

27 ELECTIONS

SHAPE

1 EUROPEAN

PARLIAMENT

Facts and figures

Out of **3** EU institutions **1** is directly elected

The European Parliament is elected every **5** years

Elections are held in **27** EU Member States (MS)

Citizens choose who will represent them in the European Parliament

In 2019, percentage of voters participating increased to

50.6

720 MEPs to be elected in total, with fixed numbers of seats for each MS



Legal basis

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

EU Treaties and Directives - overall common framework



LAWS OF MEMBER STATES

Detailed regulations on the national electoral process



SEVERAL EUROPEAN ELECTORAL REFORMS PENDING



To enhance the European character of elections



To harmonize election rules and procedures across MS

LATEST EU-LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS WITH IMPACT ON EP ELECTIONS



Digital Services Act



Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising



AI Act

Voters

Some **373** million voters across the EU

Estimated highest shares of

FIRST-TIME VOTERS

in Belgium (9.7%), France (8%) and Germany (7%) of all eligible voters



Voting age:



AUSTRIA
BELGIUM
GERMANY
MALTA

17

GREECE

18

REST OF
EU

Eligibility and restrictions:

Different conditions and restrictions apply to the right to vote in MS, for example relating to residence requirements, legal capacity, or if serving a prison sentence.

Candidates

Age requirements:

18

IN 15
MEMBER
STATES

21

BULGARIA
CZECHIA
IRELAND
ESTONIA
CYPRUS
LITHUANIA
LATVIA
POLAND
SLOVAKIA

23

ROMANIA

25

ITALY
GREECE

Incompatibilities and restrictions to be candidates:

Applied by EU legislation and MS, including relating to residence requirements, legal capacity, if serving a prison sentence, and based on a public position held

Voters may vote for:



LISTS OF CANDIDATES
FROM POLITICAL
PARTIES



INDIVIDUAL
(INDEPENDENT)
CANDIDATES

Electoral system

720

MEPs elected according to electoral systems of EU MS

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ALL EU MS



- **6** MS - Closed List system
- **2** MS - Single Transferable Vote
- **Rest** - Preferential Voting

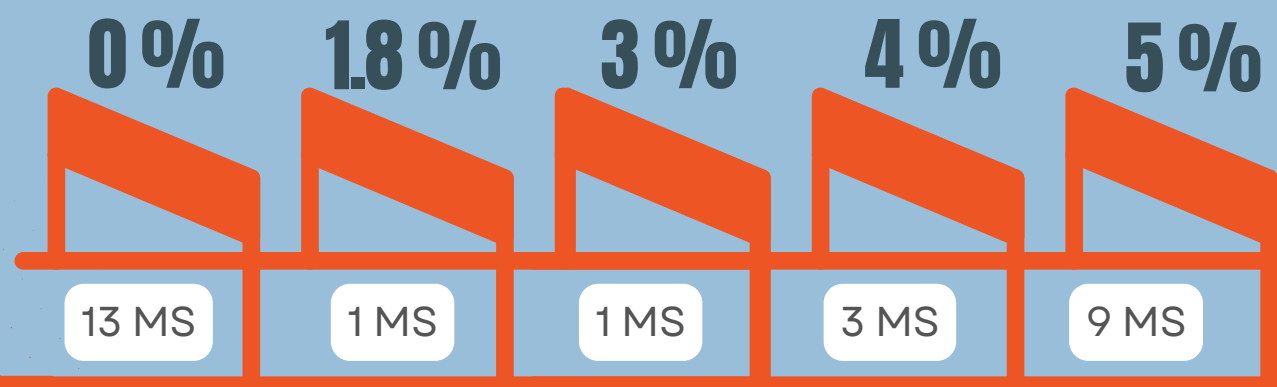
Most MS - **one constituency**
e.g. Spain



Only 4 MS - **multiple constituencies**
e.g. Italy



Electoral threshold for winning seats



DIFFERENT



ALLOCATION METHODS

- D'Hondt (majority of MS)
- Hare/Niemeyer
- Sainte-Laguë/Schepers
- Droop Quota Method



IMPACT THE STRENGTH OF REPRESENTATION OF NATIONAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Mobile EU citizens

11

MILLION MOBILE
EU CITIZENS OF
VOTING AGE



Highest percentages live in
Luxembourg, Cyprus, Malta

Highest number of EU citizens
abroad come from Romania

Entitled to



and



when residing in other
EU MS

VOTE AND BE A CANDIDATE IN WHICH COUNTRY?



EU country of residence

or



Country of citizenship



CZECHIA
IRELAND
MALTA
SLOVAKIA

Voting from abroad
not possible

CONDITIONS?



Country's rules in which you vote or stand



Registration deadlines and documents



Exercise your right in **one country only!**

Inclusion

PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION GAPS



WOMEN

> half of EU population

37% of all candidates in 2019

29.9% of current MEPs



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

~15% of EU population

4 MEPs with disabilities in 2019

18 MS require accessible polling premises



YOUTH

~17% of electorate

6 MEPs elected in 2019

current average MEP age 53 years



NATIONAL MINORITIES

~10% of EU population

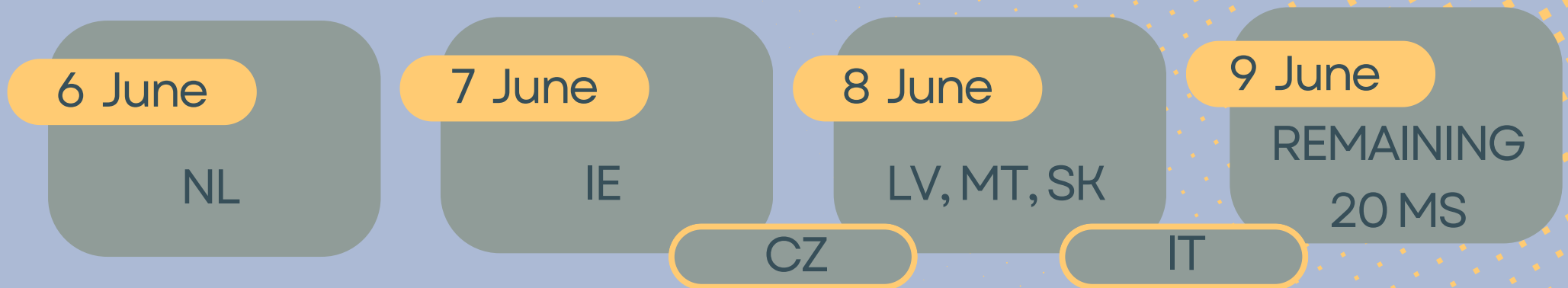
5% of MEPs in 2019

recognized minorities in half of MS

HOW TO DISMANTLE BARRIERS?

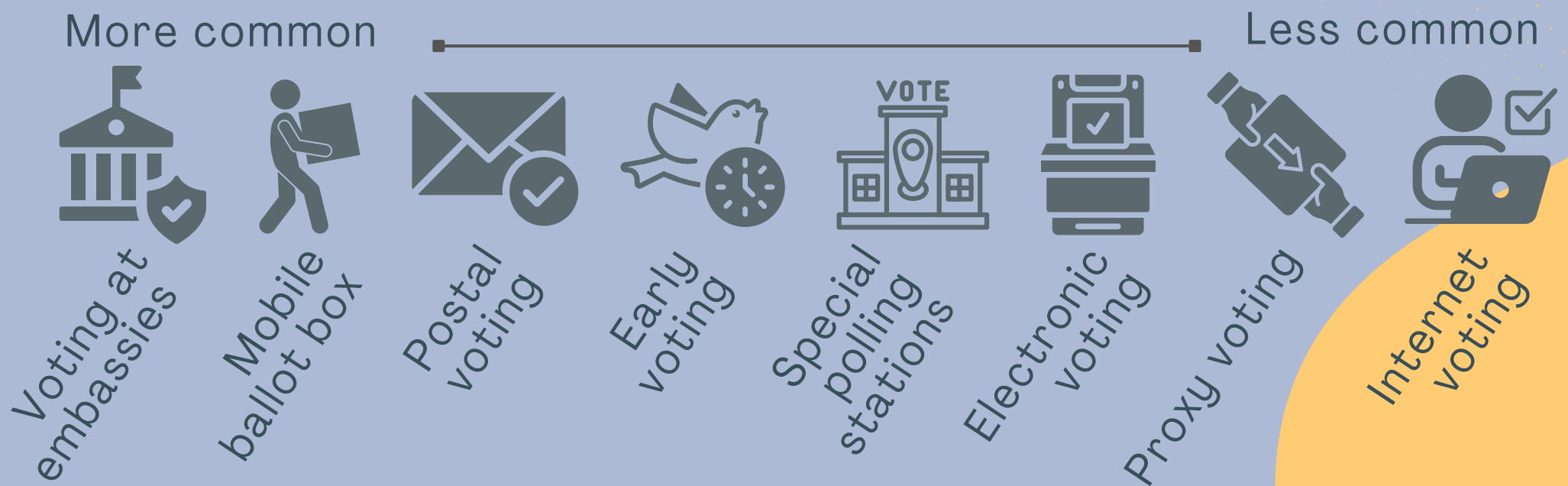
- ☀ Quotas
- ☀ Voluntary measures and incentives to political parties
- ☀ Ensuring favorable participation eligibility requirements
- ☀ Inclusive and accessible electoral process

Voting and results



COMPULSORY VOTING in 4 MS (BE, BG, GR, LU)

ALTERNATIVE VOTING METHODS IN-COUNTRY AND ABROAD



ELECTION RESULTS

- Votes counted and published in MS
- Follow aggregated results for all MS at <https://results.elections.europa.eu/>

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS?

National institutions responsible, e.g. courts. Limited EU-level mechanisms, e.g. European Commission and European Court of Justice.

Election observation

Declarations of Principles for

International Election Observation

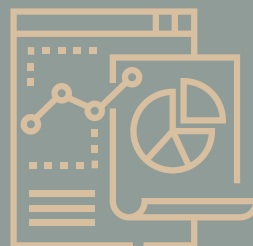
Non-partisan Observation by Citizen Organizations

IMPARTIALITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE

WHAT OBSERVERS DO



Meet, discuss, observe



Analyse



Report and recommend



Input to electoral reforms

CONDITIONS FOR OBSERVATION IN EU MS VARY

7 MS

Framework only for international observers

2 MS

Observers accredited without framework

6 MS

No provisions for observation

Legal basis and accreditation of international and citizen observers

6 MS

Observation without accreditation

1 MS

Voting and counting is public

5 MS

Formation of EU institutions

MEPs FORM POLITICAL GROUPS IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (AT LEAST 23 MEPs FROM 7 MS PER GROUP)

Most national parties also belong to political fractions at the European level, i.e. European political parties



Combined with other procedures, MEPs ELECT/APPROVE:

- President and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament
- President of the European Commission
- Commissioners of the European Commission

THROUGH MEPs EU CITIZENS CONTRIBUTE TO



EU legislative drafting



EU institutional oversight



EU budgetary management



Communication Partner for
the European Elections 2024

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