

ant_weight=0&page_manager_page=contact&page_manager_page_variant=contact-
n_route_name=contact.site_page&base_route_name=contact.site_page)



Search the FRA website

Search

 Search



[Work on rights \(/en/work-on-rights\)](/en/work-on-rights) [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights \(/en/eu-charter\)](/en/eu-charter)

[Tools \(/en/tools\)](/en/tools) [Publications and data \(/en/products/search?sort_by=published_at\)](/en/products/search?sort_by=published_at)

 Search

[Home \(/en\)](/en)

> [Mapping minimum age requirements concerning the rights of the child in the EU \(/en/publication/2017/mapping-minimum-age-requirements\)](/en/publication/2017/mapping-minimum-age-requirements)

> [Children's right to vote](#)

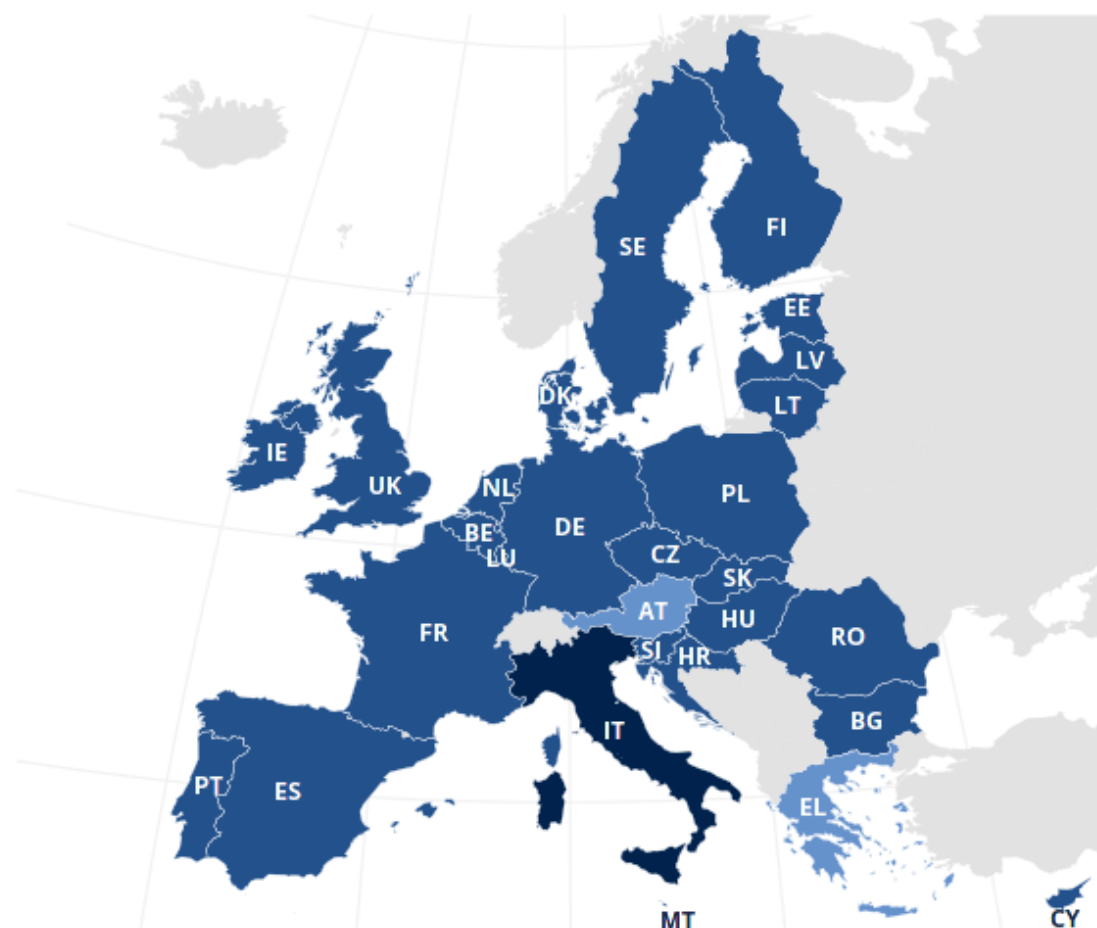
Children's right to vote

The right to vote and to stand as a candidate in elections is a fundamental political right enshrined in the constitutional order of all EU Member States, and is the key component of any democratic political system based on the principle of popular

In that context, democracy is acknowledged in EU primary law as one of the founding values of the EU (TEU, Article 2). EU primary law expressly provides that the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections is one of the core rights associated with European citizenship (TFEU, Article 20.2(b)). Electoral rights for the European Parliament and for local elections are also enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Articles 39 and 40).

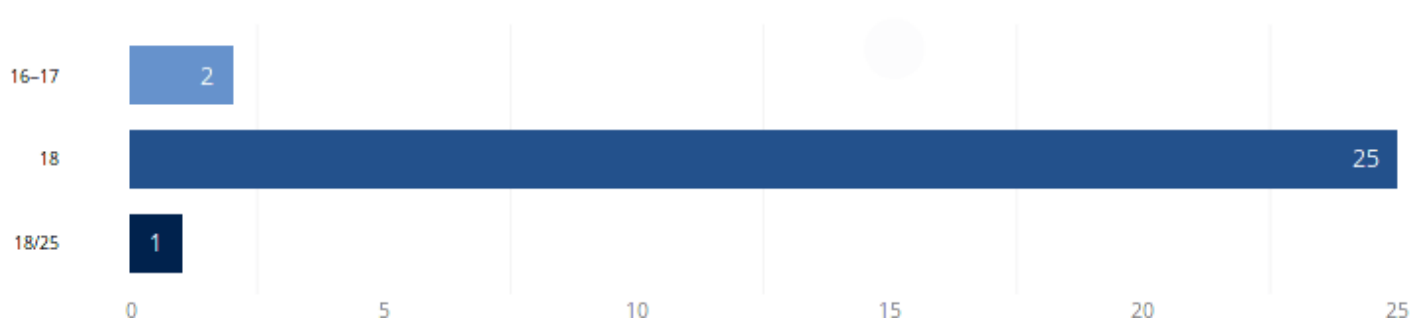
Voting is a basic aspect of political participation and democracy. By voting, people choose their representatives for governing bodies and decide on issues related to the exercise of power within their various political communities. Children are traditionally excluded from the right to vote, based on the argument that they are not mature enough to make reasoned and autonomous decisions that affect the life of the community. However, this approach has been questioned in recent years, and some Member States recognise the right to vote for persons below the age of 18.

Age at which children have the right to vote at national elections



© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries © FRA - All rights reserved - Minimum age requirements related to rights of the child in the EU, 2017
| Year : 2017
Source: FRA, <http://fra.europa.eu>

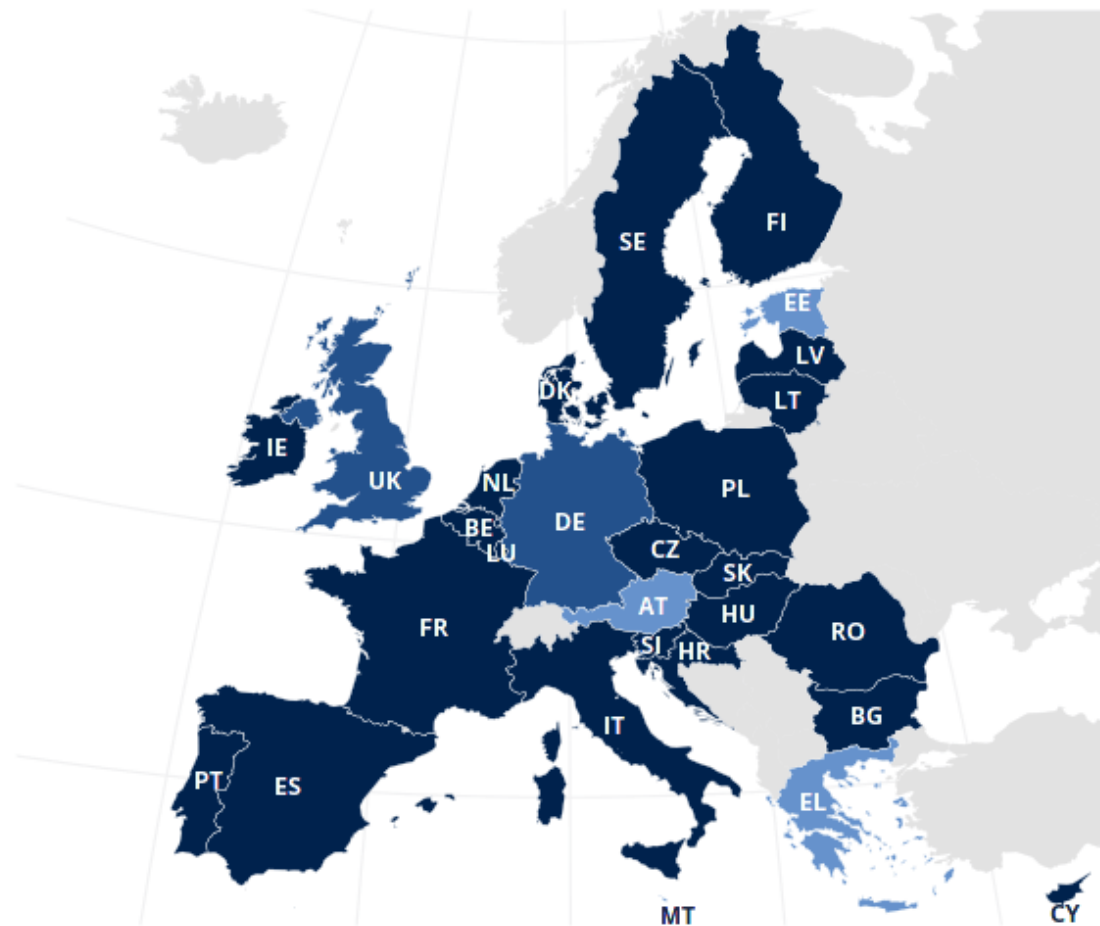
Age at which children have the right to vote at national elections



View full dataset in data explorer. ([http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?dataSource=MINAG_en_65998&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP01&)

[dataSource=MINAG_en_65998&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP01&](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?dataSource=MINAG_en_65998&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP01&)

Age at which children have the right to vote at local (Municipalities) / regional (Federal States/Provinces) elections



© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries © FRA - All rights reserved - Minimum age requirements related to rights of the child in the EU, 2017
 | Year : 2017
 Source: FRA, <http://fra.europa.eu>

Age at which children have the right to vote at local (Municipalities) / regional (Federal States/Provinces) elections

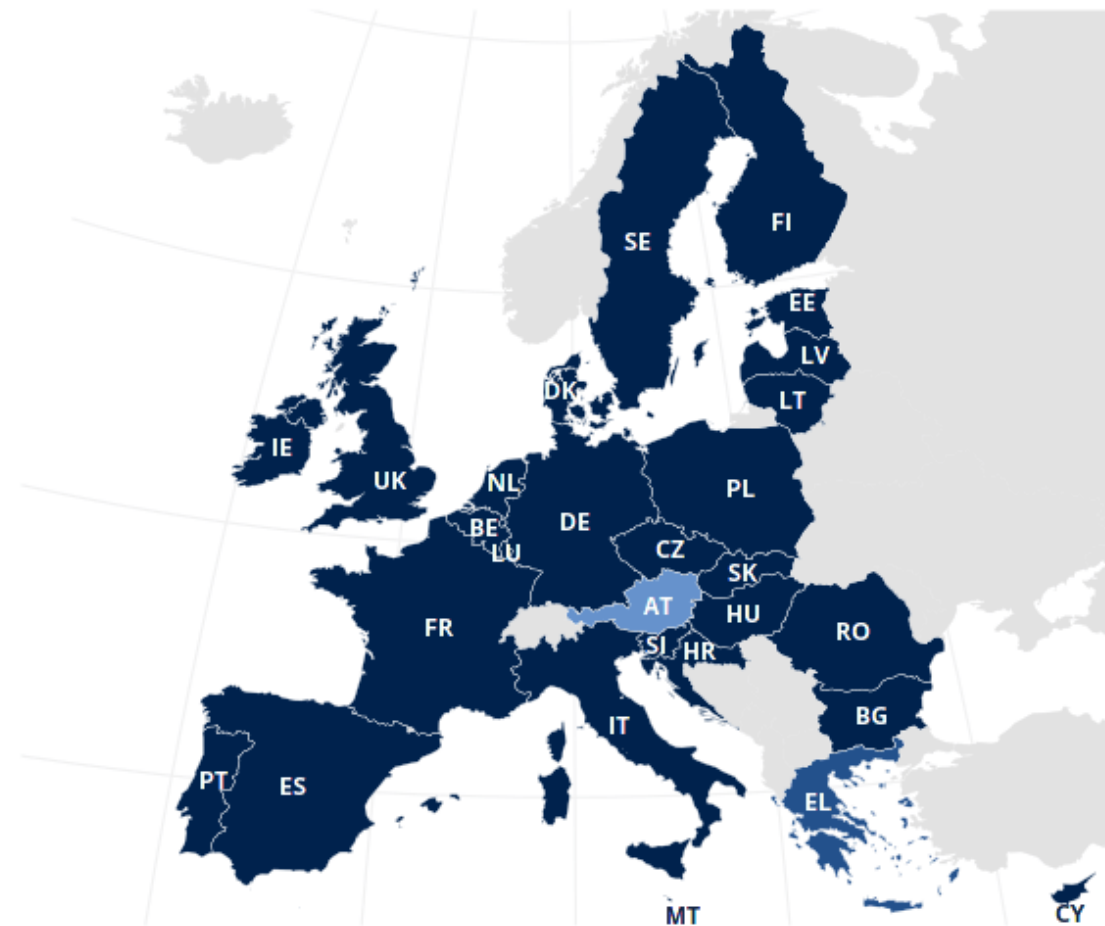


View full dataset in data explorer. (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag>)

dataSource=MINAG_en_65998&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP02&

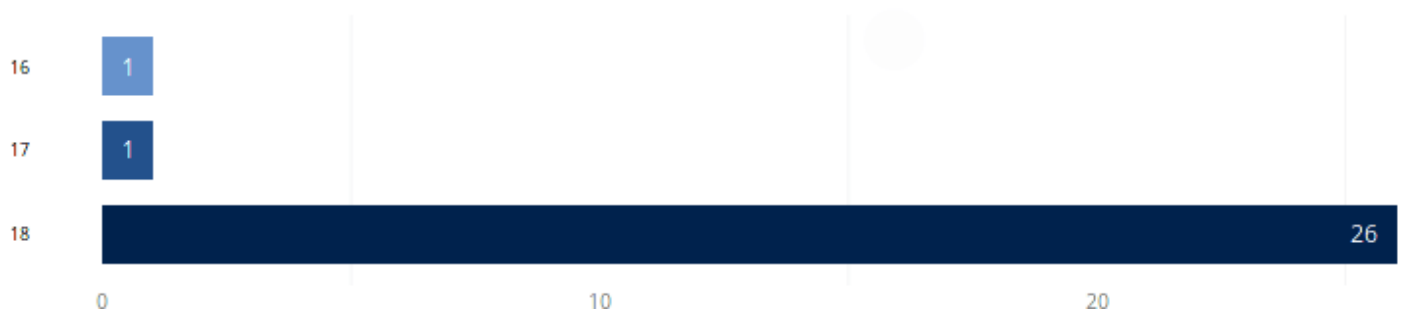


Age at which children have the right to vote at European elections



© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries © FRA - All rights reserved - Minimum age requirements related to rights of the child in the EU, 2017
| Year : 2017
Source: FRA, <http://fra.europa.eu>

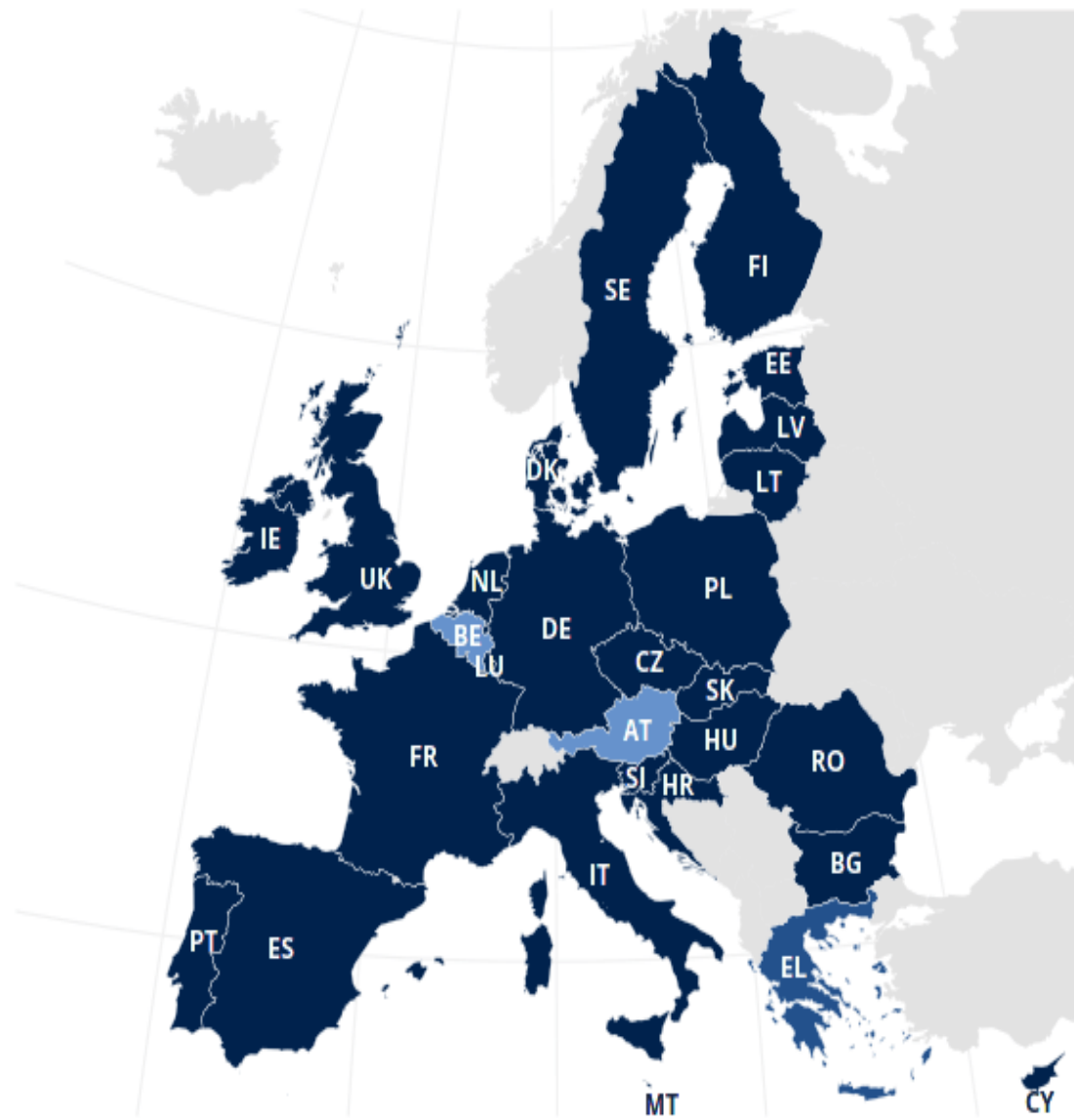
Age at which children have the right to vote at European elections



View full dataset in data explorer. (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?>

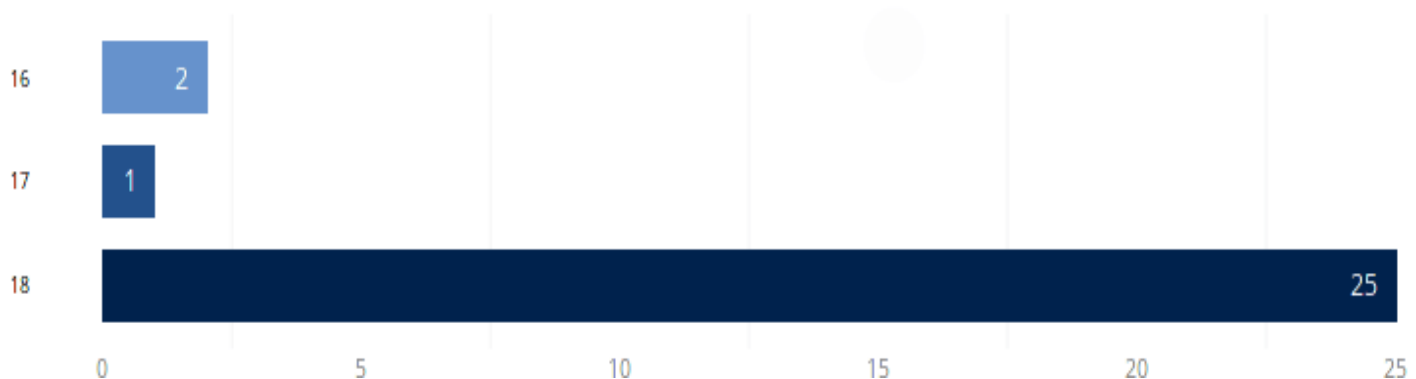
[dataSource=MINAG_en_65998&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP03&](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?dataSource=MINAG_en_65998&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP03&)

Age at which children have the right to vote at referendum or popular consultation



© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries © FRA - All rights reserved - Minimum age requirements related to rights of the child in the EU, 2017
| Year : 2017
Source: FRA, <http://fra.europa.eu>

Age at which children have the right to vote at referendum or popular consultation



View full dataset in data explorer. (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?>

[dataSource=MINAG_en_62756&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP04&](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?dataSource=MINAG_en_62756&media=png&width=740&topic=group03&question=MINAG_PP04&)

Key aspects

- In the vast majority of Member States, children do not have the right to vote in any kind of elections, since the minimum age for voting is set at 18 years. **Austria** allows children to vote in all types of elections from the age of 16 years, while **Greece** accords this right to children from the age of 17 years.
- In **Estonia** and **Malta**, children are entitled to vote in local elections from the age of 16 years. The same minimum age also applies for local and regional elections in certain regions of **Germany** (Länder) and the **United Kingdom** (Scotland). In **Belgium**, children can vote in public consultations organised at the local or regional level from the age of 16 years. On the other hand, **Italy** has set the age of 25 years as a requirement to vote for the senate.
- EU citizens residing in a Member State other than their home state have the right to vote for the European Parliament and in local elections pursuant to the same age requirements that apply for nationals. Age requirements for European Parliament elections are the same as for national general elections.

DOWNLOADS

24 April 2018

Excel file: Minimum age requirements concerning children's rights in the EU - Country data on Marriage and sexual consent; Citizenship; Political Participation; Religion; Health (513.59 KB)
(https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-status-religion-health-specific-data_en.xlsx)

English (https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-status-religion-health-specific-data_en.xlsx)

About FRA

Find out more about the Agency and its work here.

[About FRA \(/about-fra\)](/about-fra)

[EU Charter of](#)

[Fundamental Rights \(/eu-charter\)](/eu-charter)

Get in touch



**European Union
Agency for
Fundamental Rights**
Schwarzenbergplatz 11
A-1040 Vienna, Austria



[Contact us \(/en/contact\)](/en/contact)