HORIZONTAL FACILITY
FOR THE WESTERN
BALKANS AND TURKEY
2019-2022

FOR YOUR RIGHTS:
TOWARDS
EUROPEAN STANDARDS

The challenges of communication for people with disabilities at time of democratic elections

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- Introduction

- Legal framework

- Communication challenges

- Communication solutions

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Universal declaration of Human Rights

Article 29 is about the right to take part in politics.

This article says that all people with disabilities have the same right to take part in politics as other citizens.

The Convention also asks governments to make sure that people with disabilities have the same chances to take part in politics as anyone else.

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One person one vote

However, in many countries,
persons with cognitive disabilities cannot vote

Discrimination

People with disabilities should have the same right to vote.
No one should declare a person incapable of voting.
No one should test if a person with disability is able to vote.

Some issues

The polling station is hard to find and enter.

People do not know about their right to vote or stand for elections.

Information about elections and voting is difficult to understand.

First step to voting: census

Each election has a deadline to consult the census.
Is this information accessible?
How is the information communicated to the population?
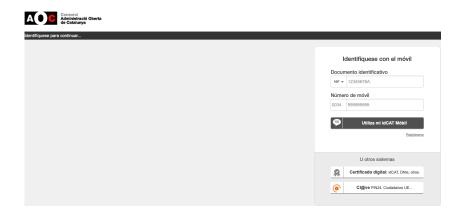The consultation is accessible?

The Catalan example

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Visual/audio

DO YOU WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE ON A SMALL ISLAND WITH THESE MEN?
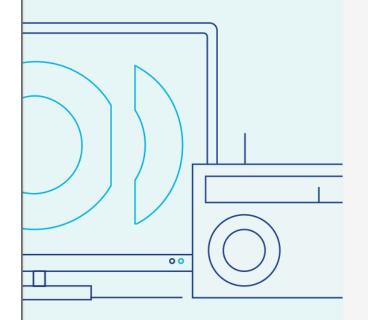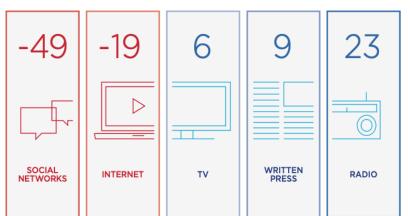
I'M IN

HIGH TRUST IN TRADITIONAL MEDIA

Legacy media remain trusted sources of information in times of crisis, whereas trust in social networks continues to decline
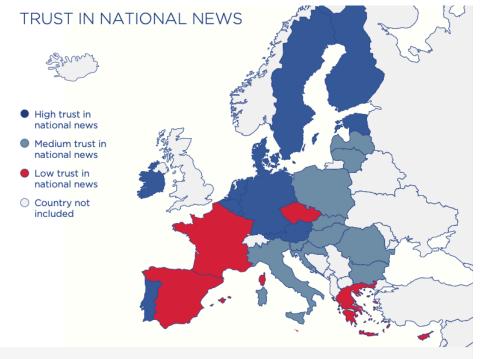
RADIO IS MOST TRUSTED
EU NET TRUST INDEX 2021

Tend not to trust   **Tend to trust**

-49	-19	6	9	23
SOCIAL NETWORKS	INTERNET	TV	WRITTEN PRESS	RADIO

TRUST IN NATIONAL NEWS

- ● High trust in national news
- ● Medium trust in national news
- ● Low trust in national news
- ○ Country not included

CITIZENS CHOOSE PSM FOR THEIR NEWS

In **16** of **26** European markets, PSM is the **most trusted news brand**

A TRUSTED NEWS ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS FROM STRONG AND INDEPENDENT PSM

The more citizens perceive their national PSM to be free from political pressure, the higher the level of trust in national news in general
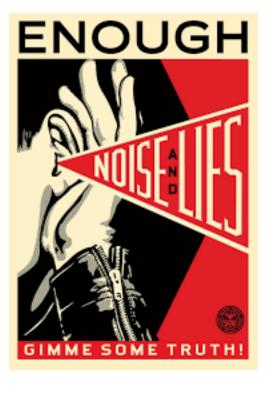
Message

SOLUTIONS

Making sure that the ways of voting and the voting papers are easy to use and understand.

Making sure people with disabilities can vote in secret as other citizens.

Allowing a person with disability to choose someone to help them express their choice in elections, like an assistant.

MORE SOLUTIONS

Some countries, like Finland or France make the information about elections easy to use and understandable for all.

Some countries have campaigns to tell people with disabilities about their right to vote.

STRONG AND WELL-FUNDED PSM

GO HAND IN HAND WITH A NATION'S DEMOCRATIC HEALTH

Public Service Media Championing For Democracy

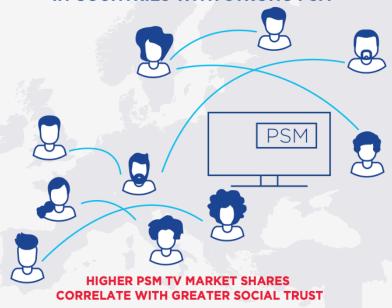## THE FLOURISHING OF FREE NATIONAL MEDIA LANDSCAPES BENEFITS FROM STRONG AND INDEPENDENT PSM

GREATER AUDIENCES FOR PUBLIC RADIO GO HAND IN HAND WITH MORE TRUST IN NATIONAL MEDIA

CITIZENS TRUST EACH OTHER MORE IN COUNTRIES WITH STRONG PSM

PSM

HIGHER PSM TV MARKET SHARES CORRELATE WITH GREATER SOCIAL TRUST

PSM MAKE FOR AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

NEWS

HIGHER PSM MARKET SHARES COME ALONG WITH A GREATER INTEREST IN POLITICS

PSM PROVIDE AN ANTIDOTE TO FAKE NEWS AND MISINFORMATION

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA

NEWS

THE LARGER THE PSM AUDIENCE THE LESS CITIZENS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT FALSE INFORMATION

NEWS FAKE | NEWS | NEWS FAKE | NEWS FAKE | NEWS

ACTION

1.Involving people with disabilities in politics

The Convention asks governments to involve people with disabilities when making decisions about their lives.

Some governments also support organisations of people with disabilities.

This is to make sure they can help the government with things that are important to people with disabilities.

For example, these organisations can tell the government if things are bad for people with disabilities or if they are good and help them.

ACTION

2. Collecting information

how many people with disabilities take part in politics

what makes it difficult for people with disabilities to take part,

what support people with disabilities need to take part.

ACTION

3. Working together

Countries should work together to make it easier or people with disabilities to take part in politics.

However, only very few countries do that.

For example Australia helped to make elections in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines more accessible.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

New Human Right - CRPD (2006)

Council of Europe - signs + ratifies (2012)

Web accessibility 2016
Audiovisual Media Directive
European Accessibility Act 2019

EU Legislative framework

EU Mandates

Transposition June 2025

European Standardisation
EN301549

Electoral Rights

All EU citizens have the right to vote for and stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections in their country of origin, or if they live in another EU country, they may choose to vote and stand as a candidate, under the same conditions as the nationals of that country.

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THANK YOU

and join us at **LEAD-ME**

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