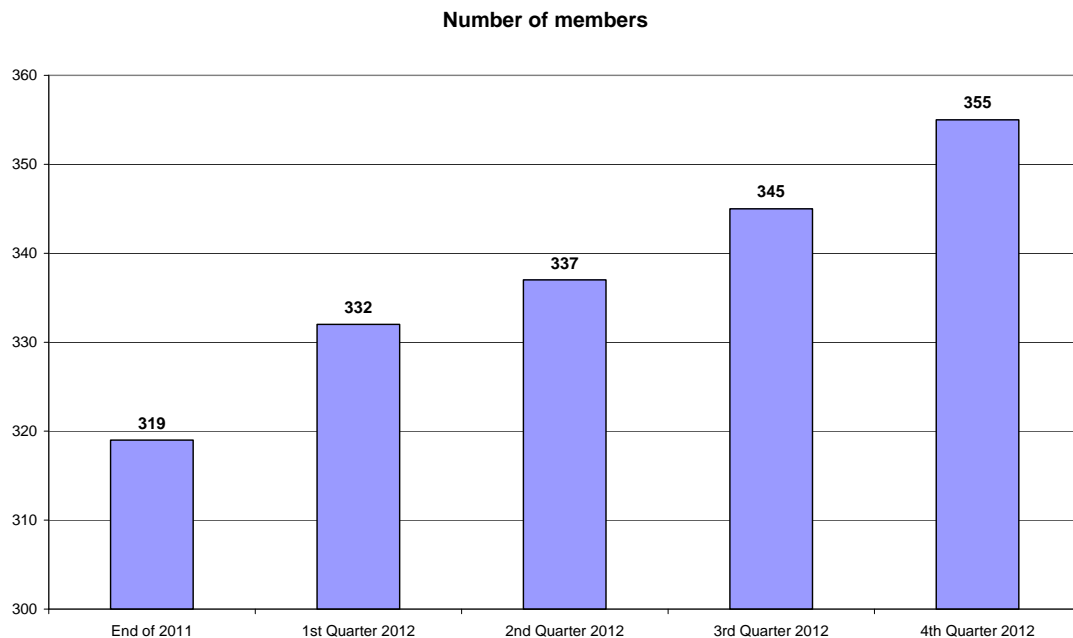


European Consortium for Political Research  
Standing Group on Voting Behaviour and Public Opinion  
in a comparative perspective  
Report on membership and website development in 2012

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This first report on membership and website development for the ECPR Standing Group on Voting Behaviour and Public Opinion in a comparative perspective has covered the years 2009-2011 and it is available at <http://povb-ecpr.org/sites/default/files/Membership-and-website-2009-2011.pdf>. The current report is an update that covers the membership and website developments in 2012.

At the beginning of 2012 the Standing Group had 319 members. The year ended with the Standing Group counting 355 members. The development of the total number of members during 2012 is presented in Diagram 1.



**Diagram 1 Total number of members during 2012**

Regarding members' countries, United Kingdom appears at the top of the list with 46 members, Germany follows with 41 members and Italy comes third with 31 members. Most of the members come from European countries, but there are also members from other parts of the world. USA is represented with 22 members (6.2% of total). The number of members per country is displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1 Number of members per country**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
United Kingdom	46	13,0%
Germany	41	11,5%
Italy	31	8,7%
Netherlands	24	6,8%
USA	22	6,2%
Spain	19	5,4%
Sweden	17	4,8%
France	12	3,4%
Turkey	12	3,4%
Belgium	11	3,1%
Canada	11	3,1%
Denmark	11	3,1%
Norway	11	3,1%
Finland	9	2,5%
Greece	8	2,3%
Austria	7	2,0%
Switzerland	7	2,0%
Czech Republic	4	1,1%
Hungary	4	1,1%
Ireland	4	1,1%
Lithuania	4	1,1%
Portugal	4	1,1%
Romania	4	1,1%
Croatia	3	0,8%
Estonia	3	0,8%
Poland	3	0,8%
Israel	2	0,6%
Kenya	2	0,6%
Malaysia	2	0,6%
Russia	2	0,6%
Other	15	4,2%

While the steering committee often reminds the members to submit their news to the forums, most of the members have not used them. There are only 54 forum posts. We hope to increase this number. A good sign for the future is that the number of unique users who use the forums is steadily increasing.

During 2012 new content was added to the website related to the following ECPR events: 2012 Joint Sessions of Workshops in Antwerp, 2013 Joint Sessions of Workshops in Mainz, 2014 Joint Sessions of Workshops in Salamanca and the 7th ECPR General Conference, Bordeaux, 2013. Since the last report, we have sent five newsletter issues to the members of the standing group: November/December 2011, January 2012, February/March 2012, June 2012, and January 2013.

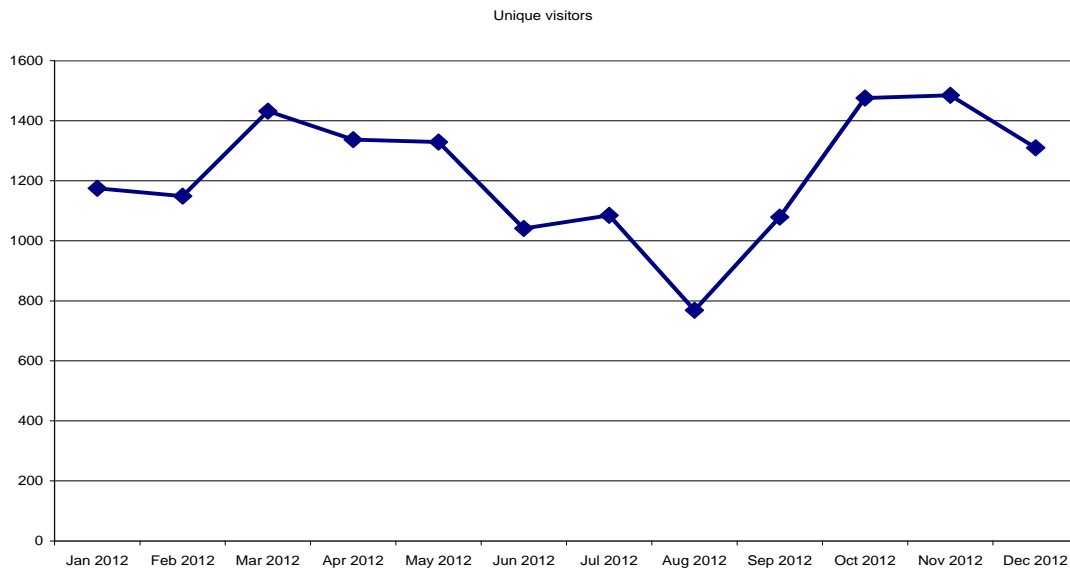
The newsletter is sent to 353 email addresses. There are some members who have opted out of the Newsletter. In addition to them there is a limited number of members I have unsubscribed from the newsletter because their registered email address has

become invalid<sup>1</sup> and I was unable to find another valid email address for them or I have found another email address for them but I have not got a response when I asked for a verification. The total number of POV B members who do not receive the newsletter is 21. On the other hand, for people who do not wish or cannot become members, there is the option to subscribe to the newsletter without becoming members of the standing group. There are 19 people in this group. The formula that gives the total number of newsletter subscriptions is 355 (# of members) – 21 (# of members without subscription) + 19 (# of subscribers without membership) = 353 (# of total subscribers).

The website is maintained using the Drupal content management system. In order to keep the website secure and in good shape, Drupal has to be updated from time to time with the latest available version. In 2012 I have installed to <http://povb-ecpr.org> the following versions of Drupal: January 2012: version 6.23, February 2012: version 6.24, March 2012: version 6.25, May 2012: version 6.26, December 2012: version 6.27. I have also updated the following modules: March 2012 biblio 6.x-2.0-rc1, June 2012 biblio 6.x-2.0-rc2 and views 6.x-2.16.

The website <http://povb-ecpr.org> enjoys significant traffic. A side effect of its popularity was the very large number of SPAM registrations which used to be deleted by hand. The problem was very large because the SPAM user registrations were 10 times more than the real registrations. I have reduced this problem with the installation of CAPTCHA 6.x-2.4 in November 2012 and I almost eliminated SPAM registrations with the installation of reCAPTCHA 6.x-1.7 in December 2012.

In 2012 the website was visited by 14667 unique visitors. The number of unique visitors per month is presented in Diagram 2.



**Diagram 2 Development of unique visitors to povb-ecpr.org in 2012**

<sup>1</sup> Each year about 20 email addresses of POV B members become invalid. The most usual reason is that a member has moved to another organization. In nine out of ten times I was able to find a new email address and after a verification by the member I have updated the email address in the POV B members' database.