

Voting for all!

**How to make elections
easier to understand
and take part in.**

Contents

Page 3: Introduction

Page 4: Using this guide

Page 5: Tips for your campaign

Page 6-7: How to plan your campaign

Page 8: Worksheet

Page 9-20: Ideas for your campaign

Page 21-22: Worksheet

Page 23-24: Know your rights!

Page 25: Why we made this guide

Page 26-27: What difficult words mean

Page 28: Thank you page

Page 29: Contact people & organizations

Introduction

Voting is important!

Everyone should have the right to vote so that:

- we can have a voice,
- we can choose who we want to run our country and to make important decisions that affect our lives,
- we can be included in society,
- we can be respected as citizens.



We need to make elections more accessible!

Some people find it difficult to vote because the elections are not accessible for them.



Some people who find it hard to take part in elections are:

- people with intellectual disabilities,
- older people
- people who do not speak the language of the country where they live very well.



The main difficulties these people have when voting are:

- **There is no accessible information** about the elections and how to vote.
- **There is no training on how to vote.**
- **There is no training about how to help people vote** at the polling station.
- **The polling station is not accessible** for people with disabilities.
- **Some people don't know** they have the right to vote.

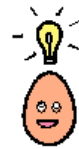


Using this guide

This guide aims to give you ideas about **how to do a campaign** to make the **elections in your country more accessible**.



A campaign is when you organise different activities to try to change what people think about something and make them take action to change it.

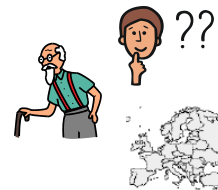


Every country is different.

So you might need to change some things in this guide so it works better in your country.

This guide is aimed at organisations for:

- people with intellectual disabilities
- older people
- people who were not born in the country and find it hard to understand the language.



Page 5 gives you some **tips for planning your campaign**.

Pages 6-7 explain **how to plan your campaign**.



Page 8 is a **worksheet** where you can write down **how you will plan your own campaign**.

Pages 9-20 give you **ideas your campaign**.



At the end of each section, there is a box where you can fill in what activities you want to do for your campaign.

You can cut these out and stick them on pages 21-22 to help you plan what you will do.



Pages 23-24 tell you **what is written in the law** about the right to vote.



Page 25 tells you **why we wrote the guide**.

Pages 26-27 **explain some difficult words** in the guide.



Pages 28-29 tell you more about the **organisations who made the guide**.

You might need the help of your support person to use the guide.



Tips for your campaign

Involve people who find it difficult to vote

It is very important to involve people who find it difficult to vote in your campaign because:

- They know best how to make elections accessible
- They can do a lot with the right support
- You can make their activities stronger



Timing

The timing of your campaign is very important. Make sure you start your campaign early, for example one or two years before the next elections in your country.



Find out if any important decisions about voting or elections are made so that you can use them in your campaign. Contact the media at these times to make your campaign more powerful.



Work with other organisations

Try to find other organisations and people in your country who find it difficult to vote to work with.

This will make your campaign stronger and reach more people.



Keep it simple

You don't have to spend a lot of money on your campaign. If you organize a few activities it can make a big difference.



For example, writing a letter to the people who organise the elections to ask them to make the elections more accessible.



How to plan your campaign

Here are some ideas about how to plan your campaign.
You can use the worksheet on page 8 to help you plan your campaign.

Goals

It is important to have clear goals for your campaign.
Here are some examples of goals for your campaign:

- Make sure that more people with disabilities vote.
- Make sure the people who organise the elections make them more accessible.
- Make sure that politicians make their information easy to read and understand.

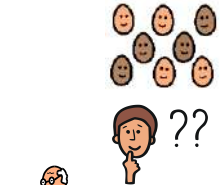


Target groups and key messages

In your campaign, you will need to tell your message to different groups of people.

For example:

- people with intellectual disabilities,
- older people,
- people who do not speak the language of the country where they live very well,
- politicians,
- people who organise the elections in your country,
- other organisations,
- the general public



You will have to change your message to suit each different group of people.

For example:

Target group: People who organise elections.

Messages: Everyone has the right to vote.

Many people cannot vote because the elections are not accessible for them.
The elections need to be more accessible.



Activities for your campaign

Choose what activities you will do for your campaign to help to reach your goals.

You will find some ideas for these activities on pages 9-20.

Planning

Think about what you need to do before, during and after your campaign.

First you should look at the main problems that stop some people from voting in your country.

For example,

it might be something that is written in the law that stops people from voting.

Or it might be that information about voting is too difficult for some people to understand.

Find out if anyone has already done some work to help back up what you are saying.

For example, there might be a report about how many people voted at the last election in your country.

Then make a plan to decide what you will do and who will do them.

Decide how much money you think you will need for each activity.

Make sure you follow up on the things you do.

For example it is good to make an easy-to-read guide about voting but you need to make sure

you tell people about it and send it to lots of people.

If you don't do this, people will not know about it.

You can use the worksheet on the next page to help you do plan these things.



Worksheet



Here you can write down
how you will plan your campaign:

1. What are the goals of your campaign?

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

2. What are the target groups and key messages of your campaign?

Target group 1:

Messages: 1.

2.

3.

Target Group 2:

Messages: 1.

2.

3.

Target Group 3:

Messages: 1.

2.

3.

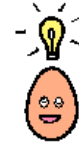
3. Planning your campaign

1. How much money do you have for your campaign?

2. How long will your campaign last?

3. Who else can you work with on your campaign?

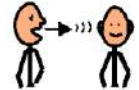
Ideas for your campaign



This part of the guide will give you some ideas about what you can do for your campaign.

It will give you different ideas about different things:

1. How to start your campaign.
2. Information about voting and elections.
3. Training for people who work at the polling station about how to help people vote.
Training for people about how to vote.
4. Telling people how to change things.
For example telling, politicians and people who organize the elections how important it is to make elections accessible.
5. Working with the media in your campaign.
6. Using new technology in your campaign.



At the end of this section, there is a box.
You can use the boxes to fill in
the different activities you want to do for each different area.



You can write down:

- What activity you want to do.
- Who will do the activity.
- How long it will take to do the activity.
- How much money it will cost to do the activity.

Then you can stick the boxes on pages 21-22
to help you plan all the activities you will do
for your campaign.

1. How to start your campaign



It is important to know how accessible the elections are in your country and what problems people have when voting before you start your campaign.



This will help you decide the main goals and aims of your campaign.



Things you can do

Choose which activities to do for your campaign from the list below:

Try to find out if anything has been done already to make elections accessible in your country. You can use this information in your campaign.

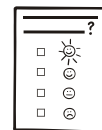


or

Do a survey about accessibility.

Ask people with disabilities:

- how easy it is to vote
- what they find difficult when they vote
- how accessible the polling station is.



Then make a report about the answers.

You can use the report to make your campaign stronger.



or

After the elections, speak to a group of people with disabilities.

Ask them questions like:

- How many of them voted in the last election?
- If some people did not vote, why not?



Then you will know better what to do to make sure that more people with disabilities vote in the next elections.



Here you can write down the activities you want to do from this section on how to start your campaign:



How to start your campaign

Activity 1:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:

Activity 2:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____

2. Information



Find out what information people need

For the elections,
you need to give people
easy-to-understand information about:



?

Voting and the elections:

- Why it is important to vote,
- The different political parties they can vote for and how to contact politicians
- The different elections in your country
- How to get to the polling station
- When to vote
- How to find out the results of the elections
- Assisted voting (if this is possible in your country).
This is when someone can go with you
to mark your vote on the paper and put it in the box.



How to vote in another way if this is possible in your country.

For example:

- How to vote by post
- How to vote by proxy.
This means that someone else can vote for you
if you can't get to the polling station.
- Voting at a mobile polling station
a mobile polling station is a place where you can go to vote
if you can't get to the polling station.



Things you can do



Choose which activities to do for your campaign from the list below:

Look for easy-to-understand information

about voting and the elections.

If there is already some information,

share this with other people.

If there is not any information, can you make something?



or

Give information to:

- People who organise the elections.
- People who find it hard to vote.
- Political parties.
- Public places like libraries or colleges.



or

Help politicians to make their information easy to understand.

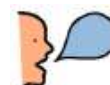


or

Make posters and leaflets to give out

at events you go to

to tell people about your campaign.



Here you can write down the activities you want to do from this section on how to start your campaign:



Information

Activity 1:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:

Activity 2:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:



3. Training



Sometimes, some people don't take part in elections because they do not know how to vote.



Very often, people who work at the polling stations do not know how to help people who find voting difficult.



Things you can do

Choose which activities to do for your campaign from the list below:

Organise a workshop about voting

You could tell people about:

- the elections
- the different political parties in your country
- how to vote.



You could also organize a practice election so people can practice voting.

or

Do some training for people who organise elections

You could do training for the people who organize the elections. It could give them advice about the needs of certain people for example people with disabilities, when they go to vote.



Here you can write down the activities you want to do from this section on how to start your campaign:



Training

Activity 1:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:

Activity 2:

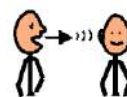
Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:



4. Tell people to change things

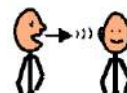


In your campaign,
you should try to **talk to important people**
to tell them how important it is to make elections accessible
and to encourage them to make a change.



The main people you should talk to are:

- **politicians**
- **people who organise the elections**



Things you can do

Choose which activities to do for your campaign
from the list below:

Write a letter

to politicians and people who organise the elections.
Tell them why they should make the elections more accessible.
Remind people what it says in the law about voting.
You can find information about the law on pages 19-20.



or

Organise small meetings

With people from the different political parties
and with people who organise the elections.
Tell them why they should make elections more accessible.
Tell them how they can make elections more accessible.



or

Organise an event

where people who find it hard to vote
can talk to politicians in elections
to find out more about their goals and their work.



Here you can write down the activities you want to do from this section on how to start your campaign:



Tell people to change things

Activity 1:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

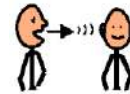
Money to be spent on this activity:

Activity 2:

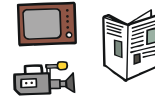
Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:



5. Work with the Media

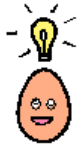


Working with the media is a good way to tell people that elections should be more accessible.

If you work with the media, you can reach lots of people.

Be well-prepared when you work with the media.

Have a simple and clear message so they listen to you.



Things you can do

Choose which activities to do for your campaign from the list below:

Make a list of your national newspapers and people to contact so you can send them information about your campaign.



or

Write a short news article about your campaign.

Tell people about the problems people have when voting and what we can do to make elections more accessible.

Use real life stories to make it interesting.

Send it to local and national newspapers.



or

Organise an event with politicians and ask the media to come.



or

Do interviews on the radio or on the television about your campaign.



or

Ask some celebrities to support your campaign.

Here you can write down the activities you want to do from this section on how to start your campaign:



Work with the media:

Activity 1:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

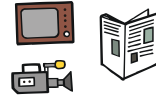
Money to be spent on this activity:

Activity 2:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

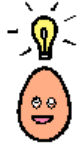
Money to be spent on this activity:



6. Use new technology



You can use new technology like the internet to spread your message to lots of people.



Things you can do

Choose which activities to do for your campaign from the list below:

Make an accessible website

for your campaign

where you can put information and news about the campaign.



or

Make a page on Facebook to get support for your campaign.

Facebook is a website

where you can have a page about yourself.

You can use it to talk to your friends

or share photographs with them.



or

Make a video about voting and put it on your website or on YouTube.

YouTube is a website

where you can share videos with other people.



or

Write a blog on the internet

where people can write about their own voting experiences.

A blog is like a diary on the internet,

Where people can write what they think.



Here you can write down the activities you want to do from this section on how to start your campaign:



Use new technology:

Activity 1:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:

Activity 2:

Person responsible for the activity:

Time it will take to do this activity:

Money to be spent on this activity:



Worksheet



On this page you can stick the boxes you have filled in for each section.
This will help you to plan your campaign.

1. How to start your campaign

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____

2. Information



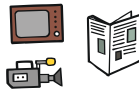
3. Training



4. Tell people to change things



5. Work with the media



6. Use new technology



Know your rights!

Here are some examples
of what international laws and agreements
say about the right to vote.

You can also add what it says in your national law
or laws that are just about your target group.

It is important to know which laws exist on the right to vote.



That way you can speak about them
and they will make your argument stronger.

European Law



The European Charter of Fundamental Rights

Article 39
of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights
says that every person in the European Union
has the right to vote in elections of the European Parliament.

Article 40
Of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights
says that every person in the European Union
has the right to vote in local elections
in the country where they live,
even if they are from a different country inside the European Union.

Protocol Number 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 3)

Article 3 of the Protocol number 1
to the European Convention on Human Rights
says that people should be able to say what they think
about laws in their country.

International law



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that everyone should have the right to vote and take part in how his or her country is run.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights says that all people should have the right to vote and be elected.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities says that:

- All people with disabilities should have the right to vote and take part in political life like everyone else.
- All people with disabilities should be able to choose who they vote for.
- All people with disabilities should have someone to help them vote if they need it.
- The voting process should be accessible and easy to understand for people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities can stand as a candidate for the elections if they want to.

Remember!

Not all countries in the European Union have ratified this Convention, When something is ratified it means that the country will do what it says. If this Convention has been signed and ratified by your country then your country has to make sure it respects the laws written in it.



Why we made this guide

This guide was written by Inclusion Europe, a European organisation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



It was also written by one self-advocate and one support person from 3 of Inclusion Europe's member organisations:

- ENABLE, in Scotland



- Nous Aussi, in France



- SPMP ČR, in the Czech Republic



It was written as part of our project about elections. The project is called 'ADAP'.



For the project we have also made recommendations about how to make elections more accessible.

For more information about the recommendations and the project, you can go to the website: www.voting-for-all.eu



What difficult words mean

This page explains some of the difficult words in this guide.

Accessible:

Making something accessible means making sure that something is easy to understand or do. For example, you can make information accessible for people with intellectual disabilities by putting your information into language that is easy to read. You can find the European standards of easy-to-read information made by Inclusion Europe on our website at: www.inclusion-europe.org in the results section of the project 'Pathways'.



You can make a building accessible for someone who uses a wheelchair by having a ramp.

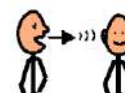
Blog

A blog is like a diary on the internet, where people can write what they think about certain things.



Campaign

A campaign is when you organise different activities to change what people think about something and to make them take action.



Citizen

A citizen is any person who belongs to a country and who has the right to live in that country.



Convention

A convention is like an agreement. If a country has signed a convention, it means it agrees with what the convention says. If a country has ratified the convention, it means it has to do what the convention says.

Election

An election is when you vote to choose someone who will be for example your member of parliament or local councilor.

**Facebook**

Facebook is a website on the internet where you can have a page about yourself. You can use it to talk to your friends or share photographs with them.

**Politician**

A politician is a person who is for example a member of parliament or a local councilor. A politician makes important decisions which affect different areas of our lives.

**Polling station**

A polling station is the place where you go to vote.

Survey

A survey is when you collect information from different people about a particular subject.

**YouTube**

YouTube is a website on the internet where you can put videos on and share with other people.



Thank you!

We would like to say thank you to the people who helped us to make this guide.

Firstly we would like to thank the European Commission who gave us most of the money to make the guide.



We would like to thank the self-advocates and their support people from the partner organizations in the project

‘Accommodating Diversity for Active Participation in European elections’:

- Andrew Doyle and Jack Collett from ENABLE Scotland
- Alain Pasquier and Nicole Honoré from Nous Aussi
- Věra Fleischmannová and Kristýna Valentová from SPMP ČR



We would also like to thank all the organizations who helped us to make the guide:

- **Help the Life Association** (Albania)
- **AFRAHM** (Belgium)
- **BAPID** (Bulgaria),
- **Association for Self-Advocacy** (Croatia)
- **PASYGOKA** (Cyprus)
- **LEV** (Denmark)
- **Inclusion Ireland** (Ireland)
- **Estonian Mentally Disabled People’s organisation**
- **FDUV** (Finland)
- **Lebenshilfe** (Germany)
- **POSGameA** (Greece)
- **ÉFOÉSZ** (Hungary)
- **Rupju berns** (Latvia)
- **Ligue HMC** (Luxembourg)
- **Movement in Favour of Rights for Persons with a Disability** (Malta)
- **NFU** (Norway)
- **PSOUU** (Poland)
- **FENACERCI** (Portugal)
- **Pentru Voi Foundation** (Romania)
- **SR ZPMP v SR** (Slovakia)
- **FEAPS** (Spain)
- **FUB** (Sweden)
- **AGE Europe**
- **Alzheimer Europe**

- European Citizen Action Service

Contact people & organizations

You can contact the organisations below for more information about the guide:

- Inclusion Europe
e-mail: secretariat@inclusion-europe.org
Website: www.inclusion-europe.org
- ENABLE, Scotland
e-mail: enable@enable.org.uk
Website: www.enable.org.uk
- SPMP ČR, Czech Republic
e-mail: spmp@seznam.cz
Website: www.spmpcr.cz
- Nous Aussi
e-mail: nous-aussi@unapei.org
Website : www.nousaussi.org

