

European Elections Project
April 30th, 2014

WEEKLY UPDATE

European Elections Tours

MovEurope Bus Tour: The [Young European Federalists](#)' campaign towards the European elections started with a kick-off party in Brussels on the 29th of April. Representatives of youth parties attended the event, which aimed at presenting their project – MovEurope Forward – and to officially launch the bus tour, which will go through Brussels, Maastricht, Münster, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Zagreb, Milan, Barcelona and Strasbourg, from April 29th to May 19th.



Members of the European Greens, European Socialists, European Youth Forum and The League of Young Voters gave their opening speeches supporting the federalist campaign and encouraging young people to vote in the next European elections.

Check out their [website](#), and a [short video](#) with an explanation of the project.

Transeuropa Caravans: Last week, the [Transeuropa Caravans](#) from [European Alternatives](#) started their journey through different European cities, reaching out to Europeans where they are, at their sites of struggle, at their places of initiative. Ahead of the European elections, through this project, European Alternatives aim to connect local alternative voices across the continent, engaging with people involved on the ground in political struggles or initiatives for democracy, solidarity and equality, on

topics ranging from the defence of minorities' rights to the environment, the fight for common goods or the resistance to the power of financial markets.



You can read the Citizens Manifesto they have prepared [here](#), or find out what their next destinations are in case you want to meet them.

Europe on Track 2: Winner of the European Charlemagne Youth Prize in 2013, [Europe on Track – Capture the future of Europe!](#), a project launched by [AEGEE](#), will further excavate the reasons and motives behind the answers to the questions on why mobility programs provide the foundations for the future of Europe, why more young people should become actors in the European project and how can young people get more engaged in the European agenda, after the success of the first part of the project.



From April 9th to May 10th, the six travelling ambassadors are crossing Europe to bring EU policies closer to young people, while spreading eurooptimism! Check out their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) campaigns!

European Elections – Vote Abroad Campaign for Bulgarian Citizens

Over one million Bulgarians live in other EU countries and as EU citizens they have the right to vote and to be elected in the European elections in the countries where they live. The *Vote Abroad* campaign is aimed at informing the Bulgarian citizens abroad or in Bulgaria about the elections. The information and updates are available on their [website](#), in [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Finnish People in the UK

Last week, [New Europeans](#) distributed EU Voter Registration leaflets for the 30.000 Finnish people living in the UK, at Finn-Guild London, the largest Finnish-British civil organisation in the UK with over 20.000 members from both countries.



We need to talk about Europe

As part of the project 'Recapturing Europe's Reluctant Radicals', [Counterpoint](#) has produced a short film about populism in Europe. With the participation of leading experts, journalists and commentators, *We need to talk about Europe* explores the main traits of populist parties in Europe and examines the roots of their appeal, while highlighting the threats they pose to liberal democracies. The video is available [here](#), and they also have prepared an analysis of UKIP and their populist rhetoric, available [here](#).

Counterpoint's main goal is to bring out the vote to counter populist mobilisation at the elections. With their comparative and multidisciplinary approach, they aim to understand the 'hidden wiring' of the different societies in which populism has prospered.

Join The Vote

On April 26th, thousands of volunteers from across the UK took to their streets to register their neighbours to vote. The weeklong campaign, [Join The Vote](#), aims to add thousands more people to the electoral register in time for the European and local elections. Over 4.000 volunteers signed up in less than a week. The party-neutral campaign is led by [38 Degrees](#) and [Bite the Ballot](#), in collaboration with other organisations.



*"With up to 6.5million UK voters missing from the electoral **Bite the Ballot** and **38Degrees** created *Join The Vote* with the aim to try and solve this problem [...]. Together we can decide whether the economic crisis leads to frustration and divide among communities or solidarity", says Mike Sani, MD of Bite the Ballot.*

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