



## Activity 4

# ID.4.4.3. Voting rights of people with intellectual disabilities

Module 4. Exercising Citizenship.  
Political participation

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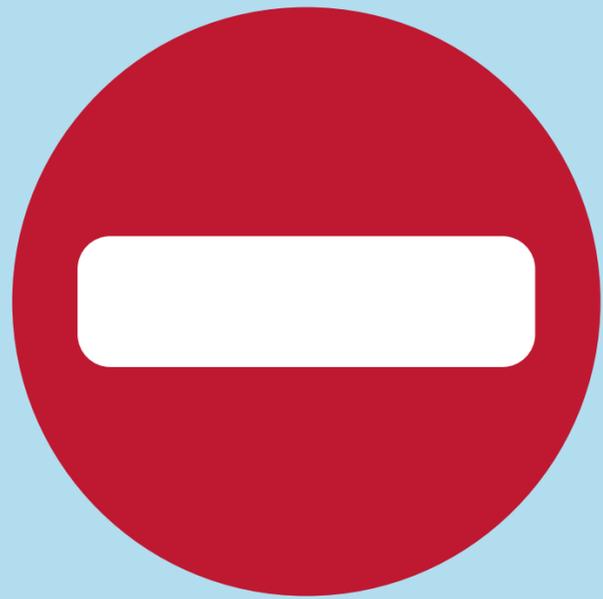


In this document you can learn about the history of the right to vote for people with intellectual disabilities.

# Why people with disabilities couldn't vote?



Article 29 of the Convention states  
that persons with disabilities  
have the right to participate in political  
and public life,  
but there have been other reasons  
that obstruct this right.





Laws are the main obstacle to voting rights for people with disabilities.

Another problem is the lack of accessibility of the process to exercise the right to vote. For example, in 8 countries of the European Union, people who cannot go to the polling station because of their own disability have no other way to vote.



In 18 countries, visually impaired people cannot vote independently, and in 9 countries people have to write on the ballot paper the identification number of the candidate, their name or the name of the party they are voting for.

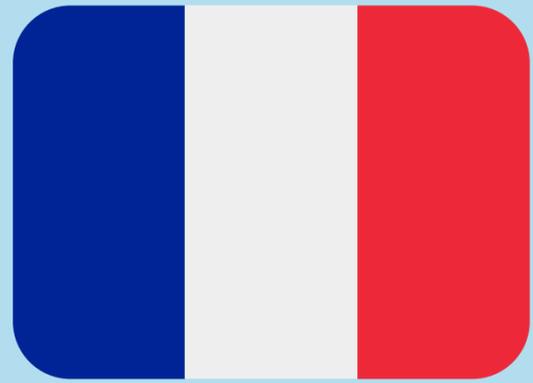
These situations also don't help in exercising the right to vote.



In some countries people with disabilities have regained the right to vote.

These countries are: Denmark, Ireland, Slovakia, France, Germany, Portugal, Croatia, Lithuania and Spain.

However, other countries are still struggling to regain it very soon.



# FRANCE

Article 5 of the Electoral Code has long prevented persons with disabilities under guardianship from voting.

In 2005, judges could decide whether persons under guardianship could vote, but many people with disabilities were still unable to vote.

On March 23, 2019, something happened that changed everything. Law number 2019-222 removed Article 5 of the Electoral Code and persons with guardianship disabilities regained the right to vote.



# PORTUGAL

In 2018, the law on guardianships for persons with disabilities changed.

Thanks to Law 49/201 persons with disabilities, specifically with intellectual disabilities regained their right to vote and other civil rights.

In order to exercise this right to vote persons with intellectual disabilities must present at the polling station an official document stating that they have the capacity to decide and exercise the right to vote.



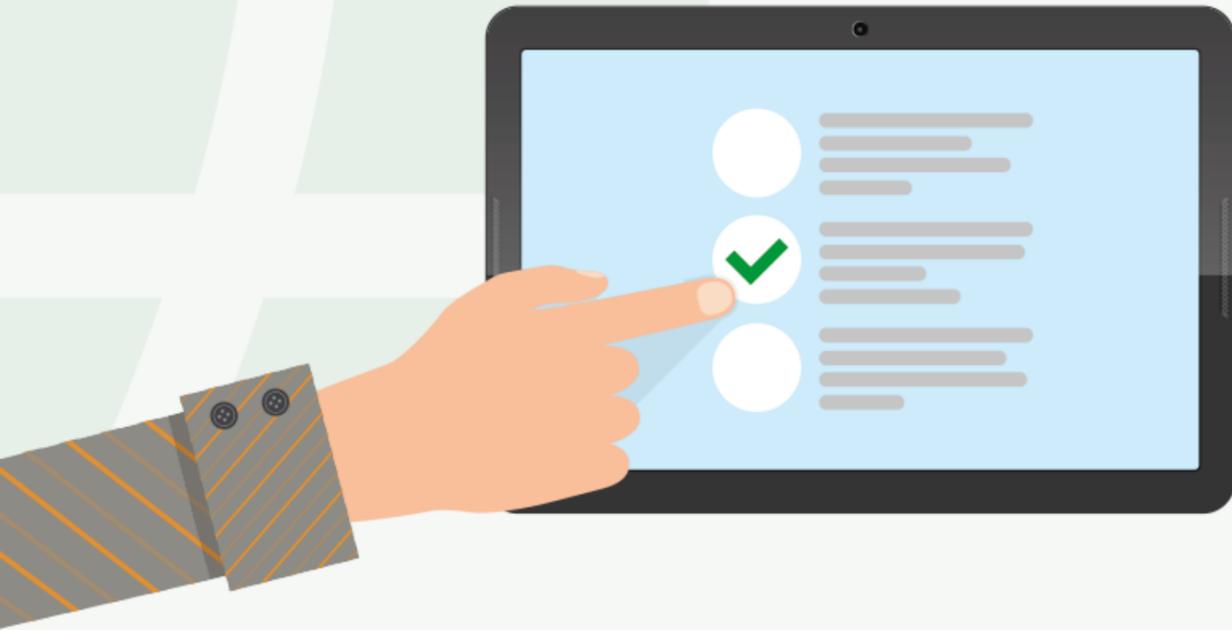
# SPAIN

Since 1977, any person over 18 years old has the right to vote, except for people with disabilities.

They couldn't vote because there was a judge's sentence where he said that the person with disability didn't have the capacity to decide and exercise the right to vote.

But that changed in 2018.

On December 5, more than one hundred thousand people with disabilities regained the right to vote, thanks to the reform of the Electoral Law approved by politicians.



Rights and technologies,  
united by citizen participation

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION