



Welcome to the sixth edition of the Pirate Times!

This edition starts with good news for the Pirate Movement. There has been a new Pirate Party founded in Iceland and the Austrian Pirates had a success at the elections in Graz. Furthermore there have been elections in Catalonia. The Pirates there sadly didn't get enough votes for a seat but their influence is still growing.

There have also been two General Assemblies, in Germany and the Netherlands. The Pirate Party Germany voted on their program and the dutch pirates elected a new core team.

We also give tips on how to make pirate allon art to use in campaigns. Further we analyse the difference between Hipsters and Pirates and finish with a overview over the pirate movemont on Twitter and Facebook.

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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Iceland has a Pirate Party



On Saturday 24 November 2012 Iceland Pirates voted the newest **Pirate Party** into existence.

PP-IS Pirate Eva Þuríðardóttir told the Pirate Times;

?We were all so excited finally the day was here, an Icelandic Pirate party the air was electric both figuratively and literally speaking, it has been such a joy and privilege to work with such a cohesive and a talented group of people, what characterises this group is how ready and willing everyone is to work together for future undertakings, we are just beginning.?

There are seven ?leadership? positions, two of which were chosen at random were Herbert Snorrason and Einar Valur Ingimundarson. There were 10 candidates running for the other five positions who were elected by the **Single Transferable Vote** electoral system: Björn Þór Jóhannesson, Halldóra Mogensen, Jason Scott and Stefán Vignir Skarphéðinsson. The Icelandic Member of Parliament Birgitta Jónsdóttir was elected as ?Captain? by consensus, meaning the count of Pirate MP's worldwide increased by one. The party's structure is to be flat meaning that the board meetings are open to all members - to quote Birgitta, ?we have no leaders.?

Eva Þuríðardóttir said: "For me being a part of an international movement is a key factor. I believe that in the not too distant future the people of this planet will unite. Borders are increasingly becoming redundant, the Internet is connecting people worldwide and I believe that "the power" will be in the hands of the people and that we will be working together in how to best manage our societies through the Internet and that everybody will have a voice."

If you are curious the Icelandic Pirate Flag bears the symbol of a fish, the stockfish and was used by [Jørgen Jørgensen](#), (Icelanders refer to Jørgensen as Jörundur hundadagakonungur: "Jørgen the dog days King") a reference to the time when the dog star is in the sky, on the flag he ordered Iceland to use in 1809 when he assumed power over the island. It is his spirit of independence and doggedness that the PP-IS wishes to emulate. "We are a group of patient people so the Pirates are here to stay.", said Bjorn Thor Jóhannesson

And who won the "Bullshit bingo"? Well in an egalitarian party everyone wins. As small and remote as Iceland seems, it looks like it will punch above its weight in the Pirate world.

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Featured image: CC-BY [Eva Þuríðardóttir](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at November 25, 2012

Austrian Pirates Electoral Success in Graz



Another electoral success for the Pirates, this time in Austria. In the local elections for the **City of Graz**, the second largest city in Austria **PP-AT** added another politician to the growing army of elected Pirates world wide. On 25. November 2012, with 2.7% of the vote the party entered the town hall for the first time with one seat. 'We have arrived and we will stay', said Philip Pacanda, the leading candidate for the Graz Pirates.

'The Pirates have come with the aim of bringing more citizen participation and transparency to the Graz municipal council. Everyone can participate through us' our program is created with grass roots democracy.' continued Pacanda and he called for the open streaming of the council meetings as a must for government in the 21st century.

When asked about possible coalition deals, he said, 'We will decide that together with the base. For such decisions we use the decision making tool 'Liquid Feedback'. That way we can quickly come to transparent, grass roots democratic and important decisions'. The make-up of the new council means that the Pirates' one seat holds more power than numerically indicated.

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

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at November 26, 2012

Stunning Rise of Electoral Influence for Pirates de Catalunya

A very good campaign that attracted the attention of people, which can be seen in their elections results as well as the greatly increased followers in social media, gave Pirates de Catalunya a rise to their electoral influence. In the early elections for local parliament held on Sunday, November 25, they got more than double of their previous percentage, 0,21% in 2010 increased

to 0,49% in this election. This increase also meant that they nearly tripled the number of votes obtained, from 6.451 to 17.942. This result was achieved with the help of more than **150 candidates in all 4 regions**.

Some more statistics from the election campaign:

- PPCAT grew the list of its members to 1000 (from 800 in September)
- Collected 16.200? for the electoral campaign
- Increased their facebook fans, to **15.000** (from 8.000)
- Increased their followers on twitter to **6.300** (from 4.500)
- Had a **big peak** in visitors to their web-site.

On the road to the elections Pirates de Catalunya faced many obstacles. As they say, "due to contradictory information and errors" from the Catalan government, all the extra parliamentary parties did not know they had to get 6.000 signatures until half of the period to collect them had passed. This meant that suddenly, a couple of weeks before the campaign started, they had a week and a half to gather the signatures needed to participate in the elections. Although the pirates succeeded with this and could finally run for elections, the government managed to disrupt the campaign preparations whilst the extra parliamentary parties had to concentrate on collecting signatures. This slowed down the pirates and left them quite exhausted for the real campaigning but 9.000 signatures were collected in 9 days.

Pirates de Catalunya had planned a campaign with mottos such as "Right to decide for everything" and "Democracy needs a bailout?". Through this they brought forward the direct participation of citizens in decision-making processes, with mechanisms such as binding referenda, direct democracy, popular initiatives and demanding full transparency in public administration.

Their **viral campaign video**, which has been the most viewed video of all parties during the

campaign period, was a remix based on the intro of 'Dragon Ball Z'. The video reached more than 130.000 views in the first two days of its release. If this was only people from Catalunya this would constitute that 2% of the Catalan population watched this video in 48 hours. The [official PPCAT campaign video](#), which was translated into several languages, also made an impression on the voters.

The posters had a comprehensive message, part of them inspired by the [recent campaign](#) in Germany. This shows how communication between pirate parties strengthen the pirate movement. The Catalan pirates keep a close watch on other Pirate Parties. As they mentioned to Pirate Times, they look at the successes seeking inspiration but also at other mistakes to avoid repeating them.

The main feature of Catalunya's elections this year was the question about being 'for or against' the independence of Catalunya, which made it more like a referendum instead of a normal election, because of this the participation was the highest since 1980. Most people voted with this perspective of autonomy in mind and did not consider parties lacking a stance 'for or against' independence. The CiU, the governmental party, lost 12 seats ending up with 50 seats in the 135-seat regional parliament and can not form a government of self-reliance. Now it has to talk with the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) which doubled its number of seats or the Socialist Party (PSC) which ranked 3rd. The [full list of results](#).

THOUGHTS ON THE ELECTION FROM PIRATES DE CATALUNYA

Pirate Times talked with Kenneth Peiruzza, official spokesperson and Muriel Rovira Esteva, international coordinator of Pirates de Catalunya about the elections, their campaign and their thoughts about issues, such as the autonomy of Catalunya and as well as the European crisis.

Pirate Times: What was it that played a main role in shaping these results?

Pirates de Catalunya: We knew from the very first moment that this was not going to be an easy election for us. Big parties and media presented the whole process as a rehearsal of a referendum about independence. Votes were expected to increase towards parties that clearly fight 'for or against' the independence of Catalunya from Spain.

Pirate Times: What is the position of PPCAT on the issue of autonomy for Catalunya?

Pirates de Catalunya: Our position on that matter is clear for us, but not easy to advertise: As promoters of direct democracy we would support a referendum that allows citizens to decide whether a Catalan state should be constituted or not, but unlike most other parties, we do not position ourselves 'for or against' the Catalan state. In fact, among our members and candidates are people that would vote in opposite directions if the referendum took place. We have been criticised for being unionists and secessionists, depending on who was making the judgement. Obviously, most people have chosen parties that do not have that internal diversity.

Pirate Times: How did Catalonians react to your electoral campaign?

Pirates de Catalunya: Before the results, we had the impression that this was our best campaign to date. We have reached a much greater portion of the population and enrolled more members than ever. Generally speaking, we received astoundingly positive feedback from online media like facebook and youtube. There, we outnumbered most parties. Also, this resulted in an unprecedented rise in donation figures. Our presence on the streets was very weak, as we felt we could not win with the huge amount of activists and advertising [funds] other parties had. Our results, taking into account the exceptional situation of these elections, are very good. We believe that those 18.000 votes are a core of convinced voters, and that we'll reap the harvest of this excellent campaign in the following elections where we'll be able to increase that number of voters more easily.

Pirate Times: Do you think that a European Pirate Party can make a difference in the fields of European Politics?

Pirates de Catalunya: We are confident that in the next European election the European Pirate Party will be able to achieve great results, given the creation of Pirate Parties in many European countries, that will be able to convey our message to millions of people, and the consolidation of the Pirates in Germany and Sweden. Besides, a European Pirate Party can effectively mobilize a large amount of citizens throughout Europe, something that any other party would have a lot of difficulty to do.

Pirate Times: What do Catalonians say about Spain's state in crisis?

Pirates de Catalunya: The general feeling seems to be that politicians and their bad management and corruption led us to the crisis, which is only going to get worse in the upcoming years, and moreover that they are now taking advantage of it as an excuse to remove social benefits and privatize public services. Some believe that with an independent Catalunya the burden would get easier to cope with, but others think that it would remain the same or become worse. There seems to be no definitive solution to the crisis in sight. Additionally, since there's no transparency in either governments it's very difficult to really know what happens with our taxes. Besides, Catalan politicians are no exception to corruption.

Pirate Times: What do Catalonian Pirates think about Europe?

Pirates de Catalunya: When we were preparing for the PPI General Assembly, and knowing that the European Pirates would be one of the important issues to be covered in that meeting, we set up a poll asking our members whether they wanted, Pirates de Catalunya, to have an active role in this project, participating and getting involved in the work groups. As you can see, the answer was **unanimous**, this is quite remarkable. If you take a look at other polls in our participation

system, you'll notice that it's very rare that all voters agree on something in such a way. Catalan Pirates look very closely at what our European pirate brothers. We look at their successes seeking inspiration but also at their mistakes to avoid repeating them. In Catalan society in general (and also the Spanish one), only now are a few voices starting to raise questioning the convenience of being part of the EU, but the population in Catalonia has been traditionally quite pro European. This is even reflected crystal clear in the claim of the massive independence demonstration on the 11th of September, which was "Catalonia, a new European state".

In the municipal elections of 2011, Pirates de Catalunya **got 2 Councillors** in Municipalities of Santa Coloma de Gramanet, with 6.65% and San Fructuoso de Bages, with 11.66%.

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at November 27, 2012

German Pirates pull through on issues despite struggle with formalities



Last weekend, the Pirate Party of Germany held their second federal party convention of 2012 in the Ruhr city of Bochum, Northrhine Westphalia. Over 2000 registered Pirates from all over the country came to discuss and vote on motions for the party manifesto. The party's working groups had improved upon the motion texts tirelessly for months - through late-night teleconferencing sessions via Mumble, the primary working mode of PPDE, as well as on several face-to-face meetings, like **EuWiKon** earlier this year. Compared to earlier Pirate conventions, the agenda was quickly agreed upon. After that, however, progress became

increasingly slower.

The very first topic was to determine a basic stance on economic policy. A showdown between two motions took the whole morning and the better part of the afternoon, only to conclude with a modularised vote that allowed most parts of one and a short version of the other. The conclusions for PPDE is that economic policy has to be based on freedom, transparency, fairness and sustainability. Classic economic metrics like GDP growth are not seen as comprehensive indicators for people's welfare, which should be the prime objective of the economy, nationally and globally. The manifesto now also calls for ecologically sustainable economics and green jobs, consumer protection and a minimum wage - the latter at least until a basic income guarantee is realized independent of employment status.

Laura Dornheim, who, together with three other pirates (Alexander Bock, André Presse and Nicolas Weinhold), had worked out the modularised motion said:

"For the first time, we have a basic manifesto on economic policy, that's the most important part. The preamble clearly states that it's political decision making which guides economic policy, not economic actors that force their agenda upon politicians. Further we believe that full employment is not a sensible goal [anymore]."

Arne Pfeilsticker and a large number of pirates from various working groups (this working group was named "Closing of Ranks") drafted the other motion. It stressed freedom, fairness and sustainability and was tailored to fit existing party values. He commented:

"We are happy that this [part of the] basic manifesto was approved by such a clear majority".

After the cumbersome process toward agreeing a position on economic issues, a motion on social inclusion led to a similar storm of procedural motions for repeated re-voting. While its overall content was widely approved, it also included controversial language by explicitly protecting "national" identity. A long discussion and two voting rounds later, it was rejected. An improved version of the motion was accepted the next morning as a position paper.

At the end of the first day, the convention's Twitter hashtag buzzed with comments on procedural issues. While a few considered the slow pace a price they would gladly pay for grassroots-democracy, many Pirates voiced discontent with, what they felt were, stalling tactics by trolls who used every conceivable loop-hole they could find in the convention's procedure rules to revisit and delay decisions.

The second day changed the situation. Several motions were put forth that concerned how the party would position itself in Europe and the rest of the world. A comprehensive draft about foreign policy was accepted into the manifesto. The main idea is to carry Pirate ideals like citizen participation and democracy out into the world - including democratisation of European and International Organisations. The text also includes provisions on free flow of information, transparency in negotiations of international agreements as well as some basic rights, which Pirate foreign policy seeks to promote. It was complemented by paragraphs from other motions that added a very clear preference on solving conflicts peacefully and postulated that foreign policy shall not only serve national interest, but the interest of all mankind. The working group on Foreign and Security Policy's Fotios Amanatides attributed the success of their complete motion to the fact:

"that we've really worked on this for months - we've continued improving it after Potsdam (Pirate conference on foreign policy in July), so it could reach the quality it ultimately had."

PPDE also adopted a motion that defined their general stance towards Europe. The party now officially recognizes and embraces the achievements of European Integration for the continent and recognizes that European Policy is no longer Foreign Policy. However, it calls for increased options for participation of citizens and transparency in European political structures. Ultimately, this shall be solved through a European constitution, which has to be worked out democratically

and through the participation of all Europeans.

PPDE's 'Working Group Europe' has already prepared proposals on how to go about this in detail, but due to time constraints none of them could be tabled at the convention. The Coordinator of the Working Group Europe, Gilles Bordelais, commented:

"[...] this shall be the foundation stone for all our program related motions on Europe. We now have a clear commitment to Europe; this is very important as it was previously missing in our manifesto. And it's not just for any kind of Europe, but our position says that the people should not only be considered, but should actively participate."

As the Pirates were becoming tired, mostly due to a long discussion on proposals that were first and foremost concerned with party statutes, an easter egg motion was put on the agenda. The humorous text asked for the party to drive forward the research on time travel. The mover suggested that it could be used to retrospectively "fix crappy party conventions". The ensuing discussion served as comic relief, as some speakers claimed to be sent to the convention from the future - supposedly to tell them how they should vote on the motion.

Ultimately, the motion did not carry, but the convention seemed more energised after this break from serious politics and continued to add paragraphs on many additional issues to their manifesto at a good working pace. Among other things, they agreed on basic positions for health and environmental policy, a reform of media-age restrictions as well as a whole bunch of proposals within the core areas of the party: transparency, anti-corruption, privacy and data protection.

There was also some discussion on how to avoid slow-paced decision making in the future, with a group of Pirates advocating for a permanent online convention. However, the issue was postponed. The German Pirates will convene again in May, where they will most likely refine some of the points agreed on last weekend as well as add more points to their manifesto.

Quotes were kindly provided by the [Krähennest Pirate Podcast](#).

Photos: CC-BY-SA 2.0 [Joachim S. Müller](#)

Image Source: CC-BY-SA Joachim S. Müller

http://www.flickr.com/photos/joachim_s_mueller/sets/72157632089373244/with/8213159511/

Written by Patrick Schiffer published at November 28, 2012

Dutch Pirates Elect New Core Team



25 November 2012 the "[Piratenpartij Nederland](#)" (Pirate Party Netherlands) convened their annual general assembly. Well attended by over 60 Pirates, they elected several positions of the [PPNL Core Team](#).

Open positions included Audit Committee, Presidium and Members Council. There was in all cases positive, neutral or negative vote for the members. Not all of the positions were filled and there had been discussions and disagreements on a number of points which were dependent on previous motions. So Pirate Party Netherlands is still searching for more people to fill the board, especially for people who want to form the Court of Appeals. At the next General Assembly, it is possible to run for office and be elected.

Based on the motion "Reserve Members of the Council of Members" (by Joeri Oudshoorn, voted on and adopted at the Annual General Meeting) reserve members were appointed to the Council of Members. During the General Assembly an amendment to the motion was tabled. This amendment added that every person reaching a simple majority, would be treated as a reserve member (of the board) to be called upon as required.

Finally there is a group working on a constructive proposal to address the problems concerning older motions and to solve them once and for all. A very early version was ready within 24 hours after having first gained approval. This was done early, at the request of some members, because of the context of transparency and crowdsourcing . The Netherlands Pirates are hopeful that the issues raised and the irregularities caused by this proposal were well based. It also proposes to fix a completely new decision structure.

All power flows back to the members through two channels: Provincial and National. Provincial is determined by each regional department. Through an interaction of different organs and by the way it is constructed, sole power lies with the members themselves. This is also the principle of the Pirate Party.

Roberto Moretti, a Pirate from Heerlen in the Dutch province of Limburg and a newly elected reserve member of the board, states:

"To follow the progress of the Pirate Party, the Uppsala Declaration will be a fundamental principle from which there can be no derogation. This is actually already ratified, but the Dutch Pirates go further than such statements by adding extra power to the requirements of the Party. Ultimately, we want to ensure that these statutes represent and best protect Pirate Principles. To protect also the very democratic heart of the party, while allowing the possibility for a board or similar body to make quick decisions when necessary."

Election results for the Core Team

Audit Committee

Robert Brink

Presidium

Robert Brink

Joeri Oudshoorn

Council of Members

David van Deijk

Michiel Dulfer

Alex Haan

Tamara van Haarlem

Steven Russchenberg

Roland Louter

Hannah Hollestelle - first reserve member

Roberto Moretti - second reserve member

Update on BREIN: 31,329 ? of 50k received until now!

Since the announcement of the appeal in the case against **BREIN** (Anti-Piracy Program of the Netherlands: "Bescherming Rechten Entertainment Industrie Nederland") the Pirate Party Netherlands received a lot of financial support through endorsements from people both inside and outside the Party. But they are not there yet: The largest legal bills have been paid, but the bottom of the treasury has come back into view. On the [website of PPNL](#) there is a passionate statement: "If we needed a motivation to make our push for an uncensored and free internet, then we will provide that result. Even people around me, including those of the Pirate Party who don't even know, the sympathy for BREIN is very low. Our moral sense of duty is therefore even bigger, and we promise you that we will make every effort to bring this to a good result. Our involvement in politics has unfortunately had to wait, but we will continue to fight tirelessly for our

ideals!"

Satirical translation of BREIN: Busy Ruining Everyone's Internet & Networking

[Donate to help the netherland Pirates in the anti-piracy case here!](#)

Pictures: CC-BY-SA Pirate Party Netherlands

Image Source: Piratenpartij Nederland

Written by Patrick Schiffer published at November 30, 2012

Corruption and Lack of Transparency Led to Unrest in Slovenia



It has been known for a long time that something was wrong in the office of Franc Kangler, the Mayor of the city of Maribor. The media constantly reported over corrupt and non-transparent practices by his administration. On Monday 26 November the situation escalated and led to unrest when thousands of people expressed their demands for the Mayor to step down.

It all started on 12 November when some people gathered in front of the Mayor's office and demanded his resignation. The next gathering, on 21 November, the crowd was larger but the demands were the same.

The reason for these demands can be found in accusations of the Mayor's involvement in corrupt and non-transparent practices during his term. The Commission for the Prevention of

Corruption issued a report, on 7 November, in which it accused Mr. Kangler of misusing his authority in the company Farmadent, which is partially owned by the municipality. He coerced the Farmadent manager to sign a contract with a certain consulting company, to employ a certain person and other corrupt practices. The Commission therefore concluded that this was a case of systematic clientelism by Mayor Kangler and other persons related to him ([the report of commission in Slovene language](#)). It was a typical case of non-transparent decision making and doing business "under the table".

The case would be just another one in long history of similar cases throughout the world if there was not a financial crisis and a special situation surrounding the city of Maribor. Until the 1990s, Maribor was an industrial town with several large factory complexes. After Slovenia gained independence in 1991, all of these large companies collapsed and suddenly there were many people left unemployed. In spite of many attempts to revive the once flourishing town, all efforts were fruitless. For more than 20 years, many people lived on the verge of poverty and were disappointed and embittered because of this. The corruption has infuriated the inhabitants of Maribor.

On Monday 26 November, thousands of people (estimates range from 6.000 to 10.000 in a town with 100.000 inhabitants) gathered at the main square to peacefully protest against the Mayor and to demand his resignation. During this peaceful protest they burned Mr. Kangler in effigy. Unfortunately, among the protesters there were also some troublemakers who threw bottles and granite cubes against the city hall building and at the police. These actions gave the police the excuse to use tear gas, and to drive the protesters away ([video](#)). There are rumours that in some cases policemen provoked protesters ([video](#)) and used excessive force. One day after the protests, Pirate Party of Slovenia issued a [statement](#) in which it supported all the claims of the protesters but also condemned the violence that erupted at the protest.

The whole situation reflects the current political situation in Slovenia where some high ranking politicians are being prosecuted ? the most notorious is the case against PM Janez Jan?a

related to suspicion of corruption ? or are under investigation ? for example, the Mayor of capital Ljubljana and leader of most powerful opposition party Zoran Jankovi?. Both of them refused to resign. The Mayor of Maribor, Franc Kangler, is acting in a similar way despite demands from people on the street and even demands from his own political party. Instead of resigning he merely went on vacation.

Like in the Arab Spring, people organized through social networks, mainly on **Facebook**. It seems now that protests will spread all over the country. There are already demands for some mayors to step down (**Ptuj, Koper, Trebnje, Novo Mesto**). There was a small protest on Tuesday in Slovenia's capital Ljubljana, and there will be another on today against **all corrupt Slovenian politicians**.

Featured image: CC BY-SA **Jumpin'Jack**

Written by Matic Urbanija published at December 1, 2012

Campaign Idea: Using Pirate Balloon Art



Everyone likes getting a present, especially children but also Pirates (who are children at heart). Winning the hearts of your fellow Pirates at conventions and children whilst campaigning is important.

?Now why should we be concerned with pleasing children??, I hear you ask.

Because we have the chance talk to their parents who, being grateful that their kids have been

distracted for a while, will be more willing to listen to the Pirate message. Not to mention that the children will grow up to be voters and potential Pirates.

One of the best weapons in the pirate's arsenal of weapons was the sword. For the Pirate movement today the balloon sword is still an important asset. The sword is easy to make (with a few twists from an experienced hand one can be made in less than a minute). For those of a more peaceful temperament other appreciated objects such as a parrot and a hat can be made (especially for the smallest kids).

Below are links to youtube videos that will show you how to make the sword, parrot and hat. But don't restrict yourself to only these. You can make almost anything out of balloons up to and including pirateships. Although, in my experience, the sword is by far the most popular.

Sword Parrot Hat

As children tend to come in groups it is advisable to make some in advance. If you are working outdoors then you will find the wind to be a tricky enemy. Even the slightest gust can send one floating off down the street. If you have a pavilion you can store them between the struts and the fabric as well as far away from the strong sunshine. Another idea is to use an old duvet cover to protect them in. Under-inflate the balloons a bit, as this will reduce the number of popped balloons. A loud *bang* can bring even the bravest children to tears. Another useful tip is to tie a small piece of paper with contact information at the tied end of the balloon for the benefit of adults and older siblings. Make sure to clean up after yourself, including any parts left from popped balloons.

If you are looking for a source for your balloons in Europe and want to help your fellow Pirates then you might want to look at the [shop](#) run for the German Pirate Party. Please note that at the time of writing this article (25 November 2012) the shop is still in beta test phase and in German.

Featured image: CC-BY Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at December 2, 2012

Hipsters vs Pirates. Is there a difference?



Hipsters

Hipsters were born from the counter-culture. In the past decade the hipster movement has grown and has gradually moved from periphery into the mainstream of society. When punk became plastic and the hip hop lost their momentum for social change, the remaining counter-cultures merged together into a single, continuously mutating trans-atlantic melting pot of styles, tastes and habits, which can be described as a hipster movement, explains [Douglas Haddow](#).

Hipsters are a subculture, formed of young adults in the 20s and 30s, who value independent thinking, progressive politics and have a strong affection for 'irony' and 'pastiche' (love of old, re-creating old patterns, especially in design). They are also quite often marked with a certain degree of douchebaggery, which in most cases is just a stereotype. Some of those negative connotations often come from misunderstanding or hatred.

In this, hipsters are very similar to Pirates, so it's time to unmask why hipsters can actually be considered Pirates:

Hipster culture is strongly linked with technology

Without Apple products, hipsters probably would have acted very differently. Not because of the products themselves, but because of all possibilities the technology offers. Powerful laptops made graphic design and video editing easy. Gadgets such as iPod's have allowed easy access to large music and video libraries, where people can find more about lesser known groups or products. The second major factor is the Internet, through which hipsters can be in contact with many like-minded, to share knowledge, music, and world views.

Pirates are accepting of a wider range of gadgets, but the electronic technology is essential to our operations and defines who we are, how we operate and what we are fighting for.

Hipsters like to be creative

The iPod popularized electronic music formats as well as the so-called illegal downloading of music, which has allowed thousands to be able to listen to music they otherwise could not afford. Especially after the Internet made easy access huge databases available. The democratic nature of production and distribution has allowed the masses to realize a broader range of more marginalized groups and films, so that everyone can find something for that fits them. Hipsters have consequently developed a love for independent, indie films and indie music.

Hipsters like to be creative. Pirates support and encourage such behaviour because we believe that a free exchange of information enriches society and encourages creativity. I would rather see more peer-to-peer based society, with many small creators and consumers, instead of just a few creators and a mass of consumers.

Own expression through lifestyle

The great popularity of sites such as [Pitchfork](#), [pinterest](#), and [instagram](#) shows that self-expression is very important to hipsters. They do this through clothing, transportation, food and social life. What you wear is, of course, very important to them but they also often try to

transform their lifestyle into an art project (artistic photos of bike trips, food that you cook, etc). The key point is in merging styles and collage. An unknown commentator described it as the "effortless cool" urban Bohemian look of a hipster.

Hipsters reject abusive behaviour and the average consumer. They like vintage clothing, so clothes with a story and history, but especially with content. Because mainstream could only offer poor and content free products, young people started looking for alternatives in flea markets and in second hand shops.

The lack of content in the modern world bothers Pirates too. Especially it hurts labelling because of labels alone.

Hipsters are very open to multiculturalism

Hipsters are open for all kinds of diversity: sexual, religious, and racial, everything that is in favour of a progressive society. Despite their often arrogant look, they are really open to more diversity than many other subcultures. Acceptance of differences is also very deeply written in Pirate genes.

We can criticize their excessive tendency orienting towards the past, but we need to understand it in a particular context. They were formed from the disappointment of the present and therefore they are trying to find their own expression in the past. All counter-culture movements since now were formed from people who have experienced some form of trauma: Holocaust, Vietnam War, civil unrest in the sixties or the genocides in the nineties. The last decade could be characterized by greed in its purest form, implosion of the economy, oil wars, high unemployment among young people and the environmental crisis.

Young people are disappointed by the present and tend to look back to earlier periods, when life was simpler. They are also criticized for their lack of social engagement, because they have become the perfect product of mass consumerism ? complete individualized selves. This is the

same thing they were trying to move away from. This is bad for a society, as hipsters try to distance themselves from any kind of involvement in co-management of it.

Unlike them, Pirates focus on the future and try to be active in upgrading social systems, to be able to create a society that could actively respond to the problems of this century. In this context Pirates can see hipsters as antagonists, but this is more like they are walking in the same direction on separate lanes rather than going each in different directions. We want the same things.

We should be reluctant to dismiss hipsters, because it is their rediscovery of reading books and listening to unknown songs that really is an attempt to look for alternatives to what the mainstream is offering to us, whose maximum reach is only somewhere between reality shows and meaningless spending. Deep down hipsters want to be creative. Organic food, riding bicycles instead of cars, wearing second-hand clothes instead of buying new ? aren't those ideas sort of a rebellion against what is wrong with the modern world? Looking for things that make sense, encouraging those who think differently. Rejection of elitism and restrictions. However aren't those also the values of Pirates?

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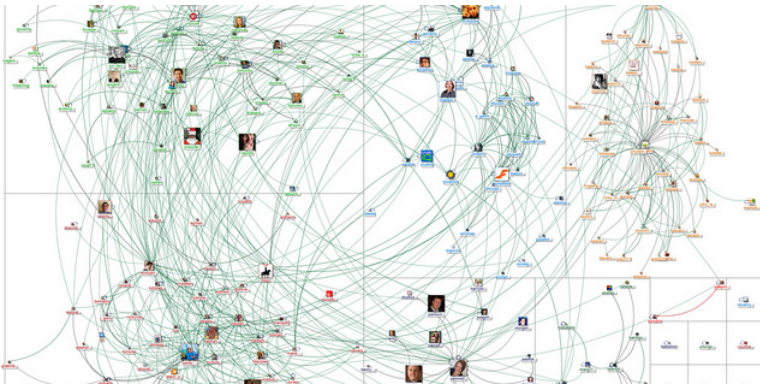
Lep pozdrav!

miha slekovec

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

Written by Anouk Neeteson published at December 6, 2012

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter â€œ November 2012



During the month of November the Pirate movement grew with 63.957 followers on Facebook and 12.364 followers on twitter. This brings the total amount of people following a pirate party on Facebook or twitter to 661.852 people.

The statistics were gathered on 5 December, which is one month and three days from the last analysis. The biggest increase in followers is because of a revision on the number of Pirate Parties that exist in the world and an update on the statistics. The latest count is 22 registered + 23 active + 14 low activity = 59 parties world-wide (and an additional 3 parties claiming to be the official one in Serbia, Tunisia and Morocco). I prefer not making a judgement on legalities of parties here, this means that the conflicting parties are marked as "country 1/2" without significance in which party is counted first. This update on pirate parties worldwide has made me add or change 15 accounts and this sums up for the biggest change in followers for this month.

The 'Pirate movement world map' with basic info on each party will be released here on Pirate Times as soon as it is finalized (hopefully in two weeks time).

Facebook

The biggest change can be seen from the addition of 15 new Pirate Party Facebook accounts. The Romania (ACTA) account adds 49.676 followers and is an account that Romania used for protesting against ACTA but today keeps using to promote pirate ideas along with their other official account (1.214 followers). Germany keeps losing followers from the internal problems mentioned [last time](#). Sweden is steady with a decrease of one follower over the past month

(after their explosion of 30.000 followers during October). Catalonia gained a massive 4.301 followers from their election campaign. Brazil and Israel keeps adding a good number of followers. Iceland, which is our newest pirate party, already managed to gather up 834 followers.

Twitter

On twitter we see a similar change because of the additional 15 new twitter accounts to the list. The biggest one being the Chinese Pirate Party with 1.935 followers. Despite the drop of German followers on Facebook they keep going strong on Twitter adding another 991 followers. Catalonia adds 969 followers after a successful election campaign which brought them a lot of attention. This attention seems to have rubbed off a bit on the Spanish Twitter account adding 332 followers there. Russia seems to be getting some attention adding 275 followers, most likely because of the upcoming censorship of Youtube and others sites in Russia. A significant drop (-368) can be seen on South Korea but this is the result of the party abandoning the old infrastructure and starting new Twitter, Facebook accounts and website instead of using their old resources (this change has most likely been there for some time but I only noticed it now). Switzerland got another two Twitter accounts on the list since they have chosen to separate their activity based on the three major languages present in their country (German, French, Italian).

FAQ

*Why only Facebook and Twitter? Why not Google+, vk.com or others? - Mostly because it's hard to know what other social networks to include. Only doing Facebook and Twitter takes a lot of time, even though there are scripts to update followers. The same reasoning goes for

federated services such as status.net as well since it's hard to gather useful statistics for them.

*Can I have access to the .csv file you used for these stats? - Right now only if you have a very good reason and a specific purpose for them. I am working on updating contact information for different Pirate Parties. The plan is to make everything accessible in a good format with continuous updates. Giving out the information freely at this stage would only result in several versions of the document being in circulation where some are badly updated and faulty.

*Why is country X not included? - Probably because I didn't know about it or considered their activity as dead. Send me a message or comment on this post and it will be included for next month

*Why is there "Countryname 1" and "Countryname 2" for some countries? - Because of internal struggles in that country with two pirate parties both claiming to be the official one. I would rather not waste my time on determining which is legitimate and which not and therefore I add both statistics until it is cleared up.

*Isn't the follower/population very biased? - As all statistics numbers are biased in some way. Just measuring number of followers are biased to bigger countries. The follower/population obviously gives the initial country (Sweden) a bonus as well as countries sharing the same language. This is still an important alternative measurement since it shows relative impact of the social media account.

*Why did you not include local party X who is bigger than some countries here? - This is supposed to measure international impact. The reason Catalonia and Galicia are measured separately is that they are quasi-autonomous regions, independent from Spain.

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