



Welcome to the last edition of the Pirate Times for 2012!

First of all we have to thank all of you for your appreciation through Flattr and also the Young Pirates of East Sweden for awarding us with "Pirate Blogger of the Year".

We start with a report on the protests in Slovenia and then a report over the conference of the Young Pirates of Sweden. There is even more news from Sweden, the Pirate Party of Sweden is pressing charges against several banks for the Wikileaks boycott.

In the United Kingdom, the local Pirate Party is being threatend by the music industry, even at a personal level, for running a Pirate Bay proxy. Basicly the same thing has happend to the Pirate Party of the Netherlands and both parties are in need of donations in order to fight back. Meanwhile the Pirate Party UK has taken down their proxy to protect their members.

We end this newsletter with good news form Norway. The Pirate Party there has gathered enough signatures to form an official political party and with that we wish all of you all the best for the rest of 2012 and a piratic new year!

The Pirates Times Team

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

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Pirate Times wins the "Pirate Blogger of the Year" award



On a recent event arranged by the East Sweden chapter of Young Pirates, Pirate Times has been awarded the "Pirate Blogger of the Year" prize.

This news site launched at first in August this year, but has already reached a great number of people, released big news to the Pirate community, and has brought all Pirate Parties closer together.

The "Pirate Awards 2012" are a series of prizes handed out to Pirates and organisations that stood out in 2012. The most prestigious "Pirate of the Year" has been given to Mikael Holm, Association Secretary of Young Pirates Sweden. "Pirate Film of the Year" has been given to the team behind #exile6e, a web series which we [have reported on in the past](#).

Featured image [CC0 Anton Nordenfur](#).

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at December 15, 2012

Slovenia: Protests against corrupt politicians continue

GOTOF JE!



We have already reported about unrests in Slovenia ([Corruption and Lack of Transparency Led to Unrest in Slovenia](#)) and the corrupt practices of Franc Kangler, mayor of city of Maribor. The good news is that the mayor has announced his resignation and that protests against corruption have spread all over Slovenia.

There had already been a few protests in the capital Ljubljana ([30 November](#) and [3 December](#)) and in some other Slovenian towns. The demands from the people are more or less the same everywhere: they either want their local politicians to resign or want to see all the political elite removed from their positions of power. The main argument is that, in the last 20 years (from independence in 1991 onwards), the politicians' only goal has been to gain as much power and money as possible. This goal was mainly achieved through corruption and the politicians did not care about how the common people were living (in 2011, from 2 million inhabitants in Slovenia, [about 273,000 lived in poverty](#)). The result has been a degradation of public services and a severe economic crisis. After Slovenia became independent in 1991, it was a model of a successful post-socialist country. But now it is regarded as fallen child prodigy which possibly would be forced to ask the EU for bailout.

The most notable thing coming from the protest in Maribor is the slogan 'Gotof je!' (which in local dialect means 'He is finished!') and has spread all over Slovenia. It has been repeated in many local dialects and also slang (Ljubljana: Fertik je!, Novo mesto: Gotou je!, ?). The slogan (Gotov je!) originated from the [Serbian overthrow of Slobodan Milošević in 2000](#). Today this

slogan symbolizes that the Slovenian corrupt politicians' days are numbered.

The all-Slovenian protest has already been [announced on Facebook](#) and is scheduled for 21 December. Will it mark the end of the old and a beginning of a new era for Slovenia?

Featured image: Public domain

Written by Matic Urbanija published at December 15, 2012

Swedish Young Pirates Confer on Mental Health and Labour Politics



In mid-November 2012, around fifty Young Pirates came to the Swedish town of Norrköping for a two-day political conference with focus on mental health and labour market politics.

The youth organization Young Pirates Sweden annually arranges a political conference for its members, and in the past two years it has been held in the Louis de Geer conference hall in Norrköping in East Sweden. This year's conference saw two themes: mental health, and labour market politics. In comparison to last year, the 2012 conference focused much more on political debate, whereas the 2011 conference had a larger focus on speakers.

The purpose of the conference was to stimulate discussion and debate among the members, and to encourage and motivate members to develop politics in these areas. The youth organisation pays for travel, living and food expenses for two members of each local

organisation. Apart from the purely political discussions, the conference was also a great way to meet other pirates and to socialise. In the wee hours of both Saturday and Sunday mornings, many pirates were still up, playing board games and talking to people they often, otherwise only meet online, or who they've never met before.

Apart from the discussions, the conference also saw four different speakers. The keynote on Saturday was delivered by Gustav Nipe, president of Young Pirates Sweden, who introduced the topics for discussion. **Johan Andersson**, Member of the Swedish Parliament for the Social Democrats, talked about labour politics, and encouraged the pirates to engage in politics - though, as he said half-joking, he switch his party. After his talk he was confronted by a multitude of questions from the audience, both critical of his party's politics, and curious about his experiences and knowledge.

As the Social Democrats are the originators of a large deal of the surveillance politics that the Pirate Party currently fights in Sweden, one would have thought that the landscape would be very hostile and tense. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"I was very nicely received", Andersson said when Pirate Times spoke to him after the talk, "and you all had both concrete and constructive questions." When asked what he thought of the party's broadening political platform, he said that further involvement in these questions is indeed needed, even if he would prefer the conference attendees to come to his party instead.

When asked why he chose to come give his talk, he summarised a view point lacking in many politicians: "I agreed to come because I find it important, in all circumstances, to talk about our labour politics and about how to solve the problems of unemployment. The political engagement of citizens is never to be underestimated, even though I do hope that you change parties in the future."

The Social Democrats' opposing party, the Moderate Party, also had a speaker invited to the conference, but he chose to decline once he learned which organisation was holding the event.

Sunday saw talks by Christian Engström, one of the Pirate Party's Member of European Parliament, and Anna Troberg, leader of the Swedish Pirate Party.

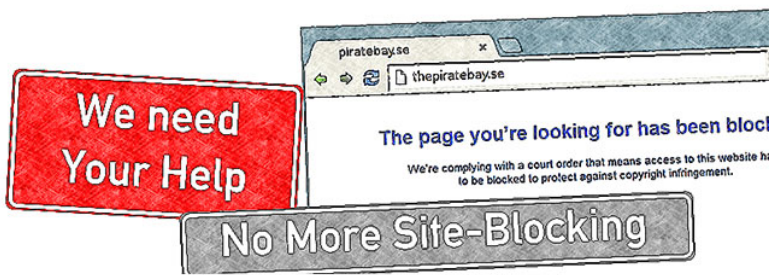
"This conference is very important for the Pirate Party", said Troberg to Pirate Times. "It means that the youth engaged in Young Pirates get to come together to create social ties, and discuss politics and future political decisions. One can also see that the proposals that are voted through on member meetings are those previously discussed and worked through. When Young Pirates have meetings like these, where they have the time to form good ideas, the results are much more likely to be voted through in the future."

Featured image is CC BY-NC-SA Jonathan Rieder Lundkvist. More pictures from the conference are available at [his site](#).

The full audio interview with Johan Andersson (in Swedish) is available [on Youtube](#). The full interview with Anna Troberg will soon be available as its own article.

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at December 16, 2012

Music industry seeks to ruin Pirate Party leaders



In the United Kingdom the Pirate Party is **facing a legal battle** with the music industry (BPI) for hosting a proxy to the Pirate Bay. After threatening the Pirate Party itself they now turned to threatening the four leaders and their head of IT. They are planning on suing these persons on a personal level, seeking to **financially ruin** them, if the Pirate Party doesn't take down their Pirate Bay Proxy.

This is based on a High Court order ordering several UK **ISPs to censor** the Pirate Bay, and it also has happened in other European countries, e.g. the Netherlands. The Pirate Party UK was prepared for that and has ever since been offering a **proxy service** so that the Pirate Bay can be accessed within the United Kingdom. This service has become really popular recently and is among the most visited 150 websites in the UK.

Similar pattern in the Netherlands

Basically the same happened to the Pirate Party of the Netherlands. In the Netherlands the music industry organization BREIN managed to get the Pirate Bay blocked by several ISPs. The Pirate Party of the Netherlands then also offered a proxy to reach the Pirate Bay. For this they have been sued by BREIN and have lost the case prior to appeal. This forced them to shut down their proxy and they were also forbidden to link to the Pirate Bay or even other websites that offer proxy's or guides on how to access the Pirate Bay. They are planning on continuing the fight but they still need money to go to appeal. But at least BREIN has been fair enough not to sue the leaders of the Pirate Party of the Netherlands directly.

Both parties in need of donations

Both Pirate Parties are willing to fight these cases for the principles at stake. As the leader of the Pirate Party UK Loz Kaye puts it:

?It is clear that we are facing a significant threat, and we will have to fight it. And fight it well, not just for the sake of the Pirate Party, but because of the principles at stake. I have always believed that it is not just enough to have principles, you need to act on them too, even if it gets difficult.?

In order to fight these legal battles both Pirate Parties depend on donations therefore they have donation websites with all necessary information on how to help the [Pirate Party of the United Kingdom](#) or the [Pirate Party of the Netherlands](#).

Featured image: CC BY-NC-SA Pirate Party UK

Written by Daniel Ebbert published at December 17, 2012

Pirate Party Charges Banks for WikiLeaks Boycott



The Swedish Pirate Party is [pressing charges](#) against banks in Sweden for presumed acts of discrimination against WikiLeaks. The WikiLeaks organisation has been declined receiving donations by several payment providers since 2010.

In 2010, donations to WikiLeaks have been blocked by several financial institutes, including Visa, MasterCard, PayPal - and Swedish banks. The latter have been pressed charges on, by the Swedish Pirate Party with the Finansinspektionen (the local authority of financial

supervision). An earlier initiative by the Pirate Party suggested regulations on credit card corporations on EU-wide level to revoke their sovereign abilities of banning traders arbitrarily.

‘The blockade is a serious threat against the freedoms of opinion and expression’, says Pirate Party’s Erik Lönroth. ‘It must not be up to the individual payment provider to determine which organizations are eligible for donations. At the same time, these charges will bring clarity as to whether the bank regulations of today are sufficient, or if regulations need to be tightened to protect freedom of expression.’

Other companies in completely legal space have been banned, too. Payment services have been cancelled for shops of adult entertainment, what effectively kills legal small business by arbitrary and deconstructive control of bank institutes which used to be seen as trustworthy and credible.

‘We will now investigate what has happened and evaluate the reasons, if any, for us to intervene’, Terfelt tells the Dagens Nyheter. ‘The law states, that if there aren’t legal grounds to deny a payment service, then it must be processed.’

Meanwhile, journalists and activists **launched** the **Freedom of the Press Foundation**, a crowd-source funding for WikiLeaks and several independent investigative organisations exposing government corruption and advocating for transparency.

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Written by Dominic Guhl published at December 18, 2012

Pirate Party Norway has 5000 Signatures, Parliament Next Step



On Sunday 16 December 2012 the Pirate Party of Norway managed to reach the 5000 signatures, the amount required to form a political party in Norway. Their next goal is to enter the Norwegian Parliament during the 2013 elections.

As we wrote earlier PPNO had their start-up meeting in June which was attended by 17 persons. They faced the challenge of organizing themselves and gathering 5000 signatures before the end of the year to start a political party. Today, 18 December 2012, they have gathered 5255 signatures and more are coming by mail.

Pirate Times held a discussion with Geir Aaslid, the pirate leader of PPNO. The Norwegian Pirates are mainly inspired by their German and Swedish neighbors. The political program is basic for now, but will be expanded with the help of liquid democracy and their general assembly in the beginning of next year.

Pirate Party Norway is a pro digital technology, block independent party that stands for strengthened policy, reform of copyright and patents, wide democracy, free non-commercial file sharing, statutory net neutrality, individual rights, and digital modernization of Norway with a stronger focus on technology, innovation and science.

It is also the party's purpose to increase interest in politics based on basic democratic attitudes and working to get as many members elected to the country's representative bodies as possible. This is the third attempt at starting up a Pirate Party in Norway. Geir says that it's a "hell of a lot

of work collecting 5000 signatures". The reason they reached the goal this time is that they have a better team and much help in reaching people with the help of their spear-head Håkon Wium Lie (CTO of Opera Software and the father of CSS). Another factor is that the time was right, Norway has agreed to implement the Data Retention Directive but they have still to agree about the details on how to do this. This has created a frustration and according to Geir a huge majority of the Norwegian population is against this implementation.

PPNO will have their General Assembly on February 23rd (preliminary date) to further broaden their political platform and work on improving their organization further. Seeing that Norway is not a part of the EU they have no opinions on the PPEU organization yet but they hope to work closely together with other Pirate Parties with much co-ordination across borders. Anna Troberg, the leader of PPSE, says that she is looking forward to a future collaboration with PPNO.

Pirate Times will hopefully be reporting more about future PPNO achievements. The next step for PPNO is their GA in February and thereafter sending in a list of 169 parliamentary candidates by the end of March. The parliamentary elections in Norway will take place in September next year where the Pirate Party hopes to enter their parliament through roughly 20.000 votes in Oslo, taking 1 out of 19 seats for the County of Oslo, or by getting 4% of the national votes in order to gain one of the threshold seats. If they manage to enter parliament next year their long term goal would be to become the 4th largest party in Norway, requiring approximately 6% of the votes.

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

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at December 19, 2012

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