

European Elections Project
September 30th, 2014

MONTHLY UPDATE

Immigrant Citizenship Campaigns

The [Migration Policy Group](#) conducted a pilot project for eight months that has laid the foundations for citizenship campaign to be implemented in up to ten European countries in order to promote naturalization and political mobilization of migrants as citizens.

This [press release](#) summarises the work being done by their Irish partners on the issue of citizenship, voter registration and political participation. According to the Immigrant Council of Ireland and Nasc, over the last years, the citizenship process has come a long way, with more than 77.000 new Irish citizens over the last 3 years. The organization called for some significant reforms to the citizenship process, a number of which were introduced by the former Minister for Justice.

Even if the acceptance rate for applications is much higher now, there is still a lot of work to do, because of many reasons, such as the fact that the decision making process is still almost entirely discretionary, or because the process can be quite costly.

You can read more about the Migration Policy Group's project by following [this link](#), or by checking the Immigrant Citizenship Campaigns story map that has been prepared by the group by following [this link](#).



European Elections: Vote for your rights!

[Athens Pride](#) and [Colour Youth – Athens LGBTQ Youth Community](#) implemented the project '[Vote for your rights!](#)' in the context of the European elections campaign. As part of the project, research on the voting trends of the LGBTQ community was conducted in two phases, pre- and post-election.



The results show that 4 in 5 LGBT voters claim LGBT rights were an important criterion in selecting a party or a candidate, indicating they would not vote for a candidate or party/alliance that disagrees with them regarding LGBT rights.

Furthermore, 91.9% of all participants indicated that the rights of LGBT people in Greece today are either secured to a small extent or are not secured at all, and 37.9% indicated they believe no party or candidate supports the rights that are most important to them.

The results have been published as the project nears its completion, you can check them [here](#) for more detailed information.

The candidate commissioners' hearings

The 27 candidates hoping to be part of the European Commission led by Jean-Claude Juncker started appearing at hearings at the European Parliament on 29 September. During the three-hour hearings EP committees have been testing the candidate commissioners' expertise and competences ahead of the EP voting on whether to approve the new Commission on 22 October.

The independent online newspaper EUobserver has prepared some articles related to the topic on its [Post EU elections section](#).

There is also a special section on this subject, and the process to be followed, available in [the European Parliament's newsroom](#).



New Europeans: 'Say Yes to Europe!' and 'Vote Denied' Campaigns

On 19 September [New Europeans](#) launched the [#Yes2Europe campaign](#): "If the Scottish referendum 'frightened the horses' imagine what is going to happen if and when we have a referendum on British membership of the EU?"

As part of this campaign, New Europeans are holding a series of meetings around the UK to champion and promote their European citizenship rights. They aim to help mobilise support for a Yes2Europe vote in a future referendum in the UK by

making clear the relevance and importance of the UK's membership in the EU to individuals and their families.



New Europeans has also been very engaged and active in the European elections context, in particular, with the [Vote Denied](#) post-election campaign, exposing the case of many citizens in the UK and across Europe who were not allowed to vote in the European elections. As an update on this campaign, which was featured in a previous issue of this report, New Europeans has been called to give evidence on the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee on the issue of participation of EU expats in the UK and UK expats in the EU, on Monday, October 13.

European Alternatives: Open Letter to Jean-Claude Juncker

[European Alternatives](#) has prepared an open letter to be sent to Jean-Claude Juncker, opposing to the designation of Mr. Tibor Navracsics as Commissioner for Education, Youth, Culture and Citizenship. You can read about the reasons of this opposition, and support their initiative by following [this link](#).

This report contains some updates and information related to the European Elections Projects. The views expressed are not necessarily shared nor supported by OSF/OSIFE. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Francisco Malavassi (osife.intern@opensocietyfoundations.org).