

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

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The European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on Voting Behaviour and Public Opinion in a comparative perspective was established in 2008. The construction of the website of the Standing Group (<http://www.povb-ecpr.org>) has started during the last months of 2008. From the beginning the target was to build a community-based website that would work as a communication hub between the members of the Standing Group. The steering committee always invites the members of the Standing Group to contribute to the website by posting their ideas and initiatives, or by submitting their papers.

Today the Standing Group counts 313 members (last update 1/10/2011). From these members, 190 were inserted into the members' database by the steering committee in March of 2009. The rest of the members have created their accounts on their own. One year later (March 2010) the total number of members was 269. This indicates a growth rate of 42%. During the second year the growth rate was 12% (from 269 to 301). The development of the total number of members over time is presented in Diagram 1.

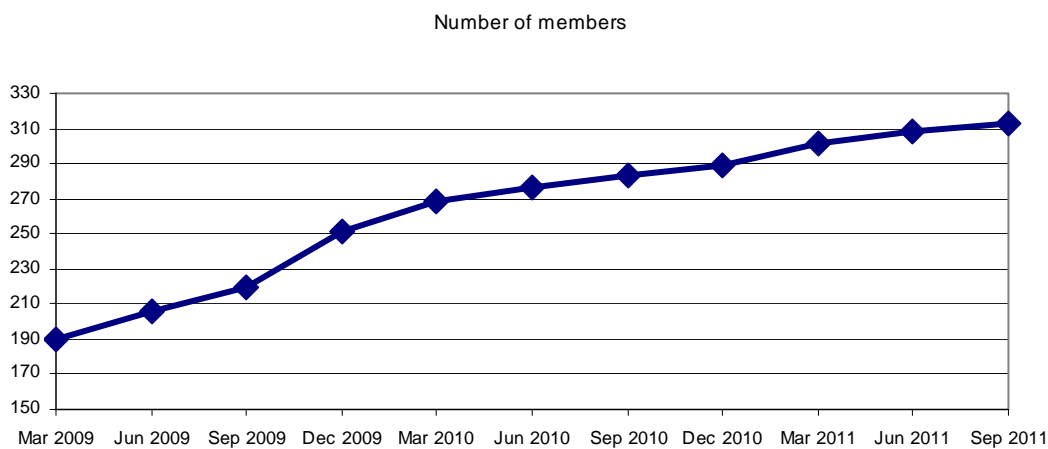


Diagram 1 Total number of members over time (March 2009 – September 2011)

Today the members of the Standing Group come from 39 different countries. United Kingdom appears at the top of the list with 40 members, Germany follows at close distance (38 members) and Italy comes third with 26 members. Most of the members come from European countries, but there are also members from other parts of the world. A significant number comes from North America: USA is represented in the Standing Group with 19 members and Canada with 10 members. The number of members per country is displayed in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of members per country

Country	Frequency	Percent
UK	40	12,8%
Germany	38	12,1%
Italy	26	8,3%
Netherlands	22	7,0%
USA	19	6,1%
Spain	16	5,1%
Sweden	14	4,5%
Norway	11	3,5%
Belgium	10	3,2%
Canada	10	3,2%
Denmark	10	3,2%
France	10	3,2%
Turkey	10	3,2%
Finland	8	2,6%
Greece	8	2,6%
Austria	7	2,2%
Switzerland	7	2,2%
Czech Republic	4	1,3%
Hungary	4	1,3%
Ireland	4	1,3%
Portugal	4	1,3%
Estonia	3	1,0%
Israel	3	1,0%
Poland	3	1,0%
Romania	3	1,0%
Croatia	2	0,6%
Lithuania	2	0,6%
Other	15	4,8%
Total	313	100,0%

About one out of three (101 out of 313) members have never logged in to <http://povb-ecpr.org> using their username and password. The rest 212 member have logged in, but for most of them the interaction with the website was limited. A lot of them have reviewed/updated their personal profile. For instance, 39 members have uploaded their personal photograph. On the other hand, while the steering committee often reminds the members to submit their news to the forums, there are only 32 forum posts. We hope to increase this number in the future.

The website <http://povb-ecpr.org> has a lot of useful sections: it includes a catalogue of the members of the standing group: http://povb-ecpr.org/user_list, a list of publications, working papers and conference papers submitted by the members of the standing group: <http://povb-ecpr.org/biblio>, a bibliographic database of journal articles on voting behaviour: (available only to the registered members of the website) <http://povb-ecpr.org/bibliography>, a forum about news, ideas, initiatives, call for papers and other related posts submitted by the members of the SG: <http://povb-ecpr.org/forum/1>, a forum for posts related to job vacancies: <http://povb-ecpr.org/forum/29>, our newsletter: <http://povb-ecpr.org/taxonomy/term/8>, and links to

various resources (data, journals, associations, national election studies, conferences, e.t.c.)

The website <http://povb-ecpr.org> enjoys significant traffic of new and returning visitors every month. In 2011 the website is visited by more than 1000 unique visitors per month. The only months of 2011 with less than 1000 unique visitors are the months July and August. The number of unique visitors per month is presented in Diagram 2.

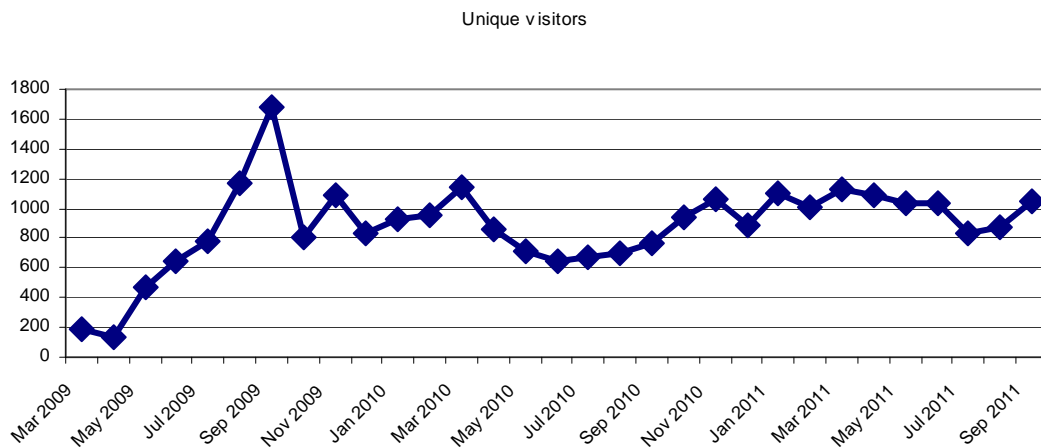


Diagram 2 Development of Unique visitors to povb-ecpr.org over time