

European Elections Project
April 16th, 2014

WEEKLY UPDATE

Your right to vote abroad

[European Citizens Abroad](#) have launched an [explainer video](#) to educate and advocate on the right to vote, and encourage all European citizens living abroad to vote in May 2014.

[New Europeans](#) have also started an online campaign to raise awareness of the EU citizen registration for EU ex-pat communities in the UK, featuring letters in each European language (available [here](#)). This is part of their [Vote! Vote! Vote! campaign](#).

[COSPE](#) is implementing a campaign called [Operation Vote](#), in order to promote participation in the European and local elections of non-national EU citizens residing in Italy. Watch their Operation Spot video in Italian with English, Polish or Romanian subtitles!

In the same line, Soros Foundation Romania has prepared a series of informative pamphlets for Romanian citizens abroad on how to register and vote. The information (in Romanian) is available [here](#). Feel free to share!

Fighting hate speech and discrimination

[Our Elections, Our Europe!](#) is a project that brings civil society organisations in Greece, Hungary and Italy together with the NGO [Media Diversity Institute](#), to engage young people around a key issue to the 2014 European Elections: migration, and the importance of fighting xenophobic speech. Their campaign "*They said what?*" keeps an eye on racists politicians and responds through creativity and arts. As part of this campaign, the puppeteer Damiano

Giambelli is teaching young people from different ethnic background to craft puppets and develop brief street theatre performances, where they respond to the xenophobic speech and they speak out against discrimination. Check out when the next performances are taking place [here!](#)



Hate Speech, not Europe, tops agenda in French EU vote: An interesting opinion article shared by [EUobserver](#) that elaborates on the threat of the far right in France and its link to recent electoral developments, is available [here](#). The article has been written by Davon Henry from *Les Indivisibles*, a France-based NGO fighting racism and racial prejudice through humour. They are also coordinating the campaign against racism in Parliament called [Your Vote Can Unite](#).

Dignity for all: A report shared by Prospect Hungary Foundation and Standard Media Monitor compiles a 'list of shame' of the main exclusionists in Hungary – exclusionary speech being increasingly common in Parliament, in the media and in every day communication. The report is available [here](#), and a second report entitled *Jobbik makes exclusion a campaign pledge* is also available [here](#).

Meet the new pro-EU party

Victor Spirescu, the first Romanian to arrive in Britain on January 1 after the lifting of remaining work restrictions on Romanians, is now promoting a new pro-EU party founded by UK-resident Romanians, which has been established in London as a consequence of the wave of negative reactions after this lifting of work restrictions. Check out this very interesting [video](#) from UK's Channel 4!



Nominations for the NGO of the Year award, presented by the European Civic Forum

Congratulations to our friends from [New Europeans](#) and [European Alternatives](#) on being shortlisted to the NGO of the Year award! The winner is selected by social voting, and you can support them online at: <http://bit.ly/1et3w09>.

Mutual Benefits: Jobbik's pro-Iranian policy

An [analysis by Political Capital Institute](#) explores the relationship between Hungary's far-right party and Iran, and explains how this is actually the reflection of the anti-EU policy Jobbik promotes.

International Roma Day

In occasion of the International Roma Day (April 8th), the Open Society Foundations

shared a series of voice pieces related to Roma people:

- [Improving the Rights of Roma in Italy](#): this voice piece showcases the work of [Associazione 21 Luglio](#), one of OSIFE's elections-related grantees.
- [Gypsies, Roma, Travellers: An Animated History](#): the remarkable history of Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers in Europe, beginning over 1000 years ago, tells a story of diversity, creativity and survival.
- [A Roma Reality Check for the UK](#): Roma have been portrayed as a threat to British society in the form of welfare tourists and beggars. The reality is rather different.
- [Three Ways to Build Upon Progress for Roma Rights](#): Written by George Soros, this article explains how the Roma have made progress, but there is much more to be done.



This report contains some updates and information related to the European Elections Projects. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Francisco Malavassi (fmalavassi@gmail.com).