

The Pirate Party

Where we come from

Where we are going

How it all started

- Svenska antipiratbyrå (Sweden, 2001)
 - Swedish pro-copyright lobby group
- Piratbyrå (Sweden, 2003-2010)
 - Swedish anti-copyright lobby group
- Piratpartiet (Sweden, jan 2006)
 - Founded by Falkvinge (hero or zero?)
 - Very fast growth
 - 2009, 2 seats in European parliament
- Piratenpartei (Germany, sep 2006)
 - 2011, Berlin, 15 seats in Abgeordnetenhaus
 - peak at 13,2%

The original programme

Originally, focused on

- reform of intellectual property
- privacy of everyday life
- transparency of government

Later, especially in Germany

- social-liberal, progressive
- direct democracy, basic income, civil rights, drug policy, ...

Pirate Party Belgium

- After election of Angström in European parliament (June 2009)
- On a social network “paranoïaques” by Jurgen Rateau and Marouan El Moussaoui
- Quickly joined by Monika Kornacka in september, after which things got going

The first year

- Foundation of Pirate Parties International in Brussels
- Suddenly, early elections
(announced 26th April, elections 13th June)
 - Hurry to collect signatures, but not even government was prepared
 - People were gathering signatures all across Belgium
 - enough were collected in Limburg and Brussels
 - only a valid list was entered in Brussels
 - result ~0.26%

The second year

Nothing happened

The third year

- September 2011: Founding of crews in Antwerpen and Gent
- March 2012: New coreteam
 - Marouan, Paul, Jonas, Nofel, Line

The fourth year

- Local elections 14th october 2012
 - Founding crews all over the country
 - Results, between 0,8 and 5,2%
- But:
 - No agreed rules (voted down on GA in March)
 - No agreed programme

The fifth year

- Elections 25th May 2014
 - 5 general assemblies every 3 months to have
 - Statutes (rulebook)
 - Programme
 - Larger coreteam for follow-up
 - results: 0.5-3%
 - were not able to collect signatures for European elections
 - no common programme
 - more or less okay statutes

The programme

- Three programmes:
 - European common programme
 - Nederlandstalige programma
 - Brussels regional programme
- How do we go from here?

Statutes

- Okay rulebook
 - Not legal enough on one side, too legaleze on the other
 - needs fixing on some places
 - stuff missing (fixing this is the goal of today)

Coreteam

- Change of guard?
 - Reformulation of its goal and function (for today)
 - New people (for today)

How does the party function today?

- Crews:
 - Local entities, geographical point
- Squads:
 - Groups working around themes
 - (largely disfunctional)
- General Assembly:
 - Today
 - Body in control
- Online platform:
 - Getopinionated: opinion.pirateparty.be
 - programme decisions
- Coreteam:
 - Day-to-day decisions

How does the party function today?

- In practice:
 - Coreteam does national level stuff, meet monthly, point of contact for the party
 - Crews do local level stuff and meet regularly
 - Squads are largely non-existent
 - Online platform in use, a little, but always revoted on assembly
 - General assembly meets about every 3 months, organized by coreteam

Where are we today

- Beginning of a 4 year process
 - Have the time to do things right
 - Good programme, good network, good structure
 - Time to go deep instead of fast
 - Build a movement

Your job today

Make it happen!