



Voting Experiences Among Adults with Learning Disabilities



Easy-to-Read Summary

Introduction

My Opinion My Vote is a project about politics and people with learning disabilities.

The My Opinion My Vote project is called MOTE for short.

MOTE is an EU project.

Six countries are taking part in MOTE.

These countries are Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Malta, Spain and Hungary.

Method = what we did

The aim of the project is to increase political participation among people with learning disabilities.

Twenty people with learning disabilities were interviewed by the MOTE team in each country.

The interview was about political rights and voting, including how people decide who do vote for, what voting on Election Day is like, and the different ways to keep informed on political issues.

This report explains the results of the first interview.

Results = what we found out

In general the people showed an interest in politics.

Most of the people had voted and thought voting was important.

A lot of the people also had ideas about how to improve things in their societies.

Many of the people also talked about politics in general not connected to elections.

Most of the people in all the countries said that they did not find it difficult to vote.

Some of the people said that the ballot paper was hard to read and understand.

During the interviews people with learning disability said that the most difficult part of voting was deciding who to vote for.

People with learning disability also said that the decision was difficult because all the politicians promise the same things even though they are with different political parties.

The people said they worried about trusting politicians to keep their promises.

Most voters would probably say these things too but having a learning disability can make it especially hard to get the information and understand it.

The MOTE team understands that it is important to study this more.

Conclusion = what we have learnt

The people with learning disability did not know about much about the policies of the political parties.

Most of the people with learning disability said that it was hard to find out from politicians about issues that they had a special interest in.

The people with learning disability found it difficult get information that they could understand about politics.

One reason for this is a lack of easy to understand information about politics.

Political ideas are explained in ways that are confusing and difficult to understand.

Political parties and politicians were experienced as “all saying the same things”.

The results of the interviews tell us that we need to do something to change how difficult politics is for people with learning disabilities to understand and get involved in.

The MOTE project is making an education programme about politics and voting.

The programme is for people with learning disabilities to do

The programme hopes to help people with learning disabilities to better understand politics.

The MOTE project is also making information about voting, elections and the EU that is easy to read.

Easy to read information will have this picture



For more information about MOTE please visit this website www.myopinionmyvote.eu