

**What we ask   
people who make decisions in Europe   
to do for people with disabilities**

**Our manifesto on the European elections**

**Easy-to-read version**

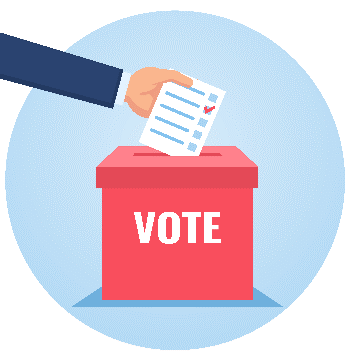
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# Who we are

We are the European Disability Forum.   
We are an organisation   
of people with disabilities in Europe.   
In short, we are called ‘EDF’.

At EDF, we work to protect the rights   
of all people with disabilities in Europe.  
We think that people with disabilities   
should have the same chances in life   
and be part of the community   
like everyone else.

# What this booklet is about

In 2024, there will be **European elections**.   
In the European elections,   
people who live in the European Union   
vote who they want to make laws and decisions   
in Europe.

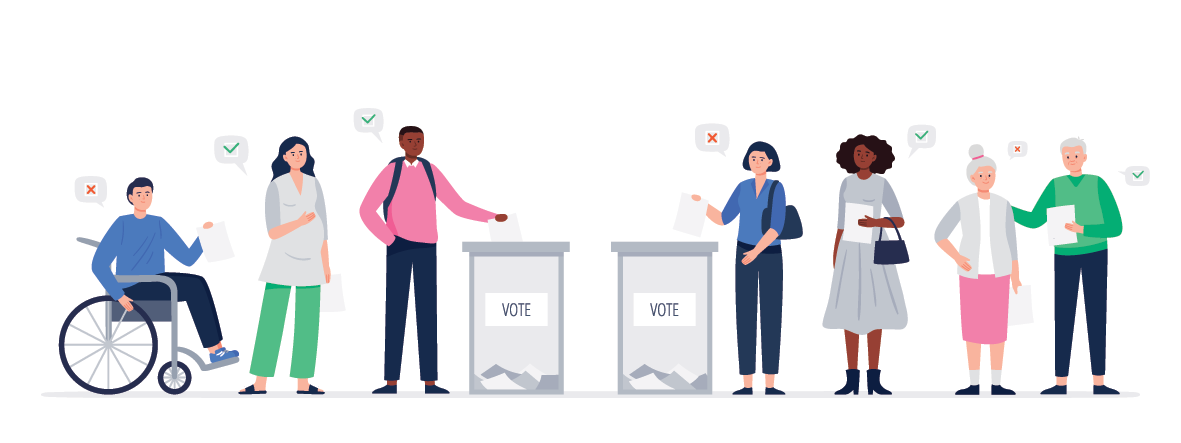
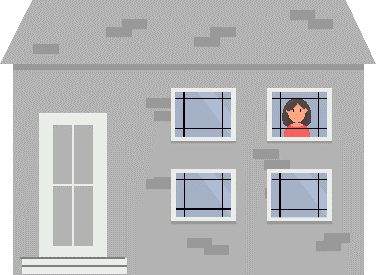
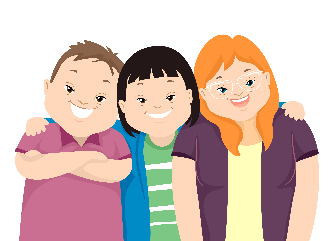
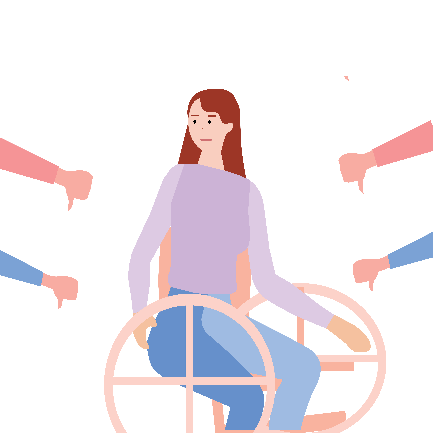
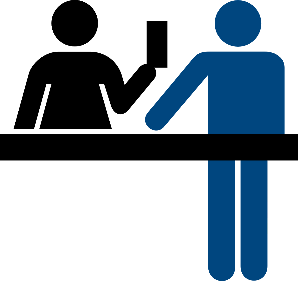
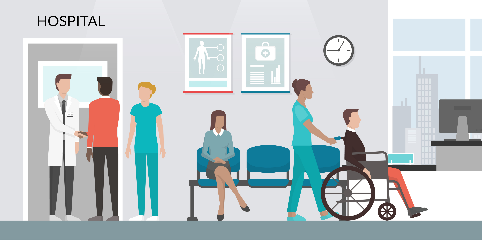
With the European elections coming next year,  
we prepared a list with the things we want people who make laws and decisions in Europe to do   
for people with disabilities.   
We call this list   
‘**Manifesto on the European elections’**.

In the next few pages of this text,   
you will read the list of things we ask   
people who make laws and decisions in Europe   
to do for people with disabilities.

The difficult words in the text are marked in **bold**  
and you can find their explanation   
at the end of this booklet on page 9.

# What we ask people who make decisions in Europe to do for people with disabilities

Amongst others, we ask people who make laws and decisions in Europe to:

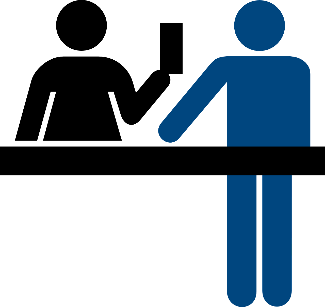
1. Make the **UN Convention** happen in Europe.  
   They should take into account   
   all the rights of the UN Convention   
   in every law and decision they make.
2. Have teams of people that work specifically   
   on the rights of people with disabilities   
   in all the offices and bodies of the **European Union.**
3. Make sure that people with disabilities   
   can take part in the **European elections.**People with disabilities should have   
   **the right to vote and stand for elections**.  
   Their voice counts like everyone else’s! 
4. Give people with disabilities the right support  
   to be able to live independently   
   and make their own choices in life.  
   People with disabilities should have the right to decide where, how and with whom   
   they want to live.
5. Make things and services in Europe **accessible**  
   and create an office that works specifically   
   to make this happen.  
   For example:
   * Streets, buildings, trains and buses   
     should be accessible   
     so that people with disabilities   
     can get around without problems.
   * Information should be easy to read   
     so that people with intellectual disabilities   
     can understand it.
   * Books should be accessible   
     so that blind people can read them.
6. Check how they are getting on   
   with the **European Disability Strategy**.   
   People who make decisions in Europe   
   should make sure they do their best  
   to make the goals of the Strategy happen   
   by 2030.
7. Collect useful information and numbers   
   about people with disabilities in Europe.   
   For example, it is important to know   
   how many people with disabilities   
   still live in **institutions**and how things are for them.
8. Protect the rights of women with disabilities.  
   Women with disabilities are at high risk   
   of being treated badly or unfairly.   
   They may also be forced   
   to have an operation that makes it   
   impossible for them to have children.   
   This needs to stop.
9. Protect the rights of children with disabilities   
   and give support to them and their families.
10. Make sure that people with disabilities   
    have the same chances   
    to study and grow their skills   
    like everyone else.
11. Support the right of people with disabilities   
    to work.  
    This can be by:
    * Giving trainings   
      to people with disabilities   
      so that they can learn new skills,
    * Making workplaces accessible   
      so that people with disabilities   
      can work there too,
    * Making sure everyone who works   
      gets a fair salary.
12. Protect the rights of people with disabilities   
    who are at even higher risk of being left out.   
    For example:
    * People with intellectual disabilities,
    * People who have more than 1 type   
      of disability.
13. Support **refugees** with disabilities   
    and people who are unsafe in their countries.  
    For example,   
    people with disabilities in Ukraine  
    where there is war right now.
14. Make sure countries in Europe   
    use the money they get   
    from the European Union   
    to make things better   
    for people with disabilities.
15. Make it possible for people with disabilities   
    to move freely in the **European Union.**  
    This can happen by:
    * ****Making sure the **European Disability Card**   
      is used by all countries in Europe   
      to make a difference in the lives   
      of people with disabilities.
    * Giving support to people with disabilities   
      to be able to travel by plane, train   
      or other types of transport   
      without problems.
16. Make sure people with disabilities   
    can get good health care   
    when they need to go to the hospital   
    or see a doctor.
17. Protect the right of people with disabilities.   
    to be in a relationship, marry   
    and have children,   
    if they want to.
18. Spread the word about the rights   
    of people with disabilities.   
    People with disabilities   
    should not be looked down by others  
    or have fewer chances in life  
    because they have a disability.
19. Listen to people with disabilities   
    and their organisations   
    when making laws and decisions   
    about their lives.   
    Nothing should be decided about us   
    without us!

**Explanation of difficult words**

## Accessible

Things are accessible   
when they are easy to use   
for people with disabilities and all people.   
For example, when buildings have ramps   
that people in wheelchairs can use to get in.   
Or when information is easy to read   
and people with intellectual disabilities   
can understand it.

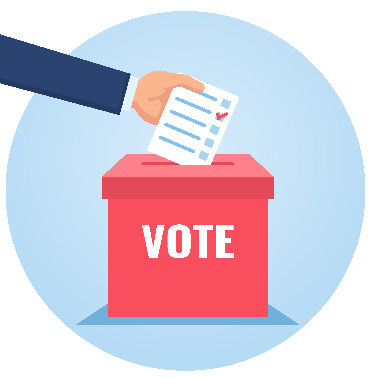
## European Disability Card

The European Disability Card   
is a card that people with disabilities   
can use when they visit or live in another country   
of the **European Union**.   
Thanks to this card,   
countries can recognise their disability   
and give them some advantages   
in culture, sports and other activities.   
For the moment,   
only a few countries in the European Union   
use this card.

## European Disability Strategy

The European Disability Strategy   
is a plan that says   
how the **European Commission** will work   
to protect the rights of persons with disabilities   
from 2021 until 2030.

## European elections

Every 5 years,   
the people who live in the **European Union**   
vote who they want to be Members   
of the European Parliament.

The members of the **European Parliament**   
are called ‘MEPs’, in short.   
MEPs make important decisions   
and speak for all the people   
of the European Union.   
The next European elections will be in 2024.

## European Parliament

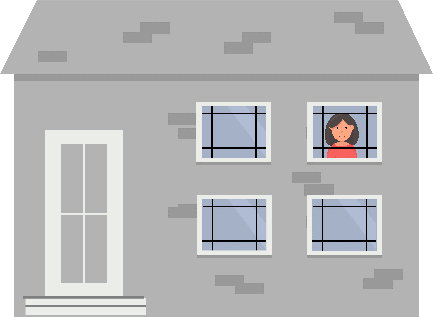
The European Parliament is a place where important laws of the **European Union**   
are decided.

## European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe. These countries came together   
to make things better, easier and safer for people.



## Institutions

Institutions are places   
where people with disabilities often live  
away from other people   
and from the community.   
Often people who live in institutions   
must follow the rules of the institution  
and cannot decide for themselves.

## Manifesto on the European elections

This is a list of things   
we want people who make laws   
and decisions in Europe   
to do for people with disabilities.

## Refugees

Refugees are people   
who leave their countries and their homes  
because it is not safe for them   
to live there anymore.   
For example,   
they may have war in their countries   
and their lives may be in danger.   
In recent years,   
many refugees have come to Europe   
hoping for a better life.

## The right to vote and stand for elections

To vote in the elections means   
you can choose which people   
will represent you   
and make decisions and laws   
in Europe.

To stand for elections means   
you ask people to vote for you   
so that you can represent them   
and make decisions and laws   
in Europe.

## UN Convention

‘The UN Convention on the Rights   
of Persons with Disabilities’   
is an agreement that many countries in the world have signed.   
It says persons with disabilities   
have the same rights as everyone else.   
It also says how countries   
can protect these rights.   
In short, we call it ‘the UN Convention’   
or ‘the CRPD’.

You can find more explanation of difficult words online at: <https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/>

# More information

If you have any questions,   
you can send us an email at: [info@edf-feph.org](mailto:info@edf-feph.org).



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