

# Accessible election information

*"The voting experience should be independent from  
beginning to end"*

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# Overview

- Problem: No accessible election information before 2011
- Solution: Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice in Finland and the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI)
- Implementation: Production and distribution of election information in audio/Daisy and Braille
- Funding: Ministry of Justice (production), Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (distribution)
- Based on: Agreement (but indirectly supported by the Non-Discrimination Act and the UN Convention)

# What was done?

- The produced material included:
  - Candidate lists from all electoral districts in Finland
  - Information on advance voting and polling stations (contact information, opening hours)
  - General information about elections
- The practice has been applied four times: 2011 (parliamentary), 2012 (presidential), 2012 (municipal), 2014 (European parliament)
- Figures:
  - Finnish parliamentary elections, 2011: **2315** candidates
  - Finnish municipal elections, 2012: **37 124** candidates
  - Elections for the European parliament, 2014: **251** candidates

# Target group and costs

- Target group: approx. 14 000 persons
- Approx. 250 Braille users (Braille delivered only **on demand** due to high production costs)
- For example, the costs for producing material for parliamentary elections is approx. 15 000 euros (includes production costs)

# Challenges

- The schedule is very strict: information is available only a month prior to the election → strict requirements on the production units!
- The practice is based on agreement and good contacts, rather than law → vulnerable?
- The election system in Finland is based on proportional representation (d'Hondt method) → difficult to replicate in different election systems?

# Positive aspects

- Users have given only positive feedback → the service is requested and awaited
- The possibility to check the candidate lists independently, without assistance
- The method is very straightforward and cost-efficient

Thank you!