



Study on the Benefits and Drawbacks of Remote Voting

Technical Appendices

*Specific Contract No.
JUST/2016/RCIT/PP/RIGH/0094
Prepared by:
Francisco Lupiáñez-Villanueva and Axelle Devaux
(Editors)
Clara Faulí, Katherine Stewart, Federica Porcu,
Jirka Taylor, Alexandra Theben, Ben Baruch,
Frans Folkvord, Fook Nederveen, Axelle Devaux
& Francisco Lupiáñez-Villanueva (Authors)*

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European Commission

Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

Directorate D: Equality and Union Citizenship

Contact: Harry Panagopoulos, Unit 03

E-mail: Harry.PANAGOPULOS@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

B-1049 Brussels

Authors

Francisco Lupiáñez-Villanueva & Axelle Devaux (editors)

Clara Faulí, Katherine Stewart, Federica Porcu, Jirka Taylor,
Alexandra Theben, Ben Baruch, Frans Folkvord, Fook Nederveen,
Axelle Devaux & Francisco Lupiáñez-Villanueva (authors)

Lead contractor



in consortium



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This study has been commissioned by the European Commission, DG JUSTICE. The information and views set out in this study are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the work of the following people on the country fiches: Marlene Altenhofer, Dimitra Anastasiadou, Laura Busquet, Milda Butkute, Márton Csirik, David Dueñas Cid, Cloé Gendronneau, Elżbieta Gral, Anna Knack, Ria Ivandic, Marta Kepe, Arya Sofia Meranto, Marian Oancea, Martina Petrova, Erik Silfversten, Christos P. Topouzis, Simone Vitiello and Nana With Feldman. We thank Joanna Hofman, Stijn Hoorens, Peter Burge and Hui Lu for their comments on earlier versions of the report, and Harry McNeil Adams for research assistance. Finally we would like to acknowledge the contributions of Pedro González.

We also acknowledge the input of our interviewees. In addition to those attributed throughout the paper, this includes a number of interviewees from European and national NGOs and international bodies (including organisations working in the fields of civil rights, disability rights, migration, minorities, vulnerable people and people of no fixed abode) who preferred to remain anonymous. In addition we thank the representatives of EU Member States who provided us with information to develop the country fiches.

The case studies on observing remote voting, cybersecurity, voting for people with disabilities, voting for people with no fixed abode, the implementation of electoral law, the UK election pilots and the experience of internet voting in France were developed by RAND Europe core team, in addition to Erik Silfversten and Milda Butkute.

The case studies on implementing internet voting, the experience in Estonia, data protection, internet voting by political parties, internet voting by municipalities, secrecy in remote voting, coercion in remote voting and identification in remote voting were developed by the Open Evidence core team.

The online survey and experiment was conducted by Open Evidence.

Version linguistique	Support/Volume	Numéro de catalogue	ISBN	DOI
EN PDF	PDF/Volume_02	DS-05-18-085-EN-N	978-92-79-97406-9	10.2838/677948

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Appendix A. Literature Review Methodology

Objective

The objective of the literature review was to achieve a detailed understanding of the current evidence base with regards to remote voting solutions. This allowed us to (i) map the current types of remote voting solutions trialled in the EU and globally, and (ii) gather evidence with regards to the design, costs, challenges and outcomes of various types of remote voting.

This appendix presents an overview of the literature review process, followed by a brief discussion of the characteristics of the identified literature, a detailed account of the review's main parameters, including the search terms and inclusion criteria, as well as a copy of the data extraction template.

Overview of the literature review process

Development of the search strategy

The team developed and implemented a search strategy (see below) in consultation with a RAND library specialist. We ran a final search of subscription databases in accordance with the parameters of the search strategy, which resulted in the retrieval of 708 unique sources (i.e. after automatic removal of duplicates). These sources were organised in a bibliographic library using the reference management tool *EndNote* and were used in the subsequent tasks described below.

Development of the data extraction template

Simultaneously, the team developed and piloted a data extraction template. This tool was used to extract information from sources under review.

Screening of literature retrieved from academic databases

Members of the research team (JT, KS, FN, AK) screened the titles of items included in the EndNote library to decide whether to retain them on the basis of the inclusion and exclusion criteria determined in the search strategy (these are explained in greater detail below). This step resulted in the elimination of 555 sources, leaving 153 items under consideration. Subsequently, the team reviewed the abstracts of the retained items against the inclusion criteria. In this process, 30% of the retained sample was double-screened independently by two members of the team to ensure consistency in our screening approach. The abstract screen resulted in the removal of 67 sources, leaving 86 items for review. Of these, 20 sources were identified as pertaining to elections other than for public political office (e.g. corporate board elections) and 14 were identified as discussing technical aspects of possible remote voting solutions without reference to a concrete scheme under implementation. These two groups of sources were placed in a special repository while a decision was made to prioritise the remaining 53 items, which were judged to be most relevant. The full texts of these 53 sources were reviewed and relevant information captured in the data extraction template.

Grey literature review

In addition to reviewing sources retrieved via academic databases, the research team also ran searches for grey literature as envisaged in the search strategy (outlined below). This process resulted in the identification of an additional 13 relevant sources, which were added to the EndNote library. The full texts were reviewed by the research team, with subsequent extraction of information into the standardized template.

Search of bibliographies

In addition to reviewing the full texts of identified relevant sources, the research team also searched their bibliographies for any additional sources. This process resulted in the identification of further 14 sources, which were reviewed by the research team and added to the EndNote database and data extraction template where appropriate.

Description of the literature

The search strategy resulted in the identification of a rich body of literature. Its main characteristics are briefly described below. Please note that while this section provides an overview of the main characteristics of the identified literature, it does not comment on the findings presented in that literature. Any such findings are covered in the main body of the report.

Geographical spread

Except for a few general, high-level studies on remote voting, the literature reviewed covers various specific areas worldwide. However, there is a strong focus on North America and Europe. Within North America the literature mostly focuses on Western states with advanced vote-by-mail programmes, although other geographical areas are also featured. In Europe, the literature predominantly discusses remote voting solutions in Estonia and, to a lesser extent, Norway and Switzerland. Only a handful of studies focused on areas beyond OECD countries.

With respect to the type of elections covered, literature from North America relates to local, state as well as (US) national elections. Due to the predominant role of state governments in regulating elections in the United States, individual states are frequently the geographical area of analysis. For Estonia, all types of elections (local, national, European) are covered by the reviewed literature. In other countries, the implementation of remote voting solutions tends to have a local character, although the elections in question may relate to nationwide matters (e.g. federal referendums in Switzerland).

Temporal spread

Most of the reviewed studies discuss remote voting solutions covering a period starting in the 2000s. Particularly in recent years we see an increase in the number of studies conducted. Trechsel et al. (2016) have called this the 'second spring' of interest in internet voting, which is due to successful implementations by Estonia, Switzerland, Canada and others. Only a small number of studies go further back, starting from the 1960s (Gronke & Miller 2012), 1970s (Funk 2010) or 1980s (Southwell 2009a).

Types of studies

Dominant in the literature were empirical studies discussing an implementation of a remote voting solution, using surveys, experiments, statistical analysis or comparative analysis (e.g. between countries, years or elections). There were also some high-level studies on remote voting, describing remote voting solutions at a more general level. A few policy papers were also included.

Whether covering hypothetical or experimental remote voting solutions, or their implementation, focal areas for identified studies include system design, government level of implementation, and who is allowed to use the technology

Type of remote voting solution covered

The body of reviewed literature predominantly covers two forms of remote voting – internet voting and postal voting. Comparatively little attention was paid in the identified literature to other forms of remote voting, such as voting by SMS or fax.

In some instances, remote voting solutions are discussed as part of a broader focus on initiatives intended to facilitate voting, some of which do not meet the definition of remote voting. Examples include early in-person voting or considerations surrounding voter registration. Similarly, internet voting is also frequently discussed in conjunction with broader e-voting initiatives, which can include the introduction of electronic voting machines in polling stations.

Several studies also discuss remote voting solutions aimed at specific target populations, such as people living in designated remote locations, disabled persons, the elderly, illiterate persons, the blind and visually impaired, expatriates or people belonging to an ethnic minority.

Search parameters

Subscription database (academic) searches

Sources:

- Econlit
- Academic Search Complete
- Business Source Complete
- Social Science Abstracts

String:

(remote OR distance OR electronic OR mail OR post* OR email OR internet OR proxy OR digital OR deferred OR delayed OR mobile OR diaspora OR expat* OR abroad OR online OR absentee OR SMS OR smartphone* OR "smart phone*" OR "cell phone*")

N5

(voting OR televoting OR evoting OR "e-voting" OR ivoting OR "i-voting" OR vote OR election*)

N20

Limits:

- Source type = journals OR academic journals OR magazines
- Language = English
- Terms in Title OR Abstract field

Grey literature databases

Sources:

- Google Scholar
- SSRN
- Web of Science
- PolicyArchive
- Policy File Index
- OECD Library
- OpenGrey (<http://www.opengrey.eu/>)

- Google advanced search of key websites (site:XXX filetype:PDF):
 - Europa.eu
 - Coe.int
 - Idea.int
 - Un.org

String:

“remote voting” implement effect outcome evidence (or combinations thereof to match the search engines)

Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Material scope

The focus was on the remote voting systems highlighted in bold below. In borderline cases the rule of thumb is that we should be looking at mechanisms enabling voters to vote in places other than their standard polling station (assigned typically by their place of residence in the country of their citizenship).

	Non-electronic	Electronic
Poll-site-based	- Paper ballots in specified polling station	- Electronic voting machines in specified polling station
Remote	- Mail voting - Proxy voting - Paper ballots in distance polling station (e.g. consulate, military base)	- Internet voting - E-mail voting - SMS voting - Electronic voting machines in distance polling stations (e.g. consulate, military base)

Geographical scope

- Primary focus is on European countries (EU + EFTA, possibly others), but relevant lessons from elsewhere should be considered.

Temporal scope

- Only sources published since 2009 will be considered. No limit on when the voting solution was introduced/implemented.

Type of study

- Primary focus is on empirical studies, but relevant non-empirical (e.g. descriptive/theoretical) sources will be considered.

Type of source

- Newspapers/magazines are excluded.

Language

- Only sources in English will be included.

Limitations

Available literature on remote voting solutions is subject to numerous constraints. These relate to two broad areas: the limited generalisability of existing evidence and methodology. Both topics are briefly discussed below.

With respect to generalisability, available evidence comes from studies that span a variety of contexts. Remote voting solutions can take many forms and their operationalisation on the ground may differ. Possible areas of divergence include eligible population, existence of other methods of voting, concurrence of multiple elections at the same time, etc. All this places substantial limits on the extent to which any transferable lessons can be identified. Furthermore, the coverage of past and present remote voting schemes in existing literature is uneven, with some programmes receiving only scant, if any, analytical attention. In part due to policy realities on the ground, a large body of literature focuses on schemes that are either pilots by nature or short-lived due to their subsequent discontinuation (e.g. Seggaard et al. 2014). Relatedly, the possibility of conducting longitudinal analysis of the effects of remote voting remains therefore rather limited, particularly in the European context. Moreover, where researchers are able to analyse multiple election waves as part of their approach, they often need to include various types of elections (e.g. both national and local).

The existing literature also acknowledges several notable methodological difficulties. Most fundamentally, it is impossible to examine the effects of remote voting solutions as an experimental treatment condition in a randomised way. A few studies have been able to take advantage of conditions that approximate a natural experiment (e.g. Germann & Serdült 2017; Elul et al. 2017), but this option is not available in every context. Other studies have deployed advanced research methods; however, confounding factors driving outcomes of interest, particularly turnout, remain a problem. One contributing reason for this is that possible factors which may affect outcome, such as the closeness or salience of an election (or the perception thereof) are challenging to capture and measure. Lastly, some studies rely on self-reported assessments or surveys of voters asking them whether the availability of particular solutions played a role in their election behaviour (Gerlach & Gasser 2009; Spada et al. 2015). This may introduce an element of subjectivity into the collected evidence.

Data extraction template

Study		1 Surname 2009	2 Surname 2010
General questions			
Study type	<i>E.g. empirical/theoretical/manual/general or high-level study about remote voting in general</i>		
Methodology	<i>Describe the methods used by the study</i>		
Objective of the study	<i>Describe the aim of the paper</i>		
Countries covered			
Type of elections covered	<i>E.g. parliamentary, regional, municipal</i>		
Time period covered			
Design of remote voting solution			
Objectives of remote voting	<i>Issues it aims to address, goals it aims to attain (e.g. increase turnout)</i>		
Description of remote component	<i>Describe what the remote solution is. If the study covers more than one element of remote voting, extract the information in a new column (e.g. 1 Surname 2009a/b/c)</i>		
Populations targeted	<i>Describe who is eligible to use the remote solution</i>		
Enabling mechanisms/technology	<i>How does it work?</i>		
Any other comments on design			
Costs			
Costs incurred by the remote solution	<i>Also who bears the costs (if not govt)</i>		
Any other comments on costs	<i>E.g. savings...</i>		
Implementation			
Challenges encountered			
Facilitators identified			
Any other comments on implementation			
Outcomes			
Outcomes covered	<i>Describe what outcomes study comments on</i>		
Detailed results	<i>Describe full details pertaining to the outcomes listed above</i>		
Relative advantages of particular voting so	<i>Describe whether the study comments on anything relating to the benefits of one solution over another specific solution (e.g. fax better than mail for these reasons)</i>		
Any other comments on outcomes			
Other			
Other relevant points			
References to follow up on	<i>What sources listed in the paper are worth following up on?</i>		

Appendix B. Country fiche template

Below, we present the templates which were used to collect information on the remote voting options available in each member state. Individual country fiches are presented in Appendix C.

Election overview

	European Parliament	Head of State	Head of government (Prime minister)	National parliament			Head of regional government	Regional parliament	Mayor	Members of the city council	Referendums (or similar) at national level	Referendums (or similar) at regional level	Referendums (or similar) at local level (municipalities)	Other (please specify): _____
				Lower house	Upper house	Other								
Types of elections (Whether citizens vote <u>directly</u> for each governance level) (Yes/No)														

	European Parliament	Head of State	Head of government (Prime minister)	National parliament			Head of regional government	Regional parliament	Mayor	Members of the city council	Referendums (or similar) at national level	Referendums (or similar) at regional level	Referendums (or similar) at local level (municipalities)	Other (please specify): _____
				Lower house	Upper house	Other								
Electoral system. Majority (First-past-the-post, two-round, alternative vote, etc.), Proportional, mixed, etc.														
Mandatory voting														

yes/no														
Turnout at most recent election (and year of election)														
Composition of the electorate (Who is entitled to vote?). Please specify the situation for the following groups: 1) own nationals living in the country 2) own nationals living abroad 3) residents from EU countries 4) residents from third countries 5) people with physical or mental disability 6) people in hospital 7) people in prison 8) military 9) ethnic minorities 10) people of no fixed abode														
Size of the electorate (if applicable)														

Remote voting options in the country

		Type of election 1	Type of election 2
<i>Within the country</i>	Voting in person in any electoral district in which voting is being conducted in the country			
	Voting by post			
	Voting by fax			
	Voting by proxy			
	Voting by SMS			
	Internet voting			
	Voting from home			
	Voting from hospital, care institution or similar			
	Voting from prison			
<i>From abroad</i>	Voting in person in special locations (embassies, consulates, other locations)			
	Voting by post			
	Voting by fax			
	Voting by proxy			
	Voting by SMS			
	Internet voting			
	Voting from home			
	Voting from hospital, care institution or similar			
	Voting from prison			
<i>Others (please add new lines if there are other forms of remote voting in the country)</i>				

Description of the main remote voting options currently in place in the country: General overview

(This includes remote voting options that are currently in place, those that have been in place but recently abandoned, those that have been trialled, and those where implementation is planned in the future.)

(Country representatives are expected to provide information on the options at national level; at regional level to the extent possible; and at local level for those options that are applicable nationwide.)

	Status (in place / implemented in the past / abandoned / trialled / planned)	Where do electors vote	Who is eligible	Voting period (days and hours), including whether it is possible to vote in advance of the ordinary polling date	Years of implementation	Enabling legislation (primary and secondary legislation)	Description of the technology involved if any (including the technology supplier) <i>(E-mail, fax, SMS, online platform, electronic voting machines in special polling stations, etc.)</i>
Option 1							
Option 2							
Option 3							
...							
...							

Other remote voting initiatives

(Including initiatives led by regional or local public authorities but not nationwide, by political parties, by civic organisations and similar, by other non-political/non-public offices, etc.)

Description of the main remote voting initiatives compared to the regular voting process

(Regular voting refers to voting on the general voting day(s) at the voting station in the electoral district in which the voter is registered.)

	Option 1	Option 2	...	Regular voting	Responsible body and officials
Information campaign for voters (informing where, when and how to register and/or vote, aimed at increasing, raising awareness, increase take-up, etc.). Specify if this material was made available in accessible formats and in several languages. Please provide, if possible, the link to the campaign material					
Voters' registration					
Provision of ballots, voting equipment and materials to the voter or polling station					
Voters' identification					
Design of ballot papers or equivalent. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information provided - Languages - Whether it is accessible to people with disabilities (e.g. blind people) 					
Mechanism to select candidates/parties, including the applicable rules (e.g. when a vote is considered invalid)					
Deposit of the ballot in the box, transmission of the vote, or equivalent					
Recording of individual ballots					
Counting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanism for counting - When is remote voting counted 					
Announcement of results (including when is remote voting announced)					
Mechanisms to allow a recount and verification of the vote					
Mechanisms to deal with electoral disputes					
Oversight mechanisms					

Description of remote voting options in the country: issues

Please explain whether each option includes mechanisms to deal with the following issues

	Option 1	Option 2	...
Guarantee an accurate identification (to avoid that someone steals someone else's identity to vote)			
Guarantee free voting (ensure that people vote freely and without coercion)			
Guarantee secret voting (ensure that no connection can be made between the voter's identity and his/her vote)			
Guarantee equal vote (prevent repeat voting), for example the exchange of data on mobile EU citizens between countries regarding foreign citizens who register to vote in the recipient country for the EU elections			
Accessibility (e.g. adaptation to blind people)			
Enhance the transparency of the system			
Avoid that some votes get lost			
Avoid that someone suppresses/changes someone else's vote			
Avoid hacker attacks that could change the election results (including attacks on voting devices, attacks on the voting transaction from voters to the central server, attacks on the central server platform) (if applicable)			
Guarantee privacy of sensitive personal data			
Detect errors (e.g. in counting, recording, transmission of votes, etc.). and to address/repair them			
Unavailability of required technology/material among certain population segments			
Other relevant issues			

Debates on voting and future perspective

Examples of debates on remote voting solutions taking place in the country (including whether there is opposition to them)	
Examples of debates on remote electronic voting solutions taking place in the country (including whether there is opposition to them)	
Plans to introduce modifications in the remote voting solutions in the country	
Plans/willingness to implement new remote (electronic) voting solutions in the country	
Envisaged remote voting options for the next European Parliament elections	
Relevant stakeholders for the debates on voting and especially remote (electronic) voting	

Appendix C. Country fiches

AUSTRIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; President; National Parliament, Regional Parliament; Mayors; Members of Municipal Councils

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament, Regional Parliament and Members of Municipal Councils); two-round system (President and Mayors)

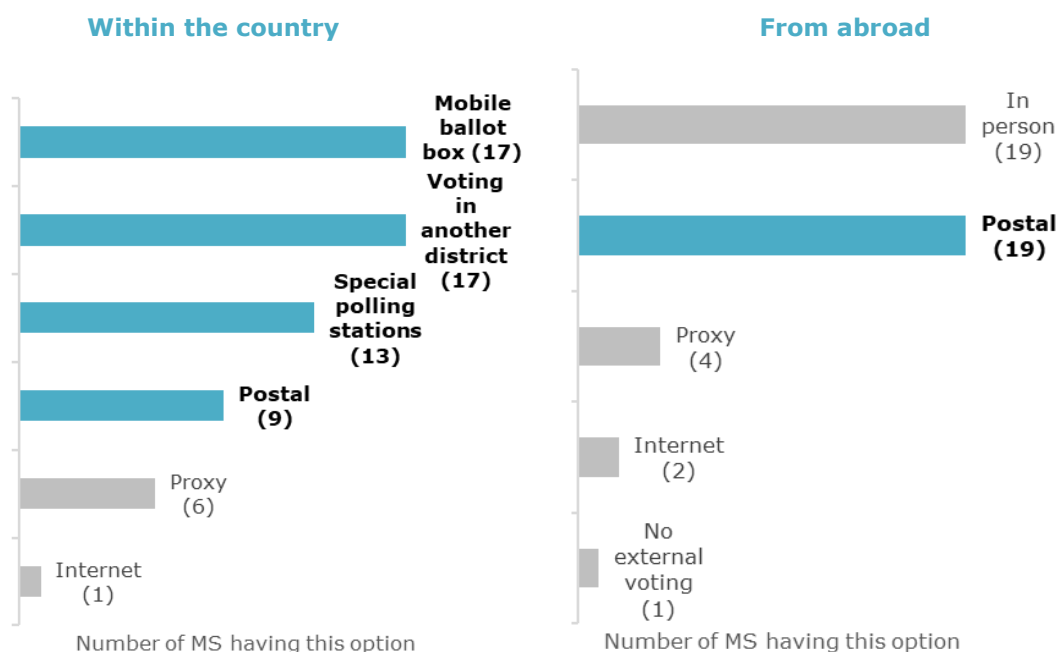
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 80.0% (2017)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 45.39%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters within Austria can vote by mobile polling station, at (limited) special polling stations, at a polling station in another district using a voter's card, or by post. Voters abroad can vote by post, including by handing the postal ballot into an embassy/consulate. The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/323609/umfrage/wahlbeteiligung-an-den-bundespraesidentenwahlen-in-oesterreich/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/turnout.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Mobile ballot box	From the voter's place of residence	People unable to visit the polling station for health or mobility reasons
In another district	At a municipality of their choice within the country	Voters who have applied for a voting card in advance of the election
At special polling stations	At the hospital, social care institution, arrest houses, remand prisons and penitentiary institutions	People unable to visit the polling station for health or mobility reasons or housed in institutions (e.g. hospitals, prisons)
Postal vote	Any location, including submission at embassy or consulate	Eligible voters who cannot attend the polling station on election day

Main features of each option

By post or at a polling station in a different district using a voter card:

- Voters apply to municipal authorities for a voting card in writing (up to four days in advance of election day) or in person (up to two days in advance).ⁱⁱⁱ Voters must provide identity document information and specify a reason, although the latter is not necessarily verified by authorities.^{iv} Once issued to them by post, they must use the voting card to cast a ballot. Voters abroad must apply in sufficient time to receive their ballots.
- The voting card can be used to vote in a different municipality by handing it in person to the local election authorities. There is at least one polling station per municipality for voting card submission in parliamentary elections and voting card holders can vote at any polling station for European and Presidential elections.
- The voting card can also be used as a postal ballot from within the country or abroad. A two-envelope system is used to return the ballot, which includes an affidavit to declare that the vote was cast in person unobserved and free from influence. Voters post the ballots back to the respective polling station using a freepost envelope. Ballots need to arrive before 5.00 p.m. on election day.^v
- Voters can also mark the voting card and submit it in person at an Austrian embassy/consulate. It must be deposited up to six days before election day if the embassy/consulate is in the European Economic Area or Switzerland and nine days before election day in any other country in order to ensure timely arrival in Austria.^{vi}

At mobile polling stations:^{vii}

- Voters who are unable to attend the polling station can apply for a visit from a mobile ballot box when applying for a voting card. On the day of the election, the mobile ballot box is brought to the voter by the local polling station representative and up to three additional personnel. The voting proceeds as normal.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/austria/370866?download=true>

^{iv} <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/austria/305766?download=true>

^v https://www.bmi.gv.at/412_english/

^{vi} <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/austria/345201?download=true>

^{vii} Interview with a representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

At special polling stations:^{viii}

- Some large health and care institutions may establish a dedicated polling station for national elections (European Parliament, President, National Parliament). These are administered at local election authority level and significant use of the polling station by voters must be anticipated.

The table below provides figures for the use of voting cards in the 2017 parliamentary elections.

Use of voting cards in 2017 parliamentary elections ^{ix}	
Registered voters	6,400,993
Number of voting cards issued	889,193 (approximately 14% of voters)
Number of voting cards issued to voters abroad	59,283

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: The second round of the Presidential election was annulled by the Constitutional Court in 2016 in part due to irregularities relating to adherence to postal voting procedures.^x The re-run election was also postponed after it was found that the glue used in the outer envelope of the two-envelope system was insufficiently strong to secure the ballot, thus potentially rendering some ballots inadmissible.

^{viii} Interview with a representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

^{ix} All data from <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/austria/370866?download=true>

^x <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/austria/305766?download=true>

BELGIUM

Types of elections: European Parliament; Lower House of the National Parliament; Community Governments; Regional Governments; Provinces; Members of Local Councils; non-binding Referendums; Administrative Committees for Communities

Electoral system: Proportional

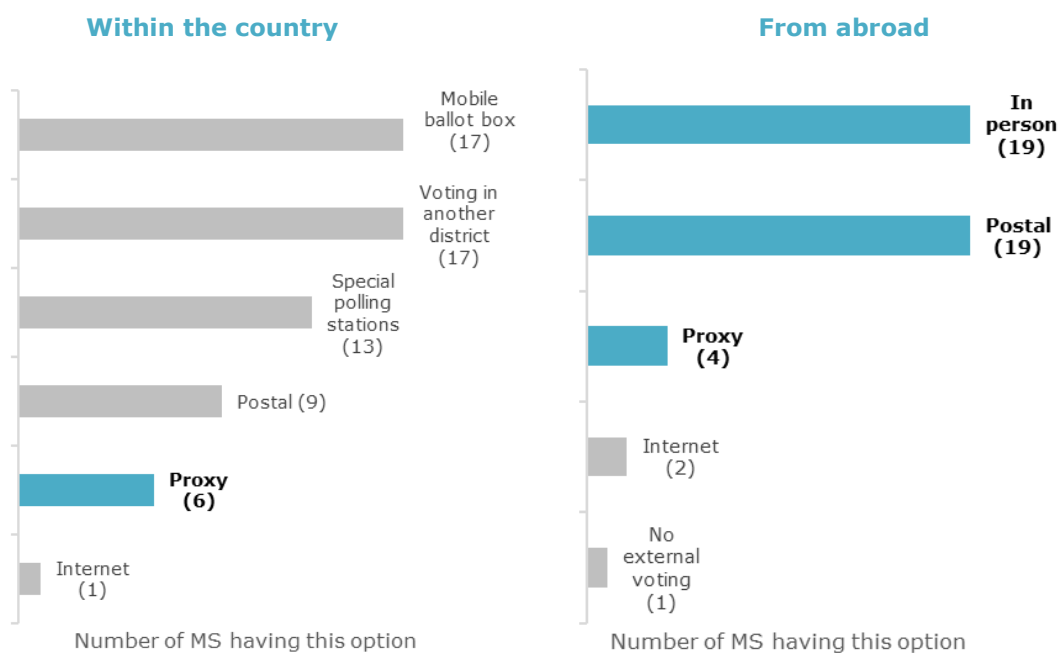
Mandatory voting: Yes

Turnout in the last national elections: 89.3% (2014)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 89.6%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available in Belgium

The only remote voting option available within the country is proxy vote. From abroad, Belgian citizens who have registered in a Belgian consulate can vote in person at an embassy/consulate, by proxy (in Belgium or overseas) or by post. The graph below shows the options available in Belgium (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ http://verkiezingen2014.belgium.be/nl/cha/results/results_graph_CKR00000.html

ⁱⁱ http://verkiezingen2014.belgium.be/nl/eur/results/results_graph_EUR00000.html

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Voting by proxy	Within the country at the relevant municipality ⁱⁱⁱ and at embassies/consulates ^{iv}	Voters who are unable to attend a polling station due to illness, infirmity, professional or service reasons, studies, imprisonment, military service and religious beliefs
In person from abroad ^v	At embassies/consulates	All eligible voters permanently abroad
By post ^{vi}	From abroad	All eligible voters permanently abroad

Main features of each option

By proxy:^{vii}

- A signed proxy vote application has to be submitted to the municipality where the voter is registered.^{viii} The mandated proxy voter's own invitation letter to participate in the elections sent by the City Council is supplemented with a notice of the proxy voter's authorisation to vote on the behalf of the voter that is unable to cast their own vote.
- The proxy voter hands the proxy vote to the chair of the polling station, showing his identity card and his own polling card on which the chair will state the voter has cast a proxy vote. Each proxy may only vote for one other voter.

In person from abroad:^{ix}

- Belgians residing abroad are required to register with a Belgian embassy or consulate, which will send them an application form to register for the elections between 9 and 6 months before planned parliamentary elections.
- The voter receives an invitation to vote by the Belgian municipality where the voter is registered. The Belgian municipality sends his or her ballot to the embassy or consulate concerned. Voting in the embassy/consulate proceeds as normal.
- Belgian voters living abroad may also return to Belgium to vote^x or apply for a proxy vote to be cast at their embassy/consulate.^{xi} The consulate or embassy has a copy of the complete voters list that registered to cast their vote by proxy at their respective embassy or consulate.

By post:^{xii}

- The chair of the constituency headquarters sends out the ballot and envelope via the consulates and embassies where the Belgians residing abroad are registered and have indicated they wished to vote by post. The electoral envelope that the voter sends is only valid when it contains a signed form with all the voter's identification details.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kieswetboek, Art. 147bis; <http://www.parliament.am/library/norelectoral%20law/Belgia.pdf>

^{iv} Kieswetboek, Art. 180sexies.

^v Kieswetboek, Art. 180quinquies.

^{vi} Kieswetboek, Art. 180septies.

^{vii} Kieswetboek, Art. 147bis §1, 1° to 6°.

^{viii} Voters who will be absent for a reason other than health/infirmity, professional, ship or military service, imprisonment, religious reasons or studies may also apply to the local burgomaster for a proxy vote up to one day before the election (art. 147bis, §1, 7°).

^{ix} Kieswetboek, Art. 180quinquies.

^x Kieswetboek, Art. 180ter.

^{xi} Kieswetboek, Art. 180sexies.

^{xii} Kieswetboek, Art. 180septies.

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Overseas voting in all elections: Without a domicile in Belgium, Belgians can only participate in general elections and European elections. The government at the time of writing decided in August 2016 that participating in regional elections should also be possible from abroad. This decision has not yet been approved by the Federal Parliament.^{xiii}

Internet voting: For several years there has been a debate on the potential implementation of internet voting.^{xiv} The idea of internet voting was included in the coalition agreement of the 2011 government, but it was never put up for a vote.

^{xiii} <https://www.vlaanderen.be/nl/vlaams-parlement/verkiezingen/stemrecht-en-stemplicht-bij-verkiezingen/kunnen-belgen-het-buitenland-deelnemen-aan-verkiezingen-belgie>

^{xiv} <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/117281?download=true>

BULGARIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; President; National Parliament; Mayors; Local Councils; Grand National Assembly of Bulgaria; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament, Grand National Assembly, Local Councils); majority (President, Mayors)ⁱⁱ

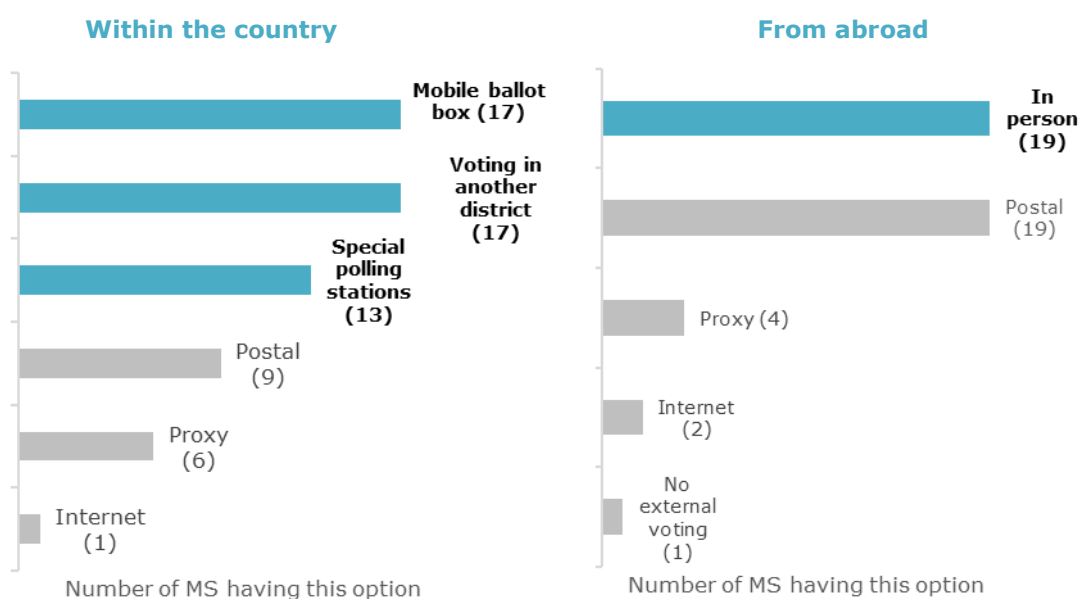
Mandatory voting: Yesⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the last national elections: 54.07% (National Parliament, March 2017); 51.62% (Presidential 2016, Second Round)^{iv}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 35.84%^v

Remote voting options available

Within Bulgaria, voters can vote in another district, at special polling stations, and using a mobile ballot box. From abroad, Bulgarians can only vote in person. The graph below shows the options available in Bulgaria (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Election Code, Art. 307, 350, 396; Direct Citizen Participation in State and Local Government Act, Art. 3.

ⁱⁱ Election Code, Art. 246, 310, 353, 399 (1), 400 (1), 411 and Annex 2.

ⁱⁱⁱ Election Code, Art. 3.

^{iv} <https://results.cik.bg/pi2017/aktivnost/index.html>;
<https://results.cik.bg/pvrnr2016/tur2/aktivnost/index.html>

^v <http://results.cik.bg/ep2014/aktivnost/index.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
In person from abroad	Embassies, consulates, diplomatic missions and special voting sections ^{vi}	Citizens outside the country ^{vii}
Special polling stations ^{viii}	Medical-treatment facilities, nursing homes, social services institutions, navigation vessels, detention facilities	Voters in these institutions and on board vessels. Detainees not serving a sentence of imprisonment.
Mobile ballot box	Voter's home ^{ix}	Voters with permanent disabilities ^x
In another district ^{xi}	Polling station	Voters whose permanent and present addresses are not in the same location ^{xii}

Main features of each option

In person from abroad:^{xiii}

- An application must be submitted 25 days before election day. This can be done online. The Central Election Commission of Bulgaria determines the number of voting sections abroad based on these applications and organisations of Bulgarian citizens abroad can suggest locations for them. Once a polling station abroad is established, any voter who has not submitted an application for voting abroad may also cast a vote in such polling station.^{xiv}
- Voters must present an identification document to the Electoral Board.
- Votes are counted in the polling station abroad and are then scanned and transmitted to the Central Election Commission.

At special polling stations:^{xv}

- A minimum of 10 voters is required to establish a special polling station.
- The electoral rolls are prepared by the managers of the institutions.
- There must be polling booths and machine voting enclosures to protect the secrecy of the vote.

Mobile ballot box:^{xvi}

- An application must be submitted 14 days in advance. It can be done online.
- At least four members of the Electoral Board visit the voter's home. They must check the voter's identity document and position the mobile ballot box in an accessible place.
- The voter must be left alone in the room while voting, except if he or she is unable to perform the voting steps independently.

^{vi} Election Code, Art. 12, 13, 14.

^{vii} Election Code, Art. 11 (1).

^{viii} Election Code, Art. 9 (6–9).

^{ix} Election Code, Art 238.

^x Election Code, Art. 37.

^{xi} Election Code, Art. 36 (1).

^{xii} In addition, candidates for the respective type of election, the members of the Central Election Commission, the members of the District Election Commission and the observers can vote in a location of their choice with a certificate for voting in another location (input provided by the Central Election Commission, CIK).

^{xiii} Election Code, Art. 12, 13, 14, 16 (1), 240 (1).

^{xiv} Input provided by the Central Election Commission, CIK.

^{xv} Election Code, Art. 9 (6–9), 28, 29, 30, 218 (1).

^{xvi} Election Code, Art. 37 (1), 237, 238.

In another district:^{xvii}

- Voters must submit an application to the municipality of their present address, so that they are included in the electoral roll there. The application cannot be submitted online.^{xviii}
- Voting follows the normal procedure. Votes are counted in the polling station of the voter's present address.

The table below provides figures for voting from abroad in the elections for the National Parliament in 2017.

Voting from abroad in the elections for the National Parliament 2017 ^{xix}	
Applications submitted to vote from abroad	350,770
Votes cast	117,668 (3% of total votes)
Number of countries with polling stations	70 (the countries with most polling stations were the UK, Spain, USA, Germany, Turkey and France)

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: In a national referendum conducted in 2015, 69.52% of voters indicated that they supported remote electronic voting for elections and referendums (the turnout was 39.34%).^{xx} Internet voting trials in three elections are planned for 2018. If successful (i.e. it guarantees vote confidentiality, system security and civic control over the electoral process, and there are no material violations) it could be used for the next European elections.

^{xvii} Election Code, Art. 34 & 36.

^{xviii} Input provided by the Central Election Commission, CIK.

^{xix} <https://results.cik.bg/pi2017/rezultati/32.html>

^{xx} <https://results.cik.bg/minr2015/tur1/referendum/index.html> Results of National Referendum on Electronic Voting, October 2015, National Election Commission

CROATIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; President; National Parliament; County Presidents; County Assemblies; Mayors; Local Councils; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament, County Assemblies, Local Councils); majority (President, County President, Mayorsⁱⁱ)

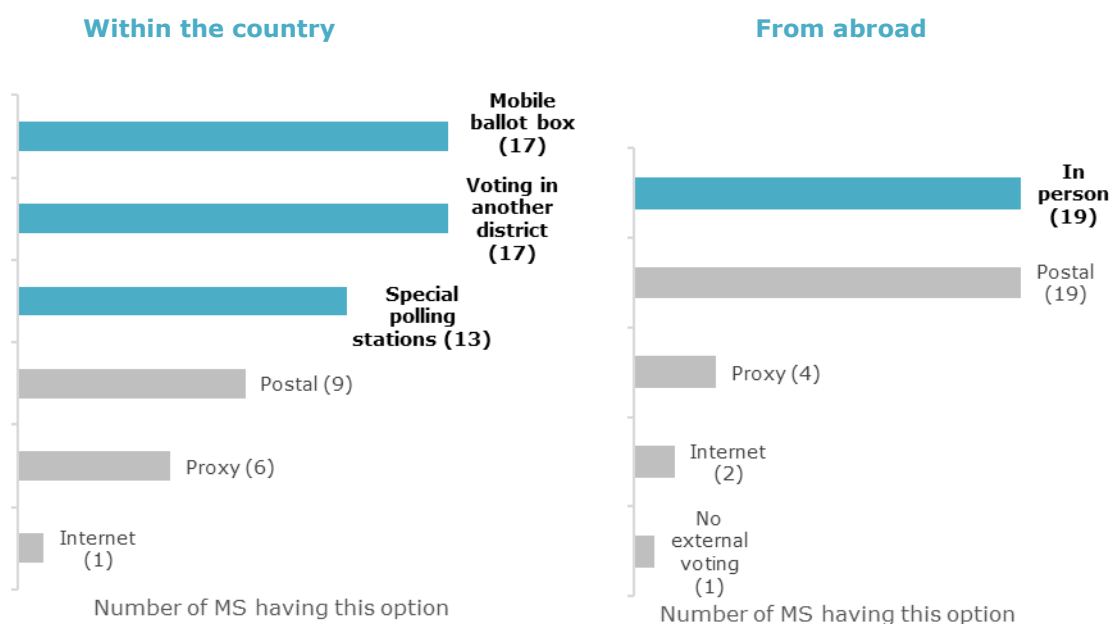
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 58.56% Presidential (second round, January 2015);ⁱⁱⁱ 59.86% (2016) National parliament^{iv}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 25.24%^v

Remote voting options available

Within the country voters can vote in special polling stations and using a mobile ballot box. From abroad, Croatians can only vote in person. The graph below shows the options available in Croatia (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Zakon o izboru članova u Europski parlament iz Republike Hrvatske; Zakon o izboru predsjednika Republike Hrvatske, Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor; Zakon o lokalnim izborima; Zakon o referendumu i drugim oblicima osobnog sudjelovanja u obavljanju državne vlasti i lokalne samouprave.

ⁱⁱ Zakon o izboru članova u Europski parlament iz Republike Hrvatske, Art. 23; Zakon o izbornim jedinicama za izbor zastupnika u Zastupnički dom Hrvatskog državnog sabora; Zakon o izboru predsjednika Republike Hrvatske, Art. 17; Zakon o lokalnim izborima, Art. 84, 88.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.izbori.hr/arhiva-izbora/index.html#/app/predsjednik-2014>

^{iv} [http://www.izbori.hr/izbori/ws.nsf/961C6C811DCA99A4C125803A002E06D7/\\$FILE/Sluzbeni_rezultati_Sabor_2016.pdf](http://www.izbori.hr/izbori/ws.nsf/961C6C811DCA99A4C125803A002E06D7/$FILE/Sluzbeni_rezultati_Sabor_2016.pdf)

^v <http://www.izbori.hr/arhiva-izbora/index.html#/app/eu-parlament-2014>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
In person from abroad ^{vi}	Consulate, embassy; ships; military facilities	Citizens temporary or permanently abroad; military personnel on duty; personnel on ships
Special polling stations ^{vii}	At retirement homes, prison	Citizens residing in these institutions
Mobile ballot box ^{viii}	At home	Citizens who cannot vote in designated places due to old age and/or medical conditions
Voting in another district	Polling station	Anybody

Main features of each option

In person from abroad:^{ix}

- Voters must be registered in the Electoral Census. Then they need to register at the relevant diplomatic or consular office or the relevant general office abroad (*Nadlezni ured*). The voter can change the voting place online until 10 days before election day.
- Diplomatic and consular missions shall submit a record of their counting results to the State Election Commission within 48 hours of the closing of the polls.

At special polling stations:

- The Ministry of Justice determines what will be the special polling stations in prisons. Eligible voters must register there.
- The Electoral Board counts the votes at the special polling station.

Mobile ballot box:^x

- Voters must notify their competent electoral commission three days before the election or the Electoral Board on election day. On election day, two members of the Electoral Board, designated by its president, go to the voter's place of residence to bring the ballot papers.
- Voters at home fold the ballot paper, put it in a special envelope and close it. The members of the Electoral Board return to the polling station, submit an envelope to the vice chairman, and the vote is inserted into the ballot box.

In another district:

- A voter who plans to be in another municipality in Croatia on election day can apply online to change their polling station until 10 days before this date.^{xi}

^{vi} Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor – Article 7 and 80.

^{vii} Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor – Article 71. Voting is possible in retirement homes if there is a minimum of people requiring it.

^{viii} Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor – Article 83.

^{ix} <http://gong.hr/media/uploads/vodickrozregistaripopisbiracaep.pdf>; Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor, Art. 87.

^x Zakon o izborima zastupnika u Hrvatski sabor. Art. 83.

^{xi} Input from the Croatian MS representatives.

The table below provides figures for voting in person from abroad in Croatia.

Voting from abroad in the Presidential elections 2014 ^{xii}	
Votes cast abroad	37,203 (1.6% of total votes)
Number of polling stations abroad	92 polling stations in 50 countries (Germany and Bosnia & Herzegovina had particularly large numbers of polling stations, with 15 each)

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

The citizens' initiative *U Ime Obiteji* ('In the Name of Family')^{xiii} proposes the introduction of postal and electronic voting in order to guarantee the electoral rights of all Croatian citizens as established by the Constitution. They believe that remote voting (by post or electronic means) would allow all Croatian citizens to vote, especially those who have difficulties due to health reasons, not having a permanent residence in Croatia or being outside the country on election day.

In 2016, the then Prime Minister Andrej Plenković indicated that it would be necessary to consider technological solutions to facilitate the vote of Croatians abroad, as the percentage that vote in embassies is low.^{xiv} A pilot to use internet-based solutions to facilitate registration is envisaged, but there are no current plans to introduce either postal voting or internet voting.^{xv}

^{xii} <http://www.izbori.hr/arhiva-izbora/index.html#/app/predsjednik-2014>

^{xiii} <https://uimeobitelji.net/referendumska-nacela/>

^{xiv} <http://croexpress.eu/vijest.php?vijest=10303>

^{xv} Input from the Croatian MS representatives.

CYPRUS

Types of elections: European Parliament; President; National Parliament; Mayors; Members of Local Councils; Communal Chambers; Referendumsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament, Local Councils); majority (President, Mayors)ⁱⁱ

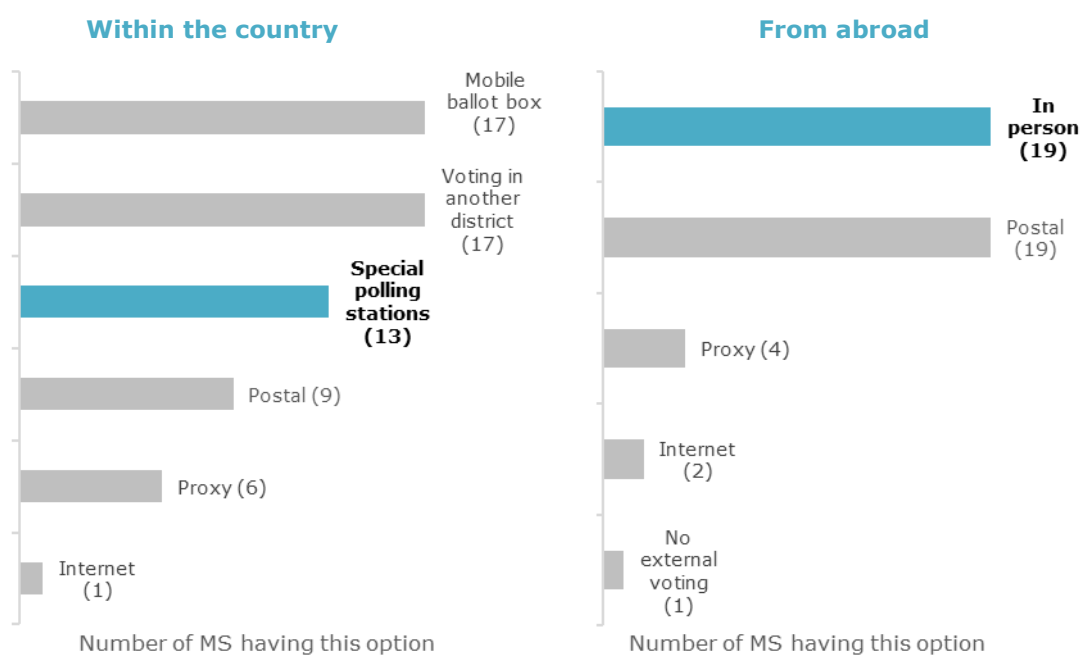
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 73.97% (Presidential, 2018)ⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 43.97%^{iv}

Remote voting options available

The only remote voting option available within the country is voting in a special polling station in prison. From abroad, citizens can only vote in person. The graph below shows the options available in Cyprus (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Law n. 37/1959; Law n. 72/1979; Law n. 10(I)/2004; Law n. 206/1989; Law n. 111/1985, Constitution, Reg. n. 18/86.

ⁱⁱ Law n. 72/1979, Art. 32; Law n. 10(I)/2004, Art. 23; Constitution, Art. 39; Law n. 111/1985, Art. 11(4), Art. 33 & 34.

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.elections.moi.gov.cy/English/PRESIDENTIAL__EPANALIPTIKI_EKLOGI_ELECTIONS_2018/Islandwide

^{iv} <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/country-results-cy-2014.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
In person from abroad	In Electoral Centres, placed inside the Cypriot Embassy or in other locations (e.g. schools, churches, etc.) ^v	Adult Cypriot citizens who have their permanent residence for more than six months per year in the Republic of Cyprus ^{vi} or in another EU country in the case of the European elections ^{vii}
Special polling station ^{viii}	In the Central Prison	Prisoners except those deprived of the right to vote by judicial decision ^{ix}

Main features of each option

In person from abroad:

- Voters must fill an application stating the country in which the voter lives and wants to vote. Based on this a special electoral register, valid only for the specific election, is drawn up. At least 30 voters from each constituency need to express their willingness to vote in order to establish a polling station, or 50 for elections in which Cyprus is a single constituency.^x
- Voting follows the same procedure as in Cyprus. The ballots can be found in the polling station. The voter can use polling booths to vote and, after the Electoral Board checks the voter's identification document and confirms that the person has not already voted, he or she places the vote in the ballot box.
- The votes are counted in the polling stations abroad by the Electoral Board. The results are sent via fax to the Electoral Service in Cyprus. The Ministry of Interior introduces the results in the computer system.
- This option is not available in local elections.

At a special polling station in prison:

- In 2015 the election law was modified to allow prisoners to vote in all elections, in line with a recommendation from OSCE/ODIHR and a ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in 2006.^{xi}
- Special electoral lists for prisoners are prepared based on information submitted by the prison authorities.^{xii}
- A special polling station is established in the Central Prison, with an Electoral Board, ballot boxes and polling booths. Votes are transported to Nicosia's city hall, or to the corresponding electoral district in elections with multiple constituencies. They are merged with the other votes and counted together.

^v <http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/97A8AEDDAAFEFF1C225821A0039DFB9?OpenDocument>

^{vi} Law n. 141(I)/2002, Art. 92.

^{vii} Law n. 10(I)/2004, Art. 4.

^{viii} OSCE/ODIHR (2016c).

^{ix} Law n. 141(I)/2002, Art. 93(1).

^x Law n. 72/1979, Art. 27 (2); <https://bit.ly/2P2Y1wy>

^{xi} OSCE/ODIHR (2016c).

^{xii} OSCE/ODIHR (2017d).

The table below provides figures for voters from abroad and voters in prison in 2018.

Voters from abroad 2018 ^{xiii} (second round)	
Numbers of polling stations abroad	29 (in 15 countries), 38 sections
Registered in the electoral roll abroad	11,683
Voters	8,185 (Turnout of 70.06%) 51% cast in Greece, 36% in the UK 2% of total votes cast (407.475)
Voters in prison 2018 ^{xiv}	
Registered in the special electoral roll for prisoners	303
Voters	205 (Turnout of 67.66%)

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Voting by post: The party ΔΗΣΥ proposed voting by post, but the proposal was dropped due to the complexity of the electoral procedure.^{xv}

Internet voting: The party Συμμαχία Πολιτών proposed e-voting.^{xvi} The party tried to implement it in their internal democratic procedures, but it was not successful. Other proposals will be discussed in the parliament, but the implementation of internet voting in Cyprus, which would facilitate voting for people abroad, seems unlikely, at least in the near future.^{xvii}

^{xiii} <http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/21CC545477499A11C225821200442016?OpenDocument>

^{xiv} <http://www.philenews.com/eidiseis/ekloges2018/article/482980/stithike-kalpi-kai-stis-fylakes>

^{xv} Interview with the MS representative.

^{xvi} <https://www.symmapiapoliton.org/government-reforms> (point 5.6);

<http://cyprusnews.eu/cydebates/2584031-eklogikometro.html>

^{xvii} Interview with the MS representative.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Types of elections: President; European Parliament; National Parliament; Regional Parliaments; Members of City Councils; Referendums

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, Lower House of the National Parliament, Regional Parliaments, City Councils); two-round system (President, Upper House of the National Parliament); FPTP (Referendums)

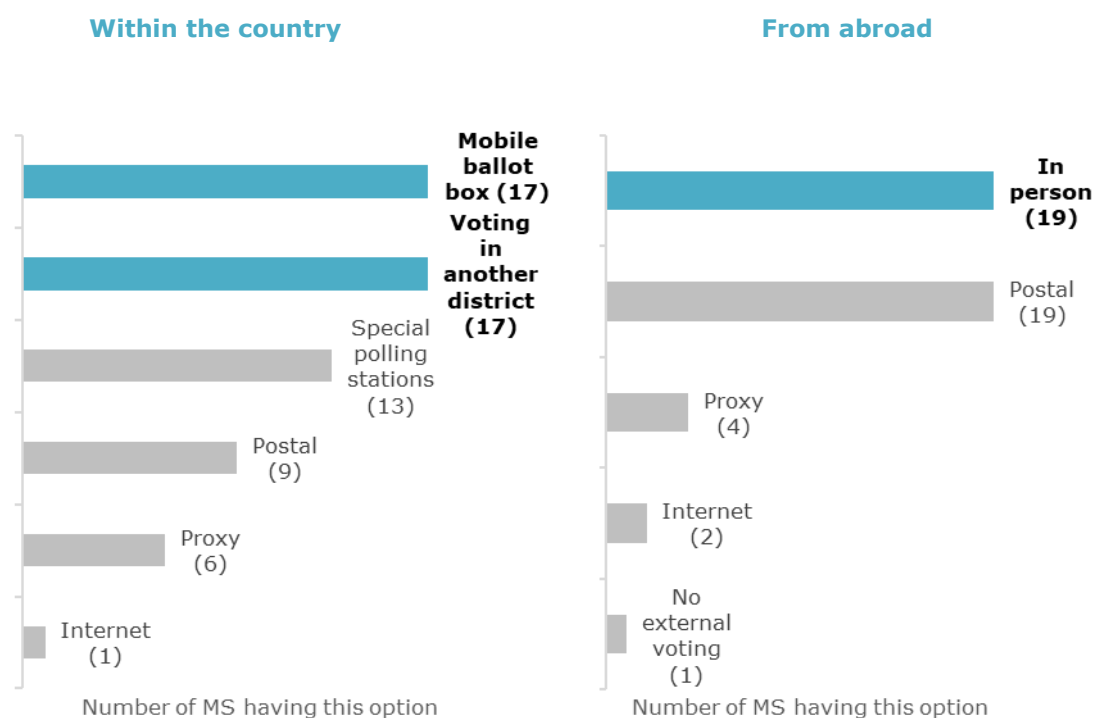
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 61.9% (first round, 2018 presidential); 66.6% (second round, 2018 presidential)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 18.2%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options availableⁱⁱⁱ

Voters in the Czech Republic can vote by mobile polling station or in another district using a voting permit. Voters overseas can vote at embassies/consulates using a voting permit. The graph below shows the options available in Czech Republic (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://volby.cz/pls/prez2018/pe2?xjazyk=CZ>

ⁱⁱ <https://volby.cz/pls/ep2014/ep121?xjazyk=CZ>

ⁱⁱⁱ European elections: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2003-62>; presidential elections: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2012-275>; parliamentary elections: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1995-247>; regional elections: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2000-130>; local elections: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2001-491>; local referendums: <https://zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2004-22>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Mobile ballot box	Any location ^{iv}	Eligible voters residing in an institution (e.g. prison, hospital) or those with 'serious, particularly health, reasons'
In another district ^v	Polling station	All eligible voters using a voting permit ^{vi}
In person from abroad ^{vii}	Embassies/consulates	Eligible voters temporarily or permanently abroad

Main features of each option

At mobile polling stations:

- Voters who cannot attend the polling station due to health reasons can apply for a mobile ballot box to be brought to their location. The application can be filed any time before election day or even on election day (in which case the application needs to be addressed to the local electoral committee). The form of application is not stipulated. In addition, a mobile ballot box is provided to individuals who are on the 'special voter list' due to their residence in institutions (including prisons and hospitals). Voters in institutions are registered on the special voters' list based on information provided to the local authority by the management of the institution.
- Members of the electoral committee visit voters who have pre-registered/pre-applied with a mobile ballot box and enable them to cast a vote. Voters either use the ballots distributed by post or use ballots provided by the electoral committee. Proof of identity and citizenship must be shown, as in normal polling stations.
- The mobile ballot box is brought back to the regular district polling station before the counting begins.

In another district in the country or overseas using a voting permit:^{viii}

- Permits are issued by local authorities based on an application. The application can be filed in person (minimum two days in advance) or remotely by post or electronically (minimum seven days in advance). The permit needs to be picked up in person either by the applicant or by a proxy with power of attorney.
- Voting proceeds in the same manner as normal voting. Votes are counted by the electoral committee in the district where the individual voted.

In person from abroad:

- Applications by voters permanently overseas are made to the embassy at least 40 days prior to the election. Voters temporarily overseas can also vote abroad on the basis of a voting permit as described above. Voting proceeds in the overseas polling station as normal.

^{iv} Voting in institutions not explicitly provided for in regional and local elections.

^v <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1995-247#p6>

^{vi} Limited to polling stations within the same constituency for regional and parliamentary (upper house) elections; not available for local elections.

^{vii} Limited to presidential and parliamentary (lower house) elections.

^{viii} Limited to polling stations within the same constituency for regional and parliamentary (upper house) elections.

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: The introduction of i-voting was included in the coalition agreement of the Necas government in the early 2010s. However, the plan was subsequently abandoned.^{ix} Calls for the introduction of internet voting reappeared in late 2014 (mostly floated by the Christian Democrats) but did not lead anywhere.^x

^{ix} Aktualne.cz (2012); Týden.cz (2014).

^x Plus (2014); Ceska televise (2015).

DENMARK

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Regional Councils; Local Councils; Referendumsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportionalⁱⁱ

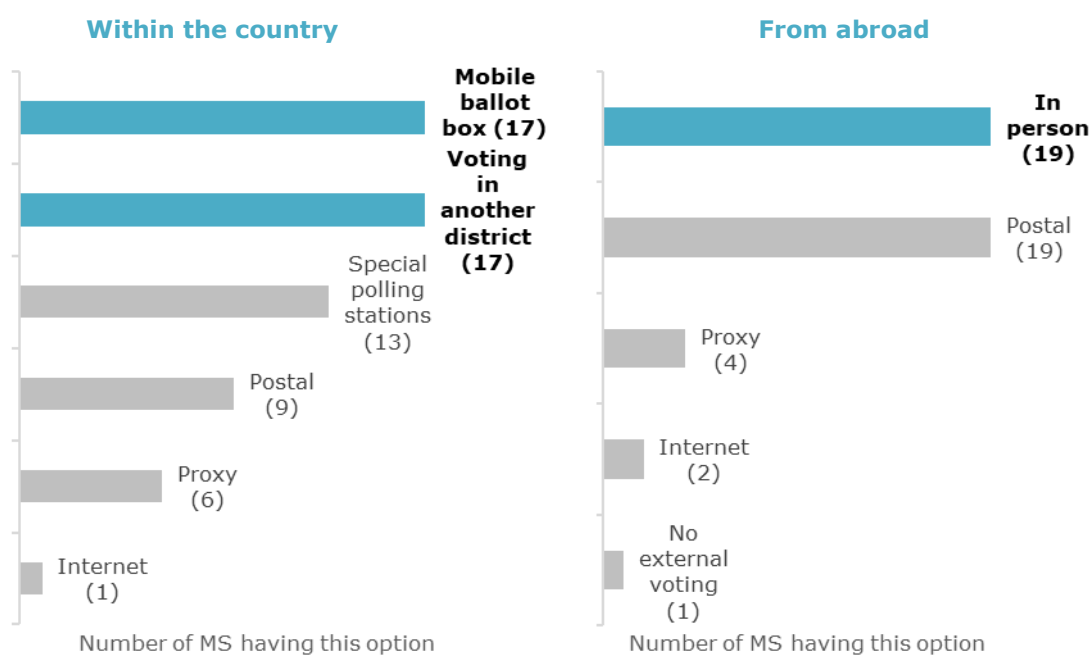
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: National Parliament 85.89% (2015)ⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 56.32%^{iv}

Remote voting options available

Denmark offers the possibility of voting in advance from abroad, from any municipality in the country, and at the voter's location (home, hospital, prison, etc.).^v The graph below shows the options available in Denmark (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://elections.oim.dk/>

ⁱⁱ <https://elections.oim.dk/media/10511/consolidated-act-ep-elections-2014.pdf>;
<https://elections.oim.dk/media/10505/parliamentary-system-dk.pdf>;
<https://elections.oim.dk/media/18580/local-elections-oim-2017.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.valg-2015.dk/valgresultat-valg-2015/>

^{iv} <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/country-results-dk-2014.html>

^v All these options are considered as belonging to the same procedure: 'voting in advance'. All advance votes are cast in person, meaning that they are handed in to an official or another person appointed as vote receiver who checks the identity of the voter and ensures that they vote secretly and without receiving undue influence.

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
In person from abroad	Diplomatic or consular mission. Vote receiver appointed by the Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior. Danish ships in foreign waters ^{vi}	Voters temporary abroad or living abroad for maximum 2 years. ^{vii} Voters living abroad for more years under special circumstances ^{viii}
Mobile ballot box	Hospitals. Prison facilities. Nursing homes, social care dwellings, etc., and from the voter's home	Voters admitted in hospital as full-time or part-time patients or as companions. Voters convicted, detained or arrested. Voters who due to illness/disability cannot go to the assigned polling station
In person in another district	In the citizen service centres	All voters

Main features of each option

In person from abroad:^{ix}

- Aside from Danish diplomats, voters must submit a request to the municipality of their last permanent residence. They will be included in the electoral register in this municipality. The Danish representations abroad and ships buy the required voting material from an approved supplier in Denmark.
- The voter hands an outer envelope containing an inner envelope with the vote and a cover letter to the vote receiver. Votes are sent to the voter's last municipality of permanent residence and are counted and announced together with the normal votes, at the voter's municipality in Denmark.

Mobile ballot box:^x

- To vote **from home**, the voter must send an application to the municipality no later than 12 days before the election. The voting material is provided by one of the two vote receivers who are present in the voter's home. Ballots are brought to the municipality and will be distributed to the voter's assigned polling station before the election starts.
- Voting in **hospitals and prisons** is organised by these institutions and voters do not need to submit an application to vote. Voters hand in the ballot to the vote receivers who forward them (by post) to the voter's assigned polling station.
- Votes from home, hospital and prison are counted together with the other votes at the assigned polling station. Polling booths or a specific room must be provided so that people can vote in private. Voters unable to complete the paper

^{vi} Folketing (Parliamentary) Elections Act, Art. 57–58; <https://elections.oim.dk/advance-voting/advance-voting-for-voters-abroad/>

^{vii} Input provided by the Danish Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior (OIM).

^{viii} This option is also available for those who have been abroad for more maximum 10 years under specific reasons (students, health reasons, etc.), and for diplomats (no time limit).

^{ix} Folketing (Parliamentary) Elections Act, Art. 16, 60, 61, 64;

<https://valg.oim.dk/vaelgere/brevstemmeafgivning/>; input provided by the Danish Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior (OIM).

^x Executive Order on postal voting in Hospitals, (BEK No. 1139 of 18/10/2017), chapters 1 and 2; Executive Order on postal voting from the Office of the Prosecutor, detention centres and prisons (BEK No. 1136 of 18/10/2017), chapters 1 and 2. Executive Order on postal voting from the voter's home (BEK No. 1138 of 18/10/2017); Executive Order on postal voting in Certain Homes and Homes (BEK No. 1137 of 18/10/2017); Folketing (Parliamentary) Elections Act, Art. 53–59; <https://elections.oim.dk/advance-voting/advance-voting-for-voters-living-in-denmark/>

ballot may receive assistance from the voter receiver or a person appointed by the voter.^{xi}

In person in another district:^{xii}

- Voters do not need to submit an application to vote in another municipality. They vote in advance. The municipalities procure the postal voting material from an approved supplier and determine the voting locations (libraries, city hall, schools, etc.).
- The municipalities send the ballot to the voter's municipality of residence. All advance votes (abroad, home, hospital, prison, another district) are registered in advance in a voting logbook. They are counted together with the normal votes at the assigned polling station by the local election board. There is only one advance vote per person, and in case of multiple votes, the last one is counted.

The table below provides figures for the use of remote voting options in Denmark in 2015.

Use of remote voting options 2015	
Voters voting in advance (both from abroad and from Denmark)	308,883 ^{xiii}

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting was discussed in 2013 during the legislation process following the introduction of a bill on digital voting and digital counting of votes, but its implementation was considered not convenient due to the difficulties linked to guaranteeing correct identification and vote secrecy.^{xiv} The Danish Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior indicated that it has no plans to implement remote voting solutions.^{xv}

On the other hand, the results of a privately conducted survey of Danish citizens revealed that 70% of them considered it secure to use e-voting via the NemID (a log-in solution already used in Denmark in internet banking, government websites and private companies).^{xvi}

^{xi} This provisions applies to all voting options in Denmark.

^{xii} Folketing (Parliamentary) Elections Act (2014), Art. 53, 54; <https://elections.oim.dk/advance-voting/advance-voting-for-voters-living-in-denmark/>; input provided by the Danish Ministry for economic affairs and the interior (OIM).

^{xiii} <https://www.dst.dk/Site/Dst/Udgivelser/GetPubFile.aspx?id=26329&sid=ftvalg2015> (table 14, page 25).

^{xiv} <http://www.ft.dk/samling/20121/lovforslag/L132/baggrund.htm>;

http://www.thedanishparliament.dk/~media/pdf/publikationer/english/the-parliamentary-system-of-denmark_2011.ash

^{xv} Input provided by the Danish Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior (OIM).

^{xvi} KMD Analyse (2017).

ESTONIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Members of Local Councils; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportionalⁱⁱ

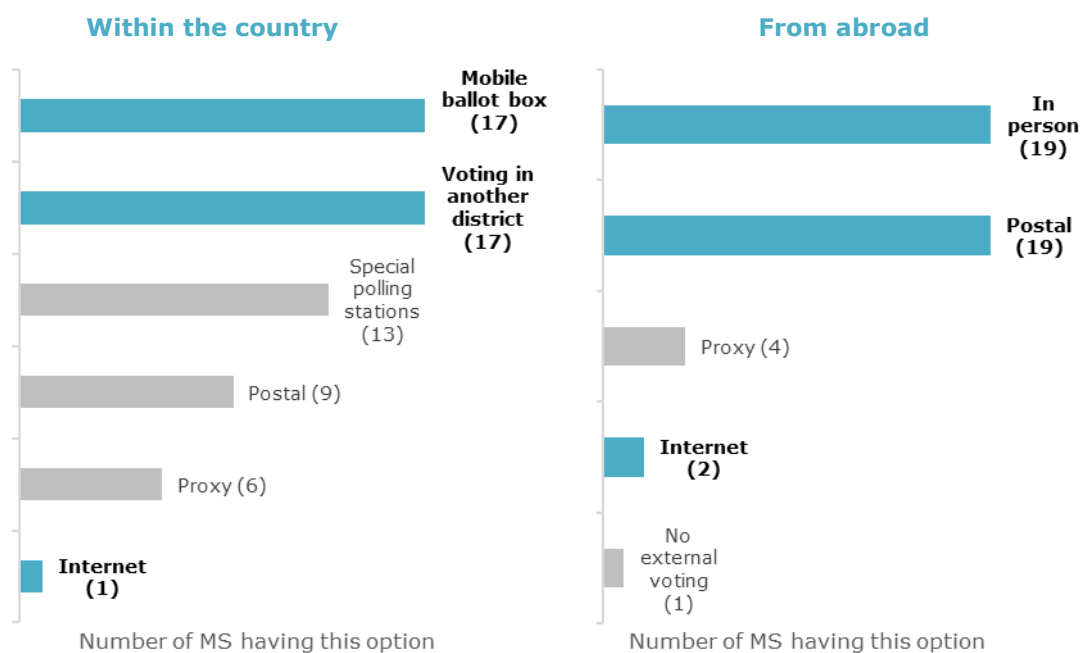
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 64.2% (National Parliament, 2015)ⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 36.5%^{iv}

Remote voting options available

Several remote voting options exist in Estonia. Within the country, people can vote via a mobile ballot box (e.g. from hospital or home), in another voting district, or online. Estonians abroad can vote in person, by post, or via the internet. The graph below shows the options available in Estonia (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ The European Parliament Election Act, Constitution of the Republic of Estonia, Art. 56, 105 & 156, Referendum Act.

ⁱⁱ The European Parliament Election, Art. 2, 6 and 61; Riigikogu Election Act, Art. 6, 62; <https://www.valimised.ee/en/municipal-council-election-2017>

ⁱⁱⁱ National Electoral Committee (2016), 9.

^{iv} National Electoral Committee (2016), 9.

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Internet	Online	All eligible voters
Mobile ballot box	At home, custodial institutions, hospitals, 24-hour welfare institutions ^v	Those unable to vote at a polling place due to their state of health or for another good reason ^{vi}
In another district	Polling station	Voters away from their residence, Estonians residing abroad who are in Estonia during advance voting ^{vii}
By post	From abroad	Citizens permanently or temporary abroad ^{viii}
In person	Foreign missions ^{ix}	Citizens permanently or temporary abroad ^x

Main features of each option

By post from abroad:^{xi}

- Voters must send an application to the closest foreign mission, adding a copy of their identity document. The foreign mission sends the voting material to voters.
- The voter introduces the completed ballot paper in an inner envelope, which is enclosed in an outer envelope with their name and personal identification code. Voters bear the cost of sending the envelopes to the foreign mission.
- Counting is performed either by the Tallinn City Vote Counting Committee (voters permanently abroad) from 6.00 p.m. on election day or at the voter's polling station (temporarily abroad) together with the votes from the standard process.

In person from abroad:^{xii}

- No application is needed. A polling station is established in the embassy. Voting is organised by the head of the foreign mission and follows the standard process. Voters sign the list of voters against the receipt of a ballot paper.
- A two-envelope system is used. The foreign mission sends the votes to the State Electoral Office. Counting also follows the same procedure as voting by post.

Mobile ballot box:^{xiii}

- Voting from home takes place on election day and voting in institutions in advance (4–6 days before). An application with a justification is required (e.g. state of health, advanced age, difficult road conditions, lack of transport, etc.).
- Voting is organised by two members of the Electoral Board, who go to the voter's location. They check his/her identity document. Completed ballots are counted at the voter's polling station together with votes from the standard process.

^v Riigikogu Election Act. Art.38 and 46.

^{vi} Riigikogu Election Act. Art.46; <https://www.valimised.ee/en/estonian-elections-nutshell/voting-home>;
<https://www.valimised.ee/en/estonian-elections-nutshell/advance-voting-outside-polling-place-your-location>

^{vii} <https://www.valimised.ee/en/estonian-elections-nutshell/voting-outside-voting-district-residence>; Riigikogu Election Act. Art. 47.

^{viii} Riigikogu Election Act, Art. 49.

^{ix} Riigikogu Election Act, Art. 54.

^x Riigikogu Election Act, Art. 49.

^{xi} Riigikogu Election Act, Art. 50–52, 55, 59.

^{xii} Riigikogu Election Act, Art. 49, 54. Venice Commission (2011b).

^{xiii} Riigikogu Election Act. Art.38, 39, 42 43, 45, 46, 57. <https://www.valimised.ee/en/estonian-elections-nutshell/voting-home>; <https://www.valimised.ee/en/estonian-elections-nutshell/advance-voting-outside-polling-place-your-location>

In another district:^{xiv}

- No application is needed to use this option. There should be at least one polling station in each county town for voters who vote outside their district of residence. A separate polling booth and ballot box are provided for them.
- They vote for the list of candidates from their electoral district of residence. A two-envelope system is used and the envelopes are forwarded to the voters' district of residence, where they are counted.

The table below provides figures for the use of remote voting options in National Parliament elections.

Remote voting options use in National Parliament elections (% of total voters) ^{xv}					
	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
Votes from abroad (using ballot papers)	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Advance votes outside the place of residence ^{xvi}	1.7%	3.9%	6.9%	4.5%	8.4%
Home voters	3%	2.5%	1.9%	1.3%	1.1%
Internet voting	-	-	5.5%	24.3%	30.5%

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Voting in person from abroad: The government at the time of writing is assessing whether it is feasible to maintain the current number of polling stations abroad. They are very costly (the highest cost in elections) and people use them less often since the introduction of internet voting.

Internet voting: The system is being improved constantly in order to meet the needs of the internet society. A completely new system was used for the 2017 local elections. Currently i-voting is not available on mobile devices (tablet, smartphone, etc.), but a viability analysis of the use of smart devices for i-voting is underway.

^{xiv} Riigikogu Election Act. Art. 34, 41, 42, 48.

^{xv} National Electoral Committee (2016), 34; <https://www.valimised.ee/en/archive/statistics-about-internet-voting-estonia>

^{xvi} It includes voting in another district and voting from prison, hospital and 24-hour welfare institutions.

FINLAND

Types of elections: European Parliament; Head of State;ⁱ National Parliament; Members of City Councils;ⁱⁱ Referendumsⁱⁱⁱ

Electoral system: Regional proportional list system without a threshold and D'Hondt counting system (European Parliament, National Parliament and Members of City Councils); two-round system based on direct popular vote (Head of State); various (Referendum)

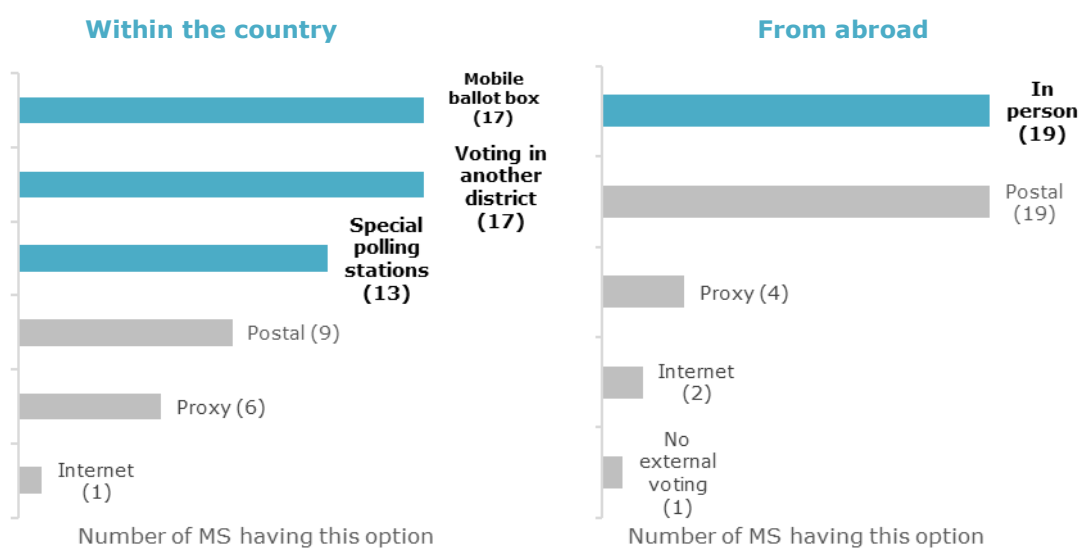
Mandatory voting: No^{iv}

Turnout in the last national elections: 69.9% (2018 Presidential)^v

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 41.0%^{vi}

Remote voting options available

Voters in Finland can apply to vote in another district in the country, at special polling stations and at mobile polling stations. From abroad, citizens can vote in person at embassies and consulates and, from November 2018, by post. The graph below shows the options available in Finland (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ While the President is directly elected, the head of government (Prime Minister) is formally appointed by the President and not elected.

ⁱⁱ Mayors are selected by elected Members of the City Council. For example, the Mayor of Helsinki is chosen by the elected town council. The Mayor will be one of the elected council members or deputy council members. See <http://www.vaalit.fi/en/index/onelections/municipalelections.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/1987/19870571>

^{iv} <http://vaalit.fi/aanioikeus>

^v http://tulospalvelu.vaalit.fi/TPV-2018_1/fi/aanestys1.html

^{vi} http://tulospalvelu.vaalit.fi/EPV2014/fi/tulos_kokomaa.html

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Any polling station in the country	At designated polling stations across the country	Any eligible voter 18 or older, regardless of domicile
Special polling stations	Hospitals, care institutions and from prison	Any eligible voter resident in the institution ^{vii}
Mobile polling stations	At the voter's residence	Voters with a disability or medical condition that prevents them from attending the polling station ^{viii}
In person from abroad	Embassies/consulates, special polling stations	Voters residing abroad at the time of the election

Main features of each option

At any advance polling station:

- Voters can vote in advance in any advance polling station established in the country between 11 and 5 days before election day.^{ix} Advance polling stations are determined by municipalities. Voting proceeds as in a normal polling station.^x

At mobile polling stations:

- The voter must declare their wish to vote in their residence to the Central Election Commission of their municipality at least one day before the beginning of the advance vote.^{xi} In addition to the assisting election official, a third person chosen or approved by the voter must also sign to validate the procedure.

At special polling stations:

- The electoral committee nominated by the municipal council arrives at each institution in the municipality to record votes at least one day and up to two days prior to general voting. The vote is broadly conducted in the same way as general advance vote.^{xii}

In person from abroad:

- Advance polling stations abroad include Finnish delegations, their offices and other locations where any eligible voter can vote in person, irrespective of municipality and whether they are on holiday, at work or studying abroad. Finnish vessels abroad (ships with a Finnish flag out of Finland's waters) also organise voting onboard the vessels for the crew.^{xiii}

By post from abroad:

- Voting by post will come into effect in November 2018. Voting documents will be ordered by the voter wishing to vote abroad from Finland to their address abroad.^{xiv} The voting ballot will be mailed home to the voter.

^{vii} <http://vaalit.fi/fi/aanestaminen-laitoksessa>

^{viii} <http://europarlamentti.info/fi/eurooppavaalit/aanestaminen/liikuntarajoitteisten-aanestys/>

^{ix} <https://vaalit.fi/en/voting-in-advance>

^x <http://vaalit.fi/fi/aanestaminen-vaalipaivana>

^{xi} <https://vaalit.fi/aanestaminen-kotona>

^{xii} <http://vaalit.fi/fi/aanestaminen-laitoksessa>

^{xiii} <https://vaalit.fi/aanestaminen-ulkomailla>

^{xiv} http://oikeusministerio.fi/artikkeli/-/asset_publisher/kirjeaanestys-ulkomailla-tulee-mahdolliseksi

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: In October 2016 the government decided that Finland would implement online voting in all elections and referendums. The Working Group of the Ministry of Justice submitted their initial findings and final report to the Ministry of Justice in December 2017. The Working Group did not propose taking up the use of online voting, citing a number of concerns. Risks were perceived to be too high while the benefits did not add enough value.^{xv} The Ministry of Justice also announced that they would not be taking the matter forward during the term of the current government.^{xvi} Online voting had also previously been considered by a 2013–2015 Working Group, which reached an opposite conclusion (recommending trials of online voting in municipal elections).^{xvii} It had been hoped that online voting could increase voter turnout but the 2017 Working Group assessed the effect to be minimal.^{xviii} The final report (December 2017) of the Online Voting Working Group stated that a feasibility study exploring how to reform the election system or parts of it would be launched in 2018.^{xix}

Postal voting: A new law was adopted in 2017 that would allow for postal voting for eligible voters who do not have a place of residence in Finland and other eligible voters who are abroad during the voting period.^{xx} The law is set to come into effect on 1 November 2018 and postal voting will be introduced for the first time in the 2019 parliamentary elections. It is hoped that the number of votes cast by Finnish citizens abroad will increase.^{xxi}

^{xv} http://oikeusministerio.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/tyoryhma-nettiaanestyksen-riskit-suuremmat-kuin-hyodyt; interview with representative from the Unit for Democracy, Language Affairs and Fundamental Rights within Finland's Ministry for Justice.

^{xvi} <http://www.vaalit.fi/fi/index/ajankohtaista/ajankohtaisetkehittamishankkeet/nettiaanestys.html>

^{xvii} <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-9982873>

^{xviii} <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-9982873>

^{xix} http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/160412/Online_voting_in_Finland_Conclusions%20and%20recommendations.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y

^{xx} (2.10.1998/714 - 66 a §) (14.12.2017/939). Legislative change (939/2017) took place to allow this.

^{xxi} http://oikeusministerio.fi/artikkeli/-/asset_publisher/kirjeaanestys-ulkomailla-tulee-mahdolliseksi; interview with representative from the Unit for Democracy, Language Affairs and Fundamental Rights within Finland's Ministry for Justice.

FRANCE

Types of elections: European Parliament; Head of State; National Parliament (Lower House); Consular Assembly (French living abroad);ⁱ Regional Parliament; District Council (Conseil Départemental);ⁱⁱ District Council (Conseil Communautaire);ⁱⁱⁱ Members of City Councils; Referendums^{iv}

Electoral system: Proportional (list), one round (European Parliament) and two rounds (Regional Parliament, and municipalities with more than 1,000 inhabitants). Majority (uninominal), two rounds (Head of State and National Parliament); majority (bi-nominal), two rounds (District Council – Conseil Départemental); majority (plurinominal) (cities with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants). If one consular representative: majority (uninominal), one round; if 2–9: proportional (list), one round (Consular Assembly)

Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 77.77%^v (first round) and 74.70% (second round) (Head of State, 2017)^{vi}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 43.4%^{vii}

Remote voting options available

The only remote voting option available within the country is voting by proxy. From abroad, citizens can vote in person in special locations (embassies, consulates, other locations),^{viii} by post, by proxy and by internet voting. The graph below shows the options available in France (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.

ⁱ <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/services-aux-citoyens/publications/article/des-conseillers-consulaires-pour-quoi-faire>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.vie-publique.fr/decouverte-institutions/institutions/collectivites-territoriales/democratie-locale/qu-est-ce-qu-conseil-general.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.vie-publique.fr/actualite/dossier/municipales-2014-election/conseils-communautaires-regles-election-repartition-sieges-entre-communes.html>

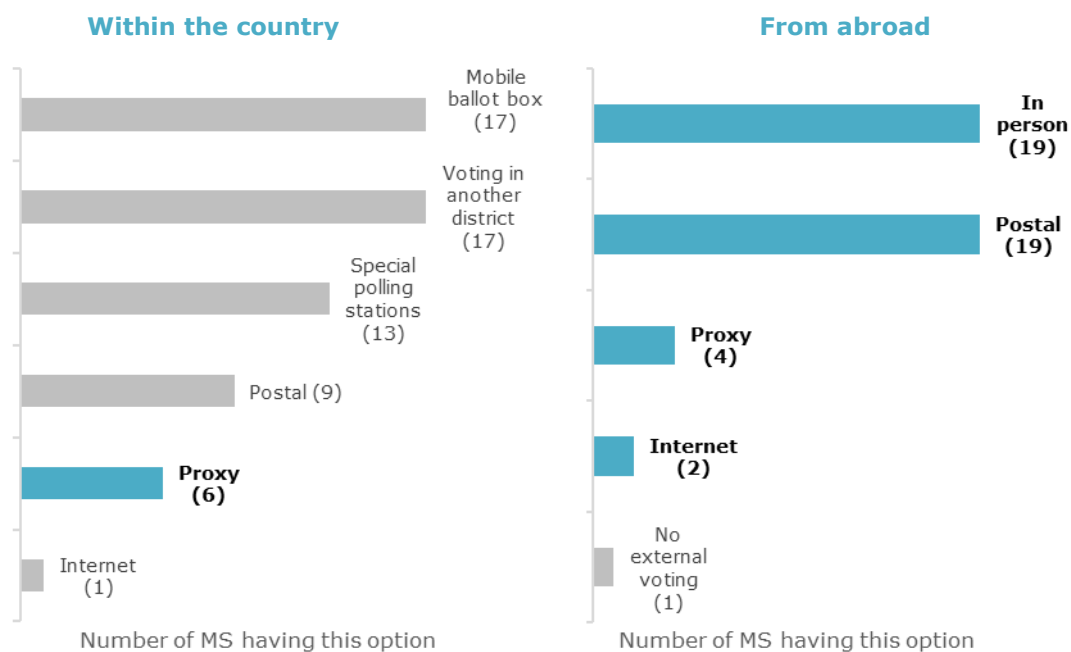
^{iv} <http://www.vie-publique.fr/decouverte-institutions/institutions/collectivites-territoriales/democratie-locale/quoi-consiste-referendum-local.html>; <http://www.vie-publique.fr/decouverte-institutions/institutions/collectivites-territoriales/democratie-locale/quoi-consiste-referendum-local.html>

^v <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2134437> reports 79%

^{vi} http://www.lemonde.fr/election-presidentielle-2017/article/2017/05/07/presidentielle-2017-abstention-record-pour-un-second-tour-depuis-l-election-de-1969_5123757_4854003.html

^{vii} <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2134437>

^{viii} <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Elections/Comment-voter/Le-vote-des-Francais-a-l-etranger>



Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By proxy	Within the country and from abroad	Principal: Anyone registered in the electoral list. Proxy: the proxy has to be registered in the same consular electoral list (Liste Électorale Consulaire – LEC) as the principal. Maximum two (within country) ^{ix} /three (abroad) ^x proxy votes per proxy and per election
In person abroad	In embassies, consulates, other locations ^{xi}	Anyone registered on consular electoral list (LEC) ^{xii}
By post	From abroad	French citizens registered at the consulate of their place of residence abroad ^{xiii} and who requested the opportunity to vote by post
Internet voting ^{xiv}	From abroad	Voters registered at the consulate who provided an e-mail address (login) and a phone number (to get password)

^{ix} <http://www.gouvernement.fr/voter>

^x <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/services-aux-citoyens/droit-de-vote-et-elections-a-l-etranger/vote-par-procuration/>

^{xi} <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Elections/Comment-voter/Le-vote-des-Francais-a-l-etranger>

^{xii} Until 2019 voters can be registered both on the LEC and on a list in their last municipality in France. As from 2019 people will have to choose between being registered on the LEC and in their municipality.

^{xiii} Registration at the consulate implies automatic registration on the consular electoral list (Liste Électorale Consulaire - LEC); <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/services-aux-citoyens/droit-de-vote-et-elections-a-l-etranger/http-publication-diplomatie-gouv-fr-fr-services-aux-citoyens-droit-de-vote-et-elections-a-l-etranger-liste-electorale-18-05-17/article/adresse-electronique-et-liste-electorale-consulaire-lec>

^{xiv} For legislative elections and consular elections; it was suspended for the 2017 legislative elections.

Main features of each option

By proxy (within the country/abroad):

- A proxy can be established until the day before the election. It depends on the opening days and times of the place in which the proxy is established (police station, tribunal, city hall, online form signed and sent by post, or consulate). The proxy can be established from the home of the principal if they cannot (for health reasons – with medical certificate) go to request the proxy themselves. The principal is identified through ID or passport at the time the proxy is established; the proxy is identified through ID or passport at the time they vote.

By post from abroad:

- Voters registered on the consular electoral list (LEC) request the activation of the post voting option by the Consulate. The request should be made by regular mail or by e-mail at the latest on 1 March in the year of the election. Once requested, the voter can still decide to use another way of voting.
- Voters have to include a copy of their ID or passport in a separate envelope.
- The votes are counted during the day of the election in Paris in a special polling station (*Bureau de Vote Centralisateur*).
- Since 2014, in consular elections voters can also go to the consulate a week before the election and give the consular administration an envelope with their vote (*'vote par remise de pli à l'administration'*). The procedure is similar to postal voting except that the voter has to go to the consulate in person.

In person from abroad:

- Citizens are enrolled automatically when registering on the consular electoral list (LEC).
- Voting can start a week before the elections (legislative elections) or the same day as the elections in France (presidential elections). Elections in the Americas are held the day before the day of the elections in other locations in the world (to compensate for the time zone difference).^{xv}

Internet voting:^{xvi}

- Internet voting is available for six full days, starting ten days before the day the elections will take place at polling stations in the consulate.
- All registered voters can still decide to use another way of voting if needed.
- Votes are counted automatically. The president of the local internet vote committee transmits the votes to a special polling station in Paris (*Bureau de Vote Centralisateur*).

^{xv} In the 2017 presidential elections the vote in France took place the same day as the vote abroad (except for the Americas, where it was one day earlier), while for the first round of the legislative elections the elections took place a week earlier (second round the same days as in France).

^{xvi} The Internet Voting Control Committee (*Bureau du Vote Électronique*) is responsible for all steps of the internet voting process;
https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=A7307168238FC0AB036C207837D5B0F0.tplgfr40s_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000024372042&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070239&dateTexte=20171218

The table below provides figures for voters from abroad and remote voting take up.

Voters from abroad legislative elections 2017 ^{xvii}	
Registered voters from abroad at legislative elections (2017)	1,265,237
Ballots cast from abroad at legislative elections (2017)	208,036 (16%)
Take up of remote voting solutions available at legislative elections 2012 ^{xviii}	
Internet voting	57%
Polling station	41%
Post	2%

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Single electoral registry: In 2019 a single electoral registry (Registre Electoral Unique – REU) will be in place and French people living abroad will have to choose between being registered in France or abroad (until then they could register in both and chose where to vote for each election), which may potentially change the situation of voters from abroad and have an effect on turnout.

Internet voting: There is a debate about the reasons why the use of internet voting was suspended for the 2017 legislative elections. The ministry in charge of foreign affairs reported cyber security-related threats. However, at the time of writing, President Macron has announced his intention to expand the use of internet voting in the next couple of years. The case study on France (section 6.3.2 in the main report) investigates these two points in greater detail.

^{xvii} https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/xls/results_legislatives2017t2_avec_vpc_cle0c22f6.xls

^{xviii} Rapport annuel du directeur des Français à l'étranger, 2012.

GERMANY

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Regional Parliament; Mayors; Members of City Councils; Referendumsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament); personalised proportional representation with FPTP in constituencies (National Parliament); other electoral systems vary across Germany's states (Regional Parliament, Mayors, Members of City Councils and Referendums)

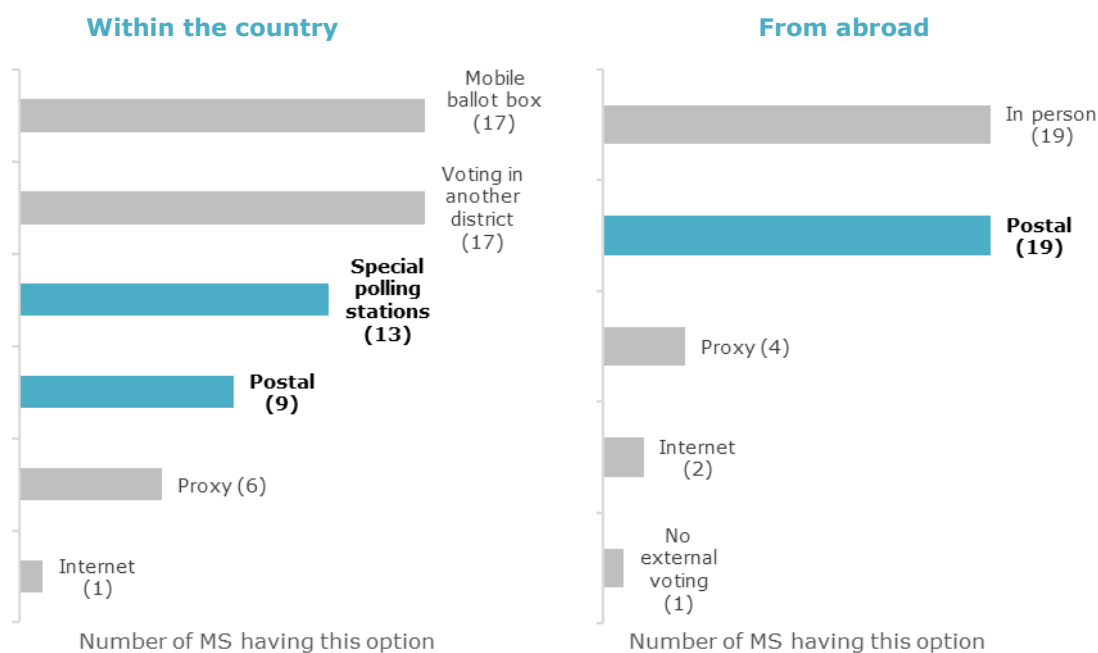
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 76.2% (2017)ⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 48.10% (2014)ⁱⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters in Germany can vote from special polling stations and by postal vote. From abroad, voters can vote by post. The graph below shows the options available in Germany (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ German Basic Law does not allow for referendums at the national level, only at state and local level.

ⁱⁱ <http://www.wahlrecht.de/news/2017/bundestagswahl-2017.html#absolut>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/turnout.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
At special polling stations	In hospitals, senior citizens' homes, nursing homes, convalescent homes and similar establishments; monasteries and convents; socio-therapeutic and penal institutions	German citizens who reside in the institutions at the time of the election
Postal vote domestically	By post or in the municipality office	All eligible voters; no justification required
Postal vote from abroad	Any location	All eligible voters for Bundestag and European Parliament elections

Main features of each option

At special polling stations:^{iv}

- Voters are registered with the registration authorities up to the 42nd day before the election (*ex officio*) by municipality of their own residence. The local authority arranges for the printing of the ballot papers for the constituency and sets up the polling station.^v Voting proceeds as in standard polling stations. Polling stations are set up at discretion of municipal authorities.

By post:^{vi}

- Voters must submit an application to their municipality of residence personally or in writing (including fax or e-mail).^{vii} Postal ballot documents can be applied for until 6.00 p.m. on the last Friday before the election. In exceptional cases it is possible to apply for a polling card and postal ballot documents to be issued until 3.00 p.m. on the day of the election (e.g. in case of sudden illness).
- Postal ballot documents and envelopes are sent to voters' mailing addresses or can be picked up at a local municipal office. Persons collecting ballots from the municipal authority may cast their votes there and then.
- A two-envelope system is used to ensure ballot secrecy. Ballots must be returned with the authorised polling card from the local authority, and voters must sign an affidavit.^{viii} Voters are responsible for returning their ballots to local election authorities by 6.00 p.m. on election day.^{ix} The Federal Government makes a contract with one postal service provider that sets up a special postal ballot service for the collection of the postal ballot envelopes nationwide and forwards them to constituencies cost free.^x
- Citizens residing abroad must register in their last place of residence in Germany. The postal ballot documents and envelopes are sent to voters' mailing addresses. Voters are responsible for postage costs and returning the ballot by 6.00 p.m. on election day. German missions in selected countries also offer a courier service to send postal voting applications to Germany, receive postal

^{iv} Federal Electoral Act and Federal Electoral Regulations (Bundeswahlgesetz [BWG], Bundeswahlordnung [BWO]); European Electoral Act, European Electoral Regulations (Europawahlgesetz [EuWG], Europawahlordnung [EuWO]).

^v Federal Electoral Regulations (Bundeswahlordnung [BWO]); European Electoral Regulations (Europawahlordnung [EuWO]).

^{vi} Federal Electoral Act and Federal Electoral Regulations (Bundeswahlgesetz [BWG], Bundeswahlordnung [BWO]); European Electoral Act, European Electoral Regulations (Europawahlgesetz [EuWG], Europawahlordnung [EuWO]).

^{vii} <https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/en/bundestagswahlen/2017/informationen-waehler/briefwahl.html#c2f34a75-e764-4947-ae36-ba7ae474dcaa>

^{viii} <https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/en/bundestagswahlen/2017/informationen-waehler/briefwahl.html>

^{ix} <https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/en/bundestagswahlen/2017/informationen-waehler/briefwahl.html#c45c0e70-8947-4b2b-a9c2-dc635fdf4b8d>

^x Comments provided by a representative from Federal Ministry of the Interior.

ballots from registered voters, and dispatch postal vote ballots back to Germany, in order to reduce postal delivery times.^{xi}

- Voting by post is also possible in hospitals, nursing and residential homes, and socio-therapeutic and penal institutions. The administrative personnel of the institution equip a suitable room and advise eligible voters of the times at which the room is available for exercise of the postal vote.^{xii}

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: Increasing numbers of citizens are casting their votes using postal voting although this method was meant originally to be an exception to the rule. There are doubts about whether the current system is sufficiently guaranteeing the identity of voters and the freedom and secrecy of the election outside the polling stations.^{xiii} The widespread and unconditional use of postal ballots has frequently been put to the test before the Federal Constitutional Court but has not been ruled unconstitutional so far.^{xiv} Proponents of postal voting argue that the postal vote is a useful alternative for the sick and infirm, people on holiday, those in the military, and so on.

Internet voting: Even though in its Decision of 3 March 2009 the Federal Constitutional Court did not rule out internet elections, electoral law legislators at the federal and regional level have not since introduced any form of electronic voting because they cannot guarantee the transparency of any step of the election for any citizen, which is a constitutional principle under German Basic Law as established by the Federal Constitutional Court.^{xv}

^{xi} <https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/en/bundestagswahlen/2017/informationen-waehler/deutsche-im-ausland.html#1caa4dd1-5f18-4cbe-8af5-eeed483a69b7>

^{xii} Federal Electoral Regulations (Bundeswahlordnung, section 66).

^{xiii} <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/bundestagswahl-darum-ist-die-briefwahl-problematisch-1.3636169>

^{xiv} Comments provided by a representative from Federal Ministry of the Interior.

^{xv} <https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/en/service/glossar/o/online-wahlen.html>

GREECE

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Heads of Regional Government; Regional Councils; Mayors; Local Councils; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament); mixed (Regional and Local Elections)ⁱⁱ

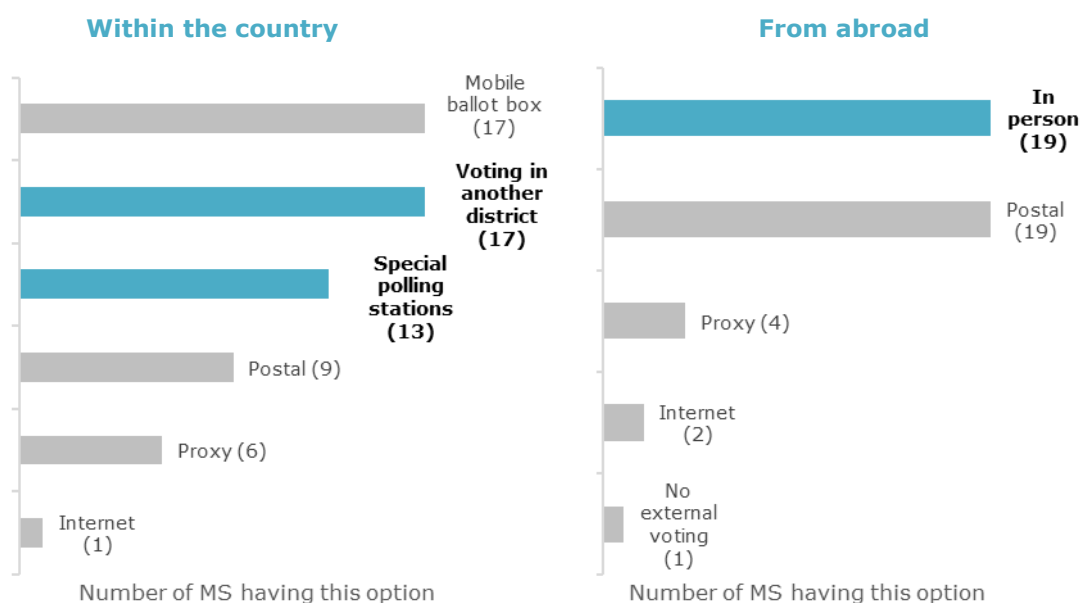
Mandatory voting: Yesⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the last national elections: 56.16% (National Parliament, 2015)^{iv}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 59.33%^v

Remote voting options available

Within Greece, voters can vote in another district and at special polling stations. Voting from abroad in person is only available in European elections. The graph below shows the options available in Greece (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Constitution, Law 3852/2010, Law 2463/2006.

ⁱⁱ Law 4255/2014. Art. 6 (2); Law 4406/2016; Law 3852/2010, Art. 32–33; <http://www.ypes.gr/el/Elections/CityElections/ResultsofElections/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Presidential Decree 97/2002, Art.117; Law 3731/2008, Art. 29 (12).

^{iv} <http://ekloges.ypes.gr/current/v/public/index.html?lang=en#{>

^v <http://ekloges-prev.singularlogic.eu/may2014/e/public/#{%22cls%22:%22level%22,%22params%22:%22level%22:%22epik%22,%22id%22:1}}>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
In person from abroad ^{vi}	Embassy, consulate, buildings of other Greek authorities or associations	Those who are permanently or temporarily in another EU Member State
Special polling stations ^{vii}	Detention facility	Prisoners who have not lost the right to vote
In another district ^{viii}	Polling station	Electors living temporarily in the municipality; personnel of the police, fire brigade, armed forces and the coast guard serving there; personnel on ships docked in the municipality

Main features of each option

In person from abroad:^{ix}

- In order to be included on the special electoral roll, a person must submit an application within a set time frame to the relevant embassy or consulate. Based on the requests received, the Minister of the Interior decides on the number of polling stations required. During voting, electors must present an identity document (ID card, passport, driving licence or health booklet).

At special polling stations:^x

- Penitentiary institutions draw up a list of electors that are in their facilities.
- Voting takes place on election day following the same procedure as in normal polling stations.

In another district:^{xi}

- Electors must submit an application to the municipality or a Citizen Service Centre (KEP). It can be completed online but it must be submitted in person.
- The Court of Appeal and specialised committees are in charge of counting. Results are communicated to the voter's electoral region of residence.
- For special professions (military, seafarers, etc.) the normal procedure is followed since they vote for candidates from the constituency in which they work.

^{vi} <http://www.ypes.gr/en/Elections/ElectionsEuropeanParliament/ElectionsforEuropeanParliament/InterstGreeksAbroad/>

^{vii} Presidential Decree 96/2007, Art. 69; Law 3731/2008, Art. 29 (4).

^{viii} Presidential Decree 96/2007, Art. 27 and 96; Law 3731/2008, Art. 29 (9).

^{ix} <http://www.ypes.gr/en/Elections/ElectionsEuropeanParliament/ElectionsforEuropeanParliament/InterstGreeksAbroad/>

^x Presidential Decree 96/2007, Art. 27 and 69.

^{xi} Presidential Decree 96/2007, Art. 27, 83 and 97, Law 3731/2008, Art. 29 (10).

Below we provide some figures for the 2014 European Parliament elections.

Voters from abroad in the elections for the European Parliament 2014 ^{xii}	
Registered electors	14,944
Voters	10,096 (67.56%)
Costs: European Parliament elections 2004 ^{xiii}	
Total cost	€1,108,985
Returning officers, supervisors and secretaries	383,070
Officials of the Ministry of the Interior	367,200
Procurement of consulates	260,000
Officials of other state services	44,100
Software for the online handling of applications	31,270
National Printing House	353

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Voting from abroad: The Ministry of the Interior indicates that voting from abroad in elections other than for the European Parliament would require the adoption of an implementing law by a two-thirds majority of deputies. In addition, the implementation of the process would require a reasonable period of time in order to ensure security and the fundamental principle of universal suffrage.^{xiv}

In 2016 the New Democracy (ND) party introduced a proposal for a new electoral law to introduce the right to vote in parliamentary elections to Greeks living abroad. The Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior (from the Syriza party) suggested the establishment of 5–10 seats to be elected by the Greeks abroad.^{xv} In addition, the organisation Nea Diaspora^{xvi} advocates that Greek people living abroad should have the right to vote from overseas.

Internet voting: This has been little discussed in Greece. The PASOK party mentions electronic voting in a document exposing its positions and the To Potami party proposed it for the centre-left primaries.^{xvii}

^{xii} <http://ekloges-prev.singularlogic.eu/may2014/e/public/#{%22cls%22:%22level%22,%22params%22:%22level%22:%22ep%22,%22id%22:57%22}>

^{xiii} IDEA/IFE (2007).

^{xiv} Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior.

^{xv} <http://news247.gr/eidiseis/politiki/protash-nomoy-gia-thn-pshfo-twn-apodhmwn-katethese-h-nd-me-enwtika-mhnumata.3997267.htm>; <http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/i-psifos-ton-ellinon-toy-exoterikoy>

^{xvi} <http://www.newdiaspora.com/about-us/>

^{xvii} <https://bit.ly/2OrKwa1>; <http://topotami.gr/i-protasi-mas-gia-diexagogi-ex-apostaseos-psifoforias/>

HUNGARY

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Regional Government; Mayors; Local Councils; Referendums and Consultations; National Minority Electionsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Minority Election); mixed member proportional (National Parliament); majority (Mayors, Local Councils)ⁱⁱ

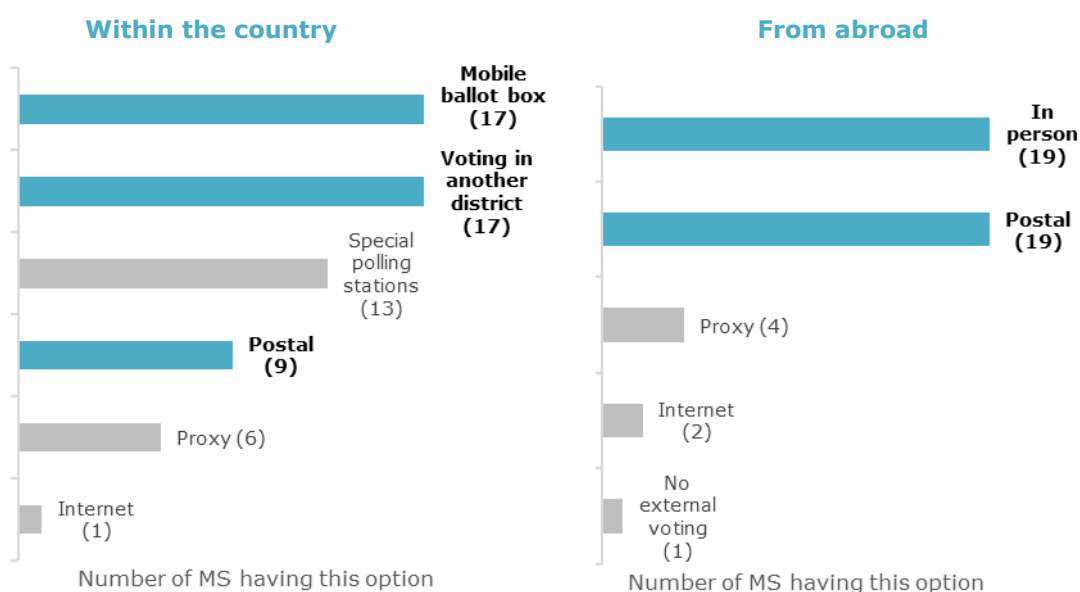
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 69.73% (2018)ⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 28.97%^{iv}

Remote voting options available

In Hungary voters can vote in another district, by post and using a mobile ballot box. From abroad, Hungarians can vote in person or by post depending on their situation. The graph below shows the options available in Hungary (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ The Fundamental Law of Hungary.

ⁱⁱ Act 113 of 2003 on the election of Members of the European Parliament, Art. 2; Act 203 of 2011 on the election of Members of Parliament, Art. 7; Act CCIII of 2011 on the Elections of Members of Parliament of Hungary Art. 3(2); Act 50 of 2010 on the election of members of local assemblies and mayors, Art. 12.

ⁱⁱⁱ National Election Office (2018).

^{iv} http://www.valasztas.hu/dyn/ep14/szavossz/en/emjk_e.html

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	Within the country, from abroad	Eligible voters with no Hungarian address (e.g. homeless people and Hungarians living abroad) ^v
In person from abroad	Foreign representation	Eligible voters with Hungarian address who are abroad on election day (including military on duty)
Mobile ballot box	Home, hospital, prison	Eligible voters with movement restrictions due to health conditions, disability or detention
Voting in another polling station	One polling station per settlement	Eligible voters who request it

Main features of each option

By post:^{vi}

- An application to register in the central electoral register must be submitted at least 15 days prior to election day. The voting package is sent to voters by the National Election Office or it is collected in person.
- Voters send the envelope to the National Election Office or to a parliamentary single-member constituency election office. Voters from abroad send it to the National Election Office or to the foreign representation election office (which forwards the envelopes to the National Election Office).
- The National Election Office counts the votes. Votes that arrive late to the National Election Office are not counted.

In person from abroad:^{vii}

- Voters must submit a request to join in the foreign representation electoral register. On election day, the foreign representation election office determines the identity of the citizen.
- The foreign representation election office sends the ballots to the National Election Office. Votes that arrive late are not counted.
- Counting is performed by the Electoral Board in the parliamentary single-member constituency (Parliamentary elections) or by the National Election Office (European elections, national Referendums).

Mobile ballot box:^{viii}

- Voters need to submit a request, which can also be submitted by proxy.
- Each polling station must provide at least one mobile ballot box. Two members of the Electoral Board bring the ballot box to the voters' location and bring the envelope back to the polling station where ballots are mixed before counting.

In another polling station:^{ix}

- Voters must send a request to change their district, indicating the settlement where they would like to vote. Identification and voting follow the same procedures as normal voting.

^v Electoral Procedure. Art. 266.

^{vi} Electoral Procedure. Art. 82, 266, 277, 279, 285, 293.

^{vii} Electoral Procedure. Art. 259, 260, 270, 284, 285.

^{viii} Electoral Procedure. Art. 184, 192.

^{ix} Electoral Procedure. Art. 150, 282.

- In Parliamentary elections the sealed envelope containing the ballot bears the ID of the parliamentary single-member constituency where the voter lives. Votes are transported to the designated Electoral Board in that parliamentary single-member constituency, which counts the votes from other polling stations and the votes cast in person abroad.

Below we provide some figures for remote voting in the National Parliament elections in 2018.

Remote voting in the National Parliament elections 2018 ^x	
Total number of voters	5,796,268
Citizens registered to vote by post	378,449 (267,233 voted)
Citizens in the list of foreign representations	58,310 (51,854 voted)
Voters in the list of another location within the country	200,041

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Voting from abroad: The European Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court determined that the double method for voting from abroad is not discriminatory. Those with no Hungarian address can vote by post while those with a Hungarian address need to travel to a consulate. However, voters abroad with a Hungarian address have the advantage of being allowed to vote for both the national list and the single-member constituency, while those with no address can only vote for the latter.

Internet voting: The debate on internet voting has so far been limited to a one-day parliamentary discussion in 2016 initiated by the radical right and the liberal party.

^x National Election Office (2018).

IRELAND

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament (Lower House); National Parliament (Upper House, restricted franchise); Local Authorities; Referendums

Electoral system: Single Transferable Vote (STV) with instant runoff (European Parliament, National Parliament [Lower House], Local Authorities); direct majority (Referendums)

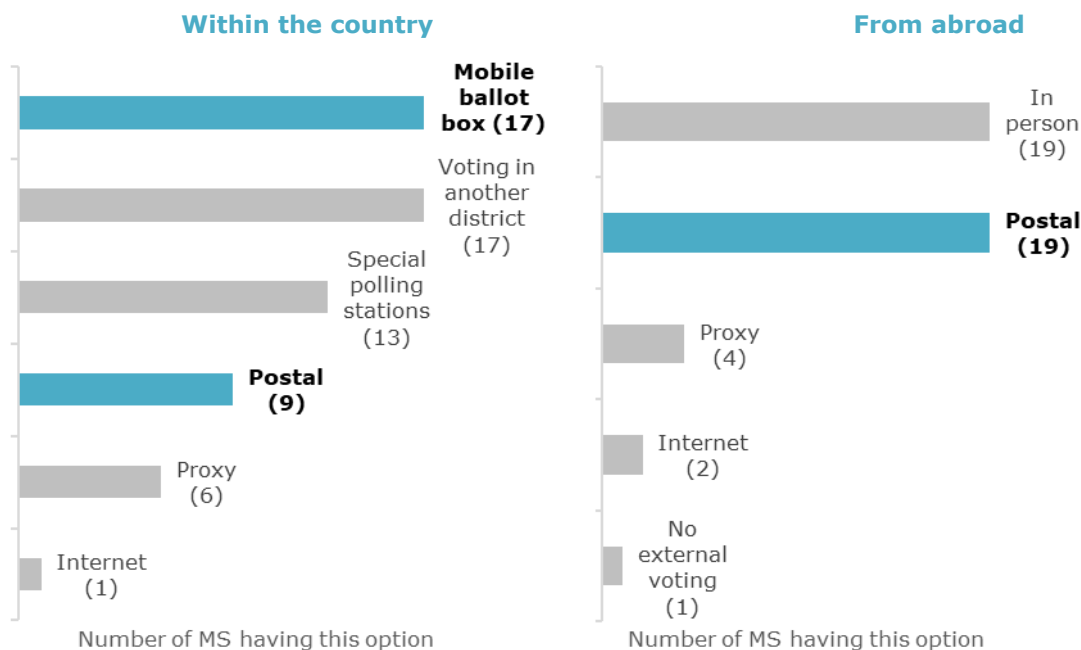
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 65.09% (2016 Parliamentary elections)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 52.44%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voting from abroad in national elections is available by postal ballot for select groups of voters only. Voters within the country can vote by post or mobile ballot box. The graph below shows the options available in Ireland (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/question-countries-view/521/143/ctr>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/turnout.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Postal voting (overseas)	From abroad	Eligible voters and their families serving in diplomatic, civil service or military positions overseas
Postal voting (university graduates)	Within the country From abroad	Graduates of the National University of Ireland and Dublin University who are Irish citizens ⁱⁱⁱ
Postal voting (in-country)	Within the country	Prisoners, persons with a physical disability, students, persons with occupational reasons for absence
Mobile ballot box	At their chosen location	People who are physically unable to access the polling station

Main features of each option

By post – general:^{iv}

- An application is made to the local election authorities. Applicants must get a signature from their employer/educational institution (or for self-employed voters, from a Peace Commissioner/Commissioner for Oaths).^v The ballot and an envelope addressed to the local returning officer are posted to the voter.
- A two-envelope system is used. Voters who are using postal voting for occupational or education reasons must travel in person to a police station and sign the declaration of identity in his/her presence.^{vi} This may involve presenting the police officer with proof of identity. The declaration is signed and stamped by the police officer. The completed ballot and declaration of identity are posted by the voter to the returning officer.
- During the period between close of polls and the commencement of the count (9.00 a.m. the subsequent day), the returning officer will open the outer envelopes and check the declaration of identity and, if correctly signed, place the ballots themselves in a box to be counted with regular votes.^{vii}
- Voters working in diplomatic, military or civil service positions and their families can vote from abroad by post under the same conditions, with the voting process and declaration of identity witnessed by a person authorised by the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.^{viii}

ⁱⁱⁱ They elect a set number of Upper House representatives.

^{iv} Electoral Act, 1992.

^v [http://www.checktheregister.ie/appforms/PVS2%20-%20Postal%20Supplement%20-%20Occupation%20or%20Student%20\[English\].pdf](http://www.checktheregister.ie/appforms/PVS2%20-%20Postal%20Supplement%20-%20Occupation%20or%20Student%20[English].pdf)

^{vi} [http://www.corkcity.ie/services/corporateandexternalaffairs/franchise/PV2%20%20%20-%20Postal%20-%20Occupation%20or%20Student%20\[English\].pdf](http://www.corkcity.ie/services/corporateandexternalaffairs/franchise/PV2%20%20%20-%20Postal%20-%20Occupation%20or%20Student%20[English].pdf)

^{vii} Electoral Act, 1992, Section 73.

^{viii} Electoral Act, 1992, Section 65.

By post – university constituencies:^{ix}

- Elections for members of the Upper House elected by university graduates are conducted entirely by postal ballot. Eligible voters are given a registration form upon graduation or can request one from the university later date.
- Ballots for individual elections are posted by the university returning officer to eligible voters. A two-envelope system is used for ballot secrecy. Voters post the ballot and an accompanying declaration of identity to the university's returning officer. The university authorities are responsible for ensuring the declaration of identity is completed and for counting valid ballots.

Mobile ballot box:^x

- Voters must apply to the local election authorities annually to be included on the special voters list. First-time applications usually require a medical certificate.^{xi}
- A special presiding officer will visit the premises at a set date and time accompanied by a police officer.^{xii} Voters sign a declaration of identity, witnessed by the special presiding officer. The ballot is transported in an envelope by the special presiding officer to the vote counting centre.^{xiii}

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Potential extension to overseas voting rights: A 2019 referendum will be held on the topic of whether to grant voting rights to Irish citizens living overseas.^{xiv} The government published an Options Paper in 2016 that set out potential franchise and voting arrangements.^{xv} It concluded that embassy voting would not be feasible, given the size and distribution of the diaspora, and that postal voting may be the best model for overseas voting in the short term, while acknowledging the potential for fraud. It also stated that postal voting for all voters within the country could be considered if overseas voting was established.

^{ix} Seanad Electoral (University Members) Act, 1937.

^x Electoral Act, 1992, PART XIV

^{xi} http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government_in_ireland/elections_and_referenda/voting/registering_to_vote.html

^{xii} Electoral Act, 1992, PART XIV.

^{xiii} Electoral Act, 1992, Section 84.

^{xiv} <https://www.constitution.ie/AttachmentDownload.ashx?mid=be5fb014-a32a-e311-96d5-005056a32ee4>

^{xv} <https://www.dfa.ie/media/globalirish/stayingintouch/Voting-at-presidential-elections-by-citizens-resident-outside-the-State---Options-paper---22-March-2017.pdf>

ITALY

Types of elections:ⁱ European Parliament; National Parliament; Regional Parliaments; Mayors; Local Councils; Referendums and Consultations

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament); majority (Heads of Regional Government); mixed (National Parliament,ⁱⁱ Mayors and Members of City Councils)ⁱⁱⁱ

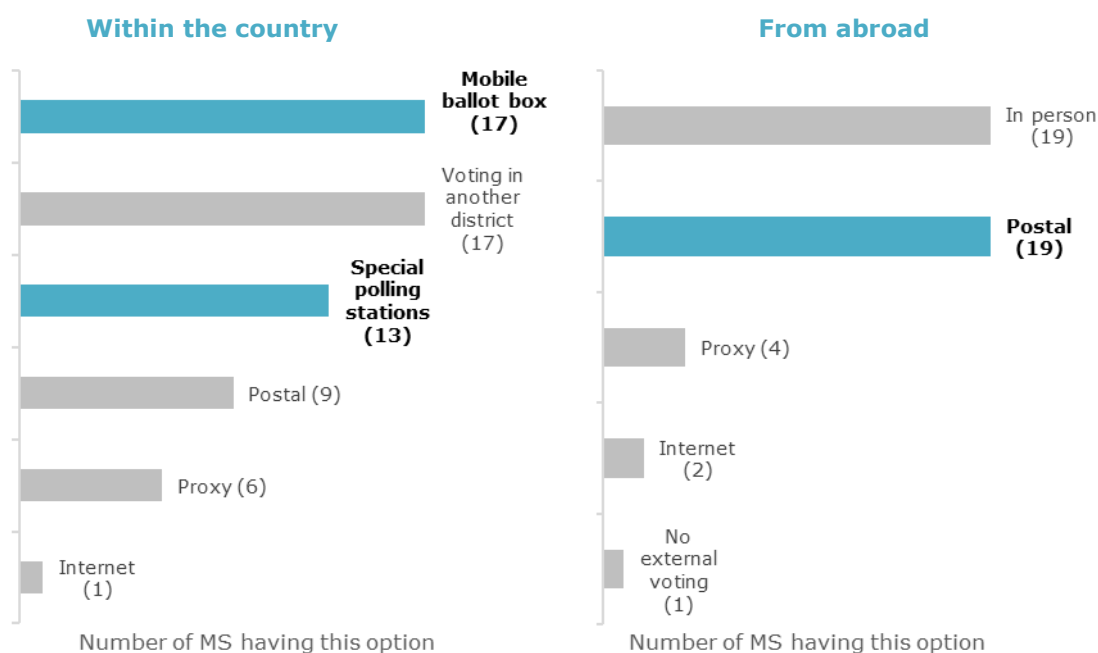
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 72.94% (Lower House, March 2018); 73.01% (Upper House, March 2018)^{iv}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 57.22%^v

Remote voting options available

The only remote voting option available from abroad is the postal vote. The remote voting options available within Italy are mobile ballot boxes and special polling stations. The graph below shows the options available in Italy (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Law 24 January, 1979, n. 18, Law 3 November 2017, n.165, Italian Constitution, Art. 122.

ⁱⁱ Law 24 January, 1979, n. 18, Law 3 November 2017, n.165, Art. 1.

ⁱⁱⁱ Law 24 January, 1979, n. 18, Art. 1, Law 3 November 2017, n. 165.

^{iv} <http://elezionistorico.interno.gov.it/index.php?tpel=S&dtel=04/03/2018&tpa=I&tpe=A&lev0=0&levsut0=0&es0=S&ms=S>

^v <http://elezionistorico.interno.gov.it/index.php?tpel=E&dtel=25/05/2014&tpa=Y&tpe=A&lev0=0&levsut0=0&es0=S&ms=S>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	From abroad	Italian citizens permanently resident abroad and temporarily abroad for work, study or medical care, for a period of at least three months. Including military and police ^{vi}
Mobile ballot box	At home	Italian citizens whose life depends on electro-medical equipment and those who due to serious illness cannot travel to the polling station ^{vii}
Special polling stations ^{viii}	At hospital, care institutions, in prison	Patients in hospitals and citizens in care institutions. Staff of the care institution. Prisoners, except if they have lost their right to vote due to civil incapacity, irrevocable criminal sentence, or cases of moral unworthiness ^{ix}

Main features of each option

By post from abroad:

- The Government compiles an updated list of Italian citizens resident abroad to prepare the electoral register. Citizens temporarily abroad must send an application to their Italian municipality so that they are entered in the specific electoral roll. It can be sent by post, telefax, e-mail or proxy.^x
- Voters deposit their ballot in a mailbox.

Mobile ballot box:^{xi}

- Citizens must send a declaration to the mayor of the municipality in which they are registered to vote. If the application is approved, the municipality enters them in a special electoral list.
- The president of the Electoral Board with another member of the Board goes to the citizen's home.

At special polling stations:^{xii}

- The director of the medical institution must send to the municipality a special declaration with the name of citizens who wish to vote at the place of treatment and their health certificate.
- A special polling station (*'seggio volante'*) can be established at a hospital or care institution with at least 200 beds. Voting follows the standard process.

^{vi} Law 459 of 27, Art. 3 and 4; Law 27 December 2001, n. 459, Art. 4-bis (1, 5).

^{vii} Law 7 May 2009, n. 46.

^{viii} D.P.R. 30 March 1957, n. 361, Art. 51 and D.P.R. 16 May 1960, n. 570, Art. 42; Law 23 April 1976, n. 136.

^{ix} Italian Constitution, Art. 48.

^x http://www.prefettura.it/venezia/contenuti/Italiani_temporaneamente_all_estero_modelli_opzione_voto-4461124.htm; https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2018/01/modello_opzione_temporanei.pdf

^{xi} D.Lgs 3 January 2006, n. 1 Art. 2 and 5; <http://www.parlamento.it/parlam/leggi/decreti/06001d.htm>

^{xii} D.P.R. 30 March 1957, n. 361 Art. 51 and D.P.R. 16 May 1960, n. 570, Art. 42.

The table below provides figures for voting from abroad by post in 2018.

Voters from abroad 2018 ^{xiii}	
Electors registered abroad	Lower House 4,230,854 / Upper House 3,835,780
Votes received from electors registered abroad	Lower House 1,262,422 / Upper House 1,160,985 (Turnout of Upper House 30.27% / Lower House 29.84%)

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: There are no current plans to implement internet voting. The interviewee from the Ministry of the Interior explained that the high number of polling stations and the relatively high turnout in Italy make internet voting less attractive. Moreover, there are also concerns related to legitimacy and security, and uncertainty regarding how this remote solution could guarantee the basic principles of the Italian constitution related to the right to vote.

The Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S) party has implemented an internet voting solution through the Rousseau Platform,^{xiv} which allows people to vote, propose and comment on legislation, and make donations.

Remote voting: There is also a campaign^{xv} related to the possibility of implementing a remote voting solution for those people who are within the country, but in a different region.

^{xiii} <http://elezionistorico.interno.gov.it/index.php?tpel=C&dtel=04/03/2018&tpa=E&tpe=A&lev0=0&levsut0=0&es0=S&ms=S>

^{xiv} Rousseau platform: <https://rousseau.movimento5stelle.it/>

^{xv} <http://www.iovotofuorisede.it/>

LATVIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament (Saeima); Members of City Councils; Referendums at national level

Electoral system: Proportional, 5% threshold of total votesⁱ (European Parliament, Saeima and Members of City Councils)

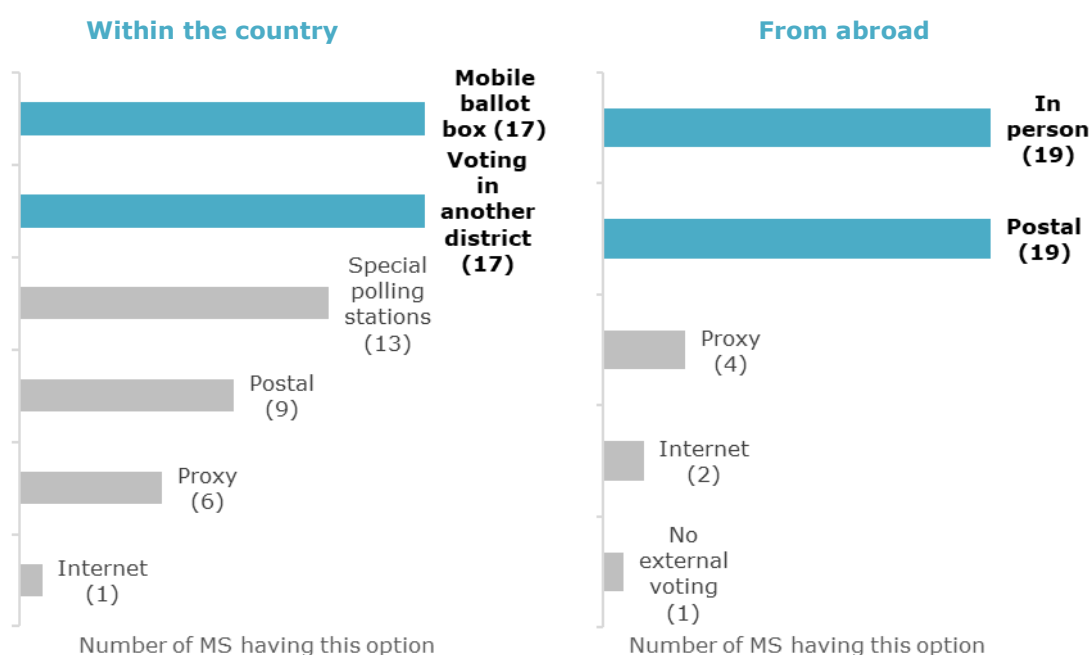
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 58.85% (2014)ⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 30.24% (2014)ⁱⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters within Latvia can vote at mobile polling stations and, during national elections, in another district in the country. From abroad, voters can vote at overseas polling stations and by post. The graph below shows the options available in Latvia (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/28764.html>

ⁱⁱ https://www.cvk.lv/pub/upload_file/2014/sv/12.Saeimas_velesanas_Rezultati.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/30666.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Mobile ballot box	From home or from the voter's current location	All eligible voters that cannot attend the polling station due to health reasons and caregivers
In another district	In person at any polling station	All eligible voters on the day of the voting
In person from abroad	Embassies/consulates, military missions and other polling stations	All eligible voters residing abroad, as well as military mission personnel
Voting by post	From abroad	Eligible voters who reside abroad

Main features of each option

At mobile polling stations:

- Voters can apply to vote at home by submitting a request form to their polling station.
- The members of the mobile polling station commission check the ID of the voter. A full set of paper ballots are provided to each voter by the mobile team. The voter deposits the ballot into the mobile ballot box that is monitored by the polling station commission. The ballot box is then returned to the corresponding polling station.

In another district:

- Voters may cast a ballot at any polling station in the country at national elections as standard voting practice. Voters present a valid passport, which is stamped to prevent voting at a second polling station.^{iv}

In person from abroad:^v

- Voters residing abroad and who are registered in the Population Register and Voters Register (for European Parliament elections) can vote at the embassy/consulate, military missions, as well as locations organised by voters with the permission of the host nation. Voting proceeds as in normal polling stations. Ballots are counted on site. The electronic results of the count are inserted into the Central Election Committee's information system.^{vi}

^{iv} <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/latvia/132416?download=true>

^v Law on Saeima elections; Law on National Referendum, Legislative Initiative and European Citizens' Initiative Elections to the European Parliament Law.

^{vi} <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/31095.html>

By post:^{vii}

- Voters need to register to vote by post from abroad via an embassy or consulate in person or by post, no later than 3 weeks before the election day (Saeima elections, referendums),^{viii} or 30 days in the case of European Parliament elections.^{ix} Some embassies and consulates organise trips to areas with high numbers of Latvian inhabitants to facilitate the registration process.^x
- When registering to vote by post, voters must submit their passport (by post or in person) for checking by a designated representative. Passports are stamped at the point of application to ensure that voters can only register a single time (passports are stamped at the moment of voting for regular polling stations).
- A two-envelope system is used. Ballots and envelopes are sent to voters by post. The voter mails their vote to the polling station in Latvia that issued the documents.^{xi} Postal ballots are counted together with regular votes.

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: Some discussions on the possibility of introducing online-based elections have taken place. The 'Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030' suggests online-based participation in referendums and petition processes at local and national level as part of the introduction of e-government.^{xii}

An initiative to introduce online voting signed by 10,845 citizens was submitted to the Saeima in 2014. The parliament denied it based on expert conclusions that the current technology solutions can't ensure both security and the principle of 'secret ballot' (*'aizklātuma princips'*) required by the Constitution.^{xiii, xiv}

^{vii} <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/31102.html>

^{viii} <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/31776.html>; <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/id/58065-on-national-referendum-legislative-initiative-and-european-citizens-initiative>; <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/30446.html>. Previous registration to register by post required. The request to vote by post should be submitted to the nearest diplomatic or consular representation first.

^{ix} <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/29433.html>

^x RAND Europe interview with Central Election Commission (2018).

^{xi} <https://www.cvk.lv/pub/public/31102.html>

^{xii} Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 (June 2010).

^{xiii} <http://www.saeima.lv/lv/aktualitates/saeimas-zinas/22853-saeima-noraida-kolektivo-iniciativu-par-velesanam-interneta>

^{xiv} Article 6 of the Constitution: 'The Saeima shall be elected in general, equal and direct elections, and by secret ballot based on proportional representation': <http://www.saeima.lv/en/legislation/constitution>

LITHUANIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; Head of State; National Parliament; Mayors; Members of City Councils; Referendums

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament); two-round system (Head of State, Mayors); mixed (National Parliament); party-list proportional representation, multi-member constituencies (Members of City Councils); majority (Referendums)

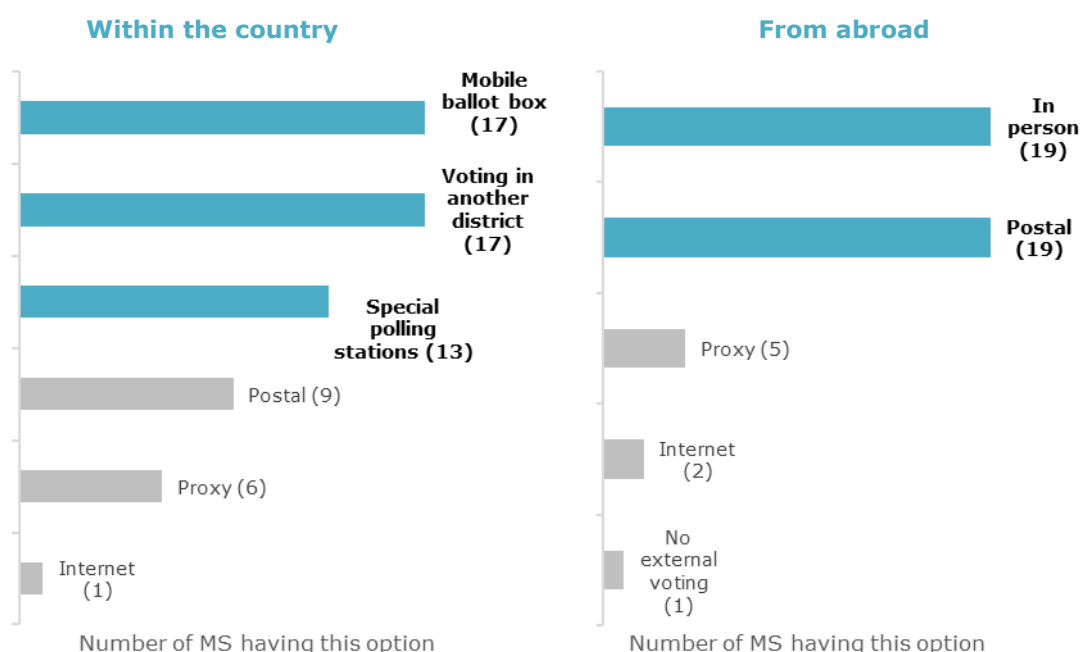
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 50.61% (2016)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 47.35%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters within Lithuania can vote at mobile polling stations, special polling stations and, in the case of presidential elections and referendums, in another district in the country. The graph below shows the options available in Lithuania (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <http://www.vrk.lt/2016-seimo/rezultatai?srcUrl=/rinkimai/102/1/1304/rezultatai/lt/rezultataiSuvestine1.html>

ⁱⁱ http://www.vrk.lt/statiniai/puslapiai/2014_ep_rinkimai/output_lt/rinkimu_diena/index.html

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Mobile ballot box	From home	Voters unable to attend a polling station because of health, disability or infirmity
In another district	In any polling station	All eligible voters
Special polling stations	Hospitals and care institutions, military units, prisons	Voters residing in the institutions
In person from abroad	Embassies and consulates, ships and military missions	Voters permanently or temporarily abroad
By post	From abroad	Voters permanently or temporarily abroad

Main features of each option

Mobile ballot box:ⁱⁱⁱ

- Electoral committees establish and verify lists of voters voting at home with the information provided by the State Social Insurance Fund Board or its territorial departments. Voters who are eligible to vote at home are informed about this option when they are given a voter's poll card.
- Voucher envelopes and ballot papers are delivered to the homes of voters by at least two members of a polling district committee, who observe the voting procedure. Identification is presented to the officials by the voter.

In another district:

- In presidential elections and referendums, all eligible voters can vote at any polling station.^{iv}
- If the voter arrives at a different polling station the officials must check on the internet-based system whether the voter has already voted elsewhere. If not, the voter is deleted from the electoral list of the assigned polling district and enrolled in the voters' list in the polling district he/she is voting in.^v

At special polling stations:

- A list of eligible voters residing in the institution on election day is created by the head of the institution. The institution then receives poll cards from the municipal electoral committee or prints them on the basis of the data received electronically; ensures the delivery of poll cards to voters; prepares the premises for voting; and facilitates access of voters to the polling station.

At embassies and consulates:

- At embassies and consulates, the in-country officials create a list of voters residing abroad at the time of the election and transfer it to the Central Electoral Commission (CEC). The information on where and how to register for persons who are not on the list but want to vote abroad is posted on the CEC website. Voters can register online or contact the respective consulate/embassy to be enrolled in the list of voters.^{vi} Voting proceeds as in a normal polling station on dates set by the CEC.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.legislationline.org/download/action/download/id/6194/file/Law%20on%20Elections%20to%20the%20Seimas%201992,%20amended%202016.pdf>

^{iv} Interview with the country representative.

^v <https://lietuvsodiena.lrytas.lt/aktualijos/2014/05/11/news/balsuoti-uz-prezidenta-galima-bet-kurioje-apylinkeje-4662092/>

^{vi} <http://www.vrk.lt/balsuojantiems-uzsienyje-2016>

By post from abroad:

- Voters have to register themselves on the list of voters abroad on the CEC's website. A two-envelope system is used to ensure the secrecy of the ballot. Ballots are sent by post to the citizens and sent back to the embassy or a consulate. Postal ballots that arrive within one week of election day are included in the second announcement of election results.^{vii}

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: In 2006 the Lithuanian Parliament proposed the implementation of online voting to increase turnout.^{viii} This was rejected by the parliament several times (in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2014), so that the areas of information systems, online data security, audit, guaranteeing secret voting, etc., could be further developed. A survey conducted by Baltijos Tyrimai in 2011 showed that two out of three Lithuanians agree with voting online. A repeat survey^{ix} in 2015 showed that more than 50 per cent of the respondents were supportive of the initiative. Various feasibility studies were conducted on this topic.^x In 2018 the government prepared an Online Voting Law Project^{xi} and submitted it to parliament. If the project is accepted the necessary legislation base would need to be prepared and would come into effect by the end of 2019. The preliminary budget of the implementation is €2 million. If approved, online voting would be tested in 2020 for the national parliament elections.^{xii}

^{vii} Interview with the country representative.

^{viii} https://www.e-tar.lt/rs/lasupplement/c8ee6b609cda11e58fd1fc0b9bba68a7/0410e8609cec11e58fd1fc0b9bba68a7/format/ISO_PDF/

^{ix} https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/rs/legalact/TAK/0e24d200210411e88a05839ea3846d8e/format/ISO_PDF/

^x <http://www.vrk.lt/documents/10180/556540/Balsavimas+internetu.pdf/a5247fe6-d96e-437d-8135-5db76da1f66f>

^{xi} <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAP/7dfb2670210311e88a05839ea3846d8e>

^{xii} <https://www.vz.lt/verslo-aplinka/2018/02/26/balsavimo-internetu-iteisinimas-grizta-i-politiku-darbotvarke>

LUXEMBOURG

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Municipal elections (including for each Municipality: a municipal council, a council of mayor and alderman); Referendums at the national levelⁱ

Electoral system: List proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament, Municipalities with more than 3,000 inhabitants); relative majority (Municipalities with fewer than 3,000 inhabitants)

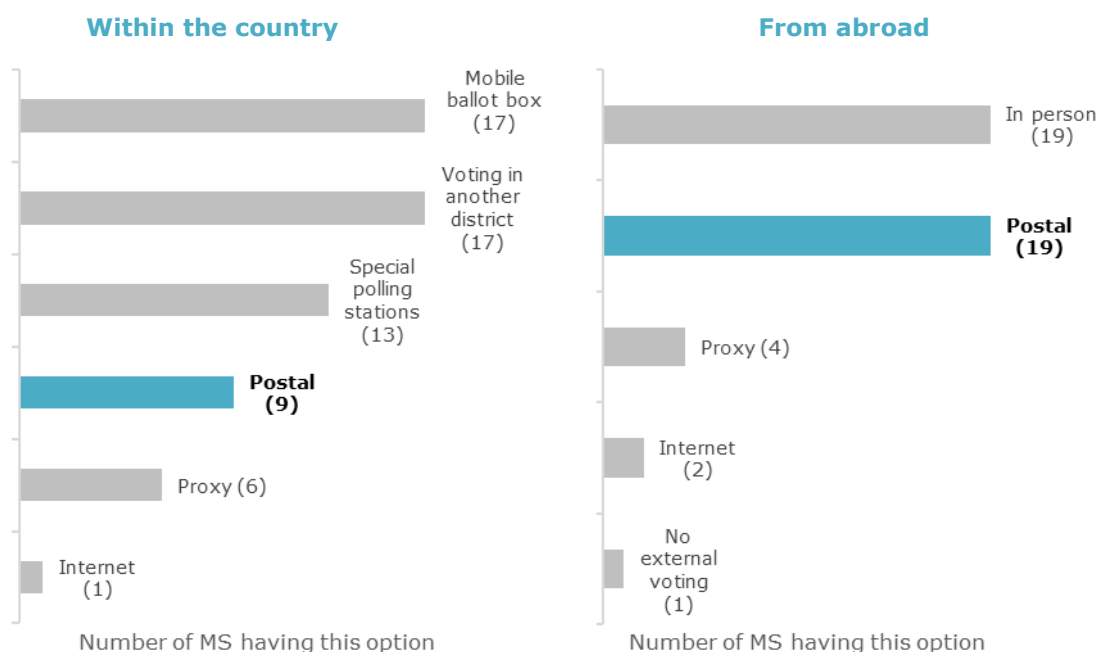
Mandatory voting: Yes

Turnout in the last national elections: 91.15% (2013)ⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 85.55%ⁱⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters in Luxembourg can vote by post from within Luxembourg or abroad. The graph below shows the options available in Luxembourg (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <http://www.luxembourg.public.lu/en/le-grand-duche-se-presente/systeme-politique/systeme-electoral/index.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/country-view/176/40>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/country-view/176/40>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Voting by post	From any location either within or outside the country	Up to 2018 only people aged above 75 or with a valid health reason, nationals living abroad or people with justified professional or personal reasons were allowed to vote by post. The next elections will be the first where all voters will be allowed to opt to vote by post without providing a reason ^{iv}

Main features of each option

By post:

- Voters who want to vote by post must inform their home communal administration and request a postal ballot, through a simple letter or using a form provided by his or her municipality. Applications from overseas voters must be accompanied by a copy of their passport or another form of identification. The request must arrive no later than 30 days before polling day. The request is then cross-checked by local authorities against the electoral lists.
- Stamped ballot papers are sent to the voter no later than 20 days before the poll. The convocation letter includes the list of candidates and voters' instructions, a ballot envelope and a stamped ballot as well as another envelope to send the ballot envelope, with the words 'Elections – Postal Vote', the address of the polling station to which the ballot should go and the voter's information, signed by the president of the main polling station of the municipality.
- A two-envelope system is used. This includes an inner envelope to hold the completed ballot, which is marked with a number that corresponds to a voter's name on the registry of voters, and an outer envelope with the name and address of the voter and relevant polling station. Postal votes must be received by the polling station by 2.00 p.m. on polling day.
- Postal votes are counted together with other votes.

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: In March 2018 the election law was modified to give all voters the right to use postal voting without the need to specify a reason.

Internet voting: In the context of a small country such as Luxembourg, the disadvantages of internet voting, including security risks, are considered to outweigh the benefits of adopting such a system. The decision was made instead to concentrate on the postal vote and to make it more accessible to voters. There are no other mechanisms foreseen at present.^v

^{iv} <http://www.lesessentiel.lu/fr/luxembourg/story/28059994>

^v Interview with a representative from Legal Service of the State Ministry of Luxembourg.

MALTA

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Members of Local Councils; Referendums; Administrative Committees for Communities

Electoral system: Proportional single transferable vote and majority (Referendums)

Mandatory voting: No

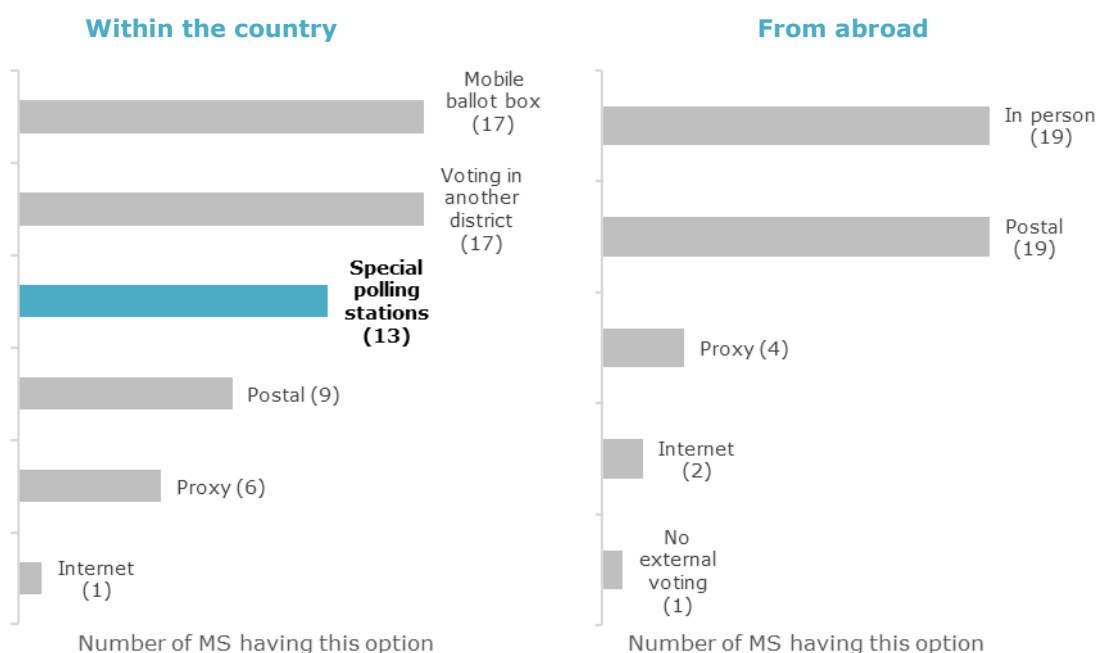
Turnout in the last national elections: 92.1% (2017)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 74.8%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Malta offers no voting options other than in specified polling stations. Some advance polling stations are established in hospitals, care homes and counting centres. Voters overseas must return to Malta to cast their vote. The Maltese government offers subsidised flights with Air Malta for all registered voters and their dependents to return to Malta. The non-subsidised part of the tickets has to be paid by the voters themselves, and is not refundable. Voters can only fly from Air Malta destinations (21 cities during the 2017 elections).

The graph below shows the options available in Malta (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://electoral.gov.mt/Elections/General>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/country-results-mt-2014.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
At special polling stations ⁱⁱⁱ	From hospitals and all residents' homes with 50 residents or more	All voters who are registered as patients at hospitals three days before the elections and all voters who are residents of elderly homes seven days before the elections (but not registered as voters thereat)
Voting in advance	Counting centres	Voters who will be unable to attend the polling station on election day due to being abroad or undergoing planned hospitalisation ^{iv}

Main features of each option

At advance polling stations:

- Voters can apply in person to the Electoral Commission in Naxxar or Gozo at set times and submit a declaration that they will be unable to vote on election day. Voters registered for early voting can then vote on set days during the week preceding election day. Voting takes place at the counting centre.^v

In hospitals and retirement homes:

- Within three days of the publication of the updated voter registry, the responsible person at a retirement home or hospital sends the Electoral Commission a list of all persons currently resident.^{vi} An updated version of the latter list should be provided to the Electoral Commission on a daily basis, until the day before the elections. The list comprises all the residents' and patients' personal details (including whether registered as a voter in the home address or otherwise) and similar details should be provided for all staff.
- The voters registered in retirement homes receive their voting documents personally in the retirement home. Similarly, the voters in hospitals receive their voting documents personally in the hospital, unless they had already received theirs prior to becoming a patient at the hospital.
- Voting proceeds as at regular polling stations. The voter personally puts the ballot into the ballot box in the presence of an Assistant Commissioner.
- In hospitals, there are ballot boxes for every district and they are stored in a secure room until counting begins. When the vote closes, the ballot boxes are sealed and transported to the central counting centre in designated vehicles, where all votes (including those cast normally) are counted.^{vii}

ⁱⁱⁱ Under Maltese law, schools, hospitals and retirement homes are considered as regular polling places and therefore the Maltese Electoral Commission does not regard this as a remote voting solution, but rather a broadening of the law.

^{iv} <https://electoral.gov.mt/pr2-04-05-2017-en>

^v <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/malta/348671?download=true>

^{vi} General Elections Act.

^{vii} <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8824&l=1> (Part XIII).

The table below provides figures for voters on (partly) subsidised flights to vote on Maltese territory, and prisoners transported to the polling stations on election day.

Voters on (partly) subsidised flights to vote on Maltese territory	
Number of registered voters	341,856 ^{viii}
Number of persons that used the subsidised flights to travel to Malta to vote in the 2017 national elections	1,717 ^{ix}
Number of prisoners registered to vote (transportation to polling station on election day arranged by correctional services)	137

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Voting from abroad: For the general elections of 2013, there was an unsuccessful petition to allow for a remote voting option from abroad, giving electronic voting systems, postal voting, or voting at Maltese embassies as potential options.^x The petition received 1,328 signatures.

Voting from prison: An amendment to the electoral law has been proposed to allow prisoners (who have retained their right to vote) to exercise their right to vote from prison.^{xi} This would render the current police escorts unnecessary. This has become law in May 2018, thus rendering voting at prisons legal for the forthcoming European election and the Local Council elections due in May 2019.

^{viii} <https://electoral.gov.mt/Elections/General>

^{ix} OSCE/ODIHR (2017a).

^x <https://www.change.org/p/make-an-absentee-ballot-system-a-key-part-of-the-2013-election-campaign>

^{xi} Interview with the Electoral Office Malta.

NETHERLANDS

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament (Lower House); Provincial Parliaments (States-Provincial); Members of Municipal Councils; (non-binding) Referendums;ⁱ and Water Boards

Electoral system: Proportional and majority (Referendums)

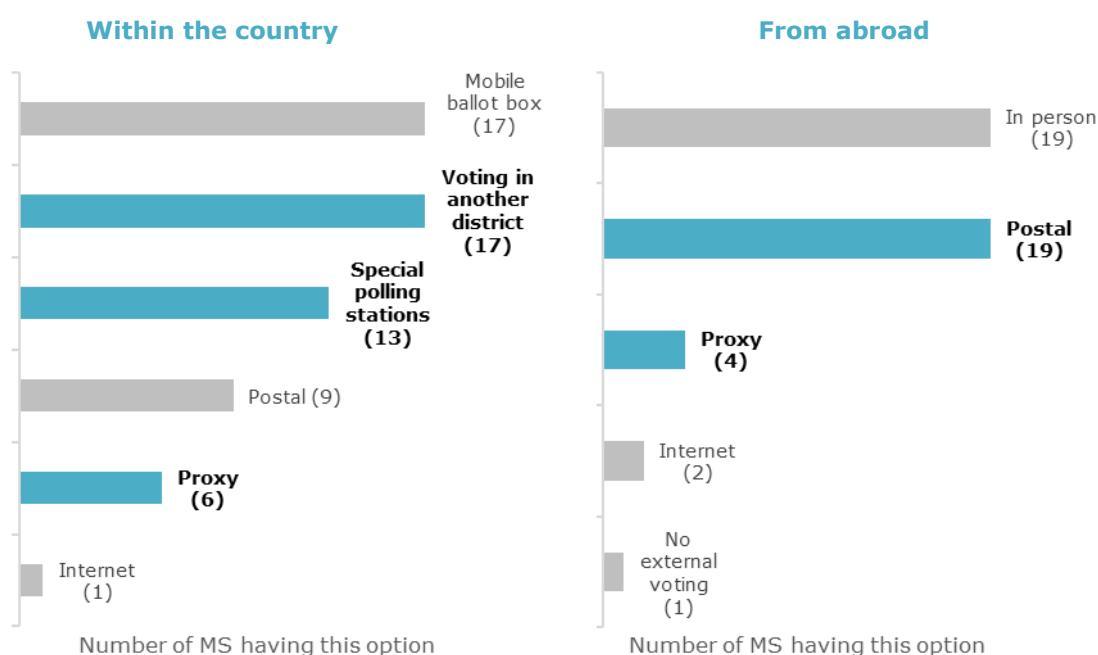
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 81.9% (Lower House, March 2017)ⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 37.4%ⁱⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Remote voting options in the Netherlands are voting by proxy, voting at special polling stations and voting anywhere in the country using a 'voter's pass'. From abroad, citizens can vote by post or by proxy. The graph below shows the options available in The Netherlands (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ The current 2017 Coalition Government put forward a legislative proposal to repeal the consultative referendum.

ⁱⁱ https://www.parlement.com/id/vh8lnhrp8wsz/opkomst_bij_tweede_kamerverkiezingen

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/nl/turnout.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Voting by proxy	Within the country and from abroad	All eligible voters
Voting by post	From abroad	All eligible voters permanently or temporarily abroad
Special polling stations	At mobile and special polling stations located in the voters' municipality	All eligible voters registered in a municipality or those voters who vote using a voter's pass
In another district	Anywhere in the country	All eligible voters who vote using a voter's pass

Main features of each option

By proxy:

- Any eligible user can vote by proxy without having to apply first. When regular polling cards are sent to the corresponding address of each voter, voters have the option to assign a proxy voter by writing this in on the polling card itself. The proxy voter presents the polling card and a copy of the voter's identity documents at the polling station. The proxy may vote on behalf of a maximum of two other voters.

By post:

- The Elections Act specifically allows The Hague municipality to appoint a post-only polling station that counts votes by post from abroad.^{iv} Voters abroad have to submit a written application to The Hague municipality to be registered as an overseas voter.^v The Hague municipality compares the list of all overseas voters to all municipal registries to avoid double registration.^{vi}
- After registration the applicant receives a postal voting pass, the ballot, a return envelope and a manual.^{vii} Since 2014, the ballots have been sent by e-mail to those voters who indicated their preference to receive it this way, providing the voter with more time to return it.^{viii, ix}
- The ballot should be accompanied by a copy of an identity document.^x On the ballot the person has to declare that he or she personally filled in the ballot, which is then put in a closed envelope. Together with the other documents, this is then put in the return envelope. Voters must post the ballot to The Hague municipality by 3.00 p.m. on election day at the latest.^{xi} The post-only polling station checks the signed postal voting pass against the copy of the valid identity document. The closed envelope with the ballot is then put in a ballot box, safeguarding the secrecy of the vote.

At mobile and special polling stations:

- Municipalities decide if and where there will be mobile and special polling stations (for example, in train stations, care homes and hospitals). They

^{iv} <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0004627/2017-10-01>

^v <https://www.kiesraad.nl/verkiezingen/tweede-kamer/stemmen/kiesgerechtigdheid>

^{vi} OSCE/ODIHR (2017b).

^{vii} <https://www.kiesraad.nl/verkiezingen/tweede-kamer/stemmen/vanuit-het-buitenland>

^{viii} <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2016/09/15/aanmelden-voor-stemmen-in-het-buitenland-nu-mogelijk>

^{ix} Interview with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

^x <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0004627/2017-10-01>

^{xi} <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0004627/2017-10-01>

communicate this information to the electorate.^{xii} Some special polling stations may be mobile and move to predetermined locations during the day.^{xiii}

- Before a mobile polling station switches location, the ballot box is sealed by the chair of the polling station in front of the voters present. He or she then opens it again at the new location, having kept the key to the ballot box on him or her the whole time.

In another district:

- By default, voters can vote in any polling station in their municipality. Using a voter's pass ('*kiezerspas*'), voters are allowed to vote in any polling station in the country, or anywhere in the relevant constituency, e.g. anywhere in the province during Provincial elections. For those voters who reside abroad and are no longer registered in a Dutch municipality, a one-off registration is required before they can use this option.^{xiv}
- Voters who want to cast their vote in another municipality have to submit a written request for a *kiezerspas* at least five days in advance of the elections or an oral request until the day of the vote before 12.00 p.m. at the municipality where he or she is registered. They receive a 'voter's pass', which enables them to vote at any polling station in the country. Voters are already allowed to vote at another polling station within their municipality, without having to apply for this.

The table below provides some figures for voters from abroad in 2017.

Voters from abroad in 2017^{xv}	
Total number of registered overseas voters	77,500
Total number of voters who chose to vote by post	64,986
Total number of postal votes that arrived in time	59,857 (92%)

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

E-voting: During the general elections of 2017, several political parties carefully expressed in their election manifestos their wish to expand e-voting options, while others were not convinced.^{xvi} Most of the proposed e-voting solutions, however, concerned the reintroduction of electronic voting machines. Only the VVD (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy), the country's largest party at the past three national elections, explicitly expressed their wish to allow voters abroad to be able to vote online.^{xvii}

Internet voting: Previous experiments were the Rijnland Internet Election System (RIES) in the 2004 Water Board elections (in 2 out of 33 districts), the Kiezen op Afstand internet or telephone voting system for voters abroad in the 2004 European Parliament elections, and the modified RIES available to voters abroad in the 2006 general elections. Following these earlier experiments with internet voting, a new trial was announced in 2015;^{xviii} this has been delayed several times and so far has not taken place.^{xix}

^{xii} Interview with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

^{xiii} Elections Act (Kieswet) Art. J 4a; http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0004627/2017-12-01#AfdelingII_HoofdstukJ_Paragraaf1_ArtikelJ4a

^{xiv} <https://www.kiesraad.nl/verkiezingen/tweede-kamer/stemmen/vanuit-het-buitenland>

^{xv} <https://nos.nl/artikel/2163615-d66-grootste-partij-bij-stemmers-vanuit-buitenland.html>

^{xvi} <https://www.vka.nl/artikelen/staat-er-verkiezingsprogrammas-elektronisch-internetstemmen/>

^{xvii} <https://www.vka.nl/artikelen/staat-er-verkiezingsprogrammas-elektronisch-internetstemmen/>

^{xviii} Hillenius (2016).

^{xix} Verdonck, Klooster & Associates (VKA) (2016).

Postal voting: In his 2017 evaluation of the Experiment Act on Remote Voting (*Wijziging van Experimentenwet Kiezen op Afstand*), the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations recommended a less strict policy on letters containing votes from voters abroad that paid too little postage; to increase the number of postal voting electoral committees; and to assess the need to improve accessibility for people with physical disabilities in light of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).^{xx}

^{xx} Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal (2017).

POLAND

Types of elections: European Parliament; President; National Parliament (Lower and Upper House); Regional Assembly; Mayors; Members of Local Councils; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, Regional Assembly, Lower House, large Municipalities); majority (Presidential, Upper House, Mayors, small Municipalities)ⁱⁱ

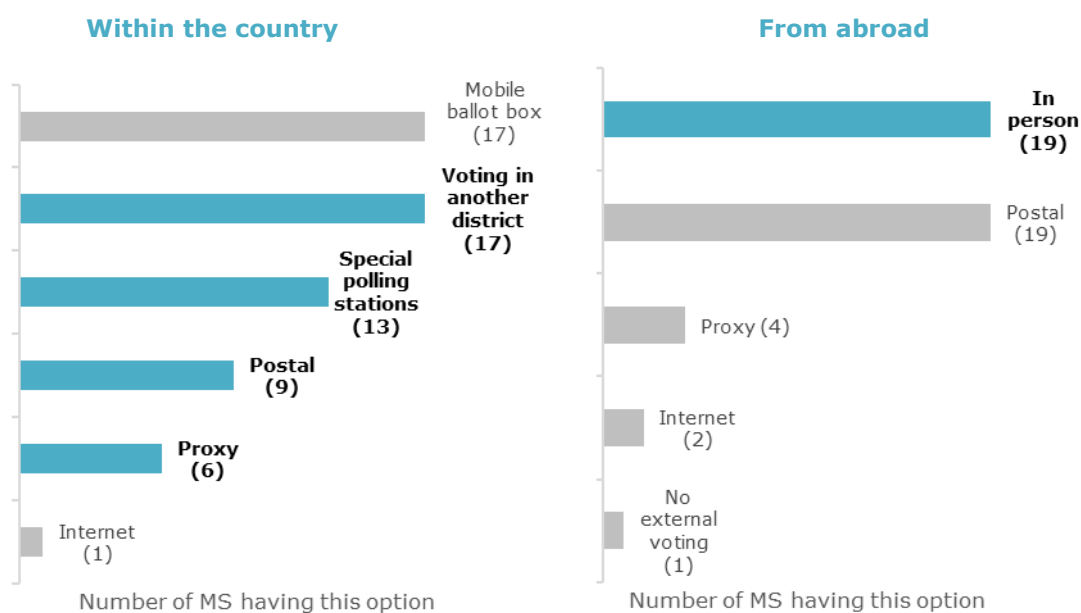
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 55.3% (Presidential, second round, 2015); 50.9% (National Parliament, 2015)ⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 23.83%^{iv}

Remote voting options available

There are four remote voting options available in Poland (with some restrictions). From abroad, citizens can only vote in person. The graph below shows the options available in Poland (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Kodeks Wyborczy (KW) (Electoral Law); Ustawa z dnia 14 marca 2003 r. o referendum ogólnokrajowym (UORO) (Law on the national referendum); Ustawa z dnia 15 września 2000 r. o referendum lokalnym (UORL) (Law on the local referendum).

ⁱⁱ KW, art. 192, 256, 328, 415, 416, 473; Konstytucja art. 127 (4); 'small municipalities' means up to 20,000 inhabitants.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://prezydent2015.pkw.gov.pl/>; <http://parlament2015.pkw.gov.pl/Frekwencja/000000/3>; <http://parlament2015.pkw.gov.pl/Frekwencja/000000/4>;

^{iv} <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/pl/turnout.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible to use it
By post	Within the country	People with disabilities ^v
By proxy	Polling station	People with disabilities or the elderly ^{vi}
In person abroad	Embassies, consulates, other locations	Citizens permanently or temporarily abroad and in Polish ships. A minimum of 15 electors is required ^{vii}
Special polling station	Hospital, care centre or similar; prison	People staying in these institutions (if there is a minimum of 15 electors) ^{viii}
In another district	Polling station	Voters temporarily staying in another municipality on election day ^{ix}

Main features of each option

By post:^x

- A request must be submitted to the commune at least 15 days in advance (this can be done online). The municipal office sends the voting material, via certified mail, to the voter, who must present an identification document to collect it. He/she can also personally collect it at municipal office.
- After filling in the documents, the voter must send them to their own Electoral Commission (delivery is free of charge). A representative of Poczta Polska can go to the voter's home to collect the ballot.

By proxy:^{xi}

- An election-specific power of attorney is drawn up in the presence of a commune clerk at least nine days in advance. Before voting, the proxy shall present the own document of identity and the power of attorney. Afterwards, voting follows the standard procedure.

In person from abroad:^{xii}

- A request must be submitted at least three days in advance (this can be done online). On election day, a civil servant in the consulate checks the voter's identification document. Afterwards, electors deposit their votes in a ballot box. Voting results are transferred to Electoral Commission for the district of Warsaw.

At special polling stations:^{xiii}

- The person in charge of the unit sends the list of electors who will be there on election day to the municipality, at least five days in advance. Voting follows the standard process.

^v KW, Art. 53a

^{vi} KW, Art. 54.

^{vii} KW, Art. 14, 15, 34, 35; an additional requirement for establishing a polling station abroad is that it must be possible to transmit the results.

^{viii} KW, Art. 12.

^{ix} KW, Art. 28.

^x KW, Art. 53.

^{xi} KW, Art. 54–56.

^{xii} KW, Art. 35, 78.

^{xiii} KW, Art. 29.

In another district:^{xiv}

- A request must be submitted to the commune of temporary stay at least five days in advance. On election day voters must present their ID card to the Electoral Board and then they can deposit their vote in the ballot box.

The table below provides some figures for remote voting in Poland.

Voting abroad in the 2015 Presidential elections 2015 ^{xv}			
Number of electors	257,161		
Number of valid votes	158,499 (turnout: 62%)		
Number of polling stations	229 polling stations in 87 countries 2 polling stations on ships		
Number of special polling stations in the 2015 Presidential elections 2015 ^{xvi}			
Social welfare homes	602	Prisons and similar institutions	194
Hospitals	820	Student accommodation	13

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: This was limited to disabled people in 2017. The ruling party considers that postal voting caused a significant number of irregularities.^{xvii}

Internet voting: There is no current plan to implement internet voting. The Parliament Analysis Office was asked to develop an expert opinion on internet-voting techniques used in other countries.^{xviii} One of the challenges identified is how to guarantee the correct authentication of voters and the secrecy of the vote at the same time.^{xix}

^{xiv} KW, Art. 28

^{xv} http://prezydent2015.pkw.gov.pl/aktualnosci/7_Statystyka;

http://prezydent2015.pkw.gov.pl/326_Wyniki_zagranica

^{xvi} http://prezydent2015.pkw.gov.pl/aktualnosci/7_Statystyka

^{xvii} <http://www.pap.pl/en/news-/news,1211877,polish-parliament-passes-election-law-amendment.html>;

<http://wiadomosci.dziennik.pl/polityka/artykuly/566360,deklaracja-po-w-sprawie-glosowania-korespondencyjnego.html>

^{xviii} <http://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/mariusz/news,1069281,tyszka-polacy-powinni-glosowac-przez-internet.html>;

https://www.senat.gov.pl/gfx/senat/pl/senatopracowania/130/plik/ot-635_do_internetu.pdf

^{xix} [http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/701c7f09abfe5c84c12575bd002de087/\\$file/infos_57.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/701c7f09abfe5c84c12575bd002de087/$file/infos_57.pdf)

PORTUGAL

Types of elections: European Parliament; Head of State; National Parliament; Regional Legislative Assembly; Municipal Chamber; Referendums at national and local level; Representatives of Portuguese living abroad

Electoral system:ⁱ Proportional list system for other elections, using the D'Hondt counting system (European Parliament, National Parliament and Members of City Councils); uninominal with two-round system based on direct popular vote (Head of State); various (Referendums)

Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 48.66% (2016 Presidential)ⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 33.67%ⁱⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters in Portugal vote at the polling station in the constituency in which they are registered. They can vote in advance in all elections if they cannot do so on election day due to professional obligations, or if they are studying far from the polling station.^{iv} Voting in advance is also foreseen for regional elections (Azores and Madeira), under stricter conditions.^v

If living abroad, voters can vote by post for legislative elections^{vi} and at polling stations abroad for presidential elections.^{vii} Remote voting is not foreseen for voters from abroad in other elections.

The graph below shows the options available in Portugal (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.

ⁱ <http://www.cne.pt/content/apresentacao>

ⁱⁱ http://www.cne.pt/sites/default/files/dl/pr_2016_mapa_oficial_resultados_3_2016.pdf

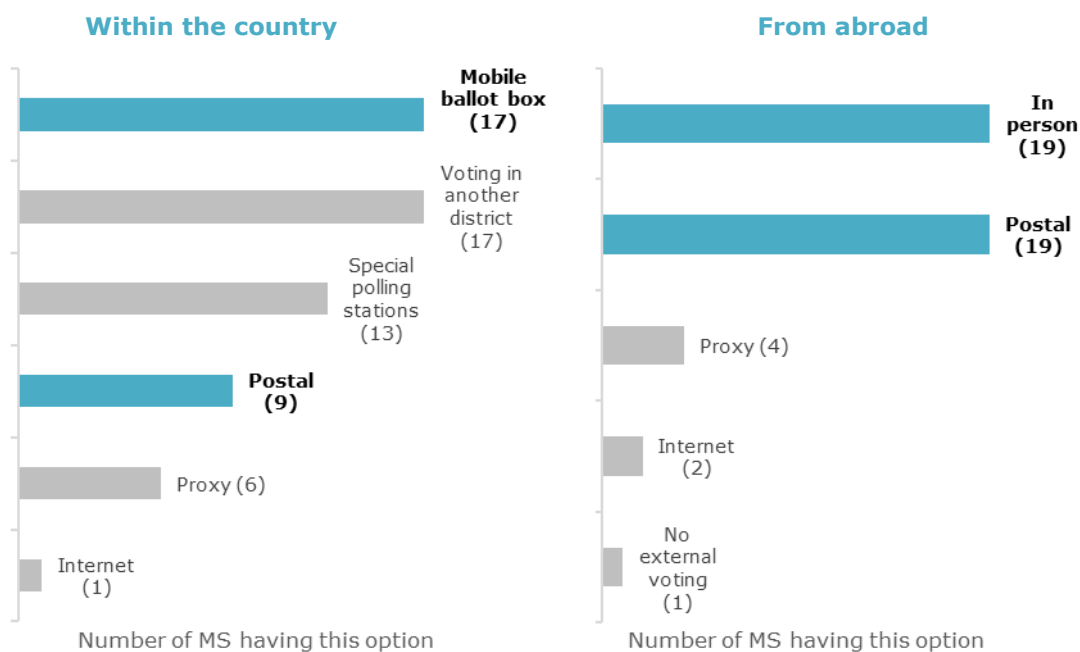
ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/country-results-pt-2014.html>

^{iv} <http://www.cne.pt/faq2/106/3>

^v Only for the military, those on humanitarian missions, students or researchers abroad and civil servants on duty abroad.

^{vi} <http://www.cne.pt/faq2/113/3>

^{vii} <http://www.cne.pt/faq2/113/2>



Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	From abroad ^{viii}	Citizens residing abroad at the time of the election and registered on electoral lists abroad
In person from abroad	Embassies/consulates ^{ix}	Voters residing abroad at the time of the election and registered on electoral lists abroad
Mobile ballot box	At hospitals, care units and prisons	Eligible voters unable to leave the institution on election day

Main features of each option

By post:

- Voters living abroad need to enrol on the consular electoral list at the consulate.
- The voting documentation is automatically sent by registered mail to the address indicated on the consulate registration card.
- Voters then return their ballot to the administration that provided the documentation no later than the day of the election.^x

In person from abroad:

- Voters who live abroad and who are registered on the consular electoral lists can vote on the day before and on the election day at the embassy/consulates/special polling stations for presidential and European Parliament elections.
- Voters who have to be abroad on the day of the election for professional, study or health reasons can vote at an embassy/consulate abroad between 10 and 12 days prior to the day of the elections. They go to the consulate, cast their vote and get a receipt.

^{viii} Legislative elections only.

^{ix} Presidential, European, legislative and regional elections.

^x <http://www.cne.pt/faq2/113/3>

Mobile ballot box:^{xi}

- Voters who are hospitalised, in prison or in a continuing care unit may opt to have their votes collected. Voters must request the service from the local municipality authorities at least 20 days prior to the election, accompanied by proof of registration and a document from the hospital/prison/care unit authorities. Voters will be sent the voting documentation by registered mail.
- Between 13 and 10 days ahead of election day, the local authorities will visit the institution to collect the votes.

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: Internet voting was trialled in Portugal four times between 1997 and 2005. The National Election Committee (CNE) reports efficiency gains and benefits for certain categories of voters, for instance visually impaired voters who could – thanks to internet voting – vote alone rather than assisted by a third person. A review of the trials^{xii} concluded that internet voting had not offered the reliability guarantees required for the public/citizens to trust the voting system.

^{xi} <http://www.cne.pt/faq2/106/5>

^{xii} Falcao e Cunha et al. (2006).

ROMANIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; Head of the State; National Parliament; Mayors; Local Councils; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament, Local Councils); majority (President, Mayors)ⁱⁱ

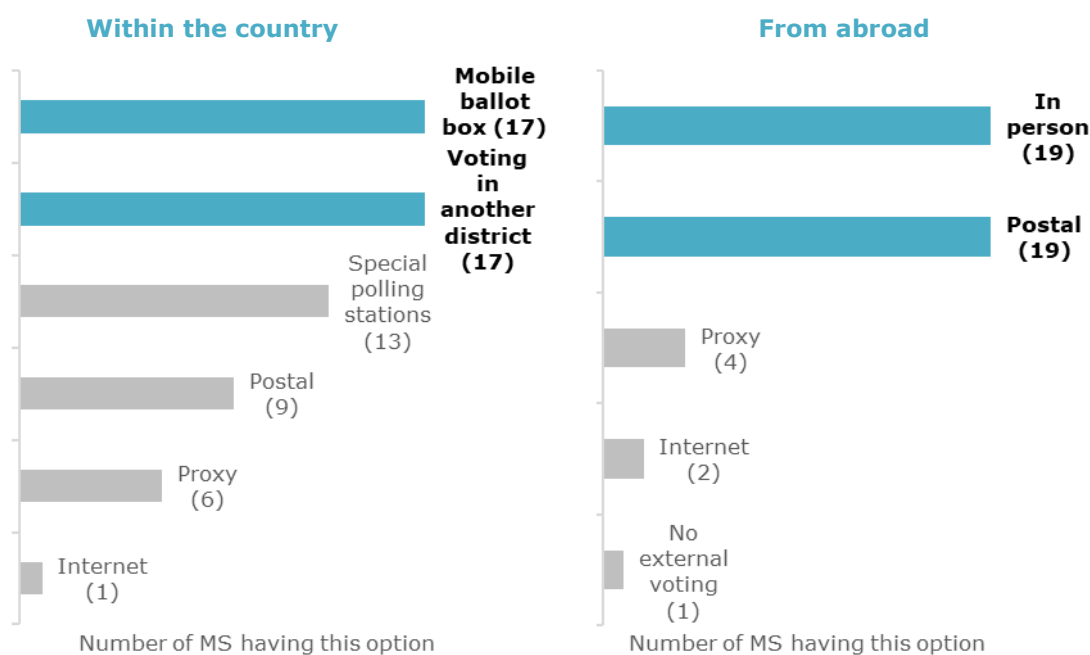
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 63% (President, 2014,ⁱⁱⁱ 39.49% (National Parliament, 2016)^{iv}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 32.44% (2014)^v

Remote voting options available

In Romania, electors can vote in another district or using a mobile ballot box. From abroad, Romanians can vote in person or by post. The graph below shows the options available in Romania (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ European Parliament Election Law; Presidential Election Law; Law on the Election of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies; Local Election Law; Referendum Law.

ⁱⁱ European Parliament Election Law; Presidential Election Law; Law on the Election of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies; Local Election Law Art. 1.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.electionguide.org/elections/id/2778/>

^{iv} <http://prezenta.bec.ro>

^v http://www.roaep.ro/bec_europ2014/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Situatia-voturilor-valabil-exprimare.pdf

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	From abroad	Citizens residing outside the country ^{vi}
In person from abroad	Polling stations abroad ^{vii}	Citizens residing outside the country ^{viii}
Mobile ballot box	At home, hospital, prison	Voters who are unable to move due to sickness. Voters who are in prison, but not disenfranchised
Voting in another district	Polling station	Everybody

Main features of each option

By post:^{ix}

- Voters must submit an application in person, online or by post to the consulate or diplomatic mission in the state where they reside.
- The voting material is sent to the voter via certified mail. Voters must fill in and sign a form confirming their identity and send it with the vote via a Post Office or Mail Box to the electoral board for postal votes. Votes are counted by this special electoral board on election day.

In person from abroad:^x

- Voters can sign up to the Foreign Electoral Register in advance, or they can present themselves at a polling station abroad on election day. In both cases, they need to show a proof of residence.
- Identification and voting follow the same procedure as normal voting. Votes are counted at the polling stations abroad, which transmit the results via electronic means to the Central Electoral Board.

Mobile ballot box:^{xi}

- Voters must submit an application to the polling station president the day before the elections. Two members of the Electoral Board go to the voters' location with a special box, ballots and a stamp. They check the identification of the voter before the voting process takes place.
- The mobile ballot box is later returned to the polling station, where votes are counted together with the votes in the polling station ballot box.

In another district:^{xii}

- This option is only available for elections with a single constituency (European Parliament, presidential, national referendums).
- Voters do not need to submit any special application to use this option. An IT system determines if the voter is registered and if this person has already voted in another polling station.
- Votes are counted at the place where they are cast.

^{vi} Law on voting by post, Art. 4.

^{vii} Polling stations organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

^{viii} Law on the Election of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies Art. 23, Art. 51 (3).

^{ix} Law on voting by post, Art. 4, 10 (6) 14, 15.

^x Law on the Election of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Art. 23, Art. 51 (3).

^{xi} Presidential Election Law, Art 45; Law on the Election of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, Art, 85, 88.

^{xii} Interview with the Permanent Electoral Authority.

The table below provides some figures for the use of remote voting in Romania.

Remote voting in the National Parliament 2016 ^{xiii}	
Total number of voters in Romania	7,212,022
Votes via mobile ballot box	55,320
Votes from abroad	106,038 (417 sections)
Applications to vote by post	8,891
Votes by post	4,591
Cost of voting by post	616,000 lei (around €132,000)
Costs for ballots for voting by post	7,744.10 lei (around €1,662)

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: This was introduced in 2015 but is used by very few people.

Internet voting: In 2007 and 2014 the Parliament rejected an initiative presented by some MPs to introduce internet voting. The PSD, the largest party in parliament at the time of writing, has not taken concrete steps towards the implementation of internet voting.^{xiv}

A report from the Centre for the Study of Democracy^{xv} concludes that Romania is not ready for the introduction of internet voting in light of several barriers: implementation costs, the need to have specialists in the field, the vulnerabilities of the identification system, low access to the internet among the population, low provision of online public services, and recent cases of electoral fraud in the country.

^{xiii} Figures from <http://prezenta.bec.ro/#> and input provided by the Permanent Electoral Authority.

^{xiv} http://adevarul.ro/locale/cluj-napoca/votul-electronic-romania-sistem-s-a-intamplat-tara-l-a-adoptat-1_56b0d2715ab6550cb862abaa/index.html; <https://www.democracycenter.ro/romana/publicatii/rapoarte-de-cercetare/cat-de-oportuna-este-introducerea-votului-prin-internet-romania>

^{xv} http://www.democracycenter.ro/application/files/1814/8424/4505/Raport_vot_internet_final.pdf

SLOVAKIA

Types of elections: European Parliament; Head of State; National Parliament; Heads of Regional Government; Regional Parliament; Mayors; City Councils; Referendums

Electoral system: Proportional (European Parliament, National Parliament); two-round (Head of State); FPTP (Heads of Regional Government, Mayors, Referendums); various (Regional Parliament, City Councils)

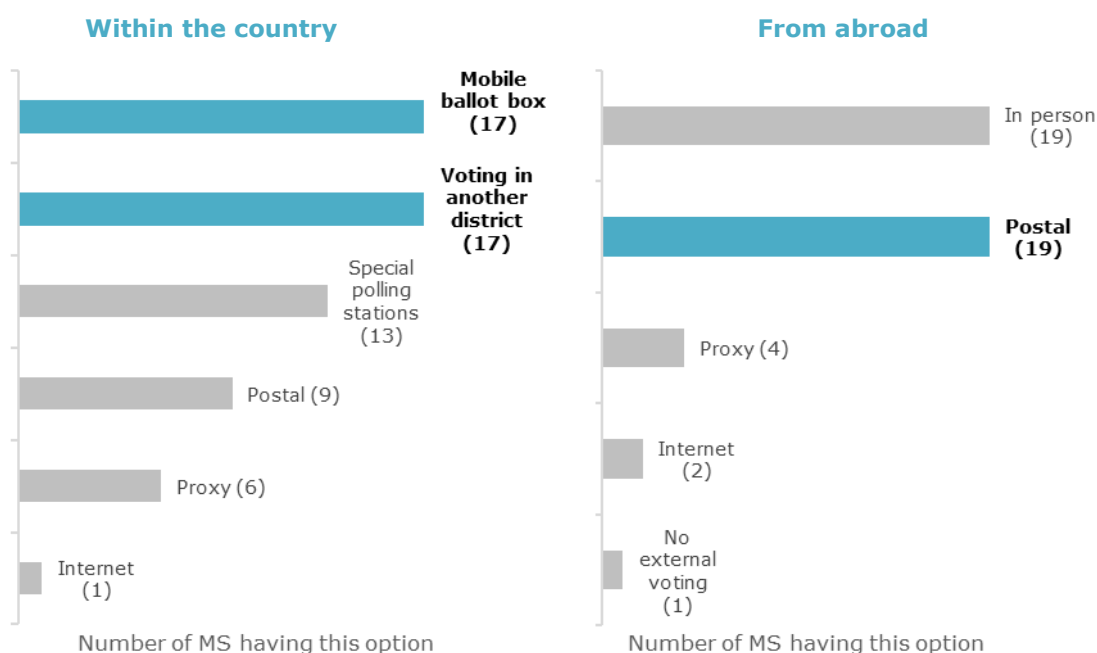
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 59.82% (2016)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 13.05%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters in Slovakia can vote by mobile ballot box or in another district within the country using a voting permit. From abroad voters can vote by post only. The graph below shows the options available in Slovakia (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <http://volby.statistics.sk/nrsr/nrsr2016/sk/data01.html>

ⁱⁱ http://volby.statistics.sk/ep/ep2014/EP-dv/Tabulka1_sk.html

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
Mobile ballot box	Any location	Eligible voters residing in institutions (e.g. prison, hospital) or on grounds of 'serious, particularly health, reasons'
Any polling station in the country	Any polling station	All eligible voters using a voting permit ⁱⁱⁱ
Postal vote	From abroad	Eligible voters temporarily or permanently abroad

Main features of each option

At mobile polling stations:^{iv}

- Voters need to apply in advance (and provide proof of their eligibility in the process). An application needs to be made to the local authority at least one day in advance or to the district election committee on election day. Voters in hospitals and prisons need a voting permit (unless the institution is located in their electoral district).
- Ballots are provided by members of the electoral commission manning the ballot box. Members of the electoral commission who have brought the mobile ballot box verify the voter casts their vote alone. The content of the mobile ballot box is brought back to the regular polling station for counting.

In another district using a voting permit:^v

- Voters need to apply in advance (and provide proof of their eligibility in the process). Applications can be made in person (at least one working day in advance), by post or electronically (at least 15 days in advance). The permit can be mailed to the applicant or picked up (either in person or by proxy).
- Votes are counted together with the votes from the rest of the district.

By post:^{vi}

- Voters need to apply for a postal ballot at least 50 days in advance (and provide proof of their eligibility in the process) to the Interior Ministry (for voters permanently residing abroad) or to the local authority (for voters temporarily abroad). Ballots are posted to voters at least 35 days in advance. Available for parliamentary elections only.
- A two-envelope system is used. The ballot must be inserted in the same envelope as when voting in person and mailed in the supplied envelope to the authority to which the application was made. Costs are borne by the voter.
- The mail ballot needs to arrive by the last working day before the election. The identity of people who voted is checked against a special electoral list, which prevents repeat voting.

ⁱⁱⁱ Not available for regional and local elections. The entire country is one constituency in all elections in which a voting permit is available.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.

^{vi} Ibid.

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: The scope of postal voting and its extension is subject to debate, although this has not yielded any concrete results.^{vii} Most recently, in February 2018 the Slovak Parliament rejected a proposal to allow postal voting from abroad for EP elections.^{viii} There are no plans to introduce postal voting for voters present in Slovakia.

Voting in person from abroad and internet voting: There are no plans to introduce either voting at embassies/consulates or internet voting. One expatriate association has expressed support for both these options.^{ix}

^{vii} E.g. http://snn.sk/teraz_sk_227643/

^{viii} <http://www3.teraz.sk/slovensko/nrsr-obciana-sr-nebudu-moct-volit-europo/308745-clanok.html>

^{ix} <https://aktualne.centrum.sk/slovensko/spolocnost/slovaci-zahranici-rozhodli-zit-inde-rozhodnut-vo-volbach-vsak-chcu.html>

SLOVENIA

Types of elections:ⁱ European Parliament; President; National Parliament; Mayors; Members of City Councils; Referendums and Consultations

Electoral system:ⁱⁱ Proportional (European Parliament, National Assembly, large Municipalities); majority (Presidential, Mayors, small Municipalities, representatives of ethnic communities)

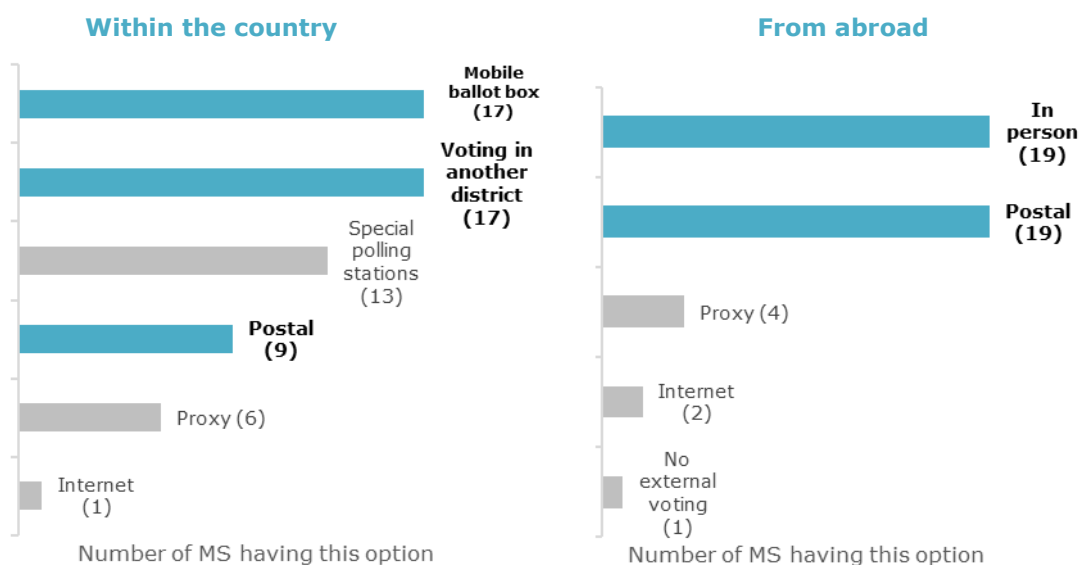
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 42.13% (President of the Republic, second round 2017);ⁱⁱⁱ 51.73% (National Assembly, 2014)^{iv}

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 24.55%^v

Remote voting options available

In Slovenia voters can vote in another district, by post and using a mobile ballot box. From abroad, Slovenians can vote in person or by post. The graph below shows the options available in Slovenia (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ Constitution; ZLV (Zakon o lokalnih volitvah). Local Elections Act (ZLV); Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia act. Art. 11; <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/elections/local-elections>

ⁱⁱ Election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia act. Art. 11; Constitution, Art. 80, 103; ZLV, Art. 9 and 10; <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/elections/national-assembly-of-the-republic-of-slovenia>. Regarding the deputies of the national communities in the National Parliament, one deputy of the Italian and one deputy of the Hungarian national communities shall always be elected (Constitution, Art. 80).

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://volitve.gov.si/vp2017/#/udelezba>

^{iv} http://www.dvk-rs.si/files/files/porocilo_DZ_2014.pdf

^v http://www.dvk-rs.si/files/files/porocilo_ep_2014.pdf

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	Within the country, abroad	Voters in the military service, workers in care in retirement homes, hospitalised people, ^{vi} those who are in a penal institution, people with disabilities, ^{vii} temporary or permanent residents abroad
In person from abroad ^{viii}	Diplomatic office, consulate	Temporary or permanent residents abroad
Mobile ballot box ^{ix}	At home	Voters who are ill
Voting in another district	At special polling stations	Voters staying in other Slovenian districts. Slovenian emigrants who are in Slovenia on polling day ^x

Main features of each option

By post:

- Those eligible to vote by post within Slovenia must notify their District Electoral Commission at least seven days before election day. Votes are sent to this commission, which counts them the day after the elections.^{xi}
- Voters temporarily abroad must notify the State Electoral Commission no later than 30 days prior to election day, post, fax, or e-mail (this is not required for voters permanently abroad).^{xii} Votes must be counted before the eighth day after the election at noon.^{xiii}

In person from abroad:

- Voters temporarily abroad must apply to use this option.
- Voters are entered on a special list and identified with personal ID, following the same process as for normal voting.^{xiv} Votes are counted abroad by the Electoral Board at a diplomatic or consular representative office. Results are then sent to the State Electoral Commission.^{xv}

Mobile ballot box:

- Voters must send a notification to the District Electoral Commission three days before the elections by post, fax, e-mail or telephone.^{xvi}
- Members of the Electoral Board bring the ballot papers to the voter's home and check their ID. After the voter has completed the ballot, they bring it back to the polling station where it is combined with the other votes.

^{vi} National Assembly Elections Act, Art. 81.

^{vii} National Assembly Elections Act, Art. 81.

^{viii} National Assembly Elections Act, Art. 82.

^{ix} National Assembly Elections Act, Art. 83.

^x <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/where-and-how-to-vote/voting-outside-the-district-of-permanent-residence-omnia>

^{xi} National Assembly Elections Act, Art. 81, 87; <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/where-and-how-to-vote/postal-votes-within-slovenia>

^{xii} <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/where-and-how-to-vote/voting-from-abroad>

^{xiii} Information provided by the Slovenian State Election Commission.

^{xiv} <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/where-and-how-to-vote/voting-from-abroad>

^{xv} Information provided by the Slovenian State Election Commission.

^{xvi} National Assembly Elections Act, Art. 83; <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/where-and-how-to-vote/voting-at-home>

In another district:

- Voters must notify the local Electoral Commission three days before the elections.^{xvii} Each district has a specific polling station for these voters, different than those used by residents of the district. Ballots are counted at this polling station, but the results are sent to the district where the voter is registered as resident.^{xviii}

The following table shows some figures related to the elections for the President of the Republic in 2017.

2017 Elections for the President of the Republic	
Total voters registered as permanent residents abroad	91,000 ^{xix}
Total voters registered within Slovenia	1,624,000 ^{xx}
Votes in OMNIA polls	1,646 ^{xxi}

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: There have been discussions related to allowing everyone to vote by post, but this has not been implemented. One of the debates relates to costs.^{xxii}

Internet voting is not available in Slovenia. A round-table was organised to discuss internet voting. Participants had generally low trust in the option. Moreover, IT experts indicated that it was not possible to guarantee a 100% secure system.^{xxiii} On the other hand, several electronic services are available such as e-support for citizen's initiatives, and it is possible to inform the electoral authorities via the e-Government Portal if an alternative voting option is required.^{xxiv}

^{xvii} <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/en/where-and-how-to-vote/voting-outside-the-district-of-permanent-residence-omnia>

^{xviii} Information provided by the Slovenian State Election Commission.

^{xix} <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/slovenia/346866?download=true>

^{xx} <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/slovenia/346866?download=true>

^{xxi} <http://volitve.gov.si/vp2017/#/udelezba>

^{xxii} Input from the MS representative.

^{xxiii} Input from the MS representative.

^{xxiv} Input from the MS representative.

SPAIN

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament (Lower and Upper House); Regional Parliaments; Members of Local Councils; Referendums and Consultationsⁱ

Electoral system: Proportional (except for the Upper House: corrected majority system)ⁱⁱ

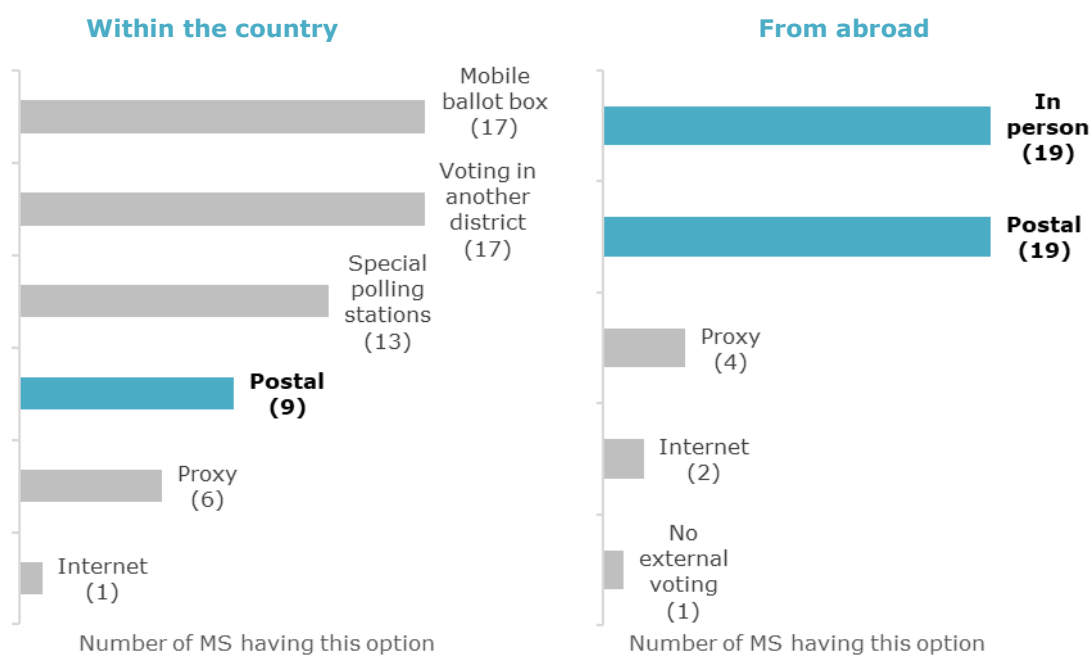
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 69.84% (Lower House, June 2016)ⁱⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 43.81%^{iv}

Remote voting options available

The only remote voting option available in Spain is postal voting. From abroad, citizens can vote by post or in person. The graph below shows the options available in Spain (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ LOREG. Art. 1; Organic law 2/1980.

ⁱⁱ LOREG. Art. 65, 66, 162, 163, 179, 180, 214; <http://www.congreso.es/wc/wc/verVideoteca?idVideo=888>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.infoelectoral.mir.es/infoelectoral/min/>

^{iv} <http://www.infoelectoral.mir.es/infoelectoral/min/>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	Within the country From abroad	From abroad: Citizens residing outside the country (CERA), citizens temporarily abroad (ERTA), members of the armed force, and merchant navy personnel. ^v From Spain: all eligible voters. Including also navy and merchant navy personnel onboard a ship, ^{vi} prisoners (unless they have been disenfranchised), ^{vii} people in hospital
In person	Consulates (deposit of the envelope)	Citizens residing outside the country (CERA) ^{viii}

Main features of each option

By post:^{ix}

- An application is needed. Voters living permanently abroad can apply online but those temporarily abroad are required to go in person to a consular office (to register as temporarily resident and request the vote). Those voting from Spain apply at a Post Office for a certificate to confirm registration in the Census.
- The Electoral Census Office sends out envelopes and ballot papers, via urgent certified mail, to the voter's address or current location (e.g. prison, harbour, etc.). In Spain, the voter needs to sign that the electoral material has been received, after showing an identification document.
- A two-envelope system is used. Voters send the envelopes via certified mail in person at the post office. Delivery is free. Votes from Spain and from citizens temporarily abroad are counted with the other votes at the polling station. Votes from residents abroad are counted by the provincial Electoral Board.

In person from abroad:^x

- No polling stations are established abroad. The same procedures of voting by post apply, but instead of mailing the envelopes, voters deposit them at the consulate after presenting their identification document. Party observers can be present in the consulate during voting.

The following table provides some figures for the use of remote voting in Spain.

Voters from abroad in the 2016 Parliamentary elections ^{xi}			
Electors CERA (Residents abroad)	1,924,021		
Voters CERA	121,227 (Turnout of 6.30%)		
Accepted postal voting requests in the 2016 Parliamentary elections ^{xii}			
Residents in Spain	1,460,128	Residents abroad (CERA)	169,658
Temporarily abroad (ERTA)	14,810	From the Ministry of Defence	2,175
With assistance	17,244	People onboard a ship	21

^v LOREG. Art. 74, 75; Royal Decree 1621/2007, Art. 5; Decree 116/1999, Art. 1.

^{vi} Royal Decree 605/1999, Art. 9.

^{vii} <http://elecciones.mir.es/generales2016/es/electores/como-votar/otros-procedimientos-de-votacion.htm>

^{viii} LOREG. Art. 75.

^{ix} Royal Decree 1621/2007, Art. 2 & 3. LOREG, Art. 72, 73, 75; Decree 116/1999, Art. 4.

<http://elecciones.mir.es/generales2016/es/electores/como-votar/otros-procedimientos-de-votacion.htm>

^x LOREG, Art. 75.

^{xi} http://www.juntaelectoralcentral.es/cs/jec/documentos/Generales_2016_ResultadosVotoCERACongreso.pdf

; http://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t44/p09/a2015_2/I0/&file=0112.px

^{xii} http://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t44/p09/a2015_2/I0/&file=0107.px

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal voting: In the past, those permanently living abroad did not need to apply to vote by post from abroad.^{xiii} Some organisations have called for the derogation of this requirement. Others have suggested reforms to extend shipment deadlines, improve delivery guarantees, and provide downloadable voting material.^{xiv}

Internet voting: There have been non-binding e-voting pilots run by the Ministry of the Interior (2003 and 2005)^{xv} and by several Autonomous Communities. A Council of State's report in 2009 included references to e-voting^{xvi} and in 2016 the Junta Electoral Central issued a report^{xvii} that, among other aspects, related to out-of-country voting, studied the possibility of introducing internet voting for people living abroad, and concluded that this would require an amendment of Article 75 of the Electoral Law (LOREG). Electoral Act amendments would require a high degree of consensus (an absolute majority in the Congress of Deputies). In 2017, a special Subcommittee for electoral reform was created in Congress.^{xviii} At the time of writing, the main political parties have not proposed any amendment to the Electoral Act with the aim of introducing e-voting.

In 2017, the Catalan government proposed in the Catalan Parliament a bill to allow internet voting for Catalans living abroad in the elections to the regional parliament, but it did not pass.^{xix} Several internet voting initiatives have been implemented within political parties, universities, local administrations and other organisations.^{xx}

^{xiii} <https://www.idea.int/node/201626>

^{xiv} <http://mareagranate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/TEXTO-COMISI%C3%93N-LOREG-propuestas-de-modificaci%C3%B3n-y-adici%C3%B3n-del-GT-Voto-de-MG.pdf>; <https://exterior.podemos.info/paso-mas-acabar-voto-rogado/>; https://catalansalmon.com/premsa/notesdepremsa/informe_sobre_el_21des_cat.pdf

^{xv} <https://bit.ly/2IUWVRm>

^{xvi} <http://www.consejo-estado.es/pdf/regimen-electoral.pdf>

^{xvii} <https://bit.ly/2IPdAFC>

^{xviii} Subcomisión para la reforma electoral <https://bit.ly/2GXYSXb>

^{xix} https://www.ara.cat/politica/llei-del-electronic-ensopega-Parlament_0_1835816453.html

^{xx} Some examples, are the party primaries for the EU Elections of Podemos (2014), the Consultation on the reform of the Diagonal Avenue in Barcelona, and the elections of students' representatives in the online university UNED.

SWEDEN

Types of elections: European Parliament; National Parliament; Regional Parliament; Members of City Councils; Referendums

Electoral system: Proportional

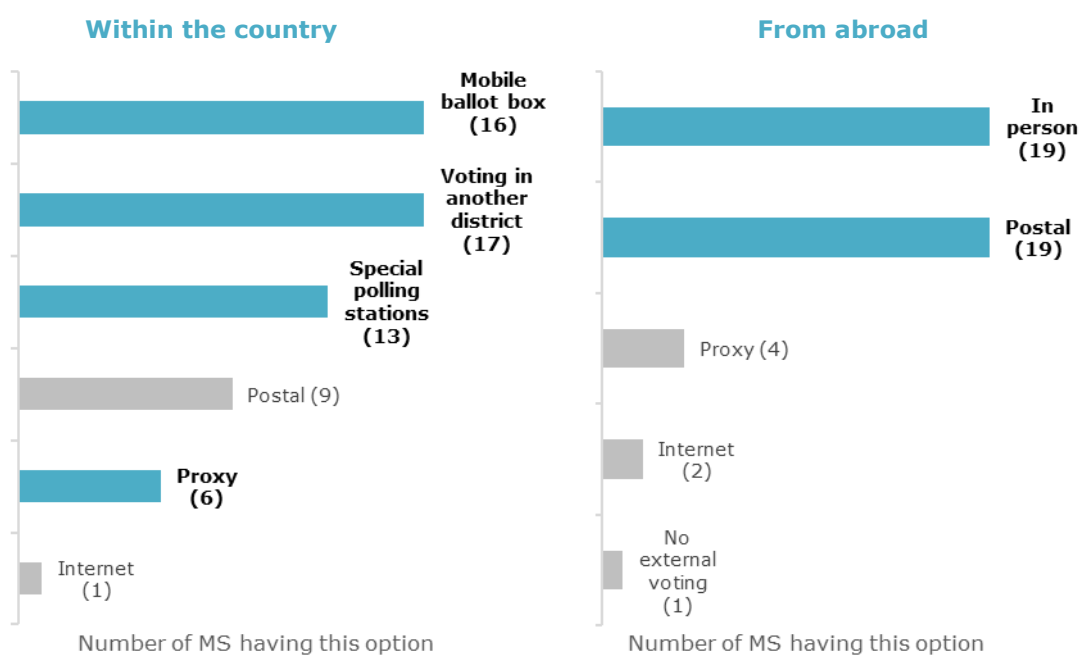
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 85.81% (2014)ⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 51.05%ⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Voters within Sweden can vote through the use of ambulant vote collectors, by post, at special advance polling stations or in another district. Voters abroad can vote by post or at embassies/consulates. The graph below shows the options available in Sweden (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://www.val.se/valresultat/riksdag-landsting-och-kommun/2014/valresultat.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.val.se/valresultat/europaparlamentet/2014/valresultat.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By proxy	Voter's location of residence	Voters unable to visit a voting location due to age, illness or disability or people in custody or jail
Mobile ballot box	Voter's location of residence	Voters unable to visit a voting location due to age, illness or disability or people in custody or jail
Voting in another district / at special advance polling stations	Hospitals, care institutions, prisons, other locations set up by a municipality	Those who are unable to visit a normal polling station due to health or other reasons or eligible voters who wish to vote in advance
In person from abroad	Embassies/consulates	Eligible voters permanently or temporarily abroad
Postal vote	From abroad	Voters abroad or on ships

Main features of each option

By mobile ballot box: ambulant vote collectors (state):

- Ambulant vote collectors are administrated by the municipalities. Some have set locations where they will go to collect votes, but individual citizens can also request this service directly.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Voters fill in the ballot as they would normally and place it in the first envelope. The first envelope is then placed within the outer envelope, together with a second signature by the vote collector and a second witness. The ambulant vote collector takes the ballot to the polling station.^{iv}

By proxy: ambulant vote collectors (personal):

- Voters can also vote by proxy, by handing their vote to another individual who takes it to the polling station.
- Relevant materials can be requested from the Election Authority, the relevant municipality, a consulate/embassy or through the Election Authority's website, which will then be delivered by post to the voter.
- Voters fill in the ballot and place it in the first envelope. The first envelope is then placed within the outer envelope, together with a signature by the proxy voter and a second witness. The proxy takes the ballot to the polling station.^v

In another district/at special advance polling stations:

- Municipalities may set up polling stations in special locations (e.g. hospitals or libraries) to facilitate voting or voting in advance from 18 days before election day.^{vi} Voters present their voting card and voting proceeds as normal.^{vii}
- The vote is then sent to the relevant polling station.^{viii} A voter can then choose to vote at their designated polling station on election day, at which point their advance vote will be declared invalid.^{ix}

ⁱⁱⁱ Interview with Swedish Election Authority.

^{iv} <https://www.val.se/svenska-valsystemet/satt-att-rosta/hjalp-vid-rostning.html>

^v <https://www.val.se/svenska-valsystemet/satt-att-rosta/hjalp-vid-rostning.html>

^{vi} <https://www.val.se/servicelankar/other-languages/english-engelska/voting-in-advance.html>

^{vii} <https://www.val.se/svenska-valsystemet/satt-att-rosta/rosta-i-fortid.html>

^{viii} Voters in Sweden vote for a party, and may write in the name of their preferred local candidate if known.

^{ix} http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/29826/ER_2013_22-Sweden-FRACIT.pdf?sequence=1

In person at embassies and consulates:

- Eligible voters living outside Sweden must register every 10 years. If registered, eligible voters will receive their voting cards 60 days before the election.
- Dates are set and polls are administered by consulates/embassies with support from the Election Authority. Votes have to be sent to Sweden by post or diplomatic mail before the election date, so different locations close voting at different dates to allow for this.^x

By post from abroad:

- Relevant materials can be requested from the Election Authority, the relevant municipality, a consulate/embassy or through the Election Authority's website, which will then be delivered by post to the voter. Generic ballots are available but if a voter wants to vote for a specific candidate of their home constituency, the voter must order the ballots from the Election Authority in advance.^{xi}
- A three-envelope system is used. Personal information (e.g. name, address) is contained within an outer envelope whereas the inner, independently sealed envelope contains the ballot. Two witnesses oversee the sealing of the second envelope. A third envelope is used for shipping. Voters are responsible for sending their ballots to the polling station in their constituency.^{xii}

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Internet voting: A committee explored internet voting between 2011 and 2013 and proposed a trial electronic election in 2018.^{xiii} There is opposition from the current government to the widespread adoption of internet voting due to security and privacy concerns. The Election Authority conducts ongoing change management and improvement work but has no current plans to implement additional remote voting solutions.^{xiv}

^x <https://www.val.se/svenska-valsystemet/satt-att-rosta/rosta-fran-utlandet.html>

^{xi} <https://www.val.se/svenska-valsystemet/satt-att-rosta/rosta-fran-utlandet.html>

^{xii} <https://www.val.se/svenska-valsystemet/satt-att-rosta/rosta-fran-utlandet.html>

^{xiii} <http://www.regeringen.se/rattsdokument/statens-offentliga-utredningar/2013/04/sou-201324/>

^{xiv} Interview with Swedish Election Authority.

UNITED KINGDOM

Types of elections: European Parliament (up to 2014); National Parliament (Lower House); Regional Parliaments (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, London); Local Authorities; Referendums; Local Mayors (selected regions only); Police and Crime Commissioners (England and Wales only)

Electoral system: Majority FPTP (Parliamentary elections, Local elections in England and Wales, Referendums); proportional (Regional, European Parliaments); various (PCCs)

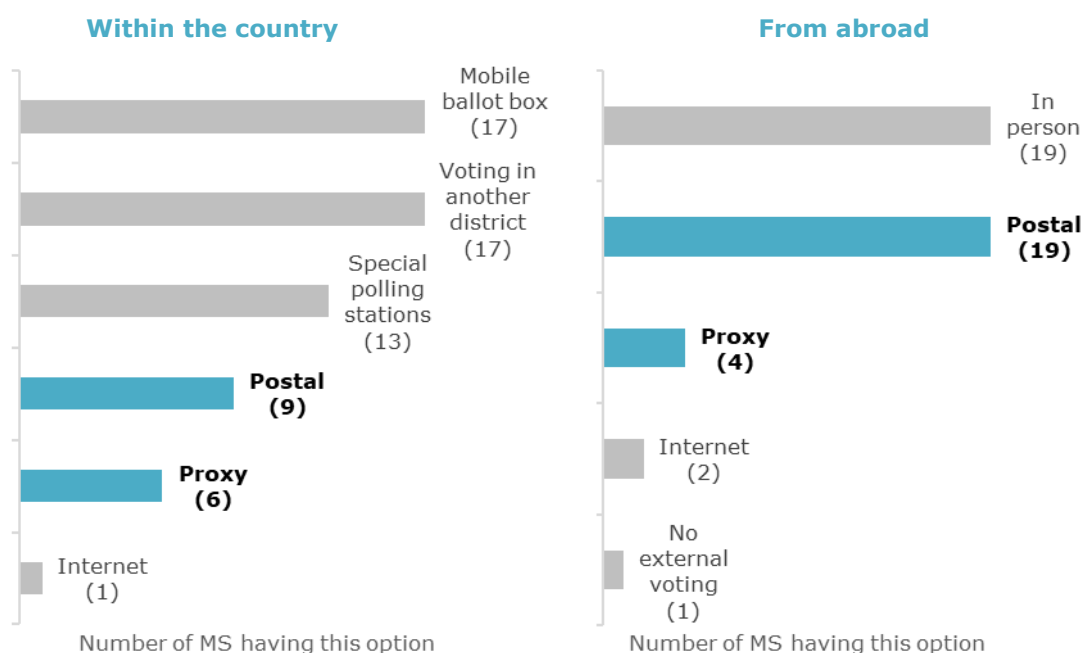
Mandatory voting: No

Turnout in the last national elections: 72.2% (2016 Referendum on leaving the European Union),ⁱ 68.8% (2017 parliamentary election)ⁱⁱ

Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament elections: 35.60%ⁱⁱⁱ

Remote voting options available

Citizens in the UK can vote by post or proxy, whether they are in the country or abroad. The graph below shows the options available in the UK (bars in turquoise) and the number of EU countries having each remote voting option (values in brackets). The table describes where people can vote using these options and who is eligible.



ⁱ <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum/electorate-and-count-information>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-research/electoral-data/electoral-data-files-and-reports>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2014-results/en/turnout.html>

Option	Where do electors vote?	Who is eligible?
By post	Within the country From abroad	Any eligible voter. ^{iv} No reason is required for postal voters in England, Wales and Scotland. ^v In Northern Ireland, evidence of inability to vote must be provided ^{vi}
By proxy	Designated polling stations, via a proxy voter	Any eligible voter who cannot attend the polling station due to work, travel, health or other reasons. ^{vii} Evidence of inability to vote must be provided ^{viii}

Main features of each option

By post:

- Voters can apply by returning paper forms to the local election registration authority. Forms can be downloaded online and are available in English or Welsh. Voters submit their date of birth and signature as voter identifiers.^{ix} The local election registration authority sends envelopes and ballot papers via regular mail to the voter's current address.
- A two-envelope system is used to guarantee the secrecy of the vote. Voters sign a postal voting statement which declares that they are the eligible voter and submit their signature and date of birth. The ballot is returned using the supplied envelope, which is pre-paid and pre-printed with the address of the relevant local election authority.^x
- The voter is responsible for returning the postal ballot to their local election office by post or hand-delivery in sufficient time for it to be included in the vote count.^{xi}
- A scanner is used to match the signature on a received postal ballot statement to that on the postal voting application, and disparities are reviewed by election personnel to determine whether the mismatch is sufficient to render the ballot invalid.^{xii} Ballots for which the postal voting statement has missing or has mismatched identifiers are rejected.

By proxy:

- Voters register using paper forms that are signed and returned to their local election registration office.^{xiii} Forms are available in English and Welsh. They must submit a declaration of eligibility and in some cases receive a signature of support (for example, from an employer or health professional). Voters can also apply for an 'emergency proxy' vote until 5.00 p.m. on election day (for example, in the case of sudden hospitalisation; not available in Northern Ireland).^{xiv}
- The proxy voter must cast their vote at the registered voter's designated polling station, even if their own designated polling station is different. Polling station

^{iv} <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/341/contents/made>

^v <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

^{vi} <http://www.eoni.org.uk/Vote/Voting-by-post-or-proxy>

^{vii} <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/341/contents/made>

^{viii} <https://www.gov.uk/apply-vote-proxy>; <http://www.eoni.org.uk/Vote/Voting-by-post-or-proxy>

^{ix} <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

^x <https://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk/postal-voting>; see example at

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/150377/Making-Your-Mark-Example-Postal-Voting-Quick-Start-Guide-Single-Transferable-Vote-Election-Scotland-English-A4.pdf

^{xi} <https://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk/postal-voting>

^{xii} Interview with UK Cabinet Office.

^{xiii} <https://www.gov.uk/apply-vote-proxy>; <http://www.eoni.org.uk/Vote/Voting-by-post-or-proxy>

^{xiv} <https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-proxy>

personnel verify proxy voter status against registration lists provided by the local election authority.

The following table provides some figures for voter turnout and postal votes in 2017.

Voter turnout in 2017 parliamentary election ^{xv}	
Population of UK eligible voters	46,836,140
Overall voter turnout	32,220,817
Number of overseas voters on the register	est. 285,198
Postal votes 2017	
Postal ballots issued	8,456,791
Postal ballots included in count	6,986,581
Postal ballots rejected due to want of a signature and/or date of birth	33,031
Postal ballots rejected due to mismatched signature and/or date of birth	87,295
Postal ballots cancelled due to postal voting statement unreturned	16,494
Postal ballot paper unreturned	43,251

Experiences, debates and future plans related to remote voting

Postal and proxy voting: Several all-postal electoral pilots, in which all eligible voters were sent postal ballots and could return them by post or by handing them into a designated ballot receiving station, were held between 2000 and 2007. These were not subsequently pursued.^{xvi}

Internet voting: Pilot trials for internet voting were held in 2003 and 2007. The resulting report by the Electoral Commission recommended that internet voting should not be implemented further until certain risks in the process could be mitigated.^{xvii} At the time of writing, a consultation on electoral reform is being undertaken by the Scottish government including on issues of internet voting.^{xviii} The Welsh government have announced plans to trial internet voting.^{xix} No similar plans are in place for national elections.^{xx}

^{xv} All figures from Electoral Commission Electoral Data File for the 2017 UK Parliament general election on 8 June 2017:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-research/electoral-data/electoral-data-files-and-reports>

^{xvi} <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02882/SN02882.pdf>

^{xvii} https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/electoral_commission_pdf_file/0015/13218/Keyfindingsandrecommendationssummarypaper_27191-20111__E__N__S__W__.pdf

^{xviii} <https://consult.gov.scot/elections/electoral-reform/>

^{xix} https://twitter.com/wgcs_localgov/status/958353668272730113

^{xx} <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-30/125792/>

Appendix D. Online survey

Target, sample and geographical coverage

The online experiment was conducted in three countries, targeting a representative sample of internet users. The criteria for selecting the countries were:

- To have countries where the option of voting by post for people from abroad is available (and others where it is not available).ⁱ
- To have both countries with high turnout in EP elections and countries with low turnout.ⁱⁱ
- To have countries with different levels of trust in institutions.ⁱⁱⁱ
- To cover different EU regions.

The figure below maps these criteria.

		EP turnout		
Trust in institutions		High (above 45)	Around EU mean (40–45)	Low (below 40)
Voting by post available (even if only in national elections)	High	Luxembourg Germany Sweden		Estonia Netherlands
	Neither/depending on the level (national or EU)	Belgium Lithuania Austria Ireland		Hungary Romania Portugal
	Low	Italy	Spain France	Slovenia Slovakia UK Latvia
Voting by post not available	High	Malta Denmark	Finland	
	Low	Greece	Cyprus	Czech Republic Poland Croatia Bulgaria

	Countries with high trust and high turnout
	Countries with high trust and low turnout
	Countries with low trust and high turnout
	Countries with low trust and low turnout

ⁱ IDEA and ACE databases, and own research during the preparation of the country fiches.

ⁱⁱ IDEA Voter turnout database.

ⁱⁱⁱ Eurobarometer 87.3.

Based on these criteria, the following three countries were selected:

- **Poland**
 - **Voting by post** from abroad is **not possible** (this option has been abandoned); voting by post from Poland is only possible for disabled people.
 - **Turnout** for the last European elections was **very low** (23.82%) – the third lowest in the EU.
 - **Trust is quite low** for both national and EU institutions (40% and 44% people tend to trust these institutions, but this is quite close to the EU mean average).
 - Eastern Europe.
- **Italy**
 - **Voting by post from abroad** is possible, but not from Italy.
 - **Turnout** for the last European elections was **high** (57.22%) – the fifth highest in the EU.
 - **Trust is very low** for both national (the second lowest) and EU institutions (the fifth lowest).
 - Southern Europe.
- **Germany**
 - **Voting by post from abroad and from within the country** is possible.
 - **Turnout** for the last European elections was **relatively high** (48.14%) – the ninth highest in the EU.
 - **Trust in national institutions is high** (the third highest). However, **trust in the European Union is lower** (47% of people tend to trust it, which represents the median).
 - Western Europe.

The survey included a sample of around 700 internet users in each country: 719 in Germany, 726 in Italy and 714 in Poland. The composition of this sample in terms of gender and age is displayed in the table below.

Country	18–24		25–54		55–74	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Germany	6%	5%	32%	30%	14%	13%
Italy	7%	6%	34%	33%	11%	9%
Poland	8%	7%	34%	34%	9%	9%

The following tables show the sample error:

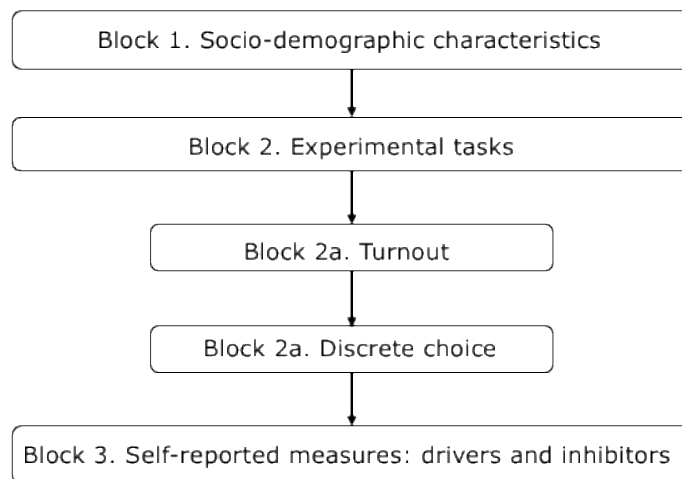
	Total	From 18 to 24 years	From 25 to 54 years	From 55 to 74 years
Germany	3.7	11.03	4.73	7.09
Italy	3.7	10.39	4.52	8.25
Poland	3.7	9.66	4.52	8.7

	Male			Female		
	From 18 to 24 years	From 25 to 54 years	From 55 to 74 years	From 18 to 24 years	From 25 to 54 years	From 55 to 74 years
Germany	15.3	6.65	9.95	15.9	6.71	10.11
Italy	14.45	6.65	11.1	14.94	6.43	12.35
Poland	13.46	6.42	12.65	13.86	6.35	11.97

Before conducting the analysis, the survey was piloted with 69 individuals (21 from Germany, 24 from Italy and 24 from Poland). The time that participants spent in replying to the questions was examined and participants that were considered as speeders were flagged. In order to be sure that we collected valid responses, these participants were replaced with new subjects.

The online questionnaires have three different blocks. Block 1 is devoted to eliciting information on the socio-demographic situation of the participant; Block 2 comprises the experimental tasks; and Block 3 contains a battery of self-reported measures related to drivers and inhibitors of remote voting. As we cannot run a real-life election to capture actual voting behaviour, the experiment focuses on intention to vote. This approach has been used in several studies (Choi & Kim 2012; Faraon et al. 2015; Kenski 2005; Nemeslaki et al. 2016; Powell et al. 2012). Block 1 also includes questions on nationality, gender, age, education, working status, place of residence and perceived socio-economic position. Some of these questions have been extracted from the Eurobarometers.^{iv}

Elections to the European Parliament



^{iv} Eurobarometer 88.1 (2017).

Turnout experiment

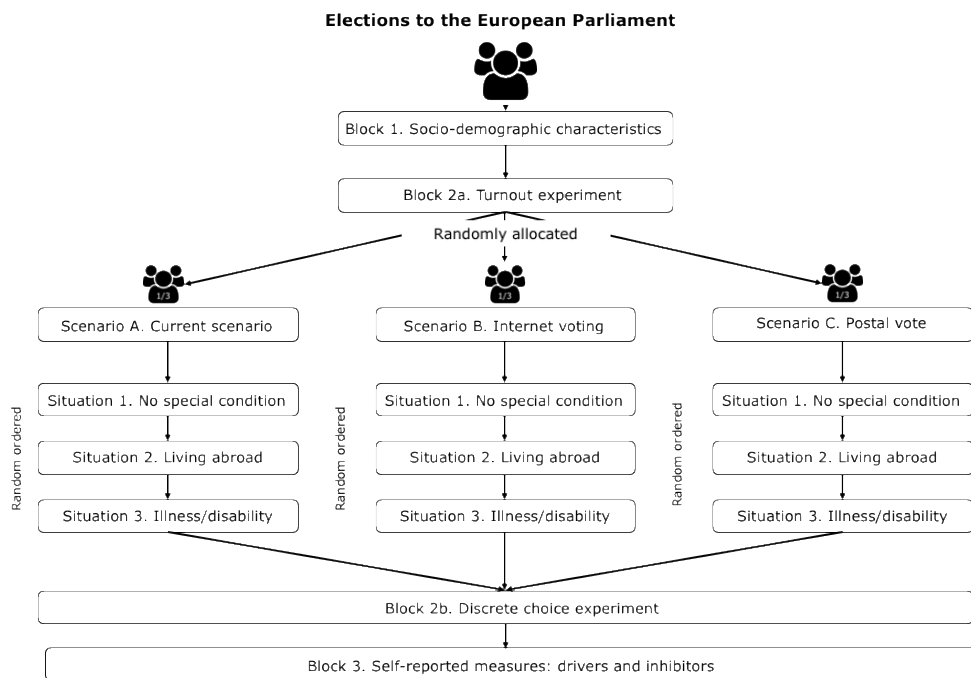
The first part of the experiment displays one of **three different scenarios** to participants. Participants are randomly allocated to either:

- Scenario A – **'current scenario'** – reflects the voting options available in each country and is considered the control group.
- Scenario B – **'internet voting'** – offers the option of voting online.
- Scenario C – **'postal vote'** – offers the option of voting by post.

Participants in each scenario are presented with **three situations** referring to voting in the **elections to the European Parliament**:

- In Situation 1 – **'standard'** – the participant is not presented with any special conditions.
- In Situation 2 – **'abroad'** – the participant is living temporarily abroad.
- In Situation 3 – **'illness/disability'** – the participant has difficulties going to the polling station due to illness or disability.

Once the participant is randomly allocated to one of the scenarios (current scenario/internet voting/postal vote), he or she will remain in this scenario for the complete experiment, meaning that the three different situations will be framed according to this assigned scenario. The following figure sketches the experimental design.



The following paragraph shows one example of a scenario presented to participants:

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living abroad. You can either travel to Germany to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, you can vote by post, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must travel to Germany and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, identity card or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority by fax or by e-mail. It must reach the authority on the 21st day before Election Day at the latest. The local authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to your address. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (you must affix sufficient postage).

To vote online you must access the website of the Federal Returning Officer (Der *Bundeswahlleiter*) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018. Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Discrete choice experiment

The second experimental task had the aim of analysing participants' preferences when using internet voting. As this analysis focuses specifically on internet voting, other voting options (e.g. in person, by post) were not included.

To understand what influences people's choices, we use an established methodology: the discrete choice experiment. This is a quantitative technique for eliciting preferences and identifying what is important in an individual's decision-making process.

The method starts with the idea that a product or a service is a bundle of attributes. Take a car, for example, where the attributes contributing to a purchase decision might be (i) number of seats, (ii) engine size and (iii) price. Each attribute may vary: (i) 2 or 4 seats; (ii) more or less than 1500ccs engine size, and (iii) three levels of price, low, medium and high. If every combination of the levels of the three attributes is available, then we have $2 \times 2 \times 3 = 12$ possible cars to choose from. Of course, real life is much more complicated – you need only look at the range of car sizes, colours, extras, prices, etc., that are out there. For the purpose of this example, let us return to the simple situation where only 12 cars are available. We take two of the possible 12 cars (combinations of attributes) and ask respondents which one of the two they prefer. We then ask them to choose between another pair of cars. Knowing their preferences for every possible pairing of the 12 cars allows us to determine the relative importance or weight of the three attributes (the number of seats, engine size and price) in their purchase decision.

Here we have applied this rationale to the voting decision-making process. As detailed in the table below, in our case the seven attributes to be tested come under the categories 'device' (computer or smartphone), 'identification' (by post, in person, or by post and SMS), and 'ease of use' (voting app or existing browser). At each step of the

experiment, two different products are presented and the participant makes explicit her or his selection of one of the two options. A critical issue in the design of a discrete choice experiment is the selection of the pairs of products to be presented.

Device (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Voting from your desktop computer • D2: Voting from your smartphone
Identification (I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I1: The personal identification codes are sent to you by post^v • I2: The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration^{vi} • I3: The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered
Ease of use (U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U1: To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program • U2: You can vote through your existing web browser

Notice that, independently of the description of attributes and levels, the structure of each experiment is the same: attribute D with two levels, attribute I with 3 levels and attribute U with 3 levels. This structure generates a 2 x 3 x 2 complete factorial design with 12 potential options, which are presented in the following table.

Alternatives			
#1	D1 – I1 – U1	#7	D2 – I1 – U1
#2	D1 – I1 – U2	#8	D2 – I1 – U2
#3	D1 – I2 – U1	#9	D2 – I2 – U1
#4	D1 – I2 – U2	#10	D2 – I2 – U2
#5	D1 – I3 – U1	#11	D2 – I3 – U1
#6	D1 – I3 – U2	#12	D2 – I3 – U2

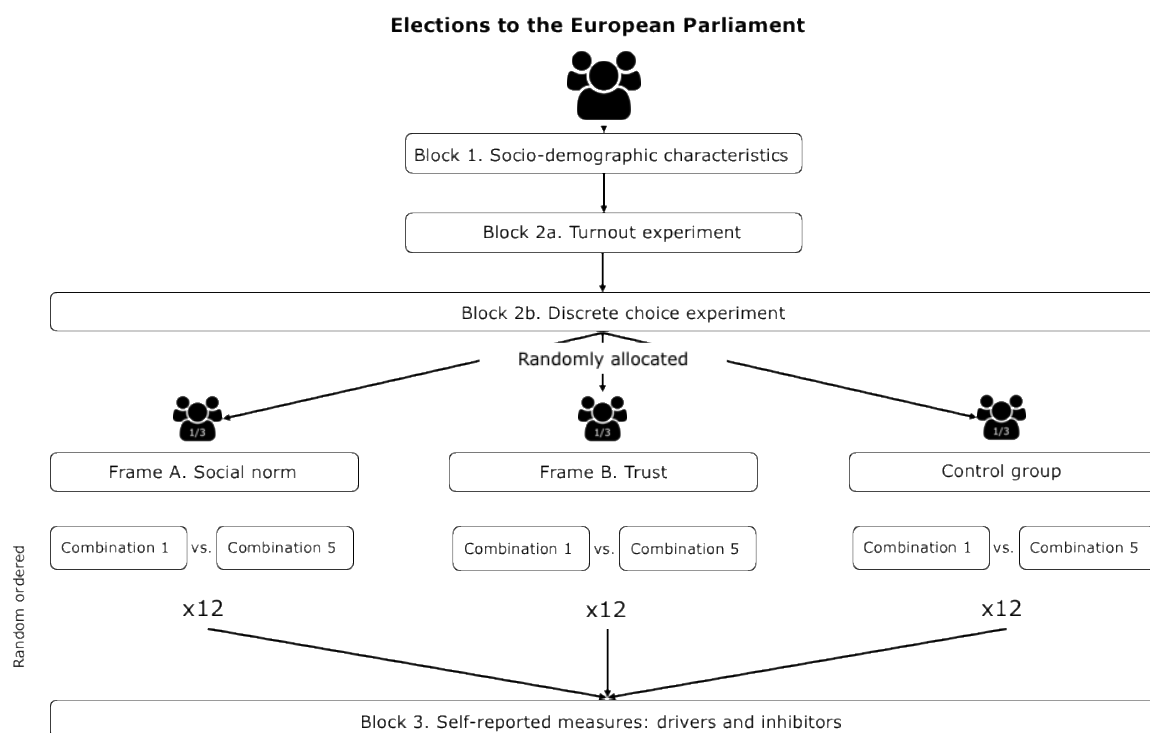
Thus, participants make binary decisions between two of these options at a time. In this case, they were also presented with an opt-out option ('I would not vote'). This allows an assessment of the effect of the framing and the different attributes on the likelihood to select an internet-voting option compared to choosing not to vote. The table below shows an example of a choice between options 1 and 10.

^v This system is in place in Geneva and Zurich (Switzerland).

^{vi} This system is in place in Neuchatel (Switzerland).

Option #1	Option #10	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p><i>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</i></p> <p><i>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</i></p>	<p>Voting from your smartphone</p> <p><i>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</i></p> <p><i>You can vote through your existing web browser</i></p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

In addition, the impact of two framing effects are tested: the fact that internet-voting systems have already been implemented in other countries (social norm), and the fact that the European Commission has certified the system (trust). In order to test the effect of these social norms, participants were randomly split in three groups: A (sentence indicating that other countries have implemented internet voting); B (sentence indicating that the European Parliament is considering this option); and C (no sentence). The figure below summarises the discrete choice design.



Self-reported measures: drivers and inhibitors of remote voting

After the experimental task described above, all the participants were asked which remote voting option they preferred under some situations (being able to go to the polling station, living abroad, having illness or disability). The remote voting options included were: voting in person in the polling station, voting by post, voting online, voting by proxy, voting in in the consulate, voting by mobile ballot box. Furthermore, a battery of questions was used, following Nemeslaki et al. (2016) and Powell et al.

(2012), that explores the agreement and disagreement of respondents on several statements related to internet voting (e.g. 'I would use an online voting system'; 'I could quickly learn how to use an online voting system'; 'I trust the internet provides enough safeguards for secure voting'). Lastly, participants were asked questions related to their interest in European affairs and the vote recall in the different levels of elections.

Questionnaire

Introduction

Thank you very much for your interest in participating in this online study, which is comprised of a series of self-administered questionnaires that you will have to compile. The survey should take you around 15 minutes to complete.

Please note all the information you provide will remain strictly confidential and will be treated following all applicable data protection regulations.

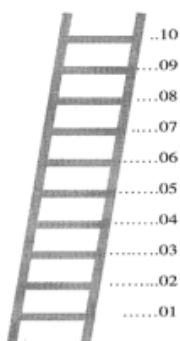
You can now start the online study by clicking on the 'NEXT' button below.

Socio-demographic characteristics

- 1) Do you have German/Italian/Polish nationality?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No (if no → end of the survey)
- 2) In which country do you live? (drop-down list)
- 3) In which region/state do you live? (drop-down list)
- 4) Gender
 - a) Man
 - b) Woman
- 5) How old are you?
- 6) What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - a) 0–11 years of education
 - b) 12 years of education (high school diploma)
 - c) Some years of university (not completed)
 - d) University degree (BA, BS)
 - e) Post-graduate degree (MA, MS, JD, MD, PhD, etc.)
- 7) What is your working status?
 - a) Employed
 - b) Unemployed
 - c) Student
 - d) Retired
 - e) Not working due to illness or disability
 - f) Another situation
- 8) Would you say you live in a...?
 - a) Rural area or village
 - b) Small or middle-sized town
 - c) Large town
 - d) Don't know

- 9) Think of this ladder^{vii} as representing where people stand in your country. At the top of the ladder are the people who are the best off – those who have the most money, the most education and the most respected jobs. At the bottom are the people who are the worst off – who have the least money, the least education and the least respected jobs or no job.

The higher up you are on this ladder, the closer you are to the people at the very top; the lower you are, the closer you are to the people at the very bottom. If you consider your current situation and compare it with all other people in your country, where would you place yourself on this ladder?



Experiment 1: Turnout

(Random allocation of participants: Scenario A 'Current situation', Scenario B '+ Internet voting', Scenario C '+ Postal vote')

Situation 1. Normal circumstances

Scenario A, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can either vote on that day and at the polling station where you are registered or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, ID or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority in person, by fax or by e-mail, at the latest on Friday before Election Day. The municipal authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to the address of residence or - upon application - to another address (e.g. holiday address). You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (the delivery is free of charge). You may also pick up the documents personally at the municipal authority and vote by postal ballot there and then.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale, where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

^{vii} Gage-Bouchard & Devine (2014); Adler & Stewart (2007).

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered, you can vote by post, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, ID or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority in person, by fax or by e-mail, at the latest on Friday before Election Day. The municipal authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to the address of residence or - upon application - to another address (e.g. holiday address). You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (the delivery is free of charge). You may also pick up the documents personally at the municipal authority and vote by postal ballot there and then.

To vote online you must access the website of the Federal Returning Officer (Der Bundeswahlleiter) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can either vote on that day and at the polling station where you are registered or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, ID or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority in person, by fax or by e-mail, at the latest on Friday before Election Day. The municipal authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to the address of residence or - upon application - to another address (e.g. holiday address). You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (the delivery is free of charge). You may also pick up the documents personally at the municipal authority and vote by postal ballot there and then.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario A, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can only vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present your ID or another identification document issued by the public administration, provided it is photographed, to the polling station commission. After this, you can exercise your right to vote and give the card to the chairman who will deposit it in the ballot box.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Can you tell us on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote for the upcoming European Parliament elections? Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can either vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present your ID or another identification document issued by the public administration, provided it is photographed, to the polling station commission. After this, you can exercise your right to vote and give the card to the chairman who will deposit it in the ballot box.

To vote online you must access the website of the Ministry of Interior (*Ministero dell'interno*) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can either vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present your ID or another identification document issued by the public administration, provided it is photographed, to the polling station commission. After this, you can exercise your right to vote and give the card to the chairman who will deposit it in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to the municipality by post, telefax, email or in person. It must reach the municipality by the 32th day prior to Election Day. The municipality will send you the voting material to your address. You must send the envelope containing your vote by post to the municipal authority (you can place the envelope in any mail box and the delivery is free of charge).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario A, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered, or in another municipality in Poland.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote in another electoral district you must submit a written application to the commune office where you want to vote, no later than 5 days prior to the Election Day. On Election Day you must go to the assigned polling station in this municipality. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered or in another municipality in Poland, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote in another electoral district you must submit a written application to the commune office where you want to vote, no later than 5 days prior to the Election Day. On Election Day you must go to the assigned polling station in this municipality. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote online you must access the website of the National Electoral Commission (*Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza*) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote" and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament. You can vote on that day at the polling station where you are registered or in another municipality in Poland, or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote in another electoral district you must submit a written application to the commune office where you want to vote, no later than 5 days prior to the Election Day. On Election Day you must go to the assigned polling station in this municipality. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 15 days before the Election Day. The municipal office will send you the electoral package at your address. You can also collect them at the municipal office. After completing the documents contained in the election package, you must send it to your electoral commission (the delivery is free of charge). You can also bring it to the municipal office or to the district's Electoral Board.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Situation 2. Voter living abroad

Scenario A, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Germany to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must travel to Germany and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, identity card or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority by fax or by e-mail. It must reach the authority on the 21st day before Election Day at the latest. The local authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to your address. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (you must affix sufficient postage).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Germany to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, you can vote by post, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must travel to Germany and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, identity card or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority by fax or by e-mail. It must reach the authority on the 21st day before Election Day at the latest. The local authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to your address. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (you must affix sufficient postage).

To vote online you must access the website of the Federal Returning Officer (Der Bundeswahlleiter) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018. Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Germany to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must travel to Germany and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must provide the electoral officer of the electoral board with a form of identification (passport, identity card or driver's license). After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority by fax or by e-mail. It must reach the authority on the 21st day before Election Day at the latest. The local authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to your address. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (you must affix sufficient postage).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario A, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Italy to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must travel to Italy and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present your ID card or another identification document issued by the public administration, provided it is photographed, to the polling station commission. After this, you can exercise your right to vote and give the card to the chairman who will deposit it in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipality by post, telefax, email or in person by another individual. It must reach the municipality by the 32th day prior to Election Day. The municipality will communicate this to the consulate who will send you the voting material to your address abroad. You must send the envelope containing your vote by post to the consulate (you can place the envelope in any mail box and the delivery is free of charge).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Italy to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, you can vote by post, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must travel to Italy and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present your ID card or another identification document issued by the public administration, provided it is photographed, to the polling station commission. After this, you can exercise your right to vote and give the card to the chairman who will deposit it in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipality by post, telefax, email or in person by another individual. It must reach the municipality by the 32th day prior to Election Day. The municipality will communicate this to the consulate who will send you the voting material to your address abroad. You must send the envelope containing your vote by post to the consulate (you can place the envelope in any mail box and the delivery is free of charge).

To vote online you must access the website of the Ministry of Interior (Ministero dell'interno) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote" and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Italy to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must travel to Italy and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present your ID card or another identification document issued by the public administration, provided it is photographed, to the polling station commission. After this, you can exercise your right to vote and give the card to the chairman who will deposit it in the ballot box.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipality by post, telefax, email or in person by another individual. It must reach the municipality by the 32th day prior to Election Day. The municipality will communicate this to the consulate who will send you the voting material to your address abroad. You must send the envelope containing your vote by post to the consulate (you can place the envelope in any mail box and the delivery is free of charge).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario A, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can either travel to Poland to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, or you can vote in person at the consulate.

To vote in person you must you must travel to Poland and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote at the consulate you must submit a request orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 3 days before the elections. On Election Day you must go to the consulate to deposit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can travel to Poland to vote in person on

Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, you can vote in person at the consulate, or you can vote online.

To vote in person you must travel to Poland and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote at the consulate you must submit a request orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 3 days before the elections. On Election Day you must go to the consulate to deposit your vote.

To vote online you must access the website of the National Electoral Commission (Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament and you are living temporarily abroad. You can travel to Poland to vote in person on Election Day at the polling station where you are registered, you can vote in person at the consulate, or you can vote by post.

To vote in person you must travel to Poland and go to the polling station where you are registered. You must present the ID card to the polling station commission. After this, you can deposit your vote in the ballot box.

To vote at the consulate you must submit a request orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 3 days before the elections. On Election Day you must go to the consulate to deposit your vote.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to the Consulate orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 18 days before the Election Day. The Consulate will send you the electoral package. You can also collect it at the Consulate. After filling in the documents, you must send them to the consulate at your own expense. You can also bring them there personally before Election Day.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions.

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Situation 3. Voter ill or with a temporary disability

Scenario A, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote but you can vote by post.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority in person, by fax or by e-mail, or by authorising another individual to submit the application in person on your behalf, at the latest on Friday before Election Day. The municipal authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to the address of residence. You can also authorize another person to collect the material personally from the city council. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (the delivery is free of charge).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote but you can vote by post or you can vote online.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority in person, by fax or by e-mail, or by authorising another individual to submit the application in person on your behalf, at the latest on Friday before Election Day. The municipal authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to the address of residence. You can also authorize another person to collect the material personally from the city council. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (the delivery is free of charge).

To vote online you must access the website of the Federal Returning Officer (Der Bundeswahlleiter) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, DE

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote but you can vote by post.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority in person, by fax or by e-mail, or by authorising another individual to submit the application in person on your behalf, at the latest on Friday before Election Day. The municipal authority will send the ballot paper with the attached postal ballot documents to the address of residence. You can also authorize another person to collect the material personally from the city council. You must send the envelope containing your vote to the municipal authority (the delivery is free of charge).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario A, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote, but you can vote from home.

To vote from home you must submit an application to your municipality, between the fortieth and the twentieth day before Election Day, together with a health certificate issued by a medical officer. Two members of the Polling Station Commission will bring the voting material to your home and will then bring your vote back to the polling station.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote, but you can vote from home or you can vote online.

To vote from home you must submit an application to your municipality, between the fortieth and the twentieth day before Election Day, together with a health certificate issued by a medical officer. Two members of the Polling Station Commission will bring the voting material to your home and will then bring your vote back to the polling station.

To vote online you must access the website of the Ministry of Interior (Ministero dell'interno) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, IT

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote, but you can vote from home or you can vote by post.

To vote from home you must submit an application to your municipality, between the fortieth and the twentieth day before Election Day, together with a health certificate issued by a medical officer. Two members of the Polling Station Commission will bring the voting material to your home and will then bring your vote back to the polling station.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to the municipal by post, telefax, email or in person by another individual. It must reach the municipality by the 32th day prior to Election Day. The municipal authority will send you the voting material to your address. You must send the envelope containing your vote by post to the municipal authority (you can place the envelope in any mail box and the delivery is free of charge).

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario A, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote, but you can vote by post or by proxy.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 15 days before the Election Day. The municipal office will send you the electoral package. After filling in the documents, you must send them to your electoral commission (the delivery is free of charge). A representative of *Poczta Polska* can come to your home to collect the envelope.

To vote by proxy you must authorise another person to cast a vote on your behalf. The power of attorney to vote must be drawn up in the presence of an employee of the commune where you are registered no later than 9 days before the Election Day.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario B, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote, but you can vote by post, by proxy, or you can vote online

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 15 days before the Election Day. The municipal office will send you the electoral package. After filling in the documents, you must send them to your electoral commission (the delivery is free of charge). A representative of *Poczta Polska* can come to your home to collect the envelope.

To vote by proxy you must authorise another person to cast a vote on your behalf. The power of attorney to vote must be drawn up in the presence of an employee of the commune where you are registered no later than 9 days before the Election Day.

To vote online you must access the website of the National Electoral Commission (Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza) and enter personal identification codes. After this, you can submit your vote.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Scenario C, PL

Imagine that on May 27th, 2018 there are elections for the European Parliament but due to temporary physical impairment you cannot go to the polling station to vote, but you can vote by post or by proxy.

To vote by post you must first submit an application to your municipal authority orally, in writing, by fax or in electronic form, no later than 15 days before the Election Day. The municipal office will send you the electoral package. After filling in the documents, you must send them to your electoral commission (the delivery is free of charge). A representative of *Poczta Polska* can come to your home to collect the envelope.

To vote by proxy you must authorise another person to cast a vote on your behalf. The power of attorney to vote must be drawn up in the presence of an employee of the commune where you are registered no later than 9 days before the Election Day.

Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10 how likely it is that you would vote in the European Parliament elections on May 27th, 2018.

Please place yourself at a point on this scale where '1' indicates that you would "definitely not vote", '10' indicates that you would "definitely vote", and the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions?

Would you vote?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know yet

Experiment 2: discrete choice

Group E (social norm)

Imagine that for the next European elections an internet voting system has been implemented. Internet voting systems are currently available in countries like Estonia and Switzerland. We will present you some pairs of options and will ask you to select the one that you would prefer to use to vote online in the next European elections. Please note that in any of these options you need to enter personal identification codes in order to vote.

Group F (EC certification)

Imagine that for the next European elections an internet voting system has been implemented, which has been certified by the European Commission. We will present you some pairs of options and will ask you to select the one that you would prefer to use to vote online in the next European elections. Please note that in any of these options you need to enter personal identification codes in order to vote.

Group G (no framing)

Imagine that for the next European elections an internet voting system has been implemented. We will present you some pairs of options and will ask you to select the one that you would prefer to use to vote online in the next European elections. Please note that in any of these options you need to enter personal identification codes in order to vote.

(There are 12 alternatives. 12 pairs of these alternatives are shown to participants. The combinations that appear are those that do not have levels repeated in the same choice set (i.e. the alternatives differ in the three sentences referring to device, identification and ease of use). The pairs of options to be compared at each point are selected at random. The order in which choice sets are presented is also selected randomly.)

Choice sets

Choice set 1

Alternative #1	Alternative #10	Opt-out
Voting online from your desktop computer	Voting online from your smartphone	I would not vote
The personal identification codes are sent to you by post	The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration	
To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program	You can vote through your existing web browser	

Choice set 2

Alternative #1	Alternative #12	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser.</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 3

Alternative #2	Alternative #9	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 4

Alternative #2	Alternative #11	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 5

Alternative #3	Alternative #8	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 6

Alternative #3	Alternative #12	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 7

Alternative #4	Alternative #7	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 8

Alternative #4	Alternative #11	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 9

Alternative #5	Alternative #8	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 10

Alternative #5	Alternative #10	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>Voting from your smartphone.</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 11

Alternative #6	Alternative #7	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Choice set 12

Alternative #6	Alternative #9	Opt-out
<p>Voting online from your desktop computer</p> <p>The personal identification codes are sent to you by post. At the time of voting an SMS will be sent to your mobile phone with an additional validation code to be entered</p> <p>You can vote through your existing web browser</p>	<p>Voting online from your smartphone</p> <p>The personal identification codes can only be obtained once you have physically identified yourself at the local administration</p> <p>To vote you need to download and install a specific app or program</p>	<p>I would not vote</p>

Self-reported measures: drivers and inhibitors of remote voting

Imagine that you live at home and can vote in person in the polling station where you are registered. If you were offered these four options to vote, which one would you prefer? Please rank the options from the most preferred (1) to the least preferred (4).

- a. Voting in person in the polling station where you are registered (using paper ballots).
- b. Voting by post (using paper ballots).
- c. Voting online.
- d. Voting by proxy (authorising another person to vote on your behalf).

Imagine that you were living abroad and you were offered these 5 options to vote, which one would you prefer? Please rank the options from the most preferred (1) to the least preferred (5).

- a. Travelling to your country of origin and voting in person in the polling station where you are registered (using paper ballots).
- b. Voting by post (using paper ballots).
- c. Voting online
- d. Voting by proxy (authorising another person living in your country of origin to vote on your behalf).
- e. Voting in a special polling station set in the consulate of the country where you are staying (using paper ballots).

Imagine that due to illness or disability, you could not go to the polling station to vote, and you were offered these 4 options to vote, which one would you prefer? Please rank the options from the most preferred (1) to the least preferred (4).

- a. Voting at home using paper ballots (i.e. accredited staff would come to your home to collect the ballot).
- b. Voting by post (using paper ballots) (authorising another person to go to the Post Office on your behalf).
- c. Voting online.
- d. Voting by proxy (authorising another person to vote on your behalf).

Could you please indicate in a 7-point scale your agreement with the statements below? Please note that (1) means *I strongly disagree*, and (7) *I strongly agree*.

- I would use an online voting system
- I could see myself using an online voting system
- I would not hesitate to use an online voting system
- An online system would be somewhat intimidating to me
- I would find online voting useful
- Using an online voting system would make voting less costly
- Online voting would make me easier to vote
- If there was an online voting system, I would be more likely to vote
- I think it is comprehensible how to use an online voting system
- I could quickly learn how to use an online voting system
- I could easily learn how to use an online voting system
- It would be easy for me to use an online voting system
- I trust the internet provides enough safeguards for secure voting
- I trust that legal and technical systems protect me at voting online
- I trust that online votes are counted accurately
- I think the internet is safe enough for secure online voting
- I think I could trust an online voting system
- I trust that nobody would tamper the online votes.
- I can trust the local public administration in general
- I trust the institutions responsible for organizing elections
- I think the Governmental administration system is trustworthy
- I trust the Governmental institutions responsible for elections
- Internet is part of my everyday life
- I regularly use e-business and media services online
- I am aware and use e-government services
- I would prefer online voting to postal voting

How much time does it take you to travel from your home to the polling station where you are registered? (in minutes)

1. Would you say that you are very interested, fairly interested, not very interested, or not at all interested, in European affairs?
 - Very interested
 - Fairly interested
 - Not very interested
 - Not at all interested
 - I don't know
2. In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?
 - Very positive
 - Fairly positive
 - Neutral
 - Fairly negative
 - Very negative
 - I don't know
3. The next European elections will be held in May–June 2019. How interested or not would you say you are in these elections?
 - Very interested
 - Fairly interested
 - Not very interested
 - Not at all interested
 - I don't know
4. Please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust the European Parliament.
 - Tend to trust
 - Tend not to trust
 - I don't know
5. Did you vote in the 2014 European elections?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't remember

(DE)

6. Did you vote in the 2017 Bundestag elections?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't remember
7. Did you vote in the last elections to the State Parliament (Landtag)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't remember
8. Did you vote in the last local elections?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't remember

(IT)

9. Did you vote in the 2018 National Parliament elections (*Elezioni politiche*)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't remember

10. Did you vote in the last Regional elections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't remember

11. Did you vote in the last local elections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't remember

(PL)

12. Did you vote in the 2015 Presidential elections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't remember

13. Did you vote in the 2015 National Parliament elections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't remember

14. Did you vote in the last local elections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't remember

Descriptive statistics

Below we provide the statistics for the 2,158 respondents to the online survey.

	0–11 years of education	High school diploma	Some years of university	University degree	Post-graduate degree
Germany	28%	39%	10%	19%	5%
Italy	8%	42%	21%	12%	17%
Poland	8%	35%	11%	18%	29%

	Employed	Unemployed	Student	Retired	Not working due to illness or disability	Another situation
Germany	53%	7%	9%	21%	7%	3%
Italy	54%	19%	11%	9%	1%	6%
Poland	66%	6%	10%	12%	4%	1%

	Rural area or village	Small or middle-sized town	Large town
Germany	22%	43%	34%
Italy	15%	58%	27%
Poland	17%	41%	43%

	Subjective social status Average (1–10) ^{viii}
Germany	5.40
Italy	5.54
Poland	5.52

Germany	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I would use an online voting system	11%	4%	4%	13%	13%	18%	37%
I could see myself using an online voting system	10%	3%	4%	10%	13%	20%	40%
I would not hesitate to use an online voting system	13%	5%	6%	15%	12%	18%	31%
An online system would be somewhat intimidating to me (opposite order) ^{ix}	6%	6%	7%	12%	11%	21%	37%

^{viii} 1 indicates the lowest position and 10 the highest.

Germany	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I would find online voting useful	10%	4%	5%	13%	11%	22%	35%
Using an online voting system would make voting less costly	11%	3%	4%	17%	14%	20%	31%
Online voting would make me easier to vote	8%	3%	4%	14%	14%	18%	39%
If there was an online voting system, I would be more likely to vote	22%	7%	7%	16%	9%	13%	26%
I think it is easy and clear how to use an online voting system	5%	2%	6%	15%	15%	21%	36%
I could quickly learn how to use an online voting system	4%	1%	2%	11%	11%	23%	48%
I could easily learn how to use an online voting system	5%	1%	2%	10%	11%	23%	47%
It would be easy for me to use an online voting system	4%	2%	3%	11%	11%	22%	48%
I trust the internet provides enough safeguards for secure voting	17%	8%	6%	16%	14%	20%	19%
I trust that legal and technical systems protect me at voting	14%	6%	5%	15%	16%	21%	22%
I trust that they count the votes accurately	12%	6%	5%	13%	15%	23%	28%
I think the internet is safe enough for secure online voting	17%	8%	7%	18%	16%	17%	17%
I think I could trust an online voting system	15%	7%	6%	16%	15%	21%	19%
I trust that nobody would tamper the online votes.	22%	9%	6%	17%	16%	16%	15%
I can trust the local public administration in general	8%	4%	6%	18%	18%	26%	21%

^{ix} This variable is presented in the opposite order to keep consistency with the other statements. Therefore, this should be read as follows: 6% strongly agree that online would be somewhat intimidating for them, and 37% strongly disagree.

Germany	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I trust the institutions responsible for organizing elections	8%	4%	8%	18%	19%	25%	20%
I think the Governmental administration system is trustworthy	10%	5%	8%	18%	20%	22%	16%
I trust the Governmental institutions responsible for elections	9%	5%	7%	17%	17%	25%	19%
Internet is part of my everyday life	3%	2%	2%	9%	11%	21%	51%
I regularly use e-business and media services online	4%	3%	3%	10%	15%	25%	41%
I am aware and use e-government services where I live	27%	12%	12%	19%	9%	10%	10%
I would prefer online voting to postal voting	18%	6%	7%	14%	10%	16%	29%

Italy	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I would use an online voting system	7%	4%	5%	13%	17%	19%	36%
I could see myself using an online voting system	6%	5%	6%	18%	17%	22%	27%
I would not hesitate to use an online voting system	6%	4%	5%	14%	17%	20%	34%
An online system would be somewhat intimidating to me (opposite order) ^x	5%	9%	14%	15%	11%	15%	33%
I would find online voting useful	5%	3%	4%	13%	19%	22%	33%
Using an online voting system would make voting less costly	7%	5%	6%	14%	16%	19%	34%
Online voting would make me easier to vote	5%	2%	5%	13%	17%	21%	37%

^x This variable is presented in the opposite order to keep consistency with the other statements. Therefore, this should be read as follows: 5% strongly agree that online would be somewhat intimidating for them, and 33% strongly disagree.

Italy	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
If there was an online voting system, I would be more likely to vote	10%	6%	7%	18%	14%	16%	30%
I think it is easy and clear how to use an online voting system	4%	4%	6%	17%	17%	22%	29%
I could quickly learn how to use an online voting system	2%	1%	3%	13%	15%	23%	43%
I could easily learn how to use an online voting system	2%	1%	3%	11%	14%	25%	44%
It would be easy for me to use an online voting system	2%	1%	3%	10%	17%	23%	44%
I trust the internet provides enough safeguards for secure voting	13%	7%	10%	17%	18%	15%	20%
I trust that legal and technical systems protect me at voting	11%	8%	9%	18%	17%	15%	21%
I trust that they count the votes accurately	11%	6%	9%	18%	18%	16%	23%
I think the internet is safe enough for secure online voting	12%	7%	10%	17%	17%	18%	19%
I think I could trust an online voting system	11%	7%	9%	17%	18%	18%	21%
I trust that nobody would tamper the online votes.	16%	10%	9%	18%	17%	15%	15%
I can trust the local public administration in general	12%	9%	12%	18%	20%	16%	13%
I trust the institutions responsible for organizing elections	11%	7%	13%	22%	23%	13%	12%
I think the Governmental administration system is trustworthy	11%	7%	14%	22%	25%	10%	10%
I trust the Governmental institutions responsible for elections	12%	8%	14%	21%	22%	13%	10%
Internet is part of my everyday life	2%	1%	3%	11%	14%	23%	46%
I regularly use e-business and media services online	4%	4%	7%	14%	22%	20%	30%
I am aware and use e-government services where I live	9%	7%	13%	19%	22%	14%	14%

Italy	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I would prefer online voting to postal voting	8%	4%	8%	14%	19%	15%	33%

Poland	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I would use an online voting system	6%	2%	5%	5%	9%	13%	60%
I could see myself using an online voting system	5%	3%	4%	7%	10%	16%	55%
I would not hesitate to use an online voting system	6%	3%	5%	7%	10%	13%	55%
An online system would be somewhat intimidating to me (opposite order) ^{xi}	7%	5%	5%	8%	7%	18%	51%
I would find online voting useful	4%	2%	4%	6%	10%	16%	59%
Using an online voting system would make voting less costly	4%	3%	3%	8%	11%	17%	54%
Online voting would make me easier to vote	4%	1%	3%	6%	8%	14%	64%
If there was an online voting system, I would be more likely to vote	7%	3%	5%	10%	8%	15%	53%
I think it is easy and clear how to use an online voting system	4%	2%	4%	8%	11%	20%	52%
I could quickly learn how to use an online voting system	3%	2%	3%	6%	8%	17%	62%
I could easily learn how to use an online voting system	3%	1%	2%	7%	7%	17%	62%
It would be easy for me to use an online voting system	3%	1%	2%	6%	8%	18%	61%
I trust the internet provides enough safeguards for secure voting	7%	3%	6%	12%	17%	23%	31%
I trust that legal and technical systems protect me at voting	5%	4%	5%	11%	17%	24%	33%

^{xi} This variable is presented in the opposite order to keep consistency with the other statements. Therefore, this should be read as follows: 7% strongly agree that online would be somewhat intimidating for them, and 51% strongly disagree.

Poland	Strongly disagree (1)	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree (7)
I trust that they count the votes accurately	4%	3%	5%	11%	17%	21%	39%
I think the internet is safe enough for secure online voting	5%	4%	7%	13%	18%	23%	30%
I think I could trust an online voting system	5%	3%	6%	9%	18%	25%	33%
I trust that nobody would tamper the online votes.	8%	6%	10%	15%	16%	20%	25%
I can trust the local public administration in general	8%	7%	10%	19%	19%	17%	22%
I trust the institutions responsible for organizing elections	10%	7%	9%	20%	21%	16%	17%
I think the Governmental administration system is trustworthy	12%	9%	11%	20%	19%	15%	13%
I trust the Governmental institutions responsible for elections	12%	10%	11%	21%	16%	16%	13%
Internet is part of my everyday life	3%	2%	3%	6%	8%	16%	63%
I regularly use e-business and media services online	4%	3%	6%	10%	15%	18%	44%
I am aware and use e-government services where I live	4%	3%	6%	12%	16%	22%	38%
I would prefer online voting to postal voting	4%	3%	5%	9%	8%	15%	56%

	Interest in European affairs			
	Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested
Germany	21%	51%	21%	7%
Italy	21%	54%	21%	4%
Poland	28%	60%	10%	2%

	Image of the European Parliament				
	Very positive	Fairly positive	Neutral	Fairly negative	Very negative
Germany	5%	25%	41%	17%	12%
Italy	7%	28%	35%	20%	10%
Poland	13%	35%	34%	12%	6%

	Interest in the European elections 2019			
	Very interested	Fairly interested	Not very interested	Not at all interested
Germany	29%	43%	20%	8%
Italy	25%	51%	21%	4%
Poland	31%	52%	13%	5%

	Trust in the European Parliament	
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust
Germany	50%	50%
Italy	50%	50%
Poland	70%	30%

	Voted in the last elections: Germany	
	Yes	No
European elections	67%	33%
National Parliament elections	88%	12%
Last elections to the State Parliament (Landtag)	80%	20%
Last local elections	74%	26%

	Voted in the last elections: Italy	
	Yes	No
European elections	80%	20%
National Parliament elections	90%	10%
Last regional elections	84%	16%
Last local elections	85%	15%

	Voted in the last elections: Poland	
	Yes	No
European elections	66%	34%
National Parliament elections	72%	28%
Last Presidential elections	79%	21%
Last local elections	74%	26%

	Preferences regarding the device	
	Desktop computer	Smartphone
Germany	71%	29%
Italy	60%	40%
Poland	64%	36%

	Preferences for obtaining the identification codes		
	By post	By post and by SMS	In Person
Germany	38%	25%	37%
Italy	35%	25%	40%
Poland	36%	27%	37%

	Preferences regarding the channel	
	Existing browser	Download app/program
Germany	56%	44%
Italy	54%	46%
Poland	58%	42%

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Member States legislation

The section below presents the main legislative sources that the research team used in preparation of the country fiches and the final study report.

Belgium

Belgian Elections Act (Kieswetboek):

http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=nl&la=N&cn=1894041230&table_name=wet

Bulgaria

Election Code (last update October 2017).

Cyprus

Law n. 141(I)/2002. Law Concerning the Civil Registry:

http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2002_1_141/full.html

Law n. 37/1959. The Law Concerning the Election of the President and Vice-President of the Republic (updated as of 18.3.2018) (in Greek and English):

http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/1959_1_37/full.html

Law n. 72/1979. The Law Concerning the Election of Members of the Parliament (updated as of 18.3.2018) (in Greek): http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/1979_1_72/full.html

Law n. 10(I)/2004. The Law Concerning the Election of Members of the European Parliament. In Greek (updated as of 18.3.2018):

http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2004_1_10/full.html

In English (updated as of 6.12.2013):

<http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/44A209D312E8DB52C2257A7900249BD7?OpenDocument>

Law n. 206/1989. The Law Concerning the Conducting of Referendums (in Greek):

http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/1989_1_206/full.html

Law n. 111/1985. The Municipalities Law (Law n. 111/1985 – updated as of 18.3.2018) (in Greek): http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/1985_1_111/full.html

The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus.

In Greek (updated as of 18.3.2018, including the Tenth Amendment of 2016):

<http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/syntagma/full.html>

In English (not updated with the latest Amendments):

[http://www.presidency.gov.cy/presidency/presidency.nsf/all/1003AEDD83EED9C7C225756F0023C6AD/\\$file/CY_Constitution.pdf](http://www.presidency.gov.cy/presidency/presidency.nsf/all/1003AEDD83EED9C7C225756F0023C6AD/$file/CY_Constitution.pdf)

Reg. n. 18/86. Regulations Concerning the Conducting of Municipality Referendums:

http://www.cylaw.org/KDP/data/1986_1_18.pdf

Germany

European Electoral Act (Europawahlgesetz [EuWG]).

European Electoral Regulations (Europawahlordnung [EuWO]).

Federal Electoral Act (Bundeswahlgesetz [BWG]).

Federal Electoral Regulations (Bundeswahlordnung [BWO]).

Denmark

The Danish Constitution (1953) (Danmarks Riges Grundlov): <http://www.grundloven.dk>

Folketing (Parliamentary) Elections Act (last update December 2017):

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=194769>

BEK No. 1136 of 18/10/2017. Bekendtgørelse om brevstemmeafgivning i kriminalforsorgens anstalter og arresthusene (Executive Order on postal voting from the Office of the Prosecutor, detention centres and prisons) (last update October 2017):

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=194183>

BEK No. 1137 of 18/10/2017. Bekendtgørelse om brevstemmeafgivning i visse boformer og boliger efter lov om social service og boliglovgivningen (Executive Order on postal voting in Certain Homes and Homes pursuant to the Act on Social Services and Housing Law) (last update October 2017):

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=194184>

BEK No. 1138 of 18/10/2017. Bekendtgørelse om brevstemmeafgivning i vælgernes hjem (Executive Order on postal voting from the voter's home) (last update October 2017): <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=194185>

BEK No. 1139 of 18/10/2017. Bekendtgørelse om brevstemmeafgivning på sygehuse (Executive order on postal voting in Hospitals) (last update October 2017):

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=194186>

Members of the European Parliament Elections Act. Consolidated Act No. 368 of 10 April 2014: <https://elections.oim.dk/media/10511/consolidated-act-ep-elections-2014.pdf>

Estonia

Riigikogu Election Act.

In Estonian: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/104072017092>

In English:

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/Riigikogu/act/504122017004/consolide>

The European Parliament Election Act.

In Estonian: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/106052016004>

In English: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/514112016002/consolide>

The Constitution of the Republic of Estonia (passed 28.06.1992; last amendment: 13.08.2015).

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