

European Elections Project
June 11th, 2014

WEEKLY UPDATE

Youth will be a key focus in the next European Parliament

85 newly elected MEPs signed up to the European Youth Forum's [LoveYouthFuture](#) pledges, during their campaign, to ensure the next European Parliament is youth-friendly. Meanwhile, whilst official figures on voter turnout among young people are yet to be released, overall turnout remained stable.



Of the 85 MEPs that pledged, during their campaign, to defend youth rights during their mandate as MEPs, the majority were from the Socialists & Democrats, next most supportive of the political groups was the Greens, then EPP. The countries that the pro-youth MEPs come from are also revealing: there are 16 from Germany, eight from Austria and six from France.

The European Youth Forum's press release on this topic is available [here](#).

What If: The Newer Member States and the European Elections 2014

If only the newer member states have voted in the May 2014 elections, the European Parliament would look like a bit differently. The results show that in the former communist states the preferences are for the center-right parties, which have nearly twice as many MEPs than the socialists.

Check out [this report](#) on the voting trends of the EU 10+1 (the ten EU states of the fifth enlargement and Croatia) published as part of the policy brief series, which is a product of the European Policies Initiative (EuPI) of the Open Society Institute – Sofia.

Free Movement in a Strong Europe

[New Europeans](#) wrote to The Observer to champion free movement and the rights of European citizens who lived outside their home member states. The letter, entitled 'Immigration: Labour must stand up for free movement in a strong Europe' was published on Sunday, 8 June. Read it [here](#).



Ask your Head of State and Government to respect your vote!

For the first time in the history of the EU, in line with long-standing demands, the European political parties put forward common manifestos and nominated their top candidates for President of the European Commission. These candidates have campaigned all over Europe and participated in televised duels.

[JEF](#) (Young European Federalists) is leading a campaign called “Respect my vote” in order to make sure the national governments will respect citizens’ votes. You can sign and spread their [#Respectmyvote petition](#).



‘Alarming’ rise in support for far-right European parties

Check out this [opinion piece](#) by [ENAR](#)’s chair Sarah Isal about the need for MEPs to push ahead with European policies of solidarity, equality and wellbeing to end the dangerous escalation of the far right.

No more of the same

[European Alternatives](#) has provided its interpretation of the European elections: “Despite many factors meaning that the European elections remain partly enclosed in national discussions, there were European messages from the high results for the far-right in countries such as France, UK, Greece or Denmark, the high results for leftist parties in Italy, Greece or Spain and from the high abstention rate. These messages converge in demanding a change from a Europe of austerity politics and the politics of muddling through, behind closed doors, outside of public scrutiny and public comprehension of what is being decided and its consequences”. The complete report is available [here](#).

Why ending free movement rights in the EU is the wrong lesson to be learnt from the European election campaign

“The problem of low wages and job insecurity is extensive across the UK economy, and more investment in housing and public services is urgently needed. But why are some Labour MPs suggesting that things will get better if we end the right of freedom of movement in the EU”? The Director of UK’s [Migrants’ Rights Network](#), Don Flynn, has published an [opinion article](#) on this topic in the organization’s blog.

I Do Care: The Lithuanian National Youth Council’s Campaign

The European Parliament’s Information Office in Lithuania has thanked the [Lithuanian National Youth Council](#) (LiJOT) over their help in cooperating with a campaign to boost voter mobilization in the elections. Thanks to their project ‘I Do Care’, LiJOT has contributed to the enhancement of youth voter turnout in Lithuania!



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).