



Welcome to the fifth edition of the Pirate Times!

This edition begins with an update on the Pirates in Greece who started with direct democracy in their party and set sail for the future.

Also the Swedish Pirates finished their annual fall meeting and made some important decisions. Furthermore we have good news from Slovenia, the party there is now officially registered. In Germany the Pirates in Lower Saxony started a controversial campaign. This weekend also holds a lot of pirate events.

There are general assemblies in Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands and regional elections in Catalonia. There will also be a new Pirate Party founded in Iceland.

So stay tuned for more information on these topics.

You can also read the Pirate Times online at our [blog](#) or for offline reading just download the PDF version: %PDF\_LINK%

The Pirate Times Team

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## A Busy Weekend for Pirates on the International Stage



The Pirate Times team is getting ready to report on a lot of Pirate activity this weekend 24-25 November 2012. Three national conferences, one election and the foundation of a new national Pirate Party.

### PP-DE National Conference

German Pirates are meeting in the city of Bochum in North Rhine-Westphalia ([Agenda in German](#)). They have a lot to achieve as the party is flagging in the polls and facing national elections in less than a year. At least four members from the Pirate Times team will be on place there reporting back to you.

### PP-NL National Conference

In the neighbouring Netherlands an annual conference is also held in Utrecht. They are seeking members for the presidency and for the auditing committee. There is a statutory auditing committee and presidium required, but these organs have been empty up until now. Furthermore, the membership of the Pirate Party has grown after the [recent election](#), and thus there are more places within the Council of Members to fill. We will let you know how they get on. ([Conference details in Dutch](#))

### PP-HU First National Conference

The conference, being held in Budapest, is open and transparent to all. The Hungarian Pirates have a full two day program with workshops, elections and the all important charter. They will be meeting under the slogan "Think Different" - how different? Watch this space in the Pirate Times.

### PP-CAT Regional Elections

There is election fever in Catalonia and the Pirates are fighting an outstanding campaign if the videos in this [Youtube list](#) (with English subtitles) are anything to go by. We will let you know the results.

### PP-IS Inaugural Meeting

Last, but by no means least, is an historic event in the remote island of Iceland. Iceland has been a beacon of web freedom in recent times and now that light will be even stronger with the founding of the [Pirate Party of Iceland](#). Word has it that they will be playing "Bullshit Bingo" to entertain themselves during the, sometimes, tedious process of passing by-law after by-law. We will be telling you who the winner of that event is, as well as less important things like who has been elected to which post and how the Party will be influencing the future of the country for the better.

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Featured image CC BY-NC-SA by [crowolf](#)

Image Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/crowolf/>

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Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at November 23, 2012

## Mediagoblin: Media hosting done right



Do you share videos, sounds, pictures or 3D models? If so, you probably had to create accounts for countless sites, one for each medium. Every single one of them is run by a different private company with its own agenda and onerous user agreements that you have to trust for keeping your files online. But don't worry, this won't last. The GNU project is working for safe, free and transparent content hosting. Its new baby is named MediaGoblin.

MediaGoblin is a free software media publishing platform. Now what does that mean? If you know about Flickr, Youtube, SoundCloud and ImageShack, you can understand MediaGoblin as a combination of all these and more. A server running MediaGoblin lets you upload texts, videos, sounds, images and basically any media type you want, provided that someone wrote a plugin to support it. The results may be surprising: lead developer Chris Webber used to make jokes about how 3D model hosting was theoretically possible, and indeed, thanks to a partnership with 3D printer maker LulzBot, the support for this medium has been recently added to MediaGoblin.

Now, for the free software part, if you are not familiar with this notion, you should definitely look at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free\\_software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_software) for a consistent introduction, but it basically boils down to three unrestricted rights for the users of a free software:

- The right to use
- The right to copy
- The right to modify

It means that everybody can host his own server, and customize it to meet his own requirements.

Current content hosting platforms are centralised, meaning that the users depend on the goodwill of the hosting company to keep their files online. So the users have to trust the company to

- Keep the site online
- Keep the files online
- Never censor user content
- Have a reasonable copyright policy, with no hidden terms, that allow them to hijack your property

This last point is by no mean trivial: see [Facebook's Statement of Rights](#) you grant us a non-exclusive, transferable, sub-licensable, royalty-free, worldwide license to use any IP content that you post on or in connection with Facebook (IP License). This IP License ends when you delete your IP content or your account unless your content has been shared with others, and they have not deleted it

MediaGoblin is not run by a company. The software is free, so as we have seen, everybody can reuse it or modify it and run his own server. And the servers running MediaGoblin can connect between themselves, to create federations of servers, sharing contents between themselves and ensuring that if one server goes down, the data will still be available.

A crowdfunding campaign ran from 11 October to 11 November and gathered over 42,000 dollars to hire lead developer Chris Webber. While it did not reach its initial goal of 60,000 dollars, it is still considered a success by the community. It is still possible to donate to MediaGoblin via the FSF at <http://mediagoblin.org/pages/campaign.html>

MediaGoblin has already a few live instances running, a short list is available at

[http://wiki.mediagoblin.org/Live\\_instances](http://wiki.mediagoblin.org/Live_instances). But you can also try and run your own! The [official documentation](#) provides a quick-setup guide. So don't wait, and help Chris Webber and his team to build the media hosting system of the future!

Contact

Test site: <https://goblin.se/>

Project site: <http://www.mediagoblin.org/>

Wiki: <http://wiki.mediagoblin.org>

Featured image: CC0 Mediagoblin

Image Source: Mediagoblin's mascot: Gavroche

Written by LoÃc Grobol published at November 21, 2012

## Controversial poster campaign of the Lower Saxon Pirates



At a [press conference](#) today at 11:00 CET the Pirate Party Lower Saxony released their election program, their election video spot as well as their poster campaign to the participants of the press conference. It was held at Kulturzentrum Faust e.V., and had about 60 guests in attendance, among them a lot of press representatives.

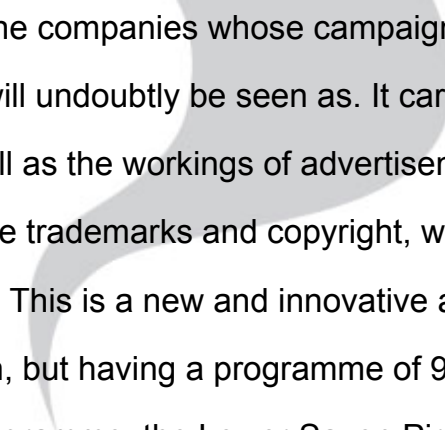
After the election victories of the state parliamentary elections in Berlin 2011 and in the state parliaments of Saarland, Schleswig-Holstein and North-Rhine Westfalia 2012 the Lower Saxon election 2013 will show how the public reacts to the previous work of the pirate deputies and how they presented themselves in parliament and in the focus of media. Pirate party poll results declined in the second half of this year, indicating that the Pirates may have problems getting over the 5% hurdle to make it into parliament both in Lower Saxony in January 2013 and in the German federal elections in autumn next year. The Pirates of Lower Saxony however are confident that they will make it into parliament.

After provoking a storm of exasperation, also called "shitstorm" regarding the poor quality of a previously leaked poster concept under the hashtag #plakatgate on Twitter at the end of last week, the new hashtag #ideenkopierer was introduced on Saturday to show that the **leaked posters** were a hoax, and that the actual campaign, and especially the posters, are considered extremely powerful by most **Lower Saxon pirates**. Most of them actually had the chance to see them at numerous events during the build-up of the campaign, and the fact that nobody leaked them speaks of a unified party determined to work together and make the 5%, despite of **earlier problems**. On ideenkopierer.de there was a **countdown** to Monday, 11:00 CET, the time at which the press conference starts. On the one hand there is a traditional line of posters in orange, the color of the German pirate party, prompting the voters not to trust posters but to inform themselves by reading and discussing election programmes.

More controversial, however, is the second line of posters, which remixes well known national and international brands with a Pirate twist.

The posters are described in the official press release as follows:

"The Pirate Party's poster campaign is supposed to prompt reflection [2]. The orange posters of the so-called 'Trust Line' emphasize the message: "Read Programmes, everything else is just advertisement". Pirate Party Lower Saxony does not want to sell illusions, but wants to prompt a discussion about the content of their vast program. "We do not want to offer hollow elections messages and campaign promises," says Torben Friedrich, a Pirate Party candidate for the State Parliament. "Our focus is on the content, the topics were born out of dealing with the citizens' needs which we will include in our work in parliament. We promise no gifts, we advertise for reading election programs, to obtain information and to vote."



We will be sure to report on how the companies whose campaigns have been remixed will react to the provocation these posters will undoubtedly be seen as. It caricatures the effects of poster campaigns before elections as well as the workings of advertisement in general. Additionally, it puts a renewed focus on things like trademarks and copyright, which have been at the core of Pirate politics since the beginning. This is a new and innovative approach to putting core pirate issues at the center of a campaign, but having a programme of 96 pages covering a broad range of political issues. In the programme, the Lower Saxon Pirates put an emphasis on accessibility and freedom, education, the strengthening of democracy, as well as a humane social policy.

Their [campaign's trailer can be watched here](#), even though it should be noted that it aims at the general public and a TV audience, contrary to the new [video spot](#) the Pirate Party of Catalunya released last week for their ongoing campaign, which became a big success on Youtube, but is unlikely to generate attention in traditional media.

The Pirates in Lower Saxony will campaign the next two months until the 20th of January, when the members of Landtag, as state parliaments is called, will be elected anew. It will culminate in



an election party, again at Kulturzentrum Faust e.V., where the campaign kicked off today.

Main picture of the article: CC-BY-SA 3.0 Aljoscha Rittner

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Image Source: Press conference of the lower saxon election campaign

Written by Justus RÄmeth published at November 19, 2012

## UK Pirates Get a Good Result in Manchester By-Election



The **United Kingdom Pirate Party** had a good result in the recent by-election held on 15 November 2012 in the city of Manchester. The seat in Manchester Central was left vacant after the sitting Member of Parliament, Tony Lloyd of the Labour Party, resigned to become Police and Crime Commissioner for the city.

In the **first past the post** electoral system, currently in use in the UK, the safe Labour seat was won by the labour candidate Lucy Powell. However the leader for PPUK, Loz Kaye, who stood for the Pirate Party made a good showing. With **1.9% of the vote** the Pirates received more votes than any other party standing for the constituency for the first time. The turnout was a record low 18.2% of the eligible voters participating at the polling booths.

The election result in the [words of Loz Kaye](#):

"The result of the Manchester by-election is the best parliamentary result for the Pirate Party UK with 1.9% of voters voting Pirate. This is a continuation of the positive trend in our election results, but still a disappointing one at the end of a hard fought campaign."

"I hope that it is an indication that we are taking our message out in to the areas where we live. We made the point that the internet allows businesses to employ locally and trade internationally. We have not been forceful enough in persuading voters that Labour is wrong when it comes to digital policy, the economy, civil liberties and transparency in government."

"It is clear that we need to do more to explain to voters what we stand for and to convince them that voting Pirate is a credible option. We will continue to work hard to hold our council, MPs and any elected Police and Crime Commissioner to account here in Manchester. Most importantly of all, we will be doing whatever we can to help the seventy thousand people who chose not to cast their ballot realise that they can effect change in Manchester."

Loz, a composer and musician, became active in the Pirate Party after becoming appalled that the music industry and the Musicians union were backing the [Digital Economy Act](#). He became the leader in 2010 and is an expert on civil liberties, open society and the power of technology to transform lives.

Featured image: CC-BY by [ajehals](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at November 18, 2012

## Pirate Party of Slovenia Officially Registered and Prepared for New Challenges



On the historic date of 5 November 2012, the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia officially confirmed that the Pirate Party of Slovenia is listed in the registry of Slovenian political parties. This was a last step in a long process of establishing a Pirate Party in Slovenia.

The story began on 10 June 2009, when Pirates met for the first time. After exchanging their views about copyright monopoly, freedom of information and transparency of public services, they expressed their intention to found and establish a Pirate Party in Slovenia. Unfortunately, after a few meetings, the initiative slowly died out.

Things started to evolve again in summer 2010, when a group of active Pirates started to revive the initiative. The head of this initiative was Rok Andrée who handled all the organizational and operative matters. Slowly, one after another, new people started to visit weekly meetings and some of them stayed for longer periods and have remained active to this day. Members immediately began to participate in public debates related to core pirate values and principles. The greatest success for a renewed (but not yet registered) Pirate Party of Slovenia followed on 12 March 2011, in Friedrichshafen, when it became a full member of Pirate Parties International (PP-SI [page](#) on PPI website).

The crucial year for the party was 2012. It had already started in January when there were discussions and meetings concerning ACTA (The official [release](#) about ACTA) taking place, which culminated in protests against ACTA on 4 and 12 February. After those protests, Slovenian Pirates continued with the writing of their party manifesto. Members had long and sometimes heated debates regarding this issue and finally they decided to put in program just

the basic, core Pirate topics in seven principles:

- respecting human rights
- privacy and data protection
- free and neutral Internet
- transparency of government and politics
- copyright monopoly reform
- open standards and formats
- free software



(English [translation](#) of program).

After finishing statutes in the summer of 2012, PP-SI started preparations for the constitutional convention which took place on 17 October at a well-known venue in Ljubljana, Kino ?i?ka. Participation by the supporters, who came to visit and vote in this convention, was beyond every expectation: 160 people took part ([acknowledgements](#) to all participants). The elections for key party positions went smoothly: Rok De?elak was elected President and Rok Andrée Secretary of

the Party.

A few days after the convention, all the collected constitutional signatures (over 216) were brought to Interior Ministry, which issued its confirmation on 5 November 2012 and put the Pirate Party of Slovenia on the official list of registered parties in Slovenia.

After that big step, the Pirate Party of Slovenia is ready for new challenges. There are already three issues that will occupy members in the near future: the new proposal of an Electronic Communications law, a new proposal of Copyright law and CETA.

There is a storm gathering around our ship, but we are prepared to take on this challenge!

Featured Image: CC BY SA by Matej Pušnik

Written by Matic Urbanija published at November 13, 2012

## PPSE: Decriminalising Narcotics, Separation of Church & More



The Swedish Pirate Party finished their annual fall meeting on Sunday, after more than a month working on broadening the party platform. Among the approved motions was a decriminalisation of narcotics for personal use, the separation of church and state, and an increased transparency for research.

[Pirate Times previously reported on the then upcoming meeting](#), discussing the plans to further broaden the party platform. Like most other Pirate Parties, the Swedish has until recently

focused on a slim platform, focusing primarily on copyright and privacy issues. In the spring meeting of 2012, the party started broadening to new areas including health care, education and research. This broadening escalated on PPSE's latest fall meeting.

The meeting was possibly the largest in the party's history, with 94 separate political motions voted upon, as well as the election of new board members and several other positions in the party. Among the approved motions were several almost universally accepted topics that had yet to be formalised, including copyright and privacy topics. Among the many other decisions, the meeting approved a stance for gay marriage rights, open research policies, science-based health care and a separation of church and state. The party also accepted its first stance on migration, arguing against deportation to countries where extremely poor living standards or death is a risk.

Among the more controversial topics, the party now has a stance for decriminalising narcotics for personal use, passed by 73 % approval. The decision is clear, however, that "the drugs themselves are not legalised", and that users found by police must be informed of ways to seek help. The party also approved a stance for prohibition of circumcision in Sweden, with 80 % approval.

**The party elected six new board members for the period 2013-2015.** Plux Stahre and Anton Nordenfur were re-elected, along with new members Isabelle Danielsson, C Magnus Berglund, Anders S Lindbäck and Troed Sångberg. Unfortunately the meeting resulted in one vacant post since one previously elected board member, Emil Isberg, left the board in mid-October (after the meeting started) for personal reasons. Other board members who still hold mandate until the end of 2012 are Marit Deldén, Johanna Julén, Sammy Nordström and Fredrik Strandin. Thus, including the people that have been elected for an even longer time, the 2013 board will consist of chairman Anders S Lindbäck, secretary Henrik Brändén, and board members Rick Falkvinge, Mattias Bjärnemalm, Torbjörn Wester, JP Anderson, Fredrik Holmbom, Andreas Larsson, Nathalie Ylitalo, Stella Papatotiriou, Plux Stahre, Anton Nordenfur, Isabelle Danielsson, C

Magnus Berglund and Troed Sångberg.

More details about [the decisions](#) (pdf in Swedish)

Featured image is CC BY Joe Shlabotnik.

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at November 12, 2012

## Greek Pirates Set Sail for the Future of Politics



Innovative decision-making processes have been introduced by [Greek Pirates](#) in their country. Last weekend in Athens' Cultural Centre of Grava, well known for the student occupations of the 1990's, they experienced a taste of direct democracy in the first congress of the Greek Pirate Party.

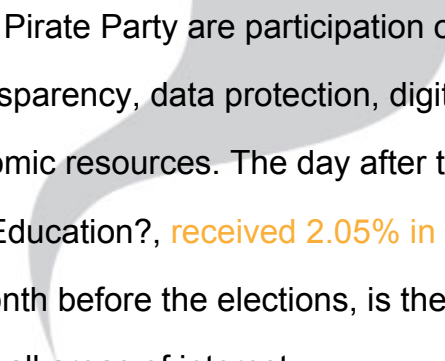
The atmosphere of the congress was enthusiastic and heartwarming. This was the first time that Pirates from all over Greece gathered, most of them digital friends who had never had the chance to meet physically. Pirates from Thessaloniki, Evia, Patras, Crete, Syros, Santorini, Corfu, Athens, Preveza, Ioannina, Piraeus, Rhodes and elsewhere, voted on 80 proposals for modification. Some of the proposals easily passed, others were rejected or caused controversy but created constructive feedback.

Using the card voting system, members of the party voted for statutes which supplied them with



free space of expression and innovation. For example, each member has the right to set up a working group, using the name of the Pirates, with only the obligation to notify the party about publications he or she will make.

The party congress ended with the election of a board and an arbitration committee. Christina Sereti ranked first in voting and was the only female candidate in the election. Christina is one of the founding members of the party and a person who has contributed greatly to the presence of pirate spirit in her homeland.



The basic principles for the Greek Pirate Party are participation of citizens in decision-making processes, direct democracy, transparency, data protection, digital freedom and the collective management of natural and economic resources. The day after the congress, the party's separate paper ballot "Pirates in Education", **received 2.05% in the school teachers' elections**. This ballot paper, drafted just a month before the elections, is the next step in the Greek Pirates's continuing penetration of all areas of interest.

"For the first time in my life I joined a party", a 69-year-old man said to the Congress Secretariat while waiting to register to vote. What is so inspiring about Pirate Parties? Perhaps the word "Pirate" and the feeling that exudes direct democracy that attracts people's attention, no matter what their age.

Featured image: Stathis Leivaditis, CC-BY

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at November 11, 2012

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