

European Elections Project
May 14th, 2014

WEEKLY UPDATE

The Threat of Populism in Europe

Populist Rhetoric: Front National. The Front National is one of Europe's most renowned and long-standing populist parties, known for its fierce anti-immigration position and its hostility to the political class. A new [briefing](#) published by [Counterpoint](#) analyses the rhetoric used by this party and the dangers it poses to the European Union.

ARTE: The Rise of Populism. Nine European photographers have been collaborating with ARTE in the web series 'The Rise of Populism in Europe', documenting this phenomenon across the continent. Available in French and German, the web series shows how these movements have emerged in countries such as [Serbia](#), [France](#), [Finland](#), [Belgium](#), and others, and how it has affected the way of life of the citizens of these countries.



A Fragile Rebound for EU Image on Eve of European Parliament Elections

A [survey](#) published by the Pew Research Center on Global Attitudes and Public Opinion of Citizens towards the EU provides information relevant to the different European elections projects. The survey

signals a clear trend towards more positive attitudes across Europe and offers a different picture from the very gloomy one that seems to crystallize amongst many commentators across the continent.

Come Out campaign



[ILGA-Europe's Come Out campaign](#) aims to mobilise support for human rights and LGBTI equality among the candidates for next European Parliament

and European Commission, and to energise its member organisations and individuals across Europe to vote.

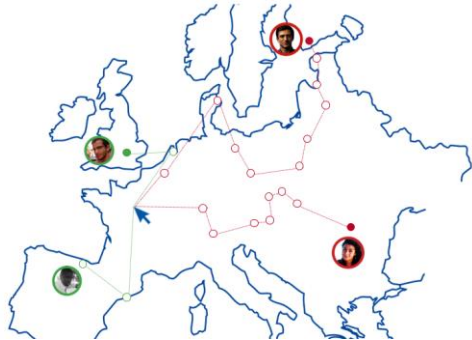
As part of the campaign, ILGA-Europe has been approaching the candidates and inviting them to sign their [10 points Come Out 2014 European Elections Pledge](#), which summarises the key issues that ILGA-Europe wants to see advanced at the European Union level over the next five years. An infographic showing the progress on how many candidates have signed the pledge is available [here](#).

Bondy Blog's European Tour

Our friends from [Bondy Blog](#) have sent 4 bloggers on a European tour through different European cities, where they will try to find an answer to the question, 'What kind of Europe do 20 year old people want?'

The bloggers have left Paris on May 9th and will be back on May 25th, they day of the elections. During 15 days they will be travelling in bus, for over 10,000 km, talking

to the youth and writing an article per day. You can follow the tour in their [website](#), which links to the different articles and the twitter accounts of the travellers.



Poles in the UK

Projects [Aspire](#) and [Vote! You are at home](#), have distributed over 150,000 leaflets in the UK among the Polish community (in churches, local shops, schools, etc.) encouraging the citizens to register and vote. A video campaign has also been launched (with English subtitles):

- [Video 1](#): Plan.
- [Video 2](#): Doktor.
- [Video 3](#): Cafe.



Campaign: Uneven media playing field tilts to the right

[The Mertek Media Monitor](#) is a watchdog organisation and think tank. Founded in 2011, Mertek is a committed believer to European and international human rights standards and constitutional democracy. The organisation has undertaken to review

the implementation and impact of the Hungarian media laws adopted in 2010 and the resultant media policy measures; to contribute to the Hungarian and European discourse on freedom of expression and press freedom through its professionally grounded analyses and position papers; to promote the transparency of media policy decisions; and to ultimately exert pressure on media policy and regulatory decision-makers.

On February they launched their election campaign to monitor the domestic policy news of the most popular online news portals, and TV news programs in Hungary. Some 3,100 news items were published in the given period, approximately 50% of which qualify as public affairs news. Interesting numbers about the Hungarian public affairs media scene are available [here](#).

Our Elections, Our Europe!



Check out the [video](#) of the third street performance in Italy for the campaign [Our Elections, Our Europe!](#). Entitled The Fable of the Land of Cockaigne, this performance is the project's answer to the xenophobic statements by politicians in the EP2014 elections campaign. Other performances will be taking place in Milan before the election date.

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).