



Welcome to the ninth edition of the Pirate Times newsletter.

Today's newsletter starts with news from Russia. The Pirate Party there has once again had problems with their registration. They got refused this time because their name contains the word "pirate".

We have had elections in the state Lower Saxony in Germany and in Israel - no seats won in either case but respectable results all the same, especially for Israel which has only been registered as an official party for two months. Speaking of registration as a recognized party, congratulations go to the Pirate Party of Australia which just joined this special club.

A special new feature is an interactive map showing which countries have Pirate Parties and their level of activity as at the end of last year. We trust this will soon be need to be bought up to date in more that just Australia's case. The Czech Pirate Party find themselves under attack from Lego so they are fighting back. Also it is time to thank you again for those Flattr donations.

We hope you enjoy these news and we're always happy for feedback, ideas or tips at [contact@piratetimes.net](mailto:contact@piratetimes.net)

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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## The Pirate Party of Russia Refused Registration Again



The Russian Ministry of Justice had refused to register PPRU again. Why? You might ask. Well it is because ?using in the name the word "pirate" that allegedly does not conform to the party's goals and objectives ? according to the Justice Ministry. The Russian Pirates see this decision as being politically motivated and a delaying tactic as the legal justification is riddled with errors and inconsistencies.

A year ago, President Medvedev announced political liberalization. Putin promised to create electronic petitions as part of an electronic direct democracy. But after a year there is no E-democracy and barely any democracy at all.

Pirate movement founder, Rick Falkvinge, pointed out that the goals and objectives of the Pirate Party have long been understood by the general public and a similar issue was resolved in the Italian courts long ago.

The President of PPRU, [Pavel Rassudov](#), is reported as saying, "Such decisions are taken at the highest level. The Justice Ministry is simply an executor of someone else's ill will." He also referred to other Russian parties whose names did not reflect their policies.

It would appear that the Russian authorities and their lobbyists regard the Pirate Party as enough of a threat to take the trouble to delay its registration as long as possible. The Russian Pirates are waiting for the decision to arrive by mail and then will be taking the matter to the courts.

The report on which this article is based can be found at the [web site of PPRU](#)

Featured image CC BY-ND PPRU

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at January 14, 2013

## Copyright campaign against LEGO



As a result of an election spot used by the Czech Pirate Party the party found themselves confronted with a preliminary injunction to take this spot down. While they are waiting for the court ruling they started a campaign against LEGO.

It all started with the Czech Pirate Party using LEGO figures in a election spot. As an answer to that the Party received a take down notice on 29th of August 2012 based on alleged LEGO copyright and trademark infringement. The board decided then that they won't comply with the

request because they saw no legal reason to do so. On the 5th of October a preliminary injunction was filed in the name of LEGO at the Municipal Court in Prague. Just three days before the election, on the 9th of October, the court issued this preliminary injunction. So hours after the end of the elections the board ordered the removal of the video from all official party media, but of course the video was back online through unofficial sources.

In the meanwhile the Czech Pirate Party started a campaign against LEGO. In this campaign the Czech Pirates want everybody out there to make pictures with pirate flags, logo, etc. in front of LEGO stores and make pictures of that. These pictures should then be sent to the Czech Pirates with the GPS coordinates so that they could be published on a map. As the chairman Ivan Bartos said:

"That is exactly the kind of action, against which pirates are fighting. We do not like limiting artistic creation or restrictions on human freedoms under the guise of copyright protection, or under a similar pretext of protecting the reputation of a legal person. The clip with LEGO figures was created by our fan as his artistic work. Is it really true, that an artist may not use a figure for his own story, until it is approved in the instructions of the LEGO marketing department?"

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

Written by Daniel Ebbert published at January 16, 2013

## Pirate Party of Lower Saxony Fighting to make it into State Parliament



Saturday is the last day of campaigning for the Lower Saxon Pirates before the state parliament (Landtag) elections on Sunday 20.01.2013. The Pirate Party of Lower Saxony (

Piratenpartei Niedersachsen) is accompanying its controversial posters with a lot of street campaigning. This includes information events inside and outside in the cold snowy wintery weather, participation in various demonstrations and not to forget the obligatory online campaigning.

The polls show Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats in the lead, but it is doubtful whether their Liberal coalition partners will make it over the 5 % threshold. The Social Democrats and the Greens will probably have more seats than the two aforementioned parties of the current ruling coalition. The polls show both the far left Left party and the Pirate Party straining to reach the 5% hurdle.

Most pirates are optimistic, however. This is because traditional polls in Germany only take citizens with landline telephones into account, which leaves out young urbanites, a significant section of pirate voters. This phenomenon also resulted in the pirates gaining seats in the last four state parliament elections with higher results than was anticipated by the pollsters.

Regardless, the 3-4 % in the latest polls serve as a motivator for Pirates from all over Germany and beyond to go on the streets of Lower Saxony this Saturday and convince the Lower Saxon populace to vote Pirate and contribute to a fundamental change in Germany's political landscape. Follow @piratetimes on twitter on Sunday for updates on the latest results. Featured image [Ideenkopierer.de](http://Ideenkopierer.de) CC BY-NC-SA

Written by Justus R  meth published at January 19, 2013

## Pirate Party Australia Registers as a Political Party



**Pirate Party Australia** announced today, 21 January 2012 that its application for registration as a federal political party passed all tests and is now on the **register of political parties**.

PPAU was founded in 2009 and is well on its way to being a force in Australian politics. The Party quietly submitted its application in late 2012, and objections to the Party's registration closed on the 14th of January this year.

'Organising and validating a membership database to then submit to the AEC for the purposes of registration is a daunting task. Fortunately, we had a team of volunteers who were prepared to spend many weekends ensuring that the list we sent to the AEC was entirely valid, and I thank them for their effort,' said Brendan Molloy, Secretary of Pirate Party Australia.

The Party will now turn its attention towards developing policies and the pre-selection of candidates for the upcoming federal election which must be held before 30 November 2013. The **Australian electoral system** is bicameral on a federal level but also has state legislatures on a state level somewhat similar to the USA and Germany. Voting is **compulsory**.

'With this milestone reached, refinement of our policies will become the focus of our development teams leading up to pre-selection of our candidates later this year,' said David W. Campbell, President of Pirate Party Australia.

'More than ever before there is a necessity in Australia for a Party that holds empowerment,



participation, free culture and openness as its central tenets. A Party that understands the modern emerging information society and the imperative for political transparency that ensures meaningful engagement," said Rodney Serkowski, the Party's founder.

"On this momentous occasion, I would like to thank all of those who have supported us through the long-running registration process: our members, our families and supporters from around the world," said Molloy.

Featured image: CC BY-NC-SA by [Daniel Pietzsch](#) and [PPAU](#)

Written by Mozart Olbrycht-Palmer published at January 21, 2013

## Lower Saxony Pirates Fail to Gain Seats in State Parliament



Hundreds of [Lower Saxony Pirates](#), together with Pirates from other German states and many from at least 14 other countries, gathered in Hanover to watch the results come in. As stated in our earlier [article](#), the polls were showing 3-4% of the conservative leaning Lower Saxon voters were intending to vote Pirate. This was down from the [8%](#) in May 2012 but hearts were hopeful. Pirate faces dropped in disbelief and tears began to flow as the first estimates gave the Pirate Party a mere 1.8%. As the results came in their share of the vote rose to 2.1% but not enough to pass the 5% hurdle that guarantees parliamentary seats.

The run of victories, enjoyed by the regional Pirate Parties in Germany had been stopped or at least slowed. The reasons why can be varied and many and it is important that those Pirates of the regional and national Parties look into what happened in a scientific, unbiased and

transparent way as possible, so that Pirates in Germany and the rest of the world can learn from this experience.

The voter participation was, despite the biting cold, about average for Lower Saxony at **57.1%**. The result was a very narrow defeat by the ruling **Conservative-Liberal** coalition by the combined efforts of the **Socialists** and the **Greens**. Tactical voting on both sides was in evidence and it will be interesting to see if that squeezed the Pirate vote, as well as the far **Left Party**, which lost all its seats in the state legislature. We will have to wait until late September of this year to see what effect this will have on the national elections.

The shock of the moment wore off as the crowd realized that for their first ever election this result was not bad at all! Many Pirate Parties would give up their right legs not to be listed in the ?others? groups but have their own column in the televised graphics. Also the Pirate vote hardened to 2.1% which means they would be entitled to substantially more government financial assistance and to ensure campaign funding for future elections. The tears dried and the beer flowed allowing the Pirates to party long into the night.

Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at January 22, 2013

## Pirates ran in 2013 Israeli Elections



The number of Pirate Parties in the world is constantly growing and in some countries there are more than one. This is the case in Israel but only one, **????????**, managed to register and take



part in the elections held on 22 January 2013. They did not reach the hoped for 2% hurdle that would bring them a place in the 120 seat Knesset but with, at the time of writing, **2,408 votes** and so 0.07% of the votes they have a respectable result for a party of about 300 members.

The Israeli Pirates registered 5 December last year amid a lot of **media attention** and have obviously been spreading the Pirate message to good effect in such a short time. They managed to gain plenty of air time on Israeli television stations and provided a set of their own videos on their **Youtube channel**

The Israeli Pirates are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times based on a work by **joshuapaquin**

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at January 23, 2013

## The Pirate World 2012

This is a summary of the Pirate Movement as it was at the end of 2012. Latest count on Pirate Parties in the world during 2012 = 63 Pirate Parties (registered 22, active 24, low activity 14, conflicting parties 3).

The Pirate Movement is growing. This **world map** was created at the end of 2012 to give an overview on the pirate movement. As can be seen from the map, the Pirate Movement is still fairly euro-centric but steadily spreading out. Australia just managed to get **registered** as an official party and there is a lot of activity brewing in South America.

Currently there are **more than 600.000 people** following pirate parties around the world. More basic information about different pirate parties (website, fb, twitter, contact) can be found by clicking on the countries **in the map**. All this information and some other parts will be released in

the form of an API on Pirate Times in the near future.

Registered Pirate Parties:

Austria

Belgium

Bulgaria

Canada

Estonia

Czech Republic

Finland

France

Germany

Greece

Croatia

Israel

Italy

Luxembourg

Montenegro

Netherlands

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Tunisia

United Kingdom

Â



Active (both on website and on social media during November):

Argentina

Australia

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Cyprus

Hungary

Iceland

India

Japan

Kazakhstan

Lebanon

Slovakia

Morocco

Norway

New Zealand

Portugal

Romania

Russia

Serbia

Ukraine

United States

South Korea



Low Activity (starting up, dying down or active internally):

Albania  
Belarus  
China  
Denmark  
Ireland  
Guatemala  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Mexico  
Malaysia  
Poland  
Turkey  
Uruguay  
Venezuela



Conflicting Parties (more than one claiming to be official one):

Israel  
Morocco  
Serbia  
Tunisia

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at January 24, 2013

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