

European Consortium for Political Research
Standing Group on Voting Behaviour and Public Opinion
in a comparative perspective
Report on membership and website development in 2013

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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. The second report has covered 2012. Both reports are available on the front page of the website. The current report is an update that covers the membership and website developments in 2013.

At the end of 2011 the Standing Group had 319 members. The year 2012 ended with the Standing Group counting 355 members. At the end of 2013 the Standing Group had 384 members. The development of the number of members over the last three years is presented in Diagram 1.

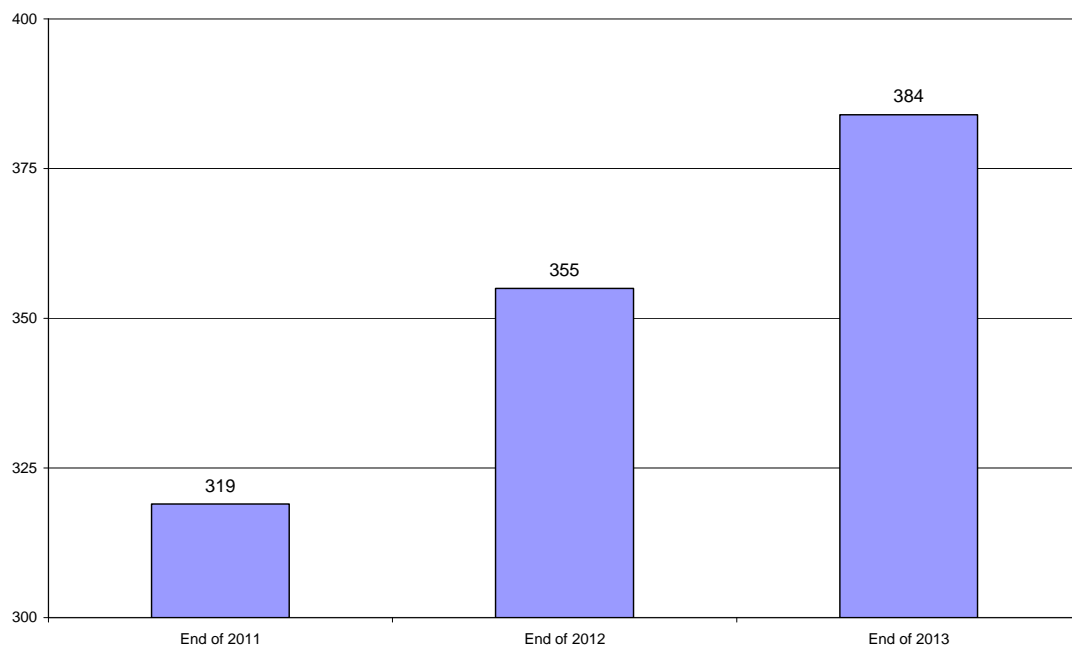


Diagram 1 Total number of members during 2012

Regarding members' countries, United Kingdom appears at the top of the list with 50 members, Germany follows with 46 members and Italy comes third with 32 members. Most of the members come from European countries, but there are also members from other parts of the world. USA is represented with 28 members (7.3% of total) and appears on the fourth row of the list. The number of members per country is displayed in Table 1.

While the steering committee often reminds the members to submit their news to the forums, most of the members have not used them. In 2013 there were 31 new forum posts. During 2013 new content was added to the website related to the following ECPR events: 7th ECPR General Conference, Bordeaux, 8th ECPR General Conference, Glasgow, 2014 Joint Sessions of Workshops in Salamanca, and 2015

Joint Sessions of Workshops, Warsaw. During 2013, we have sent three newsletter issues to the members of the standing group: January 2013, February 2013, and October 2013.

Table 1 Number of members per country

Country	Frequency	Percent
United Kingdom	50	13,0%
Germany	46	12,0%
Italy	32	8,3%
USA	28	7,3%
Netherlands	25	6,5%
Spain	21	5,5%
Sweden	18	4,7%
Turkey	14	3,6%
Canada	12	3,1%
France	12	3,1%
Norway	12	3,1%
Belgium	11	2,9%
Denmark	11	2,9%
Switzerland	11	2,9%
Finland	9	2,3%
Greece	9	2,3%
Austria	8	2,1%
Czech Republic	5	1,3%
Hungary	4	1,0%
Ireland	4	1,0%
Lithuania	4	1,0%
Portugal	4	1,0%
Romania	4	1,0%
Croatia	3	0,8%
Estonia	3	0,8%
Malaysia	3	0,8%
Pakistan	3	0,8%
Poland	3	0,8%
Other	15	4,2%

The newsletter is sent to 382 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 invalid¹ 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 24. 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 22 people in this group. The formula that gives the total number of newsletter subscriptions is 384 (# of members) – 24 (# of

¹ 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 verification by the member I have updated the email address in the POV B members' database.

members without subscription) + 22 (# of subscribers without membership) = 382 (# of total subscribers). Finally, there are 305 people who have submitted a request to subscribe to our newsletter, but they have not verified their email address and they do not receive the newsletter.

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 2013 I have installed to <http://povb-ecpr.org> the following versions of Drupal: January 2013: version 6.28, November 2013: version 6.29. I have also updated the following modules: April 2013 FileField 6.x-3.10 and June 2013 CAPTCHA 6.x-2.5. The problem with the very large number of SPAM registrations was significantly reduced by the use of CAPTCHA but it is not completely eliminated. There are still 2-3 SPAM registrations per day that are deleted by hand.

The website <http://povb-ecpr.org> enjoys significant traffic. In 2013 the website was visited by 18420 unique visitors. This indicates a significant increase over 2012. The average number of unique visitors per month has increased from 1016 (for the period 2009-2011) to 1222 in 2012 (i.e. circa 20% increase). Year 2013 was even better: the average number of unique visitors per month has increased to 1535 (i.e. circa 26% increase compared to 2012). The number of unique visitors per month in 2013 is presented in Diagram 2.²

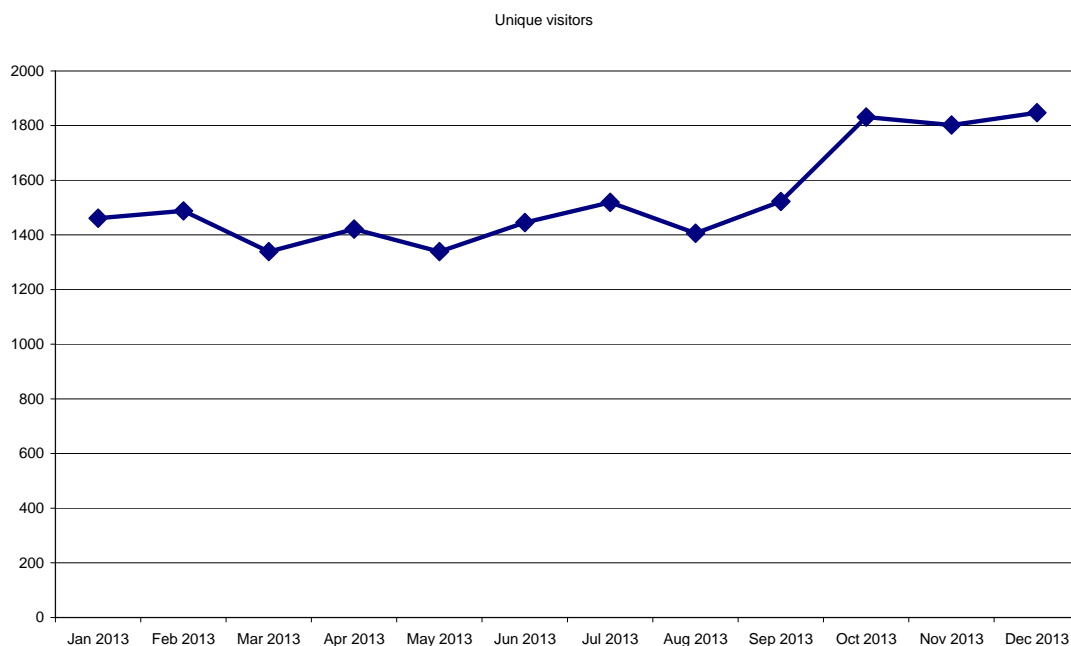


Diagram 2 Development of unique visitors to povb-ecpr.org in 2013

² Visitor statistics presented in this report are based on the analysis of the web server log files. A few months ago, I have installed Google Analytics 6.x-3.6. Next year, I will be able to compare visitor statistics by both sources.