

### European Elections Project April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

### **WEEKLY UPDATE**

## 4th Grantee Meeting: Boosting Voter Mobilization

Last week, a grantee meeting took place at OSIFE Barcelona entitled 'Boosting Voter Mobilization'. One representative of each one of these organizations was present: School of Leaders Association, Polish City Club, Milestone Institute for Advanced Study, OSF-Prague, LIJOT (Lithuanian National Youth Council), OSF-Bratislava, OSI-Sofia, European Citizens Abroad, New Europeans, MSS — Slovenian National Youth Council, and Soros Foundation Romania. Sue Pollard from the University of Sussex also joined the meeting both days, and experts from Demos joined during the first day.

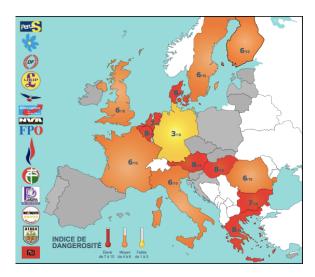


The participants shared their projects, ideas and concerns, their post-elections plans (and the importance of sharing the narratives that will emerge as a result of their projects), and also discussed the different topics related to the mobilization of European citizens for the elections.

### **Barometer of Populist Threat in Europe**

An infograph elaborated by ARTE Info that shows the rise of some populist movements in Europe, and measures the different degrees of danger in some European countries.

The information is available in <u>French</u> and <u>German</u>.



#### **New Facebook Group for the Grantees**

A Facebook group was created as a space to support OSIFE European Elections grantees and partners in their ongoing discussions, and in order to facilitate the sharing of information, ideas, events and best practices. 50 people have joined so far and interesting exchanges are already happening. Join us! Francisco Malavassi will be able to provide assistance with this if needed (fmalavassi@gmail.com).

# Equal Voting Rights and Procedures for all EU Citizens in EP elections: sign and share the petition!

Our friends from <u>European Citizens Living</u> <u>Abroad</u> are promoting an initiative to ensure that all Europeans can vote in the future, and that the procedures are the same for all countries. In their own words, "now is the time to stop hiding behind constitutional or

legal complexities, and take a step forward with our democracy in Europe". The petition is available here.

## <u>DIPLOCAT on European Elections, Xenophobia and Euroscepticism</u>

The Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia, in cooperation with OSIFE has presented the <u>final report</u> of the workshop that took place in January 2014 entitled: European Elections 2014: The Rise of Xenophobic and Eurosceptic Movements in Europe.



The report addresses three main topics:

- 1. The European Parliament and populism.
- 2. Xenophobia: the next major threat to Europe?
- 3. Controversy: is the press to blame?

#### **VoteWatch Europe**

In some of the grantee meetings, the VoteWatch website has been presented as an interesting site that covers the activities of the European Parliament and Council, and provides valuable information, statistics and tools, that may also be of interest for some of the grantee's projects: <a href="http://www.votewatch.eu/en/about-us.html">http://www.votewatch.eu/en/about-us.html</a>.

They are also working on these projects:

- http://www.myvote2014.eu/ for a younger audience.
- http://www.pollwatch2014.eu/ to follow the European Elections polls.

 http://www.electio2014.eu/ information in 24 languages, from April 4<sup>th</sup> on.

### The Threat of the Far Right in Europe

Heimat ohne Hasse – Homeland without threat: A project led by one of the grantees: a dossier on the MEP Andreas Mölzer (FPÖ – Austria) who is the editor of the far right newspaper "Zur Zeit". Available <a href="here">here</a> (in German).

The Russian Connection: A document produced by the Political Capital Institute on the spread of pro-Russian policies on the European far right. Available <a href="here">here</a>.

# Turn Political Apathy into a Chance to Rethink Democracy in Europe: the Video Challenge

Peter Matjašič and Leonie van Tongeren have written a voice piece on the upcoming European Elections and a call to mediamakers to have their say via a video challenge.



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).