



Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the Pirate Times Newsletter.

To start with I would like to apologize for the long absence. Due to some technical problems it wasn't possible to send out a newsletter for a few weeks.

But here we are again, up and running to bring you news about the pirate movement and a lot of interesting stuff happened in the last weeks.

There was the general assembly of the Pirate Party International in Kazan where the delegates elected a new board and approved new members. We already started to introduce these new members to you with the Pirate Party of Japan and the introduction of the Pirate Party of South Korea will follow soon.

We also got great news from Croatia and Poland. The Pirate Party in Croatia managed to get 21% in one of their cities during the recent local elections. The good news from Poland are that they hold their first general assembly and with these acts starting up the Polish Pirate Party again.

Furthermore we report from the German general assembly and the elections in Iceland where one of our authors accompanied the local pirates and wrote about his experiences. We hope you enjoy the news and we're always happy for feedback, ideas or tips at contact at 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 Current State of the Pirate Movement in Japan – an Interview



During the recent [General Assembly](#) of the national German Pirate Party in Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz in April 2013 the Pirate Times met [Maru Tom](#) and [Chiaki Atsumi](#) (Minci) from the Pirate Movement in Japan. With the technical help of our German sister publication the [Flaschenpost](#) and especially [Holger Burbach](#), we are able to bring you an audio interview with them.

You can either download the [audio file](#) or

play it directly by clicking this button

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Tom tells us why he is a Pirate

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjH5_2S-pPk

Minci tells us why she is a Pirate (in Japanese)

<http://youtu.be/jpn2Gm0edwM>

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Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 27, 2013

France parliamentary elections: Low turnout may be good for French Pirate candidates



Are you a French citizen voting for 1st and 8th District outside France? Well if you are voting for the pirates there is a chance to give your support in the elections to candidates interested in more than getting a warm seat in the Assemblée Nationale.

Due to the cancellation of 2 MP seats in the French Parliament by the Constitutional Council of

France, in the 1st District (Canada and the USA) and in the 8th District (Italy, Malta, Vatican, San Marino, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Israel), French outside France are thus voting again for these two seats this Sunday.

In this battle, political apathy may well be one of the strongest ally of the French Pirates. The candidates believe that abstention will top records and participation may not exceed 20% and say all French from abroad who are tired of this political circus are welcome to join the Pirate Party to make their voices heard. as in the last parliamentary elections in June 2012, the Pirate candidates did low-budget ?0? campaign?, with limited physical communication, focusing on real issues instead of political games.

The Pirate candidate for the first District (Canada and the USA) is Véronique Vermorel, a student at ESSEC. She lives in Boston.

The Pirate Candidate for the 8th district (Italy, Malta, Vatican, San Marino, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Israel) is Alix Guillard, a webmaster living in Prague. He has answered a few questions for us.

Pirate Times: Why did the Constitutional Council of France made these two cancellations?

Because of corruption issues?

Alix: French law is very strict about campaign funding: money can only be spent and received by a single person, a financial proxy that makes it easy to check the accounting. Also it has to transit by only one account, opened in France and in Euros and held by this financial proxy. In big districts like USA+Canada or

Italy+Malta+Greece+Cyprus+Turkey+Israel+Palestine+Vatican+San-Marino, this is not easy to manage. The first election was cancelled because the winner opened an account in dollar in the US. The second because the candidate paid herself some of the spendings. Many other candidates were also declared non electable because they didn't respect the rules.

Pirate Times: How many French citizens outside France will vote?

Alix: The total French population in USA and Canada is not known but there are 203?818 French registered at their consulate. Among them, 156?883 are registered as voters (some vote in France, others don't vote). The 8th electoral district has 111?387 people registered to vote.

Pirate Times: How will they vote? By mail? Electronically? Using physical polls?

Alix: Because of long distances, many voting solutions are allowed: on the web (criticised by the Pirate Party for not being secure), by mail post (double envelope), by proxy (up to 3 proxy per person) and physically at the polling station

Pirate Times: How many candidates are there from PP-FR, 2 or 4?

Alix: two candidates and two substitutes, one of each for each district.

Pirate Times: PP-FR's press release states that the candidates are Vermorel Véronique, alternate Mathieu Chambefort for the first District and Alix Guillard, alternate Carole Fabre for the 8th District. What is an alternate candidate?

Alix: The alternate is the substitute, he replaces the MP when the MP dies or becomes a Minister. In all other cases (resignation, dismissal?), new elections must be held.

Pirate Times: At what date will these elections be held? In the 1st District it is supposed to be on Saturday and on Sunday in the 8th District?

Alix: Oh I don't follow this but I think that this has changed in 2003 so that in a general election, the results in the main metropolitan area (France), are not known when people still vote in their time zone further west. Even French West Indies vote one day in advance now. In France we think that knowing the result can influence the choice of people and therefore we forbid all publication of estimation or pollings from Saturday till Sunday 20:00

Pirate Times: Are there any polls on the performance of parties/candidates?

Alix: Nope, the population is too scattered to be polled.

Pirate Times: Thank you for your time, Alix, and good luck in these elections!

All pictures [CC-BY Parti Pirate](#).

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at May 26, 2013

PPI's New Board Carries Hopes and a Big Weight



Despite some facts that burdened the atmosphere of the general assembly, data and numbers show that PPI continues to inspire and attract Pirates worldwide. PPI accepted 14 new members, increasing the number of Pirate Parties in PPI to **42 countries**. They also accepted a further six observer members, elected a new board and voted on some statute changes. The new board has to carry a big weight; organizing, helping to establish, support, promote, and to maintain communication and co-operation between Pirate Parties around the globe, especially after recent critique of the last board.

The GA started with a speech from Pavel Rassudov, the chairman of the Pirate Party of Russia followed by a speech from Gregory Engels, former as well as re-elected PPI co-chairman. After the speeches the GA proceeded in a bar-camp style.

The GA also passed two resolutions. The first one aims to support the Pirate Party of Russia in their fight for official registration. The

second resolution calls for more democracy worldwide. The goal is to establish a parliamentary assembly at the UN (UNPA).

The new elected board:

The Co-Chairmen are Gregory Engels (Germany, 36y) and Vojtech Pikal (Czech Republic, 26y). Other elected members are Nuno Cardoso (Portugal, 39y), Denis Simonet (Switzerland, 28y), Thomas Gaul (Germany, 48y), Azat Gabdrakhmanov (Russia, 30y) and Marc Tholl (Luxembourg, 22y).

The new PPI members:

Pirate Party of Latvia (<http://www.piratupartija.lv/>)

Pirate Party of Slovakia (<http://piratskastrana.sk/>)

Ukrainian Pirate Community (???????????? ?????????? ??????????????????) (<http://pp-ua.org/>)

Pirate Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PiratskaPartija.ba) (<http://www.piratskapartija.ba/>)

Pirate Party of Estonia (NGO, MTÜ Eesti Piraadipartei) (<http://piraadipartei.ee/>)

Pirate Party of Belarus (???????? ?????????? ??????????) (<http://ppb.by/>)

Pirate Party of Tunisia (<http://www.partipirate.tn/>)

Pirate Party of Israel (?????? ?????????? ??????) (<http://piratim.org/>)

Pirate Party of Hungary (Kalozpart) (<http://kalozpart.org/>)

Pirate Party of Iceland (Píratar) (<http://www.piratar.is/>)

Pirate Party of Turkey (Korsan Parti) (<http://korsanparti.org/>)

Pirate Party of Poland (Polska Partia Piratów (P3) (<http://polskapartiapiratow.pl/>)

Pirate Party of Japan (<http://ppt.3rin.net/>)

Pirate Party of South Korea (no website)

The new observer members:

Pirate Party of Berlin (Germany)

La Rioja (Spain)

Tyrol (Austria)

The Young Pirates of Sweden,

Sweden's Pirate Party

Icelandic Best Party

Persons interested in more details about how the conference went can [read the minutes](#) and the [PPI press release](#) or any of the news reports e.g. [ntv](#), [Business-Gazeta](#), [PublicPost](#), [le mouv.](#)

The recent PPI GA's, as well as the last board, have been criticised severely by some people for different reasons. Seeing excerpts from some of the [board reports](#) we can see that some of the last board members felt this pressure and critique.

"I also recommend the next board draw up a series of aims, a public list of concrete things it plans to achieve. Without this, it is all too easy to drift between meetings every two weeks with nothing ever getting achieved" -Ed

"PPI's boat is headed towards an Iceberg and has a strong possibility of sinking if it's direction doesn't change. [...] Either we fix this by removing the rift, by making the PPI members, and not some elected scapegoats, responsible for PPI or we will only succeed in the demise of a formal cooperation between international PP's, and if PP's can't fix the mistakes of this one, then any formal alternatives will end up making the same mistakes over and over again" - Nuno

"In the beginning of December 2012 I lost all the motivation to work for the movement whose members are constantly fighting with each other and prevent others from doing their work [...] I couldn't work any longer for an organization whose members are blackmailing each other and making working people resign from office out of spite. I have not participated much in PPI work since then. [...] Constant mistrust is what the International Pirate Movement looks like from my perspective" - Lola

The Pirate Times believes that the PPI is very important for the Pirate Movement. We hope that the new board will manage to resolve the tension that exists between the PPI board and some of their members.

Featured image: CC BY-SA [Henrique Peer](#)

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at May 25, 2013

International Projects in e-Government and Digital Cooperation



One of the areas that the Pirate Parties are trying to act on is the adjustment of politics to a new digital age. This can be achieved through adding more transparency to the governments, opening them up for more collaboration and use of data and turning the government into more of an **eGovernment** in order to both use more of the benefits brought by our digital age and protect us from its risks.

The Swedish E-delegation is assigned to, amongst other things, to "aid the government in EU-collaboration and in international projects concerning eGovernment" (translated dir.

2009:19). In order to do this, they are monitoring the area and have compiled a list of projects in the fields of transportation, social security, eID, tax and customs etc.

This list is, unfortunately, only in Swedish which is why Pirate Times decided to translate it for the awareness of other Pirate Parties as well as other international organizations interested in eGovernment. Hopefully this list will lead to more awareness and collaboration instead of starting up similar projects. We encourage you to copy and evolve this list on your own as well, but please link back to us if you do.

Labor Market / Studies

PLOTEUS

EU-project. A portal helping students, job seekers, workers, parents, guidance counsellors and teachers in finding information about studying in Europe.

EURES (European Job Mobility Portal)

EU-project. A portal informing about available jobs in EU-countries, CVs from interested candidates, what one needs to know about living and working abroad and much more.

E-Government/IT

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Global project. Exchange of ideas and experience within eGovernment.

International Tele-union Global Cyber Security Agenda

Global project. Collaboration to increase safety in our digital society.

OECD public sector innovation and e-government

OECD-project. How IT can be used for more efficiency in management.

OECD observatory of Public Sector Innovation

OECD-project. Collect and analyse examples of innovation in public administration and promote the most successful projects.

Open e-TrustEx (within Join Up)

EU-project. An open source platform offered to public administrations on European, national and regional levels to create a safe exchange of documents.

OSEPA

OSEPA is an EU-collaboration around open data trying to create more efficiency and development through inter-regional collaborations in order to achieve economical modernization and increased competitiveness in Europe.

Core Public Service Vocabulary (Join Up)

EU-project. Joint terms to describe public eServices and eGovernment in different countries.

ISA)" href="http://ec.europa.eu/isa/news/index_en.htm">European Interoperability Strategy (EIS Governance Support --> ISA)

EU-project. Collaboration and exchange of information around public administrations about the supply and development around trans-national eServices.

e-clic (European Collaborative Innovation Centres)

Collaboration project between Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Germany, England and Belgium. Innovation within broadband and media.

e-irg (Electronic Infrastructure Reflection Group)

EU-project. Cooperation around e-Infrastructure. A collective, easy and cost-efficient use of distributed electronic resources.

e-InfraNet

EU-project. Collaboration and harmonization of national e-Infrastructures.

eHealth/Social Insurance

Nordsoc (Nordic Social Insurance Portal)

Nordic project. Guidelines around which country's laws are valid when moving to another Nordic country.

TESS (Telematics in Social Security)

Nordic project. More efficient case management through electronic information exchange in joint pension matters. No website, contact [Försäkringskassan](#) for more details.

epSOS (within e-SENS)

EU-project. Remove linguistic, administrative and technical barriers to make it easier for people to receive medical help based on their medical history.

EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information)

EU-project. IT-system helping the electronic exchange of information between national social security units.

eID

STORK 2.0

EU-project. Digital collaboration with the field of eidentification for both private individuals and business/judicial persons.

E-procurement

UN/CEFACT

Global project. Use of IT solutions within public and private procurement.

PEPPOL

Project within e-SENS, EU. E-procurement in the public sector.

e-PRIOR

EU-project. e-Catalogues, e-Ordering and e-Invoicing, collaboration with PEPPOL for management of post-award document.

e-Procurement forum

EU-project. Exchange platform for ideas and experience within the public e-procurement.

Single Market Act II

EU-project. Digital economy, facilitate e-commerce and e-procurement.

E-tender expert group

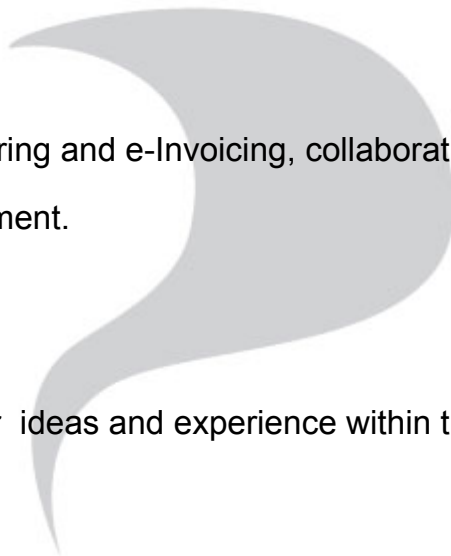
EU-commission's expert-group around e-procurement, use of eServices for advertisement, publication of specifications and tenders, e-submission.

European Multi Stakeholder Forum on Electronic Invoicing

Exchange of information and experience around eBills on national and EU-level

Business Interoperability Interfaces (CEN BII)

EU-project. Technical digital cooperation in e-procurement in accordance with UN/CEFACT rules.



e-CERTIS

EU. A guide to documents and certificates required to participate in public procurement in another European country.

National Registration

Nordisk eFlytt

Nordic collaboration on national registration.

No website, contact [Skatteverket](#) for more details.

Core Person Vocabulary (within Join UP)

EU-project. Simplified and re-usable data-model saving important personal information such as gender, name and birth date.

Companies

Core Business Vocabulary (within Join UP)

EU-project. Simplified and re-usable data-model saving important business information such as judicial name, address and activities.

MiFID

EU-project. Harmonization of rules for investment firms.

EBR (European Business Register)

EU-project. Online access to detailed European business directly from each country's official register.

ECRF (European Commerce Register's Forum)

EU-project. Collaboration between authorities responsible for registration of business information.

Corporate Registers Forum

Global project. Collaboration and exchange on information about business registration systems.

Geology/Chemistry

OneGeology (1G)

Global project. Forum for digitalizing geologic data

REACH-IT

EU-project. Online platform for storing information and documents on chemicals.

SON (Security Officers Network for REACH-IT)

EU-project. Safe exchange of information about chemicals between the European Commission, national governments and institutions.

IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of GeoScience Information

Global project. Usage of IT to create, remake and spread geological data.

Law

European e-Law Portal

Legal information for citizens, companies and professionals.

LEOS (Legislative Editing Open Software)

Project within ISA (EU). Automatic handling of law documents, digital collaboration between legal texts and databases.

e-CODEX

Projekt within e-SENS, EU. Digital collaboration within the law sector, make legal info available for citizens and businesses.

Contact Point

SPOCS (within e-SENS)

EU-project. Easier administrative procedures for companies looking to expand (licenses, permits etc.)

SPOCS"

http://www.verksamt.se/portal/en_GB/web/international/eugo;jsessionid=A87FF3B096FD2411A4BA037343245260.prod_vst_ptl_node01">EUGO (points of single contact) -->

SPOCS

EU-project. Create a business in another country: laws, regulations and formalities. Forms.

Land / Geography

Core Location Vocabulary (Join Up)

EU-project. Simple reusable data model for location information: address, geographical name, geometry.

EULIS (European Land Information System)

EU-project. Granting banks, real estate brokers and lawyers direct access to land and property information.

Euro Geographics

EU-project. IT-infrastructure for harmonizing national geographic data.

INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information)

EU-project: IT-infrastructure for harmonizing national geographic data.

Tax / Customs

IOTA (The Intra-European Organisation of Tax Administrations)

Global project. Improving tax administration: forum for tax authorities.

Nordisk eTax

Nordic project. Tax issues for a person living in one country but working in another.

VIIES II (VAT Information Exchange System)

EU-project. Electronic database of VAT-registration. Decreased management of papers on tax and VAT.

EMCS (Excise Movement Control System)

EU-project. Simple and more uniform excise duty.

e-Customs

EU-project. Modernization of the customs code and EU:s joint custom laws as well as developing common procedures and IT-systems.

Traffic

Nordiskt Vägforum Informationssystem och kommunikationsteknologi (NVF-IKT)

Nordic project. Professional development and networking in the ICT area for the Nordic road sector.

Nordiskt Vägforum Intelligent Transport System (NVF-ITS)

Nordic project. Interoperability and standardization, development of ITS (Intelligent Transportation System).

World Road Association-Road Network Operation

Global project. Promotion of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS).

Easy Way

EU-project. Increase the usage of ITS.

CEDR (Conference of European Directors of Roads)

EU-project. Collaboration on traffic and road information, usage of ITS.

ERTICO

EU-project. Networking of ITS experts, collaboration for the promotion of ITS

Featured image: CC-BY-NC, [paul_clarke](#)

The first General Assembly of the Polish Pirate Party



On 18 May 2013 the new **Polish Pirate Party** had its first General Assembly. The party was founded last year after the previous one was dissolved by a court order in 2009, the new party was created by many of the people involved in the first one and it is considered a second incarnation of the same party. Up to this Saturday the party had been lead by the temporary board - this General Assembly is marked in the history as the first event that allowed members of the new party to gather all together, express their views and democratically determine the direction of the party's future. Just before the gathering was opened, one new membership declaration was delivered and then quickly accepted by the temporary board increasing the party members count to 17, later after the assembly 3 of the observers also joined the party - so the current count is 20.

The proceedings had a very good pace and went on with unanimity on most matters. The following new party officials were elected:

- President - Radek Pietro?
- Vice Presidents - Piotr Roszatycki, Tomasz S?owi?ski and yours truly Zbigniew ?ukasiak
- Tresurer - Szymon Kubisiak
- Members of Peer Court - B?a?ej Kaczorowski, W?adys?aw Majewski and Marcin Staryczenko

Then the assembly voted in a few changes to the statutes - nothing substantial, just removing

some logical mistakes. It was also agreed that the party is not ready to vote on program proposals and that was postponed to the next General Assembly and the new board was obliged to organize this GA before the end of this year.

The gathering organized a few project groups to tackle needed statutes changes, technical matters, international coordination, cooperation with other organizations and media education. It was also discussed to support the project **Polska bez PIT** that aims for simplifying the Polish tax mechanism and getting rid of individual taxes declarations - but it was decided that this matter needs more discussion that can happen at the assembly and the task of organizing it was delegated to a new project group. Finally the assembly agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the project which provides use cannabis for medical purposes and also set up a team to proceed on this case.

After the official part of the meeting was closed the party members proceeded to a local bar to discuss the matters further.

Featured Image PPPL CC BY-SA

Written by Zbigniew Å• ukasiak published at May 23, 2013

PP Croatia Reaches 21% in City District, Winning Two Out of Nine Board Seats



Last weekend local elections took place in Croatia and the Pirate Party had its first success. In one of the city districts of Samobor, namely Kolodvorsko/Sajmiste, the first two Croatian Pirates got elected. The elected pirates are Ivica Fulir, top candidate, and Dario Vidovic, second on the

list. We published an [interview](#) last week with Dario Vidovic. For a first time participation in local elections a result of 21%, or two out of nine seats, is an excellent result. Kolodvorsko/Sajmiste is the only city district of Samobor where the Pirates ran. Not enough candidates could be found in time for the other sections of the city. For the city council of Samobor the result was only 1.89% and not enough to secure a seat since the threshold was 5%.

In a statement to Pirate Times, Dario Vidovic said that they wanted some seats in the city council, which is controlled by the mayor, but that representation in the city district council is a great start for a young party.

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The Croatian Pirates participated in 6 cities and 1 region. The other results were lower but still very good for a first attempt. The results are as follows:

- Zagreb - 0.95% (2,776 votes)
- Rijeka - 1.63% (573 votes)
- Petrinja - 3.77% (354 votes)
- Varaždin - 2.17% (336 votes)
- Samobor - 1.89% (269 votes)
- Bilje - 2.09% (56 votes)
- Primorsko-goranska županija (region) - 1.33% (1,409 votes, 99.70% of votes counted)

For a complete overview of all results in the local elections you can visit [the official site](#).

Featured image: by Watashi Figthermonk CC BY-SA

This article has been updated 22 April 2013 - corrections to number formatting made.

Written by Koen De Voegt published at May 22, 2013

P-REVIEW 13-19 MAY 2013 with Videos and Podcasts



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead. We are also trying out a new feature - a list of videos and podcasts that were published in the last week that are relevant to the World Pirate movement and are in English. See below.

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The week in review 13 - 19 May 2013

- Thursday 16 May I am Bradley Manning [photo event](#)
- Sunday 19 May Croatian Local Elections - According to their [FB page](#) they have won two seats in the local body in [Samobor](#). A full report follows in the next Pirate Times article.

Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

☐ Thursday 23 May [International Conference of Whistleblowers](#) in Serbia

☐ Saturday 25 May [March Against Monsanto](#)

Pirate related podcasts that were published in the last week

[Little Atoms](#) Chris Marsden and Ian Brown - Regulating Code and Internet Governance

Ian Brown is Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University's Oxford Internet Institute. He is the editor of the Research Handbook on Governance of the Internet. Christopher T. Marsden is Professor of Law at the University of Sussex School of Law. He is the author of Net Neutrality: Towards a Co-Regulatory Solution, Internet Co-Regulation, and three other books.

[Science Weekly podcast](#): Cory Doctorow on an internet that sets us free

The Sense About Science Lecture 2013, given by the sci-fi writer and web activist [Cory Doctorow](#).

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Pirate related videos that were published in the last week

[#exile6e "Save the Children"](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvQ4xWuF_pg

[Birgitta Jónsdóttir speaking at Re:Publica 2013 in Berlin](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdnHbeWlgV4>

[The Cosmonaut ? Free Film ? Creative Commons](#)

Featured image: by [Travis Hornung CC BY-SA](#)

&!--Featured image: by [chase_elliot CC BY-->](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 21, 2013

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter “ April 2013



During the month of March the Pirate movement grew by 7,011 followers on Facebook and 4,725 followers on Twitter. This brings the total amount of people following a Pirate Party on Facebook or Twitter to 712,480 people. From a request from last month I tried changing the format of the table for the statistics this month. These stats were taken almost a week into May which might skew the results since it's counting almost five weeks.

Facebook

The three top accounts all dropped followers. As explained [last month](#) this is due to continued problems inside of the German PP (hopefully some of them were solved at their [recent GA](#)). Sweden upset some people after [TPB moved away from their servers](#) and probably scared away some others with too much discussion from their recent GA. Romania (ACTA) group keeps losing relevance with ACTA gone and thus followers.

Brazil keeps growing strongly and seems to have a positive effect on their neighbors in Colombia. In Africa both Tunisia and Morocco increases their numbers greatly. Icelandic elections boosted their followers with a massive 2000 and now that they're [elected into their parliament](#) this rise will hopefully keep increasing. Croatia had recent [EU elections](#) which gave them a much needed boost for their [local elections](#). Also Denmark sees a massive boost (probably after their recent GA) and Poland after them recently forming their [political party](#)

officially.

FACEBOOK

7011

419642

Country Name

Place

+/-

Change

8-May



Sweden

1

0

-381

81873

Germany

2

0

-691

77138

Romania (ACTA)

3

0

-300

48758

Czech Republic

4

0

111

33317

Tunisia 2

5

0

729

19463

Spain (Catalunya)

6

0

-10

15298



Brazil

7

0

586

9884

United Kingdom

8

0

64

8480

Slovakia

9

0

-23

7896

Serbia 1

10

0

12

7182



Morocco 2

11

2

744

6381

Canada

12

-1

64

6244

Slovenia

13

-1

3

6171

Italy

14

0

105

4984



Spain

15

0

60

4936

Iceland

16

11

2053

4846

Croatia

17

5

925

4799

France

18

0

223

4744

Austria



19
-3
73
4603

Finland

20
-3
7
4531

Pirate Parties International

21
-2
287
4526

Russia

22
-2
26
3919

Netherlands

23



-2

32

3914

Belgium

24

-1

11

3739

Australia

25

-1

70

3260

Colombia

26

0

191

3106

Greece

27

-2



58

3060

Mexico

28

0

44

2748

Switzerland

29

0

12

2390

United States

30

0

99

2364

Hungary

31

0

114



2264

Norway

32

0

230

2025

Portugal

33

0

103

1879

Luxembourg

34

0

-3

1586

Poland

35

3

300

1561



Denmark

36

4

464

1558

Turkey

37

-2

74

1548

New Zealand

38

-2

33

1346

Romania

39

-2

4

1306



Argentina

40
-1
63
1166

Kazakhstan

41
0
7
989

Tunisia 1

42
0
74
969

Bosnia & Herzegovina

43
1
168
944



israel 2

44

-1

23

908

Montenegro

45

0

12

582

Estonia

46

0

22

582

Latvia

47

0

-1

443

Ukraine



48

0

10

441

Serbia 2

49

1

25

380

India

50

-1

15

373

Spain (Galicia)

51

0

10

338

Uruguay

52



0
17
290

Lithuania

53
0
-1
254

Lebanon

54
0
7
235

Japan

55
0
10
181

Malaysia

56
0



9

179

Guatemala

57

1

19

146

Albania

58

-1

0

128

South Korea

59

0

4

128

Ireland

60

0

7



Venezuela

61

0

2

90

Cyprus

62

0

2

90

Chile

63

0

4

71

Belarus

64



Bulgaria

65

China

66



Twitter

On Twitter we see increasing numbers for everyone. Iceland gets a massive election boost almost doubling their followers but over-all there's not so much to say about these numbers. Do you see any other significant changes?

TWITTER

4725

292838

Country

Place

+/-

Change

May-8

Germany

1

0

69

115669

France

2

0

401

24274

Pirate Parties International

3

0

159

17930



United Kingdom

4

0

139

12264

Spain

5

0

150

9180

Sweden

6

0

385

8305

Tunisia 2

7

1

256

7460



Brazil

8

-1

71

7303

Spain (Catalunya)

9

0

50

6602

Switzerland (ger)

10

2

243

5179

Netherlands

11

-1

22

5172



Greece

12

-1

71

5151

Australia

13

1

122

4800

Canada

14

-1

66

4795

Russia

15

0

257

4201

Finland



16
0
201
3795

Serbia 2

17
0
75
3609

Italy

18
1
132
3208

Austria

19
-1
55
3174

Argentina

20



0
151
2999

Portugal

21
1
38
2336

Belgium

22
-1
25
2328

Norway

23
1
147
2231

New Zealand

24
-1



38

2186

China

25

0

47

2114

Luxembourg

26

0

46

2084

Colombia

27

0

39

1891

United States

28

2

182



1868

Mexico

29

-1

-11

1815

Czech Republic

30

-1

42

1739

Switzerland (fre)

31

0

36

1479

Kazakhstan

32

0

30

1425



Japan

33

0

27

1257

Turkey

34

0

73

1255

Slovenia

35

0

35

1177

Tunisia 1

36

0

50

1103



Estonia

37

0

49

1048

Bulgaria

38

0

13

924

Romania

39

0

4

869

Uruguay

40

0

21

802



Iceland

41

2

298

786

Poland

42

-1

13

709

Spain (Galicia)

43

-1

22

516

Croatia

44

1

123

487

India



45

-1

4

424

Venezuela

46

1

107

394

Serbia 1

47

-1

24

350

Latvia

48

0

-2

269

Slovakia

49



0
26
244

Lebanon

50
0
9
194

Chile

51
0
4
176

South Korea

52
0
11
167

Cyprus

53
0



18

161

Bosnia & Herzegovina

54

1

19

150

Israel

55

-1

-2

140

Malaysia

56

0

15

137

Ireland

57

0

5



Albania

58

0

5

94

Hungary

59

0

10

81

Ukraine

60

0

1

69

Montenegro

61

0

5

65



Morocco 2

62

0

4

52

Switzerland (ita)

63

0

1

40

Guatemala

64

0

-1

9

Belarus

65



Denmark

66

Lithuania

67



FAQ

*Why no more information about the countries?

You can find more info about each country on the [Pirate Parties Worldwide](#) page.

*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.

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at May 19, 2013

An Evening with Marina Weisband and Direct Democracy



On the evening of Friday 17 May 2013 [Marina Weisband](#) introduced and read sections of her book "[Wir Nennen es Politik](#)" (We Call it Politics) with the subtitle "Ideas for a Contemporary Democracy" in an auditorium in Bremen, Germany.

Lesser known in the Pirate Movement outside Germany, Marina joined the Party in 2009 and has been the Political Director of the German Pirate Party during its spectacular rise and electoral success in the period up to 2012. With her laid back style and yet thorough grasp of her subject matter, her appearances on television and before the press won her respect from politicians, reporters and the German public. However, the demands of suddenly becoming a leading political figure on a volunteer basis and having to continue her studies was leading to burnout and she decided to step down and concentrate on finishing her diploma in psychology.

She has put the saved time to good use and written her first book, making a transition from a political leader of the Party to a leading light of the Movement.

Her book consists of two parts: the first one is a primer on politics and an explanation of why a 24 year old student has the right to propose a total restructuring of democracy as we know it, while the second part is that proposal - liquid democracy. She discusses the rights and responsibilities of the citizens and the elements needed to enable them to participate properly such as education and a universal basic income. She started by stating that she was not used to being alone on a platform and would welcome questions and comments and so a physical event started to take on the nature of the net where she would read a passage and answer

to interjections from the audience. Due to the largely young nature of the gathering she glossed over the first part and concentrated on the nature and possibilities of liquid democracy. There were not only Pirate Party members present and the questions came at a steady pace. Soon, a convivial atmosphere installed and she was able to explain her vision of a liquid democracy system, parallel to the current German political structure and even in a decentralized form that would allow people all over the world to propose, discuss and vote on ideas and proposals. She also pointed out the problems that would be encountered on the road to such goals. Not the least of these is getting the systems running in a way that they can adapt to needs identified as they scale up and the paradox of people not wanting to take part until enough people were taking part to make it effective.

As the evening drew on, we learnt more about the person of Marina Weisband from what she read from her book and anecdotes that came spontaneously as the discourse dictated. How she learned to cope with the limelight before television cameras and online. How she managed to stay focused despite 'shit-storms' of criticism- notably absent in a face-to-face encounter. That is not to say that the questions from the Bremen people there were not well thought out and probing but they were at least put in civil way.

The book is, at the moment, only available in German and in a print and e-book edition. Marina insisted that people copying and sharing the book would not be persecuted for doing so. You would be doing the Movement and the world a favour if you took the time to encourage the publishers to provide an English translation of the book and an audio version for which Marina's own voice would be well suited. Write them a letter or email.

Â
Klett-Cotta-Verlag
Rotebühlstraße 77
70178 Stuttgart
Germany

She told us that she would be taking a break before setting forth her **book-reading engagements** after the next engagement in Köln in June and although no longer a functionary in the Pirate Party she will be available to appear for the coming federal election campaign if the Party needs her. She does not envisage running in any elections in the near future but wants to pursue her vision for a vastly more democratic world. Speaking fluent Russian, German and English and with a wealth of political experience she is well placed to become a prominent figure in the worldwide Pirate Movement and associated causes.

You can follow Marina on twitter [@Afelia](#) and Facebook www.facebook.com/marinaweisband

And in case you were wondering, we managed to get a signed copy of the book which will be the prize in an upcoming Pirate Times quiz.

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Marina telling us why she is a Pirate.

<http://youtu.be/3O5CBoBwMbM>

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Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 18, 2013

Local elections in Croatia



It's hard work being a Pirate in Croatia. Only a month after the **campaign** for the **EU elections**, the campaign is on again in this former Yugoslav republic. This time it are the local and regional elections. The Pirate Party of Croatia (**Piratska Stranka**) will compete in 6 cities or towns. These are Zagreb, Rijeka, Varazdin, Belje, Samobor and Petrinje. They will also compete in one region, Primorsko-goranska. Elections will be held on Sunday 19th of May.

In the following sections we will introduce some of the top candidates:

Rijeka ? top candidate: MARTINA GRABOVAC

Who are you and why did you join the Pirate Party?

Martina: My name is Martina Grabovac. I'm a 25 years old single parent. I am a sculptor by profession. I joined the Pirate Party only 2 months ago. I joined the Pirates because I share thier vision of democracy.

Can you tell us a little more about your city?

Martina: The city of Rijeka is a multi cultural centre. It's a real pleasure to live here because people are uncomplicated here. But here the projects are difficult to realize.

What's the most important Pirate standpoint in your opinion?

Martina: The most important topics for me is always e-democracy both on local and on state level.

Do you think you can win any seats after this campaign? How many?

Martina: I think we can win 4 seats in current election.

Varazdin ? top candidate: MATIJA TURK

Who are you and why did you join the Pirate Party?

Matija: My name is Matija Turk (30), married and father of a one year old. For the past 12 years I have lived and worked in Varaždin. Currently I am CTO of Novi-Net Telekom, a Wimax based telecom operator located in neighbouring Međimurje county. Before, during and after my college education I have been involved in multiple community projects including Croatian Red Cross, student organization STAK (co-founder) and Varaždin Intelligent Community project. My personal goal is to be active in the community and help it grow. Motivate people to be proactive in order to help those less fortunate and to understand that the people of the community are the only ones that can make it a beautiful place to live. Politicians are, and always will be, only a product of the community, so the change needs to start from the people. Pirate party is my means to achieve that goal.

Can you tell us a little more about your region?

Matija: The city of Varaždin, and the surrounding county, is a special part of Croatia, that cherishes old traditions but at the same time attracts young people because of a slower life style, lower cost of living, multitude of cultural and sports events, and it's orientation on new technologies and companies based on them. So on one side we have our baroque heritage (urban) and rural untouched countryside, and on the other fast growing IT sector, all connected with well developed tourist offer. This is also the orientation that I see Varaždin developing in the future. Problems arise with legacy industries that are struggling like wood, textile and meat industries where a big part of population is employed. Varaždin as a county has one of lowest unemployment rates in Croatia, but as majority of employed work for the legacy industries, mean pay is rather low compared with the rest of Croatia. That is a problem that has to be addressed before we can attract more young people to our little part of paradise :-)

What's the most important international Pirate standpoint in your opinion?

Matija: The most important PP standpoint is E-democracy and liquid democracy because it empowers people and limits the elected politicians that work against the good of the community. It allows faster change (in every aspect, political, economical and legislative) and at the same time promotes sharing of new ideas and hopefully allows people to feel as part of the community again. Which, as said earlier, I consider the most important part of every community and every democracy!.

Do you have any specific local topics you are focusing on?

Matija: The main focus, if elected, will be on development and implementation of E-democracy and a liquid democracy platform, so that we can connect the city council to its people. To inform the community of the city council's plans and decision making process, and allow the community to influence them directly. Many people say that E-democracy and liquid democracy is an utopian idea. It is not! And it is not light years away. It's implementation needs to start from small local communities. Become accepted, so that it can be allowed to create real, tangible results. From there it will spread, it is an idea, that needs to grow in people's minds before it can be put in computers.

What will you focus on when elected?

Matija: Specific focus of Varaždin branch is humanitarian work, using our resources from members of local PP (entrepreneurs and/or various IT specialists) to help disabled young people and young parents with financial problems. To allow the community to recognize the problems and help solve them.

How much percent/seat do you think you can win in this election?

Matija: Varaždin branch of Pirate party was founded just a week before the local elections. Before that there were EU elections where without a branch and marketing in Varaždin area PP Croatia got 150 votes (voting body in city of Varaždin is 41000).

We are working hard on the campaign but with limited founding (Vara?din PP branch budget for this election is 200 Euros). Election seat threshold is 5% of people that voted. In 2009 elections that was 1000 votes. To sum it up, our goal on this elections is 1 seat and we feel that there is a good chance for us to enter the city council.

Petrinje ? top candidate: SLAVEN KADE?KA

Who are you and why did you join the Pirate Party?

Slaven: My name is Slaven Kade?ka, I'm 25 years old. I'm a primary school teacher, but I've also been working in a youth organisation for five years. I joined the Pirate Party because I realised that the plans and programme of Pirates are something that is in line with my everyday life focus. That it is something that look for the future not past things. I joined Pirates only a few months ago.

Can you tell us a little more about your town?

Slaven: I'm from Sisak-Moslavina county, from town Petrinja. Petrinja has around 25.000 inhabitants, and it is post war town. During the war in 90's the town was completely ruined. A lot of property in town remains in ruins and is not rebuilt. The economic and industrial situation is very bad. A lot of young people are leaving town and moving to urban cities.

What?s the most important international Pirate standpoint in your opinion?

Slaven: The most important thing in my opinion is supporting Pirate Parties around the world and connecting them to be stronger in their countries.

Do you have any specific local topics you are focusing on?

Slaven: Yes, of course we have, the local topics that we are focusing are input of open source software in local government, transparency of local government and direct democracy.

What will you focus on when elected?

Slaven: I'll focus on youth, internet, technology and the entire programme of the Croatian Pirates.

How much percent of seats do you expect to win in this election?

Slaven: We expect 1 seat, that is around 5% of votes.

Samobor ? top candidate: DARIO VIDOVI?

Who are you and why did you join the Pirate Party?

Dario: I am a telecommunication entrepreneur thus following the technology sector quite closely. When I came across the German Pirates I thought this is something worth investing my time in. I looked for other pirates in Croatia, as I did not find anyone, I started with few my friends the Pirate party, or at least what is today known as the Zagreb Branch. We found out later that at the exact same time there was a Pirate movement in Rijeka in its infancy.

Can you tell us a little more about your city?

Dario: Samobor, is situated between the country's capital Zagreb and the Slovenian border. History wise Samobor was always a centre of small entrepreneurs and good standing people. The city has a recorded history of more than 770 years and is very popular as a tourist resort with its green mountains and many woods. The local economy is focused on small and specialised industry and in general it is doing better than the rest of the country. But we think there is still room for improvement in many aspects of life of our citizens.

What's the most important Pirate standpoint in your opinion?

Dario: The most important standpoint is hard to point out. We are running a local election campaign. And if I would point out something that is international in our goals, then I would say it is liquid feedback and demand for the reform of our political approach on the local level.

Samobor has 37.000 inhabitants. We are an ideal community to test such new platforms, as we are still small enough to educate most of the population how to use such new political tools.

Beside transparency we are putting a great emphasis on this part of pirate program. And if we win at least one seat, I think we can do a lot here in upgrading democracy to a higher level.

How much percent do you think you can win in these election?

Dario: we have our dreams! We dream of one seat to be present in the city council. But we also need to be realistically. Pirate Party is a newcomer. The name provides a shock, and we need time to explain our position and program. This was somewhat possible for our cities border. But Samobor is in area extremely large and half of the people are outside of the city limits. We had non or little reach to those people, and we have no idea how they look toward us or our program. Lets wait out these few days. And see what happens. In general the goal is 3%, and 5% is needed for one seat.

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Featured image: by Watashi Figthermonk CC BY-SA

Written by Koen De Voegt published at May 17, 2013

Spanish Pirate Confederation attends Democratic Organizations Congress in Salamanca



On 10 - 11 May 2013, the first **Democratic Organizations Congress** took place in Salamanca, hosted and coordinated by USAL students who are members of the **oldest University in Spain**. Thus, the city took up again its ancient tradition of research and cultural exchange. An exchange

that coincided with a special moment in Spanish politics, including a huge rate of social dissatisfaction with the management of public affairs, and with the two main parties -PP and PSOE- plummeting in the polls.

The **Spanish Pirate Confederation** was invited to the event, as well as many other political parties and social organizations. Several talks, debates and workshops were scheduled with the aim of finding new solutions to a political system -Spain's- in deep crisis. The common language in all activities was very positive and centered in dialogue, cooperation and the search of agreements.

Throughout the Congress, several scholars offered their opinion on current issues. And this opinion was often very close to the Pirate principles.

For example, USAL's Prof. Sebastián Linares stated that "what democracy can be is not represented in Parliaments". Prof. Víctor Cuesta, from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, said that "democracy is not a 'statu quo', but an ideal one must try to reach"; and he reminded that Spain has the most restrictive system of popular plebiscites in our comparative Law, which he considered to be a big flaw.

During the workshop-debate between representatives of political parties, up to 14 different speakers offered their thoughts. These groups -in addition to the Spanish Pirate Confederation- varied from forces with some representation in the institutions, to parties with low electoral results.

In these talks it became apparent that all the representatives agreed on three key aspects that Spain needed most: more transparency, more participation of the citizens in the decision making, and a reform of the electoral system to make it more democratic.

These common goals are, ironically, pillars of the [Pirate ideology](#).

On the negative side, it was clear that the most traditional -read 'old'- parties do not understand the strength and possibilities of the internet as a tool for democratic management, social change and citizens' communication. At the most, they perceive it as a system for tweeting electoral slogans.

Following what the organizers named the 'Spirit of Salamanca', full of cooperation and mutual help, more informal talks were held, in order to further those points were all parties agreed' and to keep on doing so.

Will it be possible for different parties to collaborate for the common good? That would certainly be a proof of political maturity and an example to follow. Maybe this will be the first step towards what tomorrow may be called the 'Movement of Salamanca'?

Featured images: PPES CC BY-SA

Written by Fabián Plaza Miranda published at May 16, 2013

P-review 6-12 May 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead. We are also trying out a new feature - a list of videos and

podcasts that were published in the last week that are relevant to the World Pirate movement and are in English. See below.

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The week in review 6 - 12 May 2013

- ☐ 7 May [New York City Pirates](#) founding meeting
 - ☐ 11-12 May [The German Pirate Party's Federal General Assembly](#) which we reported over three days
- Friday Saturday Sunday

Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

- ☐ Thursday 16 May I am Bradley Manning [photo event](#)
- ☐ Sunday 19 May Croatian Local Elections

Pirate related podcasts that were published in the last week

[Laurie Penny](#) reporting on the Icelandic Elections and the Pirate Party in the [New Statesman Podcast](#) (her report starts approx 14 mins into the podcast).

The Theft of Creative Content: [Copyright in Crisis Podcast](#) - A London School of Economics Discussion with Pirate MEP [Amelia Andersdotter](#)

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Pirate related videos that were published in the last week

#exile6e

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBrk7kb-YsS>

Information video about the Slovenian Pirate Party

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X62bXGkR3mo>

Pirate Party sails into Icelandic parliament

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0XFvmHgu-k>

PPUK's Loz Kay interviewed by Russian Television on Internet freedom

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ojxGt-Xe74>

At the New World Summit Leiden - Dirk Poot the leader of PPNL speaking on the Open Information Society and Terrorism

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSfWs-05Wtg>

Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) CC BY

&!--Featured image: by [gerlos](#) CC BY-SA-->;

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 14, 2013

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 3



On the final day of the General assembly the Germany Pirates have taken an important step towards the election of more Pirate MEPs in the upcoming 2014 European Elections and continuing cooperation between national parties by ratifying the "Paris Declaration". This declaration outlines the purpose of the PPEU (Pirate Parties of Europe). This was done with no formal objections.

The purpose of the organisation is to represent the European Pirate Movement to European institutions and to work in the interest of its members by, amongst other things:

- ?Facilitating coordination and cooperation between its members.
- ?Assisting its members to promote the Pirate movement in Europe.
- ?Taking as its principles the Pirate manifesto, as will be annexed to the statutes.
- ?Functioning as a link between European Pirate Parties and Pirate MEPs.
- ?Encouraging and supporting its members in organizing events focused on European topics

Only Parties that ratify this declaration can be a part of the PPEU.

Other motions passed include:

Asylum rights reform

The so called "six pack" of reforms for Europe including: more citizen participation and rights

for the European Parliament, a Marshall plan to deal with Europe's Economic crisis, energy generation that should be decentralized and net-centralized, access to a net-neutral internet should be guaranteed and Creative Content licenses promoted, and the concept of a "fortress Europe" should be abandoned.

- A Europe-wide end to the yearly change to and from summer time.
- The Green Youth Movement was proclaimed the second youth movement of the Pirate Party alongside the Young Pirates.
- A form of permanent general assembly was voted into being late in the day. It is now up to the geeks and philosophers to get it working on such a large scale.

Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 13, 2013

“Pirates in Education” are running for a seat in the Greek teachers federation



The teacher and chairman of the Board of PPGR, [Thanasis Gounaris](#), had an excellent idea last November about creating the ballot list called "[Pirates in Education](#)".

This ballot list, which is supported by PPGR, is for the teachers' national elections of representatives to their service board. His idea was warmly embraced by his colleagues nationwide and the results were an unexpectedly good [result of 2,05%](#). In January of this

year, another ballot was formed by two teachers and brought a result of 5,4%. This result was very close to winning a seat on the seven-member Board of Directors called "Aristotles", the Association of Athens teachers. It should be noted that "Pirates in Education" lost the seat by only six votes because of the ballot supported by PASOK, a party that has been in the government of Greece for decades. Now "Pirates in Education" are running for a seat in the Board of Representatives in the Teachers' Federation of Greece (Didaskaliki Omospondia Elladas, DOE). These elections will be held at local level at the end of May. Greek Pirates are highly motivated for this campaign. They are trying to influence all their friends and acquaintances to vote for their ballot containing their three candidates, again in "Aristotles" of Athens. Basic principles of Pirate teachers are direct participatory democracy, transparency, free exchange of information and the protection of privacy.

Talking to the Pirate Times about "Pirates in Education", Thanasis Gounaris noted that he and his fellow teachers are threatening the "status quo" of DOE which they seem to dislike. "They do not want to be disturbed and are really annoyed by the publications in our Facebook group which show irregularities of a current member of the Board of DOE", Gounaris stated.

Pirate Times: Why did these Facebook publications annoy the board?

Thanasis Gounaris: Board of DOE was annoyed because in our facebook group pages were put up publications, showing that a member was sentenced by courts for financial irregularities and abuse of power, while holding other public offices either as elected representative or appointed by the government. They were more annoyed by our disclosures in a simple facebook group of teachers which has only 115 members, rather than other media's coverage which are read daily by thousands of readers! The absurd thing here is that after the convictions and complaints of "Pirates in Education", the sentenced member was appointed as a chairman in the Board of Directors in a public organization! The Board never answered to the complaints that were sent to the personal emails of the members and secretariat. At first place the answer was indifference

and after that they posted personal attacks against "Pirates in Education" and myself. The political establishment that led the country to the precipice covers its people, and whatever they did, it's for them good enough only to bring votes!

Pirate Times: What do "Pirates in Education" stand for?

Thanasis Gounaris: We are directly linked to PPGR's ideology. Basic principles of "Pirates in Education" are transparency, free exchange of information, protection of privacy. Policies and programs must be developed from scratch and always be in permanent evolution. It is an opportunity, now, to consider our place and become members. The representation should be reformed to what really should be. Away from entrenched and ineffective tactics and union "dinosaurs" that replicate themselves and only aim to maintain their positions. Unfortunately, the current situation in unionization, in primary education, has led to the creation of a trade union establishment. Union professionals are into permanent positions and posts, with the sole objective of maintaining an outdated practice, without vision or mood for actions in the right direction. Old fashioned tactics and newly created "formations" with old materials trying to maintain the beaten track in teachers' unionization. This time, though, they'll find us towards them, "Pirates in Education" and direct participatory democracy we cherish, one of our core principles. We still want to release free our cultural heritage and making it accessible to everyone. All non-commercial collection, use, processing and distribution of culture should be explicitly encouraged. Technologies that limit the legal rights of consumers to copy and use information or culture, called DRM (Digital rights management) should be banned. The non-commercial distribution publicized culture, information or knowledge - with a clear exception of personal data - should not be restricted or bring some punishment. We want to create cultural commons. Finally our most important task is to make sure that the world will not fall back into a new "Dark Ages" before that happens, because we've seen it happening. By participating we can change teachers' today and build children's tomorrow.

Pirate Times: How did you get the idea to form "Pirates in Education"??

Thanasis Gounaris: The idea came spontaneously as it was an answer to a question a friend of

mine asked me last summer: "Are you a teacher or not? Are there any "Pirates in Education"?" Thus for the first time "Pirates in Education" were created. We took part on last November's teachers' national elections with only one candidate and presence in the internet and got a percentage of 2.05% and 1.254 votes. After 2 months, at the elections of "Aristotle", the Association of Athens teachers, with two candidates and a small campaign and a plenary speech that was based on our basic principles, we got 5.4% and came very close to the winning of a seat to the seven-member Board of Directors. I must note that we lost the seat for only six votes by the ballot supported by PASOK, a party that was in government of Greece for decades! This only illustrates the damage suffered by big parties that carry the weight of responsibility for crisis in Greece. They began to take us seriously! This time on May 30th is the last showdown for the biennium 2012-2014. We run for the elections of the Board of Representatives of DOE, again in Athens' "Aristotle" with three candidates and go for the overrun to elect the first unionized Pirate! For the record, the candidates, on November 2012 was only me, on January 2013, **Markos Papaioannou** joined the ballot and for this election, although the ballot will be deposited approximately on May 20th, there is a third member, a woman candidate, **Electra Pagoni**. Great assistance for this effort, outside education's fields, offered by pirate **Simos Dalkyriades**, coordinator of PPGR's press team, who created our page and still manages it, and my wife **Penelope Petropoulou** who coordinated all a communication job! She is a member of PPGR and a candidate in Athens in last national elections.

Thanks to everyone in PPGR for helping "Pirates in Education" to form.

Pirate Times: What are the conditions in primary education for Greece?

Thanasis Gounaris: "Take a stand for Greek teachers". This is a clear call to all, to recognize the crucial role of education in transforming the lives of learners, everywhere, at all levels of education. In this difficult economic and social context in which teachers work, we have to find ways to improve their professional status and working conditions of all of the staff of education. In today's Greece of crisis, Greeks teachers were one of the most underpaid civil servants and ended up on the brink of economic misery. The impoverishment of Greek teacher placed him on

the sidelines, especially since society needs more than ever his contribution to lift the morale of a nation bankrupted not only economically, but also morally and institutionally. Half a million children in Greece are living below the poverty line, while the rate of child poverty in our country, according to Eurostat data, is estimated at 30%. The economic crisis in addition to unemployment, poverty and the widening of inequality is accompanied by reduced health benefits, food insecurity, poor quality diet and increased childhood morbidity and mortality. There is no mercy by so-called as "our lenders" for sensitive groups of the Greek population. More and more people in Greece are losing their jobs and therefore their income and gradually falling into abject poverty. Greek teachers have to manage the humanitarian crisis which is underway in Greek society and Greek schools and to ensure, as far as possible, the cohesion of Greek people that's been put at risk. This is teacher's biggest role today.

Pirate Times: Do you think "Pirates in Education" will make it and win a seat?

Thanasis Gounaris: On January's elections we almost made it! I think that it is so easy as difficult, at the same time! It depends on teachers' turn out, the votes you've got, the election system and of course luck!. It is also depends on the preparations you've made. Board of Representatives is like "the parliament of teachers" and it would be good to have representatives from all over Greece. Through this interview I would like to invite all interested teachers to join "Pirates in Education" and form ballots in other regions, except Athens, to contact with us in the following address agounar@sch.gr. It would be a great pleasure to meet teachers who want to change the traditional system.

Pirate Times: What is your background in pirate politics?

Thanasis Gounaris: I am a founding member of PPGR. I'm involved with internet since its creation, even before the days of BBS. I'm a member of one of the largest wireless networks in Europe, the "Athens Wireless Metropolitan Network" with 20,000 members. An "airwave pirate" dealt with free radio from 1979 to 2004, been judged 2 times for it. I am also a radio amateur since 1997, my characteristic is SV1EDI.

Pirate Times: What about the progress of PPGR? What's the assessment so far?

Thanasis Gounaris: We had some good and bad times but I really think that the final assessment leaning toward the good! We are very pleased by the acceptance showed by Greek citizens.

Pirate Times: What is your comment on the move for the creation of a new party that resembles pirates?

Thanasis Gounaris: Yesterday I saw a statement from ex-members intending to establish a new PP, today I am informed about another movement to set up a third PP with ecological guidance! Well, every pirate could form a PP of his own! But so far we are the only official PP in Greece. We were founded as a party and recognized by the Greek state on January 14, 2012, we have our statutes, flags and banners and we are open to be copied! We are ordinary member of PPI since April 2012, having our goals and coming closer to them day by day.

Pirate Times: Is there a risk for PPGR to split?

Thanasis Gounaris: There is no such issue! I would like to inform you that the whole situation bridged the differences that existed between pirates and PPGR is now highly rallied! Every ambition is legitimate, but in the battle arena all judged by the result. We are running in DOE's elections with a potential advantage and a highly accepted ballot by teachers who showed that in previous encounters. We strive to achieve the best and I believe that Greek pirates are in the conscience of Greek society that honoured us in the last May's elections with 33,000 votes. "Pirates in Education", supported by PPGR indicates the degree of acceptance, not only to teachers but across Greek society. We focus on our goal which is none other than the dissemination of pirate spirit. We are working with a master plan and approaching steadily, step by step to this objective. We are here and we are fighting for the rights and freedom of Greek citizens and I'm asking my fellow teachers to warmly vote, once again, for "Pirates in Education"!

Featured image: CC BY Thanasis Gounaris

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 2



On Saturday 11 May 2013 the German Pirates got down to the business of formulating policies that will help them gain electoral success in September. This is no rubber-stamping of a set of policies, that are tailor made by spin doctors to the

results of polls and focus groups, and designed to lure the unsuspecting voter. Many of the points for the election manifesto were adopted as a block as the discussion had mostly taken place on line but a significant number of motions had to be decided on a modular basis - each requiring a 2/3 majority to be passed. This is real, raw democracy. Under the scrutiny of a largely unsympathetic press, opinions were robustly contested and the pro and contra microphones have long lines for each motion presented.

Under the motions that were passed can be counted:

- Opposition to the collection and storing of travel related data
- Strengthening of the rights of free sex industry workers
- The liberalizing of the control of fireworks
- Making federal referendums easier for citizens to initiate
- Protection and freedom in the internet

- The use of open educational materials in schools
- Unrestricted work opportunities for academics
- Although the Party is for the eventual introduction of an unconditional basic income it has decided to support the introduction of a country wide minimum wage in the interim.

In the midst of the proceedings the Party Chairman Bernd Schlömer raised a poster and roused the crowd with the slogan "Ich bin motiviert" - I am motivated - giving a welcome boost to the mood of the assembly.

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Another attempt was made to introduce the SMV (Ständige Mitgliedsversammlung a permanent online general assembly). However it was delayed by trolling, repeated calls for changes to the order of business and requiring secret balloting at every opportunity in a concerted tactic, similar to the American filibuster, in the hope that time would run out. The conference decided to open an hour early on Sunday morning to try and address the subject in a proper and democratic manner. However one group of Pirates from the city of Bremen were so enthusiastic about the concept they wanted to sing about it.

<http://youtu.be/qyuFqnN43IU>

CC BY-SA

Featured image: Motivational poster CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 12, 2013

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 1



On Friday 10 May 2013 the German Bundesparteitag (Federal General Assembly) Started punctually at 13:37 with a speech from Bruno Kramm, a candidate for the federal elections in September. This was followed by general business and an important change to the statutes governing the election of the board. This was needed to be able to replace 3 board members who had resigned two ordinary member **Julia Schramm**, **Matthias Schrade** and **Johannes Ponader** the political leader. These positions where filled by **Katharina Nocum** as the new political leader and Christophe Chan Hin and Andi Popp as the two new ordinary board members.

The finances for the party was also changed so that state funds, that goes to those states who have representatives elected to state parliaments, would be shared amongst the other state parties. This means that the 2014 European election campaign can be more equally waged across the country.

Late into the night the Pirates struggled with the need to establish an SMV (Ständigemitgliedsversammlung - permanent general assembly) that would enable the party to conduct its business online instead of relying on physical meetings such as this one where only a small fraction - approx. 1000 of the 30,000 members of PPDE. However as midnight approached they failed to reach the 2/3 majority required for change .

On Saturday The Pirates will try again to establish an SMV and discuss their election program.

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The twitter hashtags for the GA are [#bpt131](#) and [#frapira](#). A [live stream](#) is also available.

Featured image: Katharina Nocum CC BY-SA Pirate Times

This post had been edited - pictures added post publication

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 11, 2013

General Assembly of the German Pirate Party May 2013



On 10 - 12 May 2013 the [General Assembly](#) of the German Pirate Party will take place in Neumarkt . This GA will mainly be focused on party policies in order to prepare for the elections in September.

But it won't be only about party policies, it will also be about statue changes needed in order elect a few new members board. Two former members of the board have already resigned and a third member of the board will resign at the GA.

Important motions for the GA are those concerning the establishment of a permanent online GA

in order to pass policies quicker and to enhance the democratic processes within the German Pirate Party.

The first day of the GA will be about statute changes needed to re-elect members of the board. This became necessary after Matthias Schrade and Julia Schramm resigned from the board. A while after that Johannes Ponader, the controversial political director, announced that he will also resign at the GA. Therefore the GA will decide on motions on by-elections and de-election of certain board members. Furthermore a few motions about the constitution of the board have been presented. Only after the GA has voted for a motion to enable by-elections, will the GA will be able to vote new members to the board.

On the second and third day the GA will vote on motions about party policies and statutes. A few of the most important motions to change the statutes are the motions about a permanent online GA. A very controversial topic within the party which would enable the party to pass new policies faster in order to react to current developments. It also would enable more party members to actually give a binding vote, which is important in order to integrate every members in the democratic processes of the party as not everybody can travel to the physical GA's. Alternatively there is a discussion as to whether systems like this are necessary and if an electronic system can be trusted. It also raises questions about the privacy of party members on the one hand and the transparency and validity of the vote on the other hand.

For the International Pirate Movement motions about Europe and the EU might be interesting. There is a motion about transparency and democratic control for the **ESM**, another motion on the abolition of daylight saving time followed by a related one on whether they want daylight saving time permanently or not (UTC+1 or UTC+2). Furthermore there is a motion with various parts concerning democracy in the EU, the European economy and currency union, European energy politics, a digital agenda for Europe, European security policies and also European traffic policies.

With federal elections in September this year, the German Pirate Party slumping badly in the polls and looks very much like missing out on being the second nation, after [Iceland](#), to elect representatives to a national parliament. This might be the last opportunity for them to turn things around, unite and snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. In any case Pirates worldwide need to pay close attention to how PPDE fares and to learn from what they do wrong and what they do right.

The Pirate Times will be there in Neumarkt keeping you informed. The twitter hashtags for the GA are [#bpt131](#) and [#rapira](#).

UPDATE: A [live stream](#) is also available.

Featured image: CC BY - [SG Gestaltung](#)

Written by Daniel Ebbert published at May 10, 2013

IMMI – “A Safe Haven for Digital Rights” – An Introduction



Over the coming weeks we want to introduce you to and explain [IMMI](#) (International Modern Media Initiative - an acronym and so pronounced as a word) and how it relates to the Pirate Movement. It came out of the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative, a project to take the best data protection laws from around the world and to implement them in Iceland. The new organisation has the same objective, it is just that the whole world is now the focus of implementation. However it has become much more than that and as we will see - a hot bed of innovation.

In this article we will bring you two videos that will explain why IMMI was brought into existence by two Pirates who are deeply involved in the project - before they joined the Pirate Movement. Smári McCarthy and Birgitta Jónsdóttir.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4CE3r2clQ0>

CC-BY-SA Smári McCarthy

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl3brGVsm9U>

CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Taken at the Urban Spree Gallery for [reSource Transmediale](#)

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Featured image: CC-BY [IMMI](#) and [Image Editor](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 8, 2013

P-review 29 April – 5 May 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

The winner of the Iceland Special Quiz Prize is Alix Guillard. Congratulations Alix - your prize will soon be on its way to you.

The week in review 29 April - 5 May 2013

- ☐ 1 May International Labour Day
- ☐ 3 May [International Action Day](#) against DRM in HTML5
- ☐ 4 May [Global Marijuana March](#)
- ☐ 5 May [The Medium of Treason](#) - The Bradley Manning Case in Berlin

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Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

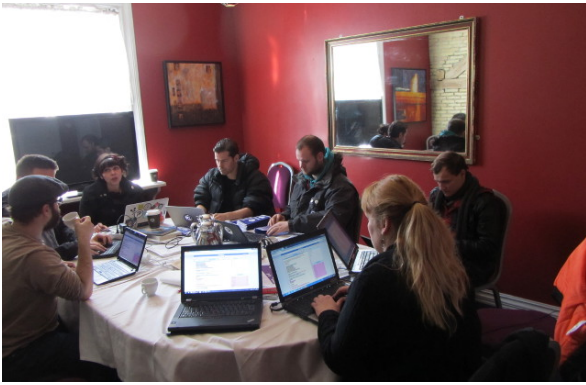
- ☐ 7 May [New York City Pirates](#) founding meeting
- ☐ 11-12 May [The German Pirate Party's Federal General Assembly](#)

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

&!--Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) CC BY-->

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 6, 2013

Iceland Report #5: A Look Back



The New Parliamentarians

A week has passed since the elections and the first three Pirates were elected to the oldest parliament in the world.

Two of them, **Helgi** and **Jón Thór** are coming to terms with their new positions and responsibilities. Not only being now a part of the Icelandic political scene they have to come to terms with being well known in the world, not only of Pirates but in the activist universe. The more politically experienced **Birgitta** will no longer be a lone voice in the Althingi.

The Party

But these three are only the tip of the iceberg, to use an appropriate cliché The party was only **formed in on 24 November 2012**. They would never have made it from start to electoral success without a crew of dedicated Pirates who cannot be all named here but gave of their time and talent to enable PPIS to go from nothing to electoral success in just over five months. There are no ranks in the Icelandic Pirate Party but three Pirates deserve mention as being representative of the rest. Jason Scott, an American living in Reykjavik, who was the main impetus behind the founding of PPIS and although not in the lime light it is his work and energy that bought this triumph to fruition. He is also the reason that the PPIS executive council holds its meetings in English. **Eva** who is the Administrator for the Pirates a cross between a mother hen looking after her brood and a benevolent dictator. **Herbert**, who provides a wealth of knowledge spread over many disciplines. **Hildur** their welfare expert and balloon artist. **Bjorn** the IT genius. **Halldóra** who will be Birgitta's assistant now that Jón Thór is an MP. There are many more, some of whom will be introducing themselves below, who cannot be mentioned but all played vital parts in the making of Pirate history. History that was achieved by hard work and commitment.

A Silver Lining?

One Pirate who just missed out on being elected was Smári McCarthy whose intellect and grasp of Iceland politics and law make it a sad loss for the Icelandic people but a boon for the rest of us - especially the world Pirate movement. His institute The International Modern Media Institute (IMMI) recently received a substantial grant from EU. Now Smári can devote more time to developing electronic direct democracy for Iceland and the world while still being able to support his parliamentary Pirate fellows.

The Media

The world's mainstream media gloated over a "move to the right" but the actual result is not that simple. The Icelanders are realising that the traditional parties, of both ends of the political spectrum, are actually different sides of the same coin. The make up of the leading coalition is far from certain. But in any case the Pirates will be listening to the voices of the people during the full term of the parliament and not just at election time.

Another feature of the election is the interest of the old style journalists, who travel to the location and do the leg-work, interviewing people and getting a feel for the situation and not just repeating the agencies' copy. [Laurie Penny](#) and [Sam Knight](#) were two such reporters whose work we look forward to reading.

Indeed the world reaction has been positive in general and it behooves Pirates world wide to take advantage of the surprise and interest to promote the Pirate Movement in their region.

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Here are some of the Icelandic Pirates telling you why they became Pirates

<http://youtu.be/7lrWlb5DSE4>

<http://youtu.be/7hozP8fDrhc>

<http://youtu.be/DOAG4rYEhuM>

<http://youtu.be/i7Ni55RnhGQ>

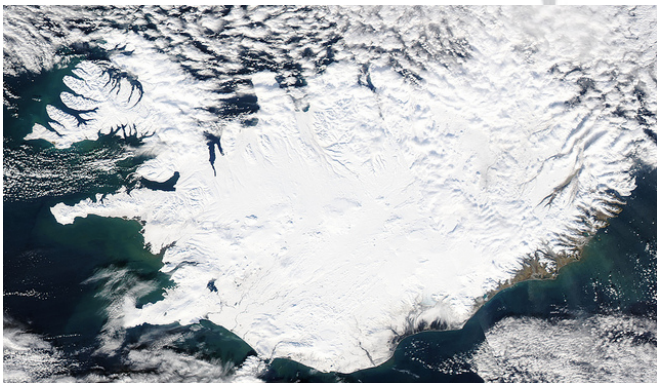
<http://youtu.be/nPQVRbQkJX0>

These videos are all CC BY-NC-SA Pirate times. We will be starting an action soon to collect videos together where Pirates explain their motivation for becoming Pirates for use by Pirate Parties around the world for election campaigns, membership drives and similar actions. We will keep you informed.

Featured image CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 5, 2013

Pirate Times Quiz Iceland Special



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The questions are in a multiple choice format and each correct answer reveals a letter at the end of the quiz. The collected letters will build up a word or a phrase that is related to the Pirate movement.

Participate by sending that word (or phrase) with your name/alias and you will be placed in a draw for the prize. The winner of the draw will be sent a piece of treasure from the Pirate Times

treasure chest. Entries must be in by 10 May 2013 CET and the winner will be announced in the following Pirate Times "P-review", published every Monday.

This month's treasure trove is a collection of memorabilia from the elections including stickers, a set of buttons designed and made by Birgitta and two PPIS pamphlets one signed by Birgitta, Helgi and Jon Thor - the three Pirate MPs . These are unique and will never be repeated in any future campaign or action by PPIS. A chance to own a part of Pirate history. CC-BY-SA Pirate Times

Entries should be sent to the email address andrew@piratetimes.net with the subject line 'Pirate Times Quiz'.

Rules:

- Only one entry per person
- Late entries will not be entered in the draw
- Draws will be made using [Random Picker](#)
- Copying the correct answer from someone else is allowed and even encouraged
- Email addresses will not be kept past the end of the draw except to get the details of the winner.

[To the QUIZ](#)

The quiz cannot run on our site due to a bug. Therefore we are hosting it on Andrew's site until it can be fixed. [Click here to proceed.](#)

Featured image: CC-BY [NASA Goddard Photo and Video](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at May 3, 2013

Young Pirates SE Want to Introduce Mass Immigration and Form Nordic Federal State



The Swedish Young Pirates had their annual member congress in April, where they elected a new board. They also expanded their political program into new areas such as immigration, marriage rights, voting age and environment to mention a few.

The congress took place on the first weekend of April where around 50 elected member representatives decided the future directions of the Swedish Young Pirates just one year from the big election year. In 2014 Sweden will see both the elections to the European Union as well as elections to the regional and national parliaments. Both the Swedish Pirate Party and its youth organisation Young Pirates now focus on finalising **their broadened political programs**.

The congress elected their new board fairly smoothly, re-electing Gustav Nipe for his third year of presidency and Mikael Holm for his second year as secretary. The other elected members are Niklas Dahl, Louise Anjou, Simeon Jonasson, Jimmie Karlsson, Elin Andersson, Nicholas Miles and Wanja Jatko, with three alternate members - David Midhage, Lucas Persson and Erik Einarsson.

The Swedish Pirate Party's views on immigration have become more positive with the

expansion of their political agenda, and the Young Pirates have now voted for a clearer and more direct opinion in the matter. The Young Pirates want to "make mass immigration a goal in Swedish immigration politics", to be achieved by vastly changing the current system.

Sweden has recently seen a large rise in anti-immigration politics, mainly through the Swedish Democrats, a party elected to government in 2010 and currently holding around 10 % in polls. After the decision of mass immigration was approved, the hashtag used for the congress (#upk13) started trending in Sweden, with some outsiders cheering on the pirates and others lambasting them.

The congress also voted to be in favour of the forming of a Nordic federal state with an elected chief of state, referencing studies showing that 42 % of Nordic people support such a formation and arguing that the cultural similarities would allow for a strong union.

The congress further voted to lower the voting age from 18 to 15, and to make marital law more flexible, allowing for polyamorous relationships. These decisions continue the trend of the Young Pirates going further than the party itself, being more extreme in some questions whilst PPSE is more conservative and careful. The leader of the Swedish Pirate Party, Anna Troberg, visited the congress to give a talk wherein she expressed support for the initiative and asked the youth organisation to continue to never be afraid of going further than the party.

All images by Christopher Hakulinen, approved to use on Pirate Times.

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at April 30, 2013

P-review April 29 to May 5 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

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The week in review 22 - 28 April 2013

- 22 April Anonymous called for a [web blackout to protest CISPA](#)
- 26 April [World Intellectual Property Day](#) was held by [WIPO](#) of which [PPI](#) has applied to be an observer member
- 26-28 April Pirate Party of São Paulo [Convention](#)
- 27 April Pirate Party France [Extraordinary General Meeting](#)
- 27 April [Pirate Party Iceland](#) National General Elections in which 3 Pirate MPs were elected.

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Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

- 1 May International Labour Day
- 2 May Live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#).
- 3 May [International Action Day](#) against DRM in HTML5
- 4 May [Global Marijuana March](#)

□ 5 May [The Medium of Treason](#) - The Bradley Manning Case in Berlin

Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) CC BY

&!--Featured image: by [gerlos](#) CC BY-SA-->

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 29, 2013

Iceland Report #4 : History Made by a Hairâ€™s Breadth



History made

On Saturday 27 April 2013 Pirate history was made and three members of a national Pirate Party were elected to be representatives in their national parliament. Iceland is the first country to have Pirates having a say in the running of their country. It was a nail biting finish as the voting results changed through the night and the Icelandic Pirates swung from initial ecstasy to despair and disbelief and then to consternation as the numbers we being reported differently by the two main news outlets [MBL](#) and [RÚV](#). Long after the victory party ended the Pirates left the Reykjavik Cafe with no certain result. It later became known that PPIS had attained 5.1% of the vote and gained the three so called "leveling seats" that are allocated on a national basis at the end of counting according to [Torrentfreak](#). That is now the official result and the Icelandic Pirates have let out a collective sigh of relief and some caught some sleep while others partied on or got down to preparing for the next stage,

Pirate Heroes

The campaign was fought with great sacrifices and at great personal risk by the Pirates, some working full time for the Party with no guarantee of payment and with debts mounting. They will have little time to rest as the fledgling party restructures itself to represent the Icelandic people

in the Athingi - The Icelandic Parliament.

The three new Pirate MPs are:

Helgi Hrafn Gunnarsson (Northern Reykjavik)

Born 22 October 1980 in Reykjavik. He worked in programming and system management for almost fourteen years for various companies and clients. He studies language and religion. Has lived in Finland and Canada. Speaks German, French and classical Arabic. He became a Pirate as governments and corporations have been encroaching on freedom of information. The Internet is the best thing that has come for humanity since the printing press was invented, but now there is a real danger that the opportunities that the Internet offers will be lost.

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Jon Thor Olafsson (southern Reykjavik)

He has been Birgitta's parliamentarian assistant and student of business administration at the University of Iceland. Born 13 March 1977 in Reykjavik. He was the manager of the Citizens Movement since its establishment until the election of 2009. On the board of **IMMI** the International Modern Media Institute. He is married with 2 children.

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Birgitta Jónsdóttir (Southwest)

There is too much in Birgitta's political biography to fit here and most people are aware of her activism and work in the Icelandic parliament as a representative of the Movement and then the Pirates.

You may not know she is an accomplished poet and painter. She reads voraciously any thing from Donald Duck to complex novels and political treatises. Influenced by the punk scene and the art of Banksy she enjoyed designing and making the campaign buttons just as much as formulating policy and campaign strategy. She does not claim to be a leader or a philosopher but a Pirate and an eccentric one at that. However, she is one of the Pirate Movement's leading lights and will be influencing the Pirate Movement long into the future.

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Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 28, 2013

Iceland Report #3 ; Final Campaigning for a Better Iceland



Election Day

Today, 27 April 2013, is the big day. If events go as expected then, for the first time in the short seven year history of the Pirate Movement, Pirates will be elected as representatives to a national parliament - Iceland's. The weather today is overcast and raining with an expected

highest temperature of 8° C. Hopefully this will not deter the young Pirate demographic from going out to vote.

Final Campaigning Actions and a Visit to an Icelandic Banana Plantation

The last leaflets have been printed and distributed along with some stickers and buttons. The final interviews on radio and television. The Pirate times accompanied Smári McCarthy and Bjorn Thor Johannesson to the south coastal region for a radio interview. On the way we visited the banana plantation run by the agricultural university. We were allowed to bring some bananas to distribute to our Pirate friends and some rather astonished tourists. Birgitta headed off to do a last television interview and other Pirates went to talk to people on a one to one basis.

The Results

Polling starts at 09:00 local time and ends at 22:00. All times are the same as UTC and Greenwich Mean Time. The first results are expected at around 23:00 and the final results about 8 hours after that. [Here is a tool](#) you can use to find out what these times convert to in your country.

The Pirate times will be keeping you up to date in real time over the Pirate Times site with [Liveticker](#), Twitter (hashtags #ppint #iceland) and over [Facebook](#).

While you are waiting for the results you can listen to the song PPIS has adopted as a sort of [theme song](#).

A Better Iceland

As we mentioned yesterday the Icelandic Pirates have developed something new in the field of direct democracy. A new web application will allow Icelanders to submit matters to the new parliament through their Pirate representatives whether they voted for them or not and even if they have no Pirate MPs in their constituency. [Betra Ísland](#) (Better Iceland) will let citizens raise matters of concern and these will be taken up by the Pirates in parliament. As

one commenter said in response to a news article published online. "Not only do the Pirates keep their electoral promises, they do so before they are elected."

The Lizards are Taking Over

The opponents of the Pirates are getting desperate. In an attack from the press, through misquoting one of the candidates, the Pirates have been accused of supporting the conspiracy theory that **the world is being ruled by lizard like aliens**. In response Birgitta said that she had written poems on chameleons and therefore the claim is correct and that she is, indeed, a lizard person.

Featured image: The restaurant where the Pirates will meet to watch the results come in. CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Image Source: The restaurant where the election party will be held

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 27, 2013

Euroscepticism Won The Elections In Croatia



After Interviewing **Maša Utković**, PPHR's (Pirate Party of Croatia) leader and head of 'List 22' - the euroballot of the party, you can easily realize that the winner in Croatia's recent, first ever euroelections was euroscepticism. The clear indifference and lack of participation shown by voters, only 20,84% turnout, confirmed citizens low interest for the European Union.

Regarding PPHR, it garnered 1.13%, in its first electoral battle and ranked in 12th position with **8,345 votes**. The best is yet to come for Pirates of Croatia who gain much needed experience, being assisted by fellow pirates from neighbouring countries. They will need it in next month's local elections which will be held on 19 May and the second round on 2 June.

Although they had 20 days for their campaign, as Maša told the Pirate Times, Croatians welcomed PPHR very well, their followers in **facebook** increased rapidly, media sympathized pirates and the basis has been laid for a great future.

The interview with Maša, was held a day before the elections.

Pirate Times: How do Croatian citizens react to Piratska Stranka?

Maša Utkovič: Better than I expected, I must admit. They are less and less horrified by our name and more interested in our program. They are showing great interest in what we do, asking a lot of questions and that is always a good thing.

PT: How did they respond to your campaign?

MU: The response was better than any of us could expect. The ones that knew that we exist in our political scene were thrilled when they found out that they will finally be able to give their vote to someone who represents the real change. The best feedback I received from people to whom we were absolute enigma. I expected that I will have to spend some time just explaining our name and the reason we call ourselves 'pirates' but once that question was bypassed, the rest was rather easy.

PT: In which ways did you promote your candidacy?

MU: After all, we are pirates so we did a lot of promotion on line. In just two weeks, our f/b page collected more than 1000 new likes! We wrote a few paragraphs about all candidates on our

web site and used one news portal to publish our portraits. Candidates were writing blog posts during the campaign and many of those were shared numerous times. Also, our European colleagues helped us. Swedish pirates enabled me to shoot a promo video in Bruxelles, Belgium pirates initiated a cute campaign and as a result, we gain few videos with European pirates calling Croatian public to vote for us! For two weeks, we campaigned on the street, among citizens; handing them flyers, talking to them and explaining them why they should vote for pirates. We received enormous help from our fellow pirates from Belgium, Czech Republic, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and Slovenia. We made a 30 second long jingle and launched it on line and on few radio stations with national coverage. We rounded up our campaign with a press conference which was covered by our national tv. Considering that our President decided to hold the elections in April instead of May and by doing that, gave us only 20 days to prepare and perform our campaign, I think that we did an amazing job! It was a great practice because we will participate in the local elections next month on May 19th, the EU elections next year and parliamentary elections in 2015.

PT: How did you feel being on top of the list of candidates?

MU: The feeling was great, for sure! I really worked hard for the party, gave all my free time to the movement and being my party's top candidate is a kind of recognition. It means that my work and devotion are acknowledged and rewarded by my colleagues. There is one more aspect, though. I hope that the fact that I'm a female top candidate will encourage more girls to join us and get involved in politics!

PT: How the selection of candidates was made?

MU: All the membership was invited to submit their nominations. In the end, we had 14 candidates and again, all the membership was invited to vote for 12 candidates who will finally carry the list of the Pirate Party. After we finalized the list, the only thing that left was to choose a top candidate among the 12 of us. We agreed that the top candidate should be somebody who is recognisable in the public. Since my colleague Ivan Voras and I were the candidates with most public appearances, the membership was called for the last voting and they decided that

my name will be on the top of our list.

PT: What was the "secret" for PPHR having a percentage of 6,4% in the polls?

MU: I think that we owe most of our gratitude to some media that are extremely sympathetic toward us. They are covering our work for the past 12 months so we are recognized in the on and off- line community. In the last few weeks, besides the articles and the reports regarding two largest political parties in Croatia, voters could read only about us pirates which is amazing considering that there were 28 lists running for EU elections. That percentage is certainly deserved, we worked for it since we officially registered as a political party in Croatia but at the same time, we are fortunate that we still have some media that are not corrupted and not afraid to write about us, to portrait us as something new, interesting and worth of the attention.

PT: Is voting system with open list good or bad for PPHR?

MU: My personal opinion is that the system with open list is good because it gives an equal chance and opportunities to every candidate. Also, someone may like the Pirate Party but in the same time, dislike me as their top candidate. Why not give that someone the opportunity to vote for one of my colleagues? After all, it is still a vote for pirates!

PT: What is the opinion of Croatian Pirates for the European Union?

MU: Pirate movement is international, it doesn't recognize any borders. Croatian Pirate Party is pro-European party and only cparty that never had any oscillations regarding that question. Every other party on our political scene was against European Union, extremely euro-sceptic or euro-sceptic when that was desirable in order to gain public sympathy.

PT: Your background in politics?

MU: Like most of the pirates, at least the ones I know, I don't have any background in politics. I can explain that rather easy. I never considered myself as an apolitical person and the reason is simple. In my opinion, people can just state that they are apolitical but in reality, they can't be because politics has a huge impact on everday's life of every single citizen. Prior to my

involvement in Pirate party I just wasn't active in politics. There were no parties with programs that struck me as interesting, innovative and/or progressive hence, I figured that my involvement would be a waste of time and energy.

PT: What was it that attracted you to Pirate Party?

MU: The whole pirate movement is based on new, innovative and progressive ideas. I knew that once we start to write our program, we'll be laying the groundwork for the politics of the next century.

PT: How was your meeting with MEP Amelia Amersdotter in Brussels?

MU: The meeting was great. It certainly was a lifelong experience. I think Amelia should hold courses for politicians, ?how to be an MEP and still retain humanity?. I'm not saying that as a joke. What she accomplished is amazing. She was young when inaugurated and still is but at the same time, she's extremely professional, standing behind her principles and ideals. A living example, that politics doesn't necessarily corrupt people.

Featured Images by Piratska Stranka Hrvatske & Ma?a Utkovi? ? CC-BY-SA

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at April 26, 2013

Report from Iceland #2



What else is Happening in Iceland?

On the last day before the election we thought you might be interested to get a look at what else is going on in Iceland.

The first day of Summer ([Sumardagurinn Fyrsti](#))

Yesterday, 25 April 2013, was a festival in Iceland. According to the Norse calendar, which only has two seasons - winter and summer - the first thursday after April 19th is the start of summer. It is a national holiday and one that children especially enjoy. The city was filled with happy smiles and it was not only on the faces of the Pirates as they think on their polling figures ([the latest polls](#) are showing the Pirates on 7.5%).

The Pirate Bay arrived

Well at least the file sharing site can now be reached under an Icelandic TDL (top level domain), according to [Torrentfreak](#), after having been forced out of Greenland. The CEO of SMAIS - the Icelandic copyright holders association - perhaps cynically claimed the timing was related to the election. Pirate candidate Birgitta Jónsdóttir, through a [local newspaper](#), said they were not responsible for the site being opened. It is not like they have nothing else to do at the moment with the election taking 100% of their time and concentration at the moment. Or.....

New Transparency Site

The Pirate Parliament Viewer ([Þetta er Alþingisrýnir Pírata](#)) was revealed to the public yesterday. It keeps tabs on members of the Icelandic parliament - the Althingi. Citizens can easily follow how MPs have voted in matters of interest and they get an overview of the processing of single bill. They can also see the attendance statistics for each politician and party. The Icelandic Pirates are not work shy.

Rick Falkvinge Arrives in Iceland

You will not be surprised to learn that the founder of the Pirate movement has arrived to be present at the historic moment when the first Pirate MP is elected to a national Parliament. Rick told the Pirate Times that he wants to make sure the event is recorded. When the first Swedish Pirate was elected to office they were so delirious with joy no one thought to pick up a camera. This will not be repeated. In the mean time he wants to look around Iceland and will also be able to take some of the press attention, caused by the Pirate Bay TLD change, off PPIS.

Wikileaks Donation Blockade Lifted

Ars Technica reports that the Icelandic supreme court upheld a lower court's ruling that Valitor (formerly VISA Iceland) must allow payments to be made to DataCell, WikiLeaks? Icelandic Web host within 15 days or face ongoing fines.

Direct Democracy Initiative

There is going to be some sort of revelation on the subject of direct democracy today under the name of "A better Iceland". We will keep you informed.

What ever the Iceland Pirates are on - we want some too.

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Featured image: Birgitta and Smári in front of the Althingi buildings CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Image Source: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 26, 2013

Report from Iceland #1



I have arrived in Iceland and although weather-wise I am moving from a late but warming European spring - the election is hotting up in these last few days before the Icelanders head to the polling booths. I was somewhat surprised, when driving from the airport into Reykjavik, not to be greeted with a forest of posters and placards. In fact they seem to be as rare as trees are in the beautiful barren landscape that surround the capital city. Talking to the Pirates in the room they rented as a campaign headquarters, I found out that the campaign happens largely

on the airwaves and online. Which leaves mainly buttons, stickers and leaflets for the physical world. Later I went to the Stoffuni café bar, where the Pirates have their unofficial headquarters in Reykjavik. Here the respect and love the citizens have for Pirates was in abundant evidence.

On television the Pirates are coming over very well. **Smári McCarthy** represented the Pirates in a series of interviews with the party leaders (as PPIS has no leaders this was decided on a "who is available" basis). Despite being stressed from late to the studio he was able to deliver the best interview of any of all other leaders. This resulted in a massive jump up in the polls for the Pirates. In a similar vein **Hildur Sif Thorarensen**, welfare specialist for the Pirates, did not recognize the Minister for Welfare in a panel she was a member of. A shoot in the foot everyone thought - how could a welfare specialist fail to know who the minister was and be taken seriously? Well Hildur could, as her grasp of the subject was shown to be deep and wide ranging as the program developed. In a cliché - she got the show!

In the traditional press - mostly online - the Pirates did not so well. Especially the left wing press uses unfair tactics. They are dragging up quotes from candidates written long ago and prior to them joining the party. Also featuring interviews with anonymous ex-pirates, whose claims are nebulous and unfounded and thus extremely hard to refute.

Nevertheless the Pirates are well known and well liked by the people they are meeting! While an electoral success can never be certain until the last vote is cast, in Iceland on the 27th April 2013, there will be the first Pirate members of a national parliament, well with a very high probability.

Featured image: Althingi Parliament House CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 25, 2013

Fund Raising



There are two things that Pirate Parties constantly lack - time and money. The first of these would require a fundamental change in the laws of society or physics and neither is very easy to bring about. However we can do something about raising funds even when we could always use more no matter how much we have.

It is also up to you to check what rules, if any, your party might have - Pirate Parties avoid taking donations from businesses preferring to keep their hands clean from any hint of corruption. Also there will be laws in your country that regulate the funding of political parties for example many do not allow funding from overseas. The Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance has a [tool](#) to help you find out. Be careful though as sometimes small donations are permitted even though there is a general ban. This is the case in the UK.

Web based fundraising

Buttons are ubiquitous and ignored as much as banner advertising so you might need to be inventive with texts and graphics. Raising funds for specific goals, such as a campaign funding program, might get more success than a generic "please donate" message.

- [flattr](#) - micro donations easy to use and can provide a steady income
- [Paypal](#) - Due to Paypal's behaviour over Wikileaks, The Pirate Bay and other causes many

Pirates refuse to use Paypal

□ [Bitcoin](#) - Controversial in some quarters and due to recent volatility avoided by some. Also there will unlikely to be any tax benefits. However it is a safer alternative for those who may face problems for giving or accepting donations.

□ [Payza](#) - in 197 countries and is not Paypal.

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Fundraising in the Real World

A collection jar can be a feature of every regular meeting, especially for small regional groups that meet in bars and restaurants.

Buy a drink for the Party so to speak.

Provide free services for your community like crypto-parties or classes in scepticism, politics ,how to decode punditry etc with the possibility for participants to donate.

Collect superfluous bric-a-brac and sell at a flea market or car boot sale.

In addition to annual membership fees encourage members to make regular donations by bank transfer with a standing order for a small amount each month that would not be much missed.

On a higher level of commitment members could be encouraged to donate a small percentage of their annual income to the Pirate cause. What percentage to donate could depend on how much is earned. To get an idea of how such a scheme could work, take a look at the philosopher Peter Singer's site [The Life You Can Save](#).

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Featured image: CC BY-SA by [401\(K\) 2013](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 25, 2013

P-review 15 – 21 April 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

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The week in review 15 - 21 April 2013

- 16 April - 3 June [I am Bradley Manning Photo Event](#) in [Facebook](#)
- PPAU [Policy and Pre-selection Results](#)
- 18 April A recording of a streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#) on the subject of Collective Rights Management.
- 20 April Pirate MEP Amelia Andersdotter guest at election event with lectures, discussions and working groups in Reykjavík.
- 20-21 April [PPI Conference](#) in Kazan, Russia
- 20-21 April [Students for Free Culture Annual Conference](#) - New York, USA

Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

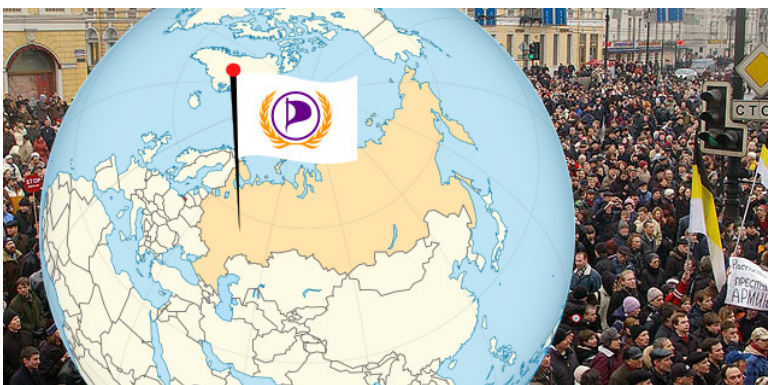
- 16 April - 3 June [I am Bradley Manning Photo Event](#) in [Facebook](#)
- 22 April Anonymous call for a [web blackout to protest CISPA](#)
- 25 April Live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#).
- 26 April [World Intellectual Property Day](#) held by [WIPO](#) of which [PPI](#) has applied to be an observer member
- 26-28 April Pirate Party of São Paulo [Convention](#)
- 27 April Pirate Party France [Extraordinary General Meeting](#)
- 27 April [Pirate Party Iceland](#) National General Elections

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

&!--Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) [CC BY](#)-->

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 22, 2013

PPI Conference in Kazan, Russia



This coming weekend, 20 - 21 April 2013 the umbrella organisation for the world wide Pirate Movement - [Pirate Parties International](#) -will be holding their annual conference in Karzan, the capital city of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation.

In keeping with the Pirate principle of transparency every effort is being made to let pirates from around the world follow the proceedings over the net.

Bookmark these links to make sure you can keep up with the events at the conference.

Web Page: <http://conference.pp-international.net/PPI/PPI-Kazan-2013.nsf/home.xsp>

Wiki: http://wiki.pp-international.net/PPI_Conference_2013

Live streaming: http://www.piraten-streaming.de/?page_id=688&id=1042 Kazan (updated 21 April 2013)

http://www.piraten-streaming.de/?page_id=688&id=1048 Brussels, Office of Amelia Andersdotter

(updated 21 April 2013)

Twitter: https://twitter.com/PPI_Kazan_2013 use the hastag #PPInt

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ppinternational>

Mumble: It is possible that a mumble room will be used for the conference. If so it will most likely be on the Piratenpartei NRW server in the International section at the bottom of the room list.

This article will be updated as soon as more exact details are known.

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There is a mumble room on the Piratenpartei NRW server International/Pirate Parties International/GA Public

Please mute yourself if you are not a delegate. (updated 20 April 2013)

There will also be a satellite meeting held in Brussels for those delegates who are unable to go to Kazan.

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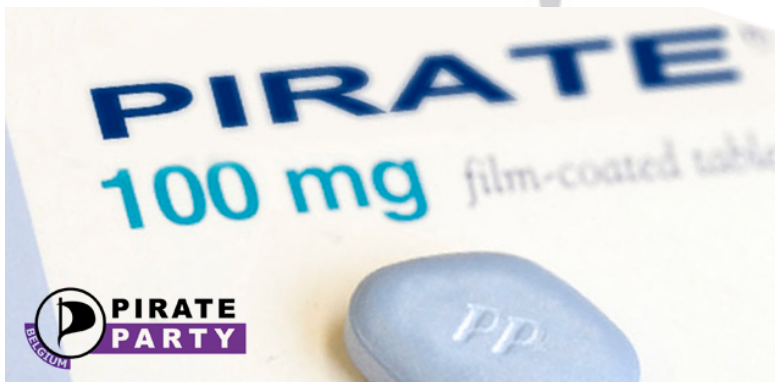
Featured Image Public Domain / CC-BY-SA [TUBS](#)

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Image Source: Public Domain / CC-BY-SA [TUBS](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 21, 2013

The Belgian Pirate Party between Sadness and Happiness



The week before the general assembly, on the 23 - 24 March 2013, a sad event deeply impacted lives and thoughts of the Belgian Pirates. It was revealed, during the week that the co-founder of the Belgian Pirate Party, co-founder of Pirate Parties International as well as a very popular friend of Pirates worldwide, [Jurgen Rateau](#), [lost his life far too early](#) at the age of 42. Too young to die.

"Jurgen has brought his time, energy and all his intellectual force to the Pirate project. He co-founded the Belgian Pirate Party in 2009 and was an unforgettable co-chairman. He participated in the founding Assembly of Pirate Parties International and was part of its Court of

Arbitration. He left his mark on Pirate movement at home and abroad. We will miss his commitment, his still relevant analysis, his sense of humor, and his determination. Rest in peace, Captain. The adventure will never be the same without you."

Group statement from the belgian Pirates.

The Belgian pirates met, while being deeply affected by this bad news, during the weekend at their national convention in Strombeek-Bever in Brussels, but their courage to change and their will to reorganize the party was unbroken and they discussed many important amendments.

Activity report & speakers

The general assembly began with the presentation of speakers and explanation of the conduct of the keynote. Members of the core team made a review of the previous months which included a lot of impressive highlights regarding the impact of the young party. The membership had risen to 175 Pirates in total (2009: 4 members). And although they only ask for 1 ? as a membership fee, the average membership fee paid was 11,57 ?.

Concerning the provincial level elections in 2012, the Pirate Party wanted a candidate in each of the country's district. The goal was to give every citizen the opportunity to vote at least once for the Pirates throughout the land and it was easier with 69 districts than with more than 589 municipalities.

At the municipal level, the Crews were free to participate or not, depending on the motivations of individuals and the respective local situation. Crews who made ??the list were fully autonomous and were supported by the Party. All the lists, presented in Wallonia, exceeded 2%. In the provinces, the maximum share was 3.42% (district of Tournai) and communal Pirates of Louvain-la-Neuve **exceeded the 5% threshold without having an elected** (missed by 14 voters).

The speakers section included a summary about the impact of ACTA on public health policies by Leïla Bodeux, Advocacy Officer for Basic Social Services at Oxfam. Then, Arnaud Collignon, Climate Energy Campaigner from Greenpeace spoke about the importance of intellectual property in international climate negotiations. Anthony Baert, economist, campaigner of BasicIncome.be held a short speech titled "From intellectual property to basic income" and the last summary was given by Pirates from the IT squad, namely Tom Behets & Jeremy Scheppers with an essay called "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Pirate Party".

Statutes in the making

[The Belgian Pirate Party had statutes in the making](#) ??and voted in favour of the way they were: Anyone who wanted to could contribute, and anyone who wanted to could vote. You could also vote for delegates, so you could choose who you wanted to represent you with a maximum of two cards (votes) per person. The Belgian Pirate Party is now ready to take part in the next elections to participate in and promote democracy, transparency and freedom of the Internet.

Four important Workshops

On Sunday morning, four different workshops were done.

Legal workshop:

"How does Belgium work?" - Questions and answers about cutting legal, administrative and political development. Impact of the sixth state reform.

Political workshop:

"What are the issues / debates that will make politics in 2013" - Discussions on Sncbleaks, Police Cam, IPRED, Indect, Art. 140bis, Austerity.

Election workshop:

"Debriefing of last municipal & provincial elections" - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.

Communication workshop:

"How do we communicate?" - If you want help out with the website, or you just need help on how to post a publication to a squad or crew, this is the moment to ask questions.

Organizational stuff about communication in between the Belgian Pirate Party

What will the future bring?

As decided by the Coreteam during a meeting held on 12 March 2013, they proceed to the election of a "Temporary Coreteam" which will be in charge of organizing the election of the Coreteam in 3 months time and manage daily affairs. This temporary Coreteam will be open to all and consist of 3 to 12 Pirates elected by approval of the candidates.

Another fact they decided, which might be relevant to all European Pirates, and the coming foundation of an European Pirate Party is the ratification both of the Prague and Paris declarations, which were drawn up in 2012 and 2013 by Pirates from all over Europe.

Jonas Degrave, a member of the Belgian Coreteam concludes: "The party has two legs now, we have statutes and core values we all agree on. It has been a great opportunity for people from all over the country to meet other pirates. We welcomed some Pirates from Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands to help put everything into an international context.

In overall it was a very productive weekend, lots of progress has been made, we had interesting talks and room for networking and we proved again that language is no barrier. Now it is up to the next general assembly in June, where we will decide on the method we will use to make the program together with which we will go to the 2014 elections. Europe 2014, here we come!"

Sašo Mikli?: We have a Democratic Deficit



From November 2012 on there have been a series of protests against corruption in Slovenia. On a webpage of the major newspaper [Delo](#) a special section called "Revolt" was established and alternatives ([Revolt in alternative](#)) where common people could publish their ideas and deliberations about current political and economic problems. While protesting on the streets, some protesters demanded, among other things, direct democracy.

Sašo Mikli?, coordinator for implementation of direct democracy in the Pirate Party of Slovenia (PP-SI), decided to explain to a broader public the basics of (electronic) direct democracy. He wrote two articles for "Revolt in alternative" ([Konec strankokracije](#), [Utopija v realnosti povsem izvedljiva](#)) and this in turn attracted the attention of newspaper's editorial office. They invited him to their studio to explain a little bit more about this topic ([Misliti neposredno demokracijo](#)). Later he was also invited to participate in a show "Studio City" on Slovenian national television ([Studio City](#), interview section starts at 47:15)

We interviewed Sašo to learn more about people's awareness regarding direct democracy and what are the chances of implementing it on the level of Slovenian society, that is, on a state level.

Pirate Times: There were many demands for direct democracy among protesters. What exactly

did they demand? Do you think that majority of protesters know what direct democracy means and are their demands realistic?

Sa?o: First and foremost we shouldn't make a mistake and assume that all of the protesters are for direct democracy. People are protesting primarily against corrupt politicians, that much is clear, but otherwise it?s hard to tell what the people are exactly standing for. It?s much easier (and even louder) to hear what they are standing against. However, as soon as somebody mentions some solutions for the problems and that we should stand for something, enthusiasm of the masses greatly diminishes. So a voice for direct democracy is still a voice of some vocal minorities, yet these minorities are slowly gaining strength.

Pirate Times: Are there any civil society groups that are related to direct democracy? What is their opinion about protesters' demands?

Sa?o: Civil society groups that are related to direct democracy are basically the ones that are speaking out and promoting direct democracy. It?s not like the movement for direct democracy suddenly happened overnight with these protests. It existed even before that, but it was not that powerful. It?s true that the individuals that feel strongly about direct democracy organized themselves into civil society groups to the greatest extent yet, but in my opinion an average protester on the street still doesn't want to take more active stance in politics other than protesting against various things. They want change, but they want and expect somebody else to do it for them. They are predominantly dreaming about uncorrupted politicians and leaders (a white unicorn hunt) and not yet about true democracy. So we have a democratic deficit so to speak.

Pirate Times: What is a standpoint of Pirate Party of Slovenia (PPSI)?

Sa?o: As Pirates we are of course for direct democracy and are striving to implement it first inside our party and then with experience and practice maybe even further. Because developed

political culture is essential for any successful direct democracy. Therefore a whole new political generation of citizens has to be first educated in democracy. This is the real challenge. Only an active and political citizen can make democracy work.

Pirate Times: How far is implementation of system for direct democracy in PPSI?

Sa?o: It?s slowly coming to its opening phase. We are doing as much as we can with the limited IT resources at hand.

Pirate Times: What do you think could be weaknesses of system for direct democracy?

Sa?o: The weaknesses of direct democracy are the same weaknesses as that of representative democracy. Whenever someone questions this or that aspect of direct democracy, I always ask him to first ask himself, if this problem is adequately solved in a representative democracy. And in vast majority of cases it?s not. It?s a general governance problem. But in direct democracy people can make their own choices if they wish so.

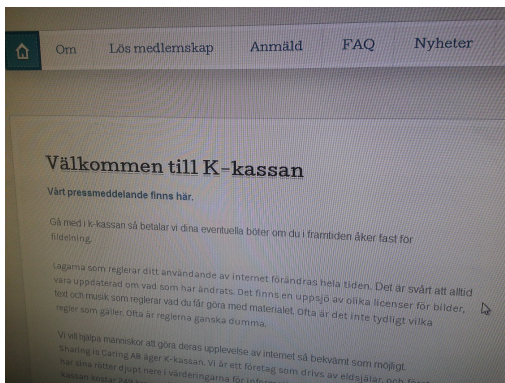
Pirate Times: How long do you think it is realistically to expect implementation of direct democracy on a state level? Could there be strong opposition from established politicians and parties?

Sa?o: It will probably take a long time. Because politicians don?t want to lose their power and the people aren't ready for the direct democracy yet. We should start small scale as for example we are doing right now inside our political party and then work it from there.

Featured Image: by Matej Pu?nik CC-BY-SA

Written by Matic Urbanija published at April 18, 2013

Insurance Against Filesharing Lawsuits Launched in Sweden



A new service has been launched in Sweden, covering any fines resulting from filesharing lawsuits against the user. For a ?25 annual fee, the user is protected in any coming lawsuit for copyright infringement.

The service, **K-kassan**, is run by stock corporation Sharing is Caring AB, owned completely by the Young Pirates of Sweden. They were inspired by **P-kassan**, which is a similar service protecting people sneaking in to the public transport system. They prefer not to view it as an insurance, but more as a way to help others if they are charged for copyright infringement.

While the risks of being caught for filesharing in Sweden are still small, they are increasing - **according to the 5101 project**, 2011 saw nine cases, 2012 saw ten, there have already been four cases in 2013, and the Police recently reported that they wanted to prioritise copyright crimes. **According to manager Isak Gerson**, the point of the service isn't to assist people in breaking the law, but rather to help those confused by the laws:

I think a lot of people are experiencing a fear of having their future destroyed by debts just because they aren't sure how the laws work. Are you allowed to stream? What happens if your children download? Internet is the best thing since sliced bread and it's important that people don't stop using it just because we have out of date laws.

In most cases so far, the filesharer has been sentenced to a suspended prison sentence as well as the fine, and the insurance service will only help against the purely economic consequences. Gerson is also clear that they only promise repaying fines and not necessarily damages, as this

has yet to be tried for copyright offences in Sweden. The service is also keeping with the Pirate Party politics in that it doesn't allow any commercial activities.

Featured image by Anton Nordenfur, in the public domain. Picture to the right by K-kassan, [allowed to share](#).

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at April 17, 2013

Interview with New Zealand Pirate Party President



The Pirate Times continues to introduce you to Pirate Parties around the world. Today we look at the [Pirate Party of New Zealand](#) or Aotearoa. We asked the President , [Daniel Bertinshaw](#) a few questions about the party and himself. The picture above shows him with his wife and the Party Secretary [Camille Cowley](#).

Pirate Times: You go by a number of names; Daniel Bertinshaw, Laserface, Sentient Headmounted Laser. How do you prefer to be called?

Daniel: Generally with formal matters Daniel, but with political and online 'Laser' or 'Laserface' seems to have stuck. Since I grew up in an era of Role Playing Games and IRC handles, I'm just kinda running with it. Plus it adds to the parties? culture (which is pretty fun, because of jolly roger flags etc).

Pirate Times: When did you become a Pirate?

Daniel: About 2.5 years ago, since I'm busy doing a doctorate I didn't really take much of an active part, until I operated the university stall and got sucked into the dreaded state of "involvement".

Pirate Times: What led you to become a Pirate?

Daniel: It was actually the hilariously ignorance speeches before parliament given by Jonathon Young, where in the defence of the 3 strikes copyright law he described the internet as being Skynet from the [terminator movies](#) and Melissa Lee's equally insane [technical understanding](#) . Hilariously Lee tweeted about how a friend copied a CD of K-Pop music the next day, which was subsequently deleted.

I just could not believe that in a world with a deeply ingrained social fabric enabled by technology that our legislators where so deeply ignorant. I saw the Pirate Party as a way to have the "technorati" directly represented in the political process.

Pirate Times: Were politically active before you became a Pirate?

Daniel: No, I generally found politics tedious, painful and generally depressing. But I guess if you don't pay attention to politics, sooner or later it will pay attention to you...

Pirate Times: Do you see yourself standing for parliament sometime in the future?

Daniel: Possibly. It appeals to the troublemaker I am. I plan to stand in North Dunedin in the next general election.

Pirate Times: How does living outside the country affect your ability to carry out the role of President of PPNZ? (If what your FB profile says is true and up to date)

Daniel: Don't trust everything you read on the internet. I'm just deliberately perturbing FB's

psychometric profiles. Plus I value not being known because of my teaching role and I'd rather just leave my high school experiences behind.

Pirate Times: How big is the party?

Daniel: Quite small. We are below the 500 electorate voting members needed to register for the general election, but I see this as a dual issue of misunderstanding of our platform and it's relevance and that we a small group of dedicated but unfunded and part time activists.

Pirate Times: What sort of people make up the party?

Daniel: "Young male white middle class geek" seems to be the norm, but less and less so. For one thing, geek culture is becoming pretty mainstream and the view of technology as a "boy's club" is eroding: for example, my wife who is a software developer, is also party secretary. There are less older people, but I see this as the issues that apply to the internet becoming better known among youth, and most new movements start with youth anyway.

Pirate Times: The party has a policy committee. Does that mean that policy is not decided by the base?

Daniel: The policy committee's job is co-ordination. We're in the process of moving to Liquid Feedback to reduce the human overhead, which when you're as small as us and volunteer only, is a really huge premium.

Pirate Times: Have you had any electoral successes?

Daniel: Hamilton East and Christchurch Central electorates both stood members last election, and both got significant results, though very, very small. Which I'd call a success given that our campaigning budget is nothing.

Pirate Times: What are the party's goals for the coming year?

Daniel: Consolidation of our infrastructure and membership base partly. Also approaching like minded organisations such as InternetNZ and The Institute of IT Professionals, to reduce being perceived as "a bunch of angry white male trolls and content thieves".

Pirate Times: Where do you think PPNZ will be in 5 years?

Daniel: Standing in the general elections, and hopefully making a lot more noise in criticism of government policy that is not in the interest of the internet and the technology society in general

Pirate Times: Where do you think the Pirate Movement will be in 5 years?

Daniel: Hopefully we can create a kind of "internet bill of rights" solidifying the notion of internet freedom and move on, expanding the platform to broader issues of the technological society. I don't think the copyright industry will have changed much in that time though, so I think we'll still be fighting that.

Pirate Times: What are the parties policies?

Daniel: Currently we're redeveloping our core policies of personal privacy, government transparency and copyright reform, but we're still bashing out the details.

Pirate Times: Do you expect to be expanding on these policies in the near future?

Daniel: Yes, we want to add policy to help bridge the "digital divide", increasing the quality of New Zealand's technical education, and to create flexible, secure digital infrastructure for New Zealand.

Pirate Times: New Zealand is geographical isolated. What effect so you think this has on the Pirate Movement in the country?

Daniel: It means that being online and "weightless exports" are actually a huge issue for us. But distance has also somewhat slowed our cultural development in respect to the net, so we're not really seen as being as relevant to international issues as, say, the PPDE.

Pirate Times: PPAU recently became a registered political party ? what is the cooperation/rivalry between both countries' parties like?

Daniel: Generally pretty supportive of each other. PPAU and PPNZ have very little of the traditional Trans Tasman rivalry of this part of the world. Mostly we just share information on IRC and report / relay each others stories. Though, when New Zealand Pirates go to Australia and Vice Versa, we tend to easily switch parties.

Pirate Times: How do you think New Zealanders will react to the so called "Skynet" prosecutions of people for downloading files? (Skynet is the name Kiwis give to a "three strikes and you are out " law that means that people can lose their internet connection after three complaints of copyright infringement.)

Daniel: Our first convictions have just gone through, and the reaction has been somewhat mixed. Either the public don't care, because in their eyes it's a minor issue, or they understand the issue and are concerned but can do little about it, because our incumbents don't care to listen on the matter.

Pirate Times: What are your feelings toward the relationship with the New Zealand government towards the American film industry and the allegations that Hollywood is manipulating New Zealand legislation?

Daniel: After the TPPA sections on IP and trade were leaked, it became quite obvious, and disturbing since the TPPA negotiations are all closed door, shutting the public out of the democratic process. Because of the draconian IP provisions in the TPPA and the lack of transparency, were strongly against it, and the possibility of the allegations being true.

Pirate Times: In the light of a number of Pirate Parties, under the leadership of Pirate Party Catalonia, have stepped in to help Megaupload sue the US government, what is the relationship of PPNZ to Kim Dotcom?

Daniel: The charges against him are ones that we still feel are illegal (reselling copyrighted content without permission) so we have no formal alliance to him, but we are sympathetic to his plight, in particular the illegal use of the GCSB to spy on him, and the withholding of his property after the arrest. He has also expressed endorsement of our efforts.

Featured image: by Daniel Bertinshaw CC-BY-SA

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Update 17 april 2013 The formatting of this interview was altered to make it conform to the Pirate Times Style Guide

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 16, 2013

P-review 8-14 April 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

The winner of the second Pirate Times Quiz was David Arcos of Barcelona - PPCAT. The Pirate Party bottle opener prize is on its way.

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The week in review 25 - 31 March 2013

- 10 April Third EU Citizens? [Initiative against water privatization](#)
- 11 April A recording of a live [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#) on the Data Protection Campaign.
- 14 April [Croatian European Parliament Elections](#)
- 14 April Protests across Germany against a law allowing authorities to demand passwords.

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Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

- 16 April - 3 June [I am Bradley Manning Photo Event](#) in [Facebook](#)
- 18 April Live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#).
- 20-21 April [PPI Conference](#) in Kazan, Russia
- 20-21 April [Students for Free Culture Annual Conference](#) - New York, USA

<!--Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) CC BY-->

Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) CC BY

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 15, 2013

Flattr Appreciation During March Euro 13.69



In March we had 23 things flattred by 15 unique users. In total we were flattred 46 times last month and received Euro 13.69 in support for our work. This is about half as much as in February but reflects our own activity since we only had about half as many things due to various key persons being very busy. We're looking for a graphic designer to design some small flags for us. We also need to find a good price for printing these and sending out to our team members (having physical reminders always help increase morale and motivation), any reader that knows a good printer for small flags?

Thanks for your continued support and we aim to bring you many more articles for your reading pleasure!

Flattr is a microdonation service that allows you to give a small amount of money each month to content you would like to give support. It can be compared to a 'facebook super-like' with money attached. Users act like **patrons** of work or people they want to support and 'many small

streams? adds up to something larger.

Period: March

Thing:

Clicks:

Revenue:

EU copyright law ? Pirates enable citizen participation

3

?5.17

Pirate_Times on Flattr

5

?3.94

PPEU: The Zagreb Summit

3

?1.60

Pirate Party Charges Banks for WikiLeaks Boycott

1

?1.00

EuWiKon 2.0 ? German Pirates push forward positions on Europe and the economy

2

?0.68

About Us

4

?0.47

Corporations should pay users for sharing their products

3

?0.29

Political Differences Between the Pirate Parties

3

?0.20

PPI blocked from becoming observer members of WIPO

2

?0.17

P-review 18 March 2013

2

?0.17



Polish Pirate Party started accepting membership requests

2

20.17

Flattr Appreciation During February Euro 29.10

2

20.17

The Swedish Pirates say no to the EUDemocrats

2

20.17

P-review March 18 - 24 2013

2

20.17

P-review 11 March 2013

1

20.13

Pirate Times website

1

20.13

Collaboration between the Galician Pirates and "Graba tu Pleno"

1

20.13

P-review 4 March 2013

1

20.13

Tips and Tricks: Placards

1

20.13



How Sweden Found an Effective Way of Broadening their Politics

2

20.07

Alex Arnold Becomes the First Elected Pirate Mayor!

1

20.04

Flattr Appreciation During August

1

20.04

The Team

1

20.04

Flattr fee 10%

- 1.52

Total sum for 23 things flattered by 15 unique users

13.69



Featured image: CC-BY-SA flattr.com (originally by Olof Bjarnason)

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at April 13, 2013

The Pirate Times Pirate Party Policy Comparison Table



The Pirate Times brings you a new feature to help understand how the Movement is developing on a global scale. It is a table of policies and which national Pirate Parties take a stand on them.

This table is very much a work in progress and its use is limited in its initial phase. At best it shows a general trend of how the parties are developing and what interests them and their potential voters. It is prone to contain errors and should not be used to define the position of any individual parties.

Please note that an 'X' in a policy column indicates that the Party concerned has taken a stand but it does not indicate which position has been taken ? for or against.

Over forty Parties are listed with a varying number of policy topics addressed. Neither is exhaustive. Most of the policy documents used were machine translated into English and German to determine if the contents fit.

There is vast room for improvement and it would be great if you could do one, or all of the following in the comments section below or by email (see icon below):

- If your party is listed check the policy columns are accurate. If there are corrections to be made please add a link to the relevant document.
- If your Party is not listed and it does have policies send a URL of an online policy statement and if possible a list of positions taken.
- If your party has a position that is not listed and you would like to see it compared with the others then send it in with a link to the relevant policy statement and if other Pirate Parties

mention it it will be included.

If you belong to a regional Pirate Party that takes stands that may be independent of its national body then it will be included in later versions. For example a State of the USA might have a position that PPUS does not have. Let us know.

Also the policy categories are somewhat nebulous. If you have a suggestion for improvement, it would be most welcome.

The next version will, hopefully, be more accurate and have a few parties and policies more. Long term future development goals include putting the data in a database and using the jQuery Data Tables plug-in for browser display. This would make inputting new data and comparing the parties much easier than at the moment.

Due to conflicts with the JavaScript used to create a table to display the data on an interim basis, the table will be hosted on Andrew's site which can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

[The Pirate Times Pirate Party Policy Comparison Table](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 14, 2013

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contact at piratetimes.net