

## ★ EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

The next European elections will be held in June 2009. They are important for every European citizen. We will elect representatives who will speak for us at European level.

*Representatives are people who speak for their country. They are referred to as "Members of the European Parliament" (MEPs).*



This leaflet was prepared by Inclusion Europe and adapted by the "My opinion my vote" project.



<http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu/>

**Supported by the European Commission.**  
Directorate General for Education and Culture  
Lifelong learning programme



## YOUR VOTE COUNTS

All citizens aged 18 years and older have the right to vote...  
...regardless of their disability

In Ireland we will vote for the local and European Parliament elections on the 5th of June 2009

★ **"SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES"**



If you need to know more:  
Go to [www.myopinionmyvote.eu](http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu) where you will find easy-to-read information about the European political groups



## Who can vote?

People aged 18 or over can vote.

There are more than 50 million people with disabilities in Europe.

1 million of these are people with learning disabilities.

All people with disabilities should have the right to vote at European elections.

In order to make it possible, it may be necessary:

- To inform these people about their right to vote
- To support them in forming their own opinion
- To teach them how to vote

“My opinion my vote” (MOTE) is a Grundtvig multi-lateral project financed by the ‘Lifelong Learning Programme for European Education, Audiovisual & Culture Agency’. The project aims to empower people with learning disabilities through active citizenship and participation in political elections.

To find out more go to:

<http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu/>

**A number of downloadable resources are available on this website:**

- Manifestos of European political groups in an easy - to - read format.
- Proposals for different educational activities aimed at helping people with learning disabilities to form and express their own political opinion.

## What is the European Parliament?

The European Parliament takes part in making European laws in the areas of:

- Equal rights and non-discrimination
- Education and training
- Going to work in another country
- Agriculture
- Culture
- Protection of health
- Protection of consumers
- Research

Each country in the European Union is represented in the European Parliament.

The European Parliament decides how the money of the European Union is spent.

# SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES