



SLOVENIA

Intervention

**Round table: "Political participation and equal recognition before the law"
(in accordance with Article 29 of the CRPD "Participation in political and public
life")**

New York, 12-14 June 2018

Accessibility is not only relevant in terms of social inclusion, but is also a precondition for the full exercise of political and civil rights. Without an accessible and functionally built environment and access to information, it is difficult or even impossible to exercise political rights, such as the right to vote or the right to participate in the management of public affairs.

In April 2017, the Act Amending the National Assembly Elections Act was passed, thereby implementing Constitutional Court decisions handed down in 2007 and 2014. Pursuant to the amended Act, all polling stations must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Voting devices are eliminated and persons with disabilities are eligible to vote by post instead. Paragraph one of Article 79a of the Act Amending the National Assembly Elections Act, which stipulates that all polling stations must be accessible to persons with disabilities, came into force on 1 February 2018. The latter means that all polling stations will have to be made physically accessible to persons with disabilities in time for the next National Assembly and local elections.

Last year (2017), the Parliament of Republic of Slovenia elected a state counsellor for social protection. The state counsellor is a person with disabilities, which reaffirms that persons with disabilities have the same opportunities and possibilities as all others and participate equally in political life.

As another example of good practice, we would like to present the Slovenian Court Rules, which were amended at the beginning of 2017. These rules instruct the courts to include a special notification in every invitation to court hearings. The notification touches on the right to equal participation in the proceedings by participants who are disabled or persons with special needs, as well as calls on them to inform the court in advance whether they will exercise the right to equal participation in the court proceedings. In recent years, the Slovenian Judicial Training Centre commenced systematic training for judicial authorities concerning the treatment and consideration of persons with disabilities.