

■ EDITORIAL

Voter turnout, social media and the financing of politics in the European elections

Citizens of the European Union go to the polls in 28 countries this week to elect 751 representatives to the European Parliament – it is clear that these elections illustrate many of the challenges and issues facing electoral processes around the world today.

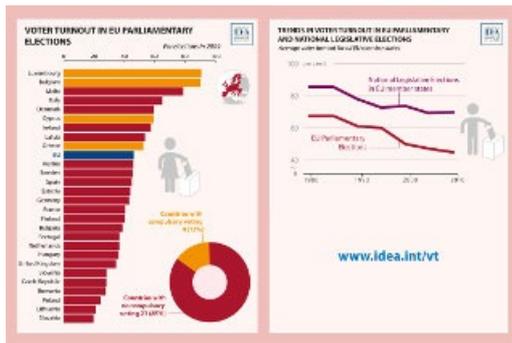


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By Joan Sawe, Acting Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2014

Will voters turn out?



EU Parliament Elections - Turnout and Trends
(Click for larger version)

European elections and campaign finance: show us the money

Posted: May 21, 2014

What role does money play in European elections, and how is it regulated? Such questions need to be addressed to ensure the integrity of Europe's democratic processes.

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European Parliament elections and beyond

Posted: May 19, 2014

Why do young people abstain from voting in elections to the European Parliament? Read about youth absenteeism and how to strengthen international legislative assemblies, such as the European Parliament.

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■ OTHER NEWS

Indian elections and the fruits of democracy

Posted: May 20, 2014

On 16 May 2014, Narendra Modi led the Bharatiya Janta party to a record victory in India's 16th national election. Here an insider's perspective of the elections by Shailaja Chandra.

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■ SPOTLIGHT ON

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Over **40 organizations from 30 countries** have been granted a free-of-charge license to use the Tool.

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Overcoming exclusion of marginalized groups

Posted: May 17, 2014

IDEA's side-event to the 13th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues focused on *Advancing Genuine Political Participation: Strategies for Overcoming Exclusion for Marginalized Groups*.

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Politics meets policies

Posted: May 16, 2014

A political party that embraces a clear set of policies or programme to reach out to citizens is more likely to listen, reflect and address citizens' views. How does such a programmatic party come about? IDEA's new study shed some light on the issues.

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Democratic governance matters for sustainable development

Posted: May 12, 2014

How can democratic governance be addressed within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework and the post-2015 Development Agenda as a whole?

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#Democracy1st - Panel discussion and book launch in Stockholm

Posted: May 10, 2014

Democracy and development – what comes first? IDEA and the Swedish Development Forum (FUF) hosted a panel discussion to launch IDEA's new publication on the topic, written by Anna Lekvall.

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Run offs in Latin America: methods and trends

Posted: May 5, 2014

Second round, run off ballots (ballotage), are currently the trend in Latin America: of the seven presidential elections expected this year, a second round is provided for legally in six countries. What are the consequences?

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Supporting democratic and effective political parties in Kenya

Posted: May 1, 2014

Since August 2013, IDEA has supported political parties in Kenya to develop their strategic plans using the Institute's *Strategic Planning Tool for Political Parties*. This initial phase has now come to an end (April 2014) and the next step will be the implementation of these plans.

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Protecting politics

Corruption plagues many democracies, emerging or otherwise. In an article – **Beware of the Pax Mafioso** – published by FP/Democracy Lab, IDEA's Kristen Sample gives a few tips for those who want to fight back.

The nexus between illicit networks and politics is a major threat to democracy today, not least in Latin America. How do these connections occur? IDEA's Catalina Uribe Burcher analyses the situation drawing on IDEA's latest research in an article – **Latin America Governed by Crime** – published by the ISN Blog.

Expansion of the indigenous quota in Peru

Posted: April 30, 2014

In the lead up to the new reform on expanding the 'indigenous quota' in Peru (April 2014), International IDEA worked jointly on this issue with the Ministry of Culture and the National Elections Board (*Jurado Nacional de Elecciones*, JNE).

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The changing role of social media in electoral processes

Posted: April 20, 2014

As the digital age blossoms, social media has great potential to become a hugely valuable and effective voter education tool for Electoral Management Bodies. IDEA promoted its new social media guide at the latest 'EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance' conference in Jordan in April.

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Highlights: Electoral Risk Management Tool

Since the launch in October 2013, over **40 organizations from 30 countries have been granted licences** to download and use the ERM Tool. Here are some highlights to date, including how it's planned to be used in Nigeria and Myanmar.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report 2013 - A record of actions

Highlights International IDEA's objectives and main activities in 2013.

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Social Media: A Practical Guide for Electoral Management Bodies

This Guide informs EMBs on the ways in which social media can be used to increase the participation of the electorate, boost communication and improve transparency and trust.

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Politics Meets Policies: The Emergence of Programmatic Political Parties

What features do successful programmatic parties exhibit that others lack? This publication examines what drives and strengthens programmatic politics.

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Political Party Dialogue: A Facilitator's Guide – Now in French

Building on case studies from different countries, this Guide focuses on the need for more dynamic spaces of dialogue between political parties.

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