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

Slovenia

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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 do not address political participation  | In Slovenia, there is no separate strategy specifically related to political participation of persons with disability. The Action programme for persons with disabilities 2022-2030 (*Akcijski program za invalide 2022-2030*), the main national policy document in the field, does not address political participation of persons with disabilities in any comprehensive manner. It shortly mentions that persons with disabilities must be ensured the participation in decision-making. In the chapter on accessibility, one of the thirteen basic objectives set out in the national action plan, it stipulates that accessibility provides persons with disabilities an opportunity to be included in political life, amongst others. Among the measures aimed at ensuring the accessibility of information and communication, the adaptation of documents relating to decision-making at national and local levels in easy read is listed.[[1]](#footnote-2)  |
| Can persons deprived of legal capacity vote?  | Full participation  | On 30 January 2024, the National Assembly passed amendments that significantly altered the past arrangements that only provided for limited participation of persons with disabilities deprived of legal capacity. The adopted amendments grant, without reservations, both active and passive voting rights in parliamentary election to persons deprived of legal capacity (i.e. persons under guardianship, as laid down in the Family Code that did away with the concept of deprivation of legal capacity).[[2]](#footnote-3) The amendment entered into force on 10 February 2024.[[3]](#footnote-4) According to the current National Assembly Election Act (*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*), a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia who has reached the age of 18 on the election day has the right to vote and be elected as a member of parliament (Art. 7, para 1).[[4]](#footnote-5)In Slovenia, different types of elections and referendums are governed by separate laws. These are as follows: - the National Assembly Election Act (*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*),[[5]](#footnote-6) - the Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia Act (*Zakon o volitvah poslancev iz Republike Slovenije v Evropski parlament*),[[6]](#footnote-7)- the Local Elections Act (*Zakon o lokalnih volitvah*),[[7]](#footnote-8) - the Election of the President of the Republic Act (*Zakon o volitvah predsednika republike*),[[8]](#footnote-9) - the Referendum and Popular Initiative Act (*Zakon o refendumu in o ljudski iniciativi*),[[9]](#footnote-10) - the National Council Act (*Zakon o Državnem svetu*).[[10]](#footnote-11)It is worthwhile noting that provisions of the National Assembly Election Actare *mutatis mutandis* applicable, or referred to regarding various issues which are not specifically regulated in other elections-related laws. Several provisions of this law are specifically relevant for persons with disabilities. As regards political participation, the Local Elections Act, for example, stipulates that regarding limitations on exercising the right to vote in local elections of persons who have been deprived of legal capacity or regarding whom parental rights have been extended, the provisions of the law governing the right to vote in elections to the National Assembly shall apply (Art. 5, para 6).[[11]](#footnote-12) The right to full participation in election, as laid down in the amended National Assembly Election Act, thus extends to local elections.In its transitional provisions, the new National Assembly Election Act did away with restrictive provisions in several other laws. The Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia Act has, for example, been amended. Citizens of other EU Member States who have reached the age of 18 by the election day and have a permanent residence permit and registered permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia or have a certificate of registered residence and a registered temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, are no longer required to produce evidence that their voting right has not been revoked in an EU Member States. Regardless of possible loss of voting rights in another EU Member State, the same as Slovenian citizens, they are free to fully exercise their right to vote and stand as candidates in EU elections in Slovenia.[[12]](#footnote-13)The relevant provision of the Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia Act now reads as follows, with no restrictions applicable: a citizen of other EU Member States who has reached the age of 18 by the election day and have a permanent residence permit and registered permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia or have a certificate of registered residence and a registered temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, are eligible to vote and to stand for election of an MEP (Art. 10, para 2).[[13]](#footnote-14)    |
| Is there a requirement under law to register to vote? | No, automatic registration  | The Voting Rights Register Act (*Zakon o evidenci volilne pravice*), the law which applies to all types of elections, stipulates that the following voters shall be entered in the voting rights register *ex officio*: citizens of the Republic of Slovenia; citizens of other Member States of the European Union holding a permanent residence permit and having registered permanent residence, or holding a residence registration certificate and having registered temporary residence in the Republic Slovenia; foreigners holding a permanent residence permit and having registered permanent residence in the Republic Slovenia (Art. 4, para 1).[[14]](#footnote-15)On 30 January 2024, as reported, the National Assembly passed amendments to the National Assembly Election Act that significantly altered the existing arrangements. The adopted amendments grant, without reservations, both active and passive voting rights in parliamentary election to persons under guardianship. Voting register shall be adjusted accordingly, ex officio.[[15]](#footnote-16) The amendments also extend these rights to local elections and elections for the European Parliament, for example.  |
| Are alternative ways of voting available to persons with disabilities? | Yes, disability-specific alternatives  | Persons with disabilities may vote by post if they notify the district electoral commission about this no later than ten days before the election day and present the decision issued by the competent body recognising their status as persons with disabilities (Art. 81, para 2).Persons with disabilities who received the decision on their status upon expiry of the mentioned deadline, may vote by post if they notify the district election commission of the area where they are entered into the electoral register no later than five days before the day of voting and present the relevant certificate or decision (Art. 81, para 3).Persons with disabilities may vote by post permanently if they notify the State Election Commission about this and present the decision issued by the competent body recognising their status as persons with disabilities. Such notification shall apply until revocation. The first notification of permanent voting by post must be presented within the mentioned time limits, respectively (Art. 81, para 4).Voters who cannot visit the polling station where they are entered in the electoral register because of illness may vote in their homes before an electoral committee. They shall notify the district electoral commission about this no later than three days before the election day (Art. 83).[[16]](#footnote-17) In October 2020, the Constitutional Court (*Ustavno sodišče*) clarified that that persons with disabilities may benefit from this provision. According to the court, such type of voting is related to an illness and not explicitly to a disability, but, based on the argument of analogy, this provision must be interpreted as allowing persons with disabilities to vote in such a manner. Such an interpretation is consistent with the Constitution as it provides an additional voting avenue for persons with disabilities, guaranteeing thus another measure of positive discrimination that facilitates independent, personal, and secret voting by persons with disabilities.[[17]](#footnote-18) Provisions mentioned above apply to other elections as well.  |
| Is there legislation regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote? | Yes, specific legislative provisions  | The National Assembly Election Act lays down that voters who are in hospital or in a social protection institution for institutional care may vote by post if they notify the district electoral commission about this no later than ten days before the election day (Art. 81, para 2). Voters who have been unexpectedly admitted to a hospital for treatment or to the institutional care of a social welfare institution after the mentioned deadline can vote by post if they notify the district election commission of the area where they are entered into the electoral register no later than five days before the day of voting and attach appropriate proof of admission (e.g. certificate or decision) (Art. 81, para 3).[[18]](#footnote-19)These provisions also apply to other elections.Voters who permanently reside in institutional care may also vote as others in their homes before an electoral committee (see a general explanation above).[[19]](#footnote-20) |
| Is there a legal duty to provide assistance in voting to persons with disabilities? | Yes, for all persons with disabilities /  | On 30 January 2024, as reported, the National Assembly significantly modified provisions governing assistance in voting at polling stations. The amendment to the National Assembly Election Act sets out that a voter with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment may bring a person of their choice to the polling station to help them. The assistant must be of legal age. The president or a member of the electoral committee determines the assistant's age based on an identity document or in another way. The assistant is obliged to respect the free will of the voter and ensure the secrecy of the vote. The electoral committee decides on the voter's right to an assistant. The decision shall be recorded in the minutes (Art. 79).[[20]](#footnote-21)In a 2020 decision, the Constitutional Court clarified that possible assistance by another person also applied to voting at home and postal voting by persons with disabilities. The assistance of another person must be limited to technical assistance in filling out or submitting the ballot. The decision to vote must be made and expressed exclusively by the voter. A confidential relationship must be established between the voter and the assistant. The person with disability must be able to freely decide to whom they will assign the role of assistant, because only in this way can they choose a person whom they trust or whom they deem suitable. The assistant is bound to respect the free decision of the person with disability and has the duty to protect the secrecy of their electoral decision.[[21]](#footnote-22) Electoral committees, which are responsible for managing and carrying out elections at specific polling stations, regularly receive instructions from the State Election Commission. According to such instructions, when voters with visual impairments express a wish to use stencils for voting, electoral committees, when issuing stencils, explain to such voters how to use them. If a voter who is a wheelchair user cannot reach the ballot box opening due to the height of the table on which the ballot box is placed, the electoral committee must move the box to such a height that the voter can reach the ballot box opening and cast the ballot.[[22]](#footnote-23)The State Election Commission also reports that members of electoral committees are present at the polling stations throughout the voting hours, providing practical help and guidance to all voters (e.g. handing them pens, showing them where to sign in the voter register, directing them to the voting area, showing them where the ballot box, that is, where to cast a completed ballot, etc.). At the voter’s request they also explain to them how to vote. In doing so, however, the voter's decision shall not be influenced in any way.[[23]](#footnote-24)  |
| 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  |  As, reported above, on 30 January 2024, the National Assembly passed amendments that significantly altered the existing arrangements. The adopted amendments grant, without reservations, both active and passive voting rights in parliamentary election to persons under guardianship. The amendments also extend these rights to local elections and elections for the European Parliament, for example. According to the new legislation, already initiated procedures on the deprivation of the right to vote in proceedings on the placement of an adult under guardianship that have not yet been legally completed by the date of entry into force of the amendments shall be halted. Legally binding court decisions by which persons of legal age were deprived of legal capacity or over whom the parental rights of parents or other persons were extended beyond their majority, or placing them under guardianship, shall be annulled in the part that refers to the deprivation of the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in an election.[[24]](#footnote-25) With the new amendment in force, the right to political participation of persons deprived of legal capacity in terms of the right to cast a vote at an election is no longer under threat. According to Article 106 of the National Assembly Election Act, a candidate, a representative of a list of candidates and a voter shall have the right to lodge an objection with the constituency electoral commission in case of irregularities in the work of the electoral committee or the district electoral commission at elections. Such an objection shall be lodged within three days of the election day, and the competent constituency electoral commission must adopt a decision on such objection within 48 hours.[[25]](#footnote-26) This avenue is thus available to all voters, including persons placed under guardianship upon the mentioned amendment entered into force. (Please note that this provision also applies to elections for the European Parliament.)Article 98 of the Local elections Act lays down the right of a candidate, a representative of a list of candidates and a voter to lodge an objection with the municipal electoral commission in case of irregularities in the work of the electoral committee at elections. The objection must be lodged the day after the election day at the latest, and the competent municipal electoral commission shall decide on the objection within four days after the election day.[[26]](#footnote-27) The same as above, all voters, including persons under guardianship, has the right to lodge an objection.Mechanisms governed by the election-related legislation mentioned above, however, are not necessarily useful, as the decisive issue to be decided by complaints bodies is whether the alleged irregularities considerably affected or could have affected the results of the voting, and it seems that irregularities on a massive scale shall have to take place to be considered by the relevant bodies. Regarding issues, for example, of accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the context of political participation, the Protection against Discrimination Act (*Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo*) is particularly relevant.[[27]](#footnote-28) According to Article 39 of the act in question, a person who believes that they have been or are being discriminated against can file a lawsuit to request the end of discrimination, the payment of compensation due to discrimination, or the publication of the judgment in the media. For being subjected to discrimination, the discriminated person shall be entitled to monetary compensation paid by the person responsible for discrimination. The monetary compensation shall be recognised in the amount of € 500 to 5,000. The provisions of the law governing the civil procedure shall be used to decide on the lawsuit.[[28]](#footnote-29) The Civil Procedure Act (*Zakon o pravdnem postopku*) stipulates that a party with full capacity to contract may perform procedural acts on their own (litigation capacity). An adult whose legal capacity is partially limited shall have litigation capacity within the limits of their legal capacity (Art. 77, para 1&2). A party that does not have legal capacity is represented by its legal representative (Art. 78, para 1).[[29]](#footnote-30)The Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) represents an additional complaint mechanism. The body protects human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals in relation to state authorities, local self-government authorities and bearers of public authority. Among other things, the Ombudsman examines individual complaints, which can be lodged by any person who believes that their human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated, provided that they have exhausted all legal means to reach a solution to the alleged violation. The proceedings are informal and free of charge for the complainants. The Ombudsman may warn a body which has violated the complainant’s right(s) to rectify the violation or the irregularity committed, or even propose that it compensates the complainant for the damage caused.[[30]](#footnote-31) All persons with disabilities including those placed under guardianship can lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman and independently participate in the procedure.[[31]](#footnote-32) Information on how to approach the Ombudsman is available in easy read.[[32]](#footnote-33)The mentioned Protection against Discrimination Act is the principal national act in the field of anti-discrimination. It is a horizontal act providing for protection against discrimination in a variety of fields and on a variety of grounds. The law sets up the national equality body, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*) to consider complaints alleging discrimination. The procedure before the body is free of charge and is formal. The Advocate issues binding decisions but cannot impose sanctions. If the Advocate founds that the prohibition of discrimination has been violated, it can call on the offender to rectify the established irregularities.[[33]](#footnote-34) In addition, the Advocate can also provide assistance to the victims (counselling) and in strategic cases file a lawsuit on behalf of the victim or support the victim in the civil court proceeding (Art. 39).[[34]](#footnote-35) |
| Is information on complaints mechanisms regarding political participation accessible to persons with disabilities? | Partially – some accessibility measures are in place  | In Slovenia, dedicated websites with information on complaints mechanisms regarding political participation seems to be lacking. Such information, for example, could not even be identified on the website of the State Election Commission. This website includes certain accessibility features but is not EN 301 549 v3.2.1 (2021-03) compliant.Among websites with information on other complaints mechanisms, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality, the national equality body, reports that its website with e.g. information on how to lodge a discrimination complaint is compliant with the mentioned harmonised standard. For reason of disproportionate burden, some scanned pdf documents are not accessible. In addition, all photographs, news and links on the website presently do not include descriptions or alternative text, but this matter is currently being addressed.[[35]](#footnote-36) General information and information on lodging complaints (complaint form and guide to submit the form) are available in easy read format.[[36]](#footnote-37) |
| Have national courts considered cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | Yes, cases considered  | In 2022, for example, the Supreme Court dealt with a case of a person deprived of the right to vote but requested to be entered in the voting rights register (*evidenca volilne pravice*) nonetheless, as well as in the electoral register (*volilni imenik*) for the 2019 European election. According to the plaintiff, the national constitution, the European Convention on Human Rights, EU regulations and, notably, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities grants them unrestricted voting right which cannot be denied by a court’s decision or in another way. The Administrative Court (*Upravno sodišče*) initially denied the plaintiff, and the Supreme Court subsequently accepted the case for revision (*revizija*) regarding the following question: do all adult citizens have the right to vote for members of the European Parliament, regardless of any disability and regardless of possible court decisions on the revocation of their voting rights based on the relevant paragraphs of Article 7 of the National Assembly Election Act. The Supreme Court firstly established, including by considering the Constitutional Court’s case law, that the right to vote should be only restricted to persons who are found to be genuinely incapable of understanding the meaning, purpose and effects of elections. The Supreme Court found that the said restriction is necessary to ensure the rights of others through the protection of the public interest, reflected in the fact that only persons able to understand the consequences of their decision and the meaning, purpose and effects of the elections participate in the elections. According to the court, this is the only way to ensure confidence in the election result as a credible expression of the voters' will. The court then proceeded to inspect whether the direct exercise of the right to vote without possible restrictions in national law is possible through reference to European or international law. Amongst others, the court found, by referring to the ECtHR, that the right to vote did not qualify as an absolute right. As such, it may be restricted if the conditions of legitimacy and proportionality are met. The court further observed Article 39 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which enshrines the right of EU citizens to vote in the Member State in which they reside, under the same conditions as nationals. It found that the exercise of this right is subject to conditions set by the Member State itself. While it noted that the EU was a signatory to the CRPD, the court clarified that the convention is not directly applicable, but its application is tied to the adequate provision of EU law. For this reason, the Supreme Court concluded that the right to vote cannot be directly exercised even when referring to EU law. Because neither primary nor secondary EU law directly regulates the voting rights of disabled people, the Supreme Court did not suspend the proceedings and asked the CJEU for a preliminary ruling. The court additionally clarified that, based on Article 8 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, only those provisions of an international treaty which allow their use without additional actions of the signatory state are directly applicable. In the opposite case, the international provisions represent the requirement and duty of the signatory country to implement them in its internal legal order. According to the court, Article 29 of the CRPD does not contain rights but rather lists various sets of benefits that countries must provide to the disabled people. The above is additionally derived from the opinions of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in which the Committee only determines whether the individual country has fulfilled its obligations under the Convention. The Supreme Court thus concluded that it is not possible to directly derive the right to vote even based on Article 29 of the CRPD. In the opinion of the Supreme Court, limiting the right to vote due to mental illness or intellectual disability is constitutionally permissible, so it did not find the relevant provisions of the National Assembly Election Act to be unconstitutional, did not suspend the proceedings and submitted a request for an assessment of the constitutionality of the law with the Constitutional Court. As the court found that the restriction of the right to vote was constitutionally permissible in some cases, and that it was constitutionally permissible to consider the data on the revocation of the right to vote in keeping the voting rights register, it denied the plaintiff.[[37]](#footnote-38) In 2020, the Constitutional Court issued a decision regarding the constitutionality of measures aimed at persons with disabilities, as set out in the National Assembly Election Act. A group of petitioners and the Slovenian Disability Rights Association (*Društvo za pravice invalidov Slovenije*) claimed that the legislature failed to fully implement a past decision of the Constitutional Court which required accessibility of polling stations. They stated that the subsequent amendments to the electoral law only provided for physical accessibility of polling stations, but that the legislature’s abolishment of voting machines at polling stations was inconsistent with the Constitution. According to the petitioners, the legislature by doing this failed to ensure disabled people could vote in a personal, independent, and secret manner at polling stations. The court clarified that the state must make voting procedure as accessible as possible for persons with disabilities, including by adopting measures of positive discrimination. It also explained that the legislature did not have to adopt measures that would constitute a disproportionate or unnecessary burden. The Constitutional Court found that the legislation in force required that physical access to all polling stations be ensured. The court further noted that it ensures persons with disabilities could vote via adapted ballot papers, by mail, with the assistance of another person, or at home before an electoral committee. As regards adapted ballot papers, the court established that such ballot papers should be available at all polling stations and should be available at least to visually impaired persons. The court further clarified that the term adapted ballot papers should be understood in the broadest sense of the word, which includes various devices (e.g. stencils, magnifying glasses etc.). Regarding voting with the assistance of another person, the court explained that this person only acted as ‘an extended arm’ of the person with a disability and should protect the secrecy of voting. The court further held that persons with disabilities could seek assistance of another person when voting by mail, albeit this was not explicitly stipulated in the National Assembly Election Act. The court further clarified that that persons with disabilities could vote at home. According to the court, such type of voting is related to an illness and not explicitly to a disability, but, based on the argument of analogy, this provision must be interpreted as allowing persons with disabilities to vote in such a manner. Such an interpretation is consistent with the Constitution as it provides an additional voting avenue for persons with disabilities, guaranteeing thus another measure of positive discrimination that facilitates independent, personal, and secret voting by disabled people. The court also explained that assistance by another person should also be available to persons with disabilities who voted at their home. Regarding persons with disabilities who need technical assistance to vote personally, independently, and secretly, and who voted via voting machines in the past, the Constitutional Court clarified that such persons could vote with the assistance of another person at all polling stations, by mail, and at home. The assistance of another person must be limited to technical assistance in filling out or submitting the ballot. The decision to vote must be made and expressed exclusively by the voter. A confidential relationship must be established between the voter and the assistant. The person with disability must be able to freely decide to whom they will assign the role of assistant, because only in this way can they choose a person whom they trust or whom they deem suitable. The assistant is bound to respect the free decision of the person with disability and has the duty to protect the secrecy of their electoral decision. Considering available positive measures as a whole, the Constitutional Court decided that the abolishment of voting machines was not inconsistent with the Constitution and did not interfere with the right of persons with disabilities to equal treatment when exercising their right to vote.[[38]](#footnote-39)  |
| Have non-judicial complaints mechanisms considered cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | Yes, cases considered  | Upon submission of an NGO, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality, for example, assessed the alleged discriminatory effect of Article 7 of the National Assembly Election Act which provides for the possibility of depriving persons with intellectual and psychosocial disability and placed under guardianship of the right to vote. According to the assessment of the national equality body, the regulation unjustifiably enables the deprivation of the right to vote only for persons with these personal circumstances. Exclusively for them, it envisages the possibility of depriving them of the right to vote based on an expert assessment of their ability to understand the purpose, meaning and effect of elections, while for other citizens these abilities are not even assessed. The Advocate assessed that such different treatment is not justified and that it cannot be considered as an exception to the prohibition of discrimination. Namely, the measure is neither adequate, nor the only possible, nor even a proportionate way of achieving the legitimacy of elections and preventing abuses in the casting of votes.[[39]](#footnote-40) In the recent years, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality also issued a variety of recommendations to state authorities in which the body recommended abolishing existing provisions depriving persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities of the right to vote, upgrading electoral procedures and materials to ensure its full accessibility, and ensuring supported voting, including as regards local elections,[[40]](#footnote-41) referendums,[[41]](#footnote-42) elections to the National Council,[[42]](#footnote-43) as well as elections to the National Assembly.[[43]](#footnote-44) In September 2023, because its recommendations have not been implemented, the Advocate issued further general recommendations regarding the return of voting rights to people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.[[44]](#footnote-45)The Human Rights Ombudsman considered three petitions in 2022 relating to the realisation of the right of disabled people to participate in elections, all unsubstantiated. Amongst other, the Ombudsman considered a petition of an NGO claiming that provisions of the National Assembly Election Act that allow for the deprivation of persons with intellectual disabilities of the rights to vote are discriminatory and inconsistent with the Constitution and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and should be amended. The Ombudsman explained that it dealt with this issue on several occasions. Referring to the case law of the ECtHR, the body pointed out, among other things, that the deprivation of the right to vote in a judicial proceeding is not in itself contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights (e.g. the judgment in Caamaño Valle v. Spain (No. 43564 /17), and according to the Ombudsman, to the Slovenian Constitution. At the same time, the Ombudsman also pointed out that all efforts should be directed towards providing for regulations that would not limit the participation of disabled people in political and public life but would rather encourage and create the conditions for the exercise of these rights.[[45]](#footnote-46) In Slovenia, the Human Rights Ombudsman functions as the National Preventive Mechanism. During visits to social welfare institutions, the mechanism always checks the possibilities of wards to exercise their right to vote. So far, it has not identified any irregularities or deficiencies in this area. It notes that only a limited number of residents exercise their right to vote, but this is not the result of some systemic irregularities, deficiencies or even violations of the electoral legislation, but rather the expression of the will of the residents.[[46]](#footnote-47) |
| Are persons with disabilities members of the current national parliament? | No MPs identify as having a disability (official data)  | In the current national parliament, there are no MPs with disabilities.[[47]](#footnote-48)In the current National Council (*Državni svet*), the upper house with 40 members, there is one member with disabilities.[[48]](#footnote-49)  |
| Is data available on the number of members of municipal/regional governments who have a disability? | No data available | No systematic data on the share of persons with disabilities acting as mayors or members of municipal councils are kept by Slovenian bodies and organisations, ranging from the State Election Commission[[49]](#footnote-50) and Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (*Statistični urad Republike Slovenije*)[[50]](#footnote-51) to representative organisations of Slovenian municipalities[[51]](#footnote-52) and the National Council of Disability Organisations of Slovenia (*Nacionalni svet invalidskih organizacij Slovenije*), un umbrella NGO.[[52]](#footnote-53) There is only some anecdotal evidence: a representative of the Slovenian Paraplegic Association (*Zveza paraplegikov Slovenije*), for example, reports that according to his/her data, nine members of the organisation in question are elected municipal councillors.[[53]](#footnote-54)  |
| Is training for election authorities and officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and accommodation required by law? | Training not required by law, but some relevant training or guidance available  | The law does not specifically stipulate any training for election authorities and officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and accommodation. The National Assembly Election Act only stipulates that the State Election Commission organises training courses for other electoral bodies (Art. 37, para 1, indent 12). Guidelines specifically dedicated to training regarding political participation of persons with disabilities do not exist in Slovenia. However, general instructions for the work of electoral bodies issued by the State Election Commission regularly include some very limited provisions. For example, such instructions issued during the 2022 super election year provide that district electoral commissions (and municipality electoral commissions in case of local elections) carry out training for members of electoral committees. The latter are responsible for managing and carrying out elections at specific polling stations. According to these instructions, members of electoral committees learn about the possibility of use and on methods of use of stencils for voting to assist persons with visual impairments.[[54]](#footnote-55) |
| Are there mechanisms in place to ensure consultation and involvement of DPOs in the development of laws and policies which affect them? | Yes, mechanisms established by law  | The Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act (*Zakon o izenačevanju možnosti invalidov*), adopted in 2010 as an instrument of implementation of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD) and as a piece of legislation providing for further protection of persons with disabilities against discrimination, set up the Council for Persons with Disabilities of the Republic of Slovenia (*Svet za invalide Republike Slovenije*). It is a tripartite body, composed of representatives of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, representatives of professional institutions in the field of protection of persons with disabilities and government representatives, with each block having seven members. The National Council of Disability Organisations of Slovenia, un umbrella NGO, appoints seven representatives amongst all representative and other organisations of persons with disabilities functioning at the national level. In doing so, it considers the ratio between affiliated and non-affiliated disability organisations in the National Council. Unaffiliated disability organisations autonomously propose their candidates to the National Council.The law provides that the Council for Persons with Disabilities of the Republic of Slovenia functions as a mandatory forum for consultation on disability policy issues. The principal tasks of the body are the following, amongst others: monitoring the development and implementation of programmes in the field of disability care and providing initiatives for their development and implementation; providing opinions to the proposers of laws and other regulations during the public discussion on laws and other regulations relating to disability protection; participating in the preparation of reports on the implementation of national programmes and giving opinions on them; submitting initiatives, proposals and recommendations to the government in relation to disability protection; facilitating cooperation among ministries, professional institutions and organisations of persons with disabilities (Art. 28).[[55]](#footnote-56)In more general terms, the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on Legislative Regulation (*Resolucija o normativni dejavnosti*) in 2009. The resolution includes the basic guidelines for drafting laws and regulations, including as regards cooperation with expert and other interested public in the process. It sets out the following minimum recommendations: public participation in the preparation of regulations should generally last from 30 to 60 days; appropriate material should be prepared, containing a summary of the content with expert bases, key questions and goals; after the completion of the cooperation process, a report on it should be prepared with a presentation of its impact on the solutions in the proposed regulation; the call for participation should be carried out in such a way as to ensure the response of the target groups and the professional public, as well as to inform the general public.[[56]](#footnote-57)   |
| Do national authorities provide guidelines on how to make polling stations accessible? | No detailed guidance available  | The National Assembly Election Act sets out mandatory accessibility of polling stations (Art. 79.a, para 1), but the law does not elaborate further on this matter.[[57]](#footnote-58) This provision also applies to other elections and to referendums.In guidelines which it regularly issues to district electoral commissions (and to municipal electoral commissions before local elections), the State Election Commission stresses that these electoral bodies must strictly select polling station so that they are accessible to persons with disabilities. If, in order to comply with the provisions of the law mandating accessibility of the polling stations, the electoral commissions had to merge an existing traditional polling station with a new one or to abolish it altogether, it must immediately inform the public about this fact. The State Electoral Commission further instructs municipal electoral commissions that in the case that there is no facility in the area of the polling station that is accessible to persons with disabilities, the commissions consider the possibility of temporarily installing a residential or office container. If this is possible, the commission adopts a decision and proceeds with activities for renting the container.[[58]](#footnote-59) Electoral committees, which are responsible for managing and carrying out elections at specific polling stations, also regularly receive instructions from the State Election Commission. According to such instructions, when voters with visual impairments express a wish to use stencils for voting, electoral committees, when issuing stencils, explain to such voters how to use them. If a voter who is a wheelchair user cannot reach the ballot box opening due to the height of the table on which the ballot box is placed, the electoral committee must move the box to such a height that the voter can reach the ballot box opening and cast the ballot.[[59]](#footnote-60)Apart from the mentioned provisions, documents produced by the State Electoral Commission do not include additional instructions regarding accessibility of polling stations. For the purpose of this information request, the State Election Commission clarifies that polling stations and thus the direct entrances to the polling stations are accessible to people with disabilities (e.g. they are without barriers, stairs, or are accessible via ramps; polling stations are located on the ground floor of buildings where voting takes place or are located in buildings with lifts). A polling station encompasses the building itself and its yard as well as an area of at least 50m around the building.[[60]](#footnote-61) |
| 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 State Electoral Commission includes elements of accessibility (e.g. the website adapts to the size of the user's screen without changing the structure of the website or losing content, adequate contrasts apply, the page size can be augmented by 200 percent without losing content or functionality, the user can use the keyboard to navigate the website, certain content available in Slovenian sign language), but is not EN 301 549 v3.2.1 (2021-03) compliant.[[61]](#footnote-62)  |
| Are some television programmes providing instructions for voting and information on candidates subtitled? | Yes, some key programmes are subtitled  | A request for data has been issued to major national broadcasters. Two broadcasters failed to respond to the request for data, while one did respond but stated that it could not provide any data.An overview of web pages of major broadcasters suggests, however, that compared to its commercial competition, the national public broadcaster is by far the most advanced media organisation as regards programmes employing techniques aimed at making programmes accessible to persons with disabilities. For example, Radio-television of Slovenia (*Radiotelevizija Slovenija*) set up in 2014 the Accessible (*Dostopno*) portal within the framework of Multimedia Centre of RTV Slovenia). It is currently prepared and edited by the RTV Slovenia Programmes Accessibility Service (*Služba za dostopnost programov RTV Slovenija*), a unit set up in 2018. Amongst others, the portal includes archive with television programmes accessible through different techniques, such as subtitling, Slovenian sign language interpretation, audio subtitling and audio descriptions. News programmes and current affairs programmes, including election-related items are regularly subtitled or involve a Slovenian sign language interpreter, while audio description of news programmes have been less common so far.[[62]](#footnote-63) Major commercial channels POP TV, followed by Kanal A,[[63]](#footnote-64) as well as Planet TV[[64]](#footnote-65) have not established anything similar to the *Dostopno* portal. This situation tends to be reflected in accessibility plans drafted by broadcasters and submitted to the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (*Agencija za komunikacijska omrežja in storitve Republike Slovenije*) according to the Audiovisual Media Services Act (*Zakon o avdiovizualnih medijskih storitvah*). The law stipulates that providers of audiovisual media services gradually and continuously improve the accessibility of their services for persons with disabilities through proportionate measures, such as translation into sign language, subtitling for the deaf and hard of hearing, spoken subtitles and audio descriptions.[[65]](#footnote-66) In the accessibility plan, broadcasters state their intentions regarding implementation of different accessibility techniques.In their current accessibility plans covering the 2022-2024 period, the major broadcasters indicated the planned scope of accessibility techniques in their news programmes as follows:Radio-television of Slovenia:TV Slovenia 1 sign language – 0h 0min 0sec across 2022-2024 period;subtitles – 1,000h in 2022, 1,150h in 2023 and 1,250h in 2024;audio description – 0h 0min 0sec across 2022-2024 period;audio subtitles – 1,000h in 2022, 1,150h in 2023 and 1,250h in 2024.[[66]](#footnote-67)TV Slovenia 2sign language – 0h 0min 0sec across 2022-2024 period;subtitles – 120h in 2022, 120h in 2023 and 120h in 2024;audio description – 0h 0min 0sec across 2022-2024 period;audio subtitles – 80h in 2022, 90h in 2023 and 10h in 2024.[[67]](#footnote-68)TV Slovenia 3sign language – 250h in 2022, 250h in 2023, 250h in 2024;subtitles – 550h in 2022, 600h in 2023 and 650h in 2024;audio description – 0h 0min 0sec across 2022-2024 period;audio subtitles – 550h in 2022, 600h in 2023 and 650h in 2024.[[68]](#footnote-69)Pro Plus:POP TV – implementation of accessibility techniques in news programmes not planned, only some limited time budgeted for subtitling entertainment programmes.[[69]](#footnote-70)Kanal A – implementation of accessibility techniques in news programmes not planned, only some limited time budgeted for subtitling entertainment programmes.[[70]](#footnote-71)Planet TV:Planet TV – 10min of subtitled news programme in 2024.[[71]](#footnote-72)  |
|  The 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  | Please see above. |
| Are some television programmes providing instructions for voting and information on candidates audio described? | No, key programmes do not have audio description  | Please see above. |
| Were some political party manifestos provided in accessible formats during the most recent elections? | Some political parties provided accessible manifestos  | A request for information has been sent to eight political parties, including to all five political parties represented in the current parliament.Of the two parliamentary parties that provided responses, one reports that it did not produce election materials in accessible formats during 2022, the super election year.[[72]](#footnote-73) The second reports that it produced audio version of its manifesto during the 2022 parliamentary election. It was aimed at persons with visual impairments. The audio version was released through a variety of social platforms and was shared with organisations of persons with visual impairments. The political party also reports that it keeps trying to provide for subtitling of video clips on important socio-political topics it releases.[[73]](#footnote-74) Of the two parties that provided responses, but are without representation in the parliament, the first only reported that it had two candidates for MPs who were blind during the 2022 parliamentary election and provided links to two YouTube video clips related to the 2022 parliamentary election, but this video materials do not appear to be adjusted for persons with disabilities.[[74]](#footnote-75) The second political party reports that its manifesto and other important documents are available on its website which currently is not accessible for persons with disabilities. Making it accessible for them is among priority tasks set out in the party’s communication strategy adopted in 2023. Some of its video materials are subtitled, but plans are to provide for regular subtitling of such material. The party is currently completing the first part of its manifesto in easy read. The party also issued registration form for candidates in European elections in format accessible to persons with dyslexia, and in large fonts adjusted to the needs of persons with visual impairments.[[75]](#footnote-76)   |
| Are there legal accessibility standards for public and private providers of internet and web-based public information? | Yes, covering public only  | In Slovenia, accessibility standards are laid down in the Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications Act (*Zakon o dostopnosti spletišč in mobilnih aplikacij*). It applies to state bodies, bodies of self-governing local communities, and public law entities, as set out in the law governing public procurement (e.g. universities, public healthcare institutions, social work centres, enterprises set up by public bodies…) (Art. 2). National public broadcaster and other bodies or their subsidiaries fulfilling a public service broadcasting remit its related are exempt from the application of the law. The same holds for pre-school institutions and primary and secondary school, save for information about the institution, information about the enrolment process and other administrative information, such as the school calendar and timetables (Art. 3, para 1). According to the law, websites and mobile applications shall meet the following accessibility requirements: information and user interfaces must be presented to users in ways they can perceive; working user interfaces and navigation must be provided; information related to the user interface and its operation must be understandable; the content must be robust enough to be reliably interpreted by different user agents, including assistive technologies, which means that users always have access to the content, even with advanced technologies (Art. 5, para 1). It shall be considered that the content of websites and mobile applications that meets harmonised standards or their parts complies with the accessibility requirements mentioned above. If references to the harmonised standards have not been published, content of mobile applications is considered to comply with the mentioned accessibility standards if it meets the requirements from the regulation on technical specifications. If no references to the harmonised standards have been published, content of websites that fulfils the requirements of standard EN 301 549 V1.1.2 or parts thereof shall be deemed to comply with the mentioned accessibility standards. Similarly, if no references to the harmonised standards have been published, and there are no technical specifications, content of mobile applications that fulfils the requirements of standard EN 301 549 V1.1.2 or parts thereof shall be deemed to be in conformity with the accessibility standards mentioned above (Art. 5, para 3-6). Bodies covered by this law shall also provide for accessibility of content related to the provision of administrative services in Slovenian sign language (Art. 5, para 7). If, upon assessment, entities liable under this act establish that compliance with the accessibility requirements for an individual website or mobile application would represent a disproportionate burden for them, they do not have to comply with those accessibility requirements for that website or mobile application which represent a disproportionate burden for them. In the accessibility statement, they shall explain which parts of the accessibility requirements have not been met. If possible, they shall provide inaccessible content in another way. Regardless of this provision, accessibility requirements always apply to content related to administrative services they perform (Art. 7, para 3-4).[[76]](#footnote-77)The Information Society Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (*Inšpektorat Republike Slovenije za informacijsko družbo*), which monitors the implementation of this law, has received no complaints in relation to websites and mobile applications relevant for this information request. In July 2023, the inspectorate carried out a simplified supervision over a website with the content relevant for this information request and found certain inconsistencies with the law. The identified deficiencies are currently being rectified. In 2024, the inspectorate is set to carry out an in-depth supervision over the website in question.[[77]](#footnote-78)Under Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act, all goods and services available to the public shall be made accessible. According to the law, measures to eliminate obstacles to access to goods and services provided to the public shall, amongst others, particularly refer to the accessibility of information, communication and other services (Art. 8). The deadline for providing such accessibility expired eight years ago (in December 2015). A regulation envisaged by the law prescribing the minimum requirements for accessibility to all goods and services, has not been adopted.[[78]](#footnote-79) |
| Are there legal accessibility standards for public and private providers of media? | Yes, covering public and private  | In Slovenia, the Media Act (*Zakon o medijih*), stipulates in its provision dealing with the public interest in the field of media that the state specially supports creation and dissemination of programming intended for the blind (i.e. persons with visual impairments) and the deafin adjusted techniques, and supports development of technical infrastructure (Art. 4, para 3).[[79]](#footnote-80)The Radio and television of Slovenia Act (*Zakon o Radioteleviziji Slovenija*), a piece of legislation regulating operations of the national public broadcaster, the public broadcaster, on its channels, provides programming intended for the blind and persons with visual impairments and for deaf and persons with hearing impairments using techniques adapted for such persons (Art. 4, para 1, indent 10), and pays special attention to persons with disabilities and to content associated with them (Art. 4, para 1, indent 11).The act in question further stipulates that the Board shall appoint a Programme Committee for the issue of programme content for persons with disabilities. The Programme Committee, composed of nine persons whose disability has been determined by the competent authority in an enforceable decision and who were nominated by associations of persons with disabilities, shall consider, amongst others: the draft proposal and implementation of the programme plan in parts related to programme content intended for persons with disabilities; comments and proposals by viewers and listeners regarding the programme content intended for persons with disabilities; fulfilment of the broadcasting of programme content aimed at persons with visual and hearing impairment in adjusted techniques. It may also submit initiatives and proposals to bodies of the public broadcasters and the latter are obliged to deal with them and indicate their position in that respect (Art. 24).[[80]](#footnote-81)According to the Audiovisual Media Services Act, providers of audiovisual media services gradually and continuously improve the accessibility of their services for persons with disabilities through proportionate measures, such as translation into sign language, subtitling for the deaf and hard of hearing, spoken subtitles and audio descriptions. Related to the mentioned obligations, they shall draft a plan on improving accessibility for each three-year period and shall submit it to the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia. Upon expiry of each three-year period, they shall report to the agency on the implementation of the measures envisaged in the plan on improving accessibility for persons with disabilities (Art. 14.a, para 1-3). If providers fail to draft an accessibility plan or fail to report on its implementation, they shall be liable to fines ranging from € 500 to 5,000 (Art. 45, para 1, indent 1-2). Amongst others, the law also stipulates that the agency sets up an accessible online contact point allowing for submission of complaints regarding accessibility of audiovisual media services. It shall also provide for submission of complaints via post, in person or by phone (Art. 14.a, para 5).[[81]](#footnote-82) If the agency, when considering a complaint, finds that its content is important to the public, it can produce reports or issue general recommendations or information which are published on its website (contact point) with the aim of raising awareness among providers and promoting accessibility, and with the aim of informing users about accessibility application (Art. 6. Para 6).[[82]](#footnote-83)In 2022, the year of a series of elections and referendums (i.e. super election year), the agency received no complaints regarding accessibility of audiovisual media services in the context of elections, or regarding news programmes.[[83]](#footnote-84) Under Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act, all goods and services available to the public shall be made accessible. According to the law, measures to eliminate obstacles to access to goods and services provided to the public shall, amongst others, particularly refer to the accessibility of information, communication and other services (Art. 8). The deadline for providing such accessibility expired eight years ago (in December 2015). A regulation envisaged by the law, prescribing the minimum requirements for accessibility to all goods and services, has not been adopted.[[84]](#footnote-85) |
| Are there mandatory accessibility standards for national and local authority buildings in the election context? | Partially  | Legislation governing elections, apart from mandating accessibility of polling stations, does not include specific provisions regarding other buildings in the election context.There is legislation in place which applies to all premises in public use. For example, the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act lays down prohibition of discrimination on the ground of disability in access to facilities for public use. According to the law, adaptation of facilities for public use shall be made by installing construction and technical devices, sound and light indicators, written information, and with other appropriate technical adaptations. Facilities for public use under construction and facilities for public use under reconstruction shall be appropriately adapted during their construction or reconstruction (Art. 9). Reasonable accommodation of the existing facilities in public use shall be ensured by eliminating the architectural and communication barriers, with the investor eliminating existing barriers during the first reconstruction of the facility carried out after the entry into force of this law, but not later than 15 years after its entry into force (Art. 38, para 2). The deadline for the implementation of this provision and for adapting premises not accessible to persons with disabilities is 11 December 2025. The law defines reasonable accommodation as including necessary measures that do not impose a disproportionate burden, when they are necessary in an individual case to ensure persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise of rights and freedoms on the same basis as others (Art. 3, para 3).[[85]](#footnote-86)The current Building Act (*Gradbeni zakon*) defines a facility for public use as follows: a facility or its part that can be used by all under the same requirements, including, for example, office and administrative buildings (Art. 3, para 1, indent 26). Under this act, facilities shall meet essential requirements, including universal construction and use of facilities (Art. 25, para 2, indent 7). The universal construction and use of facilities includes construction and use of facilities accessible to all people. The construction and use of facilities accessible to all people, regardless of their possible permanent or temporary disability, means the design, construction and use of facilities in a way that enables unimpeded access to facilities and their use. Accesses, passageways, connecting paths, doors and vertical connections (stairs, ramps, personal lifts and other mechanical lifting devices) shall allow people with individual functional disabilities to use them independently, and shall be equipped with the necessary signalisation and equipment for unobstructed movement, communication and orientation (Art. 32, para 1-3).[[86]](#footnote-87)As a rule, for example, constituency electoral commissions (11) and district electoral commissions (88) are headquartered, across Slovenia, in premises housing administrative units. The Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministrstvo za javno upravo*) reports that it currently carries out a project involving an overview of accessibility of buildings it manages, aimed to ensure accessibility of these facilities and to determine whether those currently inaccessible could be made accessible to persons with disabilities. To this end, the ministry also works intensively with municipalities, as administrative units are largely located in buildings owned by self-governing local communities.[[87]](#footnote-88)Recently, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality conducted an online survey on the accessibility of public settings for persons with disabilities. The survey findings show that 21 % of all respondents from the field of administration (48 of 230 respondents) stated that setting(s) under their authority needed construction adjustments, 45 % (104) stated that technical adjustments were needed, 85 % (196) reported the lack of sound indicators, while 91 % (210) 83 % (191) reported the lack of light indicators and written information, respectively. The Advocate also asked the respondents to assess whether the setting(s) under their responsibility would ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities by 11 December 2025, which is the deadline set out in the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act.[[88]](#footnote-89) The survey results show that 16 % of all respondents from the field of administration (37 of 230 respondents) stated that setting(s) under their authority would still be in need of construction adjustments at the set deadline, 30 % (68) stated that technical adjustments would still be required at the set date, 54 % (124) reported that sound indicators would be missed, and 55 % (127) and 49 % (112) reported that there would be the lack of light indicators and written information, respectively, at the deadline laid down in the legislation.[[89]](#footnote-90) (Please see the last indicator below for more information about this survey.)  |
| Are there legal accessibility standards for polling stations in place? | Yes, for all polling stations  | In 2014, the Constitutional Court established that the legislation which at the time set out that district electoral commissions provided that at least one polling station per district (there are 88 electoral districts with more than 3,000 polling stations across the country) was accessible to persons with disabilities was inconsistent with the Constitution. According to the court, such an arrangement discriminated against persons with disabilities and breached their right to vote. The court thus mandated the legislature to ensure the non-discriminatory treatment of persons with disabilities when exercising the right to vote and to remove all barriers to their physical access to polling stations.[[90]](#footnote-91) In 2017, the National Assembly passed amendment to the National Assembly Election Act guaranteeing accessibility of all polling station (Art. 79.a, para 1). The provision has been in force since 1 February 2018.[[91]](#footnote-92) This legal requirement also applies to other elections and referendums. The State Election Commission regularly instructs electoral district commissions to select buildings which serve as polling stations that are accessible to persons with disabilities.[[92]](#footnote-93)  |
| Is data available on the proportion of polling stations that are accessible to persons with disabilities? | Some official data available  | As mentioned above, the legislation obliges Slovenian electoral authorities to select polling stations without architectural barriers for persons with disabilities.In 2022, dubbed super election year, the following number of polling stations was available per an election, all accessible to persons with disabilities, according to data available to the State Election Commission:- parliamentary election: 3,179, - presidential election: 3,183,- November referendums: 3,182.[[93]](#footnote-94)As regards 2022 local elections, there seems to be no single authority with comprehensive data on the polling stations in these elections.[[94]](#footnote-95)According to the State Election Commission, polling stations and thus the direct entrances to the polling stations are accessible to people with disabilities (e.g. they are without barriers, stairs, or are accessible via ramps; polling stations are located on the ground floor of buildings where voting takes place or are in buildings with lifts). A polling station encompasses a building itself and its yard as well as an area of at least 50m around the building.[[95]](#footnote-96)  |
| Is data available on the proportion of public buildings that are accessible for persons with disabilities? | Some official data available  | Recently, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality conducted an online survey on the accessibility of public settings for persons with disabilities. The body addressed the survey to 2,460 institutions at local and national level including, for instance, kindergartens and education institutions, academic and research institutions, student dormitories, social care settings for different population groups, including for children and elderly, social care centres, healthcare institutions, social care centres, maternity homes, safe houses, employment services, libraries and museums, administrative units, municipalities, police stations, judicial bodies and prisons. The survey addressed the following types of adjustments: a) construction adjustments (e.g. removal of stairs, building of ramps); b) technical adjustments (e.g. installation of lifts, ramps, audio induction loops); c) sound indicators alerting persons with visual impairments of notifications and risks; d) light indicators alerting persons with hearing impairments of notifications and risks; e) written information (e.g. signs in lifts in Braille alphabet). The survey took place between 17 March and 17 April 2023 and was based on self-assessment. The Advocate received fully completed surveys from 1,645 respondents. The survey findings show that 29 % (482 of 1,645 respondents) stated that setting(s) under their authority needed construction adjustments, 49 % (807) stated that technical adjustments were needed, 87 % (1,435) reported the lack of sound indicators, while 91 % (1,491) 85 % (1,391) reported the lack of light indicators and written information, respectively.The Advocate also asked the respondents to assess whether the setting(s) under their responsibility would ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities by 11 December 2025, which is the deadline set out in the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act.[[96]](#footnote-97) The survey results show that 25 % (418 of 1,645 respondents) stated that setting(s) under their authority would still be in need of construction adjustments at the set deadline, 39 % (648) stated that technical adjustments would still be required at the set date, 62 % (1,028) reported that sound indicators would be missed, and 64 % (1,060) and 57 % (943) reported that there would be the lack of light indicators and written information, respectively, at the deadline laid down in the legislation.[[97]](#footnote-98)  |

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

In Slovenia, the possibility of depriving persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities of the right to vote and, indeed, the application of such provisions has been one of the issues inviting considerable debates and concern over recent years. For instance, Advocate of the Principle of Equality, national equality body, found this arrangement discriminatory[[98]](#footnote-99) and issued a series of recommendations to national authorities over recent period.[[99]](#footnote-100) In 2019, for example, when responding to the Advocate’s query, the Council for Persons with Disabilities of the Republic of Slovenia took firmly the position that it was unacceptable to deprive disabled people of their right to vote. According to the Council, the state is obliged to ensure the protection of voting rights for disabled people at all positions and levels.[[100]](#footnote-101) In its last 2023 recommendations, the Advocate further noted rising numbers of persons deprived of the right to vote. On 3 January 2022, there were 2,929 citizens deprived of the right to vote, while a little more than a month later (on 10 February 2022), there were already 3,016 citizens without this right[[101]](#footnote-102) (an NGO campaigning for the voting rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities reports that the number of citizens deprived of the right to vote stood at 3,932 on 20 November 2023).[[102]](#footnote-103) As its previous warnings had not been addressed, in the 2023 recommendations, the Advocate again called on the government to:

* draft and submit to the National Assembly a proposal to amend all laws governing the right to vote, in order to abolish the possibility of depriving people of the right to vote and to eliminate the effects of the previous judicial deprivation of the right to vote of people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;
* upgrade all electoral procedures and provide legal guarantees, that electoral procedures, resources and materials will be appropriate, accessible, easy to understand and useful, and that information and empowerment of all voters, including people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, is ensured;
* enable people with mental health issues, people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and people with other forms of disability to be supported by a person of their choice, so that they can fully and equally enjoy the right to vote.[[103]](#footnote-104)

On a positive note, there were two bills amending the relevant provisions of the National Assembly Election Act in parliamentary procedure, submitted by a group of MPs and the National Council on 5 and 6 December 2023, respectively. The former proposal stipulates a halt to the possibility of denying a person the right to active suffrage, but still allows for the possibility of judicial deprivation of the right to passive suffrage. It extends the right to be assisted by another person at the polling stations to persons who have been denied the right to stand as candidates but retained the right to vote.[[104]](#footnote-105) The National Council’s proposal tends to be much more progressive. It fully abolishes the possibility of denying a person the rights to suffrage. As regards the assistance by another person, this bill lays down the following: If a voter is unable to carry out identification or pick up, fill in or submit a ballot, due to a short-term physical disability or a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment that, in connection with various barriers, limits them from fully and effectively participating in society on the same basis as others or if they need support in understanding or forming their will when voting in elections, they can bring a person with them to the polling station to assist them.[[105]](#footnote-106)

Eventually, on 30 January 2024, the National Assembly passed amendments submitted by the MPs, but significantly altered. The adopted amendments grant, without reservations, both active and passive voting rights in parliamentary election to persons under guardianship. Provisions governing assistance in voting at polling stations have also been significantly modified to explicitly capture larger groups of persons with disabilities. The amendment sets out that a voter with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment may bring a person of their choice to the polling station to help them. The assistant must be of legal age. The president or a member of the electoral committee determines the assistant's age based on an identity document or in another way. The assistant is obliged to respect the free will of the voter and ensure the secrecy of the vote. The electoral committee decides on the voter's right to an assistant. The decision shall be recorded in the minutes. Already initiated procedures on the deprivation of the right to vote in proceedings on the placement of an adult under guardianship that have not yet been legally completed by the date of entry into force of the amendments shall be halted. Legally binding court decisions by which persons of legal age were deprived of legal capacity or over whom the parental rights of parents or other persons were extended beyond their majority, or placing them under guardianship, shall be annulled in the part that refers to the deprivation of the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in an election. Voting register shall be adjusted accordingly. In accordance with the principle of equality, relevant provisions of other election laws have been modified. The amendment did away with provisions of the National Council Act allowing for the revocation of voting rights of persons placed under guardianship. The Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia Act have similarly been amended. Citizens of other EU Member States who have reached the age of 18 by the election day and have a permanent residence permit and registered permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia or have a certificate of registered residence and a registered temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, are no longer required to produce evidence that their voting right has not been revoked in an EU Member States. Regardless of possible loss of voting rights in another EU Member State, the same as Slovenian citizens, they are free to fully exercise their right to vote and stand as candidates in EU elections in Slovenia. The newly adopted amendments also apply *mutatis mutandis* to local elections.[[106]](#footnote-107)

* 1. Political participation: Promising practices

In Slovenia, one of the national public broadcaster’s missions is to raise awareness in society about the situation of persons with disabilities. To this end,

Radio-television of Slovenia set up in 2014 the Accessible (*Dostopno*) portal within the framework of Multimedia Centre of RTV Slovenia. The portal focuses on news and information relevant for persons with disabilities, including regarding their rights and needs. It is currently prepared and edited by the RTV Slovenia Programmes Accessibility Service (*Služba za dostopnost programov RTV Slovenija*), a structure set up in 2018. The service, amongst others, strives for the inclusive placement of topics related to lives of persons with disabilities in radio and television programmes featured by the public broadcaster and works to introduce and develop accessibility techniques, such as subtitling, Slovenian sign language interpretation, audio subtitling and audio descriptions. Apart from providing news and information, the portal also serves as an archive of past editions of programmes, including current affairs and news programmes which are made accessible via the mentioned accessibility techniques.[[107]](#footnote-108) The Simply (*Enostavno*) portal is a later addition and consists of information and news in easy read. In 2022, for example, during the so-called super election year in Slovenia, Simply offered information regarding e.g. voting procedures, party manifestos, candidates, as well as summaries of election and referendum debates.[[108]](#footnote-109)

Between November 2019 and April 2022, Institute RISA, Centre for general, functional, and cultural literacy (*Zavod RISA, Center za splošno, funkcionalno in kulturno opismenjevanje*), an NGO supporting persons with disabilities and the first Slovenian organisation systematically developing the concept of easy read in the national language, was a partner in the project entitled ‘myPart - Participatory approaches in the civic education with and for people with intellectual disabilities’. Apart from Slovenia, the project covered Austria, Hungary and Portugal. The main aim of the project was to enhance political participation of persons with intellectual disabilities. It promoted political participation and active citizenship of persons for disabilities through tailored and accessible education activities and raised awareness of society, politicians and decision makers about the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and on how to better involve them in the political and public life. The project involved persons with intellectual disabilities in all stages by establishing cooperation groups in all participating countries. During the project, so-called civil circles were set up as spaces of dialogue between persons with intellectual disabilities, politicians, decision makers and community representatives. The project results include a workshop curriculum aimed at persons with intellectual disabilities consisting of five modules covering issues such as human and citizenship rights, democracy and political participation, as well as related video materials and a handbook in easy read. The project partners also produced policy recommendations, amongst others. The project was co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.[[109]](#footnote-110)

In 2023, three NGOs, Sonček – Cerebral palsy association of Slovenia (*Sonček – Zveza društev za cerebralno paralizo Slovenije*), Institute RISA, Centre for general, functional, and cultural literacy and Association of inclusive culture (*Društvo za kulturo inkluzije*) joined forces in the project ‘The right to vote is not a whim – The movement to end the disenfranchisement of people with disabilities’ (*Volilna pravica ni kaprica – Gibanje za odpravo odvzema volilne pravice osebam z invalidnostjo*). According to the project partners, led by Sonček, Article 7 of the National Assembly Election Act which allows for the disenfranchisement including of persons with intellectual disability is inconsistent with the Constitution. The organisations claim that the consistent application of the Constitution and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should result in a situation where every adult Slovenian citizen has the right to vote and be elected. The goal thus of the project partners is to achieve the relevant changes of the law governing parliamentary election. In May, a rally, with more than 1,000 participants, protesting the current legal arrangement was held in front of the National Assembly. Persons with intellectual disabilities whose voting right has been revoked were the main speakers at the rally. At the day of the rally, project partners met with representatives of the National Council, upper house of the parliament, who provided their support for the relevant legal changes. Many of the prominent Slovenian NGOs also supported the event. The project partners developed a package of materials in easy language. It includes examples of a ballot paper, a description of a political party manifesto, guidelines on communication in election debates with tips regarding the inclusion of persons with intellectual and related disabilities and video presentation of an accessible polling station. These materials shall be available on the internet. In February 2024, consultations in the National Council involving key decision makers and important stakeholders are planned. At the event, discriminatory impact of the current legal provisions shall be presented, as well as the project materials in easy language. In addition, further steps regarding legislative changes and the development of accessible electoral process shall be discussed. The lecturers shall involve persons with disabilities (the principle of self-advocacy) and experts from countries that have already achieved changes in electoral legislation (e.g. Austria, Croatia, Latvia, Spain, Sweden…). The project is further supported by a media campaign and lectures and workshops targeting students, as well as persons with intellectual and related disabilities. The project lasts from April 2023 to April 2024 and is supported from the Active citizens fund in Slovenia.[[110]](#footnote-111) As noted in the preceding section, the National Assembly passed amendment granting voting rights to persons placed under guardianship, including persons with intellectual disabilities deprived of these rights. Doubtlessly, this campaign and the organisations involved contributed towards this breakthrough.

1. Government of the Republic of Slovenia (2021), [Action programme for persons with disabilities 2022-2030](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MDDSZ/Invalidi/API-2022-2030/Action_programme_for_Persons_with_Disabilities_2022_2030-.docx), Ljubljana, Government of the Republic of Slovenia, 14 October 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Slovenia, The Family Code ([*Družinski zakonik*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7556)), 21 March 2017, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The reference period of this report covered the national situation up to 31 January 2024. Because of the significant last minute amendments that entered into force at a later stage, certain information and references cover the period beyond the mentioned date. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Slovenia, The Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia act ([*Zakon o volitvah poslancev iz Republike Slovenije v Evropski parlament*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3401)), 25 October 2002, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Slovenia, The Local elections act ([*Zakon o lokalnih volitvah*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO308)), 22 December 1993, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Slovenia, The Election of the President of the Republic act ([*Zakon o volitvah predsednika republike*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO100)), 29 July 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Slovenia, The Referendum and popular initiative act ([*Zakon o refendumu in o ljudski iniciativi*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO324)), 8 March 1994, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Slovenia, The National Council act ([*Zakon o Državnem svetu*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO229)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Slovenia, The Local elections act ([*Zakon o lokalnih volitvah*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO308)), 22 December 1993, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Slovenia, The Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia act ([*Zakon o volitvah poslancev iz Republike Slovenije v Evropski parlament*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3401)), 25 October 2002, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Slovenia, The Voting rights register act ([*Zakon o evidenci volilne pravice*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6607)), 19 November 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. Information was provided by the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*) upon request (email, 29 February 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. Slovenia, Constitutional Court (*Ustavno sodišče*), [Decision No. U-I-168/16](https://www.us-rs.si/odlocitev/?q=&caseId=+U-I-168%2F16&df=&dt=&af=&at=&vd=&vo=&vv=&vs=&ui=&va=&page=1&sort=&order=&id=115338), 22 October 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. Information was provided by the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*) upon request (email, 29 February 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. Slovenia, Constitutional Court (*Ustavno sodišče*), [Decision No. U-I-168/16](https://www.us-rs.si/odlocitev/?q=&caseId=+U-I-168%2F16&df=&dt=&af=&at=&vd=&vo=&vv=&vs=&ui=&va=&page=1&sort=&order=&id=115338), 22 October 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. For more information see web page of the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) with instructions regarding last [parliamentary](https://www.dvk-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumenti/volitve/DZ/2022/Navodilo_za_delo_volilnih_odborov.pdf), [local](https://www.dvk-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/3._Navodilo_za_delo_VO_LV_2022.pdf) and [presidential](https://www.dvk-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumenti/volitve/predsednika_2022/Navodilo_za_delo_VO_-_VPR_2022_sprejet.pdf.pdf) elections, as well as the [last referendums](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/referendumi/volitve-referenduma/referendumi-2022/), all held in 2022 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. Information was provided by the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) upon request (email, 28 November 2023, response dated 23 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. Slovenia, The Act amending the National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o volitvah v državni zbor*](https://imss.dz-rs.si/IMiS/ImisAdmin.nsf/ImisnetAgent?OpenAgent&2&DZ-MSS-01/0b9ead32c2247fdb0e24244f111b343d2ab6745162f9f926d24879d2610e19a4)), 30 January 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. Slovenia, The Local elections act ([*Zakon o lokalnih volitvah*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO308)), 22 December 1993, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. For more information, see European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), [*Toplak and Mrak v. Slovenia*](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22tabview%22:[%22document%22],%22itemid%22:[%22001-212693%22]}), Nos. 34591/19 and 42545/19, 26 October 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. Slovenia, The Protection against discrimination act ([*Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273)), 21 April 2016, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. Slovenia, The Civil procedure act ([*Zakon o pravdnem postopku*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1212)), 25 March 1999, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. Slovenia, The Human Rights Ombudsman act ([*Zakon o varuhu človekovih pravic*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO300)), 20 December 1993, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (e-mail 12 December 2023, response dated 11 December 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. Varuh človekovih pravic (2021), [*Kdaj in kako do Varuha?*](https://www.varuh-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/zlozenke_nase/Brusura_Varuha_v_lahkem_branju_2021.pdf), Ljubljana, Varuh človekovih pravic. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
33. Slovenia, The Protection against discrimination act ([*Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273)), 21 April 2016, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
34. Slovenia, The Protection against discrimination act ([*Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273)), 21 April 2016, and subsequent modifications. Information was provided by the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (Zagovornik načela enakosti) upon request (email, 29 February 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
35. For more information, see the web page of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*) and related [accessibility statement](https://zagovornik.si/o-zagovorniku/dostopnost/). [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
36. For more information, see the web page of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*) in [easy read](https://zagovornik.si/o-zagovorniku/lahko-branje/). Information was provided by the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (Zagovornik načela enakosti) upon request (email, 29 February 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
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38. Slovenia, Constitutional Court (*Ustavno sodišče*), [Decision No. U-I-168/16](https://www.us-rs.si/odlocitev/?q=&caseId=+U-I-168%2F16&df=&dt=&af=&at=&vd=&vo=&vv=&vs=&ui=&va=&page=1&sort=&order=&id=115338), 22 October 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
39. Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*), [Case No. 050-2/2022/12](https://zagovornik.si/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/OCENA_7.-clena-Zakona-o-volitvah-v-drzavni-zbor.pdf), 10 June 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
40. . Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*), [Recommendations No. 0070-5/2020/1](https://zagovornik.si/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Priporocilo-Zagovornika-nacela-enakosti-glede-osnutka-Zakona-o-spremembah-in.pdf), 17 December 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
41. Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*), [Recommendations No. 0070-7/2020/1](https://zagovornik.si/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/riporocilo-Zagovornika-nacela-enakosti-glede-osnutka-Zakona-o-spremembah-in-dopolnitvah-zakona-o-referendumu-in-o-ljudski-iniciativi.pdf), 22 December 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
42. Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*), [Recommendations No. 0070-13/2022/1](https://zagovornik.si/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Priporocilo-Zagovornika-nacela-enakosti-glede-predloga-Zakona-o-spremembah-in-dopolnitvah-zakona-o-drzavnem-svetu.pdf), 8 December 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
43. Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*), [Recommendations No. 050-2/2022/13](https://zagovornik.si/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Priporocilo-Zagovornika-nacela-enakosti-glede-spremembe-7.-clena-Zakona-o-volitvah-v-drzavni-zbor-1.pdf), 24 May 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
44. Slovenia, Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*), [Recommendations No. 0070-15/2023/1](https://zagovornik.si/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Priporocilo-Zagovornika-nacela-enakosti-glede-vrnitve-volilne-pravice-ljudem-z-intelektualnimi-in-psihosocialnimi-invalidnostmi.pdf), 22 September 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
45. Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (e-mail, 12 December 2023, response dated 11 December 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
46. Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (e-mail, 12 December 2023, response dated 11 December 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
47. Information was provided by the National Assembly, Commission for Public Office and Elections (*Državni zbor, Mandatno-volilna komisija*) upon request (email, 14 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
48. Information was provided by the National Council (*Državni svet*) and its member with disabilities upon request (email, 10 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
49. Information was provided by the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) upon request (email, 28 November 2023, response dated 23 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
50. Information was provided by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (*Statistični urad Republike Slovenije*) upon request (email, 10 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
51. Information was provided, upon request by the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia (*Skupnost občin Slovenije*) (email, 10 November 2023) and the Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (*Združenje mestnih občin Slovenije*) (email, 13 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
52. Information was provided by the National Council of Disability Organisations of Slovenia (*Nacionalni svet invalidskih organizacij Slovenije*) upon request (email, 15 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
53. Information was provided by a representative of the Slovenian Paraplegic Association (*Zveza paraplegikov Slovenije*) upon request (email, 10 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
54. For more information see web page of the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) with instructions regarding last [parliamentary](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/drzavni-zbor-rs/volitve-drzavnega-zbora-rs/volitve-v-dz-2022/#accordion-1731-body-1), [local](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/lokalne-volitve/lokalne-volitve/lokalne-volitve-2022/#accordion-2617-body-1) and [presidential](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/predsednik-republike/volitve-predsednika-rs/volitve-predsednika-rs-leto-2022/#accordion-2592-body-3) elections, as well as the last [referendums](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/referendumi/volitve-referenduma/referendumi-2022/#accordion-2639-body-1), all held in 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
55. Slovenia, The Equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities act ([*Zakon o izenačevanju možnosti invalidov*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO4342)), 16 November 2010, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
56. Slovenia, The Resolution on legislative regulation ([*Resolucija o normativni dejavnosti*](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5516)), 19 November 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
57. Slovenia, The National Assembly election act ([*Zakon o volitvah v državni zbor*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO185)), 10 September 1992, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
58. For more information see web page of the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) with instructions regarding last [parliamentary](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/drzavni-zbor-rs/volitve-drzavnega-zbora-rs/volitve-v-dz-2022/#accordion-1731-body-1), [local](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/lokalne-volitve/lokalne-volitve/lokalne-volitve-2022/#accordion-2617-body-1) and [presidential](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/predsednik-republike/volitve-predsednika-rs/volitve-predsednika-rs-leto-2022/#accordion-2592-body-3) elections, as well as the last [referendums](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/referendumi/volitve-referenduma/referendumi-2022/#accordion-2639-body-1), all held in 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
59. For more information see web page of the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) with instructions regarding last [parliamentary](https://www.dvk-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumenti/volitve/DZ/2022/Navodilo_za_delo_volilnih_odborov.pdf), [local](https://www.dvk-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/3._Navodilo_za_delo_VO_LV_2022.pdf) and [presidential](https://www.dvk-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumenti/volitve/predsednika_2022/Navodilo_za_delo_VO_-_VPR_2022_sprejet.pdf.pdf) elections, as well as the [last referendums](https://www.dvk-rs.si/volitve-in-referendumi/referendumi/volitve-referenduma/referendumi-2022/), all held in 2022 [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
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61. For more information, see the web page of the State Election Commission (*Državna volilna komisija*) and the related [accessibility statement](https://www.dvk-rs.si/izjava-o-dostopnosti/). [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
62. For more information, see [Accessible (*Dostopno*) portal](https://www.rtvslo.si/dostopno) edited by the RTV Slovenia Programmes Accessibility Service (*Služba za dostopnost programov RTV Slovenija*). [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
63. For more information regarding POP TV and Kanal A, see [24ur.com](https://www.24ur.com/), a portal owned by Pro Plus, a media organisation which is the owner of the mentioned channels. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
64. For more information, see [Planet TV web page](https://siol.net/planet-tv). [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
65. Slovenia, The Audiovisual Media Services Act ([*Zakon o avdiovizualnih medijskih storitvah*](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6225)), 19 October 2011, and subsequent modifications. [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
66. Načrt dostopnosti avdiovizualnih medijskih storitev za triletno obdobje 2022-2024: TV Slovenija 1; the document was provided by the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (*Agencija za komunikacijska omrežja in storitve Republike Slovenije*) upon request (mail, dated 20 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
67. Načrt dostopnosti avdiovizualnih medijskih storitev za triletno obdobje 2022-2024: TV Slovenija 2; the document was provided by the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (*Agencija za komunikacijska omrežja in storitve Republike Slovenije*) upon request (mail, dated 20 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
68. Načrt dostopnosti avdiovizualnih medijskih storitev za triletno obdobje 2022-2024: TV Slovenija 3; the document was provided by the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (*Agencija za komunikacijska omrežja in storitve Republike Slovenije*) upon request (mail, dated 20 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
69. Načrt dostopnosti avdiovizualnih medijskih storitev za triletno obdobje 2022-2024: POP TV; the document was provided by the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (*Agencija za komunikacijska omrežja in storitve Republike Slovenije*) upon request (mail, dated 20 November 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
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