BG – Country information

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

DISCLAIMER: The background country information reports contain background material for the comparative report on *The right to political participation for persons with disabilities: human rights indicators* by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The bulk of the information in the background country information reports comes from ad hoc information reports prepared under contract by the FRA’s research network FRANET. The views expressed in the background country information reports do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. These reports are made publicly available for information purposes only and do not constitute legal advice or legal opinion.

FRANET contractor: Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

1. **STRUCTURE INDICATORS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Structure indicators** | **Source and supporting information** |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 29? Please give details of any reservation. | 22 Mar 2012[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 12? Please give details of any reservation. | 22 Mar 2012[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| Has [country] ratified the CRPD without a reservation to Article 9? Please give details of any reservation. | 22 Mar 2012[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Please indicate the legislation which applies to European Parliament and municipal elections in your country. Please highlight possible amendments in view of the 2014 European Parliament elections.Does the same law apply for national, federal, local and regional elections, and referendums? | The legislation which applies to European Parliament and municipal elections in Bulgaria is the Electoral Code[[4]](#footnote-4). There are no amendments in view of the 2014 European Parliament elections. The same law applies to president, National Assembly and local elections. There is a preference[[5]](#footnote-5) for the election of members of Bulgaria in the European Parliament. The preference threshold was decreased from 15 to 6% in January 2011 when the Electoral Code was adopted. [[6]](#footnote-6) If a political party’s list has gathered 10,000 votes, for example the candidate in third position in the list has to collect at least 600 preferential votes to be placed in first position. The Direct Participation of Citizens in National Government and Local Self-government Act [[7]](#footnote-7) regulates the way referendums are held in the country. |
| Is there a requirement under law to register to vote? If so, please specify the relevant legislation. | There is no general requirement under the law to register to vote. People with permanent disabilities that prevent them from exercising their voting right in the polling station, should request to vote through a special Precinct Election Commissions (PEC) for mobile voting not later than 30-days prior the elections day in a written application form, signed and submitted by letter, fax or electronically to the municipal administrations.[[8]](#footnote-8) At least one special PEC for mobile voting is to be assigned on the territory of each municipality, if at least 10 voters with permanent disabilities have requested it. |
| Is there any limitation foreseen by law which could affect the right of persons with disabilities to vote in European Parliament and municipal elections? Please give details of any restrictions on the right to vote of persons with disabilities, including any link between a particular type of impairment (e.g. psychosocial/intellectual disability) or substituted decision making (e.g. loss of legal capacity, placement under guardianship)and the right to vote in elections.Does the same law regarding voting rights apply for national, local/regional elections and referendums? | There is no limitation except for persons placed under guardianship by a final decision of a district court (Article 42 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria and art. 3 and 4 of the Electoral Code). These persons have no active or passive rights to vote and are placed in the so called “prohibited voter lists”.[[9]](#footnote-9)The Electoral Code applies to all types of elections - national, local, European Parliament and referendum on the basis of the national norm of § 2 of the Direct Participation of Citizens in State and Local Government Act |
| Do all persons with disabilities have the right, under law, to stand for and be elected to public office, in municipal elections, on an equal basis with others? And in elections to the European Parliament?Does the same election law apply for other elections (e.g. national, local and regional) and referendums? | All people with disabilities, except those placed under guardianship by a final court decision, are entitled to vote and to be elected in local and national elections on equal basis with others. They have such rights in the European Parliament elections and in referendums on the basis of the national norm of § 2 of the Direct Participation of Citizens in State and Local Government Act.The Electoral Code applies to all types of elections, which provides separate rules for each type of vote, including the election of members of the European Parliament. |
| Is there legislation in place regulating how people living in long-term institutions may vote? | Article 42 of the Electoral Code points out that in hospitals and care facilities (health centres, rest homes, retirement homes and other social institutions), people who are not under guardianship may vote in the special sections, which are made in these establishments. According to Аrticle 72 (6) of the Electoral Code which concerns the European Parliament elections, the minimum number of people residing in these facilities and meeting the requirements is of 20. Article 72 (7) applies to municipal elections and stipulates a minimum of 20 people who have lived for the previous six months on the territory of which is the facility.  |
| Is there a duty under law to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in voting procedures? For example, is there a duty to provide assistance at the polling station (e.g. braille or large print ballot papers, independent support person to assist with voting chosen by the person with a disability) or to allow for alternative means of voting (e.g. postal ballots, voting in advance, home-based voting, voting at institutions, mobile voting)? | Persons with disabilities who are not able to cast their votes in a polling station, are provided with the possibility to explicitly fill in an application in 30 days before election day for voting with a mobile polling box at home (Article 176 of the EC).The Electoral Code also provides the possibility to create polling stations in homes for people with disabilities, medical and health facilities, nursing homes and others. (Art. 72, para 6, 7 and 8 of the EC).It provides as well in the creation of a specialized polling station for people with disabilities of the musculoskeletal system or vision on the ground floor of buildings when polling stations are situated on a second or upper floor (Art. 73 of the EC). There is also a provision regarding the voting by independent accompanying person (companion) for people with disabilities of the musculoskeletal system or vision (Article 204 of the EC).No obligation exists regarding the provision of newsletters or templates of Braille letter or newsletters with enlarged font, nor is there a provision regarding voting by mail, in advance or otherwise. |
| Is there a duty under law for public and private providers of internet and web-based information to ensure that public information is subject to accessibility requirements (e.g. equivalent to [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/) AA standard[[10]](#footnote-10)) | The Electoral Code contains no obligations for public and private internet providers of web-based information to meet accessibility requirements.However, article 26, para 1, item 22 of the Electoral Code (EC) provides an obligation for the Central Electoral Commission to publish its decisions, minutes , methodological guidelines, preliminary and final election results, scanned and electronic copies of the minutes of the station, regional and municipal electoral commissions and other documents and data. Article 29, para 1, item 21 of the EC obliges RECs to maintain a website where to publish its decisions and minutes of meetings, while art. 33, para 1, item 28 of the EC contains the same requirement for MECs.Furthermore, article 54 of the EC provides an obligation to publish electoral rolls on the website of the relevant municipality, as well as that the mayors of municipalities and the Directorate General “Civil Registration and Administrative Services” to the Ministry of Regional Development should provide an opportunity for each voter to make references with the electoral roll by providing his/her uniform personal identification number. |
| Is there a duty under law for public and private providers of media (including newspapers, TV, radio and internet) to ensure that their information and communications are subject to accessibility requirements? | In compliance with Art. 49 of the Electronic Communications Act, the Communications Regulation Commission adopted Rules of procedure for providing access to electronic communications services through networks for terrestrial digital broadcasting and providing electronic communications services for people with hearing and visual impairments through these networks (Promulgated, SG 96/07.11.2008).From 2009 to present, the Council for Electronic Media provided obligations in the licenses for the delivery of audio-visual media services through networks for terrestrial digital broadcasting for the supplier “to ensure access to the program for persons with hearing and visual impairments including specialized subtitle language signs, audio description and audio subtitles.”Bulgarian National Television provides sign language interpretation for the disputes broadcasted according to the requirements of the Electoral Code. |
| Are there mandatory accessibility standards for the construction and significant alternation of national and local authority buildings? | Article 169, para 2 of the Law on Spatial Planning provides an obligation for the design, implementation and maintenance of buildings in accordance with the requirements for accessible environment for the population, including for people with disabilities.Based on that provision and in relation to Art. 33 of the Law on Integration of People with Disabilities, Ordinance № 4 for the design, implementation and maintenance of buildings in accordance with the requirements for accessible environment for the population (including for people with disabilities) was adopted in 2009. |
| Is there legislation requiring that polling stations and voting processes be accessible to persons with disabilities (e.g. a certain percentage of polling stations must be accessible; one polling station per electoral district must be accessible etc.)?Please indicate whether the legislation requires that polling stations and voting processes are accessible for all persons with disabilities or for particular impairment groups (e.g. persons with visual, hearing, physical impairments etc). | For persons with disabilities related to the musculoskeletal system or the vision, when polling stations are situated on higher floors, the establishment of special polling stations (by decision of the regional or municipal electoral commissions) on the floor ground floor is provided (article 73 of the EC).Moreover, these persons can choose in which station they cast their vote, even though they were not previously included in the electoral roll of the relevant section (Article 203, para 2 of the EC).The polling stations in social, health care facilities and nursing homes should be formed if there are minimum 20 voters, and this concerns all persons placed in the facilities who meet the special requirements of the law (art. 72 , para . 6 and 7 of the EC).There are no requirements for the percentage of available polling stations.The Electoral Code provides no special voting rights for people with hearing impairments. |
| Does the law foresee training for election authorities and election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation? | The Central Electoral Commission (CECs) conducts the election trainings for the municipal and district electoral commissions (Art. 26, para 1, item 3 of the EC) and regional electoral commissions (RECs) (art. 29, para 1 item 1 of the EC). The municipal electoral commissions (MECs) (art. 33, para 1, item 1 of the EC) conduct the training of station electoral commissions in relation to the implementation of the law (EC) and methodological guidelines of the CEC.Within the training of electoral commissions, which are held together with local and regional authorities involved in the organizational and technical preparations of the elections, trainings on non-discrimination based on disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation are held. |
| Does the national strategy/action plan on disability cover the right to political participation of persons with disabilities? | The long-term national strategy (2008-2015) to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities related to implementing the objectives of the Council of Europe to establish a European policy framework for compliance with human rights, non-discrimination, equal opportunities and full citizenship of people with disabilities has already been adopted. The strategy was updated in 2012. Decision № 967/30.12.2011 of the Council of Ministers for the preparation of an Action Plan by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, contains measures to bring Bulgaria’s legislation and policies on people with disabilities in compliance with the provisions of the UN Convention on rights of Persons with Disabilities.Decision № 868/19.10.2012 of the Council of Ministers provides for the adoption of the Action Plan. |
| Are all persons with disabilities, including those who have been deprived of their legal capacity, able to access redress and complaint mechanisms in cases where they have not been able to exercise the right to vote? | There are no special arrangements for persons with disabilities, including those who have been deprived of their legal capacity. They follow the general rules provided in the Electoral Code – a complaint has to be filed to the relevant electoral administration body. The provisions of the Electoral Code addressing the complaints mechanisms are article 26; article 29; article 33; article 36 and article 39.These competent bodies are respectively the Polling Station, Regional/Municipal Electoral Commissions and the Central Electoral Commission.People deprived of their legal capacity are not entitled to access any redress and complaint mechanisms. In theory the person under partial guardianship has access to redress and complaint mechanisms with the consent of his/her guardian while the person under plenary guardianship has no access him/herself. |

1. **PROCESS INDICATORS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Process indicators** | **Source and supporting information** |
| Do national, regional, local and municipal election authorities have non-discrimination and accessibility action plans and guidelines in place? | Local authorities have an obligation to provide independent voting for people with disabilities by creating conditions for access to the polling stations, as well as conditions for the independent exercise of the right to vote in polling stations and to create opportunities and plans to bring citizens who cannot move by themselves to the polling stations, stating (indicating) telephone and address, where requests for help can be made on the day of elections (Article 175, para 2 of the EC).Municipal (MECs) and regional electoral commissions (RECs) have obligations to develop plans to ensure measures enabling people with disabilities to vote.The activities of local administrations, MECs and RECs are announced through the media and on the websites of local and regional authorities. The notice shall state the telephone and address where requests for help can be made on the day of elections (Art. 175 of the EC). For example, 29 out of 31 regional electoral commissions announced these measures on their websites during the elections of 12 May 2013.Additionally, an awareness campaign conducted by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) on the rights of citizens in the electoral process and the exercise of the right to vote, was broadcasted on the Bulgarian National Television, with simultaneous sign language, as well as it was posted on the CEC website. It consisted of 3 video clips. The first two clips provided information related to deadlines and procedures for amending the voter lists and to the facilities offered to disabled voters, including mobile voting. The latter clip was released after the deadline to request mobile voting, which may partly explain the low number of requests received (see below).[[11]](#footnote-11) The third clip informed voters of election-day procedures. No additional voter education materials were noted at the district or municipal level, from either Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) or NGOs.[[12]](#footnote-12)  |
| Are there measures by election authorities in place to facilitate persons with disabilities who live in institutions, whether short- or long-term, and those who are home-bound, to register to vote and to vote? (e.g. voting at institutions, voting in advance, voting by mail, mobile voting) | Electoral rolls are prepared through the permanent addresses of the voters at the municipal administrations. Electoral Code explicit provides for the creation of polling stations in medical and health care facilities, day-care centres and nursing homes and other care facilities in the presence of at least 20 voters in the election of MPs, MEPs from Bulgaria and President and Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria (Article 72, para 6 of the EC).In elections for municipal councillors and mayors, polling stations are formed in these places in the presence of at least 20 voters with voting rights in local elections.In these cases, electoral rolls are drawn up and signed by the head of the relevant institution or home (Art. 42, para 1 of the EC).Voters with disabilities who are not allowed to cast their vote by themselves in a polling station, but wish to vote, may apply for mobile voting box to the municipal administration not later than 30 days before the day of elections through a letter with a handwritten signature and submitted by mail, fax or electronically (Art. 176, para 1 of the EC). If at least 10 voters submitted an application form, mobile polling station should be established within the municipality. |
| Are there mechanisms in place to ensure that disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) are consulted and involved in the development of laws and policies in electoral matters? Please give details of the mechanisms through which DPOs are involved. | The National Council for the Integration of Disabled People[[13]](#footnote-13) functioning as a part of the Council of Ministers’ administration is composed of representatives of the government and NGOs. Its main function is to ensure that there is cooperation during the development and implementation of policies for disabled people. The council has published only one report from its meetings for 2013 and electoral matters have not been discussed in it.The National Assembly has a Permanent Commission for Interaction with Civic Organizations and Movements.[[14]](#footnote-14) Involvement and collaboration with organizations of and for people with disabilities is supported by the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, which is an advisory body to the Council of Ministers. It includes representatives of the state, as well as national representative organizations of and for people with disabilities. |
| Is training provided to election authorities and election officials on non-discrimination on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation? | Central Electoral Commission's decision, methodological guidelines and trainings of electoral commissions at all levels together with the administrations involved in preparation and holding of elections are focused on non-discrimination of voters on the grounds of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation. |
| Is information about how and where to complain in the case of problems with exercising the right to political participation accessible to all persons with disabilities? | The information is available through the website of the Central Electoral Commission and through contacts between the Central Electoral Commission and organizations of persons with disabilities.[[15]](#footnote-15)The website of the Central Electoral Commission partially meets the WCAG 2.0 AA standards. The websites of the regional electoral administration bodies are subpages of the one of the Central Election Commission. They have the same design and technical specifications. All pages were assessed by independent web-developers.At the polling stations there is no information about how to complain in different format-braille, large print, easy to read, audio, etc. |
| Have national judicial redress mechanisms considered any cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities?Please give details of relevant case law and any available data on the number of such cases. | The National Statistical Institute collects and presents official data[[16]](#footnote-16) in the field of justice only for the number of crimes, accused and persons convicted, as well the distribution of the cases by statistical regions and districts. The data collected by the Institute is based on the information provided by the Bulgarian courts. There are no cases regarding the violation of the political rights of persons with disabilities.  |
| Have national non-judicial redress mechanisms (e.g. National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies, Ombuds institutions) considered any cases related to the right to political participation of persons with disabilities?Please give details of relevant case law and any available data on the number of such cases. | From the annual reports[[17]](#footnote-17) of the national Ombudsman in the part "Complaints of persons with disabilities", no complaints related to violation of the political rights of persons with disabilities are available. There are single complaints in the Protection from Discrimination Commission concerning the access to the polling stations. After such complaints during the 2006 presidential elections, the Commission fined with BGN 2,000 (appr. EUR 1,000) the Minister of State Administration and Administrative Reform Nikolay Vassilev because he unfulfilled his obligation to ensure access to polling stations for persons with disabilities. In 2009 the fine was revoked by the Supreme Administrative Court. [[18]](#footnote-18) |

1. **OUTCOME INDICATORS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Outcome indicators** | **Source and supporting information** |
| How many members of the current national parliament identify as having a disability? | There is no official information on how many members of the current parliament identify as having a disability[[19]](#footnote-19). The only available data is the registered number of people with disabilities in Bulgaria for the year 2011, provided by the National Statistical Institute after the census from 2011[[20]](#footnote-20).  |
| What was the voter turnout rate for persons with disabilities in the most recent municipal elections and in the 2009 European Parliament elections? How does this compare with the voter turnout rate among the general population?What was the voter turnout rate for persons with disabilities in the most recent national elections? How does this compare with the voter turnout rate among the general population? | Voters with problems in the locomotive system or the vision are allowed to vote in any polling station where access for persons with disabilities is provided. According to art. 203, paragraph 3 of Electoral Code in Bulgaria if they vote in a polling station different from the one that serves their permanent living address, these voters are required to complete a declaration that they will not vote multiple times. Yet, this is not the total number of persons with disabilities who have voted, as such statistics does not exist. According to the number of these declarations, provided by the database of the Central Electoral Commission, voter turnout for persons with disabilities (of the locomotive system and/or vision) was: **Municipal Elections in October 2011** -Votes for Municipal Councilors: **5,658** persons with disabilities voted out of **3,530,550** in total (or a **0,16%** of the total)[[21]](#footnote-21) -Votes for Mayors of Municipality (first round)**: 5,605** persons with disabilities voted out of **3, 530,606** in total (or a **0.16%** of the total)[[22]](#footnote-22) -Votes for Mayors of Municipality (second round): **2,468** persons with disabilities voted out of **2,145,685** in total (or a **0.12%** of the total)[[23]](#footnote-23) -Votes for a Mayors of Villages (first round): **1,850** persons with disabilities voted out of **1, 025,583** in total (or a **0.18%** of the total)[[24]](#footnote-24) -Votes for a Mayors of Villages (second round): **654** persons with disabilities voted out of **530, 709** in total (or a **0.12%** of the total) [[25]](#footnote-25)**European Parliament elections in 2009:** 2,614 persons with disabilities voted out of 2,601,692 in total (or a **0,1%** of the total)[[26]](#footnote-26) **Early Parliamentary Election in May, 2013**: **3,435** persons with disabilities voted out of **3, 632,953** in total (or 0.09% of the total)[[27]](#footnote-27) |
| How many members of current municipal governments identify as having a disability? | There is no official source containing such information.  |
| What proportion of polling stations is accessible for persons with disabilities?[[28]](#footnote-28) Please indicate whether polling stations are accessible for all persons with disabilities or for particular impairment groups e.g. persons with visual, hearing, physical impairments etc.) | Every Regional Electoral Commission (REC) is responsible to announce on its website the number of polling stations accessible for persons with disabilities (articles 73 and 75 of the Electoral code). The RECs have websites since April 2013. This is why the only relevant information is from the early parliamentary elections in May 2013. 15 out of the 31 RECs did not announce a list with the addresses of the accessible polling stations. The other 16 RECs announced a total of 451 stations (the overall number of the polling stations for the elections in May 2013 is 11,902), along with all polling stations in buildings located on the first floor. The pointed polling stations are accessible for all persons with disabilities.[[29]](#footnote-29)The only criteria used to determine whether a polling station is accessible for persons with disabilities, pointed by the Central Electoral Commission, is the location of the polling station. Such section should be placed on the first floor of the building and be specifically indicated.[[30]](#footnote-30) Following the election monitoring report of the OSCE/ODIHR of the early Parliamentary elections of 12 May 2013, some 340 polling stations observed (53 % of observed polling stations) were not readily accessible for people with disabilities, while the interior layout of some 195 stations was also found not suitable for such voters.[[31]](#footnote-31)During the Presidential and municipal elections of the 23d and 30th of October 2011, many polling stations visited by the OSCE/ODIHR did not have ramps or other facilities for wheelchairs.Additionally, the Electoral Code provides for mobile voting if at least 10 voters with permanent disabilities that prevent them from exercising their voting right have requested it.[[32]](#footnote-32) Mobile voting was conducted by 97 special Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) in as many municipalities. OSCE/ODIHR LEOM interlocutors explained that this low number was due to the early application deadline for mobile voting and lack of information about the provisions.[[33]](#footnote-33) |
| Does the website to provide instructions for voting and information on candidates run by the ministry responsible for organising elections meet accessibility standards (e.g. equivalent to [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/) AA standard[[34]](#footnote-34))? | The Central Electoral Commission in Bulgaria ([www.cik.bg](http://www.cik.bg) ) is responsible for the organization of all types of elections in the country. The website of the Commission meets partially the AA accessibility standard, as follows: **Contrast ratio**: YES; **Large Text:** NO (11px, weight: normal, style: normal); **Images of Text:** NO  |
| What proportion of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has national language subtitles? | There is no such information. Only the news emission at 5 p.m. during the week days on the Bulgarian National TV has sign language for people with hearing problems. There is no other news, nor current affairs programmes that have subtitles. Furthermore, voting instructions and information on candidates are allowed to be in the national language in the country (Bulgarian).[[35]](#footnote-35) There are no written procedures requiring that the instructions for voting and information on candidates has national language subtitles.  |
| What proportion of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has audio description? | There is no such information. There is no requirement in the legislation that public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates have audio description.  |
| What proportion of main public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates has sign language interpretation? | There is no such information. There is no requirement in the legislation that public and/or television broadcasts providing instructions for voting and information on candidates have sign language. The Central Electoral Commission at its own discretion decides on how to create informational videos for deaf people, which are randomly broadcasted in the public TV and radio stations. |
| How many political parties, out of the total who participated in the most recent European Parliament and municipal elections, made their manifesto/campaign material accessible to persons with disabilities (e.g. large print, braille, easy-to-read, audio versions etc.)? | There is no such information. No materials in the campaign were identified as being accessible to persons with disabilities.[[36]](#footnote-36) |
| What proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities? | There is no such statistical data. The Sofia municipal administration and the state institutions were consulted.  |
| How many complaints related to infringements of the right to political participation of persons with disabilities were recorded in 2012? What proportion of these complaints was successful? | There is no statistical data. The Protection from Discrimination Commission[[37]](#footnote-37), as well as the Centre for Independent Living were consulted. |

1. UN (2013), Treaty Collection, available at: <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN (2013), Treaty Collection, available at: <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UN (2013), Treaty Collection, available at: <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&lang=en>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 .01.2011, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The preference threshold is the minimum percentage of preferential votes that one candidate should obtain in order to be placed on a better position in the list. The preference gives an opportunity to the voter, to choose a certain candidate from the list, point him/her in the ballot and place him/her in front of the other candidates from the political party’s list. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Bulgaria, Electoral Code, Art.259, para.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in National Government and Local Self-government (*Закон за прякото участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12.06.2009, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Bulgaria, Electoral Code, Art. 176, para. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Bulgaria, Constitution, Art. 42, para.1, available in Bulgarian at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/521957377>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. For Level AA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A and Level AA Success Criteria, or a Level AA conforming alternate version is provided. For more information, please see: <http://www.w3.org/TR/UNDERSTANDING-WCAG20/conformance.html#uc-conformance-requirements-head>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. In Silistra, the MEC held a press conference and informed voters about mobile voting, which resulted in having enough requests to conduct mobile voting. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring reports, P.9 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Bulgaria, National Council for the Integration of Disabled People (*Национален съвет за интеграция на хората с увреждания*), available in Bulgarian: <http://www.saveti.government.bg/web/cc_11/1>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Bulgaria, National Assembly, Permanent Commission for Interaction with Civic Organisations and Movements, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.parliament.bg/bg/parliamentarycommittees/members/2081>. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Information obtained from FRA BG National Liaison Officer. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Bulgaria, National Statistical Institute, justice statistic; available in English: <http://www.nsi.bg/otrasalen.php?otr=50> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. National Ombudsman of Bulgaria; Annual Report of the Institution for 2012, available in Bulgarian: <http://www.ombudsman.bg/reports/2476#middleWrapper> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Informational web-site Econ.BG; article concerning the case from 2009, available in Bulgarian: [http://m.econ.bg/%D0%9D%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8/%D0%92%D0%90%D0%A1-%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9D%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B9-%D0%92%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B2\_l.a\_i.166059\_at.1.html](http://m.econ.bg/%D0%9D%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8/%D0%92%D0%90%D0%A1-%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9D%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B9-%D0%92%EF%BF%BD%25) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. The Institute for Public Environment Development monitors the work of the Bulgarian Parliament for 4 years now, gathering information for all the deputies and presenting it to the Bulgarian public through the website [Open Parliament](http://www.openparliament.bg/). This is how the information was obtained. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Bulgaria, National Statistical Institute, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.nsi.bg/EPDOCS/Census_Disability2011.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://results.cik.bg/tur1/mestni/0103.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://results.cik.bg/tur1/mestni/0103.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://results.cik.bg/tur1/mestni/0103.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://results.cik.bg/tur1/mestni/0103.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://results.cik.bg/tur1/mestni/0103.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://ep2009.cik.bg/results/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://results.cik.bg/pi2013/rezultati/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Please base the response on existing data available from national or local governments or election authorities, or other survey data. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <https://www.cik.bg/contacts_rik>. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Bulgaria, Central Electoral Commission, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.cik.bg/442> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring reports, P. 20 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Requests must be received no later than 30 days before election day. For these elections, requests for mobile voting had to be made by 22 September. Mobile voting requests had to be submitted by written application, accompanied by a copy of a certificate of disability issued by the Medical Expert Board. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring reports, P. 9 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. For Level AA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A and Level AA Success Criteria, or a Level AA conforming alternate version is provided. For more information, please see: <http://www.w3.org/TR/UNDERSTANDING-WCAG20/conformance.html#uc-conformance-requirements-head>. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Bulgaria, Electoral Code, Art.133, para 2, available in Bulgarian at: <http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515>. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Since 2009 the Institute for Public Environment Development monitors the election campaigns through an online platform presenting information for all the political parties and candidates participating in the elections and gathering data about their campaigns. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. The last annual report of the Commission for Protection of Discrimination, related to all complaints is from 2011 and may be found at the following address: <http://www.kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/images/stories/pdf/otchet2011.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)