

European Elections Project
June 4th, 2014

WEEKLY UPDATE

EU Elections 2014 debriefing: 'How did Europe vote and what does it mean for EU policy?'

A debriefing debate on the European Parliament elections took place on Monday 26 May at the Microsoft Innovation Centre in Brussels. The event was organised by Burson Marsteller / [Europe Decides](#), along with [The League of Young Voters](#), [VoteWatch Europe](#) and Microsoft. You can watch the recorded debate, presentations and photos [here](#).



In addition, a country-by-country analysis of the European election results has been published in [Europe Decides' website](#).

The Elections in Latvia

European Parliament election turnout in Latvia was 30.25%. In total 8 candidates from 5 parties were elected. None of the elected Latvian MEPs are with serious reputation risks when it comes to conflict of interests, corruption or criminal offenses. On the other hand only half of elected members have signed anti-corruption pledge. Read a complete analysis on the elections in Latvia prepared by [Transparency International Latvia – Delna](#) [here](#).

Our Elections, Our Europe: tackling hate speech with humour

Check out this [voice piece](#) written by one of OSIFE's grantees, on the projected implemented by the [Media Diversity Institute](#): *"There's nothing inherently funny about the xenophobia that's on the rise in Europe, but tackling hate speech with satire and humour is proving a useful tool in the fight against racism and intolerance. Together with our partners, the Media Diversity Institute has undertaken the 'Our Elections, Our Europe' project, which includes cartoons and street theatre in its arsenal. We have been working in Hungary, Greece, and Italy – three EU members badly affected by the economic crisis and its symptoms, like high unemployment and right-wing anti-migrant propaganda"*.



Victory for some, defeat for more...

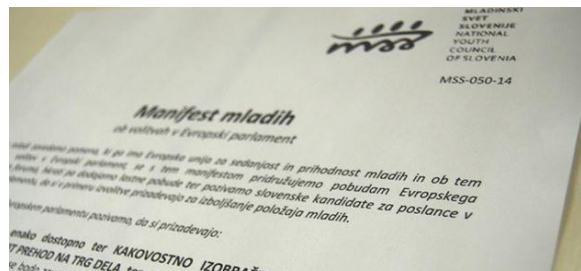
[HOPE not hate](#) European Editor Graeme Atkinson gives his take on the European elections: *"Across the European Union (EU), voters vented their spleen, expressing real and imagined grievances against austerity, immigration, unemployment, the EU in whole or part, the Euro, the ubiquity of corruption and their own widespread feelings of disillusionment, dissatisfaction,*

disenfranchisement, disenchantment and alienation. Some voted left but not in the numbers who cast their votes for the non-mainstream right”.

The opinion article is available [here](#).

The Slovenian Youth Council

As part of their election project, through which the [Slovenian Youth Council](#) informed young people about the importance of participation in the decision making process in Slovenia and at the EU level, a [Youth Manifesto](#) was produced (available in Slovenian), on the basis of a list of commitments and expectations from the younger generations. The Manifesto talks about key areas for the independence of young people, social integration of young individuals, integration of young people and youth organizations in policy-making and the sustainability of the EU. 73 candidates from 12 candidate lists supported the Manifesto, and 7 out of the new 8 Slovenian MEPs signed it and committed themselves to working on youth-related issues.



The Elections in Bulgaria

According to one of OSIFE’s grantees, from OSF Sofia, “there are two good news related to the European elections in Bulgaria. First, the most vocal anti-EU parties did not receive enough votes to enter the European Parliament. Second, the preferential element (the right of voters to rearrange the party lists) worked and was used by the voters. This was good for democracy and it is believed to have

contributed to higher turnout at least for one strongly pro-EU coalition. But it was not good for the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party, as their voters by mistake replaced their leader with a totally unknown candidate. There was a low turnout of 36.15%”. Analyses on this topic will be published in [their magazine Politiki](#) (in Bulgarian), and the information on their “Vote Abroad” campaign has been shared [here](#).

EUobserver: Post EU Elections

The independent, online newspaper [EUobserver](#) has devoted a [special section to the post-election news](#), which will remain active for some time. Interesting articles have been published this week:

- [EU states at odds over Juncker.](#)
- [Finnish politics facing major turbulence.](#)
- [Swedish Feminist party's EP seat due to larger-than-life leader.](#)



Ten things about democracy in videos every MP should see

Take a look at this [article](#) by Juan Luis Sanchez, one of the journalists who were active in the Indignados (15M) movement in Spain. He was part of the jury for the [Radical Democracy video challenge](#), about the winners contextualizing the state of democracy in Europe.

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).