# http://inclusion-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ETR-150x150.jpg**Click on a word which is in bold to read what it means.**

# What are the European elections?

In May 2019, there will be the European elections.

In the European elections  
we vote for  
the Members of the [**European Parliament**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#EP).  
We call them MEPs for short.

**Why are the European elections important?**

The European elections are very important  
for people with [**intellectual disabilities**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#IntellectualDisability)  
and their families.

MEPs make decisions about things like:

* Accessibility:  
  for example, they decide about how [**accessible**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#Accessible)  
  companies must be
* Where [**EU**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#EU) money goes to.  
  For example, so it doesn’t go to [**institutions**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#SeparateInstitutions).

The [**European Union**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#EU)  
has signed the [**UN CRPD**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#UNCRPD).

In the CRPD there are rules.

If the European Union follows these rules   
it will become a better place  
for people with disabilities.

[**MEPs**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#MEPs) check how many things the   
European Union has already done.

There are also a lot of other things   
that MEPs decide upon.

For example, how we protect our environment.  
Or the rights of workers.

So it is very important  
who will become an MEP.

**Why is it important to vote?**

When you go [**voting**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#Vote),  
you can have a say   
on who will become an MEP.

You can vote for an MEP  
who speaks up for the things   
that are important to you.

**Everyone should be able to vote!**

Often, people with intellectual disabilities  
and their family members  
don’t go voting.

There are many reasons for this:

* Some people with intellectual disabilities   
  are not allowed to vote.  
  This is wrong and must be changed.
* Some people do not vote  
  because they do not have   
  [**easy-to-read**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#ETR) information  
  about the [**elections**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#Election).
* Some people do not vote  
  because nobody helps them   
  to decide who to vote for.
* Some family members   
  of people with intellectual disabilities   
  have no time to go voting.  
  They are too busy with their care work.

**These things can be changed.**

To make things better  
we need everyone to vote  
in the [**European elections**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#EUelections).

**Why is the European Union important?**

The [**European Union**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#EU) is important for many things.

For example, so we can live in peace.

Before the European Union was founded,  
there were a lot of wars in Europe.

Now we don’t have wars anymore.

The European Union makes laws.

Every member state of the European Union  
must follow these laws.

The European Union also makes laws  
that can help people with disabilities.

For example, the [**European Accessibility Act**](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/#Accessibility%20Act).

The European Union also gives money  
so life can become better  
for everyone.