give details of any reservation. | 24 Jul 2009 |
| Please indicate the legislation which applies to European Parliament and municipal elections in your country. Please highlight possible amendments in view of the 2014 European Parliament elections.  Does the same law apply for national, federal, local and regional elections, and referendums? | **European Parliament elections**  Section 3 of the LBK nr. 126 of 11/02/2013**[[1]](#footnote-1)** sets out the conditions for the right to vote for the European Parliament (EP) elections. It is required to be above 18 years old, be either a Danish citizen living in Denmark or in another member state, or be a citizen of another member state living in Denmark. Furthermore, it is required not to have been deprived of one’s legal capacity.  Section 25 of the LBK nr. 126 states that during the election day the relevant provisions of the Act on Parliament Elections[[2]](#footnote-2) apply. This means that section 49 of the Act on Parliament Elections, which regulates assistance for persons with disabilities, also applies to the European Parliament Elections.  Section 26 of the LBK nr. 126 also states that the relevant provisions in the Act on Parliament Elections apply to European Parliament elections, referring to Chapter 8 of the Act on Parliament Elections which regulates the postal voting.  The attestation certifying that one has not been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate in one’s home Member State (as specified in **Council Directive 93/109/EC of 6 December 1993** article 10 (2)) is regulated in section 47a of the LBK nr. 126. It states that if a Danish citizen who is under guardianship and deprived of its legal capacity, according to the section 6 of the Act on Guardianship[[3]](#footnote-3), the minister cannot issue an attestation for someone deprived of his legal capacity.  Currently, a possible amendment of The Act on Election of Danish Members to the European Parliament is being discussed. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to carry out a change of the Council Directive 93/109/EC from the 6th of December 1993 concerning determination of the rules for the right to vote and be elected to the European Parliament, for citizens of the union who live in a member state where they do not hold the citizenship. The aim of the modification is to be able to pass on information about a citizen of the union’s right to be elected, from the home country to the relevant authority in the country in which the citizen lives.  **Municipal elections**  Section 1 of the Act on Municipal and Regional Elections nr. 127 af 11/02/2013**[[4]](#footnote-4)** sets out the conditions for the right to vote for municipal elections. It is required to be above 18 years old, have a permanent address in the municipality, respectively the region, and to be either a Danish citizen, a citizen of another European Member State or Iceland or Norway or to have had permanent address in Denmark for 3 years. It is required not to have been deprived of one’s legal capacity.  Section 55 regulates how assistance in the voting process during the election day can be provided if necessary due to for instance a physical disability.  Chapter 6 regulates postal voting.    The attestation certifying that one has not been deprived of the right to stand as a candidate in one’s home Member State (as specified in **Council Directive 94/80/EC of 19 December 1994 article 9 (2))** is regulated in section 108 a. It states that the minister cannot issue an attestation for someone deprived of his legal capacity.  **National elections (the Parliament and referendums)**  Section 1 of the Danish Parliamentary Election Act nr. 128 of 11/02/2013**[[5]](#footnote-5)** sets out the conditions for the right to vote for national Parliament elections and referendums. It is required to be a Danish citizen above 18 years old, and, as a general rule, to have a permanent address in Denmark. Furthermore, it is required not to have been deprived of one’s legal capacity. This mentioned in section 29 of the Danish Constitution (*Grundloven*) which states that “... *right to vote at Folketing elections, provided that he has not been declared incapable of conducting his own affairs*”.  Persons deprived of their legal capacity are neither eligible for the parliament (section 4 of the Danish Parliamentary Election Act nr. 128 of 11/02/2013). This, too, follows from the Danish Constitution (section 30).  Section 49 regulates how assistance in the voting process can be provided if necessary due to for instance a physical disability.  Chapter 8 regulates postal voting and follows the same rules that apply at municipal elections.  People holding the right to vote for national parliament elections, also hold the right to vote at referendums (section 96). Furthermore, sections 49, 54 and 61 apply to referendums as well, as mentioned in sections 99 and 100. |
| Is there a requirement under law to register to vote? If so, please specify the relevant legislation. | Danish citizens do not have to register to vote.  Non-Danish EU citizens have to register before they may vote in EP and municipal elections. They can register at a public service center in their municipality after a three months stay if they have a Danish address and a residence permit.[[6]](#footnote-6) When they have a personal registration number they are able to vote in accordance to The Act on Municipal and Regional Elections, section 1[[7]](#footnote-7). |
| 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 main issue concerning the right to vote for persons with disabilities remains the restriction of the right to vote for those under the legal guardianship of a caretaker or parent. The Act on Guardianship[[8]](#footnote-8) (*Værgemålsloven)*, combined with section 30 of the Danish Constitution, leads to disenfranchisement of persons who have been put under guardianship for reasons unrelated to their ability to vote in an election, as for instance if they have been placed under guardianship to help to protect them financially.  Persons deprived of their legal capacity are not eligible to vote for elections of the EP (section 3 of the LBK nr. 126 of 11/02/2013), nor can persons deprived of their legal capacity stand as a candidate for the EP (section 6 of the LBK nr. 126 of 11/02/2013).  The same applies to municipal elections (section 3 of the Act on Municipal and Regional Elections nr. 127 af 11/02/2013) and national parliament elections (section 4 of the Danish Parliamentary Election Act nr. 128 of 11/02/2013).  The Danish Institute for Human Rights released a report on this issue in 2011, and the topic was debated in various media outlets in 2011 and 2012. However, despite follow-up with relevant authorities, no steps have been taken until now to rectify the issue. |
| Do all persons with disabilities have the right, under law, to stand for and be elected to public office, in municipal elections, on an equal basis with others? And in elections to the European Parliament?  Does the same election law apply for other elections (e.g. national, local and regional) and referendums? | If you are eligible to vote, you are also eligible to stand for election to the Danish Parliament. This means that individuals who have been deprived of legal capacity do not have the right to stand for elections (see above for example section 6 of the LBK nr. 126 of 11/02/2013 regarding elections of the European Parliament). |
| Is there legislation in place regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote? | 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. |
| 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)? | With regard to both European Parliament Elections[[12]](#footnote-12) and municipal elections[[13]](#footnote-13) there are measures in place to regulate how people requiring assistance in the voting process can be assisted, and how people not able to leave their home may vote from their home via so-called postal voting (see above nr.8).  Assistance in the voting process can be provided if necessary due to for instance a physical disability. Assistance is provided by two returning officers or others assisting in carrying out the polling. If requested by the voter, one of them can be replaced by someone chosen by the voter himself. The voting procedure may be amended where necessary. For instance, it may be necessary to vote right outside the polling station. Assistance cannot be provided by a candidate in the municipality or the region or 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. This is regulated by section 49 of the Act nr. 126 on the European Parliament Elections, section 49 of the Act nr. 128 on the Danish Parliament Elections and section 55 of the Act nr. 127 on Municipal and Regional Elections. |
| 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) | There is no duty under law for neither public nor private providers.  Nevertheless, there is a non-binding parliamentary resolution ‘Proposal for a parliamentary resolution on the use of open standards for software in the public sector’ (*Forslag til folketingsbeslutning om anvendelse af åbne standarder for software i det offentlige*)[[14]](#footnote-14),stating that the government should ensure that the public’s use of information technology complies with open standards, among others WCAG 2.0. Danish regions and local governments of Denmark have agreed to commit themselves to comply with the same open standards that are mentioned in the Parliamentary Resolution mentioned above (including WCAG 2.0).  More information about the standards which local governments and regions have committed themselves to use (including WCAG 2.0) can be found at the following hyperlinks:  -<http://www.digst.dk/Arkitektur-og-standarder/Standardisering/AAbne-standarder--vejledning/~/media/Files/Arkitektur%20og%20standarder/%C3%85bne%20standarder%20vejledning/Aftale%20om%20anvendelse%20af%20abne%20standarder%20for%20software%20i%20det%20offentlige.ashx> (In Danish, accessed July 24th 2013)  -<http://www.digst.dk/Arkitektur-og-standarder/Standardisering/AAbne-standarder--vejledning/De-syv-saet-af-obligatoriske-aabne-standarder> (in Danish, accessed July 24th 2013)  -<http://www.digst.dk/Servicemenu/English/IT-Architecture-and-Standards/Open-standards> (In English, accessed July 24th 2013) |
| 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? | There is no general law making it mandatory for public and private providers of media to ensure that they are accessible. However, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DBC) is heavily subsidised by public funding and the Ministry of Culture has a legally binding contract with the DBC regulating the public service activities carried out by them.[[15]](#footnote-15)  The contract with the Danish Broadcasting Corporation contains the following accessibility requirements:  *Subtitles (Chapter 6):*Within the contract period The DBC is obligated to provide subtitles to 65% of all first time broadcastings on television.  The DBC is committed to provide subtitles to news twice every evening on weekdays and once every evening on weekends. During the elections, all programs presenting parties, their leaders and election nights have to be fully subtitled. Furthermore the DBC shall aim at providing subtitles to all transmissions concerning events considered to be of great importance or which have great general interest. The contract recognizes that certain economic and technical constraints exist. During 2013 the DBC had to ensure that all programs with subtitles were also offered with subtitles when ordered on demand from their homepage (www.dr.dk).  *Sign language interpretation (Chapter 6):*The DBC is obligated to provide sign language at least for two of their ordinary news programs on DR1 and/or DR2 within the time frame 17.00-19.30. Between 19.30-21.00, the DBC is obligated to rebroadcast the signed news programs and to strive to rebroadcast signed documentaries and entertainment.  Mid 2014 the DBC has to evaluate the experiment and discuss the results with the Danish Consumer Council.[[16]](#footnote-16) The evaluation has to lead to a decision on whether daily broadcasting of signed documentaries and entertainment programs between 19.30-21.00 has to be a permanent part of the broadcasting scheme.  The sign language interpretation will be broadcasted on “den 4. kanal” (The 4th Channel), also operated by the DBC, in the DTT net, which are available for this purpose from 17.00-21.00.  *Audio Interpretation (Chapter 6):*The DBC is obligated to provide audio interpretations of new productions of Danish Drama and furthermore of a selection of their own documentaries concerning societal issues. Audio interpretation is a soundtrack in addition to the normal soundtrack. It gives people who are visually impaired or blind information about what happens in the programme, such as facial expressions or other relevant information only given visually in the original programme.  For the second Danish public service channel, TV2/Denmark, mainly similar regulations exists:  [http://kum.dk/Documents/Kulturpolitik/medier/TV2/2013/Tilladelse%20TV2%20til%20at%20ud%c3%b8ve%20ps%20virksomhed%202013.pdf](http://kum.dk/Documents/Kulturpolitik/medier/TV2/2013/Tilladelse%20TV2%20til%20at%20ud%c3%b8ve%20ps%20virksomhed%202013.pdf%20) |
| 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.). | In relation to the recent parliamentary elections the examples of voting via letter, free transportation, special parking and special ballots for elderly and disabled citizens as well as other special measures were initiated at the municipal level.[[17]](#footnote-17) Relevant questions on disability and voting rights were raised by local disability councils. Denmark's disability policy is extensively implemented by the municipalities. For example, in 2007, it became compulsory for each municipality to establish a disability council (see below question nr. 20).  The Ministry for Health and Prevention (*Ministeriet for Sundhed of for Forebyggelse*) informs on the requirements for the ballots to be accessible for people with disabilities.  In November 2013, a Bill has been proposed making it possible for persons with disabilities to choose to vote at accessible voting premises if their local voting premises are not physically accessible.[[18]](#footnote-18) The Bill has not yet been adopted. |
| Does the law foresee training for election authorities and election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation? | 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.[[19]](#footnote-19) |
| Does the national strategy/action plan on disability cover the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | The *Danish government* launched a new national action plan on disability in October 2013.[[20]](#footnote-20) According to the terms of reference (ToR) for the development of the new national action plan,[[21]](#footnote-21) the background for the plan is Denmark’s ratification of the CRPD as well as a need to develop a multi sectorial approach. The ToR stated that the action plan shall support the continued implementation of the CRPD and thus also the principles of inclusion, respect for differences, equal opportunities, accessibility, empowerment and self-determination of persons with disabilities. The ToR did not mention the promotion of political participation for persons with disabilities as a theme for policy development. However, during the process of developing the national action plan three dialogue sessions have been held by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Integration. One session focused on the implementation and promotion of IT-accessibility in the public sector as a means to improve the involvement of persons with disabilities in public life. The plan, which is now published, covers citizenship and participation, education, employment, knowledge about conditions of people with disabilities and about the effect of possible interventions, connection and quality in social legislation and new technology and increased accessibility for people with disabilities. On each of these points, the action plan takes its point of departure the existing knowledge of the situation and sets new goals. The strategy builds on four principles: equal treatment; compensation; sectoral responsibility; and solidarity. |
| 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? | There is no special mechanism for persons with disabilities on how to complain if you have not been able to exercise the right to vote. Persons with disabilities have access to the same mechanisms as other citizens. If a citizen is eligible to vote and wants to complain, he has to give in his complaint to the minister, by the latest, the day after the election day. (This means that people deprived of their legal capacity cannot complain here.)  The right is specified in respectively section 38[[22]](#footnote-22), 93[[23]](#footnote-23) and 88[[24]](#footnote-24).Persons deprived of their legal capacity have the right to request for termination of the guardianship.[[25]](#footnote-25) |

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. | The Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) in Denmark (*Danske Handicaporganisationer*) are consulted and involved in the development of laws and policies in electoral matters.  A framework consisting of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Central Disability Council (*Det Centrale Handicapråd*), representing DPOs, and the Ombudsman has been set up to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRDP. There is a continuing dialogue on digital possibilities, accessibility for disabled people to polling stations, the right to vote for people under guardianship etc.  In addition, the Danish Institute for Human Rights also ensures that disability organizations are closely involved in the work of the Institute. Danish Disabled Persons’ Organisation and other disability organizations are represented in the Council and the Board of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. In addition, the Institute has held round-table meetings on the mandate of the Institute to which all disability organizations were invited.[[26]](#footnote-26)  The consultation and participation of NGOs in the conduct of public affairs has been formalised with the creation of disability councils in all local councils and at central State level. They act as an advisor to the local council in disability policy matters and communicate points of view between citizens and the local council in local policy issues regarding persons with disabilities The local councils are responsible for administering social, labour market and educational legislation. The disability council consists of representatives of local political parties, business interests, employers and employees ’organisations and disability organisations. Disability organisations receive annual financial assistance from a central pool for running the associations. They are not involved in decision-making in individual cases, but will be asked to comment on general policies, including of course the disability policies of the local councils. At the central level, the Central Disability Council (dch.dk) seeks to influence the Parliament and government to adopt laws and policies which will help to ensure equal opportunities of persons with disabilities.  Following the OHCHR, insufficient studies have been made of representation of persons with disabilities in political representative bodies.[[27]](#footnote-27) |
| 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. | No cases known. |
| Have national non-judicial redress mechanisms (e.g. National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies, Ombuds institutions) considered any cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities?  Please give details of relevant case law and any available data on the number of such cases. | No cases known. |
| 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? | Nothing official about where and how to complain is developed for persons with disabilities. The standards for complaining are the same for people with disabilities as for all other voters. So the answer depends on the individual disability. But in some cases the voter would be dependent on help in this matter. Nonetheless the ministry of interior affairs has informed DPO that the ministry intends to help develop such a material[[28]](#footnote-28).  The electoral commission does not provide about how and where to complain that is accessible to persons with disabilities. |

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? | This data does not exist in Denmark.  Statistics Denmark produce data on the elections in Denmark[[29]](#footnote-29), but this does not include data on persons with disability, postal voting etc. |
| How many members of the current national parliament identify as having a disability? | This data does not exist in Denmark.  The National Parliament, the Danish National Centre for Social Research and the University of Copenhagen have been consulted. |
| How many members of current municipal governments identify as having a disability? | None are known.  The Local Government Denmark (*Kommunernes Landsforening*), the Danish National Centre for Social Research and the University of Copenhagen have been consulted and none of these possess this information. |
| 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.) | In 2008 the Equal Opportunities Centre for Disabled Persons *(Center for Ligebehandling af Handicappede)* carried out a questionnaire survey asking the 98 municipalities in Denmark about the accessibility to polling stations for persons with disabilities.[[30]](#footnote-30)The survey shows the municipalities’ own impression of the accessibility to their polling stations. The survey was carried out in May – July 2008, so it does not cover the most recent elections.  The survey shows the following:  75 municipalities, which is equivalent to 76, 5% of all 98 municipalities, have answered the question concerning accessibility to the polling stations. Accessibility is defined as free of any levels, meaning steep ramps or steps. There are 1.175 polling stations in the 75 municipalities and 876 of these have free access according to the municipalities. This amount is equivalent to 74, 6% of all polling stations, and 27 municipalities which is 36% of all municipalities reports level free access to all polling stations in their municipalities.  69 municipalities, which is 70,4% of all 98 municipalities, answered the question on how many of the municipalities offers reserved parking spots for disabled near by the polling station. There are 1.075 polling stations in the 69 municipalities and 62% of these, which are 666 polling stations, report that they have parking spots reserved for disabled near by the polling station. 24 out of the 69 municipalities answer that they have reserved parking spots for persons with disabilities nearby all of the polling stations.  78 municipalities, which is 79% of all 98 municipalities have answered the question on how many of their polling stations have voting rooms with room for three persons at one time. This is important, as some voters have a special need to have assistance. The 78 municipalities have 1.261 polling stations altogether, and in 982, which is 77,9% of the 1.261 polling rooms, there are voting rooms with room for three persons at one time. In 57 of them, which is 73,1% of the 78 municipalities, they all have voting rooms in their polling stations that are big enough to have three persons at one time.  Regarding voting rooms, with room for three persons where one of them uses a wheelchair, 77 municipalities which is 78, 6% of all 98 municipalities, answered this question. These 77 municipalities have 1.207 voting rooms and 781 of them, which is 64, 7% of the 1.207 polling stations have voting rooms big enough to hold three persons at one time, where one of them uses a wheelchair. 45 of the municipalities, which is 58,4% of the 77 municipalities that answered the question, report that all of their polling stations have voting rooms big enough to hold three persons at one time, where one of them uses a wheelchair.  63 of all 98 municipalities, which is 64, 3%, answered the question on whether there is a rest room suitable for disabled people nearby the polling station. In these 63 municipalities there are 889 polling rooms and in 522 of them there is a rest room suitable for persons with disabilities nearby, which is 58,7% out of the 889 polling stations. 12 municipalities, which is 19% of the 63 municipalities, report that they have a rest room suitable for persons with disabilities nearby all of their polling rooms in the municipalities.  67 municipalities, which is 68, 4% of all 98 municipalities have answered the question on making an assessment of all the conditions. This concerns the level of free access to the polling station and reserved parking spots for persons with disabilities, restrooms suitable for disabled persons nearby the polling stations and rooms big enough for three persons when one of them uses a wheelchair.  In these municipalities there are 1.049 polling stations and concerning 375 of these, which is 35,7% of the polling stations in the 67 municipalities, answered that they live up to all the criteria. But only 7 of the municipalities, which is 10, 4% of the 67 municipalities, could give a positive answer to all the conditions regarding all of their municipalities polling stations.  God Adgang[[31]](#footnote-31) (The Accessibility Label Scheme) is a company, which registers and labels the accessibility to service providers with a focus on accessibility. People with different disabilities can search information about which places are accessible in accordance to their needs. The company was established in cooperation between different organisations and companies and Disabled Peoples Organisations Denmark (*Danske Handicaporganisationer*) and follows standards set between the partners. Currently 32 polling stations are registered[[32]](#footnote-32).  The Accessibility Label Scheme has reported the following results for those 32 polling stations:  -Difficulties in reading: No problems encountered.  -Development disabilities: No problems encountered.  -Asthma and allergy: No problems encountered.  -Hearing-impaired: No problems encountered.  -Visually-impaired: In 27 polling stations, no problems were encountered. In 5 polling stations, problems were encountered.  -Walk-, arm-, and hand-impaired: 17 has uncounted no problems, problems with 15  -Wheelchair-users: 5 has uncounted no problems, problems with 27  Only 5 polling stations are accessible in all 7 categories, that is, 27 have problems in one or more category. |
| 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](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/) AA standard[[33]](#footnote-33))? | The relevant websites are:  - <http://valg.oim.dk/> (In Danish, accessed July 24th 2013)  - <http://elections.oim.dk/> (In English, Accessed July 24th 2013)  The accessibility to <http://oim.dk> was tested in 2012.[[34]](#footnote-34) The results were the following:  -Number of Level A errors: 7  -Number of Level AA errors: 2  -Qualitative evaluation: Good accessibility. |
| What proportion of main public and/or private television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has national language subtitles? | There is no public or accessible data covering all television broadcasts, nor data specifically about voting and information on candidates, nor covering whether the Danish Broadcasting Corporation meets the obligations. The Danish Broadcasting Corporation only mentions the total hours of programs with subtitles, sign language or audio interpretation, which is of 62.6 %, but not specifically in relation to elections. They do mention important programs such as elections.  The data published by the Danish Broadcasting Corporation on their public service activities is[[35]](#footnote-35):  -Number of hours in 2012 with subtitles: 18,227 hours.  -Number of hours in 2012 without subtitles: 10,910 hours.  -Number of hours in total: 29,137 hours. |
| What proportion of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has audio description? | There is no data covering all television broadcasts, nor specifically about voting and information on candidates.  The Danish Broadcasting Corporation has published data on their public service activities[[36]](#footnote-36):  Number of hours with audio description in 2012: 17.2 hours or 0.06 % |
| What proportion of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has sign language interpretation? | There is no data covering all television broadcasts, nor specifically about voting and information on candidates.  The Danish Broadcasting Corporation has published data on their public service activities[[37]](#footnote-37):  Number of hours with sign language interpretation in 2012: 775 hours, or 2.7%. |
| 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.)? | No numbers available but at the latest elections there has been an increased awareness within the political parties on the subject of accessibility for people with disabilities, nonetheless with variation and without structured effort. But in general no political parties take united action to make their material accessible.  The only ones found are from the Danish Social-Liberal Party (*Radikale Venstre*) and the Socialist People’s Party (*Socialistisk Folkeparti*)[[38]](#footnote-38).  Furthermore there is a proposal for a parliamentary resolution on increased availability of participation in democracy (*Forslag til folketingsbeslutning om øget tilgængelighed i forbindelse med deltagelse i demokratiet*)[[39]](#footnote-39). The proposal has not yet been approved nor rejected. |
| What proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities? | Accurate numbers do not exist but research based on interviews with building administrators and building consultants indicates a slight change in the attention on this subject. It indicates a higher awareness on and knowledge of accessibility.[[40]](#footnote-40) |
| 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?[[41]](#footnote-41) | There are no registered complaints. Nonetheless, every time there is an election the media brings stories on how groups of people with disabilities feel overlooked and neglected. There are articles on anonymity for people with a disability when voting[[42]](#footnote-42) and on why it would be necessary to put pictures of the candidates on the ballot paper[[43]](#footnote-43). |

1. In Danish: Lov om valg af danske medlemmer til Europa-Parlamentet. (LBK nr. 126 af 11/02/2013 – proclaimed in Lovtidende A, 13 February 2013). Hyperlink accessed on 23 July 2013. www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=144942. In English: The Act on Election of Danish Members to the European Parliament. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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33. For Level AA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A and Level AA Success Criteria, or a Level AA conforming alternate version is provided. For more information, please see: <http://www.w3.org/TR/UNDERSTANDING-WCAG20/conformance.html#uc-conformance-requirements-head>. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
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