



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



Zero Project Conference 2015

The Right to Vote for Everyone
Council of Europe instruments and approaches

Alexander Preobrazhenskiy
Antidiscrimination and Social Cohesion Department
Directorate General of Democracy



Council of Europe

unites 47 member States

Fundamental values:

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW



Council of Europe headquarters, Strasbourg, France



Council of Europe

Disability Action Plan 2006-2015

Action line 1

“Participation in political and public life”



Specific actions by member states

- iii. to ensure that no person with a disability is excluded from the right to vote or to stand for election on the basis of her/his disability



Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)14 on the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life



3. Non-discrimination in the exercise of legal capacity

All persons with disabilities [...] have the right to vote on the same basis as other citizens [...]

All persons with disabilities are also entitled to stand for office on an equal basis with others [...]



Revised Interpretative Declaration to the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters on the Participation of People with Disabilities in Elections (Venice Commission)

“People with disabilities should therefore be able to exercise their right to vote and participate in political and public life as elected representatives on an equal basis with other citizens.”



European Convention on Human Rights

Article 3 of Protocol No.1

Right to free elections

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature.





Thank you!



For more information:

<http://www.coe.int>

disability@coe.int