The right to political participation of persons with disabilities ahead of the 2024 European Parliament elections

The Netherlands

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1. Data on persons with disabilities exercising their right to political participation

Table 1

| Indicator | Answer  (Choose one of the answers provided below) | Source and brief description/assessment |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Do national disability strategies include political participation? | National disability strategies specifically address political participation | From 2018 to 2021, the national government implemented the comprehensive policy programme ‘Onbeperkt meedoen!’ (‘Unlimited participation!’). Aim of this programme was to implement the CRPD. It focused on several social areas, including political participation.[[1]](#footnote-2) In 2022, this programme was extended by three more years by the national government. The policy letter in which this extension was announced and elaborated includes political participation.[[2]](#footnote-3)  In 2021, the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations launched an action programme campaign to make the election process more accessible during the municipal council elections of 16 March 2022 (and other future elections).[[3]](#footnote-4) |
| Can persons deprived of legal capacity vote? | Full Participation | The right to vote is granted by the constitution and specified in the election law.  All persons with disabilities are allowed to vote in the Netherlands.  Until 2008, persons placed under custodial care and deprived of legal capacity due to their mental health problems or intellectual disabilities could not exercise their right to vote. This changed with the constitutional amendment[[4]](#footnote-5) following a ruling by the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State[[5]](#footnote-6), declaring that the categorical exclusion of persons placed under custodial care can be contrary to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. |
| Is there a requirement under law to register to vote? | No, automatic registration | There is no requirement to register to vote.  Polling cards are sent out to every eligible person registered in the municipal registration. All Dutch nationals aged 18 or older and all EU-nationals resident in a municipality aged 18 or older are eligible to vote in municipal elections and European parliament elections.[[6]](#footnote-7)  It is mandatory to be registered in the municipal registration system, as stipulated by the Personal Records Database Act (*Wet basisregistratie personen*).[[7]](#footnote-8) |
| Are alternative ways of voting available to persons with disabilities? | Yes, available to all voters | Alternative ways of voting available to all voters are limited to voting from home by letter[[8]](#footnote-9) and voting by proxy[[9]](#footnote-10). |
| Is there legislation regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote? | Yes, as part of legislation on alternative forms of voting | People living in long-term institutions are eligible to vote just like others.  Article L2 of the Electoral Act 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*).[[10]](#footnote-11) The law does not specify people living in long-term institutions explicitly, but talks of ‘voters who are expected not to be able to vote in person'.[[11]](#footnote-12)  There are no special procedures or provisions in place for people living in long-term institutions, so they have to make use of proxy voting. To give another person the authority to vote on their behalf, voters have to submit a proxy form at least two weeks in advance, signed by themselves and the authorised person.[[12]](#footnote-13) Alternatively, they can assign the authority on the election day itself by signing the appropriate part of their voting card which is sent to their home, and giving that to the person doing the voting.[[13]](#footnote-14) |
| Is there a legal duty to provide assistance in voting to persons with disabilities? | Yes, for people with physical and sensory disabilities | Only people with physical or sensory disabilities can be accompanied when they vote.[[14]](#footnote-15) People with mental disabilities have to vote themselves.  Alternative ways to vote are limited to voting from home by letter[[15]](#footnote-16) and voting by proxy[[16]](#footnote-17). |
| Are all persons with disabilities legally able to access complaints mechanisms if they have not been able to exercise the right to political participation? | Yes, all persons with disabilities. | All complaint procedures and redress mechanisms under the Electoral Act are available to persons with disabilities (with or without legal capacity). Depending on the nature of the complaint, this can be addressed to the municipality, to a polling station in question[[17]](#footnote-18), to one of the major polling stations[[18]](#footnote-19) or to the Electoral Council (*Kiesraad*)[[19]](#footnote-20). if the complainant does not agree with the decision of the body to which he or she submitted the complaint, he or she can lodge an appeal with the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State (*Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak Raad van State*). |
| Is information on complaints mechanisms regarding political participation accessible to persons with disabilities? | Partially – some accessibility measures are in place | The complaints mechanism of the Electoral Council is available on its website. [[20]](#footnote-21)  A report by Cardan Technobility , an expertise centre on digital accessibility, assessed the accessibility of the content of the website [www.kiesraad.nl](http://www.kiesraad.nl).[[21]](#footnote-22) It was completed on 28 September 2022. The standard used in this assessment was WCAG 2.1 level AA. The assessment report shows that the website content does fully meet all success criteria. Currently, the website meets 25 of the 30 success criteria applicable to the website's content. |
| Have national courts considered cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | No cases identified | No case identified for the reference period of this report (January 2020 - 31 January 2024). We have checked the case law database on the website of the Council for the Judiciary (*Raad voor de rechtspraak*).[[22]](#footnote-23)  National courts have considered cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities in the past.  On 29 October 2003, the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State (*Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak Raad van State*) ruled that the categorical exclusion from the right to vote of persons placed under custodial care due to mental health problems or intellectual disabilities is contrary to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[[23]](#footnote-24) In 2008, this ruling led to the removal of the provision in the Dutch Constitution which prohibited people who have been placed under curatorship to vote. [[24]](#footnote-25) |
| Have non-judicial complaints mechanisms considered cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | No, no cases identified | No cases identified. The website of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (*College voor de Rechten van de Mens)* and the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands were checked. |
| Are persons with disabilities members of the current national parliament? | No data identified | The websites of both house of Dutch parliament, the House of Representatives (*Tweede Kamer*)[[25]](#footnote-26) and the Senate *(Eerste Kamer*) [[26]](#footnote-27), contain webpages with the personal details of all members. Having a disability is not included in the personal details. |
| Is data available on the number of members of municipal/regional governments who have a disability? | Some official data available | The only data about the number of members of municipal/regional governments who have a disability are from a study carried out by the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations in 2019. The study estimates that the number of political and administrative positions (on national, regional and municipal level) filled by people with disabilities does not exceed 0.5%.[[27]](#footnote-28) This applies to a total of about 12,000 positions. The study is based on desk research and interviews or panel discussion with persons with a disability who are politically active. This study was the immediate cause for the national government to launch an action programme[[28]](#footnote-29) containing measures to support people with disabilities who aspire to become politically active. On 9 December 2020, the action was submitted to parliament.[[29]](#footnote-30) |
| Is training for election authorities and officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and accommodation required by law? | Yes, training required by law | Article 4E of the Election Act (*Kieswet*) stipulates that each polling station official must follow a training.[[30]](#footnote-31) The instruction by the National Government for this training includes information about how to make the polling station accessible for persons with a disability.[[31]](#footnote-32)  Besides the mandatory training, officials of polling stations and municipal civil servants involved in the electoral process can make use of several guidelines. In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations published a toolkit on its website containing several guidelines on how to make polling stations accessible. These guidelines consist of a checklist for municipal civil servants [[32]](#footnote-33) , a guideline for the managers of polling stations or site managers[[33]](#footnote-34), a reference work on the criteria for the integral accessibility of polling stations[[34]](#footnote-35), a guideline on how to design accessible polling stations[[35]](#footnote-36). |
| Are there mechanisms in place to ensure consultation and involvement of DPOs in the development of laws and policies which affect them? | No mechanisms in place | In the Netherlands, there are no structural or legally mandated mechanisms for consultation with DPOs in the development of laws and policies. DPOs can make use of the mechanisms in the development of laws and policies which are open for all societal actors: submitting contributions during the online consultation on a draft bill or submitting policy letters to parliament or to responsible ministers.  One of the biggest DPOs is Ieder(in). It is an umbrella organisation for people with a disability in which 2.372 organisations participate.[[36]](#footnote-37)  Another important DPO is the Netherlands Patients Federation that represents more than 200 patient organisations.[[37]](#footnote-38) |
| Do national authorities provide guidelines on how to make polling stations accessible? | Yes, detailed guidance available | In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations published a toolkit on its website containing several guidelines on how to make polling stations accessible. These guidelines consist of a checklist for municipal civil servants [[38]](#footnote-39), a guideline for the managers of polling stations or site managers [[39]](#footnote-40), a reference work on the criteria for the integral accessibility of polling stations [[40]](#footnote-41), guidelines on how to design accessible polling stations [[41]](#footnote-42). |
| Does the website which provides instructions for voting and information on candidates meet accessibility standards? | Partially, some accessibility measures are in place | The website of the Electoral Council (*Kiesraad*) , [www.kiesraad.nl](http://www.kiesraad.nl) , provides information about the whole electoral process (including information on instructions on how to vote and on available candidates).  A report by Cardan Technobility, an expertise centre on digital accessibility, assessed the accessibility of the content of the website [www.kiesraad.nl](http://www.kiesraad.nl).[[42]](#footnote-43) It was completed on 28 September 2022. The standard used in this assessment was WCAG 2.1 level AA. The assessment report shows that the website content does fully meet all success criteria. Currently, the website meets 25 of the 30 success criteria applicable to the website's content. For a complete overview of all 55 success criteria another sub-report has to be conducted.  The accessibility statement of the website of the Electoral Council states that its website ([www.kiesraad.nl](http://www.kiesraad.nl)) is partially EN 301 549 v3.2.1 (2021-03) compliant.[[43]](#footnote-44) This statement was updated for the last time on 4 October 2022. |
| Are some television programmes providing instructions for voting and information on candidates subtitled? | Yes, some key programmes are subtitled | In the Netherlands, most television programmes of the public broadcasting organisations[[44]](#footnote-45) and major commercial broadcasting organisation[[45]](#footnote-46) have subtitles available via teletext. |
| Do some television programmes providing instructions for voting and information on candidates have national sign language interpretation? | Yes, some key programmes have sign language interpretation | As part of the campaign for the House of Representatives elections of 22 November 2023, the Netherlands Public Broadcasting Corporation, or NPO, broadcast two election debates with a Dutch Sign Language interpreter: the youth news election broadcast on Sunday 19 November and the major election debate on Tuesday 21 November. In addition, for the first time ever, the public television programme on election night could be watched with a Dutch Sign Language interpreter. [[46]](#footnote-47) |
| Are some television programmes providing instructions for voting and information on candidates audio described? | No, key programmes do not have audio description | We have checked the website ([www.allesoveraudiodescriptie.nl](http://www.allesoveraudiodescriptie.nl)) containing information on all television programmes that have audio description.[[47]](#footnote-48) No election programmes were found. |
| Were some political party manifestos provided in accessible formats during the most recent elections? | Some political parties provided accessible manifestos | The most recent elections are the elections for the House of Representatives held on 22 November 2023.  For these elections, DPO Ieder(in) screened the availability of election manifestos in accessible formats on the websites of 18 political parties.[[48]](#footnote-49)  The screening included only the parties that were in the House before the elections and/or are projected to have a chance of winning House seats again. During the screening, the quality of the accessibility of the accessible documents (like the easy-to-read manifestos) was not checked. All parties have their manifesto in a downloadable pdf version on their websites. 11 parties had a website version of their manifesto on their websites. 9 parties had a summary of their manifesto in easy-to-read language. 2 parties made a short version of their manifesto in Braille available (on paper). 3 parties have a short version of their manifesto in a spoken version on their website. 4 parties have a short version of their manifesto in Dutch sign language. One party presented its election manifesto in short videos with subtitles. |
| Are there legal accessibility standards for public and private providers of internet and web-based public information? | Yes, covering public only. | The Temporary Digital Accessibility Decree (*Tijdelijk besluit digitale toegankelijkheid overheid* requires that websites, mobile apps, and intra- and extranets of government bodies to be made digitally accessible to people with disabilities.[[49]](#footnote-50)  A report by Cardan Technobility, an expertise centre on digital accessibility, concludes that of the 4,416 government websites and apps registered, only 8.6% were found to be fully compliant with accessibility legislation.[[50]](#footnote-51) While 37.5% are partially compliant and 23.3% have taken initial measures to comply, there is still a significant percentage (30.6%) that is currently not at all compliant.  The Dutch Accessibility Dashboard ([www.dashboard.digitoegankelijk.nl](http://www.dashboard.digitoegankelijk.nl)) gives an overview of the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of governmental organisations.[[51]](#footnote-52) On the 12 February 12, 2024, 9170 websites and apps were registered in the Dashboard, from which 40% met the legal requirements of the Temporary Digital Accessibility Decree. |
| Are there legal accessibility standards for public and private providers of media? | Yes, covering public and private. | The existing legal accessibility standards for media providers pertain to public and private television broadcasting organisations, and are specifically related to the provision of subtitles to the benefit of people with a hearing impairment.    Article 15 of the Media Decree (*Mediabesluit*) stipulates that public television broadcasting organisations are obliged to provide subtitles to 95% of their Dutch language programmes to make these programmes accessible (advertisements excluded). [[52]](#footnote-53)  Article 17 of the Media Decree (*Mediabeslui*t) stipulates that private broadcasting organisations based in the Netherlands, are obliged to provide subtitles to 75% of their Dutch language programmes (advertisements excluded).[[53]](#footnote-54) |
| Are there mandatory accessibility standards for national and local authority buildings in the election context? | Yes. | Section 4.6 of the Dutch Building Decree (*Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving*) lays down requirements with regard to the accessibility of new buildings in the Netherlands.  In 2024, the NEN 9120, a new standard on accessibility, will be published. This will, initially, be a standard that can voluntarily be used by the construction sector. |
| Are there legal accessibility standards for polling stations in place? | Yes, for all polling stations | The Electoral Act provides in article J4 that each municipal government must ensure that all polling stations are located and equipped in such a way that voters with physical disabilities can cast their votes independently as much as possible.[[54]](#footnote-55) Where polling stations do not comply with this, the municipal government must inform the municipal council of the reasons for this. |
| Is data available on the proportion of polling stations that are accessible to persons with disabilities? | Some official data available. | Official data are available for the elections for the Provincial Councils and Water Boards elections that took place on 15 March 2023.  Under article J4 of the Electoral Act each municipal government must ensure that all polling stations are located and equipped in such a way that voters with physical disabilities can cast their votes independently as much as possible.[[55]](#footnote-56) Where polling stations do not comply with this, the municipal government must inform the municipal council of the reasons for this.  The official evaluation report of the 15 march 2023 Provincial Council and Water Board elections indicates that 19% of the 268 municipalities in the evaluation (there are 343 municipalities in the Netherlands) made a report about non-accessible polling stations.[[56]](#footnote-57) The municipalities that made a report did so on average about 4.1 non-accessible polling stations.  A sample of 120 polling stations during the 15 March 2023 elections for the Provincial Councils and Water Boards was assessed by a specialised agency on commission of the national government.[[57]](#footnote-58) All 120 polling stations in this sample were designated by the responsible municipality as being accessible. This assessment show that 79% of these ‘accessible’ polling stations in the sample did not meet all accessibility criteria.  The official evaluation report of these elections contained also the results of a survey held among voters (with and without a disability). These results show that 3% of voters experienced problems with the accessibility of the polling place (2% experienced minor problems and 1% experienced major problems). The most frequently mentioned problems were related to the ambiguity of the walking route, the width of the walking route and lack of clarity about where the entrance to the polling stations was.[[58]](#footnote-59) |
| Is data available on the proportion of public buildings that are accessible for persons with disabilities? | No data identified | No data available.  On its website, the Netherlands Patients Federation states, that not all buildings are yet properly accessible, despite current legislation. [[59]](#footnote-60) All persons with a disability should check the website of the venue they are going to beforehand for information on facilities and accessibility. |

1. Political participation of persons with disabilities in practice
   1. Positive and negative key development as regards political participation of persons with disabilities

Positive key development

A positive development during the reporting period is the effort made by the national government to make the elections more accessible.

In 2021, the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations launched an action programme to make all polling stations during the Municipal Council elections of 16 March 2022 (and other future elections) more accessible.[[60]](#footnote-61) The plan ran until the end of 2022. The plan consisted of 11 actions. The evaluation shows that most of the actions have been realized.[[61]](#footnote-62) Only action 2 was not realised.

Action item 1 was the creation of a checklist with which municipalities can check the accessibility of their polling stations.

Action item 2 was to organize a simulation of an election day with people with a disability. This did not go ahead due to covid restrictions. Instead, a webinar was organised.

Action item 3 was to give municipalities the opportunity to share knowledge and promising practices on making the election process more accessible. This was done through an update of the ‘Accessible voting manual’ published by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (*Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten*).[[62]](#footnote-63)

Action item 4 was to enable voters to find information about the elections and the election results at a central location on the Internet. This has been achieved by putting that information on the website of the Electoral Council[[63]](#footnote-64) and on a part of the national government's site [[64]](#footnote-65) that contains the election results.

Action item 5 was the realisation of the platform www.waarismijnstemlokaal.nl that helps voters find a polling stations near them and provides information on the accessibility of polling station. [[65]](#footnote-66)

Action item 6 was to enable voters to request a replacement voting card or written proxy from their municipality online.

Action item 7 was to develop sample letters for municipalities in easy-to-understand language with information about elections. In addition to sample letters and infographics, images, banners, advertorials, videos, frequently asked questions and answers and ready-to-use texts for social media were also made available.

Action point 8 was to work with DPOs to reach as many voters and to ensure that the information from action point 7 was made available in an accessible way.

Action item 10 was to make a short action list on accessibility for polling station workers available.[[66]](#footnote-67) This list contains concise information on what to do to ensure that their polling station is accessible.

Action item 11 was a call on the political parties that participated in the elections to communicate in an accessible way. To this end, a guide with clear tips for creating accessible election information was commissioned by the national government.[[67]](#footnote-68)

**Negative key development**

A negative development is that despite all efforts by the national government to improve the accessibility of the electoral process accessibility issues during the electoral process have not been resolved.

One of these issues is that under the Election Act, only voters who are unable to vote independently due to a physical disability can get assistance at the polling booth. Voters with intellectual disabilities or those who are low-literate are not entitled to assistance. To remedy this situation the national government initiated a bill for a Temporary Experiments Act on voting assistance (*Tijdelijke experimentenwet assistentie bij het stemmen* . [[68]](#footnote-69) This bill allows for a 5-year experiment in elections with providing assistance at the polling booth to all voters who request it. The bill has yet to be submitted to parliament.

During the Provincial Council and Water Board elections of 15 March 2023, a study was conducted by a research agency specialised in assessing accessibility. [[69]](#footnote-70) This study concluded that 79% of the polling stations in a sample of 120 did not meet all accessibility criteria. At the same time the official evaluation indicates that 19% of the 268 municipalities in the evaluation (there are 343 municipalities in the Netherlands) made a report about non-accessible polling stations.[[70]](#footnote-71) This gap between the assessment by the research agency and the official evaluation indicates a knowledge gap between the authorities on the one side and specialised research agencies concerning the assessment of accessibility of polling stations on the other side.

DPO Ieder(in) opened a special hotline in the week after the Municipal Council elections of 16 March 2022 and in the week after the Provincial Council and Water Board elections of 15 March 2023. The reports of both these hotlines indicate that a substantial number of people with a disability faced problems during the elections.

The hotline on the Municipal Council elections of 16 March 2022 handled 145 reports.[[71]](#footnote-72) 48% of the reports were about a positive experience, 34% were about a negative experience and 19% were neutral.

The hotline on the Provincial Council and Water Board elections of 15 March 2023 handled 123 reports.[[72]](#footnote-73) 38% of the reports were about a positive experience, 46% were about a negative experience and 16% were neutral. Many reports to both hotlines were about the accessibility of the polling stations. Not all polling stations for voters with a disability in a wheelchair or voters with a disability who were pedestrians were accessible. This often involved entrance doors that people could not open themselves, as well as thresholds and ramps. A large distance to the polling station was also a barrier for several people. Several mobility scooter users reported that they could not use the polling booth with their mobility scooter.

For the House of Representatives election of 22 November 2023, DPO Ieder(in) availability of election manifestos in accessible formats on the websites of 18 political parties [[73]](#footnote-74) The screening included only the parties that were in the House before elections and/or were projected to have a chance of winning House seats again. During the screening, the quality of the accessibility of the accessible documents (like the easy-to-read manifestos) was not checked. During the screening, the quality of accessibility was not checked. The screening shows that only a small number of parties made their election manifestos accessible. 9 parties had a summary of their manifesto in easy-to-read language. 2 parties made a short version of their manifesto in Braille available (on paper). 3 parties have a short version of their manifesto in a spoken version on their website. 4 parties have a short version of their manifesto in Dutch sign language. One party presented its election manifesto in short videos with subtitles.

* 1. Political participation: Promising practices

Table 1 – Promising practice 1

| Promising practice |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title (original language) | Stemmal |
| Title (EN) | Voting template |
| Organisation (original language) | Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten |
| Organisation (EN) | Association of Netherlands Municipalities |
| Government / Civil society | Government |
| Funding body | National |
| Reference (incl. URL, where available) | The Netherlands, Association of Netherlands Municipalities (*Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten*) (2022), ‘Voting template used more often for blind and visually impaired voters’, (‘[Stemmal vaker ingezet voor blinde en slechtziende kiezers’](https://vng.nl/nieuws/stemmal-vaker-ingezet-voor-blinde-en-slechtziende-kiezers)), News release, 17 February 2022. |
| Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist | 2018- |
| Type of initiative | Voting tool |
| Main target group | Voters with a visual impairment |
| Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National | Local |
| Brief description (max. 1000 chars) | This practice is an audio-assisted voting template. The ballot paper is placed in the voting template and the holes in the template correspond exactly to the circles for the candidates' names. Each party number is indicated with tactile numbers and in braille. Audio support allows voters to listen to all candidates through headphones. The sound box with headphones tells the blind or visually impaired voter which parties and candidates are on the list and which number belongs to them. |
| Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars) | The whole practice is transferable. |
| Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to ‘one off activities’) | Because the practice is implemented by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (*Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten*), an organisation that represents all Dutch municipalities. The Municipalities are responsible for implementing the electoral process. |
| Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact | The practice allows voters with a visual impairment to vote independently. During the Municipal Council elections of 16 March 2022 82 municipalities made use of the voting template.[[74]](#footnote-75) During the House of Representatives elections of 22 November 2023 elections 116 municipalities made use of the voting template. [[75]](#footnote-76) That is a more than a third of all municipalities. |
| Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States? | Because voters with a visual impairment face the same problems across the Union. |
| Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice | The Eye Association Netherlands (*Oogvereniging*) is involved in the design, planning, assessment and implementation of the practice. |
| Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment | The practice can be assessed by the number of municipalities in which the voting template can be used. |

Table 2 – Promising practice 2

| Promising practice |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title (original language) | Website ‘Waar is mijn stemlokaal’ |
| Title (EN) | Website ‘Where is my polling station’ |
| Organisation (original language) | Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties / Open State Foundation |
| Organisation (EN) | Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations / Open State Foundation |
| Government / Civil society | Government / Civil society |
| Funding body | National Government |
| Reference (incl. URL, where available) | The Netherlands, Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations (*Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties*) (2023), ‘Where is my polling station?’, Website. ( ‘[Waar is mijn stemlokaal](https://waarismijnstemlokaal.nl/)?’ Website’). |
| Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist | 2021, no finishing date |
| Type of initiative | Website |
| Main target group | All voters |
| Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National | National |
| Brief description (max. 1000 chars) | A website (<https://waarismijnstemlokaal.nl/>) on which voters can find a polling station in their neighbourhood. The website contains information on all polling stations. For each polling station, information on its accessibility is provided. The website provides information on whether the polling station is accessible, whether visual aids are available, whether auditory aids are available, whether the acoustics are suitable for hearing impaired people, whether a toilet for the disabled is available. |
| Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars) | The whole practice is transferable. |
| Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to ‘one off activities’) | Because it is implemented and maintained by the national government. |
| Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact | Because during the development of the website, the website was thoroughly tested by members of the target group (voters with a disability). [[76]](#footnote-77) |
| Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States? | Because the accessibility of polling stations is an issue in all Member States. |
| Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice | During the development of the website, the website was thoroughly tested by members of the target group (voters with a disability). [[77]](#footnote-78) |
| Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment | Practice is a website. The numbers of visitors can be monitored. |

1. The Nethelands, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport*) (2018), Unlimited participation! - Implementation UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Programme ([*Onbeperkt meedoen! – implementatie VN-verdrag inzake de rechten van mensen met een handicap. Programma)*](https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/ronl-c6268c81-8170-4d20-855a-3cffa4eea385/pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The Netherlands, Minister for Long-term Care and Sport (*Minister voor Langdurige Zorg en Sport*) (2022), ‘Follow-up coordinating approach to implementation of UN convention on disability’ (‘[Vervolg coördinerende aanpak implementatie van het VN verdrag handicap](https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/ronl-a14b1dd20c8b1cc1a7b233dffd9b5449051a1936/pdf)‘), Letter to the House of Representatives (*Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal*), 22 April 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The Netherlands, Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations (*Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties*) (2021), Action Programme Accessible Voting ([*Actieplan Toegankelijk Stemmen*](https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/ronl-4a0c4e98-e7b8-4bc6-a3d0-711998c29556/pdf)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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